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DJIA 38949.02 ▼ 23.39 0.06% NASDAQ 15947.74 ▼ 0.5% STOXX 600 494.59 ▼ 0.3% 10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 11/32, yield 4.273% OIL \$78.54 ▼ \$0.33 GOLD \$2,033.00 ▼ \$1.40 EURO \$1.0840 YEN 150.68

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **The SEC** is scrutinizing internal communications by OpenAI's Sam Altman as part of an investigation into whether the company's investors were misled. **B1**

◆ **New York's attorney** general sued JBS, alleging that the Brazil-based meatpacker misled consumers with its climate goals, including its plan to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, to boost sales. **A1**

◆ **Major U.S. stock** indexes declined, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow industrials retreating 0.2%, 0.5% and 0.1%, respectively. **B11**

◆ **Stripe is allowing** its employees to cash out more stock as the fintech company continues to put off an initial public offering. **B4**

◆ **Disney said it** struck a deal to form a joint venture valued at \$8.5 billion that will combine its Star India business with Viacom18, an Indian media company. **B1**

◆ **Elon Musk said Tesla** intends to start shipping its long-delayed Roadster sports car next year as competition among EV makers intensifies. **B1**

◆ **Wendy's said its** dynamic-pricing plan floated earlier this month was misconstrued, and that it wouldn't raise prices at its restaurants' busiest times. **B1**

◆ **Reckitt Benckiser's** profit fell and sales missed market expectations after the consumer-goods company booked impairments at its infant-formula business. **B3**

◆ **Anheuser-Busch and the Teamsters** reached a tentative contract deal, avoiding a potential strike at breweries across the U.S. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **The Supreme Court** agreed to consider whether Trump must stand trial on charges he plotted to overturn the 2020 election, after lower courts rejected his claim that he is entitled to absolute immunity because he was president at the time. **A1**

◆ **The high court** delved into the mechanics of semiautomatic rifles in arguments over a Trump-era ban on stocks that let those weapons deliver a machine gun's rate of fire. **A2**

◆ **Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell** said he would step down from his leadership role in November, yielding to the pressures of age and rapid changes in the GOP. **A1**

◆ **Top congressional** leaders unveiled a deal to keep the federal government fully operating beyond Friday, when funding is scheduled to lapse for some agencies. **A4**

◆ **Devastating fires** ripped through the Texas Panhandle, destroying homes and livestock and sparking a wave of evacuations. **A3**

◆ **A New York appeals-court** judge declined to suspend enforcement of a \$355 million civil judgment against Trump, but eased parts of a lower court's order. **A7**

◆ **Hoping to curb** an influx of asylum seekers, Canada will reimpose visa requirements on Mexican visitors in a measure to take effect at midnight on Thursday. **A2**

◆ **The funeral of Russian** opposition politician and Kremlin irritant Alexei Navalny was announced for Friday. **A8**

◆ **Died: Richard Lewis**, 76, "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star. **A6**

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Ramadan Deadline Looms Over Beleaguered City



DARK DAYS: Children hover in a charred car Wednesday in Rafah in southern Gaza. Israel says it will unleash an offensive on the city if there is no cease-fire deal by the start of the Muslim holy month, as it fears Hamas plans to spread the conflict. **A8**

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Trump's Claims of Immunity

By JESS BRAVIN

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court agreed Wednesday to consider whether Donald Trump must stand trial on charges he plotted to overturn the 2020 election, after lower courts rejected his claim that he is entitled to absolute immunity because he was president at the time.

The court's move means it will have final say on an issue the judiciary never confronted before Trump. But the former president has also bought himself more months before any trial, which had been scheduled to start in early March before the immunity battle scuttled those plans.

The justices scheduled oral arguments for the week of April 22. A decision is likely before July.

With Wednesday's announcement, the Supreme Court will be considering Trump's immunity claims while he will likely be in the middle of a criminal trial in New York, on allegations he falsified business records to cover up a hush-money payment to a porn star. A state judge has scheduled that trial to begin March 25.

If the justices reject Trump's immunity argu-

ments, a federal trial on the election-interference charges likely wouldn't take place until late summer, at the earliest. The Republican National Convention, where Trump will seek his third presidential nomination, begins July 15 in Milwaukee.

Separately on Wednesday, a New York state appeals justice denied Trump's request to halt a \$355 million civil-fraud penalty that the former president said could force him to sell parts of his real-estate empire. Additional developments in that case are likely this spring.

Trump's immunity appeal

argues that his false claims of election fraud and attempts to pressure state officials and Vice President Mike Pence to undo Joe Biden's victory before its certification on Jan. 6, 2021, were official acts Trump undertook under his presidential authority, and thus cannot be prosecuted as crimes.

After the court's order, Trump said that if he is required to stand trial, the precedent "could actually lead to the extortion and blackmail of a president. The other side

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◆ **Trump loses bid to halt \$355 million ruling..... A7**

McConnell To Resign As GOP Senate Leader

The 82-year-old will relinquish the post in November after nearly two decades

By SIOBHAN HUGHES AND LINDSAY WISE

WASHINGTON—Sen. Mitch McConnell, the longest-serving Senate party leader in history, said Wednesday he would step down from his leadership role in November, yielding to both the pressures of age and the rapid changes in the Republican Party.

