

VOL. CLXXI ... No. 59,477

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

Printed in Chicago \$3.00

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

Two Adversaries of Trump Faced Major I.R.S. Audits

F.B.I.'s Comey and McCabe Were Picked for Rare Program Described as Random

Among tax lawyers, the most invasive type of random audit carried out by the I.R.S. is known, only partly jokingly, as "an autopsy without the benefit of death."



James B. Comey, ex-director of the F.B.I., was under scrutiny.

The Russia investigation, Mr. Trump had continued to rail against him even after his dismissal, accusing him of treason, calling for his prosecution and publicly complaining about the money Mr. Comey received for a book after his dismissal.

Mr. Comey was informed of the audit in 2019. Two years later, the I.R.S. still under the leadership of a Trump appointee after Pres-

Their Stories

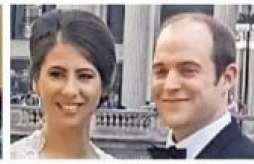
Seven people died and more than 30 were injured when a gunman opened fire along a parade route in Highland Park, Ill., on Monday. Most of those killed were residents of Highland Park, a suburb north of Chicago.

Among those who were chosen to have their 2019 returns scrutinized was the man who had been Mr. Comey's deputy at the bureau: Andrew G. McCabe, who served several months as acting F.B.I. director after Mr. Comey's firing.

Mr. McCabe was later dismissed by the Trump Justice Department after his watchdog accused him of misleading internal F.B.I. investigators. Like Mr. Comey, he had come to be perceived as an enemy by Mr. Trump, who assailed him, accused him of treason and raised questions about his finances long after pushing for his dismissal and prosecution.

Troubling Signals, Yet Still Cleared to Buy Guns

This article is by Mitch Smith, Campbell Robertson, Frances Ross and Serge F. Kovaleski. HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. — On Monday morning, Julie Morrison, an Illinois state senator, was sitting in the back of a convertible, waving to Fourth of July parade-goers, her grandchildren walking alongside the car.



NATHANIE GOLDSTEIN and IRINA MCCARTHY and KEVIN MCCARTHY. The couple were at the parade with their toddler, who was found being choked by Mr. McCarthy, 37.



JACQUELYN SUNDHEIM and NICOLAS TOLEDO-ZARAGOZA. The 63-year-old, who went by Jack, often coordinated events for her synagogue in Glencoe, Ill.

Questioning Why Strict Illinois Laws Failed to Stop July 4 Shooting

How a mass shooting had occurred in a place with some of the strongest gun ordinances in the country. "Are there loopholes?" Ms. Morrison asked on Wednesday. "Unfortunately, we now have an opportunity to look at that."

UKRAINE STRAINS TO HELP MILLIONS UPROOTED BY WAR

Growing Despair Among Displaced as Russia Advances in East

LONDON — When she fled her home in eastern Ukraine, Hanna Obuzhevan, 71, gave her keys to her neighbor to watch the blooming cyclamen on her balcony, thinking she'd be back in just a few weeks.

Months later, she is still sleeping with her two sons in a room of an old church building in the city of Pavlograd, in central Ukraine. Back home, a missile wrecked her bedroom, soldiers destroyed her piano and the town is in Russian hands.

Merck Nears \$40 Billion Deal For Cancer Biotech Seagen

Merck & Co. is in advanced talks to acquire Seagen Inc. and is aiming to finalize a purchase of the biotech company. The deal would be one of the year's biggest, and it would stand out at a time when many big tech companies are struggling to find a deal or before the announcement of Merck's fiscal second-quarter earnings.

Biden Promised Calm, but Base Wants a Fighter

WASHINGTON — Forty-eight hours after a horrific mass shooting on the Fourth of July, President Biden flew to Ohio on Wednesday for a speech on pension plans.

At a moment of broad political turmoil and economic distress, Mr. Biden has appeared far less engaged than many of his supporters had hoped. While many Democrats

Fed Is Preparing New Rate Jump As Fears Mount

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, determined to choke off the fourth inflation before it becomes a permanent feature of the American economy, is steering toward another rate increase later this month even as the economy shows early signs of slowing and recession fears mount.

But that weakening is unlikely to dissuade central bankers. Some degree of economic slowdown would be necessary to justify the Fed — which is actively trying to cool the economy — and a commitment to restoring price stability could be framed as an aggressive policy path.



A memorial to the seven people killed by a gunman during a July 4 parade in Highland Park, Ill.

As Parents Call to Ban Books, Librarians Are Cast as Criminals

As highly visible and politicized book bans have exploded across the country, librarians — accused to be being seen as dedicated public servants in their communities — have found themselves on the front lines of an acrimonious culture war with their patrons.

World-Wide

The heads of the F.B.I. and Britain's domestic security services who, like Ms. Obuzhevan, have sought refuge in other parts of the country. Ukraine faces a herculean challenge to help them.

On Wednesday, the headquarters of M.S. Christopher Why, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Ben McCallum, director-general of M.I.5, urged executives not to underestimate the scale and sophistication of Beijing's campaign.

FBI Warns of China Tech Spies

WASHINGTON — The FBI and Britain's domestic security services issued sharply worded warnings to business leaders about the threats posed to their companies by Chinese espionage, especially spying aimed at stealing Western tech companies' intellectual property.

What's News

Business & Finance

Fed officials agreed at their meeting last month they would have to raise interest rates faster and to levels high enough to slow economic growth because of the worrisome inflation picture, minutes show.

Merck is in advanced talks to acquire Seagen and is aiming to finalize a purchase in the next few weeks, in a deal that will be worth roughly \$40 billion, or more.

Amazon agreed to add Just Eat's GrubHub to its range of Prime services in the U.S. in a deal aimed at expanding the food-ordering company's reach.

U.S. stocks ended higher after release of the Fed minutes, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow Jones all up. The S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow Jones all up 0.2%, 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. Oil prices moved lower.

Dividend yield is produced by total dividends in a second quarter, exceeding analyst expectations, as the company fights uncertainty in fulfilling customer orders.

Under Fire, Johnson Hangs On

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson refused to quit amid a standoff with his Conservative Party. He had cabinet member Michael Gove, right, who had urged him to resign.

Natalie Portman's Arms Deal Scenes in New 'Thor' Movie

Natalie Portman dons armor and wields a magic hammer as a mighty superhero in "Thor: Love and Thunder," the action movie out Friday.

INSIDE

Bravny biceps are summer beauty statement; 'Meathead Girls Club' beach attraction, they have unleashed a debate over how much beach bar work

Russian Forces Press Their Advance in Eastern Ukraine



DESTRUCTION: A man surveys damage caused by a suspected Russian missile attack to the central market in Sloviansk, a city in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. A tactical shift by Russia is setting the stage for a protracted war of attrition.

Fed Takes Stricter Stance in Speeding Rate Rise

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Crypto Meltdown Pushes Voyager Into Bankruptcy

Cryptocurrency trader and lender Voyager Digital filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, becoming the latest victim of a chain reaction rippling through the crypto world.

University Courses Sometimes Come From a Company

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President Biden has taken a passive path despite turmoil.

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