

DOW JONES | News Corp \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - 21, 2024 ~ VOL. CCLXXXIII NO. 93

**WSJ.com** \*\*\* \$6.00

### What's News

Business & Finance

♦ Workers at Volkswagen's Tennessee factory voted to join the United Auto Workers, marking a historic win for the 89-year-old union that is seeking to expand. A1

◆ The Nasdaq fell 5.5% for the week, its worst such performance since 2022, while the S&P 500 dropped 3.1% and the Dow eked out a tiny gain. Oil prices climbed to \$91 a barrel Friday after Israel's strike against Iran before retreating, closing up 0.2%. B11

◆ Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav received pay last year valued at \$49.7 million, a 27% increase from 2022 and more than three times as much as the \$15.6 million median pay of S&P 500 CEOs disclosed through late March. B9

◆ Skydance, which is in exclusive merger talks with Paramount Global, expects to more than double its revenue and triple its adjusted earnings in the coming years. B9

◆ Tesla is recalling 3,878 Cybertrucks to repair or replace faulty accelerator pedals. B10

◆ Nissan cut its net profit estimate for the fiscal year, missing analysts' expectations, as it sold fewer cars than expected. **B10** 

◆ Schneider Electric confirmed talks with engineering-software company Bentley Systems about a potential strategic transaction. B10

World-Wide

◆ The House appears poised to pass a \$95 billion foreign-aid and weapons package Saturday after Democrats rallied behind Republican House Speaker Vlike Johnson to clear a majo hurdle for the measure to help Ukraine withstand Russia's invasion and help rearm Israel. A1

♦ Israel's limited strike against Iran appeared to provide an off-ramp from the recent cycle of direct conflict as both countries backed away from the brink. A1

◆ The Biden administration is considering more than \$1 billion in new weapons deals for Israel including tank ammunition, military vehicles and mortar rounds, U.S. officials said. A6

♦ Air-safety officials are mounting a new push to ease fatigue among the controllers who coordinate thousands of flights across the U.S. each day and the potential risks it poses to airline travel. A3

Ukraine said it downed a Russian supersonic bomber, part of a mounting air war as each side wrestles for control of the skies with the front lines largely deadlocked. A7

**♦ The University** of Southern California has removed outside speakers and honorees from its commencement ceremony next month, days after canceling its valedictorian's speech over security concerns. A2

#### **NOONAN**

Bad leadership is a national-security threat A13

CONTENTS	Obituaries A9
Books C7-12	Opinion A11-13
Business & Finance B9,10	Sports A14
Food D8-9	Style & Fashion D2-3
Gear & Gadgets D11	Travel D6-7
Heard on StreetB12	U.S. News A2-4,6
Market B11	World News A7-8



# Aid Package Nears Passage

Democrats help GOP speaker clear key hurdle in funding for Ukraine, Israel

WASHINGTON—The House appears poised to pass a \$95 billion foreign aid and weapons package Saturday after Democrats rallied behind Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson to clear a major hurdle Friday afternoon.

Friday's 316-94 vote to advance the package was a major step for a measure seen as critical to helping Ukraine withstand Russia's invasion and rearming Israel. Democrats backed the Republican leader's effort to set up final passage this weekend over the objections of dozens of GOP Johnson colleagues. pushed the package through even as a small number of dissident Republicans-skeptical of Ukraine aid and upset over

By Siobhan Hughes, Natalie Andrews and Katy Stech Ferek

the lack of U.S. border provisions-have called on him to resign as speaker.

Johnson has made increasingly forceful calls for passing Ukraine aid, telling reporters this week that he saw fresh funding as "critically important" in turning back Russian aggression, while brushing off

concerns about his own political future. On Friday Johnson nodded to critics' concerns about the bill but said it is the "best possible product that we can get under these circumstances." He also said that Democrats had been prepared to launch an effort, with a handful of Republicans, to bypass GOP leaders and force

♦ Kyiv says it downed Russian supersonic bomber....

Please turn to page A4

### Indians Flow to Polls in World's Biggest Election



DEMOCRACY IN MOTION: Women walked to a polling station in Parbatsar, Rajasthan, on Friday as nearly 970 million voters began casting ballots in a six-week election expected to result in victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ruling party. A7

## Trump's Trial and Campaign Fuse

By Molly Ball

NEW YORK—As he walked into court for the first day of his first criminal prosecution, Donald Trump hoped to make clear that it was the system, not him, that was really on

"This is an assault on

America," said Trump, his voice echoing in the hallway of the Manhattan courthouse where he stood behind a row of barred metal barriers and gestured with both hands. This is political persecution, this is a persecution like never before. It is a case that should

have never been brought."

courtroom where he would spend much of the week and many to come, in a scene that seems fated to become this election's defining tableau: a former president and the current presumptive Republican nominee sitting at the defendant's table as prosecutors

He then walked into the and defense lawyers seek to convince a jury of his peers whether he is guilty of a felony for having covered up a hush-money payment to an adult film star on the eve of Please turn to page A4

> ♦ Man sets himself on fire near courthouse.

