

Los Angeles Times

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REPORT WARNS OF MEASLES ROARING BACK

A disease 'eliminated' in U.S. in 2000 could be ever-present again if current vaccination rates hold, study says.

By CORINNE PURTILL

In December, Stanford School of Medicine colleagues Dr. Nathan Lo and Mathew Kiang got to talking.

Childhood immunization rates were slowly but steadily falling nationwide, from 95% in the years before the pandemic to less than 93% in the 2023-24 school year.

If even that relatively small decline in vaccinations for measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR; diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, or DTaP; polio; and varicella held, they wondered, what would U.S. infectious-disease prevalence look like in 10 years, or 20? What would happen if vaccination rates went up by a little bit, or fell by a whole lot?

Lo and Kiang put together a statistical model representative of the U.S. population and ran the results.

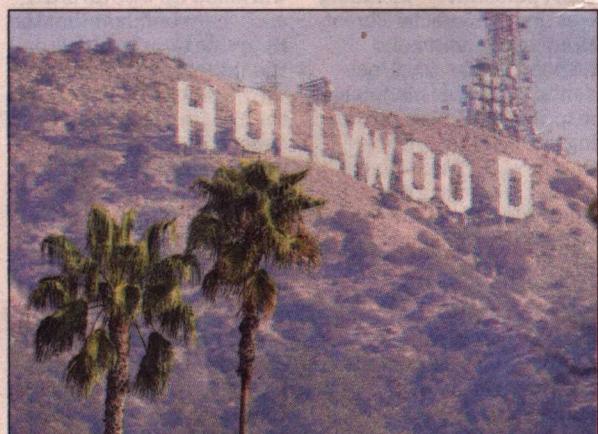
They found that if current vaccination rates hold steady over coming decades, measles — currently spreading in many parts of the country, but primarily in the Southwest — will once again be endemic in the U.S. within 25 years.

Their results were published Thursday in the Journal of the American Medical Assn.

Measles was technically "eliminated" in the U.S. in 2000, meaning the disease became rare enough — and immunity widespread enough — that even if a case or two were to arise within a community, local transmission would quickly grind to a halt. In the 25 years since, there have been 10,570 measles cases, including the 800 people sickened in the outbreak that began in west Texas in January.

But at current vaccination rates, Lo and Kiang estimate there could be as many as 851,300 measles cases between now and 2050. By their

[See Measles, A7]



DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press

THE ICONIC Hollywood sign, an emblem of California's entertainment industry, is seen in January.



RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

CLUSTERS of Merlot grapes hang on the vines at Napa Valley's Cakebread Cellars in Rutherford, Calif.



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

AN ELECTRIC self-driving vehicle from Mountain View-based Waymo travels in Santa Monica in 2023.



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

AMID tariffs that could jeopardize the state economy, shipping containers pile up at the Port of Los Angeles.

ICE check-ins for Southeast Asians leading to deportation

Normally routine visits turn worrying for Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese immigrants whose orders had long been stayed

By MELISSA GOMEZ

A growing number of Southeast Asian immigrants in Los Angeles and Orange counties whose deportation orders have been on indefinite hold for years are being detained, and in some cases, deported after showing up for routine check-ins at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, according to immigrant attorneys and advocacy groups.

In recent months, a number of Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese immigrants whose orders had been stayed — in some cases for decades — have been told that they will be enforced as the Trump administration seeks to increase the number of deportations.

The immigrants being targeted are generally people who were convicted of a

[See Migrants, A8]



DAMIAN DOVARGANES Associated Press

AN IMMIGRANT deemed a threat to public safety and national security waits to be processed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in L.A. in 2022.

Pope's daily calls for peace resonate in Gaza

By BILAL SHBEIR AND NABIH BULOS

GAZA CITY — "Pope o'clock." That's what Gaza residents sheltering in this besieged Catholic parish called the time — usually 8 p.m. local time, 7 p.m. in Rome — when Pope Francis would video call Father Gabriel Romanelli, the pastor of the Holy Family Church in Gaza City.



Reservoir needs further repair

New leaks are found in the Pacific Palisades site's floating cover, delaying reopening. CALIFORNIA, B1

Traffic declines at Port of L.A.

Arrivals will drop by 35% in next two weeks because of Trump's tariffs, executive director says. BUSINESS, A9

Clippers result, coverage online

State eclipses Japan in economic rankings

Governor touts California's climb to No. 4 globally amid concerns over tariff consequences.

