

BUSINESS

▲ DOW 32105.25 (+75.14)	▲ NASDAQ 11787.40 (+117.44)	▼ NYSE 14693.02 (-48.06)	▲ S&P 500 3948.72 (+11.75)
▲ GOLD (OZ) \$1993.80 (+47.00)	▲ SILVER (OZ) \$23.14 (+.46)	▲ PLATINUM (OZ) \$992.90 (+5.90)	▲ COPPER (LB) \$4.15 (+.08)
▼ CRUDE OIL (BBL) \$69.96 (-.94)	▼ NATURAL GAS (BTU) \$2.15 (-.02)	▲ UNLEADED GAS (GAL) \$2.61 (+.02)	▼ CORN (BU) \$6.32 (-.02)

Lab expands AI capabilities

JOSEPH S. PETE
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

Alverno Laboratories has signed an expanded deal with Ibex Medical Analytics to deploy artificial intelligence-powered cancer diagnostics to hospitals across Indiana and Illinois.

The Hammond-based company operates 31 hospital laboratories and does laboratory resting for 2,500 doctors' offices, urgent care clinics and research groups. Alverno will become the "first to offer this AI-supported cancer diagnosis in the Midwest region of

the United States."

It will roll out of Tel Aviv, Israel-based Ibex's Galen suite across its network. It says the deal will mean better cancer care for as many as 8 million patients a year in the two states.

Alverno will be one of the first laboratories in the United States to digitalize its pathology services. It will build on earlier investments in digitalization and take advantage of the Philips IntelliSite Pathology Solution's high-throughput capabilities.

"Alverno will expand the reach

of Ibex's AI technology across our network, providing the most innovative tools to our team of pathologists. With an increasing demand for high-quality cancer testing, Alverno continues to invest in technology to support our growth while remaining focused on high-quality patient care," said Sam Terese, CEO and president of Alverno Laboratories. "Our partnership with Ibex enables Alverno to offer a new level of care to the physicians who treat their patients in our communities, and that is aligned with our mission

to continually improve the delivery of quality diagnostic data and laboratory service to our partners and caregivers."

The new technology will be used when pathologist reviews breast, prostate and gastric biopsies. Ibex's Galen suite will help the labs with case prioritization, cancer detection and reporting.

The implementation of artificial intelligence is expected to enhance productivity, optimize workflows, reduce operational costs and improve service.

"We look forward to our contin-

ued collaboration with Alverno, providing its team of expert pathologists with the most advanced AI-powered solutions and supporting diverse patient communities across rural, suburban and large-metro populations," said Justin McCarthy, head of U.S. sales at Ibex Medical Analytics. "With over 100,000 new cancer cases expected in the Midwest region in 2023, Ibex is committed to advancing the implementation of AI in pathology to support the growing demand for quality diagnostics."

Coke cut at USS

JOSEPH S. PETE
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

U.S. Steel is closing three of the oldest coke batteries supplying its flagship Gary Works steel mill.

The Pittsburgh-based steel-maker is closing coke batteries 1, 2 and 3 at its Clairton Plant in Pennsylvania. U.S. Steel said the move will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 15% to 20%.

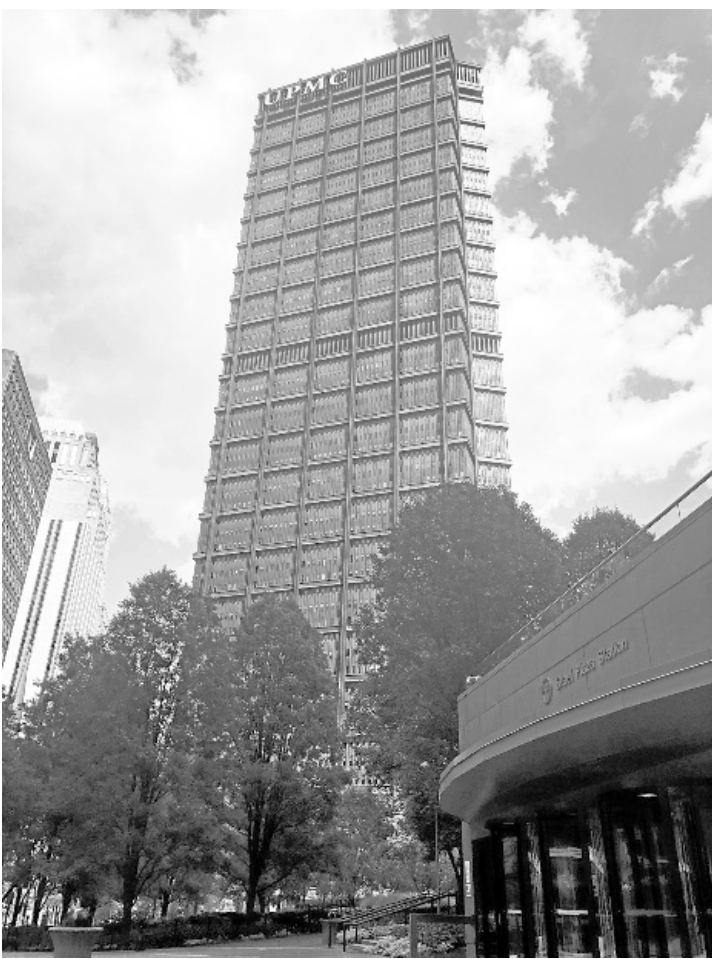
Clairton's remaining batteries will continue to supply the blast furnaces at Gary Works, which also has finishing lines at the Midwest Plant in Portage, spokeswoman Amanda Malkowski said.

