



WSJ

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What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **The U.S. economy** added 216,000 jobs in December, the Labor Department said, capping a year of steady gains for the job market. **A1**
- ◆ **Netflix executives** have had discussions in recent months about how to generate revenue from the streaming giant's games. **A1**
- ◆ **Major indexes** eked out gains Friday, but still ended the first week of 2024 lower. The S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq fell 1.5%, 0.6% and 3.2%, respectively. **B11**
- ◆ **Southwestern** and Chesapeake are close to a merger that would create a roughly \$17 billion company ranking as one of the largest natural-gas producers in the U.S. **B9**
- ◆ **Tesla** is conducting its largest ever recall in China that regulators said was to fix issues with its driver-assistance features that could increase the risk of crashes. **B9**
- ◆ **Synopsys** is in advanced talks to acquire Ansys for around \$35 billion in a stock-and-cash deal. **B9**
- ◆ **Shares in European** drinks makers tumbled after China launched an antidumping investigation into brandy imported from the EU. **B10**
- ◆ **Puck** tapped the former Twitter executive Sarah Personette as its CEO. **B10**

World-Wide

- ◆ **The Supreme Court** agreed to hear former President Donald Trump's appeal of Colorado's ruling that he is an insurrectionist and unfit for public office. **A1**
- ◆ **The FDA will allow** Florida to become the first state to import drugs from Canada, a milestone in efforts to reduce the cost of medicines. **A1**
- ◆ **The Supreme Court** said it would hear Idaho's challenge to federal regulations requiring that Medicare-funded hospitals provide abortions when necessary to stabilize a patient during a medical emergency. **A3**
- ◆ **Wayne LaPierre**, the embattled longtime leader of the NRA, is resigning on the eve of a civil trial in which the New York attorney general is seeking his ouster. **A2**
- ◆ **The New York attorney** general is asking the judge overseeing Trump's civil-fraud trial to hit him with more than \$370 million in penalties for inflating his net worth. **A5**
- ◆ **America's top diplomats** are converging on the Middle East as they make a full-court press to prevent the war in the Gaza Strip from sparking a broader regional conflict. **A6**
- ◆ **The death toll** from a New Year's Day earthquake in Japan climbed to at least 94, as rescuers discovered dozens of people buried beneath homes. **A8**

NOONAN

What America can learn from the Tokyo crash **A13**

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Jan. 6 Looms Over Campaign as Biden Rips Trump



EYE ON HISTORY: President Biden, with first lady Jill Biden, attended a wreath-laying ceremony Friday at the National Memorial Arch near Valley Forge, Pa. He marked the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot with a speech warning that Donald Trump poses a threat to American democracy. The Trump campaign responded that Biden is the one attacking democracy. **A4**

Justices to Hear Trump Appeal Of Ban From Colorado Ballot

By JAN WOLFE AND JESS BRAVIN

The Supreme Court agreed to hear former President Donald Trump's appeal of Colorado's landmark ruling that he is an insurrectionist and unfit for public office. The court laid out an expedited schedule for the case, setting oral argument for Feb. 8. A decision could come within days or weeks after that.

The move puts the nine justices at the center of a presidential election to an extent not seen since in 2000, when the court effectively decided the contest for Republican George W. Bush over Democrat Al Gore by halting a Florida vote recount. "Virtually everyone who studies the court expected it to take the Colorado case, notwithstanding the fact that some justices want to be perceived as apolitical," said Lee Kovarsky, a law professor at the University of Texas. "The justices were never going to allow the Colorado Supreme Court to have the last word on presidential eligibility."

There are several pending lawsuits across the U.S. that seek to disqualify Trump from the November 2024 presidential election on the grounds that he engaged in insurrection by encouraging a mob of his supporters to attack the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, when Congress was meeting to certify President Biden's 2020 victory. Trump, the front-runner for the Republican nomination, was barred from the ballot in Maine on those grounds, raising pressure on the Supreme Court to clarify his eligibility. The constitutional provision at issue, Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, known as the "In-

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Congress Faces a Two-Week Crunch

By KATY STECH FEREK

WASHINGTON—Democratic and Republican lawmakers have just two weeks to craft a new spending deal to avoid a partial government shutdown while also trying to fix the border and approve more funds to rearm Ukrainian soldiers, setting up a frantic and unpredictable January

that also features the nation's first presidential contests. That to-do list would be a tall order for any Congress returning to work after a holiday break, but this divided group of lawmakers has a particularly poor record of passing legislation. A fresh failure could reverberate beyond America's borders, leaving allies concerned that U.S. politi-

cians who have so often led the way in addressing the world's problems are deepening them. "I wouldn't say pessimistic, but I'm not optimistic" on Congress reaching a spending pact in time, said top White House budget official Shalanda Young at a Christian Science Monitor event Friday. Regarding Ukraine, she said: "We

have got to get to a deal...This is dire." The deeply polarized Congress spent last year lurching from crisis to crisis, plagued by down-to-the-wire disputes over the country's borrowing limit and government funding—and the ouster of the House speaker engineered by eight unhappy Republicans. Please turn to page A5

