

<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>DOW</b> 33,823.45 -210.22	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>NASDAQ</b> 14,161.35 +121.67	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 4,221.86 -1.84	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.10% -11	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$71.04 -1.11	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>GOLD</b> \$1,773.80 -85.70	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>SILVER</b> \$25.84 -1.96	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>EURO</b> \$1.1913 -0.0103
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**BRIEFING**

**Supreme Court kills challenge on 'Obamacare'**

The Supreme Court rejected the latest major Republican-led effort to kill the national health care law known as "Obamacare" on Thursday, preserving insurance coverage for millions of Americans.

The justices, by a 7-2 vote, left the entire Affordable Care Act intact in ruling that Texas, other GOP-led states and two individuals had no right to bring their lawsuit in federal court.

The law's major provisions include protections for people with existing health conditions, a range of no-cost preventive services, expansion of the Medicaid program that insures lower-income people and access to health insurance markets offering subsidized plans.

Also left in place is the law's now-toothless requirement that people have health insurance or pay a penalty. Congress rendered that provision irrelevant in 2017 when it reduced the penalty to zero.

The elimination of the penalty had become the hook that Texas and other GOP-led states, as well as the Trump administration, used to attack the entire law. They argued that without the mandate, a pillar of the law when it was passed, the rest of the law should fall, too.

**U.S. jobless claims tick up to 412,000**

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week for the first time since April despite widespread evidence that the economy and the job market are rebounding steadily from the pandemic recession.

The Labor Department said Thursday that jobless claims rose 37,000 from the week before to 412,000. As the job market has strengthened, the number of weekly applications for unemployment aid has fallen for most of the year. The number of jobless claims generally reflects the pace of layoffs.

Weekly applications for unemployment aid had dropped for six straight weeks, and economists had expected another dip last week. Still, the report showed the four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, fell by 8,000 last week to 395,000 — the lowest four-week average since the pandemic slammed the economy in March 2020.

*Bulletin wire reports*

## Klamath River dams close in on removal

BY GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

KLAMATH FALLS — The largest dam removal project in U.S. history is one step closer to becoming reality.

Federal energy regulators have approved the transfer of operating licenses for four hydroelectric dams along the Klamath River in Southern Oregon and Northern California,

officially passing ownership from PacifiCorp to the non-profit Klamath River Renewal Corp.

The nonprofit plans to demolish the dams for endangered salmon and steelhead, opening about 400 river miles of upstream habitat.

"We view this as a big win for every stakeholder in the basin," said Klamath River

Renewal Corp. spokesman Dave Meurer. "That includes the farm and ranch community."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission signed its order Thursday for the dams — J.C. Boyle, Copco 1, Copco 2 and Iron Gate dams — marking a key milestone in the effort to revive fish populations in the Klamath Basin.

Removal of the fish-blocking dams is currently slated to begin in 2023, with a project budget of \$450 million — including \$200 million from PacifiCorp ratepayers and \$250 million earmarked from California Proposition 1, a \$7.5 billion statewide water bond that passed in 2014.

Jim Root, president of the renewal corp. board, said the

FERC decision is a "crucial and significant step forward" in restoring a free-flowing Klamath River.

"I am deeply appreciative to all of the parties who have supported this project over the years, and I wish to especially note the significant and sustained efforts of our tribal partners," Root said in a statement.

*See Dams / A8*



## View from the tram

Wallowa Lake Tramway looks ahead to the next 50 years after hitting milestone in 2020 during the pandemic

BY BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA LAKE — More of the same exciting rides and new features can be expected during the next half-century of life in the Wallowa Lake Tramway, said co-owner Mike Lockhart.

Like many businesses, last year — when the tram marked its 50th anniversary — was dominated by surviving the pandemic. He said nothing special was done to mark the first half-century of county's top tourist attraction.

"I didn't think about that until this morning," he said.

Originally constructed in 1970, the tram was first owned by a stock corporation known as High Wallowas, which was later forced to sell, Lockhart said.

"It started with a bunch of dedicated people who wanted to build an attraction that would be special, which this is, in my opinion," he said.

**Maintenance is primary goal**

Perhaps the primary goal Lockhart and co-owner Bill Whittemore have for the tram is to continue to maintain and upgrade it. The attraction operates from late May to early October, and some people would like to see that expanded. That's unlikely, since the "shoulder seasons" of late fall and early spring are necessary for their maintenance work.

Lockhart estimated the tram would cost about \$10 million to replace.

However, he said, "It isn't worth \$10 million and that's why we're doing ev-

erything we can to restore it to keep the place operating safely. There's very little here that dates back to 1970."

He said they are continually on the lookout for parts they can use on the tram — or have made new.

"A lot of the parts we have right now we have to have made ourselves" at a local machine shop, he said, but "there are still parts around" that can be purchased.

**Safety is key**

Their efforts to keep the tram operating safely have proven successful.

