

▼ DOW 32,862.30 -153.07	▼ NASDAQ 13,116.17 -409.03	▼ S&P 500 3,915.46 -58.66	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.48% +0.4	▼ CRUDE OIL \$60.00 -4.60	▲ GOLD \$1,732.20 +5.40	▲ SILVER \$26.32 +.29	▼ EURO \$1.1914 -.0065
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	---

BRIEFING

Summit Medical changes its name

Summit Medical Group has changed its name to Summit Health. The name change is part of a rebranding effort that comes at a time when health care attempts to be more streamlined and more patient-centric, according to the company.

As a group, Summit Health in Central Oregon is a multispecialty physician group with 130 providers in primary care, urgent care and more than 30 medical specialties and services.

Summit Medical Group was formed through a partnership between Bend Memorial Clinic and Summit Health Management in 2018.

Portland firm raises \$20 million

Act-On Software said Thursday it has raised \$20 million, the Portland marketing technology company's first new capital since 2014.

Act-On's technology helps online marketers tailor their messages and efforts to specific market segments. The company employs 155, 125 of them in Portland.

Thursday's funding, a mix of debt and new investment, comes from prior investors, company founder Raghu Raghavan and a new investor, Beedie Capital. Act-On says it will use the money to improve its products and expand its own marketing.

Founded in 2008, Act-On has now raised \$82 million. Its last round seven years ago brought \$42 million amid an upswing in Oregon software entrepreneurship. It was the largest investment of its kind the state had seen in a decade.

U.S. jobless claims rise to 770,000

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose last week to 770,000, a sign that layoffs remain high even as much of the U.S. economy is steadily recovering from the coronavirus recession.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department showed that jobless claims climbed from 725,000 the week before. The numbers have dropped sharply since the depths of the recession last spring but still show that employers in some industries continue to lay off workers. Before the pandemic struck, applications for unemployment aid had never topped 700,000 in any one week.

A total of 4.1 million people are continuing to collect traditional state unemployment benefits, down 18,000 from the previous week. Including separate federal programs that are intended to help workers displaced by the health crisis, 18.2 million Americans were receiving some form of jobless aid in the week of Feb. 27, down by 1.9 million from the week before.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

Precision Castparts loses labor ruling

Warren Buffet firm has a plant in Redmond

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

Precision Castparts welders won a victory before a federal appeals court this week, poten-

tially clearing the way for them to organize — more than three years after the Oregon workers voted to unionize.

The Portland company refused to bargain with the 100 welders and challenged their organizing effort, arguing that their work was too closely integrated

with the rest of the company to constitute a distinct union.

The National Labor Relations Board disagreed, finding that Precision Castparts had committed an unfair labor practice. Precision Castparts challenged that decision in court, losing its case Tuesday

before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

The union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said Thursday that with the appeals court's ruling in hand it will send a demand letter to the company and hopes to begin

negotiating a contract.

"It's been a long battle for these guys," said Billy Anderson, an organizer for the national union. "Hopefully, we can move forward and they can respect the wishes of the welders out there."

See **Castparts** / A8

New pho restaurant opens in Pendleton



Lam Ha adds broth to a pho dish while preparing orders at his restaurant, Haven Pho, in Pendleton on March 4. Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

BY BEN LONERGAN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — When a sandwich shop went out of business last year, Lam Ha saw the space as the perfect location for a restaurant dream more than a decade in the making.

Ha's dream came true earlier this month when he opened Haven Pho, a Vietnamese restaurant in Pendleton.

"I planned this like 10 years ago," he said.

Ha, who came to the United States from Vietnam roughly 20 years ago, developed a love for restaurants while working at his sister's Vietnamese restaurant in Arlington, Texas, and set out on a journey to own one of his own.

Despite his interest in restaurants, Ha has owned and operated nail salons since he moved to the region more than a decade ago, and ran a nail shop in Walla Walla, Washington, before opening Pendleton Nails across the parking lot from his new restaurant about a decade ago.

When a location opened up near his nail

salon, Ha said he moved quickly to secure the spot and began renovating the space in September. Ha chose to name the new restaurant after his 5-year-old son, Haven.

"I looked for a spot, but some were too big or too small," he said. "Because this place is close to the nail shop, I can go back and forth."

Ha said he has wanted to open a Vietnamese restaurant in Pendleton for the better part of the last 10 years because he wanted to bring Vietnamese food and culture to the people of Pendleton.

"I want to open up Vietnamese food so the local people can try different things," he said.

Ha said when he first moved to town a lack of Vietnamese food inspired him to want to open a restaurant, and while Pendleton's dining options have diversified some since then, Ha's desire to run a restaurant never faded.

When putting together his menu, Ha said he wanted to stick with what he considers staples of Vietnamese cuisine — pho dishes, steamed rice with pork or chicken, and egg and salad rolls.

Since opening his restaurant, Ha said it has stayed busy with dine-in and takeout orders. The dining room was buzzing with people on the evening of March 4, as customers ventured in to try the new place to eat. One customer joked with Ha that she had come by to get her nails done while picking up a to-go order.

As customers filed through, Ha and his staff worked diligently to fill orders as steaming bowls of pho and egg rolls were carried to tables.

"It's been busy and tiring," he said.

Ha said the restaurant is currently open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. for takeout and dine-in service.

While business is steady, Ha said he has had to remain optimistic amid the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions. With restaurants across the country closing due to the pandemic, Ha said he keeps focusing on the end of the pandemic to stay motivated.

"I think the pandemic is going to go away," he said. "Hopefully, everything is going to go fine."

Hot housing market fuels a rise in homeowners' equity

Mortgage equity gains \$26,300 on average

BY ALEX VEIGA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The red-hot U.S. housing market is paying off for many homeowners, even those who aren't looking to sell their homes.

On average, homes with a mortgage gained \$26,300

in equity in the last three months of 2020 versus a year earlier, according to real estate information company CoreLogic. That average gain is the highest since 2013, the firm said.

CoreLogic said homes with a mortgage account for about 62% of all U.S. properties. Taken together, the home equity for those properties surged to more than \$1.5

trillion, an increase of 16.2% from a year earlier.

The surge in homeowners' equity can potentially make a positive impact on borrowers' finances; for one thing, it creates a buffer against potential financial hardship, such as job loss. And homeowners could opt to put some of the gains to use, giving a boost to the economy.

See **Equity** / A8

Bill seeks to regulate kratom products

BY LIZZY ACKER
The Oregonian

A bill in the Oregon Legislature would create regulations, including labeling and a minimum age requirement, for products containing kratom.

Pronounced in various ways, Kratom is the name of a tree in the coffee family, found in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia and Thailand. Traditionally, the leaves were

chewed or made into tea to help people stay alert and productive.

Some substances in kratom work on the opioid receptors in the brain.

In recent years, extracts from kratom leaves have become a popular herbal remedy, which users say can help with pain, fatigue or opioid withdrawals.

See **Kratom** / A8