

▲ DOW 31,494.32 +.98	▲ NASDAQ 13,874.46 +9.11	▼ S&P 500 3,906.71 -7.26	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.14% +0.7	▼ CRUDE OIL \$59.24 -1.28	▲ GOLD \$1,775.80 +2.40	▲ SILVER \$27.25 +1.17	▲ EURO \$1.2116 +.0031
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BRIEFING

Airlines to ask for contact tracing

The U.S. airline industry is pledging to expand the practice of asking passengers on flights to the United States for information that public health officials could use for contact tracing during the pandemic.

An industry trade group said Friday that the carriers would turn over the information to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which could use it to contact passengers who might be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Delta and United have been doing that since December. On Friday, an industry trade group said that American, Southwest, Alaska, JetBlue and Hawaiian will also ask passengers to make their names, phone numbers, email and physical addresses available to the CDC.

The airlines had long resisted government efforts to require them to gather passenger information and provide it to health agencies. They said they don't have the information on passengers who buy tickets from other sellers such as online travel agencies. They also argued that gathering the information and making it immediately available to the government would be time-consuming and require costly upgrades to computer systems.

U.S. existing home sales, prices rise

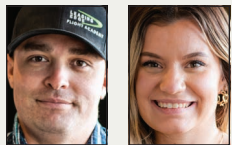
Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes rose again last month, a sign that the housing market's strong momentum from 2020 may be carrying over into this year.

Existing U.S. home sales rose 0.6% in January from the previous month to a seasonally-adjusted rate of 6.69 million annualized units, the National Association of Realtors said Friday. Sales jumped 23.7% from a year earlier. It was the strongest sales pace since October and the second highest since 2006.

Home prices also rose. The U.S. median home price was \$303,900 in January, an increase of 14.1% from a year earlier. Prices increased in every region of the country.

— Bulletin wire reports

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Bishop **Doherty**



Bunning **Piper**

• **Jeff Bishop** has been hired as the director of facilities at Leading Edge Flight Academy. The company also hired **Katie Doherty**, as a pilot and in charge of scheduling and **Jay Bunning**, as a helicopter certified flight instructor.

• **Chris C. Piper**, a former Bend city councilor, has been named to the board of directors for the Council on Aging.

BAKER CITY | GOLD RUSH MALT

Malting business gets international recognition

BY JAYSON JACOBY
Baker City Herald

A Baker City malting business received international recognition, taking home three awards at the annual Craft Malt Conference last week.

Tom Hutchison, who started Gold Rush Malt in 2016, won gold medals for both his pilsner and pale malts Feb. 12 at the conference put

on by the Craft Maltsters Guild.

He'll also be caretaker of the traveling Malt Cup Trophy for the next year as recipient of the best of show award. Malting barley is a key ingredient in beer as well as many distilled spirits such as whiskey and vodka.

Hutchison said he knew he had won at least one award.

Officials from the guild told him that in advance to ensure he would be watching the awards ceremony, which, like the rest of the annual conference, took place remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But when he heard his name called not once but three times, he was, he admits, "just stunned."

See **Malt** / A6



Tom Hutchison, shown here in 2018, fills a sack with malted barley at his business, Gold Rush Malt, in Baker City.

S. John Collins/Baker City Herald File



WineKraft, a wine bar in Astoria, has outdoor, riverside seating.
Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Oregon Coast towns say 'welcome back, tourists'

BY KATIE FRANKOWICZ • The Astorian

North Coast leaders have a very different message to send to tourists than they did last spring.

"We feel like we're ready for spring break," Seaside Mayor Jay Barber said. "We're inviting people to

come to Seaside."

When spring break vacationers descended in March to escape coronavirus-related shutdowns in their own cities and take advantage of sunny weather at the beach, residents were alarmed.

City and county leaders quickly adopted emergency orders to temporarily ban visitors from hotels and campgrounds. Seaside — hit hard by both the shutdown measures, but also the influx of tourists — restricted

access to city parks and beaches as well. Cannon Beach sought to exclude even daytrippers.

