

<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>DOW</b> 31,613.02 +90.27	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>NASDAQ</b> 13,965.49 -82.00	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 3,931.33 -1.26	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.07% -02	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$61.14 +1.09	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>GOLD</b> \$1,771.10 -26.10	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>SILVER</b> \$27.31 -01	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>EURO</b> \$1.2037 -0078
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**BRIEFING**

**Facebook blocks Australians from accessing news**

CANBERRA, Australia — Facebook announced Thursday it has blocked Australians from viewing and sharing news on the platform because of proposed laws in the country to make digital giants pay for journalism.

Australian publishers can continue to publish news content on Facebook, but links and posts can't be viewed or shared by Australian audiences, the company said in a statement.

"The proposed law fundamentally misunderstands the relationship between our platform and publishers who use it to share news content," Facebook Regional Managing Director William Easton said.

Communications Minister Paul Fletcher said the government would not back down on its legislative agenda.

"This announcement from Facebook, if they were to maintain this position, of course would call into question the credibility of the platform in terms of the news on it," Fletcher told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

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**U.S. retail sales jump 5.3%**

Those \$600 stimulus checks got Americans shopping again.

After three months of declines, retail sales soared a seasonally adjusted 5.3% in January from the month before, the U.S. Commerce Department said Wednesday. It was the biggest increase since June.

The \$600 stimulus checks, sent out at the very end of last year, pushed people to buy new furniture, clothing and appliances.

How long spending will continue without more stimulus checks remains to be seen.

Retail sales slumped in the last three months of 2020 as stimulus money dried up, job growth was nonexistent and a surge in virus cases kept people away from stores during the critical holiday shopping season. In fact, the Commerce Department said Wednesday that December's drop was actually larger than it first reported, revised to be down 1% instead of a decrease of 0.7%.

**Wholesale prices surge 1.3%**

U.S. wholesale prices surged by a record 1.3% in January, led by big gains in health care and energy prices.

The bigger-than-expected increase in the producer price index, which measures inflation pressures before they reach consumers, was the largest one-month gain on records that go back to 2009, the Labor Department reported Wednesday. It followed much milder inflation readings of 0.3% in December and 0.1% in November.

The increase reflected 1.2% jump in health care services and a 5.1% rise in energy prices, the biggest gain since a 9% rise in June.

— Bulletin wire reports

**NEVADA | NEAR THE OREGON LINE**

## Rancher sues to block lithium mine

BY SCOTT SONNER  
The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A long-time Nevada rancher is suing U.S. regulators over the approval of a lithium mine on federal rangeland he says would violate environmental laws and undermine changes

he has made in his own livestock grazing practices to help threatened fish and wildlife.

Edward Bartell and Bartell Ranch LLC say the Bureau of Land Management relied "entirely upon flawed and error-laden findings" in environmental assessments prepared

by the mine's own contractor.

Bartell maintains the review masks the real effects that he says would lower the groundwater table, harm the federally protected Lahontan cutthroat trout and greater sage grouse and "transform much of our private lands into barren desert."

A consultant for Lithium Nevada, a subsidiary of the Canada-based Lithium Americas Corp., prepared "a one-sided, deeply-flawed" analysis of the project, according to the lawsuit filed last week in U.S. District Court in Reno.

"The project consultants

relied upon grossly inaccurate, incomplete, and inadequate data for constructing baselines and models purporting to estimate impacts to water resources" caused by groundwater pumping associated with the mine, it said.

See **Lithium** / A12

## End of an empire

Former Trump casino where stars played goes out with a bang in Atlantic City



Seth Wenig/AP

A spot on the Atlantic City Boardwalk where movie stars, athletes and rock stars used to party — and a future president honed his instincts for bravado — was reduced to a pile of rubble on Wednesday. The former

Trump Plaza casino was imploded after falling into such disrepair that chunks of the building began peeling off and crashing to the ground. A series of loud explosions around 9 a.m. rocked the building, which

started to collapse in a wave from back to front until it plunged straight down in a giant cloud of dust that enveloped the beach and Boardwalk. Overall, it took the structure less than 20 seconds to implode.

## Intel discriminated against older workers in 2015 layoffs, EEOC finds

MIKE ROGOWAY  
The Oregonian

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has concluded that Intel discriminated against eight older workers during mass layoffs in 2015, according to an agency document obtained by The Oregonian.

The commission's finding follows a five-year investigation triggered by employee complaints, which cited investigations by The Oregonian into Intel's layoff practices.

"There is reasonable cause to believe that eight individuals over the age of forty (40) were laid off or otherwise separated by Respondent (Intel) in 2015 based on their age and in violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the federal commission concluded. The EEOC indicates it is working with Intel to resolve the issues on behalf of the laid-off workers.

The EEOC declined to comment on the case, except to note that it has not formally sued Intel. That's the next step



The Oregonian file photo

Intel's Ronler Acres campus is in Hillsboro.

in the commission's enforcement process.

Intel laid off nearly 1,200 U.S. workers in 2015 and cut as many as 15,000 jobs companywide the following year, the biggest downsizing in the company's history. In each case, analyses by The Oregonian found the cuts were heavily skewed toward older workers.

Intel denied discriminating against older workers in either round of layoffs and reiterated that position Tuesday.

"Personnel decisions in our

2015 and 2016 actions were based solely upon business needs.

Factors such as age, race, national origin, gender, immigration status, or other personal demographics were not part of the process when we made these decisions," Intel said in a written statement.

"The EEOC has concluded its investigation into our 2015 action," the company said, "and offered to work with Intel to address its concerns."

See **Intel** / A12

## Reebok struggles to remain relevant as Adidas gives up

JEFF MANNING  
The Oregonian

Reebok, for a brief moment the kingpin of the athletic footwear industry, is now being cast off by a rival that couldn't turn the brand around.

Adidas said Tuesday that it will sell Reebok after the hoped-for synergy between the two brands never materialized.

"It's a brand that lost its purpose," said Steve Wynne, who headed Adidas America from 1995 to 2000. "Reebok produced that beautiful white aerobics shoe that took the market by storm."

The brand spent the next 30 years trying to replicate that magic, without success.

"It was kind of like an LA Gear," Wynne said, referring to the 1990s brand that won over a generation of kids with a heel that lit up. "If you asked people what Reebok stood

"It's a brand that lost its purpose. Reebok produced that beautiful white aerobics shoe that took the market by storm."

— Steve Wynne, who headed Adidas America from 1995 to 2000

for, no one could give you answer."

It's unclear whether the sale will have any impact in Portland, home of Adidas North America. Company officials could not be reached for comment.

The decline of the Reebok brand has been spectacular. Adidas paid \$3.8 billion for Reebok in 2006. It may get \$1.2 billion for it now, according to anonymous investment banking sources quoted in industry publications.

See **Reebok** / A12