

<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>DOW</b> 34,269.16 -473.66	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>NASDAQ</b> 13,389.43 -12.43	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 4,152.10 -36.33	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.35% +03	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$65.28 +.36	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>GOLD</b> \$1,835.90 -1.60	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>SILVER</b> \$27.66 +.18	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>EURO</b> \$1.2152 +.0007
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**BRIEFING**

**U.S. job openings at record high**

U.S. job openings surged in March to a record high, underscoring the rapid increase in labor demand as vaccinations accelerate and states reopen their economies.

The number of available positions increased to 8.12 million during the month, the highest since 2000, from an upwardly revised 7.53 million in February, the Labor Department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, showed Tuesday.

The number of vacancies exceeded hires by more than 2 million, the largest gap on record and evidence of current hiring challenges. Many employers say they are unable to fill positions because of ongoing fears of catching the coronavirus, child care responsibilities and generous unemployment benefits.

The increase in openings was fairly broad, including more available positions in accommodation and food services, manufacturing and construction.

**1 million sign up for 'Obamacare'**

President Joe Biden said Tuesday 1 million Americans had signed up for health insurance under "Obamacare" during a special enrollment period for those needing coverage during the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden reopened the HealthCare.gov insurance markets in February for a special six-month sign-up opportunity that will go through Aug. 15. His coronavirus relief package also boosted taxpayer subsidies.

However, the 1 million figure announced Tuesday by the White House also includes people who would have otherwise qualified for a sign-up opportunity, even without Biden's special enrollment period.

A life change such as losing workplace coverage or getting married is considered a "qualifying life event." Last year about 390,000 people signed up because of life changes from Feb. 15-April 30, the government said, and in 2019 it was over 260,000.

The number of uninsured Americans has risen because of job losses due to the pandemic.

**Hemp group's suit against DEA tossed**

A federal district judge in Washington, D.C., has dismissed the hemp industry's lawsuit alleging DEA restrictions overstep the agency's authority.

The Hemp Industries Association filed a complaint last year saying the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's rules would "effectively destroy the burgeoning hemp industry" by criminalizing crop extracts that exceed 0.3% THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana.

The hemp industry argues this threatens every stage of production because hemp's extracts temporarily become more concentrated in THC during processing.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ruled the case should be heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, not in his U.S. District Court.

The Hemp Industries Association has filed a parallel legal action in the federal appeals court.

— Bulletin wire reports

**BEND**

## Single-family home prices climbing again

BY SUZANNE ROIG

The Bulletin

The median price of a single-family home in Bend jumped \$61,000 in April compared to the month before, according to a monthly data report.

The Beacon Report showed that the median price of a single-family home in April was \$651,000, nearly \$200,000 higher than the price was in April 2020. The median price is the midpoint value of all transactions in a month, which was heavily influenced by a growing

number of sales in the million-dollar-plus range, according to the Beacon Appraisal Group LLC report for Central Oregon.

Home sales of a \$1 million or more accounted for 17% of all sales in April in Bend, compared to 7% of the sales during the same time the year before. The volume of high-end home sales is a milestone for Bend, said Donnie Montagner, owner of the Beacon Appraisal Group of Redmond.

Real estate prices in Central Oregon

have been on the rise for the better part of a year, driven in part by out-of-towners wanting to live in more rural areas. Borrower-friendly interest rates also have ignited home sales nationwide giving more buying power to buyers because their money goes further.

The growth in home values is happening across the country, despite the instability caused by the pandemic.

In Redmond, the single-family home median price stayed steady at \$413,000, but inventory levels remain low, accord-

ing to the report. In April 2020, the median sales price shot up to \$358,000 in Redmond.

The April sales data for Sunriver put the median sales price for a single-family home at \$906,000, according to the report. Homes in Sunriver were on the market for an average of five days.

Prices in Sunriver have been on the upswing since the third quarter of 2016 when the median sales price was \$385,000, according to the report.

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➤ Astronaut Alan Shepard sits in his capsule aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on May 5, 1961. Freedom 7 was the first American manned suborbital space flight, making Shepard the first American in space. ➤ Later that day, Shepard was retrieved by a U.S. Marine helicopter after splash-down in the Atlantic Ocean at the end of his suborbital flight.

