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DJIA 51561.93 ▲ 874.86 1.73% NASDAQ 26830.96 ▼ 0.1% STOXX 600 624.45 ▲ 0.5% 10-YR. TREAS. ▲ 4/32, yield 4.475% OIL \$93.04 ▼ \$2.98 GOLD \$4,475.80 ▲ \$39.10 EURO \$1.1613 YEN 160.03

## What's News

### Business & Finance

- ◆ **Investors in Blackstone's** flagship private-credit fund asked to redeem 10% of their shares in the second quarter and the firm has capped payouts at 5%, reversing an earlier no-ceiling policy. **B1**
- ◆ **Healthcare and financial** stocks helped lift the Dow by 1.7% to a record, exceeding the S&P 500's 0.4% session gain, while the Nasdaq slipped less than 0.1%. **B8**
- ◆ **The largest U.S. banks** plan to launch a tokenized deposit network next year in an attempt to stave off threats from crypto companies that are seeking to wade deeper into their territory. **B1**
- ◆ **Anthropic called for** top AI labs to weigh slowing the pace of development, noting that systems advances are coming so fast that they may soon be able to improve themselves in ways that could pose significant societal risks. **B1**
- ◆ **Meta Platforms has** delayed plans to release its newest AI model to developers multiple times and until this week didn't have a planned date to let it go. **B1**
- ◆ **Short seller Andrew Left's** conviction on securities-fraud charges shocked a niche of the stock market whose calling card is its ability to affect stock prices. **A1**
- ◆ **Lex Greensill, the** financier whose eponymous lending firm collapsed in 2021, was banned by U.K. regulators from serving on company boards. **B8**
- ◆ **Nick Bilton, the new** executive producer of "60 Minutes," attempted to ease the tension after a chaotic week for the CBS program, naming a new senior producer. **B2**

### Worldwide

- ◆ **The FDA launched** a safety study of the abortion pill, also known as mifepristone, a step that could eventually lead the Trump administration to restrict how it is distributed and used. **A1**
- ◆ **Republican senators** facing tough re-election fights sided with Democrats in a vote to kill Trump's \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund, but the effort to write its death into law appeared set to fail. **A4**
- ◆ **The Justice Department** signaled a willingness to find a route to pay allies of the president who claim the government targeted them for political reasons. **A4**
- ◆ **Trump said he plans** to nominate as attorney general Todd Blanche, who as acting AG has refocused the Justice Department to benefit the president's allies and target his critics. **A4**
- ◆ **John Bolton, who** served as Trump's national security adviser in his first term, reached a deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to unlawfully retaining classified information. **A3**
- ◆ **Senior U.S. officials** have discussed having the federal government take stakes in major AI companies, after OpenAI CEO Sam Altman pitched the idea last year. **A3**
- ◆ **Israel and Hezbollah** militants exchanged fire Thursday and cast doubt on the extent of their participation in a renewed ceasefire agreement. **A6**
- ◆ **Ukraine's Zelensky** called for face-to-face negotiations in a public letter addressed directly to Russia's Putin. **A16**
- ◆ **Died: Marjane Satrapi, 56,** cartoonist and filmmaker. **A16**

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## China Clamps Down on Tiananmen Anniversary



**CONTAINMENT POLICY:** Police escort activist Lui Yuk-lin as she prays in Hong Kong on the 37th anniversary of the crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing. Police in the capital told families not to visit graves of those killed in the 1989 protests.

## Apple Hopes for AI Dominance By Fixing Its Maligned Chatbot

If iPhone maker can modernize Siri, it has pole position for taking lead in market

By ROLFE WINKLER

Siri is one of the dumbest chatbots on the market. Apple hopes a reboot can power its AI comeback. When Apple stages its annual developer conference next week, the big reveal is expected to be a modern version of Siri that will look more like ChatGPT. Gone will be the

old version, which has been so limited for so long that many people, if they ever use it, do so only for basic functions like setting timers. The new Siri, built atop Google's Gemini technology, is expected to offer a more modern search experience, remembering users' queries and accessing data from their device for personalized responses. A new stand-alone Siri app with a paid tier, similar to competing artificial intelligence apps, is also expected. The question is whether the new Siri, and other operating system updates, set Apple on

a path to bring generative AI to the masses, harnessing the company's formidable assets that, paradoxically, give it pole position to dominate the market even though it is years behind rivals. "I think Apple is going to win on AI," said Ron Johnson, Apple's former retail chief under Steve Jobs. "The phone is the primary device on which people will use AI. And Apple is partnering with the right people to bring a unique AI experience to the phone." Tim Cook leveraged Apple's dominance in devices to make his company a tollbooth: tens

of billions of dollars in annual fees from apps so they can reach consumers, and a like amount from Alphabet's Google to be the default search in the Safari browser. A smarter Siri could collect new tolls at the on-ramp to AI. Today most consumers have only experienced AI as a more sophisticated online search. But the explosion of Anthropic's business, powered

