

▼ DOW 34,393.75 -85.85	▲ NASDAQ 14,174.14 +104.72	▲ S&P 500 4,255.15 +7.71	▲ 30-YR T-BOND 2.19% +0.4	▼ CRUDE OIL \$70.88 -0.3	▼ GOLD \$1,864.00 -13.40	▼ SILVER \$28.02 -1.1	▲ EURO \$1.2117 +0.0014
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Vaccination news

Hospital workers: No shot mandate

Federal judge in Texas: Get vaccinated or find a new job

BY JUAN A. LOZANO AND BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jennifer Bridges, a registered nurse in Houston, is steadfast in her belief that it's wrong for her employer to force hospital workers like her to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or say goodbye to their jobs. But that's a losing legal argument so far.

In a stinging defeat, a federal judge bluntly ruled over the weekend that if employees of the Houston Methodist hospital system don't like it, they can go work elsewhere.

"Methodist is trying to do their business of saving lives without giving them the COVID-19 virus. It is a choice made to keep staff, patients and their families safer. Bridges can freely choose to accept or refuse a

COVID-19 vaccine; however, if she refuses, she will simply need to work somewhere else," U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes wrote in dismissing a lawsuit filed by 117 Houston Methodist workers, including Bridges, over the vaccine requirement.

The ruling Saturday in the closely watched legal case over how far health care institutions can go to protect patients and others against the coronavirus is believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S. But it won't be the end of the debate.

Bridges said she and the others will take their case to the U.S. Supreme Court if they have to: "This is only the beginning. We are going to be fighting for quite a while."

And other hospital systems around the country, including in



Yi-Chin Lee/Houston Chronicle via AP, file
Demonstrators at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital in Baytown, Texas, on June 7 wave at cars as they protest a policy that says hospital employees must get vaccinated against COVID-19 or lose their jobs. A federal judge dismissed their lawsuit, saying if workers don't like the rule, they can find new jobs.

Washington, D.C., Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania and most recently New York, have followed Houston Methodist and have also gotten pushback.

Legal experts say such vaccine re-

quirements, particularly in a public health crisis, will probably continue to be upheld in court as long as employers provide reasonable exemptions, including for medical conditions or religious objections.

See **Vaccines** / A13

Shot No. 4?

Novavax: Large study finds COVID-19 shot about 90% effective

Vaccine maker Novavax said Monday its COVID-19 shot was highly effective against the disease and also protected against variants in a large study in the U.S. and Mexico, potentially offering the world yet another weapon against the virus at a time when developing countries are desperate for doses.

The two-shot vaccine was about 90% effective overall, and preliminary data showed it was safe, the American company said. That would put the vaccine about on par with Pfizer's and Moderna's. The Novavax vaccine, which is easy to store and transport, is expected to play an important role in boosting supplies in poor parts of the world.

That help is still months away, however. The company, which has been plagued by raw-material shortages that have hampered production, said it plans to seek authorization for the shots in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere by the end of September and will be able to produce up to 100 million doses a month by then.

Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are already authorized for use in the U.S. and Europe.

— Associated Press

BRIEFING

Les Schwab opens 500th tire store

Les Schwab Tire Centers said Monday that it has opened its 500th tire store, a milestone the Oregon company hit after decades of steady expansion.

The latest store is in West Jordan, Utah, a suburb of Salt Lake City.

Founded in 1952 in Prineville, Les Schwab Tire Centers grew slowly in its early decades but took off in the 1980s and '90s, adding nearly 13 stores a year during that stretch. It grew steadily after the turn of the century, but a bit more slowly in the past few years.

The Bend-based retail chain stretches as far east as Colorado and as far south as Bakersfield, California.

The Schwab family sold the business last year to a California investment firm called Meritage Group. Meritage has not said whether it plans to aggressively expand its retail footprint.

State employment website goes down

The Oregon Employment Department's website for posting economic data went offline over the weekend, apparently because the state neglected to renew the registration for its domain name.

The loss of Oregon's qualityinfo.org page didn't affect unemployment claims, which are managed on a separate website. After an inquiry from The Oregonian on Monday, the department said it now has renewed the domain name. The site was back online Monday afternoon.

But the outage is another embarrassing technological lapse for the department, which stumbled repeatedly in 2020 amid a flood of jobless claims triggered by the pandemic.

Qualityinfo.org hosts the employment department's monthly announcement of the state's unemployment rate, information about regional economic conditions and analysis by the department's economists. Businesses, lawmakers and others use the data to make decisions about strategy and policy.

— Bulletin wire reports

Astoria

WHERE PARKLETS HELP BUSINESSES SURVIVE

BY KATIE FRANKOWICZ

The Astorian

If Lisa Parks charted it out, it would immediately be obvious when she installed the parklet outside Brut Wine Bar on 10th Street in Astoria.

