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*** \$5.00

DJIA 38996.39 **A** 47.37 0.12%

NASDAQ 16091.92 ▲ 0.9%

STOXX 600 494.61 ▲ 0.004%

10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 6/32, yield 4.251%

GOLD \$2,045.70 ▲ \$12.70

EURO \$1.0807 **YEN** 149.98

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite closed at a record for the first time since 2021, rising 0.9%, while the S&P 500 also set a record with a gain of 0.5%. The Dow industrials advanced 0.1%. B1
- ♦ Oil-and-gas companies are accelerating investments in geothermal energy, betting the technologies that fueled the shale revolution can turn the budding industry into a large producer of clean power. B1
- ◆ China's manufacturing sector remained in contraction for a fifth consecutive month in February, underscoring the difficulties facing the country's leadership as it seeks to support a faltering economy. A16
- ◆ The descendants of Walt Disney and his brother Roy released two letters to Disney shareholders, backing the company and CEO Iger in their fight against activist investor Nelson Peltz. B2
- ◆ The FAA asked Boeing to develop a comprehensive plan within 90 days to address quality-control issues after the midair blowout of a door plug on an Alaska Airlines flight in January. B3
- ◆ IAG said sustained strong travel demand helped to boost its net profit and the British Airways parent projected capacity growth of about 7% this year. **B3**
- ◆ Air France-KLM's fourthquarter losses were worse than analysts expected after the Israel-Hamas war disrupted travel to the Middle East and the carrier's expenses continued to rise. B3
- ◆ Vanguard CEO Mortimer J. "Tim" Buckley will retire by year-end, capping a sixyear tenure. B1

World-Wide

- **♦ Israeli troops opened** fire on Palestinian civilians as a chaotic series of events unfolded involving a convoy of aid trucks in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military and Gaza health officials said, prompting Hamas to pause delicate cease-fire negotiations. A1
- ◆ Biden and Trump made dueling visits to the U.S.-Mexico border, as the two likely election opponents used Texas towns 300 miles apart to push for tougher border policies while blaming the other's party for failing to fix the migrant crisis. A1
- ◆ A federal judge temporarily blocked a new Texas law that would allow the state to deport migrants, declaring the measure unconstitutional and an infringement on federal prerogative. A7
- **♦ The Commerce** Department is opening an investigation into foreign-made software in cars, citing Chinese technology as a potential national-security risk. A1
- **♦ Congress approved** a spending bill to prevent a partial government shutdown, with Speaker Johnson forced to turn to a coalition made up mostly of Democrats to clear it in the House. A4
- ◆ Both chambers of the Alabama Legislature passed bills intended to protect in vitro fertilization providers after the state Supreme Court ruled that embryos qualify as children. A3
- ◆ A nuclear-armed Moscow would do "absolutely everything" to pursue its military operation in Ukraine, Putin told Russian lawmakers. A8
- ◆ Died: Brian Mulroney, 84, former Canadian leader. A16

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President Biden, in Brownsville, Texas, across the Rio Grande from Mexico, spoke to Border Patrol agents Thursday and

Biden, Trump Travel to Border, **Putting Spotlight on Migrants**

President Biden and former President Donald Trump made dueling visits to the U.S.-Mexico border Thursday, as the two likely election opponents used Texas towns 300 miles apart to push for tougher border policies while blaming the other's party for failing to fix the migrant crisis.

The nationally televised events-each featuring meetings with law-enforcement officials, tours of border barri-

By Tarini Parti in Brownsville, Texas, Adolfo Flores in Eagle Pass, Texas, and <mark>Annie Linskey</mark> in Washington

ers and curious onlookershighlighted the extraordinary importance of immigration as an issue in the presidential election that has become a top concern for voters both near and far from the border amid record illegal crossings.

Biden, a Democrat who made his second trip to the border as president, received a briefing from Border Patrol agents by the banks of the Rio Grande in Brownsville and met with law enforcement and local leaders. The president blamed Republicans for blocking a bipartisan border agreement in the Senate that would have allowed the government to expel migrants if crossings surpassed a daily threshold of 4,000. After months of negotiations, Republicans ultimately said the

terms didn't go far enough. "Folks, it's real simple—it's time to act. It's well past time to act," Biden said, pitching the bipartisan deal that would Please turn to page A7

♦ House passes spending bill to avert a shutdown...... A4

Israel Fires on Civilians **Amid Aid Delivery**

Hamas pauses cease-fire talks after dozens killed in Gaza, conflicting accounts

TEL AVIV—Israeli troops opened fire on Palestinian civilians as a chaotic series of events unfolded involving a convoy of aid trucks in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli military and Gaza health officials said, prompting Hamas to pause delicate cease-fire negotiations.

> By Sune Engel Rasmussen, Margherita Stancati and Anat Peled

The Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses and officials gave conflicting accounts of what happened. Gaza health officials said more than 100 Palestinians were killed and 700 injured.