Coke is a purified form of coal that's burned in blast furnaces to make iron that's then transformed into the steel that goes into cars, appliances, buildings, highway signs, farm equipment and many other applications.

The burning of coke has come under increasing fire in recent years due to climate change. U.S. Steel and other steelmakers have shifted more production to mini-mills, but those recycle steel for end uses like rebar, while the blast furnaces in Northwest Indiana produce the new steel that's strong, malleable and high-quality enough for many customers, most notably automakers.

Gary Works used to operate its own coke battery, which was shuttered in 2016 after U.S. Steel consolidated its coke production in Clairton, which it made a multimillion-dollar investment to upgrade. The steelmaker transferred displaced workers at the time, but eliminated 300 steel-worker jobs in the Region in the long term.

U.S. Steel first announced in 2021 it would shutter the Clairton batteries, which it said would further its ambitious climate goals of



JOSEPH S. PETE, THE TIMES

U.S. Steel's corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh is shown.

becoming net-zero by 2050. The company said the batteries will take about six days to shutter in a complex procedure that will be completed by the end of the month.

"For over a century, U. S. Steel and its workers have led the way in tackling America's challenges through steelmaking. The shutdown of the Clairton coke batteries is a milestone in our constant evolution and readiness to meet America's challenges," said Scott

Buckiso, U.S. Steel senior vice president and chief manufacturing officer for its North American Flat-Rolled Segment.

More than 100 employees have been working on the project for more than a year.

About 130 positions are being eliminated, but U.S. Steel said no layoffs will take place. Reassignments, retirements and attrition will offset the impact but the jobs will not be replaced in the future, the company said.

BP has rival for TravelCenters

JOSEPH S. PETE
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

BP is facing a rival bid for TravelCenters of America, which it's seeking to buy for \$1.3 billion.

Ohio-based TravelCenters of America operates truck stops off interstate highways across the nation, including in Gary, Lake Station, Porter and DeMotte.

BP, which operates the BP Whiting Refinery along the lake-shore in Whiting, Hammond and East Chicago in north Lake County, offered \$86 per share in cash, or six times TravelCenters's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization over the last 12 months.

TravelCenters of America disclosed in a proxy statement to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission it got a rival bid for \$92 a share from "a publicly traded fuel supplier and convenience store operator."

The undisclosed company offered to purchase 100% of TravelCenters of America's equity interest. It proposed financing the acquisition through cash on hand, external financing and new lines of credit, asking for a 30-day timeline to conduct due diligence.

At stake is a retail network of 280 travel centers in 44 states across the country.

The TravelCenters of America board met and determined the eleventh-hour rival proposal was not a superior proposal given its heavy reliance on borrowing.

The board decided not to engage in negotiations with the rival bidder due to its "credit rating and financial conditions," according to the SEC filing.

"The independent directors identified, among other reasons for their conclusion, that, despite Party G proposing a higher per share price than BP has agreed to pay, the Party G Proposal indicated that Party G would require significant third-party financing and there was no firm commitment from a potential financing source to provide such financing and the financing markets remain uncertain; Party G indicated that it would require approximately 30 days to complete diligence and enter into definitive agreements, which would delay the consummation of a potential sale of TravelCenters and during which time the pending transaction would remain subject to risks related to the performance of each counterparty and macro-economic factors," TravelCenters of America said in the filing.

The board is encouraging shareholders to vote for the BP acquisition offer instead.

Schererville Chamber of Commerce to host Back to the 80s trivia party

JOSEPH S. PETE
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

The Schererville Chamber of Commerce is encouraging people to break out the Aqua Net and leg warmers for its Back to the 80s trivia party next month.

