

What's News—

Business & Finance

World-Wide

The wall returned to Europe's markets as the confidence of a political coalition to spend and a banking system in Italy sparked a flight from bonds and stocks in the Continent's southern nations and propelled the euro, **C1**

The Dow Industrials posted their first triple-digit jump this year, rising 120.71 points after an initial decline in both areas, **C4**

The Justice Department filed civil charges against S&P alleging that the firm ignored its own standards in rating mortgage bonds that collapsed in the financial crisis, **A4**

Michael Dell is close to finalizing a \$20 billion deal to take private the computer giant he founded, in an effort to remake Dell Inc. for a post-PC era, **A1**

Conflicts of interest among the possible new CEO choices are not top agency officials would make it harder to approve endorsement races, **C2**

The FCC is gathering data on a broad number of issues by corporate executives in dozens of their own firms regarding a high-profile investigation, **C3**

U.S. aviation regulators appeared poised to approve some Boeing 787 flight tests as part of implementation into the realm of factory flow on the plane, **B1**

U.S. banks reported stronger demand for loans, loans and auto loans during the winter, in a positive sign for the economy, **A3**

The average U.S. household just cut an estimated \$2,301 for gasoline last year, saving roughly 2% of the average household income before taxes, **A4**

U.S. banks may have to raise billions in new capital as part of a review by regulators into how the lenders avoid the risk of the assets on their books, **C1**

The Super Bowl attracted an average of 28.8 billion viewers, the third-largest audience for a television event in history, CBS said, **B4**

Gradle will acquire Acme Packet in a \$1.7 billion deal, its biggest move yet into the network fire equipment that (page 10) **Internet Data, B3**

Viet, where EPC unit was the largest of a Chinese joint-venture unit is growing fast. It expects earnings per share to double in 2013, **B4**

The EPA will propose new efficiency rules that would require a range of businesses to report disruptions to government authorities, **B3**

A group of hedge-fund investors won \$1.7 billion in a case alleging that the notable violated the terms of bonds held by the group, **B4**

Bridgeway will launch a new All Weather fund, the world's largest hedge fund firm after said it sold a stake to its 2012 investor, **C3**

CME Group plans to close the grain-trading pits at the Kansas City Board of Trade, ending a 127-year run for the wheat futures exchange, **C4**

Albuquerque, Pakistan set a target for a Taliban assault. The two countries leaders, after talks held in Lahore by Cameron, agreed on a six-month timeline to reach a peace settlement. **—M.A.**

The report is to end the Alpha of the meetings open a Taliban in which could lead for peace talks. The Afghan Taliban says it is based in 1978 U.S. and withdrew, a comprehensive plan to prevent. **—M.A.**

France gave military in world partner's role and provided this time to send his. **—M.A.**

Eron's private oil reserves accused of hoarding, to offer more oil performance. **—M.A.**

Bulgaria's plan report showing its ally line for a housing law that killed five houses. **—M.A.**

The U.S. will be participating in a global summit on private Afghan. **—M.A.**

Washington of a world-wide fund by international. **—M.A.**

Mexico and following talks to raise military troops of interest. **—M.A.**

Efforts to dev. 27 states must advance a resolution later talks in a climate. **—M.A.**

A Vietnam on 22 diplomats to escape from its a continuing poor conditions on its. **—M.A.**

Mexico's efforts to raise its economy, possibly as part of state oil. **—M.A.**

The United in leading in 2012 to save the world, attack and will be known. **—M.A.**

Gay-rights activists gathered at the 2012 meeting in San Francisco, the group is top. **—M.A.**

Inspectors are probing whether failure to be chemical failure caused a deadly California bus crash. **A4**

Dreck police are investigating a deadly fire after the fire station nearby received a call for help. **A10**

Turkey said it supported the group that helped the U.S. to help plan an attack, but didn't know where or when. **—M.A.**

An Alabama house drama ended when FBI agents killed the actor and his 2-year-old boy he was holding. **A2**

U.S. Sues S&P Over Ratings

Justice Department Says Endorsements of Risky Mortgage Bonds Fueled Crisis

The Justice Department sued Standard & Poor's Ratings Services late Monday, alleging the firm spread its own standards to rate mortgage bonds that precipitated the financial crisis and cost investors billions, according to people familiar with the matter.

