

Greek banks reopen but cash limits remain and taxes soar

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek banks reopened Monday for the first time in three weeks, but strict limits on cash withdrawals and higher taxes on everything from coffee to diapers meant the economic outlook for the recession-battered country was far from back to normal. There were hopeful developments: The cash-strapped nation got a short-term loan from European creditors to pay more than 6 billion euros (\$6.5 billion) owed to the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank. Non-payment of either would have derailed Greece's latest bailout request. But for most Greeks,

already buffeted by six years of recession, Monday was all about rising prices as tax hikes demanded by creditors took effect. Dimitris Chronis, who has run a small kebab shop in central Athens for 20 years, said the higher tax rates could push his business over the edge. "I can't put up my prices because I'll have no customers at all," lamented Chronis, who said sales have already slid by around 80 percent since banking restrictions were imposed on June 29. There are few parts of the Greek economy left untouched by the steep increase in the sales tax from 13 to 23 percent. The new



AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis
A security employee asks pensioners to calm as they enter a branch at National Bank of Greece headquarters in Athens, Monday.

rates have been imposed on basic goods, from cooking oil to condoms, as well as to popular services, such as taxi rides, eating out at restaurants and ferry transport to the Greek islands. The tax hikes are part

of a package of austerity measures that also include pension cuts and other reforms that the Greek government had to introduce for negotiations to begin on a crucial third bailout. In response to last week's parliamentary vote backing the austerity measures, the ECB raised the amount of liquidity assistance on offer to Greek banks, paving the way for them to reopen Monday. But strict controls on cash flows, including a ban on check-cashing and payments abroad as well as limits on cash withdrawals, remained in effect. The European Union also sent a three-month loan to Athens, enabling the government to repay a 4.2

billion euro debt to the ECB on Monday and to clear its arrears of about 2 billion euros with the IMF. Both institutions confirmed they had been repaid. IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said the Fund "stands ready to continue assisting Greece in its efforts to return to financial stability and growth." The IMF is not directly involved in Greece's request for a third bailout as its previous rescue runs until early next year. But it has expressed doubts over the austerity measures that Greece's European creditors are demanding unless they also include significant debt relief.

Wildfire burns near Walla Walla

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — A wildfire east of Walla Walla has burned as much as 3,000 acres and destroyed one home, fire officials said. The cause of the Blue Creek Fire that started just before 1 p.m. Monday is unknown, Renae Crippen of the Blue Mountain Inter-agency Fire Center said. Fire officials say the brush fire 9 miles east of Walla Walla near Blue Creek and Klicker Mountain has burned more than 2 square miles. No injuries have been reported, but more structures may be threatened, and evacuations were issued for Tracy, Blacksnake and Biscuit Ridge roads earlier in the afternoon. Fire crews are attacking the blaze from the air with multiple air tankers and helicopters. One helicopter pilot walked away from a crash landing Monday. Heather Lee of Walla Walla County Emergency Management told the

Union-Bulletin the helicopter suffered a mechanical failure. The Washington State Patrol also closed Interstate 90 in Grant County, east of the Columbia River, because of a brush fire. The Grant County sheriff's office reports a trailer full of hay has burned on the road next to the interstate. No injuries have been reported, and 200 people are on scene fighting the fire. The residents of 50 homes have been told to prepare to leave if the fire comes their way. The homes were briefly evacuated Monday afternoon. Another fire briefly closed U.S. Highway 2 in both directions near Monroe late Monday afternoon. Traffic was detoured around the fire while the roadway was blocked for about an hour, the Washington Department of Transportation said. The brush fire is burning just west of State Route 9 and about 25 miles northeast of Seattle.

MACK: Had a hip replacement 12 years ago

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"They'd gone out there pretty good," Temple said. "I caught sight of them and thought, 'I'm going to catch up with them.'" He did. Temple got into the pace line and together they navigated the rolling hills of Despain Gulch. They cruised until the first scheduled break at a park near Stanfield. A few years ago on Mack's birthday ride, cyclist Evan MacKenzie, planner for the city of Pendleton, remembers a conversation with Temple as they pedaled along. "I think I'm slowing down," Temple admitted. "You know, Mack," said MacKenzie, who was 45 at the time. "Most people half your age — no, most people half my age — couldn't do this ride."



Contributed photo
Mack Temple, 80, pedals Saturday morning during "Mack's Birthday Ride." He was joined by members of the Pendleton On Wheels bike club.