By HANNAH FRY AND CLARA HARTER

If California were its own country, its economy would now rank as the fourth-largest of any nation across the globe, Gov. Gavin Newsom said, a new milestone that comes at a time of major economic turbulence.

California has long been a global powerhouse, fueled by a variety of sectors including technology, agriculture, tourism and entertainment. The new ranking comes as the state is facing challenges from a trade war with China and other nations that are key California trading partners.

Newsom announced the state's new economic ranking Wednesday after recently released data from the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis indicated that California's nominal gross domestic product now exceeds Japan's.

According to the data, California's nominal GDP reached \$4.1 trillion, surpassing Japan's \$4.02 trillion. That places the Golden State behind only the United States at \$29.18 trillion, China at \$18.74 trillion and Germany at \$4.65 trillion.

"California isn't just keeping pace with the world — we're setting the pace," Newsom said in a statement. "Our economy is thriving because we invest in people, prioritize sustainability, and believe in the power of innovation."

[See California, A10]

California nonprofits are ready for a fight

One group of health clinics is organizing a campaign against Trump's program cuts.

By JAMES RAINIE

With the Trump administration slashing budgets and threatening to revoke tax-exempt status for nonprofits, some Southern California social justice organizations have gone into a defensive crouch, hoping to wait out the passing storm.

They are not openly fighting President Trump's program cuts. Some have

Stoner duo turns over a new leaf

[**'Last Movie,'** from E1] are sitting front-seat-of-the-car close to each other at the cafe. Marin wears a crisp blue denim jacket and jeans, his arms folded. He leans slightly toward his longtime comedy partner, who provides a colorful counterpoint in a quilted zip-front jacket covered in a riot of paisley patterns. He's sporting a chunky shell necklace. They answer a handful of questions this way — Marin with quick bursts of humor, Chong with longer, near-meandering monologues.

But when the camera clicks off, there's a palpable vibe shift. Cheech & Chong — the version joined by an ampersand in our collective consciousness — are gone. Cheech puts on his sunglasses and leans away. Chong looks at the facade of the restaurant and recalls how, under a different name, it appeared in a scene from one of his post-duo films, 1990's "Far Out Man." Both sip on their lattes. Instead of an affable pair riffing off each other, they seem more like two guys who worked together once, had a falling out and now are back in each other's orbit but maybe aren't exactly thrilled about it.

Which brings us to that second question. What reunited them on the big screen for the first time since 1984's "The Corsican Brothers"?

"You know, you can't refuse a daughter," Chong says, referring to 59-year-old Robbi Chong, who is one of "Last Movie's" producers. She coaxed the two back into a creative relationship in the mid-aughts, which resulted in a run of stand-up shows in 2008. It was around that time that she was also involved in an (ultimately unsuccessful) reunion-movie effort.

"I was brought in as a producer for that project," director David Bushell tells The Times at the same Venice cafe an hour later. "And that's how I met the guys and met Robbi. We became close and would take hikes together and [talk about] trying to keep the reunion-movie train on the tracks." Bushell says that, over those years, the notion of doing a straight-up, old-school-style narrative movie gave way to a documentary approach, the result of which is Bushell's feature directing debut.

I'll be the first to admit that, at first blush, a Cheech & Chong documentary sounds a whole lot less fun than the hazy buddies-with-buds tenor of the movies. But thanks to a little bit of magic and a whole lot of nos-

talgia, it turns out to be a worthy road trip down memory lane. Figuratively and literally.

ALONG ROAD

This film opens with a nostalgic nod to their very first one, 1978's "Up in Smoke"; Yesca's blues-rock song "Lost Due to Incompetence (Theme for a Big Green Van)" plays as a Rolls-Royce with a pot-leaf hood ornament and a KP SMOKIN license plate speeds through the desert. An opening montage of video clips ends with an iconic two-shot from the film of their characters, Pedro (Marin) behind the wheel and Man (Chong) riding shotgun, disappearing into a screen full of smoke. When the smoke clears — voilà! — they're back. Older, grayer and puffier (that's what a 47-year jump cut will do to you), it's still unmistakably Cheech behind the wheel and Chong in the seat next to him.

In addition to those interstitial car-ride scenes, the movie relies heavily on archival interview footage (Cheech & Chong interviewed by Geraldo Rivera, Cheech & Chong at the Playboy Mansion, etc.). Paired with these older interviews are still photos and funky animation (by James Blagden). Throughout the documentary's two-hour running time, with very rare exception, the people telling their story are either Cheech & Chong themselves (from back in the day) or Cheech & Chong (from today).