As the top Senate Republican since 2007, the Kentucky lawmaker wielded brass-knuckled tactics to install conservatives on the Supreme Court, defeat campaign-finance measures and see through the passage of major tax cuts in 2017. But as former President Donald Trump, a McConnell critic, marches toward this year's GOP presidential nomination, the Senate leader has fallen out of step with major elements of his conference, most recently over his support for aid to Ukraine and his backing of a muscular U.S. role abroad.

"Believe me, I know the politics within my party at this particular moment in time," McConnell said on the Senate floor Wednesday. "I have many faults. Misunderstanding politics is not one of them."

McConnell, 82 years old, was first elected to the Senate in 1984, and an aide confirmed Wednesday that McConnell still plans to serve out the rest of his term that expires in early 2027. His announcement touched off frenzied conversations on Capitol

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◆ **Lawmakers reach deal that would avoid shutdown.. A4**

Contrarian At the Fed Picks Up His Own Followers

By NICK TIMIRAO

Federal Reserve governor Christopher Waller laid out a novel economic framework two years ago showing how the central bank could bring inflation back to its 2% target without the usual jump in unemployment, stirring furious pushback from economic heavyweights.

Two years later, with inflation edging closer to 2% and unemployment near a half-century low, Waller is looking prescient. It is one of the reasons the academic economist-turned-central banker is one of the Fed's most closely watched officials and a name now floated to chair the Fed one day.

In recent years, Waller has been a hawk—a central banker who worries more about high inflation than high unemployment in setting interest rates. One of the reasons for this is a framework that gave him confidence inflation could be brought down without high unemployment, contrary to some standard economic theory. His theory: In a hot labor market, tight monetary policy would lead employers to slow hiring by scrapping vacancies rather than by laying off employees they worked so hard to hire.

At the time, in 2022, the Fed had just started raising rates rapidly from near zero after realizing inflation, contrary to its initial view, wasn't transitory. Critics accused Waller of putting lipstick on a pig

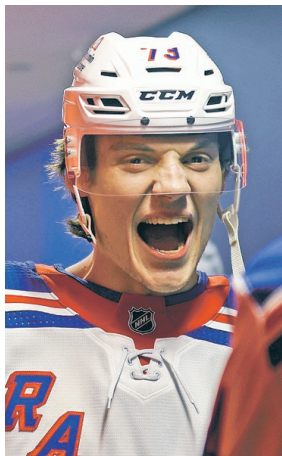
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INSIDE



JOANNA STERN

The Apple Vision Pro goes on the road again—and on the couch—for more trials. **A11**



SPORTS

A Rangers rookie who loves serving knuckle sandwiches brings the fight to the NHL. **A14**

Mütter Museum Exhibits Show Guts, Including the 'Mega Colon'

New donors rattled by changes afoot at the not-for-the squeamish medical museum

By PETER LOFTUS

PHILADELPHIA—In philanthropy, there is a rare group of people willing to give more of themselves.

At the Mütter Museum, that includes skulls, limbs and gallstones. The medical museum has been shining a light on the inner workings of mankind for 160 years. Glass cases display human skeletons and preserved organs, including an oversize colon

of a man who died from constipation caused by a congenital disease. There also is part

of a tumor removed from President Grover Cleveland's jawbone in 1893.

"Not for the squeamish," declares one of the Mütter's more than 800 Yelp reviews, perhaps referring to the severed hand or the 17-inch-wide ovarian cyst. The gift shop sells plush toy versions of the "Mega Colon," as well as E. coli, chlamydia and flesh-eating virus.

Barbara Kotzin, a 74-year-old retired speech pathologist in Cheltenham, Pa., decided more than 20 years ago to donate her skeleton to the museum. She'd

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'Nuclear Option' In TikTok Fight

More songs removed from app in battle with Universal over rights payments

By ANNE STEELE AND MEGHAN BOBROWSKY

Gwen Stefani wanted her new song to have its day.

The No Doubt frontwoman and star solo artist planned to release a duet with husband Blake Shelton earlier this month and promote it with a pre-Super Bowl show. A week before the release of "Purple Irises," however, her label's parent company, Universal Music Group, took the unusual step of pulling all of its artists'

songs off TikTok after reaching a stalemate in contract negotiations with the social-media platform.

The move meant that Stefani's song couldn't be released on TikTok and short videos promoting it on the app—a ritual that has become a core element of marketing new music releases—were a no-go.

Stefani and her team decided to pivot: Shelton's country label, Warner Music Nashville

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N.Y. Accuses Meatpacker Of Lying About Climate

By PATRICK THOMAS

New York's top lawyer filed a lawsuit accusing JBS, the world's largest meatpacker, of lying about its impact on the environment to win over climate-conscious customers.

New York Attorney General Letitia James on Wednesday sued the Brazilian meat giant's U.S. division, saying that JBS misled consumers with its climate goals, including its plan to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, to boost sales.

"JBS USA's environmental greenwashing exploits the pocketbooks of everyday Americans and the promise of a healthy planet for future generations," said James, a Democrat, in a statement.

A JBS spokeswoman said JBS takes its commitment to a

sustainable future for agriculture seriously and disagrees with the New York attorney general's office.

"JBS will continue to partner with farmers, ranchers and our food system partners around the world to help feed a growing population while using fewer resources and reducing agriculture's environmental impact," she said.

The New York lawsuit spotlights the meat company's climate goals and practices that have long been criticized by environmental groups. The lawsuit also comes as environmentalists have joined to oppose the company's planned listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

JBS is one of the top meat suppliers in the U.S. with the

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