



## The Violent Turn in American Politics

REVIEW

# WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

## Pricey Chicken: A Buying Guide

OFF DUTY



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## What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Chip giant Qualcomm** made a takeover approach to rival Intel in recent days, according to people familiar with the matter, in what would be one of the largest and most consequential deals in recent years. **A1**
- ◆ **A deal** between Constellation Energy and Microsoft will restart Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island, the site of the country's worst nuclear power accident, to help power the tech giant's growing AI ambitions. **A1**
- ◆ **Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk** are each dangling discounts for their weight-loss injections to gain an edge and to induce health plans to pay up. **A1**
- ◆ **The chief of Boeing's** troubled defense and space division, which is bogged down by losses, production delays and cost overruns, is leaving the company. **B10**
- ◆ **Mercedes-Benz** has cut its earnings guidance for the year, joining BMW in blaming growing caution of affluent consumers in China. **B9**
- ◆ **Motel 6 has a new owner** after Oyo, an India-based hotel giant, agreed to buy it for \$525 million. **B9**
- ◆ **The S&P 500** and Nasdaq fell 0.2% and 0.4%, respectively, while the Dow edged up 0.1% to 42063.36, for its 29th record close of 2024. **B11**

## World-Wide

- ◆ **Israel launched** another major attack on Hezbollah with a strike in the Lebanese capital of Beirut that killed one of the militant group's top commanders, as the risks rise of a broader conflict between the longtime adversaries. **A1**
- ◆ **The FTC sued** the drug mid-dlemen that health plans use to keep a lid on drug spending, accusing the firms of inflating the price of insulin. **A3**
- ◆ **Poor planning,** communication breakdowns and general sloppiness were the main reasons the Secret Service failed to stop a gunman from trying to kill Trump at a July rally in Pennsylvania, the agency's internal investigation found. **A3**
- ◆ **Washington and Baghdad** have reached an agreement for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and other foreign forces from Iraq by the end of 2026, according to U.S. defense officials, in the latest attempt to curtail America's two-decade-long military commitment. **A8**
- ◆ **Trump has pivoted** to embrace cryptocurrencies and the deep-pocketed investors who have made them their domain. **A4**
- ◆ **Renewed Russian attacks** on Ukrainian power plants have squeezed the lifeblood of the country's economy, pushing some businesses to the breaking point. **A7**

## NOONAN

Kamala Harris is an artless dodger **A13**

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## Early Voting Kicks Off Countdown to Election Day



**A HEAD START:** Nick Vucic and his daughter Abigail, 7, watch as a machine records his vote at a polling station in Arlington, Va. In-person early voting for November's election began on Friday in three states: Virginia, South Dakota and Minnesota.

## Israeli Strike in Beirut Kills A Top Commander of Hezbollah

BEIRUT—Israel launched another major attack on Hezbollah on Friday, with a strike in the Lebanese capital that

By Stephen Kalin, Summer Said and Anat Peled

killed one of the militant group's top commanders, as the risks rise of a broader conflict between the longtime adversaries.

The Israeli military said its airstrike had killed Ibrahim Aqil, who it said had run Hezbollah's operations team and its Radwan special forces, and around 10 other senior commanders who had gathered underground in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Hezbollah confirmed Aqil's killing, calling him one of its leaders. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported at least 14 dead and 66 wounded, with

the toll expected to rise as rescuers search the rubble.

The strike represents a significant blow and another huge security failure for a group already struggling to recover from a week of airstrikes across southern Lebanon and covert attacks that caused electronic devices carried by thousands of the militant group's members to explode virtually simultaneously. Israeli Defense Minister

Yoav Gallant cited the military's "targeted action to eliminate the operational elite of Hezbollah," and vowed that Israel would continue operating until residents can return to their homes in the north, which has been largely evacuated out of fear that Hezbollah could enact a long-threatened plan to invade.

Friday's attack sent a plume of gray smoke up from Please turn to page A8

## Weight-Loss Drugmakers Are Waging A Price War

By PETER LOFTUS

A price battle has broken out in the hot market for weight-loss drugs.

Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk, the pharmaceutical heavyweights selling the popular injections, are each dangling discounts to gain an edge and to induce health plans to pay up. The concessions are slashing as much as half off the price tags of the \$1,000-plus-a-month medicines.

For people who pay out of pocket, Lilly recently introduced vials of its drug Zepbound that cost as little as \$399 a month.

Price concessions are a new, major development in the burgeoning market for weight-loss drugs, after high prices and limited supplies led many health plans to refuse coverage and prompted some patients to turn to lower-priced but unapproved custom-made versions.

The moves could prod more health plans to begin paying for the medicines. That would help some workers who are clamoring for the drugs—but unable to afford them without health insurance—to finally be able to fill prescriptions.

Kailey Wright delayed filling a prescription for Zepbound injection pens after her pharmacy told her she would have to pay about \$600 out of pocket for a month's supply be- Please turn to page A2

## EXCHANGE



**BOSSSES REJOICE** Amazon's CEO signals an end to the work from home free-for-all. **B1**

## Three Mile Island's Rebirth: Microsoft AI Power Source

By JENNIFER HILLER

A deal between Constellation Energy and Microsoft will restart Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island, the site of the country's worst nuclear power accident, to help power the tech giant's growing artificial intelligence ambitions.

Under the agreement, Constellation would revive the plant's undamaged reactor, which was too costly to run and closed in 2019, and sell the power to Microsoft. The plan signals the gargantuan amount of power needed for data centers for AI, along with

the tech industry's thirst for a carbon-free, round-the-clock electricity source needed to meet climate goals.

Constellation expects to spend around \$1.6 billion to restart the reactor by early 2028. Microsoft has signed a 20-year power-purchase agreement with Constellation, the companies said Friday. The deal would help Microsoft pair its 24-7 electricity use with a matching source of nearby clean power generation.

"The most important energy commodity in the world today is a reliable and clean

electric megawatt just because of the difficulty of replicating it and the need for it," Joe Dominguez, Constellation's chief executive officer, said in an interview.

Bobby Hollis, vice president of energy for Microsoft, called the agreement "a major milestone in Microsoft's efforts to help decarbonize the grid."

Constellation shares rose more than 22% Friday to close at \$254.98 each.

Three Mile Island's undamaged Unit 1 reactor sits next to Unit 2, which was shut down after a partial core meltdown Please turn to page A9

## In a Shift, Liberals Join The Gun-Owning Class

By CAMERON MCWHIRTER AND ZUSHA ELINSON

Michael Ciennocozolowski, a lifelong Democrat, supports stricter gun laws and contributes to Sandy Hook Promise, nonprofit dedicated to gun-violence-prevention.

But this summer, the 43-year-old liquor-store clerk in Iowa City, Iowa, bought a gun for the first time in his life. Apprehension about street crime, armed right-wing extremists, and "whatever else the world could possibly throw at us," drove his decision.

American gun culture has long been dominated by con-

servative white men. Now a burgeoning number of liberals are buying firearms, according to surveys and fast-growing gun groups drawing minorities and progressives.

"It's a group of people who five years ago would never have considered buying a gun," says Jennifer Hubbert, an anthropology professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., who has researched liberal gun owners.

Historically, it wasn't unusual for Democrats to own guns. Many more lived in rural areas, and hunting was much more popular. But start- Please turn to page A6

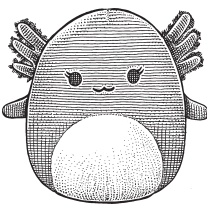
## A Hard-Edged Battle Is Raging Over Soft Toys

\* \* \*

Build-A-Bear and the maker of Squishmallows are fighting it out in court

By CORINNE RAMEY

The Squishmallow, a hybrid stuffed toy and plush pillow, soared in popularity during the pandemic as consumers sought comfort in huggable versions of cute animals and food. Behind that cuteness is an intellectual property battle that is anything but cuddly. Squishmallows maker Jaz-



Who needs a hug?

wares has filed more than three dozen lawsuits against hundreds of companies producing alleged knockoffs. Judges have tossed some of the complaints. Some small defendants located overseas haven't bothered to show up in court. But now a heavyweight battle is brewing with Build-A-Bear, which is expanding its empire beyond its customi- Please turn to page A9