They echoed Gov. Kate Brown's message to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy."

In Seaside, one resident was more direct. He held up a handmade sign that simply read, "Go home."

Now there are signs that cities are ready to welcome tourists back.

The Astoria Downtown Historic District Association

hired a new community outreach officer whose duties include parking enforcement as traffic picks up again. Astoria's leaders have relaxed rules on sidewalk dining, as well as for parklets, which allow restaurants and bars to expand outdoor seating into street-side parking spots.

In Cannon Beach, the City Council recently gave city staff the go-ahead to work with businesses interested in using parking spots in front of their buildings for outdoor seating. The city has already allowed restaurants and bars with their own parking lots to set up tables in those lots.

In Seaside, the city has eased some parking standards to allow for outdoor tables and tents.

Many businesses are still reeling and suffering, but David Reid, the executive director for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, believes the North Coast economy has entered into a recovery phase.

Precautionary measures like wearing masks and social distancing are now normal. Though some people continue to push back, in general, businesses and communities are no longer educating people about these requirements.

"I think we can say we are ready for tourists," Reid said. "We know how to operate our businesses safely — and our clientele, our visitors, know how to visit safely."

See **Tourists** / A6

Study finds misuse of water at hemp farms

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Suspicion about unlawful hemp irrigation in Southwest Oregon proved to be well-founded after an audit uncovered violations at one-third of the grow sites visited.

Officials from the state's Water Resources Department reviewed 187 hemp farms in the region last year and determined nearly 33% ran afoul of water laws.

"There is a large part of this that's education and outreach — folks just didn't know," said Jake Johnstone, the department's southwest region manager, during a meeting Thursday of the state's Water Resources Commission.

Most of the violations — 46 out of 61 — related to hemp farmers who irrigated with well water despite lacking water rights, including some who had valid surface water rights. Domestic usage of well water is allowed without a water rights permit in Oregon, but not commercial irrigation.

More than one-third of the violations identified by the agency resulted in enforcement action, such as having to install water measurement devices on their wells, Johnstone said.

The agency is planning to conduct further reviews in 2021, which will determine whether compliance improved after the initial audit, said Scott Prose, an assistant watermaster in the region.

"What we will see this time around is how valuable that education really is," he said.

About 42% of the hemp growers visited said they'd been trucking in water from municipal sources, which required a "big time commitment" to verify with receipts and contracts, Johnstone said.

"This can be difficult when the individuals on-site don't keep any of the financial records," he said.

See **Hemp** / A6

Wine looks to changing consumers, new technologies

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

The wine industry is headed toward more digitalization, technology use and new markets.

At the virtual Oregon Wine Symposium this week, several speakers talked about how the wine industry's future may look different than its past, with consumer preferences changing, new technologies available and more shoppers eager to buy online.

"Things have changed forever, and COVID was the great accelerator," said Steve Brown, a business consultant and technologist who calls himself a "futurist."

Brown was the keynote speaker during Tuesday's main virtual session.

What consumers want

Brown said consumers — especially young consumers — are making several major shifts in their purchasing be-

haviors compared to previous generations.

More shoppers, Brown said, are becoming "conscious consumers," eager to know their wine was produced in a sustainable way and that workers were treated well.

Shoppers today also crave less mystery and more transparency.

Even in the traditionally sophisticated wine sector, Brown said consumer polls and purchasing data show

people, especially younger drinkers, want more inclusivity and access as opposed to wine's traditionally exclusive nature.

Brown said wineries should think about changing their "snobby" image, which he dubbed "de-snobification."

Consumers, he said, are now also looking for more personalization, online buying options, experience-focused purchases, innovations and more convenience.

Futuristic technology

The other major change in the wine sector, Brown said, is that it's headed in a more technological direction, in the super-market, winery and vineyard.

On the marketing side, Brown cited digital services like Wine4.Me, an interactive tool which recommends wines to buyers based on their answers to questions like how much spice, sweetness, body and oak flavor they like in their wine.

See **Wine** / A6