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| ▼ DOW 34,930.93 -127.59 | ▲ NASDAQ 14,762.58 +102.01 | ▼ S&P 500 4,400.64 -82 | ▲ 30-YR T-BOND 1.91% +02 | ▲ CRUDE OIL \$72.39 +74 | ■ GOLD \$1,799.50 ... | ▲ SILVER \$24.86 +23 | ▲ EURO \$1.1843 +0020 |
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BRIEFING

Facebook profits top \$10 billion

Facebook reported Wednesday that its second-quarter profits doubled thanks to a massive increase in advertising revenue.

But the company said it doesn't expect revenue to continue to grow at such a breakneck pace in the second half of the year.

The Menlo Park, California-based company earned \$10.39 billion, or \$3.61 per share, in the April-June period. That's up from \$5.18 billion, or \$1.80 per share, a year earlier. Revenue jumped 56% to \$28.58 billion from \$18.32 billion.

Advertising revenue growth was driven by a 47% year-over-year increase in the average price per ad and a 6% increase in the number of ads shown to people. Facebook said it expects ad prices, not the amount of ads it delivers, to continue to drive growth.

Facebook had 2.9 billion monthly users as of June, up 7% from a year earlier. In 2019, it employed 350 people in Central Oregon, according to Economic Development for Central Oregon.

FDA allows swap for generic insulin

U.S. regulators took action Wednesday that will make it easier to get a cheaper, near-copy of a brand-name insulin at the drugstore.

Doctors now have to specifically prescribe what's called a biosimilar or OK substituting it for a more expensive brand-name insulin.

Wednesday's move by the Food and Drug Administration will allow pharmacists to automatically substitute the cheaper version, just as they do with generic pills for other kinds of drugs.

It's the FDA's first approval of an "interchangeable" biosimilar, a near-copy of an injected biologic medicine that's manufactured inside living cells. It could save diabetics and health plans millions of dollars annually and encourage other drugmakers to create more biosimilar medicines.

Health data firm IQVIA projects U.S. savings from increasing use of biosimilars from 2020 through 2024 will top \$100 billion.

Boeing rebounds, reports profit

Boeing reported its first quarterly profit since 2019 and its revenue topped expectations as the giant aircraft maker tries to dig out from the most difficult stretch in its history.

Boeing earned \$567 million in the second quarter, compared with a \$2.4 billion loss a year ago.

The return of the troubled 737 Max jet after two deadly crashes is key to Boeing's rebound. The company delivered 79 commercial planes in the quarter — including 47 Maxes — compared with 20 a year earlier.

Still, Boeing's core commercial-planes business lost money. That was offset, however, by profits in its defense and space unit and its services division.

Boeing cut thousands of jobs as it dealt with the grounding of its 737 Max airliner and the pandemic, which cut airlines' demand for new planes. CEO David Calhoun said in a memo to employees Wednesday that the company plans to keep jobs at the current level of about 140,000.

—Bulletin wire reports

Pandemic economy

Powell sees few problems from delta variant

BY RACHEL SIEGEL

The Washington Post
Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday said that the delta variant of the coronavirus could have fewer implications for the economy, if it follows the pattern of past waves of COVID surges.

"With delta, we're just going to have to watch," Powell said at a news conference Wednesday. "With a reasonably high percentage of the country vaccinated, and the vaccine apparently being effective — we're not experts on this but — it

seems like a good, going-in estimate would be that the effects will probably be less. There probably won't be significant lockdowns."

Powell said it was "plausible" that the delta variant, which is rapidly spreading among unvaccinated people, could discourage people from dining out or traveling, or delay school reopenings. But Powell said that vaccinations, and society's ability to adjust to life in a pandemic, may offer a cushion from harsh economic strain.

Powell said that the surge in

COVID-19 cases in the winter did have major effects on the labor market, especially in industries that depend on person-to-person contact.

But he added that businesses and consumers have found ways to continue on, saying "we've kind of learned to live with it." He gave the example of businesses that can sell houses virtually, or restaurants that can fill no-contact takeout orders.

Powell's comments come at a highly uncertain time for the economy. Public health officials, economic policymakers

and others are grappling with the rapidly-spreading delta variant and the need to get more people vaccinated.

On Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention walked back recent recommendations for vaccinated Americans, saying they should wear masks indoors if they live in COVID hot spots, or if they live with anyone immunocompromised, or with children who are not old enough for the vaccines. President Joe Biden announced Thursday that all federal employees will

be required to be vaccinated against the coronavirus or face repeated testing mandates.

Many parts of the economy appear to be headed in the right direction, and it is not yet clear if this recent wave of cases will thwart broader expectations for growth in 2021. Economists and policymakers hoped that more widespread vaccinations would help consumers unleash their pent-up savings, step back into their old routines and, in turn, bring back jobs in hard-hit industries.

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BY ARDESHIR TABRIZIAN
The Oregonian

After a yearlong, pandemic-induced surge in bicycle sales nationwide, some Portland bike stores are seeing sales taper off — but not because of falling interest.

Instead, demand remains high enough that overwhelmed retailers are struggling to meet it. Deliveries from bike manufacturers have been slow, and the manufacturers in turn can't get parts from their own suppliers.

Consumers as a result are waiting months to find the bikes that suit their interests. Otherwise, they're left to

settle for the short supply available or dust off old bikes to take in for repairs.

The bicycle industry was one of few that largely thrived after COVID-19 forced businesses to close or rework their operations last spring. Sales spiked in April 2020 and kept climbing as consumers were drawn to outdoor activities and exercise that allowed for social distancing.

Nationally, bicycle sales from May 2020 to April 2021 grew 57%, according to an analysis by Dirk Sorenson, of the The NPD Group, a market research firm. And national bike sales in March 2021 were the highest NPD has ever recorded.

But April sales appeared to mark the beginning of a decline anticipated by many retailers, Sorenson said. Sales fell 22% compared to the same month in 2020, though they were still up 5% from April 2019.

Demand for bikes has stayed strong. Sale-to-stock ratios — a marker for how quickly average inventory is sold and restocked — are not improving.

"That would indicate that consumers are buying what they can find," he said.

But Portland bike shop owners say they're having trouble getting bicycles in stock to sell.

See Bikes / A12

Schuyler Harrison, owner of Joe Bike, at the southeast Portland bike shop on Saturday.
Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Simple step to thwart phone hackers: Turn it off, then on

BY ALAN SUDERMAN
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — As a member of the secretive Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Angus King has reason to worry about hackers. At a briefing by security staff this year, he said he got some advice on how to help keep his cellphone secure.

Step One: Turn off phone.
Step Two: Turn it back on.
That's it. At a time of widespread digital insecurity it turns out that the oldest and simplest computer fix there is — turning a device off then back on again — can thwart hackers from stealing information from smartphones.

Regularly rebooting phones won't stop the army of cybercriminals or spy-for-hire firms that have sowed chaos



Carolyn Kaster/AP file

At a time of widespread digital insecurity, it turns out that the oldest and simplest computer fix there is — turning a device off then back on again — can thwart hackers from stealing information from smartphones.

and doubt about the ability to keep any information safe and private in our digital lives. But it can make even the most sophisticated hackers work harder to maintain access and steal data from a phone.

"This is all about imposing cost on these malicious actors," said Neal Ziring, technical director of the National Security Agency's cybersecurity directorate.

See Hackers / A12

Some state employees to get COVID hazard pay

BY HILLARY BORRUD
The Oregonian

Gov. Kate Brown has agreed to award state workers who were required to report to work in person during the pandemic one-time "COVID hazard payments" of up to \$1,550 under new tentative labor agreements.

All state employees who had to work in-person for at least 480 hours between March 8, 2020, and June 30, 2021, will be eligible, according to a summary of the tentative deal the state reached with SEIU 503. A member of AFSCME Council 75's bargaining team on Tuesday confirmed that union reached the same deal.

To be eligible for the top amount, employees must have worked at least 1,040

mandatory in-person hours, the equivalent of 26 40-hour weeks. Employees who worked fewer mandatory in-person hours but met the 480-hour minimum will receive \$1,050, according to SEIU 503's online announcement of its tentative labor agreement with the state.

A state spokesperson clarified Wednesday that all state employees who meet those thresholds will be eligible for the payments, regardless of whether they are represented by a union.

During the five-month legislative session that ended in June, unions pushed hard for lawmakers to approve "essential worker" stimulus payments and some lawmakers supported the idea.

See Hazard pay / A12