It turns out to be a seriously deep dive about two very funny people and the arc of their career together. It starts with both men's early lives, the forces that shaped them and the mind-bogglingly serendipitous paths that brought the California-born Mexican American Marin together with the Edmonton-born Chong, the son of Chinese and Scotch-Irish parents, in a Vancouver nightclub called Shanghai Junk in 1968.

"It just seemed right to us," Marin recalls about that first meeting so long ago. "I knew the tunes that he knew and he knew the tunes that I knew. And we both had a background in the Black communities, so we had that in common. It was like we understood each other's music."

GROWN IN L.A.

About 44 minutes into the film, the third power player in the duo's dynamic emerges. "We had two choices — New York or L.A.," Chong says in a black-and-



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

"LAST MOVIE" reunites comedy partners Cheech Marin, left, and Tommy Chong to reflect on their long relationship, from meeting in a Vancouver club in 1968, through their creative falling out and to the present.

white archival video clip. "It's warmer, [so] it's easier to starve in L.A.," Marin jokes in the same clip.

They recount being discovered by Lou Adler at a hootenanny night at the Troubadour in 1970 and how that relationship lighted the Roman candle of their career. They mention how Jack Nicholson's erratic high-speed driving — on the wrong side of the road down Manchester Boulevard — inspired their song "Basketball Jones."

"There's more space and it's progressive in California and it allows artists and creativity to expand and flourish, especially at that time," director Bushell says about how he thinks moving here helped shape what became Cheech & Chong. "People are going to be influenced by their surroundings. Los Angeles had the weed and surf and skateboarder [cultures]. So, yes, I think environment played a role."

With or without the ampersand, Cheech and Chong have pretty much made their homes here ever since. Both currently live in Pacific Palisades. (Although their homes were spared in the January fires, both said they'd temporarily evacuated and had only recently gotten things back to normal.)

There's just enough movie magic in the doc to make it work on another level. Most of it involves the two men bantering (and occasionally bickering) behind the wheel in their current incarnations and the occasional unexpected back-seat cameo (the most memorable one being producer Adler, who financed and directed their first film). When Cheech turns to Chong during that car ride through the desert and asks, "Hey, man, is this a movie or a documentary?" and Chong replies, "I don't know, man," it's a meta, laugh-out-loud moment

that will make you feel that will make you feel stoned even if you're as sober as a church mouse.

CLEARING THE AIR

It turns out those revelatory car scenes, which include what feels like a very candid rehash of their big schism (part creative differences, part natural career evolution), were not scripted.

"Dave [Bushell] wouldn't give us anything," Tommy Chong says. "We were like, 'What's the scene here?' And he'd say, 'Well, it's just you guys talking.' There was no plot or anything. So I guess they got what they wanted — which is two old guys [talking]."

Maybe so, but for fans who have been waiting for them to say yes to a big-screen reunion since the era of Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign, it's a sight to behold. (When we spoke, Bushell confirmed that nothing at all was scripted and that he only suggested general topics based on his 30-plus hours of interviews.)

Since it felt like the guys were genuinely working through that long-ago rift onscreen, I had to ask if it was as cathartic for them as it seemed.

"Yeah, I think so," Marin said with a slight shrug about their 1985 split (a result of creative differences and Marin's move toward a more mainstream acting career). "But we didn't think specifically about the effect it would have at the time. We were just kind of figuring out where we were going with it, what we were doing and how to get all this information out while we're there in the car."

When talking about the movie itself — how it came to be, what they hope people take away from it ("Hopefully not the seats," jokes Marin) or how it may or may not cement their 47-year co-

medic legacy — neither man seems particularly enthusiastic to rehash it on this April morning. Maybe it's because it's 10 a.m. in the middle of a two-day press junket (they're about to head to an NPR interview). Maybe it's because they want the movie to speak for itself. Or maybe they've been reunited physically on the big screen but are not fully over their detachment.

But when topics turn elsewhere — their biggest Hollywood regrets, for example, or expounding on who should join them on the Mt. Rushmore of celebrity stoners — they become reanimated and engaging. They seem decades closer to the Cheech & Chong of old.

"Trump wants to be on Mt. Rushmore, so we should be on Stone Mountain," Chong says of his envisioned monument to stoner celebs. "Along with Willie [Nelson], Snoop Dogg and ..." Without missing a beat, both men say Seth Rogen at the same time.

