

▼ DOW 30,960.00 -36.98	▲ NASDAQ 13,635.99 +92.93	▲ S&P 500 3,855.36 +13.89	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 1.80% -05	▲ CRUDE OIL \$52.77 +.50	▼ GOLD \$1,854.90 -.80	▼ SILVER \$25.46 -.06	▼ EURO \$1.2139 -.0028
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BRIEFING

Janet Yellen OK'd as treasury secretary

The Senate on Monday approved President Joe Biden's nomination of Janet Yellen to be the nation's 78th treasury secretary, making her the first woman to hold the job in the department's 232-year history.

Yellen, a former chair of the Federal Reserve, was approved by the Senate on a 84-15 vote, becoming the third member of Biden's Cabinet to win confirmation.

She is expected to play a key role in gaining congressional approval of Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, which is running into stiff opposition from Republicans who believe the price tag is too high. Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer noted the former Federal Reserve chairwoman had bipartisan support.

Schumer said Yellen has a "breathtaking range of experience" and support for her nomination reflected "just how well suited she is to manage the economic challenges of our time ... particularly during this moment of economic crisis."

Radio stations file bankruptcy

The Portland-based parent company of local radio stations KXL-FM, KINK and KUPL, as well as 200 other stations around the country, has filed bankruptcy.

Alpha Media Holdings said none of its stations will go off the air. The company said it will use the protection afforded by the Chapter 11 bankruptcy statutes to reduce its debt and find additional capital.

In bankruptcy documents filed in the Eastern District of Virginia, Alpha told the court that it has already reached preliminary agreement to accomplish that restructuring.

Alpha owns properties in 44 markets across the country. Endeavour Capital, a Portland-based private equity firm, invested in Alpha, is helping fund its growth.

California lifts curfew, restrictions

Gov. Gavin Newsom lifted stay-at-home orders across the state Monday in response to improving coronavirus conditions, a surprising move hailed by beleaguered businesses. But some local health officials worried it could undo the recent sharp drop in cases and hospitalizations.

"We're seeing a flattening of the curve — everything that should be up is up; everything that should be down is down — case rates, positivity rates, hospitalizations, ICUs," Newsom told reporters.

The turnaround came about a month after hospitals crafted emergency plans for rationing care and as intensive care unit capacity in the vast Southern California region currently stands at 0%. State data models forecast that the region's ICU capacity will rise to 33% by Feb. 21.

The lifting of the stay-at-home order allows restaurants and churches to resume outdoor operations and hair and nail salons to reopen in many areas, though local officials could choose to impose stricter rules. The state is also lifting a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

— Bulletin wire reports

Biden more bullish on vaccines, open to 1.5M daily shot goal

BY JOSH BOAK AND ZEKE MILLER

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Monday appeared to boost his goal for coronavirus vaccinations in his first 100 days in office, suggesting the nation could soon be injecting 1.5 million shots on an average per day.

Biden signaled his increasing bullishness on the pace of vaccinations after signing an executive order to boost government purchases from U.S. manufacturers. It was among

a flurry of moves by Biden during his first full week to show he's taking swift action to heal an ailing economy as talks with Congress over a \$1.9 trillion stimulus package showed few signs of progress.

Biden reiterated that he believes the country is in a precarious spot and that relief is urgently needed, even as he dismissed the possibility of embracing a scaled-down bill to secure passage faster. Among the features of the stimulus plan are a national vaccination program, aid to

reopen schools, direct payments of \$1,400 to individuals and financial relief for state and local governments.

"Time is of the essence," Biden said. "I am reluctant to cherry-pick and take out one or two items here."

Biden's new vaccination target comes after he and his aides faced criticism for the 100 million goal in his first 100 days in office. The U.S. has exceeded a pace of 1 million doses per day over the last week.

"I think we may be able to get that to ... 1.5 million a day,

rather than 1 million a day," Biden said, "but we have to meet that goal of a million a day."

Biden added that he expects widespread availability of the vaccines for Americans by spring, with the U.S. "well on our way to herd immunity" necessary to end the pandemic by summer. Even so, he warned the nation was going to be "in this for a while, and could see between '600,000 and 660,000 deaths before we begin to turn the corner in a major way."