### Two Sisters Took On Boko Haram

A decade after schoolgirl kidnappings, Nigeria's epidemic of abductions is spreading

By Joe Parkinson and Drew Hinshaw

Maryam Ali Maiyanga stepped onto the balcony of her university dorm, phone to her cheek, listening for the voice of a sister who had been missing for almost 10 years.

The 26-year-old college student had been lying on her bed, in between

math and history coursework, when the screen lit up with her lost sibling's new phone number. On the campus below, students finishing fall semester were strolling between the manicured flower beds and parking lots of Nigeria's elite American University.

On the other end, Halima Ali Maiyanga's voice quivered over a shaky

cell line.

"So you escaped? And left me in the forest?"

"There was no chance to tell you," Maryam replied.

Born less than a year apart to different mothers, the sisters were so close they'd often shared a single mattress Please turn to page A10

**Tennessee VW Workers** 

Vote to Join UAW in

### Israelis, **Iranians** Step Back From Open Warfare

By Jared Malsin

ISTANBUL—Israel and Iran backed away from the brink Friday.

After a small-scale Israeli overnight strike on Iran—a response to Iran's far broader missile and drone assault on Israel last week—leaders in Tehran signaled it was time to de-escalate.

But while the foes appear intent for now on returning to the shadow war of covert strikes and counterstrikes that has characterized the conflict for years, the past week's pair of direct attacks on each other's territory have raised the stakes and increased the risks of miscalculation.

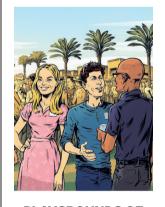
Israel's limited Israeli strike near the city of Isfahan appeared to provide an off-ramp from the recent cycle of direct conflict. No serious damage was reported, and it was played down by both sides, neither of which are seen as having an interest in going to war.

Israel, which is still deeply entangled in its war against Hamas in Gaza, is also under pressure from the Biden administration to tamp down tensions. Iran, because its less capable air force and air defenses would leave it at a disadvantage in a full-scale conventional war with Israel or the U.S., also has an incentive to defuse the current crisis and return to its previous strategy that centered on asymmetrical warfare.

stand-down stopped for now the back-and-Please turn to page A6

♦ U.S. weighs boosting arms aid to Israel.....

### **EXCHANGE**



#### **PLAYGROUNDS OF THE POWERFUL**

The secret retreats that have CEOs, VIPs and billionaires jockeying for invites **B1** 

#### Even KISS Can't Catch a Break From New York City Bureaucrats

A pitch for a namesake corner sparks a neighborhood tizzy. 'Oh, HELL, no.'

By Erin Ailworth

NEW YORK—A block party application. A bus stop presentation. Traffic congestion.

And a vote to coname the southwest corner of W. 23rd St. and Eighth Avenue in Chelsea in honor of the rock band

It was agenda item No. 4a that animated attendees at Wednesday night's meeting of the Manhattan Community Board 4's trans-

portation planning committee. Unlike the band's signature makeup, the proposed "KISS was no black-and-Korner" white matter.

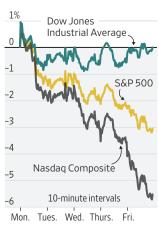
> Dozens of people, some hailing from California, Zoomed in or came out to hear the pitch, which had caused consternation

Not tongue-tied Chelsea. Others wrote letters. "I hope Gene Simmons shows up," said KISS fan Arthur Grabovsky, clad Please turn to page A2

#### **Tech Stocks Hammered**

Nasdaq racks up weekly drop of 5.5%, its worst such performance since 2022. B11

Index performance



### **Historic Win for Union**

By MIKE COLIAS

Workers at Volkswagen's Tennessee factory voted to join the United Auto Workers, marking a historic win for the 89-year-old union that is seeking to expand where it has struggled before, with foreignowned factories in the South.

The vote is a breakthrough for the UAW, whose membership has shrunk by about three-quarters since the 1970s, to less than 400,000 workers last year.

UAW leaders have hitched their growth ambitions to organizing nonunion auto facto-

ries, many of which are in southern states where the Detroit-based labor group has failed several times and antiunion sentiment abounds.

"People are ready for change," said Kelcey Smith, 48, who has worked in the VW plant's paint shop for about a vear, after leaving his job at an Amazon.com warehouse in town. "We look forward to making history and bringing change throughout the entire South."

The National Labor Relations Board oversaw the vote at the Chattanooga factory, where about 4,300 production

Please turn to page A2