

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp \*\*\*\*\* FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2024 ~ VOL. CCLXXXIV NO. 4 WSJ.com ★★★★★ \$5.00

DJIA Closed (39308.00) NASDAQ Closed (18188.30) STOXX 600 517.54 ▲ 0.6% 10-YR. TREAS. Closed (yield 4.346%) OIL Closed (\$83.88) GOLD Closed (\$2359.80) EURO \$1.0813 YEN 161.28

## What's News

### Business & Finance

- ◆ **Saks Fifth Avenue's** parent company sealed a \$2.65 billion deal to buy rival Neiman Marcus, creating a powerhouse in luxury retailing that seeks to hang on to wealthy shoppers. **B1**
- ◆ **An investor group** seeking to buy Macy's raised its offer for a second time after previous bids failed to clinch a deal for the beleaguered department-store chain. **B2**
- ◆ **Global stocks rose**, while U.S. index futures were mixed after the S&P 500 and Nasdaq closed at records Wednesday. U.S. stock and bond markets were closed for the Independence Day holiday. **B9**
- ◆ **The EU confirmed plans** to impose additional tariffs on electric cars made in China, dashing hopes of a solution sought by several carmakers whose executives fear reprisal from an escalating trade war. **B3**
- ◆ **New-car prices in the U.S.** are on track to drop this year for the first time in more than a decade, but many buyers are stretched as higher interest rates increase financing costs. **B1**
- ◆ **Samsung said** second-quarter earnings surged, indicating its flagship semiconductor business sustained a strong recovery after a turnaround in the first quarter. **B1**
- ◆ **Amazon will build** a top-secret cloud for Australia's government to deepen collaboration with the U.S. and strengthen Canberra's defense communications. **B4**
- ◆ **Lufthansa got the EU's** conditional approval to buy a minority stake in ITA Airways, the Italian carrier formerly known as Alitalia. **B3**

### World-Wide

- ◆ **Britain's Prime Minister** Sunak conceded the Labour Party won the U.K. election, as voters were set to hand Labour's leader Keir Starmer one of the biggest parliamentary majorities in British history and place a center-left government into Downing Street for the first time in 14 years. **A1**
- ◆ **Biden is entering** a crucial stretch in which he needs to demonstrate to Americans that he has the capacity to serve a second term and tamp down Democrats' worries about his ability to defeat Trump in November's election. **A1**
- ◆ **Some top players in Hollywood's** reliably Democratic donor class are looking to replace Biden as the party's candidate, and other moneyed benefactors are divided about the president's capacities and prospects. **A4, A5**
- ◆ **Biden pressed** Netanyahu to hammer out a Gaza cease-fire deal, telling the Israeli prime minister in a phone call that now is the time to save the lives of hostages held by Hamas. **A8**
- ◆ **New Jersey Sen.** Bob Menendez said he chose not to testify at his New York trial because he believes prosecutors failed to prove "every aspect" of the bribery case against him. **A2**
- ◆ **American students** have been slow to return to China since Beijing ended its strict Covid restrictions in late 2022, deterred in part by a State Department travel warning. **A16**
- ◆ **Reformist candidate** Masoud Pezeshkian goes into Iran's presidential-election runoff with a slight edge against conservative Saeed Jalili as they vie to succeed the late Ebrahim Raisi. **A7**

<b>CONTENTS</b>		Mansion.....	M1-12
Arts in Review A10-11		Markets & Finance B9	
Business News..... B3		Opinion.....	A13-15
Crossword..... A11		Sports.....	A12
Equities..... B6		Technology.....	B4
From Page One..... A9		U.S. News.....	A2-6
Heard on Street. B10		World News..	A7-8;16



© 2024 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

## Nation Celebrates Uncle Sam's 248th Birthday



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN STEP: Sisters Coco and Belle Sterry dance with Ted Hayes at the Santa Monica, Calif., Independence Day parade.

## Labour Heads for Landslide In U.K. Election

Sunak concedes in stark reversal for Conservatives after 14 years in power

By MAX COLCHESTER AND DAVID LUHNOW

LONDON—Britain's Labour Party was on course to win a landslide election victory, according to an exit poll published Thursday night, as voters looked set to hand its leader Keir Starmer one of the biggest parliamentary majorities in British history and place a center-left government into Downing Street for the first time in 14 years. Projections by the BBC predicted that Labour would win 410 of the 650 seats in Parliament. The ruling Conservative Party is on course to win just 144 seats, likely the worst result in its 190-year history and a massive reversal from its victory in the 2019 election. Among the leading Tories to lose their seats were the party leader in the House of Commons, Penny Mordaunt, and defense minister Grant Shapps.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak early Friday conceded defeat and apologized to his party for the scale of the defeat. "The British people have delivered a sobering verdict tonight...and I take responsibility for the loss," he said.

Smaller parties performed strongly, showing voter discontent with mainstream politicians. Populist Nigel Farage, who leads the anti-immigration Reform UK party, made it into Parliament for the first time, along with several other leading party figures. Reform's gains denied the Conservatives dozens of seats across the country by splitting the right-wing vote, handing more seats to Labour.

While final results weren't expected until Friday morning, exit polls have proved an

Please turn to page A7

## Biden Hits Crucial Few Days As Democrats' Worries Mount

By KEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON—President Biden is entering a crucial stretch in which he needs to demonstrate to Americans that he has the capacity to serve a second term and tamp down Democrats' worries about his ability to defeat Donald Trump in November's election.

Allies see the coming days as make or break for the president's re-election hopes, with a new Wall Street Journal poll showing Trump opening up a bigger lead and voters' concerns about the president's fitness mounting following his disastrous June 27 debate performance.

