

<b>DOW</b> 34,323.05 +10.59	<b>NASDAQ</b> 13,738.00 +80.82	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> 4,195.99 +7.86	<b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.27% +0.01	<b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$66.21 +.14	<b>GOLD</b> \$1,901.30 +3.20	<b>SILVER</b> \$27.85 -.19	<b>EURO</b> \$1.2193 -.0063
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**BRIEFING**

**Exxon execs lose in climate battle**

Exxon Mobil's shareholders have voted to replace at least two of the company's 12 board members with directors who are seen as better suited to fight climate change, bolster Exxon's finances and guide it through a transition to cleaner energy.

The results, which Exxon called preliminary, were announced by the company after its annual shareholder meeting Wednesday.

Regardless of the final tally, the outcome represents a setback for Exxon's leadership. It coincides with growing pressure on publicly traded companies to more urgently revamp their businesses to address what critics see as a intensifying global crisis.

Across the economy, climate-related initiatives are gaining momentum in corporate board rooms. At least 25 climate-related shareholder proposals made it onto shareholder ballots this year.

**PG&E to pay \$43M more for wildfires**

Pacific Gas & Electric will pay \$43.4 million to government agencies in three Northern California counties to cover bills left behind from wildfires ignited during the past two years by the beleaguered utility's long-neglected power grid.

The settlements announced Wednesday will cover some of the costs incurred by 10 government agencies during the Kincade Fire in October 2019 and the Zogg Fire in September.

The counties are part of a sprawling territory where PG&E provides electricity to about 16 million people.

The settlements won't wipe PG&E's slate entirely clean, though.

The San Francisco company is still facing 33 criminal charges of inadvertently injuring six firefighters and endangering public health in Sonoma County for the Kincade Fire — accusations that PG&E denies.

PG&E's neglect has at times had catastrophic consequences, most notably during 2017 and 2018 when a series of wildfires blamed on its equipment burned down more than 28,000 buildings and killed more than 100 people.

**WHO: Long hours are killing people**

Overwork is killing people worldwide, sometimes decades after they finish putting in the long hours, a new study indicates.

Specifically, putting in long hours led to 745,000 stroke and ischemic heart disease deaths in 2016, 29% more than in 2000, the World Health Organization said this month.

The study, conducted by WHO and the International Labour Organization and published in Environment International, was the first global analysis of loss of life and health related to long hours, the global bodies said.

In 2016, 398,000 people died of stroke and 347,000 from heart disease as a result of having worked 55 or more hours a week, the researchers said in a statement. Heart disease deaths due to overwork increased by 42% from 2000 to 2016, and 19% for stroke.

— Bulletin wire reports

**SOUTHERN OREGON**

**Cannabis boom creates fears of increasing illicit trade**

BY ERIK NEUMANN

Jefferson Public Radio

GRANTS PASS — On a sunny spring day in Southern Oregon's Illinois Valley, Mason Walker is showing off rows of neatly planted marijuana.

"We have a permanent trellising system that's installed almost in a vineyard style," Walker, co-owner of East Fork Cultivars, told Jefferson Pub-

lic Radio. "We put labels up at the end of the rows so people know what they're looking at, just like you might walk through the pinot noir section of a vineyard."

On their 33-acre farm, Walker and a team grow 1 acre of marijuana and 9 acres of USDA organic hemp, processed for CBD. Both Walker and the farm's co-founder,

Aaron Howard, have noticed a rapid increase of marijuana grown in the area in 2021.

"I first came to Southern Oregon in 2008 and a 48-pint garden was huge," Howard says. "And now in 2021 there's 80 acres at two thousand plants per acre. So, the scale is really hard for me to even wrap my head around and the impact on the local commu-

nity is kind of mind-boggling to me."

Cannabis has been grown in this corner of Oregon for decades. It's a fixture of the region's counterculture past. But residents and public officials agree this year is different for cannabis agriculture. The farms are bigger, and so are the affects on the surrounding rural communities.

"What I'm learning is that it's actually people just growing without any license whatsoever under drug trafficking organizations or cartels, and that is overwhelming Southern Oregon right now," says state Rep. Lily Morgan, R-Grants Pass, who represents much of Josephine County in the Legislature.

