

▼ DOW 34,283.27 -150.57	▲ NASDAQ 14,500.51 +140.12	▲ S&P 500 4,290.61 +9.91	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.10% -07	▼ CRUDE OIL \$72.91 -1.14	▲ GOLD \$1,779.60 +3.00	▲ SILVER \$26.22 +.14	▼ EURO \$1.1924 -0007
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BRIEFING

COVID-19 housing, work rules will stay

While statewide COVID-19 mandates on masking, social distancing and gatherings will be ending soon, workplace rules will not.

“Our rules, with the exception of masking and distancing, will remain in place and continue to be subject to discussion about when they’ll be repealed and how they’ll be phased out,” said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon Occupational Safety and Health.

While the decision aims to fully reopen the state’s economy, Wood said the risk of contracting COVID-19 is still present, hence the need for continued workplace restrictions.

“We know there are still risks present,” he said. “It isn’t like the risk of disease has completely vanished.”

Wood said the rules are temporary, and the agency is having “regular conversations” about how and when to phase them out entirely.

“The COVID-19 rules will go away,” he said.

Oregon farm joins suit against USDA

An Oregon farming couple has filed a lawsuit claiming the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s loan forgiveness program for minorities violates the constitutional principle of equal justice under the law.

The complaint filed by Kathryn and James Dunlap of Baker City is among at least nine similar cases alleging the \$4 billion program unlawfully excludes white farmers from receiving loan assistance.

A federal judge in Florida temporarily halted the program Wednesday, but the Oregon lawsuit aims to test its constitutionality in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has jurisdiction over nine Western states.

Since the legal question will likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, having the issue “percolate” in several appellate jurisdictions will help guide its thinking, said Wen Fa, an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation, a nonprofit organization that’s representing the Dunlaps.

Summer gas prices likely to keep rising

After a brief dip, gas prices in the U.S. are on the rise again.

The U.S. average price for a gallon of gasoline rose 2½ cents from last week to \$3.09 per gallon on Monday, according to the travel and fuel price tracking app GasBuddy.

The national average is now almost 5 cents higher than a month ago and 92 cents higher than this time last year.

GasBuddy petroleum analyst Patrick De Haan says Americans should expect to pay even more at the pump heading into July 4th, a popular road trip holiday.

With the U.S. economy rapidly recovering from the 15-month-long pandemic, demand for fuel is rising and pushing prices to levels not seen since 2014. And hurricane season carries the prospect of higher prices if a storm impacts oil drilling and refining on the Gulf Coast.

“Motorists should prepare to dig deeper for the second half of the summer,” De Haan said.

— Bulletin wire reports

Willamette Valley Vineyards to build winery

Winery-restaurant planned in Bend

BY GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

TURNER — Willamette Valley Vineyards is building a new winery in the Dundee Hills southwest of Portland and will hire a new director to oversee winemaking and vineyards, including 65 full- and part-time employees, the company announced.

The company also plans to build four winery restaurants including one in Bend, it announced Thursday.

Jim Bernau, founder and

CEO, said the decision comes as production has vastly outpaced capacity at the current winery in the Salem Hills near Turner.

“It got to the point where I just couldn’t wait any longer,” Bernau said. “We have exceeded the design capabilities for this winery.”

Founded in 1983, Willamette Valley Vineyards is a leading producer of Oregon Pinot noir. The winery was originally built for making 12,500 cases of wine per year, Bernau said.

Last year, the winery produced 175,357 cases — more than 14 times its initial capacity.

“That creates a lot of pressure on our cellar staff,” Bernau said. “What I really need to do is prepare for the future.”

Four years ago, the company purchased 40 acres in the Dundee Hills American Viticultural Area along state Highway 99 where it plans to build a state-of-the-art winery with the capacity to produce between 250,000 and 500,000 cases annually.

The winery will be within a few miles of Willamette Valley Vineyards’ new sparkling wine facility, called Domaine Willamette, which is slated to open in May.

See **Winery** / A13



George Plaven/Capital Press
Jim Bernau, founder and CEO of Willamette Valley Vineyards, holds up a cluster of Pinot noir grapes growing at his vineyard in Turner.



Wider hallways, fewer desks and other changes may remain

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — The coronavirus already changed the way we work. Now it’s changing the physical space, too.

