

▲ DOW 31,521.69 +27.37	▼ NASDAQ 13,533.05 -341.42	▼ S&P 500 3,876.50 -30.21	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.18% +0.04	▲ CRUDE OIL \$61.49 +2.25	▲ GOLD \$1,806.70 +30.90	▲ SILVER \$28.08 +.83	▲ EURO \$1.2167 +.0051
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BRIEFING

Boeing says to ground some 777s

Boeing has recommended that airlines ground all 777s with the type of engine that blew apart after takeoff from Denver this weekend, and most carriers that fly those planes said they would temporarily pull them from service.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration ordered United Airlines to step up inspections after one of its flights made an emergency landing Saturday at Denver International Airport as pieces of the casing of the engine, a Pratt & Whitney PW4000, rained down on suburban neighborhoods. None of the 231 passengers or 10 crew were hurt, and the flight landed safely, authorities said. United is among the carriers that has grounded the planes.

FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said in a statement Sunday that based on an initial review of safety data, inspectors "concluded that the inspection interval should be stepped up for the hollow fan blades that are unique to this model of engine, used solely on Boeing 777 airplanes."

Portland's Apple store reopens

Apple's downtown Portland store reopened Monday for the first time since May, a signal of possible revival in the city's core.

The store closed in March at the outset of the pandemic and then reopened briefly two months later. On May 31, though, Apple's glass-fronted store was among several downtown looted amid raucous protests spurred by the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd.

Apple covered its broken windows with black plywood, which artists promptly repurposed as a canvas for a civil rights mural that featured Floyd and other victims of police violence. The mural became a national symbol amid last summer's civil rights protests. Last month, though, the company donated the mural to Portland civil rights group Don't Shoot PDX.

Data of Fred Meyer pharmacies hacked

Kroger Co. says personal data, including Social Security numbers of some of its pharmacy and clinic customers, may have been stolen in the hack of a third-party vendor's file-transfer service.

The Cincinnati-based grocery and pharmacy chain, which also owns Fred Meyer, said in a statement Friday that it believes less than 1% of its customers were affected — specifically some using its Health and Money Services — as well as some current and former employees because a number of personnel records were apparently viewed.

It says it is notifying those potentially impacted, offering free credit-monitoring.

Kroger said the breach did not affect Kroger stores' IT systems or grocery store systems or data and there has so far been no indication of fraud involving accessed personal data.

— Bulletin wire reports

Biden boosts pandemic lending to nation's smallest businesses

BY ZEKE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden announced changes Monday to target more federal pandemic assistance to the nation's smallest businesses and ventures owned by women and people of color.

Biden says a lot of these mom and pop businesses "got muscled out of the way" by larger businesses seeking federal money in the early

days of the pandemic. He said changes taking effect Wednesday will provide long overdue aid to these smaller enterprises that he says are being "crushed" by the pandemic-driven economic downturn.

"America's small businesses are hurting, hurting badly and they need help now," Biden said.

Under the pandemic-era Paycheck Protection Program, the administration is

establishing a two-week window, starting Wednesday, in which only businesses with fewer than 20 employees — the overwhelming majority of small businesses — can apply for the forgivable loans.

Biden's team is also carving out \$1 billion to direct toward sole proprietors, such as home contractors and beauticians, the majority of which are owned by women and people of color.

Other efforts will remove a prohibition on lending to a company with at least 20% ownership by a person arrested or convicted for a nonfraud felony in the prior year, as well as allowing those behind on their federal student loans to seek relief through the program. The administration is also clarifying that noncitizen legal residents can apply to the program.

See **Lending** / A13

COVID-19

Women are dropping out of the Oregon workforce

BY MIKE ROGOWAY

The Oregonian

From the start, the coronavirus recession has been especially hard on women.

Service industries — restaurants, hotels, spas and salons — were among the hardest hit by coronavirus shutdowns and health restrictions. Those low-wage sectors are where women are overrepresented, along with Blacks and Latinos.

