

▼ DOW 30,932.37 -469.64	▲ NASDAQ 13,192.34 +72.91	▼ S&P 500 3,811.15 -18.19	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.18% -.13	▼ CRUDE OIL \$61.50 -2.03	▼ GOLD \$1,728.10 -46.30	▼ SILVER \$26.40 -1.24	▼ EURO \$1.2079 -.0105
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---

BRIEFING

Portland company Innovyze is sold

A low-profile Portland software company, Innovyze, had a very high-profile sale this week.

California-based Autodesk will pay \$1 billion for Innovyze, integrating the Portland company into Autodesk's portfolio of product design software.

Privately held Innovyze, based in south Portland's Johns Landing neighborhood, makes software for designing and operating water infrastructure. It's a niche, but a big one given the universality of water treatment and distribution systems.

Founded in 1996, Innovyze had previously been owned by Swedish private equity firm EQT. Autodesk said it plans to offer jobs to all 250 Innovyze employees, about two-dozen of whom work in Portland.

Consumers boost spending 2.4%

Bouncing back from months of retrenchment, America's consumers stepped up their spending by a solid 2.4% in January, the sharpest increase in seven months and a sign that the economy may be poised to sustain a recovery from the pandemic recession.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department also showed that personal incomes, which provide the fuel for spending, jumped 10% last month, the biggest gain in nine months, boosted by cash payments that most Americans received from the government.

The January spending increase followed two straight monthly spending drops that had raised concerns that consumers, who power most of the economy, were hunkered down, too anxious to travel, shop and spend. Last month's sharp gain suggests that many people are growing more confident about spending, especially after receiving \$600 checks that went to most adults last month in a federal economic aid package.

— Bulletin wire reports

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

• **Tyler Hague** has been hired by SELCO Community Credit Union as a financial advisor for Investment & Retirement Services. Based in SELCO's Old Mill Branch in Bend, Hague will manage clients across Central and Eastern Oregon.



Hague

• **Zak Boone** has been named to the board of directors of Bend 2030, a non-profit founded in 2007 to educate, engage and empower members of the Bend community. Boone is the chief advancement officer and executive director of the Central Oregon Community College Foundation.



Boone

Proposed bill would allow workers to enforce Oregon labor regulations

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Workers could enforce regulations and recover fines on behalf of Oregon labor agencies under a bill that's alarmed the agriculture and timber industries.

While business groups fear House Bill 2205 will result in a cascade of new litigation against employers, proponents claim the legislation will help the state government become more efficient.

Lawmakers have enacted numerous statutes intended to ensure the "dignity and respect" of workers in recent years, such as requiring paid sick leave and predictive scheduling, said Rep. Barbara Smith-Warner, a Portland Democrat.

"Passing these laws is important. And it's even more important to make sure they're enforced. Our state agencies do work hard and their staff are extremely dedicated, but they cannot be everywhere at

once," she said during a recent legislative hearing.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated problems with wage theft, health and safety violations and other workplace abuses, but state regulators aren't keeping up with the record number of complaints, Smith Warner said.

"When the state fails to enforce those laws, companies rarely face penalties," she said.

See **Labor** / A6

U.S. advisers endorse J&J's single-shot virus vaccine



Johnson & Johnson via AP, file

A pharmacist preparing to give an experimental COVID-19 vaccine in September 2020.

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD AND MATTHEW PERRONE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. health advisers endorsed a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson & Johnson on Friday, putting the nation on the cusp of adding an easier-to-use option to fight the pandemic.

The Food and Drug Administration is expected to quickly follow the recommendation and make J&J's shot the third vaccine authorized for emergency use in the U.S. Vaccinations are picking up speed, but new supplies are urgently needed to stay ahead of a mutating virus that has killed more than 500,000 Americans.

After daylong discussions, the FDA panelists voted unanimously that the benefits of the vaccine outweighed the risks for adults. If the FDA agrees, shipments of a few million doses could begin as early as Monday.

More than 47 million people in the U.S., or 14% of the population, have received at least one shot of the two-dose vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, which the FDA authorized in December. But the pace of vaccinations has been strained by limited supplies and delays due to winter storms.

While early J&J supplies will be small, the company has said it can deliver 20 million doses by the end of March and a total of 100 million by the end of June.