In a sign of Biden's challenges, the 81-year-old presi-

dent told a group of governors that he planned to curtail late-night events in order to get more rest. He also muscled through radio interviews and an evening of Fourth of July events, in which he made forceful remarks but also stumbled over his words at times.

Top Democratic lawmakers and donors have urged Biden to make his case directly to voters and stave off further calls for him to step aside as the Democrats' nominee ahead of next month's party convention. Biden has acknowledged in private that this period will be critical and that he has to prove himself to the American people, according to a person who spoke to him.

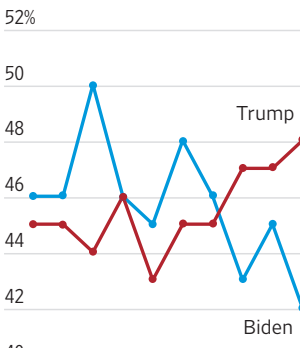
"I had a bad debate. But 90

minutes on stage does not erase what I've done for 3½ years," Biden told WURD radio in Philadelphia in an interview that aired Thursday. Later—referring back to his observation that he served with the first Black president and the first Black vice president, and put the first Black woman on the Supreme Court—he said he was "proud to be, as I said, the first vice president, first Black woman, to serve with a Black president."

Please turn to page A4

- ◆ **Greg Ip: Economic pitch gets harder.....** A2
- ◆ **Hollywood power brokers look to recast race.....** A4
- ◆ **Biden's big donors face tough choices.....** A5

If the general election were held today, would you vote for Biden or Trump?



Source: Wall Street Journal telephone and text-to-web survey of 1,500 registered voters conducted June 29–July 2, 2024; margin of error of +/-2.5 pct. pts.

## Americans Abroad Get More Bang For a Buck

By DAVID UBERTI

U.S. tourists are flooding foreign locales from Japanese temples to Hungarian thermal baths at an opportune moment: The American dollar is soaring.

An economy that is outrunning many peers is pulling investment stateside, driving the value of the dollar near its highest levels of the year. The U.S. currency has gained 15% against the yen and 2.3% against the euro since the end of 2023. In Argentina and Vietnam, the buck has never gotten so much bang.

The dollar's ascent reflects America's economic dynamism, as well as interest rates higher than those of many rich counterparts. A rising dollar boosts Americans' relative purchasing power by making imports cheaper. At the same time, it generally hurts exports—except the type who carry luggage.

Kyle Kawakami, a chef from Hawaii, shelled out for knives and cutting boards during a June vacation to Japan. "I couldn't help myself," said Kawakami, whose family ate its way through Tokyo, including fresh sea urchin at one of the city's famed fish markets and a 15-course meal at an exclusive Wagyu restaurant.

"After you finish [paying], you get out the door and look

Please turn to page A2

## INSIDE



**SPORTS**  
Soccer's European championship is wide open as favorites struggle. **A12**

## The Rise of Jordan Bardella, Star of France's Far Right

The 28-year-old has helped propel National Rally's success

By NOEMIE BISSEBIE AND STACY MEICHTRY

SAINT-DENIS, France—Six years ago, a media specialist was called to the headquarters of National Rally to groom the party's new spokesman: a clean-cut 22-year-old by the name of Jordan Bardella.

The assignment was sensitive. Bardella was the protégé of Marine Le Pen and a key part of the party's rebranding strategy.

The adviser was initially skeptical of whether Bardella was relatable. He was young but seemed rigid and stodgy, recalled Pascal Humeau, a former journalist who specializes in media training, in an interview. His style was formal, perennially dressed in a suit and tie, with hair neatly parted at the side. He lived in

a manicured suburb and refused to take the subway, preferring to drive around town in the two-seat Smart car his father had given him.

But there was one facet of Bardella that Humeau found promising. He had grown up in a housing project in Saint-Denis, an area on the outskirts of Paris that to many voters was synonymous with crime, poverty and France's decadeslong struggle to integrate its large Muslim minority.

Under the spin doctor's tutelage, Bardella developed talking points that portrayed him as a guy who "comes from a place where you can die for refusing to give someone a cigarette, for a sideways glance," Humeau recalled.

Please turn to page A9

## Baby, Can You Drive My Car? Not if It's a Stick Shift

\* \* \*

Manual transmissions are increasingly rare in U.S.; foiling carjackers, frustrating valets

By SPENCER JAKAB

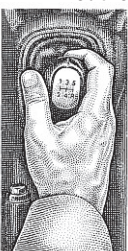
Mary Sampietro got the scare of her life five years ago. It left her disappointed in America's young people.

The mental health professional was in her stick-shift 2016 Jeep Patriot in a rough neighborhood in her native Houston when she rolled down the window to smoke a cigarette. Suddenly, a teenager stuck a

gun in her face, ordering her out of the car. He got in but only made it to the next light before stalling the engine and running away.

"I was like, 'How can you be a carjacker and not know how to drive a manual?'"

For Sampietro, who learned to row her own gears in a 1970s Datsun pickup truck



Gear fears

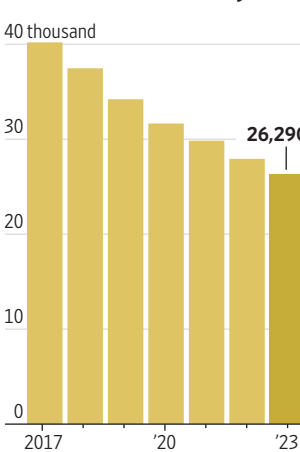
with no power steering, the

Please turn to page A9

## Dairy Farms Face Bird Flu

Avian influenza in cows has hit dairy farms in at least 12 states, the latest challenge for an industry that has grappled with low profit margins, drought and shifting consumer tastes. **B1**

Number of licensed dairy herds



Source: USDA

U.S. milk production

