

BRIEFING

U.S. infrastructure deal now in doubt

President Joe Biden's bipartisan infrastructure deal was thrown in doubt Friday as Republican senators felt "blindsided" by his insistence that it must move in tandem with his bigger package, while the White House doubled down on the strategy and said it should have come as no surprise.

The rare accord over some \$1 trillion in investments faced new uncertainty barely 24 hours after Biden strode to the White House driveway, flanked by 10 senators from a bipartisan group, with all sides beaming over the compromise.

Senators were described as "stunned," "floored" and "frustrated" after Biden publicly put the conditions on accepting their deal, according to two people familiar with the private conversations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the reactions.

"I've been on the phone with the White House, my Democratic colleagues, my Republican colleagues, all damn day," said Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, the lead Republican negotiator, in an interview Friday.

"My hope is that we'll still get this done. It's really good for America. Our infrastructure is in bad shape," he said. "It's about time to get it done."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki, who was asked at her briefing about the GOP dismay, said senators should not have been surprised by the two-track strategy that Biden has publicly discussed on many occasions.

"That hasn't been a secret. He hasn't said it quietly. He hasn't even whispered it," she said.

Psaki said the president plans to stand by the commitment he made to the senators. "And he expects they'll do the same," she said.

The path ahead is now uncertain.

Nike posts record quarterly sales

Nike posted record fiscal fourth-quarter sales in North America and gave a better-than-anticipated full-year revenue forecast.

The Beaverton-based company's revenue totaled \$12.34 billion in the fourth quarter, easily beating the \$11.06 billion that analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research predicted.

In North America, Nike Inc.'s revenue soared 141% to \$5.38 billion.

Nike also experienced strong sales for its name-sake brand, rising 88% to \$11.8 billion. Revenue for the Converse brand climbed 85% to \$596 million.

Online sales climbed 41% compared with a year ago and were up 147% compared with 2019's fourth quarter.

And Nike continues to see success with its SNKRS app, which immediately sells out of new sneaker releases and consistently trends on Twitter. President and CEO John Donahoe said during a conference call that SNKRS grew more than 90% in demand and saw nearly 80% growth in monthly active users during the fourth quarter.

— *Bulletin wire reports*

OREGON

Backlog of aid slows eviction response



Michael Dwyer/AP file

Housing activists erect a sign in Swampscott, Massachusetts, in October. A federal freeze on most evictions is set to expire soon.

BY SARA CLINE • Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — A federal freeze on most evictions enacted last year is scheduled to expire July 31, after the Biden administration extended the date by a month.

The moratorium, put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September, was the only tool keeping millions of tenants in their homes. Many of them lost jobs during the coronavirus pandemic and had fallen months behind on their rent.

Landlords successfully challenged the order in court, arguing they also had bills to pay. They pointed out that tenants could access more than \$45 billion in federal money set aside to help pay rents and related expenses.

Advocates for tenants say the distribution of the money has been slow and that more time is needed to distribute it and repay landlords. Without an extension, they feared a spike in evictions and lawsuits seeking to boot out tenants who are behind on their rents.

As of June 7, roughly 3.2 million people in the U.S. said they faced eviction in the next two months, according

to the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey. The survey measures the social and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic every two weeks through online responses from a representative sample of U.S. households.

The situation in Oregon

Oregon is one of several states that enacted a moratorium last year halting eviction proceedings. The measure is set to expire at the end of June.

As experts warn about a mass wave of evictions in the state, lawmakers and the governor are working to pass additional safety nets for struggling tenants.

Oregon has set aside \$200 million in federal emergency assistance to help tenants and landlords with current and outstanding rent. Based on data from Oregon Housing and Community Services, as of Tuesday 10,830 households have completed applications for rent assistance, with the average request being \$6,921.

While Oregon has hundreds of millions of dollars available to pay past-due rent and up to three months current rent for qualified tenants, high demand has created a backlog that will not be cleared before the eviction moratorium ends next week.

See **Eviction** / A6

Amazon plans one of Oregon's largest buildings

3.84-million-square-foot fulfillment center will be located in Woodburn

BY 2JEFF MANNING

The Oregonian

Amazon is planning one of the largest buildings in Oregon history — a five-story, 3.84-million-square-foot fulfillment center — just west of Interstate 5 in the city of Woodburn.

The retail giant earlier this week paid \$27 million to three different sellers for the acreage that could host the new building. Jerry Melby, assistant county clerk at Marion County, said his office recorded the three transactions on Thursday. He confirmed the purchase price and that Amazon Services Inc. was the buyer.

The operation could employ about 1,874 people, according to planning documents.

Amazon's plan has been cloaked in secrecy. City documents referred to a potential big development west of the freeway only as "Project Basie." Amazon was never named.

Tommy Moore, a spokesman for Woodburn, declined to offer any details. "The city is not ready to give a statement right now," he said.

Amazon bought the bulk of its Woodburn land from Specht Woodburn LLC, a company formed by prominent local developer Greg Specht. Amazon paid \$23.3 million for the Specht parcel. He declined to comment.

See **Amazon** / A6

The Bulletin adds staff to reporting and revenue teams

Bulletin staff report

The Bulletin welcomed several new staff members in recent weeks.

Brian Naplachowski, 59, is The Bulletin's new revenue director. He started a career in newspapers working with The Seattle Times and Post Intelligencer as an independent sales agent. He has more than 25 years of experience in the industry. He has worked in four different states as a circulation manager, circulation director, audience director, general manager and now revenue director for The Bulletin.

"My goal at The Bulletin is to help advertisers understand the reach of our products both digitally and traditionally," Naplachowski said.

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, he loves Tenkara fly-fishing, pack rafting and hiking. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 35 years.

See **The Bulletin** / A6

Lawmakers delay paid family leave program

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Oregon's new program of paid family leave would be delayed under a bill that is headed to Gov. Kate Brown.

A final 34-21 vote by the Oregon House on Friday moved House Bill 3398 to the governor. Democrats supplied all the votes for it. One Democrat, Paul Evans of Monmouth, joined 20 Republicans in opposition.

The Senate approved the amended version, largely to re-

solve conflicts, on a 21-7 vote the previous day.

The starting date for contributions by employers and employees would be put off by one year, from Jan. 1, 2022, to Jan. 1, 2023. The starting date for benefit payments would be Sept. 3, 2023, instead of Jan. 1.

Startup costs will be drawn from the tax-supported general fund, but will be repaid from contributions by employers and employees into the program.

The 2019 Legislature ap-

proved the program. Eight other states and Washington, D.C., have started or are preparing similar programs.

Employers would contribute 40% and employees 60% of a new fund based on payroll deductions. Workers who earn at least \$1,000 during the previous year would qualify for up to 12 weeks of paid family leave, the maximum benefit set at \$1,215 per week.

Oregon's program is more generous than a proposal by President Joe Biden for a fed-

eral program, which would offer up to \$4,000 per month. Congress has not acted on the federal program, which is part of Biden's American Families Plan.

Acting Director David Gerstenfeld said the Oregon Employment Department sought the delay because it intends to integrate collections of employer and employee contributions into its computer modernization project, which starts its long-awaited first phase in July. The first phase also in-

volves updating the collection of payroll taxes that employers pay into the state unemployment trust fund for benefits. Employees do not pay into that fund.

Though preparations for the new program have proceeded since the Legislature passed it in 2019, Gerstenfeld said staff — including himself — were diverted to handle new and expanded federal unemployment benefit programs since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.