Many companies are making adjustments to their offices to help employees feel safer as they return to in-person work, like improving air circulation systems or moving desks further apart. Others are ditching desks and building more conference rooms to accommodate employees who still work remotely but come in for meetings.

Architects and designers say this is a time of experimentation and reflection for employers. Steelcase, an office furniture company based in Grand Rapids, says its research indicates half of global companies plan major redesigns to their office space this year.

“This year caused you to think, maybe even more fundamentally than you ever have before, ‘Hey, why do we go to an office?’” said Natalie Engels, a San Jose, California-based design principal at Gensler, an architecture firm.

Not every company is making changes, and Engels stresses that



Shafkat Anowar/AP

Shobha Surya, associate manager for projects and sales operations of Ajinomoto, a global food and pharmaceutical company, works in a shared office space in Itasca, Illinois, on June 7. Surya is thrilled to be back in the office, saying she feels energized by the light pouring in from skylights at the new headquarters. She also missed her colleagues.

they don’t have to. She tells clients to remember what worked well — and what didn’t — before the pandemic.

But designers say many companies are looking for new ways to make employees feel safe and invigorated at the office, especially as a labor crunch makes hiring more difficult.

That’s what drove food and

pharmaceutical company Ajinomoto to overhaul the design of its new North American headquarters outside Chicago last year.

Ajinomoto’s employees returned to in-person work in May to a building with wider hallways and glass panels between cubicles, to give them more space and try to make them feel more secure.

See **Offices** / A13

FACEBOOK

U.S. judge dismisses antitrust lawsuits

BY MICHAEL BALSAMO
AND MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday dismissed antitrust lawsuits brought against Facebook by the Federal Trade Commission and a coalition of state attorneys general, dealing a significant blow to attempts by regulators to rein in tech giants.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ruled Monday that the lawsuits were “legally insufficient” and didn’t provide enough evidence to prove that Facebook was a monopoly. The ruling dismisses the complaint but not the case, meaning the FTC could refile another complaint.

“These allegations — which do not even provide an estimated actual figure or range for Facebook’s market share at any point over the past ten years — ultimately fall short of plausibly establishing that Facebook holds market power,” he said.

The U.S. government and 48 states and districts sued Facebook in December, accusing the tech giant of abusing its market power in social networking to crush smaller competitors and seeking remedies that could include a forced spinoff of the social network’s Instagram and WhatsApp messaging services.

The FTC had alleged Facebook engaged in “a systematic strategy” to eliminate its competition, including by purchasing smaller up-and-coming rivals like Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. New York Attorney General Letitia James said when filing the suit that Facebook “used its monopoly power to crush smaller rivals and snuff out competition, all at the expense of everyday users.”

See **Facebook** / A13

Oregon’s tiered minimum wage system sees new increase this week

BY MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

Oregon’s lowest-paid workers will be earning more beginning Thursday — as much as \$14 an hour for some.

It’s the sixth of seven increases the Legislature mandated in 2016, which have steadily raised the state’s hourly minimum from \$9.25. Oregon will have one of the highest minimum wages in the nation when the new rates kick in Thursday, but the rate varies considerably depending on where you work.

Oregon lawmakers took an inno-

novative approach, mandating different minimums for different regions of the state, so the \$14 hourly minimum applies only to the three counties in the Portland metro area.

Employers in Deschutes and other so-called standard counties will pay \$12.75 an hour. Those in Crook, Jefferson and other nonurban counties will pay \$12.

The difference is meant to account for lower costs of living outside the metro area.

The nation’s highest statewide or districtwide minimum wage is in Washing-

\$12 / \$12.75

The new minimum wages starting Thursday, in Crook and Jefferson counties (\$12) and in Deschutes County (75 cents more).

ton, D.C., at \$15 an hour. Washington state’s hourly minimum is \$13.69. Massachusetts’ is \$13.50, and California’s is \$13. Many cities or counties have higher minimum wages than their states.

When Oregon’s higher minimums kick in Thursday, the wage floor in the Portland area will have climbed by more than 50% since 2016. That works out to nearly \$10,000 more annually for a full-time worker earning the Portland area’s higher minimum wage.

The minimums rise again in July 2022, topping out at \$14.75 an hour in the Portland area, \$13.50 in Deschutes County and \$12.50 an hour in Crook and Jefferson counties. Subsequent increases will be tied to inflation.

See **Wages** / A13