

▼ DOW 34,077.63 -123.04	▼ NASDAQ 13,914.77 -137.58	▼ S&P 500 4,163.26 -22.21	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.29% +03	▲ CRUDE OIL \$63.38 +25	▼ GOLD \$1,769.40 -9.60	▼ SILVER \$25.83 -27	▲ EURO \$1.2039 +.0061
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BRIEFING

Union appeals Amazon election

Accusing Amazon.com Inc. of misconduct, the retail union that lost a hotly contested election at the company's Alabama warehouse has asked federal officials to set aside the results.

In a complaint filed late Friday with the National Labor Relations Board, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union alleged that Amazon "prevented a free and uncoerced exercise of choice by the employees," including threatening employees and retaliating against union supporters.

"Rather than accepting these employees' choice, the union seems determined to continue misrepresenting the facts in order to drive its own agenda," an Amazon spokesperson said in an email.

A successful appeal by the union would likely lead to a new election. Failing that, the RWDSU would have to wait at least 12 months and also sign up enough employees to again demonstrate substantial support for the proposed bargaining unit.

Developer of PDFs, Adobe founder dies

Charles "Chuck" Geschke — the co-founder of the major software company Adobe Inc. who helped develop Portable Document Format technology, or PDFs — died at age 81.

Geschke, who lived in the San Francisco Bay Area suburb of Los Altos, died Friday, the company said.

"As co-founders of Adobe, Chuck and John Warnock developed groundbreaking software that has revolutionized how people create and communicate," Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen wrote in an email to the company's employees. "Their first product was Adobe PostScript, an innovative technology that provided a radical new way to print text and images on paper and sparked the desktop publishing revolution. Chuck instilled a relentless drive for innovation in the company, resulting in some of the most transformative software inventions, including the ubiquitous PDF, Acrobat, Illustrator, Premiere Pro and Photoshop."



Geschke

Coca-Cola sees signs for recovery

Increased vaccinations are helping Coca-Cola Co. recapture some of its global drink business, with the company reporting Monday that volume of drinks sold reached pre-pandemic levels in March. The Atlanta-based company reported better financial results than some analysts had expected.

The COVID-19 pandemic left Coke with its steepest annual decline in the volume of drinks sold since the 1940s.

CEO James Quincey predicted a relatively quick succession of recovery phases in the U.S., where restaurants and bars started to rebound in March. Still, he said, the company's U.S. fountain business — as opposed to drinks in bottles and cans — was still down.

— Bulletin wire reports

OREGON

Senate OKs bill to ease pharmacy access

East Oregonian

SALEM — Oregon would join all states west of Texas that allow pharmacists to fill prescriptions and provide services via telephone and electronic devices under a bill approved by the Senate on a 29-1 vote Monday. It now goes to the House.

SB 629, sponsored by Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, would build on lessons he said have been learned out of the pandemic.

"The pandemic has made us realize that many services we depend on can be provided online or over the phone," he said in a statement after the vote.

"We can leverage these tools to expand access to health care for rural, elderly, and disabled Oregonians. This is a chance for Oregon to evolve in our delivery of health care."

Hansell said many rural towns

do not have a pharmacist, requiring long distances for patients to get prescriptions filled. Most states in the West, with long distances between medical facilities, already allow for wider use of telephones and computers to relay information to fill prescriptions. Oregon still limits the authority of pharmacists to communicate electronically with pharmacy technicians and customers in order to fill orders.

Casino project is among largest on the Vegas Strip

Resorts World Las Vegas sets opening date for June



Ken Ritter/AP

BY KEN RITTER • Associated Press

One of the biggest casino projects ever on the Las Vegas Strip has set a date to open, after more than seven years of planning and building.

Resorts World Las Vegas announced Monday it will open to the public June 24 and began taking reservations for more than 3,500 rooms at its three Hilton-branded hotels.

The first ground-up resort built on the Strip in more than a decade will open during a pandemic that has upended the Las Vegas economy with business restrictions intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak has set a June 1 goal for 100% reopening of businesses shuttered in March 2020.

The resort is on the site of the former Stardust, an iconic Las Vegas landmark that was the largest hotel in the world when it opened in 1958 with 1,500 rooms. It closed in 2006 and was owned by Boyd Gaming Corp. when its 32-story tower was imploded in March 2007.

Malaysia-based Genting Group, an operator of resorts and casinos around the world, bought the site in 2013 from Boyd Gaming for \$350 million.

The \$4.3 billion project has been

under construction since May 2015.

Scott Sibella, president of Resorts World Las Vegas, acknowledged the years of work included delays and redesigns to reshape the Asian theme of the big 88-acre property.

"We are filled with gratitude and excitement as we approach our opening ... and hope to play a role in Las Vegas' rebound after what has been an incredibly challenging year," Sibella said in a statement. A time for doors to open was not immediately disclosed.

The property has emerged as a curved, red, 59-story structure with a huge dynamic LED facade facing Las Vegas Boulevard. The owner calls the 100,000-square-foot display one of the largest in the U.S.

Its three hotels — dubbed Las Vegas Hilton at Resorts World, Conrad Las Vegas at Resorts World, and Crocford's Las Vegas, LXR Hotels and Resorts — are designed to offer a range of amenities.

Announcements in recent weeks have focused on Zouk Nightclub and AYU Dayclub headliners including Zedd and Tiësto.

