Oregon Department of Human Services awards contract to BTI

Baker Technical Institute to provide training for DHS

East Oregonian

BAKER CITY — The Oregon Department of Human Services has awarded Baker Technical Institute a contract to provide workforce development training and support services to individuals who are recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The goal of the program overall, and specifically the trainings provided by BTI, will be to increase the number of SNAP recipients who are able to obtain and retain employment.

Breaking down barriers and increasing access to training, which leads to certificates and credentials, will increase the level of employability of program participants, leading them into new job situations, and providing them with training components for employment retention. Current partnerships with industry and agencies will be expanded while new partnerships are being developed regionally. BTI's contract covers residents in three DHS regions, including Baker, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Jefferson, Crook and Deschutes counties.

"BTI has built a reputation for developing new and innovative ways of moving the dial on workforce development. This program is a great opportunity for us to do just that, and to give back to the community by helping people become employable, that will allow businesses to grow all at the same time," said Tonia Springer, program coordinator.

Upon entering the program, participants will work with BTI career coaches to build a personalized employability plan. The plan will lay out program components to be developed based on the needs of the individual participant and their goals. The training components being offered by BTI will include job search assistance and training, job retention skill building, work experience, educational foundational skills instruction, career and technical vocational training, short-term career skills training, English language acquisition, and work readiness training.

The career and technical education courses that will be available to individuals who qualify will include certified nursing assistant, heavy equipment operator training, truck driving and logistics, and professional welding. Short-term trainings include industry-specific production and manufacturing skills and culinary courses.

"Expanding training opportunities for low-income people in Oregon, especially in non-urban areas, is vital and we are very excited to have BTI join our STEP Provider Network," said Department of Human Services spokesman Greg Ivers.

AP Photo/Lee Jin-man

A currency trader watches computer monitors near the screens showing the foreign exchange rates at the foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Nov. 29, 2019. Shares extended losses in Asia on Friday after Japan and South Korea reported weak manufacturing data that suggest a worsening toll from trade tensions.

U.S. stocks close out half-day session with broad losses

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks fell broadly on Wall Street Friday following a shortened trading session a day after the Thanksgiving holiday that left the market slightly below its record highs.

Technology, health care and industrial stocks accounted for a big slice of the selling. Several big retailers also dragged the market lower as traders watched for signs that Black Friday got off to a strong start. Energy stocks took the heaviest losses as crude oil prices fell sharply. Bond yields rose.

Even with the pullback, the S&P 500 notched its seventh weekly gain in eight weeks. The benchmark index also closed out November with its strongest monthly gain since June.

"You had three solid days, plus the S&P was at an all-time high as of the close on Wednesday," said Tom Martin, senior portfolio manager with Globalt Investments. "Really, from early October until now, it's been almost like a ruler straight up."

The S&P 500 index dropped 12.65 points, or 0.4%, to 3,140.98. The index hit all-time highs the first three days of the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 112.59 points, or 0.4%, to 28,051.41. The Nasdaq slid 39.70 points, or 0.5%, to 8,665.47. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up 9.60 points, or 0.6%, or 1,624.50. Trading volume was lighter than usual with the markets open for only a half day.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.77% from 1.76% late Wednesday.

The three major stock indexes have notched multiple record highs in recent weeks. That helped drive their gains in November. The S&P 500 ended the month with a 3.4% gain, while the Dow rose 3.7%. The Nasdaq, which is weighted heavily with technology stocks, gained 4.5%.

The stock market has been grinding mostly higher after shaking off recession fears that helped knock stocks into a skid this summer.

Better-than-expected corporate earnings, solid economic data and interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve helped fuel the market's fall rally. Investors have also grown more optimistic about the prospects for a trade deal between the U.S. and China.

New U.S. tariffs are set to kick in on many Chinese-made products as of Dec. 15, but negotiators have said they might soon have a preliminary deal that could avert that.

Chipmakers were among the biggest decliners in the technology sector Friday. Lam Research and Qualcomm each fell 1.5%.

Drugmakers helped pull the health stocks lower. Bristol-Myers Squibb dropped 1.1%.

Energy stocks were the biggest losers as the price of U.S. crude oil slid 5.1%. Devon Energy dropped 2.8% and Helmerich & Payne fell 2.3%.

Shorter shopping season makes for intense scramble

Both retailers and customers feel pressure of season

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — The mad scramble between Thanksgiving and Christmas just got six days shorter.

Black Friday once again kicks off the start of the holiday shopping season. But with six fewer days than last year, it will be the shortest season since 2013 because Thanksgiving fell on the fourth Thursday in November — the latest possible date it could be. That means customers will have less time to shop and retailers will have less time to woo them.

