# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES News Corp

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026 ~ VOL. CCLXXXVII NO. 1

**\*\*\*** \$5.00

**DJIA** Closed (48063.29)

**NASDAQ** Closed (23241.99)

**STOXX 600** Closed (592.19)

**10-YR.TREAS.** Closed (yield 4.152%)

**OIL** Closed (\$57.42) **GOLD** Closed (\$4,325.60)

**EURO** \$1.1747 **YEN** 156.75

### What's News

#### Business & Finance

- ♦ Warren Buffett, one of corporate America's most prolific and patient dealmakers, handed the reins of Berkshire Hathaway to his successor, Greg Abel, after six decades as chief executive. A1
- ◆ Condo owners are struggling with the worst market in more than a decade, a softness that reflects ways the housing market and buyer preferences are evolving. A1
- ♦ Saks Global is preparing to file for bankruptcy within days after missing an interest payment on the debt the retailer took on to buy Neiman Marcus. B1
- ◆ Trump delayed by a year tariff increases on upholstered furniture, kitchen cabinets and vanities, walking back the levies in the face of consumer frustration over high prices. A2
- ♦ Initial jobless claims decreased in the Christmas holiday week, but stayed near a monthslong range. A2
- ◆ London had its best year for initial public offerings since 2021 as a late surge in listings eased fears that the city's exchange is stuck in a fundraising drought. **B10**
- ◆ Hong Kong stocks rang out 2025 with a second consecutive annual gain, posting their best performance since 2017 in percentage terms, thanks to an Al-fueled tech rally. B9
- ◆ The year just ended saw a wave of performers, writers, journalists and others launch direct-to-consumer newsletters. B3
- ♦ U.S. crude-oil inventories fell last week as imports declined and refineries ran at a slightly faster pace, the EIA reported. B9

### Worldwide

- ◆ Zohran Mamdani became the mayor of New York City, declaring he would govern "expansively and audaciously" and promising to fulfill his pledge to lower the cost of living for New Yorkers. A1
- ◆ Trump said he would end the deployment of National Guard troops in Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland, Ore., Democratic-led cities that have been engaged in monthslong legal battles with the White House. A3
- ◆ Chief Justice John Roberts said in his year-end message that the judiciary remains a constraint on political power, as the Supreme Court faces criticism that it was too deferential to the president in 2025. A3
- ◆ Violence erupted between Iranian protesters and police during unrest. leaving at least five dead on the fifth day of demonstrations over the country's economic crisis. A7
- ◆ Los Angeles tightened its rent controls for the first time in decades, limiting increases to between 1% and 4% a year, depending on the local inflation rate. A3
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is quietly permitting some residents to buy alcohol, breaking a longstanding taboo as the Islamic kingdom seeks to attract foreigners. A7
- ◆ Died: Richard Smallwood, 77, gospel singer and Grammy nominee. A2

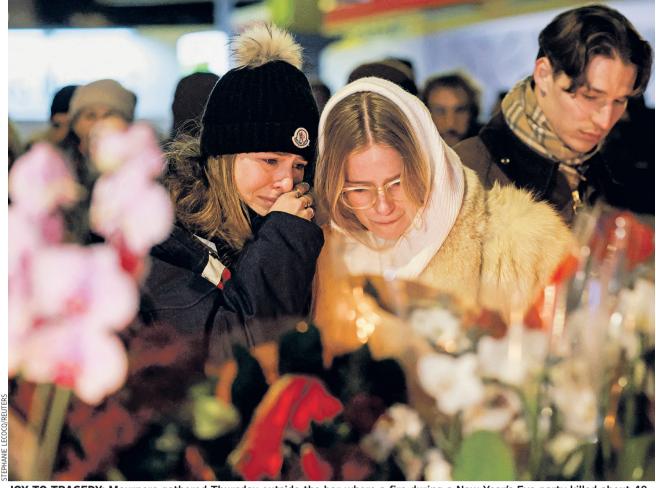
#### **JOURNAL REPORT** Year-End Review &

Outlook of Markets & Finance R1-14

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### **Dozens Die in New Year's Eve Fire at Swiss Resort**



JOY TO TRAGEDY: Mourners gathered Thursday outside the bar where a fire during a New Year's Eve party killed about 40 people and injured more than 100 in the resort town of Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The cause of fire wasn't yet known. A6

# Trump Eschews Doctors' Advice As Signs of His Aging Emerge

WASHINGTON—President Trump is taking more aspirin than his doctors recommend. He briefly tried wearing com-

> By Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey and Meridith McGraw

pression socks for swelling ankles but stopped because he didn't like them. And he regrets undergoing advanced imaging because it generated scrutiny of his health.

took it because it gave them a little ammunition," Trump said in an interview on his decision to get a cardiovascular and abdominal scan in October. "I would have been a lot better off if they didn't because the fact that I took it said, 'Oh gee, is something wrong?' Well, nothing's wrong.

Trump, 79 years old, the oldest man to assume the presidency, is showing signs of aging in public and private,

him. Yet he has at times eschewed the advice of his doctors and scoffed at the medical community's widely accepted health recommendations, relying instead on what he calls his "good genetics." Trump and his doctor said he is in excellent health, and aides said he maintains a vigorous schedule.

Trump gets little sleep and has recently struggled to keep his eyes open during several

"In retrospect, it's too bad I according to people close to televised events in the West Wing. Aides, donors and friends said they often have to speak loudly in meetings with the president because he strains to hear. Aside from golf, Trump doesn't get regular exercise, and he is known to consume a diet heavy on salty and fatty foods, such as hamburgers and french fries.