The scale of the complex is huge among Strip resorts, with more than 40 restaurants, eateries and beverage outlets; multiple retail shops and stores; a 117,000-square-foot casino; and 250,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space. The resort also will include a 5.5-acre pool and spa complex with seven swimming pools.

AEG Presents will partner with the resort in a 5,000-capacity concert and entertainment theater programmed and operated by Concerts West. The Las Vegas Review-Journal has reported possible headliners including Katy Perry, Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood and Luke Bryan.

Resorts World also will have a station connected by developer Elon Musk's underground Tesla vehicle transit with the renovated Las Vegas Convention Center.

The biggest single development on the Strip was the \$9.2 billion CityCenter partnership between MGM Resorts International and Dubai World. It opened in December 2009 and includes the Aria, Vdara, Waldorf Astoria and Veer hotel and condominium towers and a retail and entertainment district.

Other large projects in recent years include the more than \$4.1 billion Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas and \$2.7 billion Wynn Las Vegas. The Bellagio, known for its dancing water fountains, opened in 1998 at a cost of about \$1.6 billion.

Glitches stall relief for theaters, live music venues

BY HAMZA SHABAN

The Washington Post

An online application portal meant to help the nation's music and arts venues get federal pandemic relief after a year-plus of dark stages and a hard-fought lobbying campaign has yet to get off the ground nearly two weeks after technical problems scuttled its scheduled launch.

The delayed rollout of the \$16 billion program, which the Small Business Administration says could be resolved later this week, is the latest stumble by a government agency tasked with delivering emergency aid during the pandemic. The problems — including meltdowns of states' unemployment insurance systems, stimulus payment delays and glitches in vaccine registration websites — highlight the limits of bureaucratic competency and underscore the daunting task of running massive rescue programs during a public health crisis.

The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, which would top out at \$10 million apiece, is designed to help venues, theaters and other arts and entertainment businesses cover payroll, rent, utilities and other operating expenses after government restrictions on public gatherings cut off the crowds that serve as their lifeblood.

Arden Barnett, the owner of Duling Hall, a premier music venue in Jackson, Mississippi, has been unable to make rent for more than a year. He says he has lost count of how many shows he has canceled or postponed since his last performance sold out in March 2020. Like other music venue operators — which analysts estimate lost a collective \$33 billion in 2020 — he had planned to apply as soon as the SBA portal opened April 8.

But almost immediately, the application site crashed, forcing the SBA to pull the system offline.

"The day comes for our hallelujah moment, and our landlords on cloud nine thinking he is going to get paid, and then 'boom,'" Barnett said. "It was like a bad acid trip."

The SBA said Friday that it will share an exact date in advance of the portal's reopening to give applicants time to prepare.

"I do wake up in the middle of the night because I feel bad that we have not been able to do what our responsibility is, which is to pay rent," Barnett said.

Audrey Fix Schaefer, a spokeswoman for the National Independent Venue Association, a 3,000-member organization that helped lobby Congress for the rescue package, said her group has been assured by the White House that reopening the portal was a top priority at the SBA. "They're working around the clock on rigorous stress testing and other improvements on the system." Still, she noted, some small businesses won't be able to hold out much longer.

"Understandably, landlords can't last forever. Eviction notices are coming. People are saying, 'we can't do this anymore,'" she said.

As states move to relax their restrictions on businesses and gatherings, concert goers and audiences are clamoring for a return to live events. Demand for outdoor shows and festivals has exploded in the U.S., matching and even surpassing pre-pandemic levels, according to Boris Patronoff, chief executive of See Tickets in North America, the ticketing services company.

"A lot of people have struggled, a lot of people have suffered, but the people still want to go to concerts, the consumer demand is driving that business," he said, stressing that venue operators want to expand responsibly.

Barnett of Duling Hall said his schedule is booked two to five acts deep for multiple days a week through the summer.

Regulator flags Peloton treadmill after child death

BY JOSEPH PISANI

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Safety regulators warned people with kids and pets Saturday to immediately stop using a treadmill made by Peloton after one child died and nearly 40 others were injured.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said it received reports of children and a pet being pulled, pinned and entrapped under the rear roller

of the Tread+ treadmill, leading to fractures, scrapes and the death of one child.

The commission posted a video on its YouTube page of a child being pulled under the treadmill.

New York-based Peloton Interactive Inc. said in a news release that the warning was "inaccurate and misleading."

It said there's no reason to stop using the treadmill as long as children and pets are kept away

from it at all times, it is turned off when not in use and a safety key is removed.

But the safety commission said that in at least one episode, a child was pulled under the treadmill while a parent was running on it, suggesting it can be dangerous to children even while a parent is present.

If adults want to keep using the treadmill, the commission said, they should use it only in a locked room so children and

pets can't come near it. When not in use, the treadmill should be unplugged and the safety key taken out and hidden away. The commission also said to keep exercise balls and other objects away from it, because those have been pulled under the treadmill, too.

Peloton is best known for its stationary bikes, but it introduced the treadmill about three years ago and now calls it the Tread+. It costs more than

\$4,000.

Sales of Peloton equipment have soared during the pandemic as virus-weary people avoid gyms and workout at home instead. The company brought in \$1 billion in revenue in the last three months of 2020, more than double its revenue from the same period a year before.

The commission did not say how many of the Peloton treadmills have been sold.