They're similarly playing off each other's timing on the topic of their biggest Hollywood regrets. "Someone called and asked me to do a voice for a video game movie and I was like, 'F—that, I'm a movie star,'" Marin says. "It turned out to be 'Super Mario Bros.' and because I looked like the guy with the mustache I would have gotten a part in the movie and a piece of the whole action. But I didn't." As if to punctuate his asinine decision, Marin makes a braying donkey noise.

"Jeffrey Katzenberg asked us to be in his movie 'It Came From Hollywood,'" Chong adds. "And as a reward, he offered to get us parts in a Disney movie. But I didn't want to be in a Disney movie, so I turned it down. And it turned out to be 'The Lion King.'" Marin, who would end up voicing a

hyena in the 1994 animated film, makes another braying donkey noise. Both men smile.

STILL BUDS

After the interview, as they walk toward Venice Beach to be photographed, it's easy to see how indelibly linked the two are. On their own, Cheech, in his scuffed Crocs, walking the stretch of Venice Boardwalk ahead of his once (and maybe future) co-star went virtually unrecognized. But once passersby clocked Chong in his baggy sweats and Skechers slippers several paces behind, heads swivel, iPhones are brandished and excited whispers are heard. Another movie — the last one or not — suddenly makes all the sense in the world.

Until then, "Last Movie" will serve as a plenty entertaining introduction to the duo. The real beneficiaries here, though, will be those intimately familiar with their work: the hardcore line-quoting fan base that will hear them discuss the origin of the classic "Dave's not here" bit (fun fact: Dave was also the name of Chong's original, pre-Cheech comedy partner), how the Vietnam War and pottery played a role in connecting them and the people who directly inspired their most recognizable characters.

And if "Cheech & Chong's Last Movie" does, indeed, turn out to be the end of the road, they've lighted up the big screen one last time pretty much how they have charted their entire careers — unconventionally and in their own voices. They've rolled up a number worthy of their legacy.

As Marin says to Chong at one point during that interstitial drive through the desert, "Nothing lasts forever, Tommy."

John Waters will playfully reveal 'Naked Truth'

[**Waters,** from E1] mingos"; and why Melania Trump's White House Christmas decorations put the final "nail in the coffin of bad taste."

"I yearn to be banned again," said Waters, lamenting that his books are by the front door of bookstores rather than "by the true crime near the bathroom or the gay section in the back."

His recent exhibition, "John Waters: Pope of Trash," at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in

'John Waters' Birthday Celebration: The Naked Truth'

Where: The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Ticket price: \$61.99

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, promising an end to drag shows "targeting our youth."

Waters, however, isn't worried about the president's attack on drag.

"He'll never get rid of drag," Waters said. "That's impossible. RuPaul made it acceptable to middle America."

Still, Waters isn't surprised some people don't like drag story time. He said the Academy Museum wanted to do drag story time for his

and they don't know how to attack that."

For Waters, humor is the ultimate weapon, and he wields it with irreverent goodwill, mocking himself first before tearing into anyone else.

"Humor is always the way to win a war, to terrorize people, to make them laugh, to change their mind, to scare them and to be friendly," Waters said, noting that he often makes fun of liberals because he is one himself.

Waters said he loves



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DAN KITWOOD Getty Images

PREPARING TO SAY FAREWELL

Dignitaries arrive to pay their respects to Pope Francis on Friday in Vatican City. Francis, who died on Monday, lay in state for a final day ahead of Saturday's funeral in St. Peter's Square. **WORLD, A4**

California sees sharp rise in valley fever cases in first 3 months of 2025

By SUSANNE RUST

California is heading toward another record year for cases of valley fever, the disease caused by fungal spores linked to cycles of drought and precipitation.

There were 3,123 reported cases of valley fever in the first three months of the year, according to state health officials — roughly double the 10-year average for the first-quarter time period. Cases ranged from a low of 801 in 2016 to 3,011 last year.

Most people who are infected with the fungus won't



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

A TRACTOR plows a field in Paso Robles, Calif. Valley fever, caused by a fungal infection that spreads through dust, has increased in frequency in the state.

experience symptoms, and their bodies will fight off the infection naturally. Those who do suffer symptoms are often hard-pressed to recognize them, as they resemble the onset of COVID or the flu, further complicating efforts to address the disease.

