

**YOUR MONEY**

## First Bitcoin-linked ETF begins trading in latest cryptocurrency milestone



This May 12, 2021, file photo shows an advertisement for the cryptocurrency Bitcoin displayed on a tram in Hong Kong. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung, File)



STAN CHOE / AP Business Writer

Posted: OCT 19, 2021 / 11:58 AM CDT | Updated: OCT 19, 2021 / 11:58 AM CDT

NEW YORK (AP) — Love cryptocurrencies or hate the very idea of them, they're becoming more mainstream by the day.

Firms that cater to the world's wealthiest families are increasingly putting some of their fortunes into crypto. Hedge funds are trading Bitcoin, which has big-name banks starting to offer them services around it. PayPal lets users buy crypto on its app, while Twitter helps people show appreciation for tweets by tipping their creators with Bitcoin.

## ■ FDA proposes over-the-counter hearing aids for Americans →

And in the latest milestone for the industry, an easy-to-trade fund tied to Bitcoin began trading on Tuesday. Investors can buy the exchange-traded fund from ProShares through an old-school brokerage account, without having to learn what a hot or cold wallet is.

It's all part of a movement across big businesses that see a chance to profit on the fervor around the world of crypto, as a new ecosystem further builds up around it, whether they believe in it or not.

"The one thing you can say for certain is that the advent of the era of the Bitcoin ETF opens up the opportunity for Wall Street to make money on Bitcoin in a way that it hadn't been able to previously," said Ben Johnson, director of global ETF research at Morningstar. "The winners in all of this are the exchanges and the asset managers and the custodians. Whether investors win or not is a big, bold question mark."



Bitcoin has come a long way since someone or a group of someones under the name Satoshi Nakamoto wrote a paper in 2008 about how to harness computing power around the world to create a digital currency that can't be double-spent. The price has more than doubled this year alone to roughly \$62,000. It was at only \$635 five years ago.

Supporters of cryptocurrencies say they offer an ultra-important benefit for any investor: something whose price moves independently of the economy, rather than tracking it like so many other investments do. More high-minded fans say digital assets are simply the future of finance, allowing transactions to sidestep middlemen and fees with a currency that's not beholden to any government.

Critics, meanwhile, question whether crypto is just a fad, say it uses too much energy and point to all the stiff regulatory scrutiny shining on it. China last month declared crypto transactions illegal, for example. The chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler, said in August that the world of crypto doesn't have enough investor protection and, "It's more like the Wild West."

That hasn't been enough to halt the immense momentum for crypto, as it's gone from an online curiosity to a bigger part of the cultural and corporate landscape.

## ■ Sign up for NewsNation Newsletters →

U.S. Bank earlier this month said it has begun offering a cryptocurrency custody service for big investment managers. That means it essentially holds their Bitcoin in safekeeping for them, and it expects to offer support for other coins soon.

Other name-brand banks have also announced intentions to offer custodial services for crypto.

"It's not just in the fringes and dark corners of the web that it's happening," said Kashif Ahmed, president of American Private Wealth in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Ahmed doesn't recommend his clients invest in crypto. Before then, he said he'll need to be able to "go to my local supermarket and buy things for my family and offer crypto and not be laughed out of the store."

But others are more willing to try it.

In a survey by Citi Private Bank of family offices around the world that manage money for wealthy people, roughly 23% said they have made some investments in crypto. Another 25% said they are researching it.

The growing acceptance of crypto on Wall Street has created a new crop of darlings that help people buy it. Crypto trading platform Coinbase has a market value of roughly \$64 billion, for example, putting it on par with such established companies as Colgate-Palmolive, FedEx and Ford Motor.

At Robinhood Markets, meanwhile, the company that became famous for getting a new generation of investors into the stock market is increasingly becoming a place for crypto trading. This spring was the first time when new Robinhood customers were more likely to make their first trade in cryptocurrencies rather than in stocks.

In the end, what many on Wall Street see lasting may not be as much Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as the technology that underlies them.

Called the blockchain, it allows for a public ledger that everyone can check and trust, and many expect it to lead to a wealth of innovations. It's akin to today's Netflix, Facebook and other services that sprung out of the infrastructure built during the boom and bust of the dot-com bubble.

"The applications built on this new software architecture appear to be growing more quickly than past technologies," Bank of America strategists Alkesh Shah and Andrew Moss wrote in a recent research report positing digital assets are only in their first inning of growth. "New companies are likely to emerge and poorly positioned companies will exit, creating significant upside potential for some and downside for others."

JPMorgan Chase, for example, is already using blockchain technology to improve fund transfers between global banks. That's the same JPMorgan Chase run by CEO Jamie Dimon, who said in an interview with Axios this month that bitcoin has "got no intrinsic value."

## LATEST NEWS

---

- **Dad walks 1,200 miles barefoot to fund research for daughter's treatment**
- **October 21: Remains found in search for Brian Laundrie. Supply chain woes threaten Halloween fun.**
- **California man hired 'spellcasters' to hex wife before she disappeared, affidavit says**
- **Is the Brian Laundrie manhunt over? Parents who lost children to violence discuss journey for closure**
- **Radio: Nikolas Cruz pleads guilty to Parkland massacre**

© 1998 - 2021 Nexstar Media Inc. | All Rights Reserved.

