

▲ DOW 33,984.93 +3.36	▼ NASDAQ 14,090.22 -48.56	▼ S&P 500 4,186.72 -.90	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.29% +.05	▲ CRUDE OIL \$62.94 +1.03	▼ GOLD \$1,778.00 -1.20	▲ SILVER \$26.41 +.20	▼ EURO \$1.2089 -.0003
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BRIEFING

DoorDash to offer lower-priced plans

DoorDash is launching lower-priced delivery options for U.S. restaurants, responding to criticism that the commissions it charges are too high.

The San Francisco delivery company said Tuesday it will offer a new basic plan that will charge restaurants 15% per order for delivery, or around half the cost of previous plans. That plan will limit the delivery area and shift more delivery costs to customers — they might pay \$4.99 instead of \$2.99, for example.

Restaurants can pay more — commissions of 25% or 30% — for other plans if they want a larger delivery area, more visibility in DoorDash's app or lower customer delivery fees.

DoorDash said local restaurants and chains with less than 75 locations are eligible for the new rates. The company wouldn't say how many of its partner restaurants meet that criteria. But DoorDash delivers from nearly 400,000 restaurants using a network of 1 million freelance drivers.

U.S. confidence continues to rise

Consumer confidence rose sharply for a second straight month, hitting the highest level since the pandemic began, as the rapid rollout of vaccines and another round of U.S. financial support for Americans boosts optimism.

The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its consumer confidence index advanced to a better-than-expected 121.7 in April, up from 109.0 in March. It was the strongest reading since the index stood at 132.6 in February 2020, right before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in the United States.

The present situation index, based on consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions, soared from 110.1 to 139.5. The expectations index, based on consumers' views of what conditions will be like over the next six months, posted a more moderate gain, rising from 108.3 last month to 109.8 in April.

Biden ups pay for contract workers

President Joe Biden signed an executive order Tuesday to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for federal contractors.

Biden administration officials said that the higher wages would lead to greater worker productivity, offsetting any additional costs to taxpayers.

The liberal Economic Policy Institute estimates that as many as 390,000 low-wage federal contractors would receive a raise, with roughly half of the beneficiaries being Black or Hispanic workers. There are an estimated 5 million contract workers in the federal government, according to a posting last year for the Brookings Institution by Paul Light, a public policy professor at New York University.

The increase could be dramatic for workers who earn the current minimum of \$10.95 an hour. Those workers would receive a 37% pay hike, though the increase would be rolled out gradually, according to the terms of the order.

— Bulletin wire reports

EarthCruiser unveils new globe-trotting model

Bend company adapts during pandemic



Lounge area in a TerraNova (above). EarthCruiser TerraNova is mounted on a Ford F-350 chassis (below) which gives it a smaller profile. Submitted photos

BY GERRY O'BRIEN

The Bulletin

There's a new style of EarthCruiser in town.

EarthCruiser, the Bend-based manufacturer of luxury expedition vehicles that can travel the world on- and off-road, is unveiling a new line of its trucks this week. Called the EC TerraNova, it is a custom-camper or "cab-over" that is tailor-made to sit on the chassis of a Ford F350 pickup, but in a more exacting way compared to conventional campers. Coming in 2022, the same model will be integrated with Chevrolet or Dodge models.

The company was founded in 2009, first launching in Brisbane, Australia, then relocating to the Bend headquarters in 2013.

Lance Gillies, CEO and founder of EarthCruiser, said the advent of the new topper came when two

things collided — the COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to have a remote vehicle, but one that was not as large an investment as a full-sized EarthCruiser.

"We have been building expedition vehicles for a long time, and have been wanting to build something on a domestic chassis. And, essentially with COVID-19, that accelerated that dramatically," Gillies said. "Our specialty is building vehicles for remote travel, and people wanted to be more remote than usual when the pandemic hit."

EarthCruisers are known for going off-road to remote locations around the world; some places such as the jungles of Borneo or the Sahara Desert, have no roads or amenities at all. Hence, one can bring much of that along in an EarthCruiser.

See **EarthCruiser** / A12



Gillies



Agreement with Japan positive for beef, wheat

BY RICHARD SMITH

For the Capital Press

TOKYO — It is still too early to assess the total impact the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement has had on Japan's imports of U.S. beef and wheat.

Market watchers do see a positive impact from the trade deal, in effect since January of last year, but point out the COVID-19 pandemic has complicated matters.

Because of COVID-19, the past year would have been an especially bad time for U.S. beef to face a significant tariff disadvantage in its top export market, U.S. Meat Export Federation Japan director Takemichi Yamashoji said.

"So the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement delivered important benefits for both Japanese consumers and the U.S. beef industry," Yamashoji said.

Although the trade pact did remove the mark-up on U.S. wheat, the commodity only suffered a minimal loss of market share during the one year when wheat from Canada and Australia had an advantage through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, U.S. Wheat Associates Japan country director Kazunori Nakano said.

The U.S. pulled out of the original TPP agreement, opting instead to negotiate a separate agreement with Japan.

See **Japan** / A12



Ellen M. Banner/Seattle Times

Before administering a COVID-19 vaccination at the Amazon fulfillment center in Kent, Washington, on Monday, Walgreens pharmacist Ai Phan-Tang, right, asks Amazon senior operations manager Alex Ivanov if he has any questions about the vaccine.

Amazon pushes to vaccinate thousands of warehouse workers

BY KATHERINE ANNE LONG

The Seattle Times

There was more than a little partying in the air at Amazon's first COVID-19 vaccination clinic for its warehouse and delivery workers in Washington state Monday.

In a conference room festooned with balloons and streamers, just off the deafening hum of the company's warehouse floor in Kent, grinning workers rolled up their sleeves to show their fresh Band-Aids and snapped photographs next to a selfie wall. "I GOT VACCINATED," read

a massive balloon display on the way out of the clinic.

"At first, I was hesitant to take the shot," said Amazon senior operations manager Alex Ivanov, who was vaccinated at the clinic Monday. Ivanov said he was nervous that the vaccine had been authorized for emergency use before receiving Food and Drug Administration approval — but as he watched friends and family get their shots with no ill consequences, he decided to join them.

See **Amazon** / A12

Over 400 businesses back LGBTQ rights act

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

The Associated Press

More than 400 companies — including Tesla, Pfizer, Delta Air Lines and Amazon — have signed on to support civil rights legislation for LGBTQ people that is moving through Congress, advocates said Tuesday.

The Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based LGBTQ advocacy group, said its Business Coalition for the Equality Act has grown to 416 members, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies. Big names like Apple, PepsiCo, General Motors, CVS, Facebook, Marriott, Capital One, Starbucks and Home Depot pepper the list.

"It's time that civil rights protections be extended to LGBTQ+ individuals nationwide on a clear, consistent and comprehensive basis," said Carla Grant Pickens, IBM's chief diversity and inclusion officer, in a statement distributed by the Human Rights Campaign.

The Equality Act would amend existing civil rights law to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identification as protected characteristics. Those protections would extend to employment, housing, loan applications, education and other areas.

The bill passed the U.S. House 224-206 in February, with all Democrats but just three Republicans supporting it.