Photos: AP file (above), NASA (right)



## TOURISM'S FINAL FRONTIER

### 60 years after the first American went to space, adventurers are lining up

BY MARCIA DUNN • AP Aerospace Writer

**C**APE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Sixty years after Alan Shepard became the first American in space, everyday people are on the verge of following in his cosmic footsteps.

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin used this month's anniversary to kick off an auction for a seat on the company's first crew spaceflight — a short Shepard-like hop launched by a rocket named New Shepard. The Texas liftoff is targeted for July 20, the date of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

See Space / A12



Matt Hartman/AP file

➤ Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity departs Mojave Air & Space Port in California in February 2020. Virgin Galactic's spaceship, tucked under the wing of its special carrier aircraft, was on a long-awaited ferry flight to its new home in New Mexico, where it would undergo retrofitting for commercial operations carrying tourists on hops into space.

**\$55 MILLION**

The sky-high price each traveler will pay on a 1½-week SpaceX trip next year. Virgin Galactic has charged about \$250,000 in the past, though that's expected to go up, and Blue Origin won't publicize ticket prices.

## Extension of grace period for past-due rent goes to Gov. Brown

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown's signature awaits a bill that gives tenants more time to pay past-due rent stemming from the coronavirus pandemic and protects their future ability to rent.

The Oregon House sent Senate Bill 282 to the governor on a 39-17 vote on Tuesday. Rep. Julie Fahey, a Democrat from Eugene and chairwoman of the House Committee on Housing, said the bill banks on millions coming in state and federal aid to tenants and landlords.

"It is a reasonable compromise bill that sets the stage for a more equitable recovery," said Fahey, the bill's floor manager and chief sponsor in the House. "By passing this bill, we can ensure that Oregon tenants and landlords can get the full benefit of rental assistance coming to our state and help prevent the fallout from the pandemic following the most vulnerable Oregonians for years to come."

A Dec. 21 special session of the Legislature extended the evictions moratorium from Dec. 30 to June 30, and also set aside a total of \$200 million for assistance — \$150 million for landlords and \$50 million for tenants. The Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services reported to the House committee on May 4 that \$40 million was paid from the landlord compensation fund in the first round in March.

See Rent / A12

## Grass seed dealer settles for \$300K in labeling case

BY GEORGE PAVLEN

Capital Press

SALEM — A Willamette Valley grass seed dealer accused of mislabeling more than 8 million pounds of seed has reached a settlement with state agriculture officials.

Dynamic Seed Source LLC and owner Trevor Abbott have agreed to pay \$300,000 in fines to the Oregon Department of Agriculture as part of the deal. The company will also have its wholesale seed dealer's license suspended for one year, effective June 30.

The Agriculture Department initially alleged Dynamic Seed Source and Abbott in 2019 had mislabeled 124 seed lots as Kentucky 31, or K-31, a popular variety of tall fescue used for livestock forage, manicured lawns, erosion control and turf.

See Seed / A12

## AAA expects huge Memorial Day travel spike

Associated Press

U.S. highways will be far busier over Memorial Day weekend than last year, but traffic still won't reach pre-pandemic levels, according to a forecast by the AAA auto club.

AAA officials say travel will rise because more Americans have been vaccinated against COVID-19 — about one-third of U.S. adults — and consumer confidence is growing.

**60%**

Expected increase compared with Memorial Day weekend 2020, numbering more than 37 million people on U.S. highways

The auto club and insurance company said Tuesday it expects more than 37 million people to travel at least 50 miles from home during the holiday weekend, up 60%

from last year, which was the lowest since AAA began keeping records in 2000.

If the AAA forecast is right, it would still be 6 million people, or 13%, fewer than left home over Memorial Day 2019.

AAA said 34 million Americans plan driving trips between May 27 and May 31, a 52% increase over last year, and nearly 2.5 million will take plane trips, nearly six

times more than the same period in 2020. A small number will take buses or trains.

So far in May, nearly 1.5 million people per day have gone through U.S. airport checkpoints, according to the Transportation Security Administration. AAA said its air-travel forecast seems low because it counts each traveler once, while TSA counts somebody twice if they take a round-trip flight.