

▼ DOW 32,627.97 -234.33	▲ NASDAQ 13,215.24 +99.07	▼ S&P 500 3,913.10 -2.36	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.45% -0.03	▲ CRUDE OIL \$61.42 +1.42	▲ GOLD \$1,741.40 +9.20	▼ SILVER \$26.29 -0.03	▼ EURO \$1.1909 -0.0005
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BRIEFING

Nike lays off more workers; profits up

Nike has laid off an unspecified number of people, the sneaker giant told The Oregonian.

The latest cuts follow larger layoffs the company announced in the summer. Nike wouldn't say how many people lost their jobs recently, or in what departments.

Nike confirmed the new job cuts the same day it announced quarterly revenue of \$10.3 billion and profits of \$1.4 billion in the quarter that ended Feb. 28. The company said its rising profits resulted, in part, from "lower wage-related costs." Sales and administrative expenses fell \$242 million compared to the same period a year ago.

North American sales actually declined nearly 11% last quarter. But Nike blamed that on a shortage of shipping containers and congestion in U.S. ports, not any brand weakness.

Facebook works on Instagram for kids

Facebook says it is working on a version of Instagram for kids under 13, who are technically not allowed to use the app in its current form due to federal privacy regulations.

Critics raised concerns immediately, saying a kid-friendly Instagram is just a way for Facebook to expand its user base and condition children into using its products so it can later make money off of them.

"Increasingly, kids are asking their parents if they can join apps that help them keep up with their friends," Facebook said in a statement. "Right now, there aren't many options for parents, so we're working on building additional products — like we did with Messenger Kids — that are suitable for kids, managed by parents."

Powell: Recovery far from complete

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell reiterated his belief Friday that while the U.S. economy has been steadily rebounding from the devastation caused by the pandemic recession, the recovery is far from complete and needs continued support from the Fed.

In an opinion piece posted Friday in the Wall Street Journal, Powell characterizes the economy as much improved, with about half the 20 million jobs that were lost to the pandemic having been recovered and with the outlook brightening as vaccinations are more widely administered.

— Bulletin wire reports

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

• Four broker teams were recognized by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, a Realogy (NYSE:RLGY) brand at its 2020 year-end award recipients in North America for top 10 Adjusted Gross Income in Oregon. Earning top three were: **Robinson-Ludwick Group**, Coldwell Banker Bain of Bend; **Cascade Lifestyle Group**, Coldwell Banker Bain of Bend; and **The Power Group**, Coldwell Banker Bain of Bend.

Major hike in beer, wine taxes to fund treatment lacks support; backers pivot

BY NICOLE HAYDEN
The Oregonian

The lobbyists who pushed major increases in Oregon's beer and wine taxes are asking the Legislature to set up a task force to design a new, more broadly accepted proposal that would fund addiction recovery services and lower alcohol consumption. Their pivot acknowledges

the bill faced steep opposition. One of the bills two co-sponsors, Rep. Rachel Prusak, D-West Linn, already dropped off, leaving Rep. Tawna Sanchez, D-Portland, as the lone sponsor.

They now hope lawmakers will vote to create a bipartisan task force that includes representatives from the health care and alcohol industries.

If approved, the task force would have until Nov. 30 to come back with draft legislation showing how the state could reduce alcohol consumption by 15% by increasing alcohol costs. It also would need to create a plan to fund additional addiction services.

"We want to have this conversation of what can be done, not what should be

done," said Mike Marshall, director of Oregon Recovers, the primary lobbying group behind the bill. "We want to secure a meaningful long-term gain instead of a short-term win."

He hopes the Legislature would then pass the new draft plan during the February 2022 legislative session.

See **Tax / A6**



Workers at Astoria Warehousing once labeled millions of cans of salmon shipped to seafood companies in Seattle and distributed around the world.

When the plant closed in 2018, locals feared the expansive campus overlooking the Astoria Bridge and Columbia River would continue the region's transition from manufacturing toward a more service-sector economy in the form of another hotel.

Instead, the main warehouse along Marine Drive has filled with large steel brewing and conditioning tanks, a new high-speed canning line, cold storage and several million cans as Fort George Brewery's new commercial production hub.

Chris Nemlowill, who started Fort George with Jack Harris 14 years ago, called the transformation of Astoria Warehousing a minor miracle, given the coronavirus pandemic and all the things that came together to make

BY EDWARD STRATTON • The Astorian

the new brewery a reality. "This property has really always been our dream property for distribution and production," Nemlowill said. "It's got a loading dock, beautiful views of the waterfront. And we get to stay in Astoria."

Fort George's expansion comes at a watershed moment for Astoria's burgeoning alcohol sector.

Just a few blocks east, the owners of Buoy Beer Co., the other major brewer in town, are jacking up the roof of the former Video Horizons for an expanded brewhouse. They are also planning to turn a nearby warehouse into a new location for sister company Pilot House Distilling.