The disease is caused by inhaling spores of *Coccidioides*, a fungal pathogen that thrives in the drier and dustier regions of the state. The fungus is released when the dry soil where it grows is disturbed.

"We actually had sort of seen this coming, just based [See Valley fever, A8]

FBI arrests judge accused of helping migrant evade ICE

The county jurist in Milwaukee allegedly obstructed agents at her courthouse.

BY JENNY JARVIE AND HANNAH FRY

The Trump administration significantly ramped up its clash over immigration with officials at the state and local level on Friday after FBI agents arrested a county judge in Milwaukee, accusing her of obstructing an immigration arrest.

"Just NOW, the FBI arrested Judge Hannah Dugan out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on charges of obstruction — after evidence of Judge Dugan obstructing an immigration arrest operation last week," FBI Director Kash Patel posted Friday morning on the social media site known as X.

"We believe Judge Dugan intentionally misdirected federal agents away from the subject to be arrested in her courthouse, Eduardo [Flores-Ruiz], allowing the subject — an illegal alien — to evade arrest," Patel added. "Thankfully, our agents chased down the perp on foot and he's been in custody since, but the Judge's obstruction created increased danger to the public."

Brady McCarron, deputy chief of public affairs for the U.S. Marshals Service, confirmed that Dugan, a Milwaukee County circuit judge, was arrested by the FBI at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

Dugan was charged with "obstruction or impeding a proceeding before a department or agency of the United States" and "concealing an individual to prevent his discovery and arrest," according to a criminal complaint

filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

An FBI special agent assigned to the Milwaukee Field Office said in an affidavit that Flores-Ruiz was charged on March 18 in Milwaukee with battery, domestic abuse and infliction of physical pain or injury. Agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement and Removal Operations subsequently identified Flores-Ruiz, a Mexican citizen, as "not lawfully in the United States" and obtained a warrant for his arrest.

"This criminal illegal alien has a laundry list of violent criminal charges including strangulation and suffocation, battery, and domestic abuse," Tricia McLaughlin, a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, said in a statement, noting that Flores-Ruiz illegally entered the U.S. twice.

When ICE agents came to Dugan's courthouse April 18 to arrest Flores-Ruiz after his criminal court appearance, the affidavit said, Dugan became "visibly angry" and commented that the situation was "absurd."

According to the affidavit, Dugan approached a deportation officer with a "confrontational, angry demeanor." After asking officers from the arrest team whether they had a judicial warrant and demanding that they speak with the chief judge, Dugan then escorted Flores-Ruiz and his counsel out of the courtroom through a back "jury door," which leads to a non-public area of the courthouse.

Flores-Ruiz was chased [See Judge, A6]

Local film industry has hopes pinned on two bills

Legislation to boost film, TV tax incentive program clears its first hurdles in Sacramento.

By SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

It's showtime for Hollywood at the California Capitol.

The state's entertainment industry has spent months begging for help from Sacramento to stem the decline of film and TV production and save thousands of jobs.

This week, after months of speeches and promises from public officials, two bills meant to boost the beleaguered business cleared

State bar admits to developing exam questions with AI

Revelation raises fresh shock after February's much-maligned test.

BY JENNY JARVIE

Nearly two months after hundreds of prospective California lawyers complained that their bar exams

were plagued with technical problems and irregularities, the state's legal licensing body has caused fresh outrage by admitting that some multiple-choice questions were developed with the aid of artificial intelligence.

The State Bar of California said in a news release Monday that it will ask the California Supreme Court to

adjust test scores for those who took its February bar exam.

But it declined to acknowledge significant problems with its multiple-choice questions — even as it revealed that a subset of questions were recycled from a first-year law student exam, while others were developed with the assistance

of AI by ACS Ventures, the state bar's independent psychometrician.

"The debacle that was the February 2025 bar exam is worse than we imagined," said Mary Basick, assistant dean of academic skills at UC Irvine Law School. "I'm almost speechless. Having the questions drafted by non-lawyers using artificial

intelligence is just unbelievable."

After completing the exam, Basick said, some test takers complained that some of the questions felt as if they were written by AI.

"I defended the bar," Basick said. "No way! They wouldn't do that!"

