

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Stellantis vehicle** deliveries fell 20% in the third quarter as the Jeep and Ram-maker began to take measures to address excess inventory in the U.S. **B1**
- ◆ **Forecasters are** increasingly upbeat about the U.S. economy's prospects, according to The Wall Street Journal's latest quarterly survey of economists. **A2**
- ◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** rose, with the S&P 500, Dow industrials and Nasdaq advancing 0.5%, 0.8% and 0.3%, respectively. **B9**
- ◆ **Elon Musk tapped** a close confidant to oversee Tesla's operations in North America and Europe, markets where the company faces stiffer competition and cooling demand. **B1**
- ◆ **SpaceX sued regulators** in California, claiming their rejection of its request for permission to launch more rockets was politically motivated. **B4**
- ◆ **McKinsey is overhauling** its China business after cutting back on government-linked clients and reducing the unit's workforce by nearly 500 people. **B1**
- ◆ **NBCUniversal plans** to add its regional sports channels to its Peacock streaming service as soon as early next year, people familiar with the matter said. **B3**
- ◆ **Lithium Americas said** GM will boost a planned second investment in the mining company's Thacker Pass project in Nevada by nearly 90% to \$625 million. **B2**
- ◆ **Novavax said the FDA** put a clinical hold on its application for a combination Covid-19 and influenza vaccine and stand-alone flu inoculation. **B3**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Ukraine and South Korea** raised concerns about the growing military alliance between Russia and North Korea, saying that Pyongyang is not only arming Moscow, but now has personnel in occupied Ukraine. **A1**
- ◆ **The FTC mandated** that businesses give consumers an easy way to drop subscriptions, approving a "click-to-cancel" regulation aimed at unwanted recurring bills. **A1**
- ◆ **Kamala Harris concluded** a rally in Pennsylvania resolving to continue using Trump's words against him as the Democratic nominee sharpens attacks on her opponent. **A4**
- ◆ **Israeli airstrikes hit** a municipal building in southern Lebanon, killing Nabatieh's mayor and at least 15 other people, according to state media, in a raid that Israel said targeted Hezbollah. **A8**
- ◆ **The U.S. is refocusing** its training of Ukrainian F-16 pilots on younger cadets rather than experienced members of the air force. **A9**
- ◆ **Columbia temporarily** banned from campus a professor in its business school who has accused the university of being a hotbed of antisemitism. **A3**
- ◆ **The Archdiocese** of Los Angeles agreed to pay \$880 million to 1,353 victims of clergy sexual abuse dating back decades, in what an attorney said was the largest single child sex-abuse settlement with a Catholic archdiocese. **A7**
- ◆ **More than 140 people**, including children, were killed in Nigeria when an overturned gasoline tanker truck exploded as they tried to salvage spilled fuel. **A18**

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Aid Trucks Enter Gaza Amid Hunger Crisis



RELIEF: A child looks on as Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Israel allowed aid trucks to enter northern Gaza on Wednesday after pressure from the White House. **A8**

North Korean Soldiers Join War, Kyiv Says

Pyongyang provides advisers, factory workers, arms to Russia, Zelensky says

By DASL YOON AND MATTHEW LUXMOORE

Ukraine and South Korea are raising concerns about the growing military alliance between Russia and North Korea, which they said now has boots on the ground in occupied Ukraine and continues to ship missiles and artillery shells to Russia.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine cited on Wednesday Ukrainian military intelligence reports that North Korea was providing military personnel to aid Moscow's army, as well as workers for Russian factories to replace Russians killed in the war.

"It's effectively the participation of a second state in the war against Ukraine on the side of Russia," Zelensky told Parliament in an address.

The president denounced Iran's support for Russia, which includes drones and missiles, and China's cooperation with Moscow, calling on partners such as the U.S. to increase military support.

Zelensky's comments came as he seeks to drum up backing for his "victory plan," an effort to secure more help from the West to strengthen Kyiv militarily and diplomatically, while weakening Russia's economy

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◆ **U.S. shifts Ukraine pilot training younger..... A9**

FTC Eases Subscription Cancellations

The agency's new 'click to cancel' rule requires companies to simplify process

By DAVE MICHAELS AND JOSEPH PISANI

Consumers often complain that getting out of a subscription or gym membership is like navigating a maze.

On Wednesday, federal regulators mandated that businesses give consumers an easy way out—just as simple as it was to sign up. The Federal

Trade Commission voted 3 to 2, along party lines, to issue a "click to cancel" regulation that eases the process of dumping unwanted, recurring bills.

"Too often, businesses make people jump through endless hoops just to cancel a subscription," FTC Chair Lina Khan said. "The FTC's rule will end these tricks and traps."

The agency's regulation is aimed at subscriptions and memberships that automatically renew unless a consumer takes action to cancel them. Businesses will have to offer a cancellation method that is "easy to find when the con-

sumer seeks to cancel," the regulation says, without dictating what the option has to look like.

Consumers routinely complain that businesses introduce friction into the cancellation process in an effort to retain them. Customer-service agents often try to cajole customers into not giving up a membership, sometimes offering discounts if they remain.

Consumers can't be required to interact with a live or virtual representative, such as chatbot, unless they consented to that step when they initiated the subscription, the rule says. If a consumer is required to cancel

over the telephone, the rule says sellers must be available during normal business hours to process the request.

