

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Disney defeated** activist shareholder Nelson Peltz in a bruising fight for influence in the entertainment giant's boardroom, handing Chief Executive Bob Iger a major victory over one of Wall Street's most-aggressive investors. **A1**
- ◆ **Members of Paramount's** board agreed to enter exclusive merger discussions with Skydance, favoring it over a recent \$26 billion all-cash offer from private-equity firm Apollo. **B1**
- ◆ **Stronger-than-anticipated** economic activity this year hasn't changed the Fed's broad expectation that declining inflation will allow for interest-rate cuts this year, Powell said. **A2**
- ◆ **U.S. stocks ended mixed** after the Fed chairman's remarks, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq gaining 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively, and the Dow slipping 0.1%. **B9**
- ◆ **SK Hynix said it plans** to invest \$3.9 billion in an advanced chip-packaging facility in West Lafayette, Ind. **B1**
- ◆ **Shares of Intel** retreated more than 8% after the company released restated results for the past three years, breaking out its Foundry chipmaking business. **B4**
- ◆ **French asset manager** AXA IM agreed to acquire W Capital in a bet on profound changes in how private-equity firms exit investments. **B1**
- ◆ **JPMorgan said it** would let marketers tempt Chase customers with targeted deals and discounts related to their spending history. **B1**
- ◆ **Blue Owl struck** a deal to acquire Kuvare Asset Management, giving the lender exposure to the insurance market. **B3**

World-Wide

- ◆ **The assessment of 74%** of respondents to a Wall Street Journal poll of swing states that inflation moved in the wrong direction in the past year is false, contradicted by hard economic data that appear to have little bearing on people's perception of their own situation. **A1**
- ◆ **Israel's mass** antigovernment protest movement re-emerged after a sudden halt in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack, revitalized by hostages' families and putting pressure on Prime Minister Netanyahu over his handling of the war. **A1**
- ◆ **Israel's military said** an initial investigation into a strike that killed seven aid workers in Gaza found its forces had wrongly identified their vehicles as hostile targets. **A6**
- ◆ **Ukraine lowered** the age of military conscription to 25 as part of an effort to bolster its depleted armed forces after two years of fighting Russia's invasion and facing renewed assaults. **A16**
- ◆ **Roughly one million** prospective college students stand to get inaccurate financial-aid offers after a technical glitch, the latest setback for the troubled rollout of a new application for federal grants and loans. **A4**
- ◆ **Uganda's constitutional** court upheld large parts of an anti-LGBTQ law that prompted the U.S. to expel the East African country from a preferential trade deal. **A16**
- ◆ **A Washington state** man who used a megaphone to orchestrate a mob's attack on police officers guarding the Capitol was sentenced to more than seven years in prison. **A4**

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Taiwan Turns to Quake Rescues



SAM YELVENCE FRANCE PRESSE (GETTY IMAGES)

ROCKED: Emergency workers outside a partially collapsed building in Hualien on Wednesday, following a magnitude-7.4 quake that killed at least nine and injured 900. At least 130 people remained trapped, including 70 stuck in two mines operated by a cement company. **A5**

France's Macron Tries to Spur Tougher Stance on Putin

He wants all military options for Ukraine, unsettling NATO allies

By STACY MEICHTRY AND BOJAN PANCEVSKI

President Emmanuel Macron of France held confidential calls with President Biden and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in February to lay the groundwork for a Paris summit that he hoped would shake up the West's strategy in the Ukraine war.

Western allies—Macron told each leader, according to officials—should adopt a position of strategic ambiguity toward Russia that would leave all military options on the table.

The idea represented a radical break from

the stance the Biden administration had maintained since the start of the war. Washington's approach was calibrated to avoid actions that might provoke Moscow and escalate the conflict. Macron, in contrast, wanted to stop broadcasting the limits of Western engagement—what are called the West's "red lines"—and instead keep the Kremlin guessing.

Biden questioned the need for a change in strategy, the officials said, amid concerns it could lead to an escalation. Scholz also opposed the idea, saying it risked dividing allies

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In Today's Economy, Voters' Vibes Battle With Clear-Cut Data

By GREG IP

In The Wall Street Journal's latest poll of swing states, 74% of respondents said inflation has moved in the wrong direction in the past year.

This assessment, which holds across all seven states, is startling, sobering—and simply not true.

ANALYSIS This is not an opinion. This isn't something on which reasonable people can disagree. If hard economic data count for anything, we can say unambiguously that inflation has moved in the right direction in the past year.

In the 12 months through February, inflation, according to the century-old consumer-price index, was 3.2%, compared with 6% a year earlier. Use a slightly different time horizon, or a slightly different measure (such as the index the Federal Reserve prefers) and you get similar results. Take out food and energy—or for that matter look only at food and energy—and inflation is still down.

Yes, some individuals faced higher inflation (someone who

bought a house, for instance) but, for the average person, inflation went down.

Yet the average person thinks it went up.

