

With heat building, Gaetz drops out

Trump quickly names Bondi as AG nominee

By Jim Puzzanghera and Amanda Kaufman
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of former Florida congressman Matt Gaetz to be the next attorney general ended Thursday the way it began eight days earlier — in stunned disbelief on Capitol Hill — as he unexpectedly withdrew amid scrutiny over sexual misconduct allegations that were under investigation by the House Ethics Committee.

Trump quickly settled on a replacement, announcing about six hours later that he would nominate former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi for the job.

“While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition,” Gaetz said midday on X. “There is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle, thus I’ll be withdrawing my name from consideration to serve as Attorney General. Trump’s DOJ must be in place and ready on Day 1.”

His withdrawal came one day after Republicans on the committee blocked the release of a report on the investigation. Two women told the committee that Gaetz paid them for sex, with one also testifying that she saw Gaetz hav-

GAETZ, Page A6

Democrats scramble to fill courts with clock ticking

By Jim Puzzanghera
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — As federal judicial nominees go these days, Brian Edward Murphy is fairly noncontroversial.

But that doesn’t mean it’s been smooth sailing for the criminal defense attorney from Worcester, who was tapped by President Biden in March for a seat on the US District Court in Boston. He is one of about two dozen Biden judicial picks whom Senate Democrats are racing to confirm over the coming weeks after Donald Trump won the White House and Republicans flipped enough seats to take control of the Senate in January.

Despite doing the same thing in the weeks after Trump lost in 2020, Republicans have thrown up roadblocks to try to keep the vacancies open in the latest sign of the partisan arms race over the federal court.

Democrats have charged ahead, holding votes deep into the night this week to evade those tactics in a game of confirmation chicken that has amplified the post-election chaos in the Capitol amid controversial Trump Cabinet picks and a fast-approaching government fund-

JUDGES, Page A7

POURING IT ON



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

Yes, that was “rain” falling from the sky on Thursday, about two months after the last solid soaking, and the wind was no picnic in Boston either, particularly for a rider on Congress Street. More showers are expected Friday, good news in a widespread drought.

‘This is an escalation. I really believe the situation is very dangerous.’

TATIANA STANOVAYA, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center

Putin sends message to West with missile

Capable of carrying nuclear weapons; Russia says it’s response to Ukraine use of US arms

By Marc Santora, Lara Jakes, and Valerie Hopkins
NEW YORK TIMES

KYIV — President Vladimir Putin escalated a tense showdown with the West on Thursday, saying that Russia has launched a new intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine in response to Ukraine’s recent use of American and British weapons to strike deeper into Russia.

In what appeared to be an ominous threat against Ukraine’s Western allies, Putin also asserted that Russia has the right to strike the military facilities of countries “that allow their weapons to be used against our facilities.”

His warning came hours after Russia’s military fired a nuclear-capable ballistic missile at Ukraine that Western officials and analysts said

was meant to instill fear in Kyiv and the West. Though the missile carried only conventional warheads, using it signaled that Russia could strike with nuclear weapons if it chooses.

“The regional conflict in Ukraine, previously provoked by the West, has acquired elements of a global character,” Putin said in a rare address to the nation. “We are developing intermediate- and shorter-range missiles as a response to US plans to produce and deploy intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.”

Putin has frequently wielded the threat of nuclear weapons to try to keep the West off balance and stem the flow of support to Ukraine. But sending an intermediate-range missile with nuclear capabilities into Ukraine and brandishing the strike as a threat to the West ratcheted up tensions even further.

Sounding by turns boastful and threatening, Putin called Thursday’s missile strike a successful “test” of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile called the Oreshnik. And he

MISSILE, Page A5

WHITE HOUSE GOES GREEN



ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

The Celtics were welcomed Thursday by President Biden as they celebrated the team’s 18th title. Biden said, “I feel a special pride in this trophy for this old Irish Celtic,” and gave the team a brief tour of the Oval Office at the end of the visit **C1**.

Housing tight, Cambridge may look up

Two councilors want to allow buildings up to six stories, and debate is intense

By Spencer Buell and Andrew Brinker
GLOBE STAFF

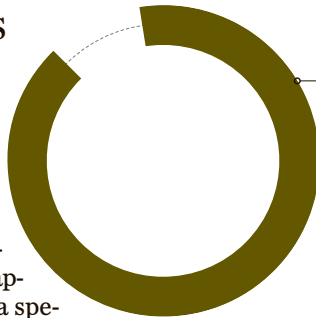
CAMBRIDGE — There is broad agreement here that the cost of housing is too high. Cambridge has among the steepest home prices and rental costs in the United States, with two-bedroom rents topping \$3,000 and single-family homes selling for well over \$2 million on average. In surveys, residents rank the lack of affordable housing as the most important problem they want the city to solve.

In response, two city councilors have proposed a plan to toss out much of the

current zoning scheme and allow new apartment and condo buildings up to six stories just about anywhere in Cambridge, without requiring approval from neighbors or a special permit. Public hearings on the idea have been intense. More are planned in December. A vote is slated for early next year.

Housing advocates say simpler zoning would pave the way for more homes and generate more affordable housing. But

CAMBRIDGE, Page A9



More than **90%**

of Cambridge’s mid-scale multifamily buildings were built before the city began tightening its zoning code in the 1960s.

They could not be built today without a special permit, if they could be built at all.

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister, accusing them of war crimes in Gaza. A3.

About 160 clinicians at Cambridge Health Alliance are forming a union to push back against working conditions. B5.

The SJC removed a hurdle for homeless families seeking emergency shelter, saying a state housing agency can’t require families to provide documents to start applying. B1.

“Wicked” has made the journey from Broadway to the big screen. How does the movie fare? Critic Odie Henderson’s review, G1.



Drops shot

Friday: A few showers. High 50-55. Low 38-43.
Saturday: More of the same. High 46-51. Low 39-44.
High tide: 4:03 a.m., 4:12 p.m.
Sunrise: 6:44 Sunset: 4:16
Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

VOL. 306, NO. 145

Suggested retail price \$4.00



0 947725 4

47511

‘You’re not getting older, you’re getting better!’? Now that’s a stretch.

By Beth Teitell
GLOBE STAFF

Aging ain’t for the faint of heart. Everyone knows that. But you know who else it ain’t for? People with only 24 hours in a day.

By the time you’re done rehabbing current injuries, ailments, and conditions; stretching to ward off future problems; seeking diagnoses for emerging trouble spots that were set off by compensating for existing afflictions; and of course listening to your friends complaining about their issues and detailing your own, you’ve basically got five minutes left — and you’ll need to spend that time on hold awaiting a prior authorization.

To age is to learn way more than you ever wanted to know about body parts that once went about their business offstage — hips, knees, pelvic floor, your freakin’ cervical spine (née

AGING, Page A8



ALLY RZESA/GLOBE STAFF