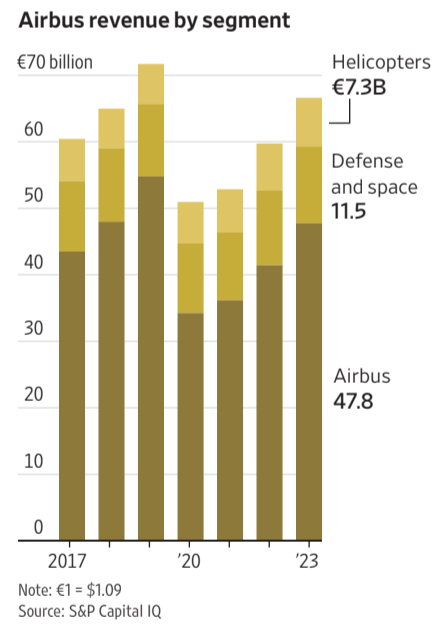
"It's definitely welcome news," said Marco del Rosario, who had trouble canceling a monthly exercise class membership a couple of years ago.

The company required him to chat in a message box. Whenever he asked to cancel, he was given a discount or told pausing the subscription would be better than canceling.

After more than 30 minutes of back and forth, he made up a story that he was heading to

Airbus Reduces Staff

Airbus is cutting up to 2,500 workers from its defense and space division—which makes satellites and spacecraft as well as jet fighters and drones—as the European aerospace giant battles with program delays, increased costs and competition from the likes of Elon Musk's SpaceX. **B1**



The Guru Saying He Can Get Your 11-Year-Old Into Harvard

Jamie Beaton offers a pricey, yearslong boot camp preparing kids to apply to the Ivy League, drawing parents—and Wall Street

By DOUGLAS BELKIN

Seven children flew into New York in late July to meet with the college counselor they believed would get them into Harvard University or another top-flight U.S. college. Two traveled from Switzerland, two from Australia, one from the United Kingdom.

The youngest was 11. They were there to meet Jamie Beaton, a 29-year-old Rhodes scholar from New Zealand with a reputation as the man who has cracked

the code on elite college admissions—and who is Wall Street's favored partner to mine the rich vein of parental anxiety embedded in the college process.

Beaton's message to the kids distilled: Optimize childhood by starting to build skills and interests years before high school. Strategically choose areas where you can excel—if you aren't going to be a top performer in an activity, drop it and move to something else. And find ways to be unique, whether through entrepreneur-

Hope Stirs in the Fight to Free The Milk and Sugar at Starbucks

Customers and baristas have been pining for a return of the condiment bar

By HEATHER HADDON

John Coleman has learned to live with his coffee habit, but most Starbucks baristas can't stomach his request for eight packets of sugar and just the right amount of milk.

Starbucks moved the sugar and milk behind the counter during the pandemic. But Coleman is among the chain's regulars be-moaning the decision to keep the condiment bar closed.

"Literally, it's different every day," said Coleman, a 52-year-old software sales executive from Evanston, Ill., about how baristas serve his Venti coffee. "It's worse for me and it's got to be worse for them."

Drip coffee drinkers already feel forlorn as Starbucks has leaned into supplying fancier drinks, like the Iced Brown Sugar Oatmilk Shaken

Espresso and TikTok-inspired Strawberry Cheesecake Frappuccino. Now, they feel shafted by coffee shops hiding creamers, forcing them to specify add-ons that can draw eye-rolls from employees or groans from patrons in line.

Add imprisoned condiments to the list of Covid-era restaurant practices that won't leave, like QR code menus and disposable dishes when dining in.

Pamela Braren takes her Starbucks coffee with half a packet of Sugar in the Raw and a smidgen of milk.

When a harried barista heeds her request to doctor the brew, it typically comes out too light, she said. When they dispense the milk on the side, Braren ends up with a lamentable waste. "I think the baristas are young, and probably not drinking straight coffee,



Hot topic

INSIDE



PERSONAL JOURNAL
The question travelers dread at boarding: 'May I gate-check your bag?' **A11**



SPORTS
After a decade and a half, the Yankees look to end a historic drought. **A14**

Storms Be Damned, Florida Builds Out In High-Risk Areas

By JEAN EAGLESHAM AND CARL CHURCHILL

Driving through the mess left behind by twin hurricanes that slammed Florida, it doesn't take long to pass a construction site for another batch of new homes. Among them is La Linda Estates, which is being built in a high-risk flood zone on a barrier island near where Milton made landfall.

Florida built 77,000 new properties in high-risk flood areas since 2019, the most in the nation, according to an analysis by climate-modeling firm First Street Foundation for The Wall Street Journal.

The building binge is putting the real-estate industry, and the banks that finance it, on a collision course with insurers. The new construction is one reason insurance bills for Milton and Helene are expected to be between \$40 billion and \$75 billion, according to ratings firm Morningstar

DBRS. Big payouts from natural disasters are driving insurers to raise rates and pull back on coverage.

Nationally, 290,000 new properties were built in high-risk flood areas from 2019 through 2023, almost 1 in 5 of the 1.6 million built in total in that period, the First Street analysis found.

Other states with heavy new construction in areas at high risk of flooding include Texas, with 63,000 properties since 2019, California with 21,000 properties, and North Carolina with 11,000, the First Street analysis found.

"We build in some of the most silly places, knowing what could happen," said Andrew Siffert, senior meteorologist at insurance broker BMS Group. He said that new development was one of the main reasons insured losses from catastrophes are increasing.

"The lenders need to play a