Go On, Leave the Christmas Tree Up
Decorators branch out; Mardi Gras and Flag Day

By VERONICA DAGHER

Many people have taken down their Christmas tree by now—or are at least thinking about it. Portia Gorman is just getting started. She is among a hardy band of decorators who deck the boughs of their artificial trees for various holidays year-round. Next up for her is Valentine's Day. The influencer recently held a family meeting with her husband, Errol Gorman, and three young children over the eight looks she's planning for the year ahead. Portia usually does the lion's share of the work—picking out the decorations, placing them on the tree and then boxing everything back up before the next cycle starts. Her children, aged 4, 7 and Please turn to page A10

FDA Opens Door to Canada Drug Imports

By LIZ ESSLEY WHYTE

The Food and Drug Administration will allow Florida to become the first state to import drugs from Canada, a milestone in efforts to reduce the cost of medicines that could change the way Americans fill prescriptions. The approval Friday opens

the door to a new, lower-cost source of prescription drugs, beyond the retail and mail-order pharmacies—and the U.S. supply chain they are part of—that Americans have relied on for decades to fill prescriptions. After years of complaining about expensive medicines, government officials have begun taking action. The Inflation

Reduction Act gave the federal government legal authority to negotiate prices of certain drugs, while effectively capping at roughly \$3,300 the yearly out-of-pocket costs for drugs in Medicare Part D plans. Plans such as Florida's to import drugs are likely to face obstacles, including lawsuits from drugmakers and opposi-

tion from Canadian authorities. The FDA also has raised safety concerns about importing drugs if it can't vouch for their quality. Yet, the agency's decision to give Florida permission adds momentum to governments' burgeoning attempts to put a lid on soaring drug Please turn to page A8

EXCHANGE



FLIPPED SCRIPT
The Golden Globes are back, with new owners, new voters and a new network. **B1**

Netflix Explores a Strategy Pivot To Generate Videogame Revenue

By JESSICA TOONKEL

Netflix has said it plans to be in gaming for years to come. Now the company is trying to figure out how to make money from it, a potential shift in strategy for the streamer. Executives at the streaming giant have had discussions in recent months about how to generate revenue from its games, according to people familiar with the discussions. Netflix games are currently free for all subscribers, part of a strategy to keep users coming

back to the streaming service when their favorite shows are between seasons as well as to attract new fans. Some of the ideas that have been discussed include in-app purchases, charging for more sophisticated games it is developing or giving subscribers to its newer ad-supported tier access to games with ads in them, the people said. Such moves would mark a pivot for Netflix, which has resisted putting ads or in-app purchases in its games. "We want to have a differen-

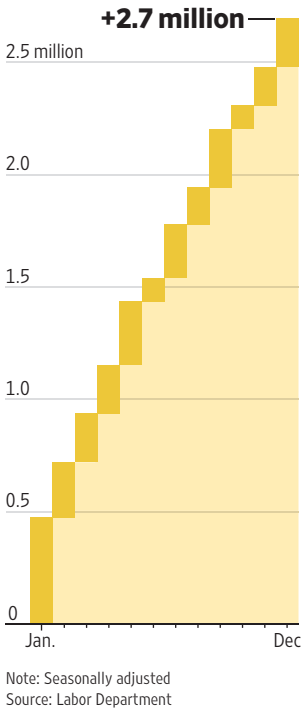
tiated gaming experience, and part of that is giving game creators the ability to think about building games purely from the perspective of player enjoyment and not having to worry about other forms of monetization, whether it be ads or in-game payment," Netflix Co-Chief Executive Greg Peters told investors in April. Netflix encourages open debate internally on its strategy, which is a key pillar of its culture, and such discussions don't mean the company will decide Please turn to page A8

Job Gains Endure In Cooling Economy

By AMARA OMEOKWE AND CHIP CUTTER

Employers hired at a solid pace in December, capping a year of steady gains for a job market that continues to defy expectations and remains a bright spot in a gradually cooling economy. The U.S. economy added 216,000 jobs last month with most industries increasing employment, the Labor Department reported Friday. That was larger than November's gain of 173,000, and better than forecasters were expecting. For all of 2023, employers added 2.7 million jobs, a slowdown from 4.8 million in 2022 but a better gain than in the several years preceding the pandemic. Wages rose a healthy 4.1% last month from a year earlier, and the unemployment rate in December held at 3.7%. The jobless rate began 2023 at 3.4%, matching lows not seen since the late 1960s. The labor market's slowing but steady pace in 2023, coupled with a sharp slowdown in Please turn to page A2

U.S. nonfarm payrolls in 2023, cumulative monthly change



- ◆ **Stocks end rough week on high note** **B11**
- ◆ **Heard on the Street: Big year could repeat**..... **B12**