CHERRY SALES POINT TO A 'PANDEMIC POWERHOUSE'

BY DAN WHEAT
For the Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — The coronavirus pandemic factored into the Pacific Northwest cherry industry grossing more than \$1 billion for the first time last year, but the little cherry disease and China tariffs remain key concerns.

As the coronavirus shut down restaurants, grocery store shopping increased 20% and online promotions championing health benefits of cherries resonated with consumers resulting in "the strongest demand in the past decade," B.J. Thurlby, president of Northwest Cherry Growers, in Yakima, told the association's 78th annual Cherry Institute last week. "When we talk to retailers this spring, we will say cherries were amazing last year. They were a pandemic powerhouse. They had the single most dollar growth, 86.5%, between March and September of any produce item," Thurlby said. "We have great data as a powerful kick-starter coming into

the 2021 season." Washington typically is 80% to 85% of the Pacific Northwest crop that includes Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah. Washington makes up about 60% of the national crop.

The late May to early September Northwest crop totaled 19.8 million 20-pound boxes, down 15% from 23.3 million the year prior and well below the record of 26.4 million in 2017.

Cherries decrease inflammation and boost the immune system. Texas A&M University research is ongoing relative to effects on the body from the gut to the brain and on breast cancer.

"We have established ourselves as a super fruit

and will continue down that road with stronger messages," Thurlby said.

The industry's No. 1 issue, he said, is little cherry disease that cost 2 million to 2.5 million boxes of lost production due to orchard removal to fight the disease.

It has no cure, robs trees of energy, reduces production and results in small bitter-tasting fruit that is unmarketable. It spreads tree-to-tree in roots and via apple and grape mealybugs and leafhoppers.

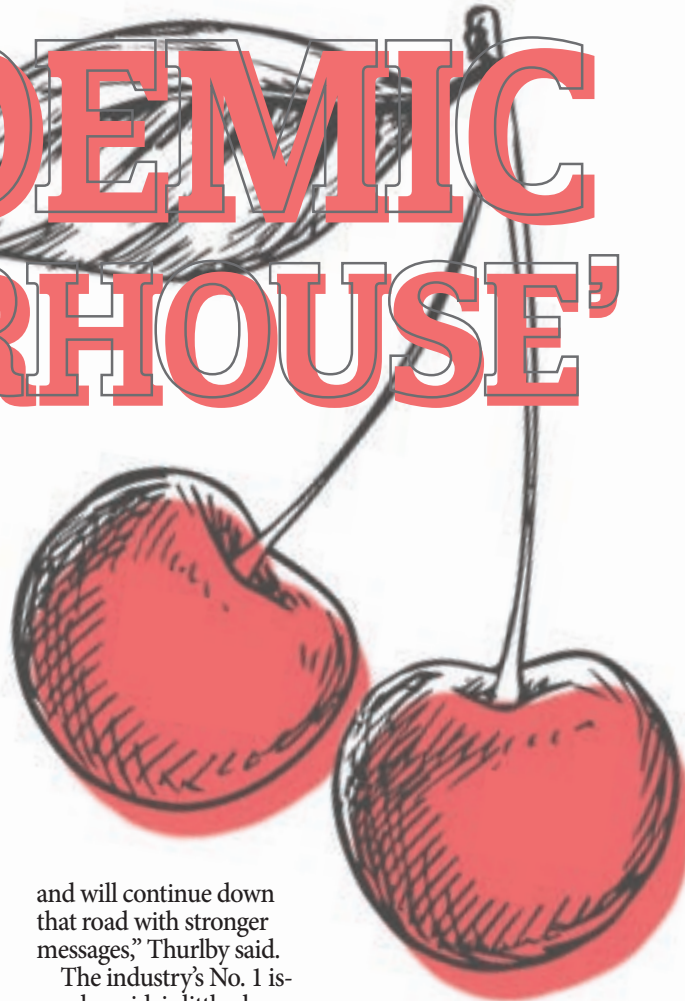
"If we're going to be here 20 years from now, we really have to start focusing on this issue," Thurlby said.

