

▲ DOW 32,731.20 +103.23	▲ NASDAQ 13,377.54 +162.31	▲ S&P 500 3,940.59 +27.49	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.38% -07	▲ CRUDE OIL \$61.47 +.05	▼ GOLD \$1,737.80 -3.60	▼ SILVER \$25.74 -.55	▲ EURO \$1.1942 +.0033
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BRIEFING

Seattle bakery falls to pandemic

Seattle's century-old landmark Remo Borracchini's Bakery is closing, another business ravaged by the pandemic.

The family bakery in south Seattle was known for its birthday and wedding cakes and announced Saturday on Facebook that it is closing for good after 100 years in business.

The local icon said it was "in the party business," which has been devastated by the year-long stay-at-home orders. Within three hours, there were nearly 1,000 comments on the announcement.

"(W)e are in the party business. The problem with that is no one has been gathering over this past year to have those parties. Needless to say, it was devastating to our business. After considering our options, we've made a very difficult decision to remain closed permanently," the announcement said.

The beloved bakery was featured in the children's book "A Ticket to the Pennant: A Tale of Baseball in Seattle," by Mark Holtzen, which was set in 1955 in Seattle.

Microsoft to bring workers back to HQ

Microsoft will begin bringing workers back to its suburban Seattle global headquarters on March 29 as the tech giant starts to reopen more facilities it largely shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a post Monday on the company's corporate blog, Executive Vice President Kurt DelBene said Microsoft has been monitoring local health data and decided it can bring more employees back to its Redmond, Washington, campus.

DelBene said workers will have the choice to return to headquarters, continue working remotely or do a combination of both.

More than 50,000 people work at the company's headquarters campus in Redmond, 15 miles east of Seattle.

U.S. home sales fall; prices rise

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes slowed last month as rising prices and a dearth of homes for sale kept some would-be buyers on the sidelines.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that existing homes sales in February fell 6.6% from January to a seasonally-adjusted rate of 6.22 million annualized units. Sales were up 9.1% from February last year, before the pandemic upended the economy and temporarily held up home sales last spring.

Severe winter weather across much of the U.S. was likely a factor in the slowdown, which marked the first monthly sales decline in two months. However, a recent rise in mortgage rates was not, as February sales largely reflect contracts signed weeks before the uptick in rates. The report showed that the U.S. median home price was \$313,000 in February, up 15.8% from a year earlier.

— Bulletin wire reports

CASCADE LAKES BREWING CO.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin photos

A section of the newly remodeled bar at Cascade Lakes Brewing Co., seen on Thursday.

New beer, new digs

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

Cascade Lakes Brewing Co. hadn't changed its look much since 2004. It had the same logo. Largely the same beer options. And the same vibe at its Chandler Avenue pub in southwest Bend.



Andy Rhine, general manager at Cascade Lakes Brewing Co., assembles a set of chairs to place around the newly installed fire pit while preparing to reopen the brewery.

When the governor issued her second shutdown order in November to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Andy Rhine and his family, who purchased the brewery in 2018, used the downtime to revamp, relaunch and remodel the brewery. They reopened on Friday.

The brewery now sports a more modern remodeled look, a revamped menu and different beer options. Rhine would not disclose how much was invested in the re-branding of the brew pub.

Craft breweries often will re-brand or create new beers. Smaller brewing systems allow for such innovation, and using the disruption caused by the pandemic as a positive in their business is something that other brewers have done as well, said Bart Watson, Brewers Association chief economist. Craft breweries that have the financial resources are using this disruption from the pandemic to reinvest and reinvent, said Watson, whose association is based in Colorado.

"Brand and concept refreshes are a constant in the beer business," Watson said. "Without having hard stats, I think we're seeing a bit more right now, but some might be due to increasing competitiveness."

In 2019, the most current year

data are available, there were 8,386 craft brewers nationwide, compared with 1,653 craft brewers in 2009, according to the Brewers Association. In Oregon, there were 311 craft breweries in 2019, compared with 124 in 2011, according to data provided by the Brewers Association.

Craft beer production grew 3.6% in 2019, but beer production overall declined 1.6% as many found a plethora of alcohol options competing in the arena.

At Cascade Lakes, Rhine said, "We got excited by the opportunity. We elevated the look. The remodel is more of a modern Aspen-ski design and feel. We wanted to get back on the radar of our customers."

There also are more outdoor fire pits and outdoor seating, Rhine said. The ski gondola is still there, too.

With the help of Ryan Schmiege, a former assistant brewmaster at Deschutes Brewery, Cascade Lakes worked to elevate the quality and diversification of the beer. The brewery also is expanding its offerings to include barrel-aged beers, cider and hard seltzer, said Rhine.