This year, Temple slowed his pace for the last 50 miles on Saturday, bonking a bit after going out so fast. The veteran cyclist has always loved athletics. He played on Coach Don Requa's first football team at Pendleton High School as a halfback and defensive safety. On the track team, he ran hurdles. While working for a

Caterpillar dealer in Arizona in his twenties, however, he lost his drive. "I got pretty soft and overweight," Temple recalled. "It was too hot to do anything outside." After he returned to Pendleton to start farming wheat, he began running in the mornings. He competed in organized races, including a number of half marathons, and participated in the Hood-to-Coast run three times. When Temple was in his mid-thirties, his friend Ron Esselstyn called him and said, "Let's get bikes and do some cycling." Temple bought a touring bike,

clunky compared with his current Trek carbon fiber bicycle tricked out with high-end components. He remembers feeling humbled during his first organized ride near Walla Walla. "All of a sudden, the other cyclists were just dots in the distance," Temple said. "They left me in the dust." But Temple kept at it. He competed in duathlons (running and biking) and medaled in numerous cycling events. He has ridden Cycle Oregon three times. He had a hip replacement 12 years ago, but started cycling again after

he recovered. "A few pains have shown up, but when I get going, those aches and pains melt away — not just for the day, but for the season." In the winter, he takes a spin class. To explain his drive, Temple said he simply loves the feeling of physical fitness. He can hike with his grandchildren. He knows he can get himself out of trouble if it comes along. "I love to push myself," he said. "It's not that I'm trying to prove to anyone that I'm faster, better or stronger. It's for my own well-being." Dave O'Neill rode the birthday ride on Saturday as a tribute to Temple. "He is an amazing individual and an astonishing cyclist," O'Neill said. "He's strong on the flat and strong on the hills — he doesn't have any holes in his game." O'Neill said the ride started at 7 a.m. to beat the heat, but the mercury crept up past 90. He has no regrets, though, for all that sweating. "How many times do you get to participate in an 80th birthday ride?" O'Neill said. Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

WORLD BRIEFLY

Grievances linger as Cuba, U.S. mark start of new era


WASHINGTON (AP) — The Cuban national flag fluttered in the Washington sun Monday as the U.S. and Cuba formally ended more than a half-century of estrangement, formally re-establishing relations severed at the height of the Cold War. But the symbolism of an embassy ceremony could not conceal deep, lingering conflicts between the nations.

At the reopening of the Cuban embassy and again at a joint news conference with Kerry, Rodriguez repeated demands for the U.S. to end its 53-year embargo, return the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, stop efforts to change or reform Cuba's communist government and pay compensation for damage done to the island and its people over the past five decades.

UN endorses nuclear deal between Iran and 6 world powers

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Monday unanimously endorsed the landmark deal to rein in Iran's nuclear program and authorized measures leading to the end of U.N. sanctions, but also approved a provision that would automatically reinstate the harsh measures if Tehran reneges on its promises. European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels immediately followed suit, endorsing the agreement between Iran and six major powers and taking the first step to lift EU sanctions. President Barack Obama told reporters he hopes the Republican-controlled U.S. Congress, where there is strong opposition to the deal, will pay attention to the broad international consensus, stressing that the deal is "by far our strongest approach to ensuring that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon."

In the sweltering July heat and humidity of America's capital, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez presided over the flag-raising ceremony just hours after an agreement to restore diplomatic ties broken in 1961 took effect at the stroke of midnight. He later met with Secretary of State John Kerry, becoming the first Cuban foreign minister to set foot in the State Department since 1958. Kerry announced that he would make a reciprocal visit to Cuba to dedicate the U.S. Embassy in Havana on Aug. 14. He spoke of a need to move beyond the enmity that was spawned as President John F. Kennedy grappled with Fidel Castro's revolution and Soviet expansionism and that hardened over the 54 years that followed. Despite pledges of goodwill and mutual respect, ghosts of past animosity hung over the events.



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TUESDAY	1:30pm	Bucking Horse Stampede — Main Street
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	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room
THURSDAY	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	10:00am	Vendors off Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
		Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Wear Pink, Support Cancer Screening
		Barrel Racing Slack — After the Rodeo
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
FRIDAY	7:00am	Golf Tournament — Alpine Meadows Golf Course
	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
SATURDAY	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
		PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
	9:00pm	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — Until 3am
SUNDAY	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast Continues
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service with Soul Renovation — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena

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