

▲ DOW 33,730.89 +53.62	▼ NASDAQ 13,857.84 -138.26	▼ S&P 500 4,124.66 -16.93	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.32% +0.1	▲ CRUDE OIL \$63.15 +2.97	▼ GOLD \$1,734.90 -11.30	▲ SILVER \$25.52 +.10	▲ EURO \$1.1971 +.0025
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BRIEFING

Ex-Weyerhaeuser manager gets prison for scheme

An ex-finance manager from Weyerhaeuser who stole over \$4.5 million from the timber business was sentenced Wednesday to nearly five years in prison.

Susan Tranberg of Eugene also was sentenced Wednesday to three years of supervised release and was ordered to pay over \$5.3 million in restitution, Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Asphaug said.

Starting as early as June 2004 and until 2019, Tranberg defrauded Weyerhaeuser out of over \$4.5 million by submitting fraudulent invoices for payment to a fake vendor she created, according to court documents.

Tranberg had worked for Weyerhaeuser in Springfield for more than 40 years. A financial analysis determined most of the money was used to fund expensive dinners, vacations, wedding expenses and shopping sprees, Asphaug said.

In 2020, Tranberg was charged with mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, and tax evasion. She pleaded guilty to all three charges, according to Asphaug.

Watchdog opens Facebook probe

Ireland's privacy regulator said Wednesday it has opened an investigation into Facebook after data on more than 500 million users was reportedly found dumped online, in a suspected violation of strict European Union privacy rules.

The Data Protection Commission said it decided to start investigating following "multiple international media reports" about the data dump.

News reports earlier this month said the data was found on a website for hackers and contained information on 533 million users from more than 100 countries, including names, Facebook IDs, phone numbers, locations, birthdates and email addresses.

The watchdog said it launched the investigation after it "engaged with Facebook Ireland," questioning it about compliance with privacy rules. The company responded, the Irish agency said, suggesting it wasn't satisfied with the answers.

Facebook said it's "cooperating fully" with the investigation.

Fed: Economy rebounding

A Federal Reserve survey has found that the economy was rebounding in late February through early April, helped by billions of dollars in a new round of stimulus payments and the stepped-up rollout of coronavirus vaccines.

The new survey released Wednesday showed that the Fed's business contacts around the country were expressing more optimism about the economy's outlook as activity accelerated.

The survey credited a range of factors, from vaccinations to the payments of up to \$1,400 for individuals from the \$1.9 trillion relief package that President Joe Biden pushed through Congress last month.

— Bulletin wire reports

REDMOND

City sells vacant land for \$2.8M

The anonymous buyer plans to build facility on 14 acres, bring 35 to 60 jobs to Redmond

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

The city of Redmond will sell 14 acres of city-owned, vacant land to a construction materials company planning to build a large industrial campus there.

The \$2.67 million sale — unanimously approved by the Redmond City Council on Tuesday — will allow for the eventual creation of 35 to 60 new jobs after the campus is complete.

"It's a win-win on all ac-

counts," Jon Stark, director of the Redmond Economic Development Inc. nonprofit, told the council Tuesday. "It creates ... jobs in the community, it relieves us of some surplus land and puts some money in the city's general fund."

The company, which manufactures and distributes construction materials, wishes to remain anonymous for now,

Stark told The Bulletin on Wednesday.

"They don't want it out there until they can tell their story," he said.

The city acquired an 18-acre patch of land, located deep in Redmond's industrial east side, in 2001 with the intentions of building city water and public works facilities there, according to Bill Duerden, public

works director.

However, while the city used 4 acres to build a water facility, the other 14 acres remained vacant after a different location was chosen for public works around 2010, Duerden told the City Council on Tuesday.

"We no longer have a need for the 14 acres remaining," he said.

See **Redmond** / A12

MORE COLOR FOR YOUR PLATE

OSU researcher develops new purple tomato with antioxidant effects



Courtesy of Jim Myers/OSU via Capital Press

Jim Myers of Oregon State University holds the new Midnight Roma tomato he developed.