The Rhine family purchased the brewery from Rick Orazetti and Doug and Ron Kutella. Chris

Justema, who was part of the previous ownership, was initially retained as a shareholder of the company, Rhine said. The company now, however, is solely owned by the family.

A Bend High School graduate, Rhine said the entire family is involved and many are moving back to Bend.

Cascade Lakes Brewing Co. is among the oldest Central Oregon breweries, having been founded in Redmond in 1994. The company operates two brewpubs, one in Bend and another in Redmond. Its beer is brewed in a 25-barrel system in Redmond.

Among the big changes in the beer-making arena is the growth of new beers that Cascade Lakes is now producing, Rhine said. Typically it would make three to five new beers, but now it's more than 25, Rhine said. Executive chef Jeff Kelly was hired and has revamped the menu, Rhine said.

The brewery owners wanted to create a new memorable experience from the beer to the pub's ambiance.

"We wanted to celebrate Central Oregon," Rhine said. "So, now you'll see a Cascade Lakes mural on the wall."

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Industries push U.S. to ease travel restrictions

BY DAVID KOENIG

The Associated Press

Airlines and other tourism-related businesses are pushing the White House to draw up a plan in the next five weeks to boost international travel and eliminate restrictions that were imposed early in the pandemic.

More than two dozen groups made their request in a letter to the White House on Monday.

They want people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 to be exempt from testing requirements before entering the United States. They also want the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to say that vaccinated people can travel safely.

The groups say those and other steps will speed up the recovery of the travel and airline industries, which have been devastated by a plunge in travel during the pandemic.

U.S. air travel is already picking up. More than 1 million people have passed through U.S. airport checkpoints each of the last 11 days, with Sunday's total topping more than 1.5 million for the first time in more than a year. Passenger traffic is still below 2019 levels, however.

The organizations set a May 1 target for the government "to partner with us" on a plan to rescind year-old restrictions on international travel.

The groups cited the recent decline in reported new cases, hospitalizations and deaths related to COVID-19 in the United States.

"The time to plan for and chart a defined roadmap to reopen international travel is now," they wrote in a letter to White House virus-response coordinator Jeffrey Zients.

The White House did not comment but referred to remarks by CDC Director Rochelle Walensky on Monday. Walensky said the health agency is working on new guidance for people who are vaccinated, but raised concern about recent increases in new reported cases of coronavirus in many European countries.

Maker of Aplets & Cotlets candy to close after 101 years

BY SIERRA DAWN

MCLAIN

Capital Press

CASHMERE, Wash. — After more than 100 years in business, Liberty Orchards Co., the Washington state maker of Aplets & Cotlets fruit candies, has announced it will permanently close June 1.

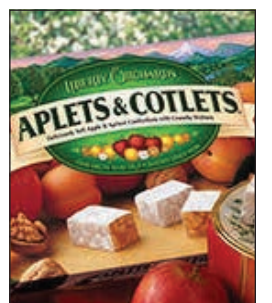
Company president Greg Taylor, 72, grandson of Liberty Orchards co-founder Armen Tertsgian, said the family business has been seeking a buyer for several years with no luck. Taylor, who's run the company 43 years, said he's "very, very ready" to retire and the younger generations of the family are not interested in keeping the operation going.

"It's bittersweet, but definitely more sweet than bitter. Obviously, we're disappointed it can't continue, but it's time for us all to move on," Taylor told the Capital Press on Friday. "We're so appreciative of all those who have supported our company."

Liberty Orchards, founded in 1920, will continue to seek a buyer for its assets.

Through the decades, the company has bought ingredients — concentrates, purees and freeze-dried fruit — from processors worldwide. Apple concentrates were mainly sourced from Washington state apples.

The company's closure



Submitted photo

will impact around 55 full-time employees.

"We're proud to have provided employment for thousands of families over the past more than 100 years," said Taylor.

The closure will mean people can no longer buy Aplets & Cotlets candies after this June.

When the company released news of its impending closure, the community of Cashmere, Washington, near Wenatchee, was shaken.

"Liberty Orchards is part of Cashmere's identity," Cashmere's mayor, Jim Fletcher, told Eater Seattle, a food publication.

In a statement, the Cashmere Chamber of Commerce said that Liberty Orchards has made Cashmere "a traveler destination."

On Aplets & Cotlets' Facebook announcement about closing, hundreds of people commented, many calling the upcoming closure "heartbreaking" and "sad." Many shared memories about touring the factory.