

<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>DOW</b> 30,723.60 +36.12	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>NASDAQ</b> 13,610.54 -2.23	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 3,830.17 +3.86	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 1.91% +0.03	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$55.69 +.93	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>GOLD</b> \$1,832.20 +1.70	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>SILVER</b> \$26.88 +.50	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>EURO</b> \$1.2025 +.0005
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## BRIEFING

### Two Western U.S. livestock auctions permanently close

Livestock auctions Northern California and Oregon have both announced they will permanently close their livestock auction yards.

The Shasta Livestock Auction Yard, in Cottonwood, California, announced Tuesday it will shut down its weekly Friday sale for good after a final sale Feb. 12.

General Manager Brad Peek said the Shasta Livestock business plans to continue and even expand its video sales and direct farm-to-farm country cattle trade.

Located south of Portland, the Woodburn Livestock Exchange also plans to close its animal auctions this month.

Business managers have decided to shut down the livestock portion of their business due to the continual declining head counts and rising costs of doing business.

It will hold its last sheep, goat and hog auction Feb. 15 and its final cattle and poultry auction Feb. 23.

### Suit settled over unemployment benefits

The Oregon Employment Department promises to be more timely and more transparent about jobless benefits payments, and to be accessible in more languages, under terms of a pending settlement of a class-action lawsuit.

The Oregon Law Center filed the suit last summer on behalf of 13 jobless Oregonians, amid extraordinary delays in paying jobless benefits. The suit didn't seek monetary damages, but aimed to compel the department to speed up claims processing and to do more to communicate with workers who don't speak English.

"After I lost my job, I applied for unemployment. I waited months for benefits to begin without knowing what was happening — I couldn't pay rent, and I really worried about how it would affect my daughter and I," said Lisa Exterovich, one of the lawsuit's plaintiffs, in a written statement Wednesday.

She said the Wednesday's settlement commits the department to "paying people benefits more quickly, working to improve communications with those seeking benefits, and providing assistance to people who don't speak English."

— Bulletin wire reports

# Daimler to spin off trucks, change name

*Daimler Trucks North America headquartered in Portland, has test track at Madras Airport*

BY DAVID MCHUGH  
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — German automaker Daimler will split itself into two independent companies by spinning off its truck and bus division, a move the company said would give both the freedom to operate more nimbly in a fast-changing environment focused on zero-emission vehicles and software.

The Stuttgart-headquartered company said Wednesday that a significant majority stake in the truck business would be distributed to current shareholders, and that Daimler

would "at the appropriate time" be renamed Mercedes-Benz, the brand name under which it sells luxury cars.

CEO Ola Kallenius said the decision was made because the businesses of making luxury cars and heavy trucks and buses "have very different structures." He said that two companies each focused on their core business would be more flexible and make decisions faster as they cope with technological change.

"We are in a very dynamic entrepreneurial environment," Kallenius said in a conference call with journalists. "Speed



Matthias Schrader/AP file

An employee attaches an emblem in April as he works on a Mercedes-Benz S-class car at the Mercedes plant in Sindelfingen, Germany.

of decision making... is something that can be enhanced in a pure play structure."

The truck and bus division

has more than 100,000 employees and makes Freightliner trucks and Thomas Built buses. It has manufacturing locations

all over the world, including in Ohio, Germany, Brazil, and Portland, where the headquarters of Daimler Trucks North America is. The company has a test track at Madras Airport.

Engines are made at the Detroit Diesel facility in Redford, Michigan. The division had revenue last year of \$48.1 billion for trucks and about \$5.6 billion for buses.

One reason for the spinoff is that the auto business and the truck business are pursuing different technologies as they seek to reduce vehicle emissions. The luxury car business is bringing out new battery-powered models, while the truck business is investing in hydrogen fuel cell technology.

## CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# DIESEL TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTER OPENS



Kevin Ruby, right, chairman and instructor at Chemeketa Community College's Diesel Technology Program, helps students Daniel Wilske and Luigi Arellano reassemble a small engine.

George Plaven/  
Capital Press

BY GEORGE PLAVEN • Capital Press

BROOKS —

Daniel Wilske has always been interested in cars and trucks. It was during high school that Wilske, 21, really began tinkering under the hood. That led him to enroll in Chemeketa Community College's new Diesel Technology Program, where he plans to jumpstart his career as a mechanic.

"I just like working on motors," Wilske said. "I would like to travel around and fix machines for contractors."

On Feb. 1, Wilske and his lab partner, Luigi Arellano, worked together to reassemble a small Kubota engine, using a penlight and rubber mallet to align the crankshaft. The pieces fit like a 3D puzzle, while bolts and sockets clinked gently on

the metal table.

Wilske and Arellano are part of the first group of students in the diesel program at Chemeketa.

The college spent five years developing the curriculum at its campus in Brooks, about 10 miles north of Salem, before classes began in January.

Kevin Ruby, program chairman and

instructor, said the two-year degree combines classroom and hands-on training to prepare students for an entry-level position as a diesel mechanic. Each student will also work a summer internship with companies like Daimler Trucks North America and Papé Machinery, learning to service and repair heavy equipment.

See Diesel / A12

## OREGON | POPULATION GROWTH IN 2020

# For the first time, deaths outnumber births

MIKE ROGOWAY  
The Oregonian

Oregon's population growth has been slowing for several years, but in 2020 the state hit a remarkable milestone — deaths appear to have outnumbered births for the first time on record.

That's according to Josh Lehner, with the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. Falling birth rates and an aging population had Oregon on track to have births outnumber deaths at some point — Lehner had been projecting 2025 — but COVID-19 upended things.

There were about 200 more Oregon deaths than births in 2020, according to preliminary state numbers. That's close enough that Lehner cautions a final tally may ultimately reverse the finding.

And if the coronavirus pandemic recedes in 2021, births will again outnumber deaths — at least for some period of time. But Oregon's birthrate is at a 30-year ebb, among nation's lowest.

By the Oregon Health Authority's official tally, 1,649 Oregonians died for reasons directly related to COVID-19 from March through December last year.

That's 4.1% of the nearly 40,000 deaths Oregon recorded overall in 2020, but COVID-19 accounts for a significant share of the 7% increase in the total number of Oregon deaths for the whole year.

The number of Oregon deaths in 2020 increased twice as fast as in 2019, and was the sharpest increase in at least 21 years.

## COVID-19 in Oregon

# Select pharmacies will receive vaccines starting next week

JAMIE GOLDBERG  
The Oregonian

Select Oregon pharmacies will begin offering COVID-19 vaccines to eligible Oregonians next week under a new distribution program.

The federal government will ship about 1 million vaccine doses directly to 6,500 pharmacies across the country as it

launches the first phase of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, White House officials announced Tuesday. Pharmacies can begin vaccinations at no cost as soon as Feb. 11.

The White House is working with 21 national pharmacy partners and networks of independent pharmacies representing over 40,000 pharmacy

Oregon's share of doses will go to Costco, Health Mart Pharmacies and Albertsons Companies, which includes Albertsons and Safeway stores. Until now, most vaccines have been administered at hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and special vaccination sites such as the Oregon Convention Center.

locations nationwide, although not all partner pharmacies will receive doses during the program's first phase.

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Albertsons and Safeway stores. Until now, most vaccines have been administered at hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and spe-

cial vaccination sites such as the Oregon Convention Center.

Jill McGinnis, a spokesman for Albertsons, said the company anticipates approximately 11,500 doses will be shipped to 115 Albertsons and Safeway pharmacies across Oregon next week, with roughly 100 doses going to each location.

See Vaccines / A12