

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp *****

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024 ~ VOL. CCLXXXIV NO. 123

WSJ.com

★★★★ \$5.00

DJIA 43870.35 ▲ 461.88 1.06% NASDAQ 18972.42 ▲ 0.03% STOXX600 502.54 ▲ 0.4% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 6/32, yield 4.431% OIL \$70.10 ▲ \$1.35 GOLD \$2,672.10 ▲ \$23.90 EURO \$1.0474 YEN 154.55

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **An American investor** with a history of dealmaking in Russia has asked the U.S. government to allow him to bid on the sabotaged Nord Stream Pipeline 2 if it comes up for auction in a Swiss bankruptcy proceeding. **A1**
- ◆ **Shares of Temu parent** PDD fell almost 11% after the Chinese e-commerce giant missed third-quarter sales and earnings expectations. **B1**
- ◆ **DirecTV has decided** to walk away from its proposed merger with rival Dish Network, abandoning a tie-up that the two satellite-TV companies have attempted several times. **B1**
- ◆ **Huawei plans to roll out** its most advanced domestically made phone chip, people familiar with the matter said, showing how it is able to make strides in semiconductors despite U.S. sanctions. **B1**
- ◆ **Gap increased** its sales outlook for the year after reporting market-share growth across its brands in the third quarter, sending shares up in after-hours trading. **B1**
- ◆ **BJ's Wholesale Club** raised its earnings guidance after the bulk retailer said it would increase its annual membership fee and would add more fresh food to its shelves. **B3**
- ◆ **Workers at France's** cognac distilleries plan to go on strike next week over fears that the industry could relocate its bottling business to China to circumvent import tariffs. **B3**
- ◆ **SEC Chairman Gensler** will step down at the end of the Biden administration. **A2**
- ◆ **The Dow rose** 1.1% on gains at Salesforce and IBM, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq added 0.5% and 0.03%, respectively. **B9**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Trump has chosen** former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to run the Justice Department, after Matt Gaetz withdrew from consideration under a cloud of sexual-misconduct allegations. **A1, A4**
- ◆ **The transition team** was blindsided by the latest details to emerge about a 2017 sexual-assault allegation against defense secretary pick Pete Hegseth. **A4**
- ◆ **Trump has floated** picking financier Kevin Warsh as Treasury secretary, then later naming him Federal Reserve chairman. **A2**
- ◆ **The International Criminal Court** said it has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, along with top Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif. **A1**
- ◆ **The Illinois Supreme Court** overturned the conviction of Jussie Smollett, finding the actor was unjustly prosecuted when charges were previously dropped. **A3**
- ◆ **The father** of the 14-year-old suspect in a Georgia school shooting pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder. **A3**
- ◆ **Russia fired** an intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads at Ukraine for the first time in the war. **A6**
- ◆ **A senior North Korean** general was wounded in a recent Ukrainian strike in Russia's Kursk area. **A6**
- ◆ **Brazilian federal police** accused former President Jair Bolsonaro and 36 of his allies of plotting a coup. **A8**
- ◆ **Gunmen opened fire** on vehicles carrying Shiite Muslims in Pakistan, killing 38. **A6**

CONTENTS	
Mansion.....	M1-12
Arts in Review A10-11	Markets & Finance B9
Business & Finance B2	Opinion..... A13-15
Business News..... B3	Sports..... A12
Crossword..... A11	Technology..... B4
Equities..... B6	U.S. News..... A2-4
Heard on Street...B10	World News..... A6-8



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

Gaetz Is Out, Bondi Picked for DOJ

Trump chooses former Florida attorney general after withdrawal

By SADIE GURMAN
AND C. RYAN BARBER

WASHINGTON—Donald Trump has chosen former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to run the Justice Department, announcing his pick hours after Matt Gaetz withdrew from consideration under a cloud of sexual-misconduct and drug-use allegations. Trump told Bondi she was his choice Thursday evening

at Mar-a-Lago. She has long been a vocal defender of Trump, and he had considered Bondi for the role of attorney general during his first term. Gaetz's withdrawal hours earlier was an embarrassing setback for the president-elect and an sign that he doesn't have unlimited political capital to spend on cabinet nominations. Filling the role of attorney general has been Trump's top personal priority since winning re-election. Bondi, who worked for years as a prosecutor, is a more conventional pick than Gaetz. Gaetz stepped aside amid indications that Republican lawmakers were prepared to

reject his nomination, a week after Trump said he was the best person to remake the Justice Department. "It is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition," Gaetz wrote in a post on X. "There is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle." The move marks the biggest political blow for Trump since his election to a second presidential term and comes as he continues to roll out contentious and unconventional selections for key government posts. Several other of his choices are under fire or face uncertain

paths to confirmation, including Pete Hegseth as secretary of defense, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as health and human services secretary, and former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard as director of national intelligence. Trump's selection of Gaetz, 42 years old, a longtime ally and fierce Justice Department critic, in particular startled lawmakers and members of the conservative legal community. It also sparked immediate objections from senators of both parties, raising doubts about whether he could be confirmed. Gaetz "was doing very well but, at the same time, did not want to be a distraction for the

Administration, for which he has much respect," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Matt has a wonderful future, and I look forward to watching all of the great things he will do!" Trump is looking to bring the Justice Department he has long railed against under closer presidential control. Gaetz had been seen as willing to help bend the institution to Trump's will, echoing the president-elect's criticism that the Biden administration Justice Department

Please turn to page A4

- ◆ **Warsh eyed for Treasury, then Fed.....** A2
- ◆ **New details on Hegseth allegations emerge.....** A4

In Iceland, a Volcano Roars Back to Life—Again



HOT SPOT: Lava flows across a road in southwestern Iceland after a volcano erupted for the seventh time since December. A fissure opened Thursday, prompting evacuations from about 50 homes and the Blue Lagoon spa, a popular tourist attraction.

