

<b>DOW</b> 33,800.60 +297.03	<b>NASDAQ</b> 13,900.18 +70.88	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> 4,128.80 +31.63	<b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.34% +0.2	<b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$59.32 -28	<b>GOLD</b> \$1,743.30 -13.50	<b>SILVER</b> \$25.31 -26	<b>EURO</b> \$1.1902 -0.015
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**BRIEFING**

**Clackamas balks at virus restrictions**

Clackamas County commissioners bristled Thursday over impending COVID-19 restrictions on businesses, voting unanimously to send a letter to Gov. Kate Brown objecting to renewed limitations.

The county's five elected board members said they felt the ordered move to stricter regulations would place an unsustainable strain on businesses such as restaurants and gyms.

The governor announced Tuesday that Multnomah and Clackamas counties would need to implement tighter restrictions Friday because of increased coronavirus spread. Each exceeded coronavirus benchmarks for case rates over the past two weeks, prompting Brown to move the counties into a high risk designation.

Clackamas County recorded 140.5 coronavirus cases per 100,000 residents in the past two weeks, above the 100-case threshold to face new restrictions.

**Boeing Max jets pulled to inspect electrical systems**

Airlines pulled dozens of Boeing Max 737s out of service for inspections after the aircraft maker told them about a possible electrical problem, the latest setback for the plane.

Boeing said Friday that the issue affected planes used by 16 airlines. The company did not say how many planes are affected or how long it will take for inspections and, if necessary, repairs.

Max jets were grounded worldwide in March 2019 after two crashes killed 346 people. The planes resumed flying in December after regulators in the U.S., Europe, Canada and Brazil approved changes Boeing made to an automated flight-control system that played a role in the crashes.

Boeing said the new issue, in which a component in the electrical power system might not be correctly grounded, was unrelated to the flight-control system.

**SBA halts launch of assistance program**

The U.S. Small Business Administration suspended the launch of the long-awaited Shuttered Venue Operators Grant on Thursday, after applicants were thwarted by technical difficulties. The grants are meant to provide a \$16 billion lifeline to museums, movie theaters, live music venues and even zoos decimated by the pandemic.

Applicants said they could log into the SBA's online application portal but not upload financial documents. The SBA later shut down the portal "to ensure fair and equal access once it is reopened."

"This decision was not made lightly as we understand the need to get relief quickly to this hard-hit industry," the agency wrote on Twitter.

The SBA said technical errors arose despite prior testing. It said it would announce the time and date the portal would reopen. Applicants can sign up for updates and see application checklists at <https://sba.gov/svogrant>

— Bulletin wire reports

**COVID-19 | Bills in the Legislature**

## Oregon is set to slash jobless taxes

BY MIKE ROGOWAY  
The Oregonian

A bill to give Oregon employers a significant break on their unemployment insurance taxes advanced out of a House committee on a 7-0, bipartisan vote Thursday.

That signals House Bill 3389 is on a glide path through an otherwise contentious legislative session, saving employers

\$100 million in taxes this year and a projected \$2.4 billion over the coming decade.

"I just want to emphasize how good this process was," Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, said at a committee hearing earlier this month. He said Democratic and Republican lawmakers found common ground and compromised to come up with a bill that spares employers an

unnecessary tax burden without draining the state's ability to pay jobless benefits.

"We didn't even come close to putting this in jeopardy of insolvency," Bonham said.

Oregon funds its unemployment insurance trust fund with taxes on employers. Those that lay off workers pay the highest rates, the reasoning being that employers who draw the most

from the fund should pay the most to replenish it.

During the pandemic, though, the formula triggered a steep increase in taxes for businesses that laid off workers when COVID-19 forced their businesses to close. That meant that the businesses hardest hit by the pandemic were the ones facing the steepest tax increases.

The Oregon Employment Department forecast that 20% of Oregon employers would have to cover nearly all the projected \$183 million increase in unemployment taxes this year. And taxes would go up again the following two years because the state's funding formula allocates cost increases over a three-year period.

See Taxes / A6

## SILENT PROTEST

### Restaurant in Kosovo sets out mannequin guests amid virus restrictions



Visar Kryeziu/AP

**PHOTOS:** Mannequins are positioned Friday at the tables of Bagolina as a protest against the latest government COVID-19 lockdown measures in Kosovo's capital Pristina. Kosovar association of gastronomy have found an innovative way of protesting, sitting mannequins instead of customers in chairs of closed restaurants and cafeterias following the government's measures.

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — A downtown restaurant in Kosovo's capital filled its tables with mannequins Friday in a symbolic protest of the government's decision to close eateries for two weeks in response to a surge of COVID-19 cases.

Petrit Klllokoqi, owner of Bagolina in Pristina, brought in the mannequins at breakfast and lunchtime.

"The government has not shown us any evidence that gastronomy is causing the surge," Klllokoqi said.

The Kosovo government decided earlier this week to close all restaurants from April 7 to 18. The order affects about 4,000 restaurants and cafes with some 14,000 employees.



Kosovo's gross domestic product fell 4.4% last year due to the pandemic, according to preliminary reports from the government and international institutions. Restaurant owners say financial support the government provided has been inadequate.

Klllokoqi, who is head of the Kosovo Gastronomers Association, said he already had cut his staff to stay in business.

"We can hardly survive like this," he said. Kosovo, which has a population of about 1.8 million, has reported 96,212 confirmed cases and 1,960 virus-related deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Officials said hospitals are reaching their full capacity due to a recent surge of about 1,000 new cases a day.

Kosovo started its vaccination drive this month after receiving a first batch of 24,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses from the World Health Organization-backed COVAX program.

## Amazon's warehouse workers reject union bid in Alabama

BY JOSEPH PISANI, ALEXANDRA OLSON AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
The Associated Press

Workers at an Amazon warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, handed the online retail giant a decisive victory when they voted against forming a union and cut off a path that labor activists had hoped would lead to similar efforts throughout the company and beyond.

After months of aggressive campaigning from both sides, 1,798 warehouse workers ultimately rejected the union while 738 voted in favor of it, according to the National Labor Relations Board, which is overseeing the process.

Of the 3,117 votes cast, 76 were voided for being filled out incorrectly and 505 were contested by either Amazon or the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which led the organizing efforts in Bessemer. But the NLRB said the contested votes were not enough to sway the outcome. About 53% of the nearly 6,000 workers cast their ballots.

See Union / A6

## Nike settles lawsuit over Lil Nas X's 'Satan Shoes'

BY ARON YOHANNES  
The Associated Press

Nike and the company that produced Lil Nas X's "Satan Shoes" reached a settlement on Thursday for a voluntary recall, ending the legal battle between the two over the high-profile sneakers.

Nike said that as part of the settlement, MSCHF, a Brooklyn-based art collective, will issue a voluntary recall on the shoes and offer a buyback program for previously released "Jesus Shoes," according to NBC.

"If any purchasers were confused, or if they otherwise want to return their shoes, they may do so for a full refund," Nike said in a statement. "Purchasers who choose not to return their shoes and later encounter a product issue, defect or health concern should contact MSCHF, not Nike."

David H. Bernstein, an attorney for MSCHF, told NBC the company agreed to settle the lawsuit after realizing it "already achieved its artistic purpose," which was to "comment on the absurdity of the collaboration culture practiced by some brands, and about the perniciousness of intolerance."

The Beaverton-based company opened a lawsuit against MSCHF last month for trademark infringement after MSCHF released a limited run of the modified Air Max 97s, which sold out in less than a minute.

See Shoes / A6