The large dose of aspirin he chooses to take daily has caused him to bruise easily, he Please turn to page A4

## **Buffett** Hands Over the Reins at Berkshire

He stuck to his ways last year, avoiding pricey deals, selling more than buying

By Heather Gillers

Warren Buffett, one of corporate America's most prolific patient dealmakers, handed the reins of Berkshire Hathaway to his successor on Thursday after six decades as chief executive. He spent much of his final year waiting as always for the right moment to strike.

With the market's rally making new purchases pricey, Berkshire sold more stocks than it bought and stockpiled cash. Buffett further pared Berkshire's stake in Apple when tech stocks were still booming, and bought a petrochemical company with cash.

Buffett's biggest move in 2025 was his May announcement, from the stage of Berkshire's annual meeting in Omaha, Neb., that he would cede his CEO post to Greg Abel, who took over on New Year's Day. Even Abel was surprised by the timing.

'Warren exits in his final year having invested the same ways he did for six decades: patiently opportunistic and never placing the company in harm's way," said Chris Bloomstran, president and chief investment officer of Semper Augustus Investments Group, who has invested in Berkshire since 2000.

Americans relied on Buffett's straight talk for decades to make sense of all manner of financial developments. In March, weeks before President Please turn to page A8

### Condo **Owners Face Worst** Market Since '12

By NICOLE FRIEDMAN

Condo owners are struggling with the worst market in more than 10 years.

Prices for U.S. condominiums posted their biggest annual decline since 2012 earlier last year. Single-family home prices have also slowed, but they are still up from the year-ago levels.

The condo market's softness reflects ways the housing market and buyer preferences are evolving. Many condo buildings are located in urban downtowns, which are less attractive than they used to be for people who now work from home at least parttime. Condos are popular in second-home markets, which have suffered from a slowdown in demand.

Rising homeowner-association fees due to higher insurance premiums and maintenance costs are also making condominium purchases less affordable.

The rise in those condo HOA dues "is giving a lot of buyers pause," said Kirby Arkes, a real-estate agent in Portland, Ore. "Homes are just taking so much longer to sell."

In September and October, condo prices fell 1.9% from a year earlier, the biggest declines since 2012, according to Intercontinental Exchange, a financial technology and data company. More than one in 10 condos had a lower estimated value in November than their most recent sale price, according to a Zillow

# Mamdani Takes Oath as NYC Mayor

By James Fanelli

Zohran Mamdani became the mayor of New York City on Thursday, declaring he will govern "expansively and audaciously" and promising to make good on his pledge to lower the cost of living for New Yorkers.

"We may not always succeed, but never will we be accused of lacking the courage to try," the 34-year-old Democratic socialist said at his inauguration after Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.) administered the oath of office to him on the steps of City Hall.

The new mayor, who arrived at City Hall in a yellow taxi cab, planned a day of celebration around his inauguration, includ-

ing an outdoor party along several blocks of Broadway in lower Manhattan. Thousands of his supporters braved freezing temperatures and waited in hourslong lines to watch his swearing-in and enjoy the festivities. Earlier Thursday, Mamdani officially became the mayor at a small, private gathering in a decommissioned Gilded Age-era subway station.

Mamdani's first executive order on New Year's Day revoked all of Mayor Eric Adams' orders going back to Sept. 26, 2024, the day the former mayor was charged with federal corruption offenses. The Justice Department later asked

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Sen. Bernie Sanders (I., Vt.), left, administered the oath of office Thursday to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani at City Hall as Mamdani's wife, Rama Duwaji, looked on.

### Dance Like Everybody's Watching, Because They Are

Ubiquitous cameras at parties and concerts mean your moves will be public forever

By Elias Leight

"Dance like nobody's watching" was always sound advice for anyone hesitant to let loose at a club, concert or wedding. But in a world where everyone has a

pocket, it's a tough sell. The new "Dance rule: like anybody could be watch-

camera in their

ing and that footage will follow you for-

ever," said Sydney Skybetter, a choreographer and associate professor at Brown University.

Although New Year's Eve is typically a time of uninhibited revelry, more young partyers are wary of getting down. "There's a feeling that, if you Please turn to page A2 | do something stupid, there's a

chance that you're going to become a big joke or the next meme," said Marcos Sandoval-Ramirez, a 21-year-old living in Santa Ana, Calif. "Spend a little time on so-

cial media, and you will see a

video of some guy something stupid," he added. "You laugh, but there's always that small part of your subconscious goes, 'you know

Record scratch

that could be me, right?"

This is the paradox of dancing in the age of short-form video: Even as slick choreographed routines proliferate on TikTok and Instagram and YouTube, spawning mimics and viral trends, more con-Please turn to page A9

# China's Arctic Push **Opens Alarming** Shortcut to U.S.

Security officials say Chinese submarines pose new threat

By Daniel Michaels AND SUNE ENGEL RASMUSSEN

Chinese research submarines for the first time traveled thousands of feet beneath the Arctic ice this summer, a technical feat with chilling military and commercial implications for America and its allies.

U.S. national-security officials say the Chinese undersea expeditions offer fresh evidence of a growing threat from China in the Arctic region, known as the High North. This year, Chinese military and research vessels have operated around Alaska's Arctic waters in unDepartment of Homeland Security reported in November.

precedented numbers, the

For China, mastery of Arctic travel could yield valuable data about the natural resources awaiting below melting ice caps, significantly reduce travel time for commercial shipping and position nuclear-armed submarines closer to potential targets, including the U.S., say Western marine strategists and military officials.

"The Chinese are being more and more aggressive" Please turn to page A9

China won't cede power to U.S. in Latin America..... A8