J&J's vaccine protects against the worst effects of COVID-19 after one shot, and it can be stored up to three months at refrigerator temperatures, making it easier to handle than the previous vaccines, which must be frozen.

One challenge in rolling out the new vaccine will be explaining how protective the J&J shot is after the astounding success of the first U.S. vaccines.

The two-dose Pfizer and Moderna shots were found to be about 95% effective against symptomatic COVID-19. The numbers from J&J's study are not that high, but it's not an apples-to-apples comparison. One dose of the J&J vaccine was 85% protective against the most severe COVID-19. After adding in moderate cases, the total effectiveness dropped to about 66%.

Some experts fear that lower number could feed public perceptions that J&J's shot is a "second-tier vaccine." But the difference in protection reflects when and where J&J conducted its studies.

J&J's vaccine was tested in the U.S., Latin America and South Africa at a time when more contagious mutated versions of the virus were spreading. That wasn't the case last fall, when Pfizer and Moderna were wrapping up testing, and it's not clear if their numbers would hold against the most worrisome of those variants.

Importantly, the FDA reported this week that, just like its predecessors, the J&J shot offers strong protection against the worst outcomes, hospitalization and death.

See **Vaccine** / A6

Pandemic propels some older shoppers ONLINE



Jeff Chiu/AP

Lynnette White uses her tablet Feb. 16 to shop on Amazon. The pandemic has sparked a surge of online shopping across all ages as people stay away from physical stores, but the biggest growth has come from those 65 and older.

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

In November, Paula Mont did something new: The 86-year-old, who hasn't left her New Jersey senior living community in nearly a year, went shopping — online.

Mont used an iPad, equipped with a stylus to help her shaky hands, to buy a toy grand piano for her great-granddaughter. She picked it out from more than a dozen versions of the instrument on Amazon.

"It is like a wow feeling. I found it!" Mont said.

The internet has become a crucial link to the outside world during the pandemic, one that millions of people still don't have access to. Among older adults, the lack of internet has even impeded their ability to get vaccinated.

But the pandemic has motivated many who have been isolated at home or unable to leave their senior communities to learn something

they may have resisted until now: how to buy groceries and more online.

Americans 65 and older rang up an average of nearly \$187 per month online last year, up 60% from a year earlier, according to market research firm NPD Group's Checkout Tracking. They still spend less than the average \$238 per month by the total population, but they are the fastest-growing group of online shoppers by age group.

The biggest online spenders were people ages 35 to 44 who spent an average of \$306 per month online last year, up 40% from the previous year, according to NPD.

Shopping is one of a slew of activities that older Americans now have to do over the internet, like doctor's appointments and socializing via digital video like FaceTime. Such behavior was forced by necessity — older people face the biggest risk of infection, so it's more dangerous for them to go out.

See **Shoppers** / A6

Bovine manure tax credit encounters opposition



EO Media Group file

A methane digester collects gas from decomposing cow manure at a dairy and uses it as fuel to generate electricity. Oregon lawmakers are considering a bill to extend a tax credit for collecting cow manure.

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

A proposal to extend Oregon's tax credit for collecting cow manure for energy has come under fire from critics who say it's mostly beneficial to large dairies.

The tax credit of \$3.50 per wet ton of bovine manure collected is intended to promote the construction of methane digesters that produce renewable energy. It's slated to end in 2022.

Senate Bill 151, which would change the sunset date to 2028, is supported by the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association.

"Manure digesters provide very clear environmental, renewable energy, and economic benefits to the dairy industry and the public," the groups said in written testimony.

Oregon currently has three methane digesters in operation, one of which annually sequesters 136,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide — the amount emitted by about 29,000 cars, the groups said.

Extending the tax credit helps ensure these digesters will remain online and may encourage others to invest in the technology, the letter said.

However, critics of the tax

credit claim it amounts to a subsidy for the largest "confined animal feeding operations," or CAFOs, in the state.

The biggest beneficiary of the tax credit is a dairy with 70,000 cows, and digesters are only economically feasible for facilities with well over 500 cows, said Amy Van Saun, an attorney with the Stand Up to Factory Farms Coalition, which opposes major CAFOs.

The bill creates a "perverse incentive" to continue siting major CAFOs in Oregon at the expense of rural communities, she said.

See **Tax credit** / A6