Using AI-developed [See Bar exam, A8]



Altadena car buffs are on the road to healing

BY MARAH EAKIN

It's 8 a.m. on a Saturday and cars are starting to roll into the parking lot next to Unincorporated Coffee Roasters in Altadena. There's a green 1979 Mercedes 300SD Turbo Diesel in the corner, sitting next to a rust-orange vintage Mustang. Across from it, a shiny blue Volkswagen Mk4 R32 takes the slot next to a long

Cars & Coffee meetup, a Saturday hangout for car enthusiasts, attendees had to traverse some portion of Altadena, passing homes and businesses reduced to rubble by the Eaton fire. Tyreke and Traivon Jackson passed their lot at Lincoln Avenue and Figueroa Street, where they'd worked on cars for as long as they could remember. Passersby wouldn't have known what was on the lot before the fire, but now with

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10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 21/32, yield 4.304%

OIL \$62.79 ▲ \$0.52

GOLD \$3,332.00 ▲ \$55.70

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YEN 142.63

What's News

Business & Finance

♦ Sales of existing homes in March had their biggest monthly decline in more than two years after mounting economic uncertainty roiled the housing market at the start of the critical spring selling season. **A1**

♦ The CEOs of American Airlines, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble and many other big U.S. companies warned that shape-shifting tariff threats make it virtually impossible to plan and are spooking consumers. **A1, B1-3**

♦ U.S. stocks rallied for a third straight session amid hopes for trade deals and lower interest rates, pushing the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow up 2%, 2.7% and 1.2%, respectively. **B1**

♦ The FCC began discussing with Paramount Global initial steps the company would need to take to secure the agency's approval of its merger with Skydance Media. **B3**

♦ Comcast continues to lose broadband and cable-TV subscribers, but found bright spots in the first quarter with its mobile-phone plans and Peacock service. **B1**

♦ Business sentiment in Germany unexpectedly edged up in April, as firms shrugged off the threats to the German economy posed by Trump's tariff policies toward Europe. **A16**

♦ Tesla's sales in the EU plunged for the third consecutive month in March, a setback for the company even as demand for electric vehicles grew in the bloc. **B4**

♦ Nestlé reported higher first-quarter sales, managing to pass on double-digit price increases for its coffee and chocolate products in some markets. **B3**

World-Wide

♦ In a direct response to the biggest and deadliest aerial barrage on Kyiv by Moscow's forces this year, Trump made a personal appeal to Putin to stop attacks on Ukraine and agree to a peace deal. **A1**

♦ Trump saw a string of defeats in federal courts as judges ruled to curtail measures targeting immigration enforcement, voting and diversity initiatives. **A3**

♦ A judge in Maryland ordered the Trump administration to facilitate the return to the U.S. of an asylum petitioner who was sent to a prison in El Salvador. **A3**

♦ Morgan Stanley veteran Michael Grimes took the helm of the president's initiative to encourage domestic and foreign companies to invest in the U.S. **A5**

♦ The Trump Organization said it would fire a legal adviser to the company in light of his representation of Harvard University in its clash with the administration. **A3**

♦ College students are asking to have their names removed from articles in universities' student newspapers, fearing scrutiny by immigration officials. **A3**

♦ Israel's military said its troops were responsible for March 19 strike on a U.N. facility in Gaza that killed one of the organization's



Deadly Russian aerial attacks early Thursday targeted a residential area of Kyiv and other areas around Ukraine.

'Vladimir, STOP!' Trump Tells Putin After Kyiv Strike Kills 12

In social-media post, president issues rare rebuke urging Russia to end war

By JANE LYTUVENKO
AND MEREDITH McGRAW

KYIV, Ukraine—In a direct response to the biggest and deadliest aerial barrage on Kyiv by Moscow's forces this year, President Trump made a personal appeal to President Vladimir Putin of Russia to stop attacks on Ukraine and agree to a peace deal.

"Not necessary, and very bad timing," Trump said in a

post on his Truth Social platform on Thursday after the attack. "Vladimir, STOP! 5000 soldiers a week are dying. Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!"

The missile-and-drone attack killed 12 people and injured 90 in the Ukrainian capital, part of a countrywide assault that involved 215 missiles and explosive drones, Ukraine's air force said. Russia said it was targeting "enterprises in Ukraine's aviation, rocket and space, machine-building and armored vehicle industries," among other sites.

Trump's frustration is building as talks to end the war have stalled. On Wednesday, Trump criticized President Vo-

lodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine for refusing to accept a peace proposal that includes Washington's legal recognition of Russian sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia has occupied since 2014. The U.S. president pointed out that Ukraine wasn't required to recognize Crimea as Russian.