Adobe Analytics predicts a loss of $1 billion in online revenue from a shortened season. Still, it expects online sales will reach $143.7 billion, up 14.1% from last year's holiday season

The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, baked the shorter season into its forecast, but it says the real drivers will be the job market. It forecasts that holiday sales will rise between 3.8% and 4.2%, an increase from the disappointing 2.1% growth seen in the November and December 2018 period that came well short of the group's prediction.

Last year's holiday sales were hurt by turmoil over the White House trade policy with China and a delay in data collection by nearly a month because of a government shutdown. This year's holiday forecast is above the average holiday sales growth of 3.7% over the previous five years.

NRF expects online and other non-store sales, which are included in the total, to increase between 11% and 14%, for the holiday period.

AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

People wait in line to purchase a computer during a Black Friday sale at a Best Buy store on Thursday in Overland Park, Kansas.

> *"THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE HOLIDAY SEASON HAS GROWN FAR BEYOND THE PERIOD BETWEEN THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS."*
>
> **Matthew Shay**, President and CEO of NRF

Black Friday is expected to once again be the largest shopping day of the season, followed by the last Saturday before Christmas, according to MasterCard SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all types of payments including cash and check. Thanksgiving Day isn't even on the top 10 holiday shopping days, according to MasterCard.

The 2019 holiday season will be a good measure of the U.S. economy's health. Many retail CEOs describe their customers has financially healthy, citing moderate wage growth and an unemployment rate hovering near a 50-year low.

"The overall picture is positive," said Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy. "People are spending out of positive cash flow as opposed to borrowing."

Economic growth has moderated since earlier this year, with growth at just 1.9% in the July-September quarter, down from 3.1% in the first three months of the year. Analysts blame at least part of that on the U.S.-China trade war, which has forced many companies to delay plans to invest and expand.

That's left consumers as the main drivers. So far, Americans have kept up their spending, allaying fears of a recession.

With more holiday deals happening earlier to compensate for the late start, many have already started to shop. More than half of consumers have already started their holiday shopping and nearly a quarter of purchases have already been made, according to the annual survey released by the NRF and Prosper Insights & Analytics. The survey of 7,917 adult consumers was conducted Oct. 31 through Nov. 6.

"This is further evidence that the holiday season has grown far beyond the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas," said Matthew Shay, president and CEO of NRF, in a statement.

BRIEFLY

Echoporium offers eclectic inventory

ECHO — A new store recently opened in Echo.

Owner Sarah Walker said Echoporium isn't a thrift store, boutique or furniture store. She describes the inventory as "an eclectic collection of items."

Walker, who is rejoining the workforce after being disabled six years ago, said people will be able to find clean, affordable and unique items. Vintage things, a bit of furniture, linens, kitchen and household items, motorcycle gear, arts and craft supplies, handmade candy, gift mugs and tea cups are just a few things shoppers can expect to find.

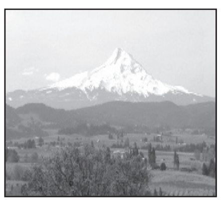
Echoporium is located at 211 W. Main St., Echo. The store's winter hours are Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, contact echoporium@outlook.com, 541-376-6021 or search Facebook.

— EO Media Group

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, MONTANA

REACH 3 million Pacific Northwesterners with just One Call!



■ **PNDC CLASSIFIED - Daily Newspapers**
29 newspapers - 1,187,980 circulation
Number of words: 25 ● **Extra word cost:** $10
Cost: $540 (Runs 3 consecutive days including wkds.)
■ **PNDN 2x2 DISPLAY - Daily Newspapers**
27 newspapers - 1,016,864 circulation
Size: 2x2 (3.25"x2") **Cost:** 1x 2x2: $1,050

More info: Cecelia@cnpa.com or call (916) 288-6011

pnna Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association

Bob's BASEBALL Tours

Southern Swing Tour
See 4 MLB Games in 6 days at brand new Texas Rangers field, Houston & Atlanta. Free afternoon in New Orleans. July 24-29
Tour begins near Dallas/FtWorth International Airport/ ends near Atlanta Airport
$1,400/person based on double hotel occupancy

Wrigley Field Experience Tour
Day and night game at Wrigley Field, in addition to Field of Dreams movie site and game at Minnesota Twins. August 18-21
Tour begins/ends near Minneapolis International Airport
$1,100/person based on double hotel occupancy

Coach Bus Trip. Quality Game Tickets & Hotels
Free brochure: 507.217.1326

Thank You!
Because of your outstanding support, our Saturday evening gala and auction sold out in 3 days!
Come Join Us!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
12 - 4 pm
for
FAMILY DAY
FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT
SUPPORTING THE GREATER HERMISTON AREA SOROPTIMIST CLUB
Suggested $5 per Family Donation
Enter for your chance to win our beautiful
RAFFLE TREE
surrounded with children's toys and gifts
TICKETS ARE $10 EACH
PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK