

▼ DOW 33,821.30 -256.33	▼ NASDAQ 13,786.27 -128.50	▼ S&P 500 4,134.94 -28.32	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.27% -02	▼ CRUDE OIL \$62.44 -.94	▲ GOLD \$1,777.30 +7.90	▲ SILVER \$25.84 +.01	▼ EURO \$1.2030 -0009
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BRIEFING

PDX getting direct flight to Seoul

Delta Air Lines said Tuesday that it will add a direct flight to South Korea from Portland International Airport and restore a flight to that city since 1999. The new flight begins Sept. 9.

On May 28, Delta will begin flying daily between Portland and John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. Currently, JetBlue has red-eye flights to JFK twice a week. Alaska Airlines plans to resume flights to JFK on July 2.

Sun Country Airlines has restored service from Portland to Minneapolis, and Condor Airlines will resume flying from PDX to Frankfurt, Germany, on May 21. Icelandair will resume flying in and out of Portland on July 2.

In some cases, airlines are planning flights to foreign destinations that don't currently allow most travel from the United States. But hopes are rising that travel restrictions will ease in the coming weeks.

Nike, Kobe's estate end partnership

Nike's endorsement contract with the Kobe Bryant estate was not renewed, and its longtime partnership with the late basketball superstar has ended, the company said in a statement Monday.

"Kobe Bryant was an important part of Nike's deep connection to consumers. He pushed us and made everyone around him better. Though our contractual relationship has ended, he remains a deeply loved member of the Nike family."

The decision was made by Vanessa Bryant and the Kobe Bryant estate after his post-retirement contract expired on April 13, ending a nearly 20-year relationship.

Bryant originally signed with Nike in 2003 after starting his professional endorsement career with Adidas in 1996. Nike released more than a dozen signature sneakers and continued to release shoes for Bryant following his retirement in 2016.

Netflix's subscriber growth slows

Netflix's rapid subscriber growth is slowing faster than anticipated as people who have been stuck at home during the pandemic are able to get out and do other things.

The video-streaming service added 4 million more worldwide subscribers from January through March, its smallest gain during that three-month period in four years.

The performance reported Tuesday was about 2 million fewer subscribers than both management and analysts had predicted Netflix would add during the first quarter.

It marked a huge comedown from the same time last year when Netflix added nearly 16 million subscribers. That came just as governments around the world imposed lockdowns that created a huge captive audience for the leading video-streaming service.

Netflix forecast an increase of just 1 million worldwide subscribers in its current April-June period, down from an increase of 10 million subscribers at the same time last year.

— Bulletin wire reports

CENTRAL OREGON EMPLOYMENT

Region could reach full job recovery by June

BY SUZANNE ROIG
The Bulletin

While Central Oregon was in the moderate risk category for the transmission of COVID-19, the employment recovery was extraordinary, according to the March state employment report.

The job gains are so significant that all three counties in Central Oregon could come close to full job recovery by this summer, said Damon Runberg, Oregon Employment Department regional economist.

"I was shocked when I saw

the numbers. It was a phenomenal month," Runberg said. "When we're seeing such massive gains like this, you have to remember that we'll be that much closer to be fully recovered."

"At the pace of job recovery we see now, we'll be fully recovered by June. I think it's because of the combination of the nice weather and businesses can expand to legitimate outdoor dining. People are out!"

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Deschutes County dropped to 6.6%, down from 6.8% in Feb-

ruary, but higher than it was pre-pandemic shutdown in March 2020, when it was 3.3%, according to the employment report.

The county added 1,880 jobs since February, the largest gain since last summer when the county added 2,760 jobs in July, the report stated. Most of those jobs were in the leisure and hospitality industry, as many restaurants and bars opened for indoor dining when the county moved to the moderate risk level on March 12. It allows for 50% capacity indoors.

Deschutes County was moved back to high risk, which limits indoor dining to 25% capacity on April 9.