But Trump had largely refrained from speaking out against Putin. The attack on Kyiv, which sent residents fleeing to shelters at 1 a.m., has turned his attention to Russia's prosecution of the war and toward Putin personally. Some among the president's Republican allies have also become critical of Putin's

refusal to accept a cease-fire.

In March, the U.S. proposed a 30-day truce to which Ukraine agreed, but Putin declined, saying "root causes" of the conflict would need to be resolved first. Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, aiming to overthrow the government in Kyiv and replace it with a puppet administration that would align it with Moscow rather than the West.

Trump had pledged to end the war within 24 hours on the campaign trail, but his administration has since targeted his

Please turn to page A16

♦ Ukraine fails to reach debt restructuring deal..... A16

Home Sales See Steepest Decline In 2 Years

March's drop of 5.9% comes as inventories grow but mortgage rates remain high

By NICOLE FRIEDMAN

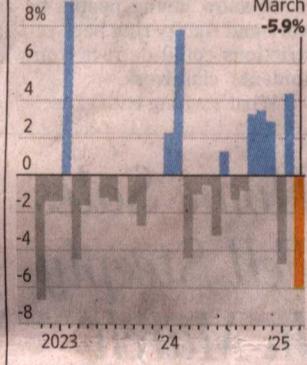
Sales of existing homes in March posted their biggest monthly decline in more than two years, after mounting economic uncertainty roiled the housing market at the start of the critical spring selling season.

U.S. existing-home sales fell 5.9% in March from the prior month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.02 million, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. That marked the biggest month-over-month decline since November 2022. It was also the slowest sales pace for any March since 2009, which was near the peak of the financial crisis.

The sharp drop in sales dashes early hopes that this spring would offer signs of a

Please turn to page A2

U.S. existing-home sales, change from a month earlier



Note: March 2025 is preliminary.
Source: National Association of Realtors

Ad Gains Bolster Alphabet

Alphabet, Google's parent company, posted higher profit and revenue for the first quarter, driven by growth in its advertising, services and cloud divisions. Revenue increased 12% to \$90.23 billion from \$80.54 billion a year ago—beating analysts' expectations of \$89.18 billion. **B1**



Companies Tear Up Outlooks Over Trade-War Uncertainty

The CEOs of American Airlines, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble and many other major U.S. companies warned that shape-shifting tariff threats make it

virtually impossible to plan and are spooking consumers.

American, Southwest Airlines and Alaska Air Group told investors and analysts that leisure travel had already softened and pulled their full-year

outlooks because the economic climate makes it too tough to forecast. Procter & Gamble, the maker of Pampers diapers and Tide detergent, said it was considering raising prices on some items. And auto industry groups representing General Motors, Volkswagen, and Toyota sent a letter to President Trump imploring him to reconsider the 25% tariff on car parts that goes into effect May 3, because it will make buying and repairing cars and trucks more expensive.

"We don't know what is

going to happen," Robert Isom, CEO of American Airlines, told investors and analysts Thursday. He said the airline is being cautious. "What does that mean? It means that we don't hire as much. It means that we don't bring on as many planes, po-

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♦ Nokia flags earnings hit from tariffs..... B4

Six Ice Cubes for \$100? Must Be From Greenland

Startups haul water and ice from Arctic, pitching it as cleaner and denser than most

ERIC NIILER

Is there gold in Greenland's ice?

business.

"If there's something we have a lot of in this country, it's ice," said Th-

INSIDE



SPORTS

Xi Lays Groundwork For Long Tariff Battle

BY JOSH CHIN

As President Trump tries to play hardball in his trade war with Xi Jinping, he faces an adversary who has armed China to play a long and possi-

cates despite war, famine, political upheaval and financial crises.

Xi isn't resting on those laurels. Since an earlier trade war during the first Trump administration, Xi has intensified his

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Now Tech Workers Are Miserable, Too



WSJ

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL WEEKEND

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - 27, 2025 - VOL. CCLXXXV NO. 97

What's News

Business & Finance

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◆ From industrial giants to luxury brands to telecoms, companies say they are making plans to pass along some of the cost of tariffs to consumers. B9

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◆ Chinese auto giant BYD continued to outpace Tesla in the first quarter, reporting a doubling in net profit on robust growth in its EV business. B10

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World-Wide

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◆ Indian and Pakistani soldiers briefly exchanged fire in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, India said, as tensions soared after a recent massacre. A8

Church Bids Farewell, Looks Ahead to Pope Funeral



MOURNERS: Crowds filled St. Peter's Square on Friday, the third day Pope Francis lay in state before Saturday's funeral; the Vatican said about 250,000 paid their respects. The Catholic Church next turns to questions over what direction it will take. A8, C1

Consumers Feel Downbeat, But They Keep On Spending

By RACHEL LOUISE ENSIGN

Kyle Brooks worries that the Trump administration's budget cuts will keep weighing on business at the high-end Washington, D.C., restaurant where he works as a manager. But those concerns haven't prompted him to spend less.