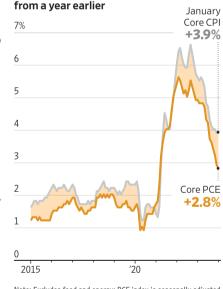
Israeli officials said thousands of Palestinians surrounded some 30 trucks carrying aid into northern Gaza along the strip's main seaside road at about 4 a.m. on Thursday. Dozens were fatally trampled or injured in the crush, and some were run over by the trucks, Israeli officials said.

Soon after, officials said, Israeli troops a short distance down the road from the aid convoy opened fire on a crowd that approached a military checkpoint and ignored warning shots. A military spokesman said the shooting was under investigation and that it could have caused deaths and injuries.

Three witnesses said Israeli soldiers and tanks fired at people waiting for aid deliveries Please turn to page A8

Which Measure Is Right?

When it comes to inflation, the Labor Department's consumer-price index is generally thought of as the report to follow. But a Commerce Department measure, core PCE, is what the Federal Reserve watches. PCE prices run cooler than the CPI, and lately the gap between the two has been especially large. A2



Change in core prices.

Note: Excludes food and energy; PCE index is seasonally adjusted Sources: Labor Department (CPI); Commerce Department (PCE)

Why Hamas Thinks It Still Could Win the War

Gaza leader bets militants can survive Israel's onslaught

Senior members of Hamas's leadership in exile met in Doha, Qatar, last month amid concerns that its fighters were getting mauled by an Israeli offensive in the Gaza

> By Marcus Walker, Anat Peled and Summer Said

Strip. Enemy troops were killing dozens of militants each day as they methodically overran Hamas strongholds.

Then a courier arrived with a message from Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in Gaza, saying, in effect: Don't worry, we have the Israelis right where we want them. Hamas's fighters, the Al-Qassam Brigades,

were doing fine, the upbeat message said. The militants were ready for Israel's expected assault on Rafah, a city on Gaza's southern edge. High civilian casualties would add to the worldwide pressure on Israel to stop the war, Sinwar's message said, according to people informed about the

Hamas's military wing in Gaza is waging an unequal fight with the strongest military in the Middle East—a war brought on by the

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Your Bike Just Got Stolen. These Vigilantes Will Get It Back.

'I hate thieves.' Bicycle theft is booming, but so is the army of citizen sleuths fighting it.

By John Clarke

Mike Pavlik sees a lot while recovering stolen bikes around Minneapolis. Once, pretending to be a potential buyer, he dressed up in khakis, a sports coat and met a seller. Pavlik took note of the

make, model and markings, confirming it was the bike he was hunting. He asked to take it for a test ride. The seller wanted some collateral.

"Do I look like the kind of guy that steals bikes, dude?" Pavlik recalls asking the man. Then he just pedaled off. An hour later, the seller texted him, "I guess you're not coming back?"

army: amateur sleuths who find stolen bikes and return

them to their owners. As bike theft becomes more profitable, grassroot efforts to thwart thieves are springing up nationwide. Part wannabe detective, part vigilantes, the volunteers say recovering bikes is strangely fun and addictive. Pavlik, who is 51, works

> part time at Trader Joe's when he's not gumshoeing for Twin Cities Stolen Bikes, which has Facebook page with 11,000 members. The volunteer group reunites

owners with their wheels, often by tracking stolen bikes for sale on Facebook Marketplace, OfferUp, Craigslist or eBay and then confronting alleged thieves.

Pavlik likes helping victims Pavlik is part of an unusual almost as much as he likes punishing thieves.

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Apple hasn't made a big splash in AI yet, and that's making investors impatient. **B1**



MANSION

Expanding cities in the Southwest are starting to embrace vertical living. M1

U.S. Fears Chinese Cars Pose Big Security Threat

By Gareth Vipers

The U.S. Commerce Department is opening an investigation into foreign-made software in cars, citing Chinese technology as a potential national-security risk.

Chinese efforts to dominate the global auto industry posed clear security risks to the U.S., President Biden said Thursday.

"Connected vehicles from China could collect sensitive data about our citizens and our infrastructure and send this data back to the People's Republic of China," said Biden, who ordered the probe, in a statement. "These vehicles could be remotely accessed or disabled.'

The investigation could lead to restrictions on the use of certain parts in cars in the U.S.

Right now, few U.S.-sold cars are made in China and most have software developed by Western firms, making the immediate threat limited.

However, Chinese car companies are moving swiftly to expand globally, and if they gain entry into the U.S., the potential risk could be higher, industry analysts said. The probe is the latest in a

series of moves by the Biden administration to protect U.S. industry against what officials see as the growing threat of Chinese cyberattacks.

Within the auto industry, car executives are also growing increasingly nervous about the competitive threat posed by some of these Chinese car companies, whose lowerpriced electric cars are gaining popularity in Southeast Asia and Europe. Some automotive CEOs have recently pressed for stiffer trade barriers to limit their expansion, particularly to the U.S.

Currently, Chinese-built cars are subject to an extra 25% tariff on top of the regular 2.5% import duty that generally ap-

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