The trivia night event will take place 6-10:30 p.m. April 21 at the St. John Township Community Center, 1515 Lincoln Highway.

The event is open to the public. Proceeds benefit the chamber. The party is co-hosted by St. John Township Trustee Cathy Lareau. It will feature dinner, dancing, music, raffles, a 50/50 raffle and a game of trivia that "takes it way back to the 1980s." There will be prizes for best 1980s table decor and best costume. Attendees can dress



TIMES FILE PHOTO

A Welcome to Schererville sign is shown.

up in period clothes if they like but costumes are not required to attend.

The event will include a cash bar. Tickets are \$45.

For more information or tickets, visit scherervillechamber.com/events/back-to-the-80s-trivia-party or call 219-322-5412.

New steel for EVs

JOSEPH S. PETE
joseph.pete@nwi.com, 219-933-3316

U.S. Steel has rolled out a new steel product for electrical vehicles.

The Pittsburgh-based steel-maker that operates the Gary Works and Midwest Plant steel mills debuted InduX at the Corporate Climate Leadership panel at the Ceres Global conference in New York City. It will

be made at the Big River Steel mini-mini in Arkansas, which Gary Works supplies with pig iron.

Production will start this summer at a facility under construction in Osceola, Arkansas.

U.S. Steel described InduX electrical steel as a "very wide, ultra-thin and light-weight steel, having all the magnetic properties necessary for elec-

tric vehicles, as well as generators and transformers."

Magnetic steel improves motor efficiency and mileage in electric vehicles.

U. S. Steel Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer Richard Fruehauf said the investment would further decarbonization efforts to combat climate change.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg	Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg	Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg
AT&T Inc	T	18.46	+07	+4	EmersonEl	EMR	83.10	-.30	-.4	Lee Ent rs	LEE	12.55	-.54	-4.1
Allstate	ALL	105.58	-2.95	-2.7	Enbridge	ENB	36.45	-.16	-.4	LeggPlat	LEG	30.40	-.12	-.4
ArcelorM	MT	28.22	+27	+1.0	Exelon	EXC	39.20	-.48	-1.2	MarathonO	MRO	22.00	-.28	-1.3
AveryD	AVY	169.63	-1.03	-.6	ExxonMbl	XOM	103.41	-1.18	-1.1	MarathPt	MPC	126.15	-.83	-1.3
BP PLC	BP	36.48	-.34	-.9	FedExCp	FDX	216.92	-.14	-.1	NiSource	NI	25.98	-.39	-1.5
Boeing	BA	197.90	+1.74	+.9	FFnCIOH	FFBC	22.22	+14	+6	PepsiCo	PEP	175.65	-.86	-1.5
CME Grp	CME	180.03	+55	+3	FstMerch	FRME	32.95	-1.13	-3.3	RelStlAl	RS	250.09	+2.58	+1.0
CVS Health	CVS	72.37	-2.04	-2.7	FordM	F	11.42	-.06	-.5	USSteel	X	25.00	-.20	-.8
Caterpillar	CAT	219.44	-.51	-.2	GATX	GATX	103.24	-1.05	-1.0	VerizonCm	VZ	37.37	+0.6	+2
ClevCliffs	CLF	17.65	-.10	-.6	GenElec	GE	91.59	+2.00	+2.2	Walgreens	WBA	32.33	-.17	-.5
ConocoPhil	COP	96.42	-1.95	-2.0	GenMotors	GM	33.74	-.31	-.9	YumBrnds	YUM	127.68	+0.4	...
Elevance	ELV	446.30	-19.09	-4.1	HudsPacP	HPP	12.16	-.55	-9.1					
ElLiLilly	LLY	332.64	+1.67	+5	FRCPH	FRCpH	6.03	-.60	-9.0					

NYSE Gainers (\$2 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg
AmprusTc	AMPX	7.65	+2.15	+39.1
Worthingt	WOR	61.34	+8.21	+13.5
AzurePwr	AZRE	2.09	+24	+13.0
On Hldg	ONON	30.64	+3.28	+12.0
Unifi	UFI	7.72	+57	+8.0
System1	SST	4.08	+3.0	+7.9
Sea Ltd	SE	83.67	+6.01	+7.7

Nasdaq Gainers (\$2 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg
DiamondD	DHHC	20.55	+9.95	+93.9
DiamondH	DHHC	18.92	+8.56	+82.6
GenerBio	GBIO	5.00	+1.12	+28.9
scPharma	SCPH	8.66	+1.74	+25.1
Yumaniity rs	KA	3.91	+73	+23.0
HTG Mol rs	HTGM	3.35	+61	+22.3
electCore rs	ECOR	4.28	+63	+17.1