"I haven't really traded down in anything yet," the 30-year-old said.

U.S. consumers are feeling gloomy about the economy after President Trump's market-rattling first few months in office.

They are cutting back on

vacations and accelerating purchases of products such as cars and smartphones that could be hit by tariffs. But overall they are spending even more than before, which is keeping the economy humming—for now.

Retail sales surged 1.4% in March from a month earlier, the Commerce Department said earlier this month. While car sales posted a big jump, sales were up at restaurants and clothing stores, too.

Those figures are from before Trump's April 2 announcement of widespread tariffs, though the administration later paused some of

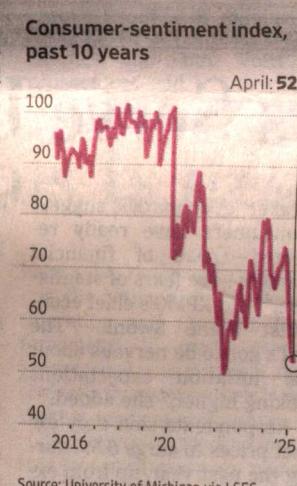
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Other data show that overall spending growth continued after the tariff announcement, even as consumers made some big changes to what they were buying.

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Administration plans to stagger negotiations with about 18 countries

By GAVIN BADE

WASHINGTON—The Trump administration has developed a road map to both streamline and standardize coming trade negotiations, people familiar with the matter said, as criticism mounts from businesses about the impact of the president's tariff policies.

In an attempt to streamline talks over President Trump's so-called reciprocal tariffs, officials plan to use a framework prepared by the U.S. Trade Representative's office that lays out broad categories for negotiation: tariffs and quotas; nontariff barriers to trade, such as regulations on U.S. goods; digital trade; rules of origin for products; and economic security and other commercial issues, according to people familiar with a draft document outlining the negotiating terms.

Within those categories, U.S. officials would spell out demands for individual nations, people familiar with the matter said, emphasizing that the document could change as the administration gets more input.

"USTR is working under an organized and rigorous framework and moving ahead quickly with willing trading partners," said a USTR spokeswoman. "President Trump and USTR have made

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A Milwaukee judge has been charged for allegedly impeding immigration agents. A3

SPORTS

The 34-year-old football prodigy who just blew up the NFL draft. A10

Trump's Reversals Show Shift In 'Never Surrender' Approach

By MOLLY BALL

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All in all, it was an unusual week for a president whose rallying cry has long been "never surrender."

Those weren't the only fronts on which the past week saw Trump backpedal. Having once pledged to broker peace in Ukraine immediately upon taking office, he has now said the U.S. could walk away from the conflict entirely if the deal he has put forward isn't accepted. And having once boasted that DOGE would radically downsize the federal government, Elon Musk said this week he would step back from the effort, having reduced its top line goal by 90%. "He was always going to ease

out," Trump said Wednesday.

Taken together, the reversals were a startling pattern for a president who prides himself on never backing down, potentially denting his political brand as an unflinching fighter. As the 100-day mark of Trump's tumultuous second term draws near, the climbdowns were a signal that his ebbing popularity might be forcing him to moderate some

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How Musk's Friends Sell Access

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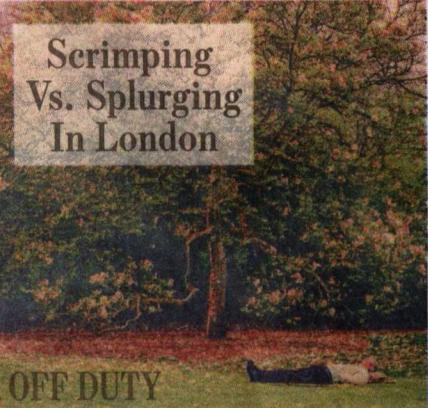
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Consumer-sentiment index, past 10 years



Source: University of Michigan via LSEG

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