

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Foreign bondholders**, including BlackRock and Pimco, plan to press Ukraine to start paying interest on its debt again as soon as next year, according to people familiar with the matter, after a grace period granted in the wake of Russia's invasion. **A1**
- ◆ **ABC News President** Kim Godwin stepped down, months after a corporate restructuring that effectively stripped away much of her management autonomy. **B1**
- ◆ **A new Boeing spacecraft** is set to carry astronauts for the first time this week in a major test of whether the much-delayed project is ready to handle NASA missions. **B1**
- ◆ **Boeing locked out** about 130 firefighters who work at its 737 factory and other operations in Washington state following a contract dispute between the company and the firefighters' union. **B3**
- ◆ **Former Starbucks boss** Howard Schultz said the coffee giant needs to renew its focus and own its shortcomings after the company delivered disappointing earnings results last week. **B1**
- ◆ **Sam Ash Music**, the instrument retailer that recently announced plans to close its stores, is looking for a buyer to keep the chain and its online retail presence going, CEO Richard Ash said. **B3**
- ◆ **Warren Buffett** praised Apple at Berkshire's annual meeting, even after revealing that the investment firm had slashed its stake in the iPhone maker in the first quarter. **B10**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Chinese leader Xi Jinping's** first visit to Europe in nearly five years is shaping up as a test of the continent's willingness to confront Beijing over its support of Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as Chinese trade policies that have eviscerated critical European industries. **A1**
- ◆ **Circumstances suggest** that House Speaker Mike Johnson is likely to retain the gavel should fellow Republican Marjorie Taylor Greene carry out her vow to force a floor vote on his removal. **A4**
- ◆ **Talks in Cairo** over a ceasefire deal ended without progress, Arab mediators said, after Hamas failed to formally respond to an Israeli-Egyptian proposal to pause the fighting in Gaza in exchange for a release of hostages. **A6**
- ◆ **Israel is courting** more danger to civilian lives and its international standing if it attacks Rafah with the aim of destroying the Hamas presence there. **A6**
- ◆ **A Republican-led** congressional committee that questioned heads of elite universities over pro-Palestinian protests will turn its attention to K-12 schools in hearings scheduled for this week. **A3**
- ◆ **One person was killed** and 23 were injured when a shuttle bus crashed on Interstate 95 in northern Maryland, police said. **A2**
- ◆ **José Raúl Mulino**, the stand-in for ex-President Ricardo Martinelli in Panama's presidential election, was declared the winner after three rivals conceded. **A7**

JOURNAL REPORT

Investing Monthly: '529' plans are now more flexible. **B5-6**

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Flooding Strikes Brazil and Around the World



EVACUATION: People were rescued Sunday in Canoas, Brazil, as armed forces were deployed to the country's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, struck by flooding. Record temperatures have triggered a surge in rainfall and floods worldwide. **A7**

Xi Arrives In Europe As Global Tensions Intensify

Macron is expected to press China's president on trade, the war in Ukraine

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's first visit to Europe in nearly five years is shaping up as a test of the continent's willingness to confront Beijing over its support of Russia's inva-

By Noemie Bisserbe in Paris, Laurence Norman in Berlin and Austin Ramzy in Hong Kong

sion of Ukraine as well as Chinese trade policies that have eviscerated critical European industries.

European leaders tend to tread lightly with Beijing, not wanting to jeopardize ties with a major trade partner. But President Emmanuel Macron of France, who is set to meet with Xi on Monday on the first leg of the six-day trip, has cast the Ukraine war and China's trade practices as an existential threat to Europe. Xi arrived in France on Sunday.

China has served as an economic lifeline to Russia since the start of the war, providing Moscow with critical support as it seeks to rebuild its military capacity. Beijing hasn't supplied arms to Moscow, but U.S. officials said it has provided satellite imagery to Russia and sold the country microchips, jet-fighter parts, machine tools and other dual-use equipment to bolster its armed forces. Beijing is also a prodigious buyer of

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◆ **Outlook: The fuel behind China's export boom.....** **A2**

Group of Kyiv Creditors Plans To Seek a Restart of Payments

By ALEXANDER SAEEDY

Ukraine's lenders said Kyiv could wait to pay them back after Russian troops stormed into the country two years ago. Now, their patience is starting to run out.

A group of foreign bondholders including BlackRock and Pimco plans to press Ukraine to start paying interest on its debt again as soon as next year, people familiar with the matter said.

The group, which holds around a fifth of Ukraine's \$20 billion of outstanding Eurobonds, recently formed a com-

mittee and hired lawyers at Weil Gotshal & Manges and bankers from PJT Partners to negotiate on its behalf.

The group wants Kyiv, which is fresh off clinching about \$60 billion in U.S. aid, to strike a deal in which it would resume payments in exchange for forgiveness of a big chunk of the country's outstanding debt. Some bondholders in the group have discussed the plans with senior officials in Kyiv.

A spokesman for the bondholder group said it "looks forward to engaging constructively to assist with Ukraine's sovereign debt."

Ukraine is preparing to start talks with the bondholders this month, and Kyiv's advisers are working to get the U.S. and other governments on board.

That approval isn't guaranteed. The U.S. and its allies are concerned that taxpayers' money will wind up in bondholders' hands if Ukraine resumes any type of debt service. The countries agreed to give Ukraine a debt holiday on about \$4 billion of their own loans, until 2027, and have voiced concerns that bondholders could start to be repaid ahead of them.