**◆ U.S. discusses taking stakes in AI companies... A3**  
**◆ Meta keeps delaying newest AI model..... B1**

## FDA Plans to Assess Abortion-Pill Safety

By LIZ ESSLEY WHYTE

WASHINGTON—The Food and Drug Administration has launched a safety study of the abortion pill, also known as mifepristone, a step that could pave the way for the Trump administration to restrict how it is distributed and used. The study marks a victory for antiabortion groups and Republican members of Congress, who have demanded action from the administration to crack down on the pill's use. In recent months, anti-abortion allies had lost patience with assurances from administration officials that one would be conducted. The effort is expected to take about six months, admin-

istration officials said, meaning it likely won't be completed before the midterm elections. Some in the antiabortion movement had previously accused the administration of dragging its feet on the review to avoid political controversy before the elections, an allegation that both the White House and FDA have denied. Some of the administration officials said the agency had been making preparations by acquiring data and examining whether a study was feasible. They said the administration had kicked the study into high gear because of conversations with antiabortion groups and a coming October deadline, set by a Louisiana judge this

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### INSIDE



**MANSION**  
After a pandemic boom, sellers are slashing prices on country homes in England. **M1**

**SPORTS**  
Jalen Brunson helps deliver comeback for the New York Knicks. **A10**

## Canceled Statues Stage a Comeback

Columbus, Confederate monuments relegated to storage get another look

By CAMERON McWHIRTER

COLUMBUS, Ohio—The statue wars that swept away monuments six years ago are back. This time, the battle is to restore them. Traditionalists are suing and lobbying local governments to resurrect memorials to Confederate generals, Founding Fathers and European explorers. Many of the statues disappeared from town squares and other public places during the pandemic-era protests against police violence and racism

following George Floyd's murder in 2020. Ohio's capital, named for Christopher Columbus, took down a 22-foot-high, 3-ton statue of its namesake from City Hall that year. Officials declared the gift from sister city Genoa, Italy, had come to represent "patriarchy, oppression and divisiveness." "We will no longer live in the shadow of our ugly past," Mayor Andrew Ginther, a Democrat, said at the time. Columbus's detractors tie the Italian explorer

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## Short-Seller Conviction Sparks Investor Alarm

By DAVE MICHAELS AND PETER RUDEGEAIR

Many of the loudest voices on Wall Street belong to investors who talk their own books. An unexpected trial verdict could keep many of them quiet. Short seller Andrew Left's conviction this week on securities-fraud charges has shocked an influential niche of the stock market whose calling card is its ability to affect stock prices. Activist short sellers release reports on companies that they say are overvalued or hiding information from shareholders, then cash in on the selloffs their ideas sometimes induce. But federal prosecutors argued that Left corrupted the

business model by scheming to trade quickly around his statements on social media, where he had a huge following. He misled others by starting to exit a trade minutes or hours after saying he was betting against a stock, in effect doing the opposite of what others expected him to do, prosecutors said. They didn't stop there. Prosecutors also persuaded a jury to convict Left on charges related to long positions in stocks including Nvidia that he said others should buy but then quickly exited after the stocks' prices rose. Wall Street is now wondering how much short sellers—and even the much larger group of investors who tout stocks as good buys—can say

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### TOMORROW



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## Scientists Are Taking Improv So People Will Trust Them More

What does it look like when physicists and engineers do comedy? We sat in on a class.

By PETER LOFTUS

ALBANY, N.Y.—Neuroscientist Annalisa Scimemi is in her element at her laboratory, where she works with mice and sophisticated instruments to better understand brain cells. So she was well outside of her comfort zone on this May afternoon when she had to improvise a pitch for a made-up, nonsensical product called a "hammer humidifier." It was part of an improv exercise aimed at helping scientists amp up their presentations.

"It's the top-rated humidifier in Arizona!" Scimemi exclaimed as she leapt forward, earning a big laugh from a classroom full of colleagues. "And it can be used for self-defense!" Trust in science has plummeted. Can improv turn the tide? Scimemi is one of more than 35,000 scientists and researchers who have taken classes led by professional actors to help them earn their audiences' trust and understanding.



Theater nerds

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