"It's important that we do this maintenance. We are the No. 1 attraction in Wallowa County and there's a lot of people who factor that into when they come to Wallowa County."

Once, they had to evacuate the top because of high winds.

"It's all about safety, from every operation we have from the lift to food service to everything else," he said.

Evacuation is no easy task. Under the seats of each car is a cord that is used to let a rope down to the ground and passengers get into harness to be lowered to the ground. He said the tram works with local first-responders when necessary. But such calls are rare.

"We haven't had one in 20 years," he said.

The only mishaps on the tram have been minor injuries suffered, such as a rider slipping upon getting into or out of one of the cabins.

*See Tram / A8*



Photos by Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain  
**ABOVE TOP:** Wallowa Lake Tramway co-owner Mike Lockhart rides June 9 to the summit of Mount Howard as clouds obscure the mountains behind him.  
**ABOVE BOTTOM:** A "boxcar" used primarily to bring supplies to the Summit Grill prepares to make its run.

## Agriculture overtime bill gets \$100M price tag

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

A bill requiring Oregon farmers to pay higher overtime wages has passed a key legislative committee, though it now includes a hefty price tag that may hinder further progress.

The House Rules Committee voted 4-3 to approve House Bill 2358 with an amendment that would phase out the agricultural overtime exemption over three years and allocate \$100 million to help farmers make the transition.

To put that amount in perspective, it's more than twice the general fund tax dollars appropriated for the entire Oregon Department of Agriculture during the most recent biennium.

Before the House votes on HB 2358, it must first clear the budget-setting Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The bill would then need to pass the Senate before the end of this year's legislative session, which is constitutionally required to end by June 27.

Under the amended version of HB 2358, farm workers would be owed 1.5 times the regular wage rate after 55 hours per week in 2022, after 48 hours per week in 2023 and after 40 hours per week in 2024.

Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego, said that "everybody thought the bill was dead" but she proposed the amendment to provide justice for farm workers while alleviating the economic burden on their employers.

"It won't make them whole by any stretch but it will help them transition," she said during a June 16 legislative hearing.

The \$100 million would be overseen by the Oregon Business Development Department, which would pay eligible farmers for 80% of the amount they spent on overtime in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Priority would go to farmers who paid the highest proportion of their net income in overtime and who employed fewer than 25 workers per year.

Requiring farmers to pay overtime wages may cause a shift to mechanization or drive some crops out of state but it's ultimately what's fair to workers, Salinas said.

With the neighboring states of Washington and California ending the agricultural overtime exemption, "I don't see how Oregon can avoid this," she said.

Farmers must accept market prices for crops and livestock, unlike other industries that can raise prices to compensate for Oregon's stricter labor regulations, she said. "That isn't how this industry works."

Growers cannot force buyers to purchase products from Oregon instead of competing regions, so they'll switch to other crops and reduce the variety of what's grown in-state, Dragan said.

*See Virus / A8*

## As virus restrictions lift: Don't be a jerk, say workers

BY ANDREW MENDEZ, ANDREA CHANG, HUGO MARTÍN, JACK FLEMMING

Los Angeles Times

Front-line workers have gone through the wringer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their customer-facing jobs meant they could not escape potential exposure to the coronavirus, and the burden of enforcing safety rules largely fell on them. Hailed as heroes, some got extra pay, but many did not, and a lot of them — especially in the restaurant, hotel and travel in-

dustries — lost work.

Now we're in another time of transition: Many states and cities have eased pandemic safety rules, and at stores, restaurants and other venues, a lot of customers feel things should be back to normal. But should they really? The Times talked to front-line workers and operators of customer-facing businesses. Here's what they want you to know.

**Keep a mask on when you can**

Even if you're fully vaccinated, continuing to cover

your face can put others at ease.

"If you're not eating, if you're just hanging out and chatting with somebody, it would be nice to have people put their masks back on," said Ricky Hernandez, owner of Coffee Coffee in Los Angeles. "It's almost like second nature anyway; we've been doing it for quite some time, so we don't think it's asking too much."

If you're not fully vaccinated, continuing to wear a mask is even more important.

**Respect each place's rules**

Some businesses have pandemic precautions that are more stringent than the government requires.

Tohm Ifergan, 31, owner of Dayglow, said his coffee shops in the L.A. neighborhoods Silver Lake and West Hollywood will continue to require customers to wear masks when they enter, order and are not seated.

But he is bracing for pushback. In recent months, "we've witnessed many people enter

unmasked, screaming at our faces, spitting at us, throwing chairs, blasting us on social media, calling us 'libtard' and 'unpatriotic,'" said Ifergan, who also works as a barista at the shops.

Before Tuesday, "it was nice to fall back on the health department's mandate" in enforcing the rules, he said. "Now that it's not a requirement from a county standpoint, are we going to get even more aggression from those types of people?"

*See Virus / A8*