

Musk Seus Up Deal for Twitter And Wields Ax

Top Executives Out — Trump Ban May End

By KATE CONGER and LAUREN HIRSCH
SAN FRANCISCO — After months of fighting, Twitter, social media mogul Elon Musk closed his \$44 billion deal to buy the social media service, said three people with knowledge of the situation. He had arrived at Twitter's San Francisco headquarters on Wednesday and met with engineers and ad executives. He also began cleaning house, with at least four top Twitter executives — including the chief executive and chief financial officer — getting fired on Thursday.



A Ukrainian soldier gave candy to a child this week in a liberated southern village. Russia struck Ukraine's infrastructure on Thursday.

Russia Seizes Symbolic Prize: A Prince's Bones

By MARC SANTORA
KYIV, Ukraine — With Ukrainian forces bearing down on the occupied port city of Kherson this week, the Kremlin's puppet rulers dispatched a team to an 18th-century stone cathedral on a special mission — to steal the bones of Prince Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin.

Robs Ukraine Crypt in a Macabre Mission

The memory of the 18th-century conqueror is vivid for those in the Kremlin bent on restoring the Russian imperium. It was Potemkin who persuaded his wife, Catherine the Great, to annex Crimea in 1783. The founder of Kherson and Odessa, he sought the creation of a "New Russia," a dominion that stretched across what is now southern Ukraine along the Black Sea.

When President Vladimir V. Putin invaded Ukraine in February with the goal of restoring part of a long-lost empire, he invoked Potemkin's vision.



In the 1700s, Prince Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin guided the creation of a "New Russia" in what is now southern Ukraine.

Mr. Putin, addressing an annual foreign policy conference outside Moscow, appeared intent on capitalizing on political divisions in the United States and its allies that have only heightened since they began showing Ukraine with military aid to fend off the Russian invasion.

Under the lid of the coffin, a small black bag held Potemkin's skull and bones, carefully numbered. Kremlin proxies have made no effort to hide the theft — quite the contrary. The Russian-appointed head of the Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, said that Potemkin's remains were taken from the city, on the west bank of the Dniipro River, to an undisclosed location east of the Dniipro, as Ukrainian troops edged closer.

"We transported to the left bank the remains of the holy prince that were in St. Catherine's Cathedral," Mr. Saldo said in an interview broadcast on Russian television. "We transported Potemkin himself."

Local Ukrainian activists confirmed that the church had been looted and that, along with the bones, statues of venerated Russian heroes had been removed.

Putin Contends 'Western Elites' Are the Enemy

By ANTON TROIANSKI
President Vladimir V. Putin declared on Thursday that Russia's battle was with "Western elites," not with the West itself, in a speech seemingly aimed more at winning over political conservatives abroad than his own citizens.

Many of the Russian leader's remarks were familiar, but they took on particular resonance given the coming midterm elections in the United States and growing discontent in Europe over the costs of the war.

"There are at least two Wests," Mr. Putin said. One, he said, is a West of "traditional, mainly Christian values" for which Russians feel kinship. But, he said, there's another West — aggressive, cosmopolitan, neoliberal elite; and trying to impose its "pretty strange" values on everyone else.

Mr. Putin, as he often does, portrayed Russia as a threat to the possible expansion of NATO — and the values of its liberal democracies — to countries like Ukraine.

President Biden cheered the report in a statement on Thursday morning. "For months, doom-sayers

GROWTH RETURNS TO U.S. ECONOMY, BUT FEARS LINGER

G.D.P. INCHES UPWARD

Consumer Spending and Housing Weaken in Troubling Signs

By BEN CASSELMAN

The U.S. economy grew slowly over the summer, adding to fears of a looming recession — but also keeping alive the hope that one might be avoided. Gross domestic product, adjusted for inflation, returned to growth in the third quarter after two consecutive quarterly contractions, according to government data released on Thursday. But consumer spending slowed as inflation ate away at households' buying power, and the sharp rise in interest rates led to the steepest contraction in the housing sector since the first months of the pandemic.

The report underscored the delicate balance facing the Federal Reserve as it tries to rein in the fastest inflation in four decades. Policymakers have aggressively raised interest rates in recent months, while also cutting back on quantitative easing. The Fed's new strategy is to raise rates more gradually, but it has not yet raised rates in its last meeting.

World-Wide

◆ The Biden administration unveiled a new defense strategy, casting China as the greatest danger to American prosperity and calling for an urgent effort to build the military capabilities to deter Beijing in the decades to come.

◆ Russia said it could target U.S. commercial assets if the U.S. used to help Ukraine, expanding its threats of repressing its citizens.

◆ High interest in early voting across America is signaling that this year's elections could meet or possibly exceed 2018's record numbers turned out.

◆ A Tennessee man received a 7½-year prison sentence for slugging a police officer during a protest in Nashville on Oct. 26.

◆ Lawyers for Trump argued that the president is not liable for his actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

◆ The DOJ is investigating how policy companies buy their chicken farmers, the latest move to clamp down on a system that has been criticized by farm leaders.

What's News

Business & Finance

Musk fired several Twitter executives after completing his takeover of the company, according to people familiar with the matter, capricious as a ruthless corporate boss and setting up the social-media platform for potentially broad change.