As a result, each of those groups were far more likely to be unemployed last year. The gap was particularly striking for women. In September, for example, the unemployment rate for Oregon women was 9.6% compared to 6.7% for men.

That gap entirely evaporated over the next few months — the jobless rate was 6.4% for both women and men in December. That's partly because the unemployment rate ticked up for men, and partly because women are dropping out of the job market altogether, meaning they're no longer counted as unemployed.

Both men and women are leaving the workforce, frustrated by bleak job prospects or pulled into other responsibilities, such as child care. But women are leaving at a much faster rate.

Just under 52% of Oregon women were working last year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, down 5.3% (2.9 percentage points) from 2019.

That figure underscores how trying the recession has been for families trying to stretch their budgets, and their time, as the pandemic increases their burdens.

"Parents (particularly mothers) have disproportionately left the labor force," Gail Krumenauer, economist with the Oregon Employment Department, wrote in an email. And she noted that women typically make less than men — 81.5% of what men earn, in Oregon, according to the latest federal data — and so if couples need to choose which parent stops working to care for kids then the mom may end up taking on that work.

"Often that labor of caregiving falls disproportionately on the shoulders of women," Andrea Paluso, executive director of Family Forward Oregon, told The Oregonian in October.

"There were a lot of women who were in and out of the workforce before COVID because of their caregiving responsibilities," she said. "They just have even fewer resources to manage those responsibilities now."

See **Workforce** / A13

Lockdown in *luxury*



Auberge Resorts Collection via TNS

Wintertime pandemic fatigue is driving people to book multi-month stays at places like Chileno Bay Resort & Residences in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Remote workers flee to \$70,000-a-month resorts while awaiting vaccines

BY JEN MURPHY • Bloomberg News

Unlike the first wave of COVID-19 lockdowns, which sent people on road trips and to second homes, the second wave has globally triggered a desire for more permanent, warmer, far-flung escapes.

In the U.K. and Europe, the wealthy have flown to such warmer climates as Dubai, the Maldives and Spain to escape winter lockdown, says Justin Huxter, founder of U.K.-based Cartology Travel. Americans have more options for tropical bunkers: Hawaii has eased its travel restrictions and borders are open in Mexico, Costa Rica, Belize and many parts of the Caribbean. After all, what good is a second home at Lake

Tahoe or Napa, California, when nearby ski lifts, wineries and restaurants are periodically inaccessible, as they were for much of December and January?

"People with lockdown fatigue have realized they can continue life in places with a lot less stress and a lot more room to breathe," says Jack Ezon, founder of Embark Beyond. He's seeing East Coast clients flock to luxury hotels and resorts in Florida, South Carolina, and Turks and Caicos Islands while West Coast clients flee to Arizona and Puerto Vallarta and Cabo in Mexico—anywhere with equally good weather and Wi-Fi.

The average cost, he says, is \$70,000 a month, with most clients booking two- to four-month stays.

See **Remote** / A13

Oregon farmer seeks \$2 million for herbicide drift



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

An Oregon farmer alleges herbicide drift damaged his blueberry bushes.

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI

Capital Press

An Oregon blueberry grower is seeking \$2 million in damages from alleged herbicide drift from a neighboring property owned by a major California-based agriculture company.

William Vandehey of Cornelius has filed a lawsuit alleging that an employee of Munger Bros. of Delano, California, sprayed glyphosate on an adjacent field during sustained

winds of up to 20 mph in May 2020.

Drift from the spray operation caused "severe and long lasting damage" to Vandehey's blueberry bushes, which lost at least half their crop during last year's growing season, the complaint said.

Vandehey alleges that a representative of Munger Bros. admitted to using glyphosate to an investigator from the Oregon Department of Agriculture but "misrepresented and

falsified" the spray operation's "extent and duration" to cover up the damage.

Apart from the direct crop losses suffered last year, the herbicide damage is expected to reduce Vandehey's blueberry yields for 3 to 6 years, the complaint said.

The complaint accuses Munger Bros. of trespass and negligence that caused nearly \$1 million in lost profits, income and other financial damages.

See **Drift** / A13