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**Inflation, avian flu, global pressures and supply chain issues have created a recipe for higher costs and possible shortages on some traditional foods as the holidays approach in 2022.**

## Holiday meal to bust wallets as prices surge

BY MARTINE PARIS  
Bloomberg

PORTLAND — Any way you slice it, this Thanksgiving is going to cost more.

Price increases for flour and cookies hit a record high year-over-year for October, U.S. government data showed Thursday, Nov. 10. Eggs jumped the most since 2007. Turkey and other non-chicken poultry were up 17%.

It's all part of historic food inflation that's hammering consumers also grappling with sky-high prices for everything from fuel to housing. The war in Ukraine is upending global supply chains, while the ongoing bird flu outbreak is decimating egg-laying hens and turkeys.

Scarcity and surging prices may trigger a shift in buying habits ahead of the holidays, according to Russell Barton, a director at commodity researcher Urner Barry.

For shoppers this year, "it might be a first come, first served-type situation," with people substituting other proteins such as ham, beef, short ribs and roasts, Barton said. Others are switching to lighter fare such as soup, salad and pizza.

As avian flu wreaks havoc on bird supply in parts of the U.S., Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., have pushed for more funding to mitigate the outbreak.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said recently that even though it might be challenging to find a 20-pound turkey in certain locations because there hasn't been time for them to grow, he's confident there will be turkeys available to carve.

"It may be smaller, but it will be there," he said.

Historically, many traditional menu items see a lift before the holiday, according to retail analytics firm IRI Worldwide, which released a Thanksgiving Tracker of sales and sentiment. This year, Butterball, the largest U.S. producer of turkey products, said it had to raise prices to customers after its cost of production nearly doubled.

"We've had the impact of inflation and skyrocketing grain costs," Chief Executive Officer Jay Jandrain said in an interview this month. While the company doesn't expect turkey shortages, "there will not be a surplus left over," he said.

Still, optimism about a cool-off in prices is growing. U.S. inflation slowed in October by more than forecast, offering hope that the fastest cost increases in decades are ebbing.



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

Derek Chamberlain, right, co-owner, and his employee Cody Fisk pose in front of the DieHard battery inventory at La Grande's new Chamberlain Auto Parts and Sales, also known as CAPS, on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. Owners Derek and Claire Chamberlain opened the La Grande shop, their fourth CAPS auto parts store, in October.

## A NEW ADDITION

CAPS of La Grande buys out former Baxter Auto Parts inventory, moves to old Sears building

BY TRISH YERGES  
For The Observer

**L**A GRANDE — The former Sears building on Portland Avenue has a new tenant.

Owners Derek and Claire Chamberlain, of Vale, have opened their business, CAPS of La Grande, also known as Chamberlain Auto Parts and Sales, at 1700 N. Portland Ave., La Grande.

On the front of their store, the signage prominently reads "Carquest Auto Parts," which is their biggest supplier of inventory.

"Carquest is nationwide, and they have a fantastic warranty backing, so we use their sign on the front of our building," Derek Chamberlain said.

The Chamberlains bought out the Baxter Auto Parts inventory from its closed store space on Adams Avenue and moved it into the former Sears location in mid-October. The new store is larger, offering 9,000 square feet of floor space.

"Carquest has been extremely helpful in this move," Chamberlain said. "They brought their area reps from all over Oregon and Washington, and they spent the week moving stuff. I brought some of my other employees from other stores, so we had about 10 of us moving inventory for a week. Then we opened up for business Oct. 24."

The new store location offers an additional 5,000 square feet for inventory compared to the former Baxter Auto Parts store. To fill that extra space, Chamberlain anticipates receiving a significant amount of inven-



Isabella Crowley/The Observer

Chamberlain Auto Parts and Sales, also known as CAPS, in La Grande, is open and ready for business Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022. Owners Derek and Claire Chamberlain bought the inventory from the closed Baxter Auto Parts on Adams Avenue and will be adding to the new store's offerings, located in the former Sears Building on Portland Avenue.

tory directly from manufacturers.

"Once that is in, we'll get that situated," he said. "Our signs are being built, and I hope to see those finished by the first part of December."