## AROUND THE WEB

---







## Massachusetts Seniors with No Life Insurance Get a \$250k Policy for \$18/month

Smart Lifestyle Trends



## Who Are The Top Financial Advisors Near You?

SmartAsset



## Optometrist Stunned: New Discovery Fixes Your Vision Naturally (Watch)

HealthScore



## Millennials Don't Like These Brands Anymore & Now They're Disappearing

MoneyWise.com



## 26 Unhealthiest American Groceries (No.1 Is Surprising)

MoneyWise.com



## Here's Who Actually Makes Costco Kirkland Products (No.1 Will Surprise You)

MoneyWise.com





## Massachusetts Will Pay \$271/month off Your Mortgage if You Have No Missed Payments

Everyday Finance



## Best Online Degrees for Seniors

Education



## Best and Worst Mortgage Refinance Companies - Just Released

Lending Arch

## TRENDING ON NEWSNATIONNOW.COM

### 1 GABBY PETITO CASE | 29 MINS AGO

FBI: Human remains found during search for Brian Laundrie

### 2 DAN ABRAMS LIVE | 7 HOURS AGO

'Highly suspicious:' K-9 handler on how cadaver dogs missed remains in Florida reserve

### 3 U.S. | 12 HOURS AGO

Check your onions now: CDC identifies cause of massive salmonella outbreak

**4 GABBY PETITO CASE** | 2 HOURS AGO**Banfield: What's next for Brian Laundrie's parents?****5 BANFIELD: FULL EPISODES** | 7 HOURS AGO**Is the Brian Laundrie manhunt over? Parents who lost children to violence discuss journey for closure****6 U.S.** | 2 DAYS AGO**Blood pressure meds recalled over carcinogen risk****MORE STORIES****CORONAVIRUS VACCINE** | 27 MINS AGO



## US marks 200M COVID-19 shots shared with world


The U.S. on Thursday donated its 200 millionth COVID-19 shot to help vaccinate the rest of the world, the White House announced. The Biden administration aims to lead a global vaccination campaign even as it rolls out boosters for domestic use, which critics say diverts doses from those who are in greater need around the world.

 **TECH HEADLINES** | 28 MINS AGO



## Trump announces launch of his very own social media site

Nine months after being expelled from social media for his role in inciting the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, former President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he's launching a new media company with its own social media platform.

 **U.S.** | 1 HOUR AGO



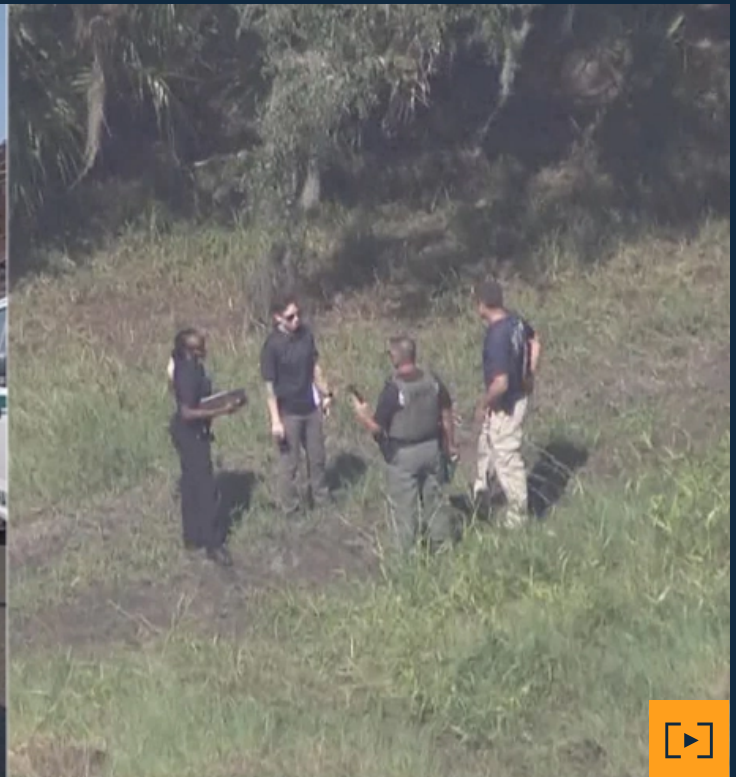




## Climate change makes drought recovery tougher in US West

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued a statewide drought emergency and gave regulators permission to enact mandatory statewide water restrictions if they choose.

**DAN ABRAMS LIVE** | 7 HOURS AGO



## 'Highly suspicious:' K-9 handler on how cadaver dogs missed remains in Florida reserve

A K-9 handler and former police officer says it is "highly suspicious" that cadaver dogs may have missed the apparent human remains found a Florida reserve Wednesday, even if they were located underwater.



## FCC calls for blacklist of Chinese drone company

Thinking about buying your loved one a drone for Christmas? You might just think twice about that. A new warning from the FCC is calling for restrictions on Chinese drone maker SZ DJI Technology CO, the world's largest drone maker.

**THE DONLON REPORT** | 8 HOURS AGO

LIVE

RESTAURANTS HIT BY WORKER, SUPPLY SHORTAGE

THE DONLON REPORT

## The Donlon Report: How supply chain woes are impacting restaurants

Restaurants have been particularly hard hit by supply chain disruptions. Taco Borga, co-owner and chef of La Duni in Dallas, Texas, said it's been a struggle.

**WEST** | 4 HOURS AGO



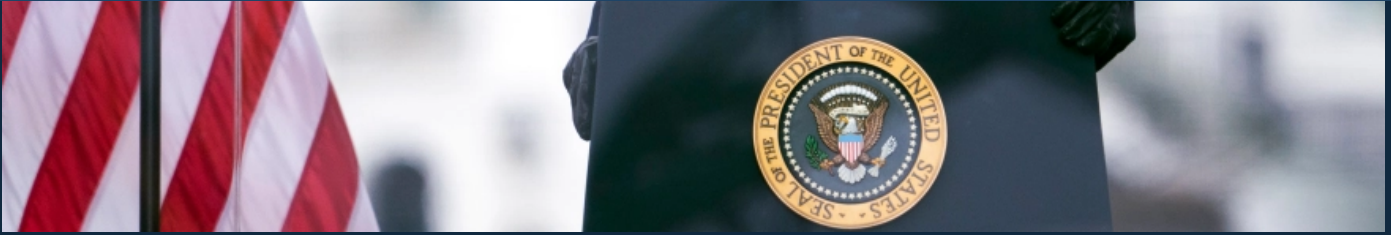
## Colorado school district investigating masks being taped to students' faces

Parents are demanding answers following allegations that teachers forced middle school students in Colorado Springs to tape masks to their faces.

**TECH HEADLINES** | 8 HOURS AGO







## Trump announces launch of media company, social media site

Nine months after being expelled from social media for his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection, former President Donald Trump said Wednesday he's launching a new media company with its own social media platform.

**SPORTS** | 19 MINS AGO



## NFL agrees to end race-based brain testing in \$1B settlement

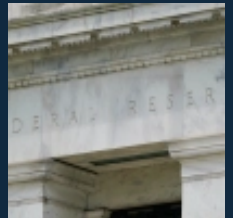
The NFL agreed to end race-based adjustments in dementia testing that critics said made it difficult for Black retirees to qualify for awards in the \$1 billion settlement of concussion claims, according to a proposed deal filed Wednesday in federal court.



## MORE STORIES

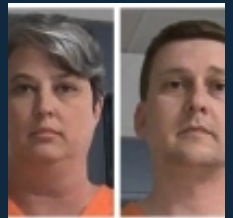
**BUSINESS** | 15 HOURS AGO

**Fed survey finds economy facing supply chain, other drags**



**U.S.** | 18 HOURS AGO

**Couple accused in submarine espionage case indicted**



**MORNING IN AMERICA** | 18 HOURS AGO

**Meet Sarah Park, the teen named 'America's Top Young Scientist'**

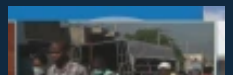


**SPORTS** | 18 HOURS AGO

**ALCS, NLCS continue tonight as margins tighten**

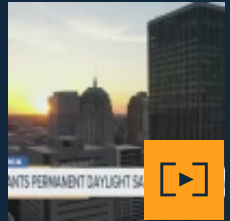


**MORNING IN AMERICA** | 17 HOURS AGO

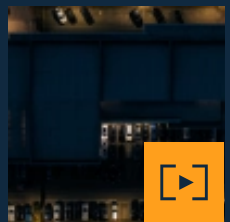


**MORNING IN AMERICA** | 18 HOURS AGO

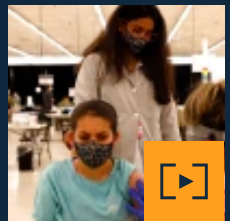
**Across America: Push for permanent daylight saving time in Oklahoma, Family services union walkout in Las Vegas**

**YOUR MONEY** | 20 HOURS AGO

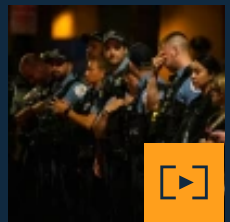
**Car dealerships facing short supply, low sales**

**CORONAVIRUS VACCINE** | 20 HOURS AGO

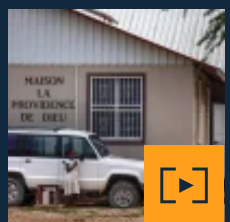
**Pfizer vaccine is 93% effective in preventing hospitalizations among youth, CDC says**

**MIDWEST** | 20 HOURS AGO

**'There is a mass exodus': Chicago on pace to lose more than 1,000 officers**

**U.S.** | 12 HOURS AGO

**Negotiations continue for 17 missionaries kidnapped in Haiti**



Top 10 jobs for military spouses



YOUR MONEY | 20 HOURS AGO

Why some may get smaller child tax credit payments in the coming months



