

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **FTX said it will** have more than enough money to fully repay the defunct cryptocurrency exchange's millions of swindled customers with interest, an outcome that seemed unthinkable when it collapsed into bankruptcy in 2022. **A1**
- ◆ **Uber swung to a loss** last quarter as legal settlements and equity investments weighed on results even as demand for its rides and deliveries rose. **B1**
- ◆ **Microsoft announced** a \$3.3 billion investment in a data center in Wisconsin and training programs to educate locals about AI jobs in manufacturing. **B1**
- ◆ **Disney and Warner** said they would offer a bundle of their streaming services to include Disney+, Hulu and Max in ad-free and ad-supported versions. **B1**
- ◆ **U.S. stocks ended** mixed, with the Dow rising 0.4% to extend its longest winning streak of the year, while the Nasdaq fell 0.2%. The S&P 500 was essentially unchanged. **B10**
- ◆ **AB InBev said** its volumes dropped by less than expected in the first quarter and the brewer backed its guidance after saying that its three-month performance was encouraging. **B3**
- ◆ **Intel said its revenue** for the current quarter would be lower than expected amid new restrictions on sales by chip makers to Huawei. **B4**
- ◆ **Toyota projected** a drop in fiscal-year profit on higher costs and announced a share buyback after posting stronger fourth-quarter net profit. **B3**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Israel's military** pushed forward in eastern Rafah in what it called a limited operation, as Biden warned he would stop sending U.S. bombs and artillery shells to Israel if it launched a major invasion of the Palestinian city. **A1, A6**
- ◆ **U.S. spy agencies** will limit how they buy and use troves of data about Americans gleaned from thousands of smartphone apps and other personal devices, according to a new policy directive. **A3**
- ◆ **A group of Trump-appointed** federal judges pledged to blackball graduates of Columbia University, ratcheting up a pressure campaign against universities they deem hostile to conservatives. **A5**
- ◆ **The House voted** to block a resolution by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene to oust Speaker Mike Johnson, with Democrats stepping in to help save the Republican leader. **A5**
- ◆ **Members of Congress** pressed public-school leaders on how they have disciplined teachers and students engaged in antisemitic behavior since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. **A4**
- ◆ **Neuralink encountered** a problem with the implant in its first human patient, Noland Arbaugh, that reduced the amount of data it could capture from his brain, according to a blog post the company published. **A3**
- ◆ **The U.K. expelled** Russia's serving defense attaché on allegations of spying and removed diplomatic protection from some Russian-government-owned properties. **A7**

JOURNAL REPORT

Small Business: Growing up working in parents' two stores. **R1-6**

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France Gives Torch an Olympian Welcome



HANDOFF: Fireworks welcome the 19th-century ship carrying the Olympic torch from Athens as it arrives Wednesday on the French mainland at the port of Marseille. The torch was handed off to begin the 68-day relay to Paris for the Games' July start.

Israel Presses Fight in Rafah, Biden Vows to Withhold Arms

The Israeli military pushed forward Wednesday in eastern Rafah in what it called a limited operation, and President Biden warned he would stop sending U.S. bombs and artillery shells to Israel if it launched a major invasion of the Palestinian city.

By Stephen Kalin, Chao Deng and Summer Said

Israel called its moves in Rafah "a precise counterterrorism operation," signaling it hadn't yet begun a long-anticipated major offensive on the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip, where it is believed Hamas's leaders, their last remaining battalions and some Israeli hostages are located. The military said its operations were still limited to areas near Rafah's border with Egypt, but some analysts said the narrowly focused moves could quickly expand into the broader assault Biden has called a "red line."

Israel's military moves on Wednesday came hours after the Biden administration said late Tuesday that it had paused a shipment of weapons including 2,000-pound bombs destined for Israel.

Biden said Wednesday he was prepared to withhold additional weapons, including artillery shells, from Israel should Israeli forces mount a major ground operation in Rafah. "If they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities," Biden, a Democrat, said in an interview with CNN. He stressed the U.S. would continue to provide defensive systems so Israel could fend off missile attacks. "I've made it clear to Bibi and the war cabinet, they're not going to get our support, please turn to page A6

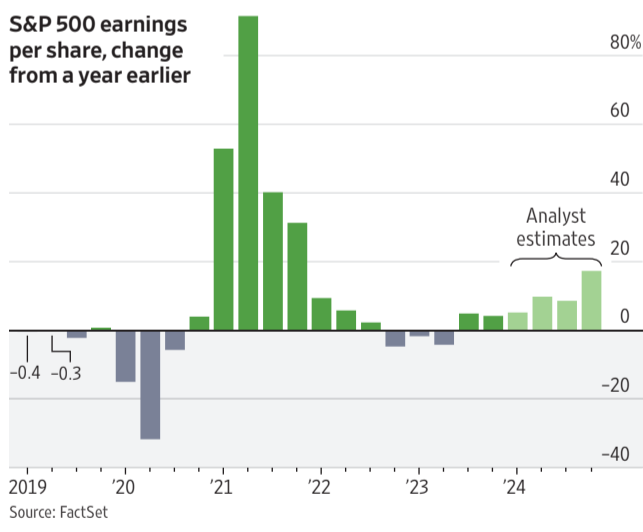
casualties and nongovernment creditors are owed. That customer money has been trapped since November 2022, when Sam Bankman-Fried ceded control of FTX to a new management team that filed it for bankruptcy, beginning one of the largest-ever efforts to recover misappropriated funds. The management team found enough funds for FTX's creditors because of a rally in crypto prices and the sale of stakes the company acquired—with users' money—in speculative crypto projects and other technology ventures. The bankruptcy process gave FTX the time it needed to find buyers and fill in the nearly \$9 billion balance-sheet hole it entered chapter 11 with. If approved in court, the re-