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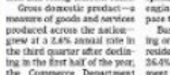
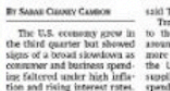
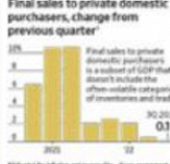
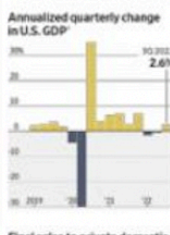
◆ Mortgage rates topped 7% for the first time in 20 years, the latest indicator in a climb that has all but paralyzed the housing market.

◆ The ECB raised interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point but signaled mounting concerns about economic growth.

◆ Amazon projected a 10% increase in revenue for the third quarter, but analysts expect a 20% increase.

◆ Apple reported record revenue for its latest quarter, but analysts expect a 10% increase.

Economic output grew in the third quarter, driven by energy exports. Consumer spending, business investment and the housing market faltered, signs of a broader slowdown.



Musk Acquires Twitter, Fires Its Chiefs

Billionaire completes deal for social-media platform that he has pledged to transform

By Lauren Teruya and Alex Coiro
Elon Musk fired several Twitter Inc. executives after completing his takeover of the company, according to people familiar with the matter, capricious as a ruthless corporate boss and setting up the social-media platform for potentially broad change.

Economy Grows Amid Risks

By SARAH CAHNEY CARSON
WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew in the third quarter but showed signs of a broad slowdown as consumer and business spending faltered under high inflation and rising interest rates.

Trade contributed the most to the third quarter's gains, as the U.S. exported more oil and natural gas with the Ukraine war disrupting supplies in Europe. Consumer spending, the economy's main engine, grew but at a slower pace than in the prior quarter.

Businesses slashed spending on buildings, however, and residential investment fell at a 34.4% annual rate, the department said.

U.S. stocks ended the day mixed after the data and some earnings reports. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.8%, helped by Caterpillar results. The S&P 500 fell 0.6% and the tech-focused Nasdaq lost 1.8%.

Economic uncertainty is growing and many economists are worried about the possibility of a recession in the coming 12 months. They expect the Federal Reserve's efforts to combat high inflation by raising interest rates will further weigh on the economy.

Mortgage Rates Hit 20-Year High

By BEN BROS
JUST SEVEN WEEKS ago, the rate was below 3%. A year ago, it was just over 3%.

The last time mortgage rates were this high, the home bubble had recently burst. Rates were on the decline. They were in the middle of a boom when they were this high, according to a survey of lenders by mortgage giant Freddie Mac.

boosting the rate of home ownership. A year ago, interest rates reversed sharply this year, pushed up by the Federal Reserve's aggressive rate increases meant to curb inflation.

The monthly cost of borrowing to buy a home has surged because of the additional interest buyers must pay at higher rates. That is one

top of a pandemic housing boom that pushed prices up sharply. A buyer who pays 20% down on a million-dollar home would have a monthly payment of \$2,300, according to listings website Realtor.com. That is up nearly 8% from a year ago. When the monthly payment was \$1,300, a house cost about 10% less.

For Vance, Trump's Backing Comes With a Sting

By DAN BARRY

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio — Blue jeans evoked his hard-core upbringing, and a crisp dress shirt conveyed his status as a Yale Law School graduate, venture capitalist and best-selling memoirist — with the open collar signaling that he was not a lawyer, who happens to be the Ohio Republican candidate for the Senate. This was the J.D. Vance uniform

Playing Down an Insult by Ex-President

As he spoke one October Saturday to Republican campaign volunteers gathered in a Cincinnati office, near a portrait of a brow-knitted Donald J. Trump. Mr. Vance reassured those about to go do-or-die that at least they wouldn't encounter his grandmother, the fierce Mamaw, who once told a Marine recruiter that if he put one foot on her property, "I'll blow it off."

The crowd laughed in recognition, so famous is the tale of how Mamaw's life lessons about loyalty, education and self-reliance helped Mr. Vance to overcome a poor, dysfunctional childhood. He would repeat the story at another

encounter his grandmother, the fierce Mamaw, who once told a Marine recruiter that if he put one foot on her property, "I'll blow it off."

Caught Between Training and an Abortion Ban

By JAN HOFFMAN

Many medical residency programs that are educating the next generation of obstetricians and gynecologists are facing a treacherous choice.

Treacherous Choice for Medical Programs

render their residents ineligible to receive specialty board certification and imperil recruitment of faculty and medical students.

cal Education formally reaffirmed its longstanding requirement that OB-GYN residency programs make abortion training available.

"You have a legal body, the state, saying abortion is a crime and an accrediting body saying it's a crucial part of training," said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis, who specializes in the history of abortion. "I can't think of any-

Putin Denies Nuclear Threat

Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a policy conference in Moscow on Thursday that his country had no intention of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine, suggesting it was not serious about the threat of repressing its citizens.

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Prisoner Swap Intensified Rivalry

The arrest of a Chinese executive to stand trial in U.S. opened a new era of acrimony

three home. Nearby, the Canadian ambassador peddled the captured U.S. prisoner. Five days later, the U.S. Air Force Boeing 777 stood ready at Vancouver International Airport. American officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police kept watch in the terminal.

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Amazon Lowers Forecast for Sales

By REBECCA HERRERA
Amazon.com Inc. projected sales in the current quarter would be far below expectations, sending its stock plunging and offsetting the latest round of law-shedding economic forecasts are battering stock gains that have fueled the pandemic recovery.

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