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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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What's News

Business & Finance

Facebook is contending with a new wave of criticism prompted by the U.S. indictment detailing how Russia manipulated social-media platforms. A1

◆ Albertsons plans to buy the rest of Rite Aid, as retailers respond to the threat of Amazon.com. B1

◆ Spotify is counting on its surging private-market value to bolster the music-streaming service's appeal to investors. B1

◆ Startups are experimenting with "shared-equity," which lets them take an ownership position along with a homeowner. B6

◆ Mining companies are poised for a turnaround fueled by the global economy's appetite for raw materials and the electric-vehicle market. B1

◆ Some tech entrepreneurs and workers are leaving Silicon Valley because of its resistance to different political ideologies. B4

◆ Toy companies are scrambling to produce products tied to social-media-driven trends. B2

◆ "Black Panther" opened in the U.S. and Canada to \$235 million. B5

World-Wide

◆ Trump supports efforts to improve the federal background-check system for firearms, as students planned marches and walkouts across the country, galvanized by the Florida school shooting. A1, A6

◆ An Iranian airline secretly bought U.S.-made jet parts through Turkish front companies. A1

◆ Pennsylvania's high court imposed a new congressional map that may give Democrats a boost in the midterm elections. A2

◆ NATO is pushing the European Union to work closely with non-EU allies on defense following Britain's planned exit from the bloc. A7

◆ The Syrian regime agreed to limit military support to embattled Kurds under assault from Turkey. A8

◆ European officials are intensifying efforts to save the Iranian nuclear deal, pressing Tehran to curtail involvement in neighboring conflicts. A9

◆ Some of France's largest employers are seizing on Macron's labor-system overhaul to undertake mass layoffs. A11

Journal Report

Hidden status battles in the office C-Suite Strategies: View From the Top. R1-12

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Mourners arrived Monday for the funeral of 14-year-old Alaina Petty, one of 17 people killed last week in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Meantime, students began to organize nationwide antigun protests.

Trump Open to Tighter Gun Checks

By JULIE BYKOWICZ AND SIOBHAN HUGHES

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump supports efforts to strengthen the federal background-check system for firearms, his press secretary said Monday, adding that he had spoken with a top GOP senator about legislation to do so after last week's deadly school shooting in Florida.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement Monday that Mr. Trump spoke Friday to Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R, Texas) about legislation he and Sen. Chris Murphy (D, Conn.) have proposed to strengthen the background checks. Their bill would provide incentives for states to upload criminal-conviction records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Those records already

are required to be uploaded, but can slip through the cracks. "While discussions are ongoing and revisions are being considered, the President is supportive of efforts to improve the federal background check system" Ms. Sanders said in the statement. Young people are leading the way in pushing for action after the latest shooting. And the White House statement, along with recent comments

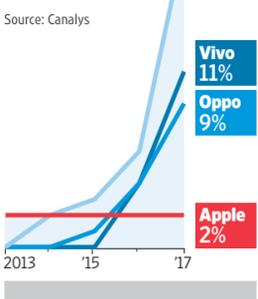
from some congressional Republicans that they could consider supporting some gun-safety measures, suggested the party is weighing options. Such calls for action are common responses to years of mass shootings, although they Please see TRUMP page A6

- ◆ High-school students plan antigun protests..... A6
◆ States have moved to expand gun rights..... A6

Apple's Rivals Lure New Fans

Lower-priced smartphones from Chinese makers blow past iPhones in Asian markets. B1

Market share of smartphone makers in India, by shipment



Source: Canalis

'Financial-Storm Forecaster' Agency Does Little, Spends \$500 Million

Trump administration puts Office of Financial Research on notice; 'you should leave'

By RYAN TRACY

Congress created a brand new agency after the 2008 financial crisis with a gargantuan mission: Serve as the finance world's version of the National Weather Service. The new Office of Financial Research wasn't expected to prevent economic storms, but it was supposed to anticipate them and issue warnings to help authorities contain the damage. Almost a decade and nearly \$500 million later, the agency has struggled

to establish a place for itself in Washington. Major projects have been delayed or scaled back. Morale has suffered amid turf battles with other regulators and opposition from Republicans. And one of its most ambitious initiatives—developing a database for recording financial contracts—has progressed no further than a 16-page paper calling for "information gathering sessions" among constituents. As the administration of President Donald Trump works to change financial policies it views as governmental over-

reach, the OFR's record of underachievement has made it an easy target. In November, Treasury Department officials told OFR employees that the agency's budget would be cut by one-quarter and its staff by more than one-third. "If you're not happy here, you should leave," Craig Phillips, a counselor to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, told the staff. The OFR's early backers thought it would become an authoritative source when financial markets experienced volatility. Please see AGENCY page A12

Norwegian Olympians Win the Most Medals—and Get the Joke

On a roll at Games, athletes also appear in comedy sketches; wigs and a chicken hat

By SARA GERMANO

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea—Marit Bjørgen arrived at the Winter Olympics this month with a few things on her to-do list. Tie the record for most decorated athlete in Winter Olympics history: Check. Be congratulated by the Crown Prince of Norway: Check. Don a wig and dance to a parody of the K-pop hit "Gangnam Style" for the Norwegian public broadcaster: Check.

The video features Ms. Bjørgen and other members of the Norwegian cross-country ski team wearing wigs, and one

wearing a chicken hat, while lip-syncing, "and I know/ I'm gonna be Olympic gold." A television host cavorts in a Speedo and teal dinner jacket, affecting the original K-pop singer, Psy. When Norwegian athletes take to the ice and snow at the Olympics, they don't mess around: the Scandinavian nation of just 5 million has won the most medals of any country in the history of the Winter Games. In Pyeongchang, the Norwegian team tops the medal table, and last week it won 6 medals in a single day, tying the record for one nation on Please see GAMES page A12



Skier Heidi Weng

INSIDE



U.S. FALLS FLAT IN MEDALS RACE

OLYMPICS, A16-18



PNEUMONIA IS LETHAL ENEMY IN HOSPITALS

LIFE & ARTS, A13

Iran Airline Secretly Bought U.S. Jet Parts

By IAN TALLEY

An Iranian airline under sanctions by the U.S. for ferrying weapons and fighters into Syria repeatedly bought U.S.-made jet engines and parts through Turkish front companies over the past several years, according to federal investigators. The revelation, in a little-noticed filing by a Department of Commerce agency, is likely to further fuel suspicions about Iran within the Trump administration, which is increasingly concerned that the 2015 nuclear agreement is inadequate and that Tehran's growing influence is fueling war and militancy in the Middle East. The

U.S. also has accused Iran of violating international bans on ballistic missile development. Iran has disputed evidence cited by the U.S. and the United Nations that it is violating weapon bans, and said U.S. efforts to change the nuclear deal and escalate sanctions against Tehran undermine the agreement and violate its terms. The development comes as the Trump administration faces a decision on whether to grant Boeing Co. licenses to sell scores of new planes to another airline, Iran Air, a multibillion-dollar deal inked after Tehran signed the landmark nuclear accord. Although the Boeing deal would benefit U.S. companies, Please see JET page A2

- ◆ Iranian plane crashes, apparently killing 66.....A9
◆ Europe presses bid to save nuclear deal.....A9