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◆ **Gazans are on emotional roller coaster**..... A6
◆ **Chaos in Gaza, on campuses besets Biden**..... A4

Profits Buoy Economy

The bulk of U.S. companies have now reported first-quarter results, and they show profit growth is picking up—a positive sign for the economy's odds of avoiding a downturn. **A2**



Desperate for Workers But Dead Set Against Migrants

West Virginia focuses on illegal immigration despite seeing few newcomers; National Guard troops sent to Texas border

By PAUL KIERNAN

FRANKLIN, W.Va.—Not many places need warm bodies more than this picturesque town in the Appalachian Mountains. There are so many elderly people and so few workers to take care of them that some old folks have died before getting off the wait list for home visits by health aides.

"We advertise all the time," said Janice Lantz, the local senior center's director. "We can't hire a direct-care worker."

West Virginia shares a demographic dilemma afflicting many parts of the country:

an aging population and unfilled jobs. Decades of migration out of Appalachia have left West Virginia older, less educated and less able to work than other parts of the U.S. Its labor-force participation rate—the share of the 16-and-older population either working or looking for work—was 55.2% in March, the second-lowest in the country.

Some other states, including Maine, Indiana and Utah, have sought immigrants to shore up their workforces. But while West Virginia represents one extreme in its labor needs, it represents another in its resistance

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The Dress Code for Snack Execs: Bring the Stretchy Pants

Food-company directors sample lots of America's sandwiches and pretzel bites

By JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Corporate directors have hefty responsibilities at quarterly board meetings. They oversee strategy, governance, executive compensation—real serious stuff. But those elite few serving on food-company boards truly bite into their work.

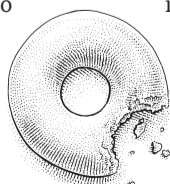
In the name of due diligence, for instance, directors munch throughout the board meetings of J & J Snack Foods, the company behind the SuperPretzel, ICEE frozen treats and Dippin' Dots.

In any discussion, at least one director inevitably excuses themselves from the long conference-room table to fetch more snacks, and no one takes

offense, according to director Roy Jackson. "Somebody's doing a presentation and it is like, you know, sorry. I've got to have a pretzel bite or churro," he says.

To attract inflation-weary diners, restaurants are relying on promotions such as limited-time dishes and expanded menus. Packaged food and snack brands are using new offerings to entice shoppers.

With quarterly meetings now under way, boards have lots of eating to do. The product sampling allows food-company directors—typically corporate executives or former ones—to give feedback on current fare as well as items not yet released. Please turn to page A8



Expanding duties

Finding a Drug to Keep Weight Off Is Next Goal

By BETSY MCKAY

Aida Diaz sat down at a table laden with fried chicken, french fries, salad and more.

Pick what you want for dinner, researchers at Columbia University instructed the 27-year-old New Yorker. Diaz filled her plate with salad, a bit of canned tuna, and chicken, grilled, not fried.

Then she grabbed a fry—because who can resist?—and a couple of spoonfuls of mac and cheese. "They said this is the hardest part," said Diaz, who is trying to keep more than 35 pounds off.

It sure is. Researchers including the team at Columbia and drugmakers are trying to solve the biggest problem in the weight-loss industry today: how to keep weight off once you lose it.

Hundreds of thousands of people have shed tons of weight on blockbuster drugs including Ozempic and We-

govy. But many put the pounds back on when they stop taking the medications. Millions of others like Diaz who lost weight by changing their diets and exercise habits struggle not to regain.

Drugs or procedures to keep weight off could fuel an even bigger bonanza than Ozempic and its immensely profitable cousins. Losing weight is temporary, but maintaining it is lifelong. Maintaining weight is also a different challenge from losing it.

Makers of the weight-loss juggernauts have a big problem to overcome: Many people stop taking GLP-1 drugs. Their insurers won't pay for the drugs, they can't tolerate the side effects, or they don't want to take the medication long term. Only 14% of people surveyed in 2023 by KFF, the health-policy research organization, were interested in taking a weight-loss drug once

FTX Says Defrauded Customers To Be Fully Paid Back

Once a near-total loss after its collapse, crypto exchange's assets rebounded

Defunct crypto exchange FTX said it will have more than enough money to fully repay its millions of swindled customers with interest, an outcome that seemed unthinkable when it collapsed into bankruptcy in 2022.

By Becky Yerak, Soma Biswas and Andrew Scurria

FTX said in court papers Tuesday that it will have between \$14.5 billion to \$16.3 billion in cash after liquidating its cryptocurrency holdings and other investments, more than enough to cover the roughly \$11 billion that customers and nongovernment creditors are owed.

That customer money has been trapped since November 2022, when Sam Bankman-Fried ceded control of FTX to a new management team that filed it for bankruptcy, beginning one of the largest-ever efforts to recover misappropriated funds.

The management team found enough funds for FTX's creditors because of a rally in crypto prices and the sale of stakes the company acquired—with users' money—in speculative crypto projects and other technology ventures. The bankruptcy process gave FTX the time it needed to find buyers and fill in the nearly \$9 billion balance-sheet hole it entered chapter 11 with. If approved in court, the re-

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INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
Turbulence over preboarding rattles Southwest passengers. **A9**



SPORTS
In Major League Soccer, Messi is on the receiving end of fewer tackles and fouls. **A12**