Chamberlain anticipates a grand opening and barbecue event to happen next spring when it warms up again.

The CAPS of La Grande store is the Chamberlains' fourth and most recent auto parts store.

"We have a store in Vale, which we opened in 2016, another in Ontario, which we opened in 2018, and a third store in Baker City, which opened in 2021," he said. "We've been growing a store every 18 months to two years."

Chamberlain said the auto parts

stores weathered the pandemic fairly well, and it's a stable industry to be in. While some new cars may be hard to get or afford, people are being forced to hang on to their used vehicles and maintain them. This is good news for owners like Chamberlain.

He comes into this business with a background in auto and truck mechanics.

"Before April 2016, when I opened my first store in Vale, I worked for eight years in the truck parts department for Kenworth trucks," he said. "Prior to that, for four years, I worked as an auto mechanic."

As a native of Eastern Oregon, Chamberlain said he's very familiar with La Grande through high school

league sports and shared FFA events. He likes the community and looks forward to getting to know and serve residents through his business.

"I grew up in Vale on my parent's dairy farm, so my background is all agriculture," he said. "Combined with my eight years with Kenworth, I'm pretty knowledgeable on the agriculture side. I know what farmers want and need, so we're going to have a section of our business that caters to what they need."

Consequently, Chamberlain said his store inventory will include truck brakes and shoes, cargo control, ratchet straps, rake teeth and bale steers among other items.

"That's a little bit different mold than what NAPA or O'Reilly's does," he said. "Being an independent owner, I have the ability to buy from other vendors to bring in products I know will do well."

CAPS of La Grande also carries DuPont paints for vehicles and farm equipment.

"We will have the paint mixing booth, paint supplies and equipment to set our customers up so they can paint their own vehicles," he said. "It will be a big part of what we do here."

Customers can rely on prompt deliveries of auto parts, Chamberlain added. He orders from a warehouse in Portland and receives next-day delivery on customer orders. In addition to parts, CAPS is also a dealer of DieHard batteries.

Chamberlain will be at the La Grande store three days each week for a while, so he invites residents to come in, meet him and see what CAPS has to offer. Charge accounts and deliveries are available upon request.

## Pendleton's only winery survives hard times, aims to thrive

BY JOHN TILLMAN  
East Oregonian

**P**ENDLETON — Pendleton's only winery has survived the pandemic and recession. It's a downtown business success story, but still faces challenges.

Robb Zimmel, winemaker and co-owner of Cerebella Winery, 30 SW Emigrant Ave., grew up around wine. He is now co-owner of Pendleton's only commercial winemaking operation. His partners are Carol and Bill Code, owners of Rooster's Country Kitchen Restaurant, 1515 County 1303 Road, off Southgate, Pendleton.

"I'm third or fourth generation German immigrant from South Dakota," Zimmel said. "The women in my family made wine out of anything,

### If You Go

The regular hours of the tasting room at Cerebella Winery, 30 SW Emigrant Ave., Pendleton, are Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Glass prices range from \$7 to \$12, bottles from \$19 to \$45. Limited numbers of cases of 2015 vintages remain available.

Rhubarb, chokecherry, you name it. They would put a balloon on a gallon jug while it was fermenting. The balloon would inflate. I was fascinated."

In grade school, Zimmel collected wine bottles, trying to get consecutive

years. "Chablis 1973," he said. "Bottled history. In high school, I tried making wine. Don't ask my sister how that turned out. I never thought I could be a winemaker. I thought it was a caste system, that you had to be born into it."

Zimmel was a Portland flight paramedic and with the Army Reserve, living in Vancouver, Washington. During his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2006, he researched viticulture (i.e., grape-growing) and oenology (i.e., winemaking) courses in Washington state. From a desert in Afghanistan, he enrolled in Clark College, Vancouver, by satellite phone.

After his return from Afghanistan, See Winery / B2



Yasser Marte/East Oregonian

Cerebella winemaker and co-owner Robb Zimmel on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, reveals the latest bottles of wine from his Cerebella Winery, 30 SW Emigrant Ave., Pendleton.