

TECH: Took Stock Exchange over 3 hours to resume trading

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and communication and for remote control of far-flung operations. Until it fails. And technology problems like Wednesday's that temporarily knock out vital services and conveniences of modern life are likely to become more common as computers and other electronic devices increasingly connect together over the Internet.

For United, it was the second major technical issue in two months. On June 2 the airline had to halt all takeoffs in the U.S. because of what it described as computer automation issues.

It may be that we are rushing to push technology into business operations and our daily lives before it is fully ready, experts caution. Lillian Ablon, a technology researcher for the Rand Corp. says the confluence of breakdowns should be interpreted as a

wake-up call to companies and engineers to program their networks to protect them against inevitable glitches and malicious attacks by outsiders.

"Instead of just letting the technology rush ahead of us and then trying to catch up in terms of privacy and security, we should be baking those things into the systems from the start," she said. "We need to be a little smarter on how we are coding things."

The length of Wednesday's outages also is disconcerting, Gartner's Litan said.

It took the New York Stock Exchange until 3:10 p.m. — just over three and a half hours — to resume trading. "I think everyone needs to assume technology is going to go down sometimes, but you should be resilient enough to quickly recover from the outage within a half hour, if not a few minutes," Litan said.

Hydro projects key part of Idaho Power's plan

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho Power officials have put forward the company's plan to keep air conditioners humming and computer screens from going dark in southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon over the next two decades as energy demands rise.

The company in its 144-page Integrated Resource Plan submitted last week to the public utility commissions in both states predicts an increase from 516,000 customers to 711,000 in 20 years.

The company says its 17 hydroelectric projects on the Snake River and its tributaries will remain a key ingredient to meeting greater demand.

In 2014 the company generated 77 percent of its own power, with 36 percent coming from hydropower. But high demand during low water years causes the company some concern.

"We saw that a little bit last week where we had really high demand," Bowlin said, noting a time-span where temperatures in southern Idaho soared above 100 degrees. "We haven't had a great water year. Last week we had to run hydro at a high level."

Besides the hydroelectric projects, the company has three natural gas

plants, a diesel-powered plant and shares ownership in three coal-fired plants. The company in 2014 got 34 percent of its power from its coal plants, and 7 percent from its natural gas plants.

But one of the coal plants is scheduled to shut down in 2020, and the future of another is unclear with potential tougher federal pollution regulations set to be released in August. That makes Idaho Power's planning process more complex.

"There are a lot of moving parts," Bowlin said.

The company purchased 23 percent of its power from outside entities in 2014. Thirteen percent of that came from energy sources under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, or PURPA, which is intended to promote alternative resources such as wind and solar.

Idaho Power in January asked the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to shorten the length of contracts for wind and solar projects under PURPA, which the company said will make planning less uncertain. Power companies under the act are required to buy electricity at a state commission-approved rate from qualifying small power production facilities.

The commission previously reduced

from 20 years to five years the length of contracts, and is now considering cutting that to two years. Solar companies said shorter contracts could put them out of business. The commission is expected to make a decision by early August.

High on Idaho Power's to-do list is completing a 500-kilovolt transmission line by 2025 from Melba in southwest Idaho to Boardman.

That will give the company greater access to the Mid-Columbia market where Idaho Power can purchase energy when needed and sell access energy. The line will also provide reliability, the company said, and create flexibility that's needed with variable energy producers such as solar and wind.

The company itself is proposing a pilot project involving solar panels to boost voltage at the end of long distribution feeder lines.

A second pilot project the company wants to try is using electricity to create ice at night when power demand is low. The ice would be used to cool buildings at day when energy demand picks up.

A review process for the Integrated Resource Plan is now underway and includes public meetings planned for this fall.

FLAG: Wal-Mart, Amazon pulled all Confederate flag merchandise

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historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina. After photos of the alleged killer wearing the Confederate flag surfaced online, people across the country called for the flag to be taken down from the South Carolina capitol building, calling it a symbol of racism. The South Carolina Senate voted to do so this week.

Johnson said none of her customers have ever told her they were buying the flag for racist reasons. Some people tell her they see the flag as a symbol of rebellion, of thinking for themselves or thinking outside the box. Others grew up in the south or had ancestors who fought for the Confederacy.

"One guy said, 'I was raised under that flag. It's not about hate, it's about heritage,'" she said.

As far as using the flag for racist reasons, she sees that as more of a problem in the southern states than in Oregon.

"Up here we don't have the same feelings they do in the South," she said.

To Johnson, the Civil War is an important part of history that shaped the United States as a country. She doesn't think people should just pretend it didn't happen by wiping out all traces of the Confederate flag.

As a result, the only reason she has stopped selling the flag is not out of political correctness but because all the vendors she has



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
The Confederate battle flag flies from a two-by-four on a fence outside of the home of Bobby Woods off of Southwest Marshall Avenue in Pendleton.

contacted either told her they have stopped carrying the Confederate flag or they're sold out. People searching for the flags shouldn't bother to try Wal-Mart, either — the corporation announced two weeks ago it was pulling all Confederate flag merchandise from its shelves nationwide. Online retailers including eBay and Amazon soon followed suit.

John Carbage, president of Hermiston's Black International Awareness Club, can see why. His experiences as a black man living in Arkansas in the 1970s and 1980s have left the Confederate flag and racism inescapably entwined in his mind.

Carbage said segregation laws may have been off the books at that point but every black resident in the region knew not to enter a business displaying a Confederate flag out front unless they wanted a visit from the Klu Klux Klan.

"If a vehicle passed you and it had a Confederate Flag on it, you were not to look at it," he said. "You were to turn your head until it passed by."

He said he absolutely supports the idea that a taxpayer-funded institution like the South Carolina statehouse should remove the Confederate flag. However, he wouldn't want to take away an individual's choice to display a personal flag on their private property.

"If you have one in your yard, great," he said. "It lets me know who you are."

Not everyone grew up with the same experiences with the Confederate flag as Carbage, however. For people who grew up in Oregon, away from a pervasive Klu Klux Klan presence, the flag has often been used as a symbol of individualism or pride in Southern roots.

Joy Castleton, of Hermiston, has ancestors

"If you have one in your yard, great. It lets me know who you are."

— **John Carbage**, president of Hermiston's Black International Awareness Club

from South Carolina and Mississippi who fought in the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.

"The flag for me does not represent hate," she said. "It represents defiance to a tyrannical government that led to the Civil War."

Recently she decided to honor that defiant heritage with a Confederate flag cake emblazoned with the words "We the People."

When she asked Wal-Mart to bake one for her, however, she was told it was against company policy.

"Out of curiosity I asked if they would make a rainbow cake in honor of gay pride and they said yes," she said.

Castleton said she was "irritated" by the company's bowing to political correctness.

She eventually purchased a Confederate flag cake from Safeway and served it on the Fourth of July.

Contact Jade McDowell at jmcdowell@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4536.

FUNDING: Would add electronic signs that change speed limit for road conditions

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The safety project would add electronic signs that would change the speed limit when road conditions are poor, aiming to curtail accidents in snow zones.

For the redevelopment of Meacham's current maintenance station, \$7.5 million would be allocated to "provide adequate sewage management and additional space for new buildings of sufficient size to handle the fleet needed to maintain mountain passes,"

according to the bill.

ODOT also has an interactive map on its website of proposed, current and completed projects, including a multi-year, almost \$47 million project around the I-84 Kamela interchange near La Grande, which was started in 2013 and was estimated to cost \$43 million, according to a news release from ODOT.

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PARKS: Olney Cemetery has sprinklers running 24 hours a day

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The city waters most of its parks during the evening, starting typically around 10 or 11 p.m.

Larger parks require longer watering times.

Encompassing 50 acres, the Olney Cemetery's large size ensures that at least one section of its sprinkler system is running 24 hours a day.

The cemetery is also one of the parks department's biggest source of headaches. Cook said the cemetery's

sprinkler system isn't properly built for the contours of the lawn, creating both water runoff and brown patches across the property.

"In my opinion, it's terrible," he said.

When he first started working on the cemetery, Cook gave its watering system an "F-."

Due to minor improvements, Cook now rates the cemetery at a B-, although there's little room for improvement without replacing the whole system at a cost of \$1 million.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Greece asks for 3-year aid, races to submit suitable reforms proposal

ATHENS (AP) — With a deadline just hours away to come up with a detailed economic reform plan, Greece requested a new three-year rescue from its European partners Wednesday as signs grew its economy was sliding toward free-fall without an urgently needed bailout.

As its banking system teetered near the edge, the government extended bank closures into next week, while international creditors were in open disagreement over whether to award the country debt relief.

Without a deal, Greece faces an almost inevitable collapse of the banking system, which would be the first step for the country to fall out of the euro.

As Thursday's deadline loomed, the government sought to reassure its European creditors that it would enact tax and pension reforms quickly in exchange for loans from Europe's bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

In a formal request that was filled with vague promises but short on details, the Greek government pledged to "immediately implement a set of measures as early as the beginning of next week" — but did not specify what these were.

Boko Haram asks Nigeria to swap detainees for kidnapped girls

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's Boko Haram extremists are offering to free more than 200 young women and girls kidnapped from a boarding school in the town of Chibok in exchange for the release of militant leaders held by the government, a human rights activist has told The Associated Press.

The activist said Boko Haram's current offer is limited to the girls from the school in northeastern Nigeria whose mass abduction in April 2014 ignited worldwide outrage and a campaign to "Bring Back Our Girls" that stretched to the White House.

The new initiative reopens an offer made last year to the government of former President Goodluck Jonathan to release the 219 students in exchange for 16 Boko Haram detainees, the activist said. The man, who was involved in negotiations with Boko Haram last year and is close to current negotiators, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters on this sensitive issue.

Fred Eno, an apolitical Nigerian who has been negotiating with Boko Haram for more than a year, told the AP that "another window of opportunity opened" in the last few days.

He said the recent slew of Boko Haram bloodletting — some 350 people killed in the past nine days — is consistent with past ratcheting up of violence as the militants seek a stronger negotiating position.

Bipartisan Senate aims to overhaul corporate taxes on foreign profits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators unveiled a bipartisan framework Wednesday aimed at making business taxes more competitive while generating much-needed funding to repair the nation's roads and bridges.

The plan focuses on the taxes U.S. firms pay on their foreign profits. It was written by Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

The framework would require U.S.-based corporations to pay a one-time tax on up to \$2 trillion in foreign profits that U.S. firms have parked overseas. The tax rate has not been determined, but it would be considerably less than the 35 percent corporate income tax rate currently in effect, according to the plan.

The tax would generate money for infrastructure improvements — how much would depend on the tax rate. Funding for highways is scheduled to run out at the end of the month.

San Fran murder defendant's in-and-out immigration history is common

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Long before he was arrested in the shooting death of a woman at one of San Francisco's most popular tourist sites, Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez was using the U.S.-Mexican border like a revolving door.

He was arrested while in the U.S. illegally and deported to his native Mexico five times from June 1994 to June 2009, only to slip back into the country within days, weeks or months.

Last week, he was arrested and accused of killing 32-year-old Kathryn Steinle as she strolled on a popular San Francisco pier with her father. It turned out that Sanchez, 45, was out on the streets because of San Francisco's "sanctuary" policy of minimal cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The slaying has brought heavy criticism down on the city from politicians of both parties and become the latest flashpoint in the debate over how to deal with illegal immigration.

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