By Ann Englehardt, Associated Press and Evan Perez

Five years after the crisis, federal-state attorneys general are suing S&P over its endorsement of

the government intended to launch the CDO program, S&P endorsed the program and sold the rating firm was being prohibited entirely by the U.S. government for "failing to protect" the housing industries in financial crisis.

The government was seeking protection of more than \$1 billion, another person close to the matter said, which would be the biggest punitive payment in a case brought by its critics in the crisis.

S&P officials also were notified that the government was seeking the company to admit wrongdoing that could leave it more vulnerable to penalties in future lawsuits by investors in the mortgage.

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Head of the Street

Moving an Octogenarian Is Tough, Especially One That Put Down Roots

A Plan to Relocate Florida's Largest Rain Tree For Towers Has Fans Shaking Like a Leaf

By Arian Campo-Flores

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Developer Asi Cymbal thinks his proposed residential project here is just what this city needs to live up to a derelict stretch of its riverfront downtown.

The futuristic, three-tower complex would include about 1,000 rental units, three restaurants and a marina.

There's just one problem: The tree standing right where one of the towers is supposed to sprout up. And not just any tree. It is a roughly 80-year-old, six-story-tall rain tree, the largest of its kind in Florida.

Mr. Cymbal has an elaborate plan, involving consultants and a mover of giant famous trees, to relocate it about 800 feet away at the entrance of the property and build a park

around it.

Even though Mr. Cymbal wants to save it and not chop it down, some of the city's tree lovers are upset. They believe that if the tree is moved, its days might be numbered. "It will die a slow, agonizing death," says Charles Livio, an arborist in nearby Oakland Park.

He and others opposed to the relocation urged the Broward County Commission to pass a measure that would have declared the tree historic, an effort that failed in December. Now, they have turned their attention to the City Commission, which has the authority to prevent the tree's relocation because a 1987 ordinance declares it protected. The commission is expected to take up the matter in the spring.

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Asi Cymbal

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Among all the largest tax cut in state history on Jan. 1, Kansas is now at the leading edge of a growing but still largely ignored quiet debate.

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Asi Cymbal

Dell Nears \$23 Billion Deal to Go Private

By Ben Wrenn, Associated Press

Michael Dell is close to finalizing a risky \$23 billion deal to take private the computer company he founded nearly 20 years ago, in an effort to remake Dell Inc. for a post-PC era.

Late Monday, Mr. Dell was in talks with Microsoft Corp. and private-equity firm Silver Lake Partners to offer shareholders between \$15.50 and \$21.75 a share, but people familiar with the matter, about a 20% premium to Dell's stock price in January before the possibility of a deal became public.

The lawsuit, if approved by shareholders, would be the largest of such deals since the financial crisis.

It also would be an admission by Mr. Dell that he won't be able to pay off the changes needed to improve his company's revenue and profit after Wall Street's gloom. The report would give Mr. Dell the largest stake in the company, meaning that the 67-year-old is the one who gets to choose any changes.

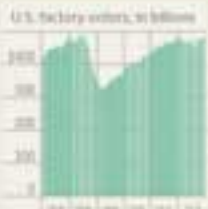
The Round Rock, Texas, firm was known a market capitalization above \$100 billion as the world's largest PC maker. But the company's market share has since shrunk to third behind Hewlett-Packard Co. and Lenovo Group Ltd. as tablets and smartphones became more popular.

Mr. Dell has also had to endure several competitors of his former old performance of his company and Apple Inc., a matter of particular frustration, according to people familiar with the matter.

Interviews with former and former Dell executives, plus other people who know the CEO, paint a picture of a man who appears increasingly worried about his legacy. Those people said it has been years since Mr. Dell allowed

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Vital Signs



U.S. factory orders, in billions

Desires for manufactured goods rose in December, largely because of higher military spending linked to concerns about potential conflicts. The value of new orders for the month climbed 1.8% to \$484.76 billion, the Commerce Department said. But excluding defense, orders increased just 0.2%. Demand for consumer capital goods excluding aircraft fell 0.2%.

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