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN • Capital Press

CORVALLIS —

Oregon State University this week announced a new, university-developed purple tomato called the Midnight Roma. Jim Myers, 66, a vegetable breeder and professor in OSU's College of Agricultural Science, bred the new variety, which follows 10 years after Myers' development of the Indigo Rose, the first all-purple tomato on the market.

Myers' new Midnight Roma, a large, multipurpose tomato, is a cross between Indigo Rose and Oregon Star varieties. Its color appeals to chefs making eye-catching pastes, and the tomato is high in anthocyanins, which have antioxidant effects good for human health.

"I think it'll be popular among home gardeners, canners and high-end chefs," said Myers, the breeder. "I also think there's potential for it

go into the processing trade, more in the specialty processing sector. It makes a very pretty sauce, very dark red, as you can imagine."

The Midnight Roma can be enjoyed sliced or in paste. Varietals grown for paste, Myers said, are usually dense and "meaty" with fewer seeds, but often weak in flavor because the tomato's placenta — the gel and seed region — packs the flavor. Fresh market varietals are often

seedy and flavorful but don't make great paste.

The Midnight Roma, Myers said, is both meaty and seedy, making it a good choice for both markets.

It also has the potential to attract health-conscious consumers because it is rich in anthocyanins, which are anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and linked to other health benefits.

See **Tomato** / A12

OREGON | **JOBLESS**

Increased flexibility set for overpaid benefits

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

A Senate committee voted unanimously Tuesday to give the Oregon Employment Department more flexibility to allow jobless workers to keep the money when the state pays them too much.

Oregon typically recoups that overpaid money from future benefits payments. That practice was designed to reduce the pressure on unemployed workers to pay back money, when the state makes a mistake, by deducting it from future payments instead of demanding that workers pay up right away.

In practice, though, it often means that workers miss out on benefits when they need it most — after they've lost their jobs.

So Senate Bill 172 would give the state more latitude to waive collection of overpaid benefits, and it would put a five-year ceiling on the state's ability to reclaim the money. The state already had some flexibility to forgive overpayments, in cases when collecting the money "would be against equity and good conscience."

The bill doesn't change the state's practices in recouping money paid in cases of fraud.

The Senate Committee on Labor and Business approved the bill on a 5-0 vote Tuesday, with the bipartisan endorsement signaling it has strong prospects before the full Legislature. It now awaits a vote by the full Oregon Senate.

The bill doesn't change the state's practices in recouping money paid in cases of fraud.

Coinbase soars in market debut, valued near \$86B

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN AND ALEX VEIGA

The Associated Press

Coinbase made a rousing debut Wednesday on Wall Street, with shares of the digital currency exchange rising as high as \$429, briefly giving it a market value over \$100 billion.

Coinbase Global Inc.'s initial public offering happened with cryptocurrency chatter seemingly everywhere, even at the U.S. Federal Reserve. Digital currencies are being incorporated into business plans and accepted for payment by major

corporations like Tesla and Visa.

The San Francisco-based company's listing on a public stock exchange is seen by some as an inflection point for digital currencies, as Coinbase's fortunes are closely tied to Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency. Bitcoin's price topped \$64,000 on Wednesday, up from \$29,000 at the start of the year, and Coinbase said recently that first-quarter revenue should total around \$1.8 billion, exceeding its revenue for all of 2020.

Shares of Coinbase are listed on the Nasdaq under the ticker

"COIN," and closed at \$328.28, up 31% from the \$250 reference price set by Nasdaq ahead of the first trade. That puts Coinbase's market value at \$85.78 billion.

That market value makes Coinbase one of the biggest publicly traded U.S. companies — just 93 companies in the S&P 500 index have a higher value. Coinbase's value is close to the combined market value of Nasdaq Inc., which runs the Nasdaq Stock Market, and Intercontinental Exchange, which owns the New York Stock Exchange.

See **Coinbase** / A12



Richard Drew/AP

Coinbase employees celebrate Wednesday outside the Nasdaq Market-Site, in New York's Times Square.