Without a deal, Ukraine

could default after the bondholder-debt holiday ends in August, tarnishing its reputation with investors and complicating its ability to borrow more.

Officials from the International Monetary Fund and some members of the bondholder group met in April in Washington, D.C., where fund representatives indicated total debt relief from the private sector might need to be higher than the bond markets currently indicate. Ukraine's bonds trade at between 25 and 35 cents on the dollar, according to AdvantageData, implying

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Arizona Booms, Yet Voters Are Glum

SWING STATES

Concerns about costs, immigration unsettle Biden's coalition from 2020

By ELIZA COLLINS

PHOENIX—By most measures, Arizona has thrived during Joe Biden's presidency.

Its semiconductor industry is booming, thanks in part to multibillion-dollar investment pledges by his administration. Unemployment is near historic lows, and high inflation is finally cooling. The state has become one of the nation's top domestic-migration destinations, drawing hundreds of

thousands of new inhabitants since 2020.

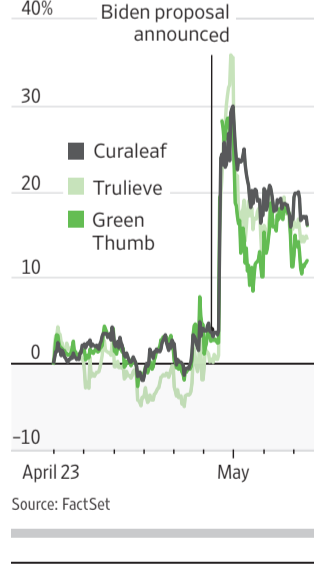
Yet residents here feel surprisingly bad about the trajectory of their state. In a Wall Street Journal survey of swing state voters in March, 60% of residents said Arizona was headed in the wrong direction, nearly twice the share who viewed it as going in the right direction and the most negative assessment among the seven battleground states expected to decide the presidential race.

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Pot Industry Gets a Lift

Many U.S. cannabis businesses could become profitable for the first time under new classification. **B1**

Share-price performance



Consumers Fed Up With Food Costs Ditch Big Brands

By HEATHER HADDON AND JESSE NEWMAN

Consumers are voting with their wallets—and some of the U.S.'s best-known food brands are losing.

Coffee drinkers are leaving Starbucks's loyalty program. Chips Ahoy cookies are lingering longer on grocery-store shelves. Fewer customers are ordering at fast-food drive-throughs and kiosks, pressuring companies such as Wendy's and McDonald's.

For about three years following the Covid-19 pandemic, food companies pushed through a series of sharp price

increases, saying they needed to recoup their own rising costs—and that consumers would adjust to stick with their favorite brands. As a result, the portion of U.S. consumers' income spent on food has reached the highest level in three decades.

Now, some consumers are hitting their limits. Restaurant chains and some food manufacturers are reporting sliding sales or slowing growth that they attribute to consumers' inability—or refusal—to pay prices that are in some cases one-third higher than during prepandemic times.

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Is This the Most Boring Man In the World?

Insomniacs swear by dull narrators who put them to sleep, whether on purpose or not

By SPENCER JAKAB

Late last year Randy Smith got a text from a complete stranger. She thanked him for putting her to sleep.

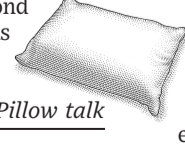
Smith was shocked to discover that he was a YouTube star. The Ormond Beach, Fla., retiree was even more surprised about why: A tutorial he recorded and sold as a VHS

“I want this played at my funeral, so people don't forget how interesting I was,” says another.

Smith, a former motivational speaker who taught pre-tentation skills, has a voice that isn't so much boring as comforting. It turns out, his silky-smooth delivery, combined with the now-irrelevant subject matter, makes his video perfect—for hitting the sack.

And he has lots of competition. From footage of late TV painting instructor Bob Ross to

“I can't remember the num-



Pillow talk

Lawyer Lost in Delusion Doesn't See It That Way

By JULIE WERNAU

LOS ANGELES—Rob Dart isn't the successful lawyer and father who left the people who love him two years ago to follow his delusions. That Rob lives in the memory of friends and in family photos.

This Rob, who arrives on time for our interview, is standing by the roadside under the blazing California sun, his eyes and hair competing in wildness, his grin difficult not to match.

In the past year, this Rob has been hospitalized, shot, housed, unhoused, a winner and a loser in court battles. Ultimately, he has shed every scrap of evidence of his life before illness: his connections to his son, family and most friends. He wanders the

streets of greater Los Angeles, begging for change and lying down to sleep when he is tired. He believes people are controlling him via hypnosis, activated by a headlock.

Rob, 44 years old, doesn't believe he is sick. He has refused treatment repeatedly. During a hospitalization last year, he argued remotely before a judge from his hospital bed that he shouldn't be committed. The judge agreed.

“I did want to leave the hospital, and I did not want to take the medications,” Rob said.

Rob's situation isn't that uncommon. Doctors said his behavior is consistent with anosognosia, a neurological condition in patients unaware of their neurological deficit or

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INSIDE



JOANNA STERN
Help or hindrance? Three new AI gadgets are put to the test. **A10**

U.S. NEWS
Some college professors enter the fray, aiding and joining protesters. **A3**