See Cannabis / A12



Oregon's wild truffles can be found deep in the forests. Stephani Gordon/OPB

*How the Oregon truffle became a lifestyle and more*

BY FRANCISCA BENITEZ

Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon's truffles are true hometown heroes. These superabundant mushrooms can fetch up to \$800 a pound. Plus, they help Oregon's forests thrive, all while delighting adventurers, chefs, foodies and truffle dogs alike. Their culinary appeal is no accident: Truffles make their living by getting animals to do their bidding.

"It's thought that there are as many truffles fruiting below ground, as there are mushrooms above ground. There are truffle members of every major lineage of mushrooms," said Charles Lefevre.

Lefevre is a world-renowned truffle scientist, hunter and cultivator and co-founder of the Oregon Truffle Festival.

Truffles are mushrooms that grow underground, where they can be safe and sound from the weather. Underneath the soil, they produce an aroma that lures animals and insects to come and eat, proliferating their spores. It's that very aroma that makes truffles so intriguing.



Stephani Gordon/OPB

Oregon has four native, world-class culinary species of truffles, more than any other part of the country.

"I think it's fascinating that this fungi, on the molecular level, is so compelling to people that we're going to carry the story around," said Christian DeBenedetti, owner of Wolves & People Brewery in Newberg, a spot known for its innovative use of Oregon truffles.

"We're going to wander through forests, we're going to try to figure out ways to try to harness it, celebrate it, capture it and share it," he said.

Oregon has four native species of truffles,

more than any other part of the country.

The season for harvesting spring white truffles runs from May through July.

Thousands of years of cultivation of the land helped the truffles thrive in the region, Lefevre said.

"We do have a rich diversity, a tremendous abundance, and this lineage of this tradition of knowledge uniquely in this region," he said.

"Gradually, it was planted with Douglas fir, and those young Douglas fir on that pasture land became the source, the habitat for our native Oregon truffles."

The fungi has a mutually beneficial association with its environment, meaning as the forest thrived, so did the truffles, and vice versa.

"They are actually providing an essential service to the tree. And in return, the tree is providing all of their energy. So the forest can't exist without some fungi performing that role," Lefevre said.

Oregon's love for hunting and selling other wild mushroom varieties, like chanterelles and porcinis, also helped the state's truffle industry get started.

See Truffles / A12

**Why Amazon buying MGM is a watershed moment**

BY RYAN FAUGHNDER AND WENDY LEE

Los Angeles Times

After years of waiting, predictions that a tech giant would buy a legacy film and TV studio are finally coming true.

Amazon said Wednesday it is acquiring Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios for \$8.45 billion — snapping up a library of more than 4,000 movies and storied franchises including "James Bond," "Rocky" and "The Pink Panther" — a watershed moment in the collision of Hollywood and big tech.

The deal is the Seattle online retail giant's second-largest purchase ever, and its biggest since its \$13.7 billion acquisition of Whole Foods in 2017.

It comes at a pivotal time



Susie Allnutt/MGM/Columbia Pictures/EON Productions

Daniel Craig stars as James Bond in "Spectre." The Bond franchise is now among Amazon's holdings.

as competition ramps up among streaming services like Netflix, Disney+ and HBO Max, where hit shows are key to driving consumers to subscribe. MGM's library

includes 17,000 episodes of TV programming and a stable of film properties that could be mined for reboots, and some of which already have.

See Amazon / A12

**Game on! Dick's rallies on return of team sports**

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN

Associated Press

A year after safety fears led to the cancellation of baseball and other team sports, Dick's Sporting Goods is having a comeback year as bats, balls and jerseys fly off shelves.

First-quarter sales more than doubled to \$2.92 billion and the company raised its expectations for sales and profits in 2021.

Sales at established stores surged 115%.

The company, based outside of Pittsburgh, did a lot better than many other retailers during the pandemic as families turned to camping, water sports and other socially distanced activities.

With the return of team sports, first-quarter profits surged to a quarter.

Dick's "saw a resurgence in

our team sports business as kids began to get back out on the field after a year in which many youth sports activities were delayed or cancelled," said CEO Lauren Hobart in a prepared statement.

Shares jumped 13% at the opening bell Wednesday.

Dick's earned \$361.8 million, or \$3.41 per share, swinging back from a loss of \$143.4 million, or \$1.71 per diluted share, a year earlier.

Removing one-time costs or benefits, per-share earnings were \$3.79 per share, more than triple what analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research had been expecting.

Revenue also exceeded expectations.

It appears that momentum will continue, industry analysts said.

See Dick's / A12