Research has been underway for several years.

Western X Phytoplasma, a bacterial-like strain of

the disease, has increased dramatically in the last couple of years from The Dalles to Omak, Washington, said Tianna DuPont, a Washington State University tree fruit specialist in Wenatchee.

Based on a 23% response to a grower survey, she said more than 145,000 trees and 685 acres have been removed. She estimates lost revenue and orchard reestablishment costs at \$81 million over seven years. She urged growers to keep removing infected trees.



Budweiser joins big brands in sitting out Super Bowl

BY MAE ANDERSON AND DEE-ANN DURBIN

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — For the first time since 1983, when Anheuser-Busch used all of its ad time to introduce a beer called Bud Light, the beer giant isn't advertising its iconic Budweiser brand during the Super Bowl. Instead, it's donating the money it would have spent on the ad to coronavirus vaccination awareness efforts.

Anheuser-Busch still has four minutes of advertising during the game for its other brands including Bud Light, Bud Light Seltzer Lemonade, Michelob Ultra and Michelob Ultra Organic Seltzer.

But the decision to not do an anthem Budweiser ad showcases the caution with which some advertisers are approaching the first COVID-19-era Super Bowl.

"We have a pandemic that is casting a pall over just about everything," said Paul Argenti, Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication. "It's hard to feel the exuberance and excitement people normally would."

The Anheuser-Busch move follows a similar announcement from PepsiCo., which won't be advertising its biggest brand, Pepsi, in order to focus on its sponsorship of the halftime show. It will be advertising Mountain Dew and Frito-Lay products. Other veteran Super Bowl advertisers like Coke, Audi and Avocados from Mexico are sitting out the game altogether.

The pandemic has cut sharply into sales for many Super Bowl advertisers. With pricey ads costing an estimated \$5.5 million for 30 seconds during the Feb. 7 broadcast on CBS, some may have decided it's not worth it this year. Coca-Cola, for example, has been hard hit since half of its sales come from stadiums, movie theaters and other usually crowded places that have been closed during the pandemic. It announced layoffs in December and said it said it wouldn't advertise this year to ensure it's "investing in the right resources during these unprecedented times."

To fill the void, newcomers like the TikTok rival Triller, online freelance marketplace Fiverr and online car seller Vroom are rushing in to take their place. Returning brands include M&M's, Pringles, Toyota and others.

Effort to put Tubman on \$20 bill restarted under Biden

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — With a change of administrations, it looks like Harriet Tubman is once again headed to the front of the \$20 bill.

Biden press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that the Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put the 19th century abolitionist leader on the \$20 bill.

Obama administration Treasury Secretary Jack Lew had selected Tubman to replace Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president, on the \$20 bill.

But Tubman's fate had been in doubt since the 2016 presidential campaign based on critical comments by then-candidate Donald Trump, who

branded the move "pure political correctness."

Trump administration Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin did not move forward with the decision by the Obama administration. Instead, Mnuchin in 2019 announced a delay in redesigning the \$20 bill in order to redesign the \$10 and \$50 bills first to improve security features to thwart counterfeiters.

The unveiling of the redesigned \$20 bill featuring Tubman, famous for her efforts spiriting slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad, had been timed by the Obama administration to coincide with the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Under the schedule Mnuchin announced in May 2019, the redesigned \$20 bill would not have come out until 2028 with final designs for the bill not announced until 2026.

But Psaki told reporters during a briefing Monday that she and other officials were surprised to hear of the delays in putting Tubman on the \$20 bill. With a change in administrations, she said the Treasury Department was taking steps to resume efforts to put Tubman on the \$20 bill.

"It is important that our ... money reflect the history and diversity of our country and Harriet Tubman's image gracing the new \$20 note would certainly reflect that," Psaki said. "We are exploring ways to speed up that effort."



Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP file

A wax likeness of the renowned abolitionist and conductor of the Underground Railroad Harriet Ross Tubman is on display at the Presidents Gallery by Madame Tussauds in Washington. With a change of administrations, it looks like Harriet Tubman is once again headed to the front of the \$20 bill.