NYSE Losers (\$2 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg
Square	SQ	61.88	-10.77	-14.8
Movado	MOV	28.22	-4.80	-14.5
Gollins	GOL	2.27	-.25	-.99
Westec	CTBB	12.02	-1.26	-.95
Qwest57	CTDD	12.16	-1.24	-.93
HudspacP	HPP	5.48	-.55	-9.1
FRCPH	FRCpH	6.03	-.60	-9.0

Nasdaq Losers (\$2 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Last	Chg	%Chg
ViaRenew rs	VIA	16.20	-10.35	-39.0
Trupanion	TRUP	41.19	-15.00	-26.7
Vaccitech	VACC	2.16	-.60	-21.7
Mangocou n	MGRX	2.42	-.63	-20.7
TC BioPh rs	TCBP	2.31	-.60	-20.6
Redhill rs	RDHL	4.56	-1.04	-18.6
MaxprCp un	JMACU	11.50	-2.62	-18.6

NYSE Most Active (\$1 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Vol (00s)	Last	Chg
Square	SQ	1400138	61.88	-10.77
BkofAm	BAC	1050994	26.97	-.67
FstRepBk	FRC	978951	12.53	-.80
FordM	F	741166	11.42	-.06
Carnival	CCL	576179	9.22	+2.3
ItauUnH	ITUB	500247	4.33	-.15
Schwab	SCHW	460187	52.89	-3.37

Nasdaq Most Active (\$1 or more)

Stock	Ticker	Vol (00s)	Last	Chg
Tesla	TSLA	1436739	192.22	+1.07
AMD	AMD	839984	100.28	+2.70
Apple Inc s	AAPL	675299	158.93	+1.10
Amazon s	AMZN	574545	98.71	+0.1
Nvidia	NVDA	563155	271.91	+7.23
MarathDig	MARA	455776	8.46	+6.8
Intel	INTC	437580	29.03	+9.0

INTEREST RATES

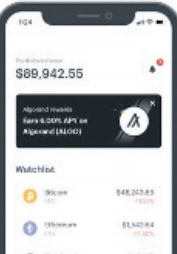
Treasury	Last	Pvs.	NET CHG				1 YR Ago	Consumer Rates	Nat'l Avg.	WK Ago	6 MO Ago	1 YR Ago
			CHG	WK	MO	QTR						
3-month T-bill	4.70	4.76	-0.06	▼	▼	▲	.50	48 month new car loan	6.76 ▲	6.75	6.69	5.16
6-month T-bill	4.78	4.93	-0.15	▼	▼	▲	.93	Money market account	0.48 ▬	0.48	0.46	0.17
52-wk T-bill	4.39	4.56	-0.17	▼	▼	▼	1.52	1 year CD	2.40 ▬	2.40	2.34	1.43
2-year T-note	3.83	3.97	-0.14	▼	▼	▼	2.13	\$30K Home equity loan	8.94 ▲	8.92	8.64	7.70
5-year T-note	3.39	3.54	-0.15	▼	▼	▼	2.34	30 year fixed mortgage	6.85 ▼	6.97	6.95	6.43
10-year T-note	3.42	3.45	-0.03	▼	▼	▼	2.31	15 year fixed mortgage	6.09 ▼	6.21	6.23	5.66
30-year T-bond	3.69	3.67	+0.02	▼	▼	▼	2.52					

Company Spotlight Stakeout

Coinbase had its worst day in over a month on Thursday after the cryptocurrency trading platform was warned by the Securities and Exchange Commission that it could face securities charges.

San Francisco-based Coinbase said in an SEC filing late Wednesday that it had received a Wells Notice from the agency, which indicates that regulators believe laws protecting investors were violated.

Among the practices being targeted by



the SEC is "staking," which is called "Coinbase Earn" by the company.

Staking cryptocurrency is essentially locking it up in the exchange for payment later, much like an interest-earning savings account. Those assets are used by platforms like Coinbase to guarantee other blockchain transactions.

The SEC says Coinbase and other platforms must register as a securities platform to offer such services, which must be approved by the regulator.

Coinbase (COIN)		Thursday's close: \$66.30, -10.84		Total return		YTD	1-yr	3-yr*
52-WEEK RANGE		Price-earnings ratio: Lost money		COIN		87.3%	-63.8%	-57.1%
\$32		(Based on past 12-month results)		Market cap: \$17.5 billion				