U.S. Investor Eyes Russian Pipeline

By CHRISTOPHER M. MATTHEWS

An American investor with a history of dealmaking in Russia has asked the U.S. government to allow him to bid on the sabotaged Nord Stream Pipeline 2 if it comes up for auction in a Swiss bankruptcy proceeding. Stephen P. Lynch spent two decades doing business in Moscow and now wants to buy the natural-gas pipeline that runs from Russia to Germany. He has argued to U.S. officials and lawmakers that U.S. ownership of the pipeline would provide leverage in any peace negotiations with

Russia to end the war in Ukraine and serve U.S. long-term interests. "The bottom line is this: This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for American and European control over European energy supply for the rest of the fossil fuel era," Lynch said in a rare interview. Lynch, who lives in Miami and was a large contributor to President-elect Donald Trump's campaign, has told people he wants "to be the richest guy you've never heard of," but his audacious plan would thrust the former Peace Corps volunteer into public view. The 765-mile-long pipeline

had been a crown jewel of Russia's petro economy linking its vast gas fields to Europe. It was completed just before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and never became operational. It is owned by a subsidiary of Russia's state-owned gas giant Gazprom, a unit that filed for bankruptcy in Switzerland days after the invasion. In September 2022, subsea explosions destroyed one of the pipeline's two trunks. The other remains intact but unused. The Wall Street Journal previously reported that a team of Ukrainians was behind the sabotage. Lynch sought a license from

the U.S. Treasury Department in February, according to a letter written by his lawyers at WilmerHale and reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. The license would allow him to negotiate for the pipeline with entities currently subject to U.S. sanctions. The letter said there is a hard deadline in January in the Swiss bankruptcy proceeding for Nord Stream 2 to either restructure its debt, which the letter says is unlikely, or face liquidation. Lynch argues that once the war is over it will be tempting for both Russia and its former

Please turn to page A8

Global Court Files Warrant To Arrest Netanyahu

Israeli premier, former defense chief sought for alleged attacks on civilians in Gaza

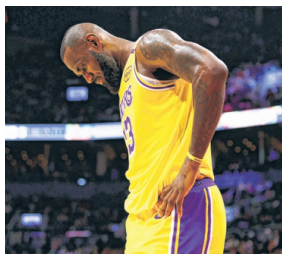
The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, deepening Israel's isolation over the war in Gaza and putting the two men at risk of arrest if they travel to the more-than-120 countries under the court's jurisdiction.

By Omar Abdel-Baqui,
Dov Lieber
and Jess Bravin

The ICC's warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant allege they committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, including the use of starvation as a weapon and directing attacks against civilians. Israel invaded Gaza following the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attacks that left 1,200 people dead and more than 240 taken hostage. It has been criticized for the level of destruction, shortages of food, and a human toll of around 44,000, according to Palestinian health authorities, who don't say how many were combatants. The ICC also issued on Thursday an arrest warrant for top Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, who has been reported killed, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Israeli officials and politicians expressed outrage over the arrest warrants, which they

Please turn to page A7

INSIDE



SPORTS

The Lakers' new coach demoted LeBron James—and the team has gotten better. **A12**



MANSION

The lender bailing out luxury homeowners—though some borrowers have regrets. **M1**

She Rented a Theater For 'Wicked.' Then Came the Rules.

Fans worry about being able to watch movie in peace; 'no singing will be permitted'

By JENNIFER CALFAS

Ariane Tyler is expecting over 100 guests at her private viewing of "Wicked." Two people who didn't make the cut? Her children. That's because her son and daughter, 8 and 5, are likely violators of a rigid set of rules Tyler put in place to weed out anyone who might spoil the experience of watching the film. Among her guidelines: Cos-tumes are required. Loud chewing is unacceptable. Bathroom breaks are a no-no. And don't you dare open your mouth when the music starts playing. "Unless you have won a Tony," she warned her friends, "no singing will be permitted." "Wicked" fans flocking to theaters this weekend are tell-

ing one another to bring the same manners they display at stage productions. The first film installment of the Broadway musical stands to be another test of postpandemic movie-theater etiquette, an era in which silencing cell-phones and having conversations mid-movie are perceived less as rules and more as recommendations. On Broadway for more than two decades, "Wicked" is one of the highest-grossing musicals of all time, adapted from a novel that reimagines characters from "The Wizard of Oz." The two-part film, starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, is a marketing juggernaut, with green and pink seemingly everywhere you turn. Concerns about audience

Please turn to page A9

Xi's Big Bet: High-Speed Rail

China's massive public works project is becoming a massive money pit

By BRIAN SPEGELE

On his first day in office, leader Xi Jinping inherited an ambitious road map to build 10,000 miles of high-speed rail to link China's biggest cities. He took those plans and supersized them. What has emerged 12 years later is one of the biggest public works in history, soon to exceed 30,000 miles of high-speed rail. For many of its citizens, the vast network is one of the clearest signs of China's progress, especially compared with the U.S., which has struggled to get any high-speed rail going. Lest they forget whom to thank, its top-of-the-line trains are named "Rejuvenation," after Xi's promise to restore China's national power. The build-out encapsu-

lates Xi's vision for China's future, with a focus on advanced technology driven by government spending. Chinese leaders once prioritized lifting individual wealth to keep people happy. Xi's colossal investment in trains is part of a return to the Communist Party's roots by emphasizing collective benefits from the state. The plan sticks to a well-worn economic model built on maintaining growth through infrastructure spending—even though China already has much of what it needs. It's becoming a giant money pit. China has spent more than \$500 billion on new tracks, trains and stations in the past five years, while the country's national

Please turn to page A9