When it comes to the economy, the vibes are at war with the facts, and the vibes are winning. This is obviously bad news for President Biden's reelection hopes. He can't exactly tell voters they're wrong; he would be called out of touch. And it probably wouldn't change anything. The vibes seem symptomatic of a broader pessimism disconnected from the data.

It's tempting to chalk this up to a misunderstanding. Lower inflation means the level of prices is still rising, just more slowly than before. People sometimes conflate inflation with the level of prices and believe inflation is getting worse because the price level keeps going up (it rarely goes down).

A recently released Brookings Institution study by Harvard University economist Stefanie Stantcheva sheds light on exactly how people think and feel about inflation.

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Disney Defeats Activist Peltz In Proxy Fight

Shareholders elect company's board picks, a win for CEO Iger's rebuilding plan

By ROBBIE WHELAN AND LAUREN THOMAS

Disney defeated activist shareholder Nelson Peltz in a bruising fight for influence in the entertainment giant's boardroom, handing Chief Executive Bob Iger a major victory over one of Wall Street's most aggressive investors.

The company said Wednesday that shareholders voted to elect its entire slate of board nominees, while Peltz, who has argued Disney needs a fresh voice to hold management accountable, lost his bid to become a director.

Disney said its slate of 12 directors won shareholder support "by a substantial margin," according to preliminary results.

The outcome of the vote leaves control of the boardroom firmly in the hands of

Iger-friendly directors—all but one of whom were appointed on his watch. It also allows the company to return to a full-time focus on rebuilding Disney and addressing challenges from turning a profit on streaming to reinvigorating a studio business that has lost some of its magic.

"With the distracting proxy contest now behind us, we're eager to focus 100% of our attention on our most important priorities: growth and value creation for our shareholders and creative excellence for our consumers," Iger said.

He told shareholders at the meeting that the company is now on a more solid foundation, strengthened by its action over the past year. "We have turned the corner," he said.

The results are a blow to Peltz's Triun Partners, which has been trying to revive itself after investor withdrawals and a string of employee exits.

"We are proud of the impact we have had in refocusing this Company on value creation and good governance."

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Israeli Protests Urge Netanyahu's Removal

By ANAT PELED

JERUSALEM—Israel's mass antigovernment protest movement has re-emerged after a sudden halt in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack, revitalized by the families of hostages and putting pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his handling of the war.

Whether the movement, which before the war drew half a million Israelis to the streets a week, can galvanize the same level of support will be a test of its potential to take down Netanyahu's right-wing, ultranationalist and religious government and force new elections.

Benny Gantz, a member of Netanyahu's war cabinet from the center-right National Unity party and one of his chief political rivals, on Wednesday called for early elections in September.

The call for new elections echoes what a growing segment of Israeli society has begun to openly say: that despite the war, Netanyahu needs to leave office. Still, there is no imminent threat to Netanyahu's government collapsing, even if Gantz chooses to leave the government. Likud, Netanyahu's right-wing party, rejected the call for September elections and said it would harm Israel's ability to execute the war.

In four days of protests ending on Wednesday, large crowds came out to call for the government to make the return of hostages from Gaza a priority and to push for elections. On Sunday, as around 100,000 protested across the country, according to organizers, tens of thousands surrounded the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem. While the turnout was below prewar levels, the re-

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◆ **Israel says it misidentified aid worker vehicles.....** **A6**

INSIDE



SPORTS
N.C. State isn't a long shot in the NCAA tournament—it's a 23,512-to-1 miracle. **A12**

U.S. NEWS
New college aid form trips up students, with technical glitch causing inaccurate offers. **A4**

Who's Going to Buy All This Matzo?

A calendar quirk means Passover is a month late, confusing stores and shoppers

By SPENCER JAKAB

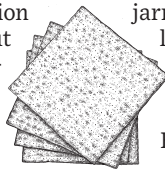
Laurie Rochlin suddenly felt like she was in a time warp—an odd sensation to have anywhere, but especially when walking down aisle 11 of ShopRite.

It was still February, yet, grocery shelves at her lo-

cal store in New Milford, N.J., were piled toward heaven with matzo, gefilte fish and horseradish. "It was kind of jarring," recalls Rochlin, a learning consultant. "She had to ask herself: 'Is it Passover?'"

Suzanne Reindorf of Boca Raton, Fla., noticed the same thing at her

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Lotsa matzo

Business Schools Are Going All In on AI

By LINDSAY ELLIS

At the Wharton School this spring, Prof. Ethan Mollick assigned his students the task of automating away part of their jobs.

Mollick told his students at the University of Pennsylvania to expect to feel insecure about their own capabilities once they understood what artificial intelligence can do.

"You haven't used AI until you've had an existential crisis," he said. "You need three sleepless nights."

Top business schools are pushing M.B.A. candidates and undergraduates to use artificial intelligence as a second brain. Students are eager for the instruction as employers increasingly hire talent with AI skills.

American University's Kogod School of Business is putting an unusually high emphasis on AI, threading teaching on the technology through 20 new or adapted classes, from forensic accounting to marketing, which will roll out next school year. Professors this week started training on how

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