By-the-glass and bottle sales shot up and continue to climb. Most days she's open, old and new customers flock to the tables she's arranged in the semi-enclosed outdoor seating area located in parking spaces on the street.

The chairs in the parklet might slant with the street, and sometimes there's a light drizzle falling — Astoria in the spring — but no one seems to mind.

"It's like being in Europe," customers tell her.

Astoria loosened requirements for parklets last year as coronavirus pandemic restrictions cut into the ability of downtown bars and restaurants to serve customers and turn a profit. The city of Bend did the same.

The parklet program has stayed a pilot program since the Astoria City Council first launched it in 2015. The business owners who have taken advantage of "parklets: the pandemic edition" have invested sparingly — some barrels as tables here, basic seating there. They aren't sure what will be allowed when the pandemic ends and city leadership reviews — and possibly



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Lisa Parks sits at a table in her new parklet outside of Brut Wine Bar in Astoria.

reconsiders — the program.

But for the summer, at least, the relaxed rules and the parklets are here to stay.

The lenient parklet policies, as well as relaxed rules on sidewalk seating, were intended to help businesses weather an unprecedented, tough economic situation, said Megan Leatherman, Astoria's community development director.

Even as things open up and tourists flood the city on sunny days and weekends, "there's still an economic hardship," she said, "and I

don't see that going away this summer."

Details could change

The details about what might be allowed in parklets could change post-pandemic. Under program guidelines, coverings are supposed to go away when the city ends its emergency declaration, Leatherman noted.

At that time, the entire pilot program also goes back to the City Council for evaluation "and to determine if parklets should continue in downtown Astoria,"

according to city documents.

Both Parks and Michael Angiletta, the primary owner of Blaylock's Whiskey Bar, where another parklet is located, are waiting for firmer guidelines before they invest more heavily in their parklets.

The components of the Blaylock's parklet are intentionally sparse for now.

"Would I like to make it nicer? You betcha," Angiletta said, "but I need some confidence that it's something we'll be able to continue to do in a sustainable fashion."

See **Parklets** / A13

Note left on parked jet becomes a pandemic time capsule

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

The Washington Post

The scene in the desert was "chilling, apocalyptic, surreal" as Delta pilot Chris Dennis arrived to drop off a plane for storage at Southern California Logistics Airport in 2020.

It was March 23, less than two weeks since the fast-spreading coronavirus had been declared a pandemic. Passenger numbers were spiraling. Airlines were slashing flights and laying up their unused planes.

In a Facebook post at the time, Dennis shared photos of what he saw at the airport in Victorville, California: Long rows of Delta and Southwest jets parked on the runways under a cloudy sky. In one, a somber Dennis appeared in the foreground. "It's hard to fathom how many aircraft Delta has until you see that many of them parked in one place," he said later in a Delta news release. "When we got in line, it looked like an optical illusion. It just kept going and going. I don't know how to describe it — it was shocking"

The final picture in the Facebook post was of a note penned by Dennis, a first officer, to an unknown eventual audience. Delta called it a "pandemic time capsule" that waited out the past 15 months behind a tray table in the cockpit.

See **Delta** / A13

Girl Scouts have millions of unsold cookies

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN

Associated Press

The Girl Scouts have an unusual problem this year: 15 million boxes of unsold cookies.

The 109-year-old organization says the coronavirus — not thinner demand for Thin Mints — is the main culprit. As the pandemic wore into the spring selling season, many troops nixed their traditional cookie booths for safety reasons.

"This is unfortunate, but given this is a girl-driven program and the majority of cookies are sold in-person, it was to be expected,"

ONLINE

• To read a complete version of this story, view it at bendbulletin.com

said Kelly Parisi, a spokeswoman for Girl Scouts of the USA.

The impact will be felt by local councils and troops, who depend on the cookie sales to fund programming, travel, camps and other activities. The Girl Scouts normally sell around 200 million boxes of cookies per year, or around \$800 million worth.

Parisi said Girl Scouts of the

USA did forecast lower sales this year due to the pandemic. But coronavirus restrictions were constantly shifting, and the cookie orders placed by its 111 local councils with bakers last fall were still too optimistic.

As a result, around 15 million boxes of cookies were left over as the cookie season wound down. Most — around 12 million boxes — remain with the two bakers, Louisville, Kentucky-based Little Brownie Bakers and Brownsburg, Indiana-based ABC Bakers.

See **Cookies** / A13



Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails via AP

Henrique Valdovinos, left, and other health care workers at the Lovelace Women's Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico, receive a donation of cookies as part of the Girl Scouts' Hometown Heroes program.