'Kingpin'

Nemlowill and Harris drove their first 8.5-barrel brewhouse — nicknamed "Sweet Virginia" — home from the East Coast and

opened a small pub in the Fort George Building on Duane Street. In 2009, they bought almost the entire city block, including the Lovell Building, where they installed a 20-barrel commercial brewhouse — "Little Miss Texas" — and continued an ascension into one of the state's premier craft breweries.

A decade later, the Lovell Building was filled to the brim with tanks and a canning line. Walls of bulk-ordered cans filled the upstairs, along with a growing barrel-aging program in the basement.

Nemlowill and Harris bought a plot of land in Warrenton for a new distribution hub. But when the seafood company owners of Astoria Warehousing decided to consolidate operations to Kent, Washington, Fort George saw an opportunity and purchased what Nemlowill now

calls Fort George Waterfront.

Central to the new brewery is the 60-barrel brewhouse — nicknamed "Kingpin" — Fort George bought at auction after Portland's BridgePort Brewing closed in 2019.

Kingpin can turn out 60 barrels of wort — the sugary liquid extracted from grains and used in fermentation — in a batch. Just as important is the large bank of fermentation and conditioning tanks arrayed around the main warehouse. They include fermentation tanks brought from downtown, lagering tanks from BridgePort and more conditioning tanks manufactured in Vancouver, Washington.

"This is opening up our opportunity to have a lot more variety," Nemlowill said. "We can make more lagers. We can make more barrel-aged beers. We can experiment a lot more, because we're going to have more capacity over in the Lovell Building."

See **Brewery / A6**

Some Oregon jobless benefits will continue unbroken under Biden plan

BY PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

All unemployed Oregonians will continue to get uninterrupted supplemental benefits of \$300 per week under an extension of federal programs contained in President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery plan, which is now law.

But for thousands of self-employed and gig workers who have exhausted their federal benefits, and workers who have exhausted federal benefits that kick in once their 26 weeks of state payments stopped, they may have to wait as the Oregon

Employment Department programs the extensions into the system.

"It will take us additional time to add the newly created benefits to their claim. We are doing everything we can to minimize that additional time," acting director David Gerstenfeld told reporters in a weekly conference call.

"It is important that if someone receives a letter informing them their claim is exhausted — meaning they have a zero balance — they should keep filing their weekly claims every week."

Gerstenfeld said people

will be paid benefits retroactively, including the supplemental benefits of \$300 per week under what is known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation.

Under the American Rescue Plan, federal unemployment benefits were extended 25 weeks from March 13 through Labor Day, although Oregon and most states end the closest claim week on Saturday, Sept. 4.

"Our goal is to have them be paid out by the end of next week," Gerstenfeld said, for self-employed and gig workers who still qualify

for federal benefits, and for workers who still qualify for federal benefits that kick in after they received 26 weeks of payments from the state trust fund. These programs are known as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

For workers in both programs who have exhausted their federal benefits — but are newly eligible for 25 more weeks because of the extensions — Gerstenfeld they will be affected most by the changeover.

See **Benefits / A6**

OLCC fines River Pig Saloon in Bend

BY SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

The River Pig Saloon has been fined by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission for selling and allowing customers to take open containers of alcohol off its premises and into a common area at the Box Factory.

The restaurant, on NW Arizona Avenue, has agreed to pay \$5,660 in fines by April 15 for the Oct. 27, 2019 incident, according to the stipulated agreement approved by the OLCC on Thursday. If the restaurant chooses not to pay the fine, it could face a 36-day suspension for the violations. The fines or suspension are higher than normal because an owner was involved, according to the agreement.

The commission also fined the White Water Taphouse on NW Bond Street for not closing and continuing to serve alcohol past the 10 p.m. COVID-19-related restrictions imposed by the governor. The incident occurred Aug. 8 after an inspector saw 20 patrons continuing to consume alcohol, according to OLCC documents.

See **River Pig / A6**

Portland startup CrowdStreet is now based in Austin

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

CrowdStreet, a Portland startup that runs an online marketplace for real estate investments, said Friday that its CEO is moving to Austin, Texas, and that the company now considers that city its headquarters.

"Austin has a number of benefits such as pro-growth economic policies that help job-creating businesses thrive," CEO Tore Steen said in a statement announcing the move. He said that Texas is among its top markets for investors participating in its marketplace.

For now, the shift consists only of Steen moving to Texas. CrowdStreet said it expects to hire 80 people this year and said that as it grows it will split new hires between its current Portland office, its new Austin headquarters and remote work.

CrowdStreet said it plans to maintain its office in downtown Portland "and a strong employee presence."

Founded in Bend, in 2013, CrowdStreet was among the second wave of technology startups that emerged in the years after the Great Recession. It has reported \$25 million in outside funding.

Last year, the company laid off a fifth of its 110 employees citing a pandemic-related downturn in its business. But the company said Friday that its headcount has returned to a staff of 110, 76 of them in Portland.

Oregon employment has fallen 7.4% since the beginning of 2020, a slightly bigger drop than the national decline. But overall entrepreneurship appears steady, with new business formation actually accelerating during the pandemic.