In Jefferson County, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped just slightly to 6.8% in March compared to 6.9% in February, but it was still higher than March of 2020 when it was 4.2%, according to the report.

Only 40 jobs were added to Jefferson County in March, a slower pace than neighboring counties, the report states. However, despite the slower pace of recovery, the county is

the closest in Central Oregon to recovering all the jobs lost due to COVID-19 business shutdowns designed to contain the virus.

In Crook County, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped dramatically in March to 7.3% compared to 7.9% in February, but it was still higher than the same time the year before, the report states.

About 120 jobs were added in March, the second highest in the current recovery phase.

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PORTLAND loves its boba tea

➤ **Boba tea drinks available at 5 Flavor Cafe in Portland on April 2.** Mark Graves/The Oregonian

More than 30 shops serving the Taiwanese drink have opened in 3 years

BY JAIMIE DING
The Oregonian

When Portland's earliest known boba tea shop, Tea Chai Te, opened in December 2003, store owners Angela and Dominic Valdes watched many of their customers experience the drink for the first time.

The couple first encountered the Taiwanese beverage themselves in 2002 at a Seattle boba shop. Angela Valdes said they spent the first few years "explaining to customers" how to enjoy the drink.

"From popping open the drink with a big brightly colored straw to having tapioca pearls and coconut jellies in the bottom, (there) was



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian
Tiki Tea PDX in Portland's Alberta neighborhood offers several boba teas, other drinks and desserts.

something new and exciting for everyone," she said.

The drink that originated in Taiwan has exploded into U.S. markets, bringing a wave of boba shops to Portland.

Boba tea, or just boba for short, is generally a sweetened milk tea with black, chewy tapioca pearls at the bottom that you suck up through fat straws. The pearls are made from the starch of the cassava root, a tuber also known as yuca, native to South America.

There are competing stories for who exactly invented the drink, but many say it originated in Taiwan in the 1980s at the Chun Shui Tang teahouse.

See **Boba tea** / A12

Apple unveils new products, schedules privacy crackdown

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
The Associated Press

SAN RAMON, Calif. — Apple spruced up its product line at an event Tuesday while slipping in quiet notice of a software update, now due next week, designed to enhance the privacy of iPhone users at the expense of digital advertisers such as Facebook.

Timing for the software upgrade trickled out during a series of announcements for new iPads, iMac computers and more during a pre-recorded event that sometimes seemed like a one-hour infomercial for Apple.

Apple also unveiled a gadget called AirTags — coin-sized devices that can be attached to keys, backpacks, purses and other items to help people track them down via



Jae C. Hong/AP
In this illustration photographed in La Habra, California, the new iMac computers are introduced during a virtual event held Tuesday.

iPhone if they're misplaced. The AirTags, due in stores April 30, will require the iPhone software update called iOS 14.5. That update will also include a new feature requiring apps to obtain explicit permission from

users before tracking their activity and whereabouts. Apple said in a footnote to its AirTags announcement that the update will be released at some point next week.

See **Apple** / A12

Some Oregon jobless benefits delayed by website troubles

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

Thousands of self-employed Oregonians have been unable to file their weekly benefits claims because of ongoing issues with the state's website.

Issues cropped up over the weekend, the Oregon Employment Department said on Twitter. They affect people seeking to file claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a new class of benefits Congress created last year for self-employed workers and contractors.

Unemployed workers typically must file claims every week to continue receiving benefits. The department said Monday that the website had

"several issues" over the weekend, describing "slow load times, lack of confirmation emails, and more."

Initially the department said it hoped to resolve the issue early Monday. But the department tweeted Tuesday that problems were continuing and offered no timeline for resolving them.

"We anticipate payments will be delayed this week. You do not need to resubmit your certification," the department tweeted Monday. "We apologize for any inconvenience."

Oregon has been among the slowest states in the nation at paying jobless claims during the pandemic.

See **Benefits** / A12