

▲ DOW 35,160.79 +249.59	▼ NASDAQ 13,453.07 -166.59	▼ S&P 500 4,459.45 -2.76	▼ 30-YR T-BOND 2.88% -.11	■ CRUDE OIL \$102.56 ...	▼ GOLD \$1,952.30 -3.40	▼ SILVER \$25.27 -.12	▲ EURO \$1.0842 +.0052
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BRIEFING

Drug company settles ahead of opioid trial

Drugmaker Endo Pharmaceuticals has agreed to pay the city of San Francisco \$10 million over its role in selling prescription opioids in the city.

City Attorney David Chiu announced the settlement Wednesday, five days before a trial is to begin of the city's claims against the drug industry over the toll of opioids.

Chiu said Endo, the maker of the prescription painkiller Percocet, is to pay \$5 million this year and another \$5 million over the next decade, with the money being used to fight the opioid epidemic.

The Malvern, Pennsylvania-based company has agreed to nearly \$300 million worth of settlements of opioid claims with U.S. government entities since 2019, according to an Associated Press tally. One of them, for \$25 million, came just this week with Alabama; that was announced along with about \$250 million in agreements between the state and other companies.

An Endo spokesperson did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

The San Francisco trial is scheduled to open in U.S. District Court on Monday with claims involving the drugmakers Allergan and Teva, distribution company Anda and pharmacy chain Walgreens.

It's among the first wave of federal cases chosen for trial.

United Airlines loses \$1.4B in Q1

United Airlines reported Wednesday that it lost \$1.38 billion in the first quarter of 2022 but said it expects to return to profitability in the current three-month period as post-pandemic travel ramps back up.

The Chicago-based airline posted revenue of \$7.67 billion in the quarter that ended March 31. That was down 21% from the first quarter of 2019.

The airline is still running fewer flights than before the pandemic. But it said it had reopened all of its lounges, resumed 19 international routes and restarted services to six cities that haven't been served since the pandemic began.

Shares in United Airlines Holdings Inc. jumped almost 8% in after-hours trading following the earnings report.

The number of miles flown by paying passengers fell 27% from a year earlier. However United is flying with roughly 73% of its available seats full. While not as high as the 81% of all seats before the pandemic, it is much better than it was in 2021 first quarter, when roughly half of all seats were filled with paying passengers.

The airline appeared optimistic that its pandemic-related losses were behind it. United said it expects to post a profit for the second quarter and for the full year 2022.

"The demand environment is the strongest it's been in my 30 years in the industry ... we're now seeing clear evidence that the second quarter will be an historic inflection point for our business," United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said.

— Bulletin wire reports

CASH-ONLY TARGETS | POT SHOPS

Robberies fuel calls for banking bill

BY GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A surge in robberies at licensed cannabis shops — including a pistol-whipping, gunshots and killings in Washington state last month — is helping fuel a renewed push for federal banking reforms that would make the cash-dependent stores a less appealing target.

"It makes absolutely no sense that legal businesses are being forced to operate entirely in cash, and it's dangerous — and sometimes even fatal — for employees be-

hind the register," Washington Sen. Patty Murray, the third-ranking Democrat in the Senate, wrote in a statement.

Although 18 states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, and 37 allow its medical use, it remains illegal under federal law. Because of that, big banks and credit card companies have long been reluctant to work with the industry, leaving the businesses heavily reliant on cash and making them attractive marks for robbers.

See **Pot shops** / A12



Twin security cameras and a video screen film the front door at Mary Mart, a marijuana store in Tacoma, Washington.

Ted S. Warren/AP

ADS ON NETFLIX?

Password freeloaders ARE IN PERIL



As shares plunge, Netflix takes aim at password sharing

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE • AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A sharp drop in subscribers sent Netflix shares into freefall Wednesday, forcing the company to consider experimenting with ads and — hold onto your remote — cracking down on millions of freeloaders who use passwords shared by friends or family.

Looming changes announced late Tuesday are designed to help Netflix regain momentum lost over the past year. Pandemic-driven lockdowns that drove binge-watching have lifted, while deep-pocketed rivals such as Apple and Walt Disney have begun to chip away at its vast audience with their own streaming services.

Netflix's customer base fell by

Did you know?

Netflix, the Los Gatos, California, company estimates that about 100 million households worldwide are watching its service for free by using the account of a friend or another family member, including 30 million in the U.S. and Canada.

200,000 subscribers during the January-March quarter, the first contraction the service has seen since it became available throughout most of the world other than China six years ago. The drop stemmed in part from Netflix's decision to withdraw from Russia to protest the war against Ukraine, resulting in a loss of 700,000 subscribers.

See **Netflix** / A12

FARMWORKERS

Brown signs overtime pay bill

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has signed into law House Bill 4002, which phases out the state's agricultural overtime pay exemption.

The new law establishes overtime pay requirements for agricultural workers in Oregon after 40 hours per week, with the requirements phased in over five years starting in 2023.

"I view this bill as an important step in the right direction, to correct a historic wrong," Brown wrote in a letter Friday to legislative leaders. "This policy will make a significant difference in the lives of farmworkers and their families."

Under the law, farmworkers will be owed time-and-a-half wages after 55 weekly hours of work next year, after 48 hours of work in 2025-2026 and after 40 hours per week beginning in 2027.

Advocates welcomed the governor's signature, saying it enhances farmworkers' basic rights.

Critics, however, said they are "deeply disappointed" in the decision, which they predict will hurt farmers who receive prices set by global markets and can't afford a steep increase in labor expenses.

Jeff Stone, executive director of the Oregon Association of Nurseries, said he expects the biggest losers will be small farms, dairy farms and highly seasonal operations — including nurseries and orchards — where workers put in long days during peak season.

Mary Anne Cooper, vice president of government affairs at Oregon Farm Bureau, said she believes farm employees will also lose out when employers can't afford to hire more workers or must offer workers fewer hours.

"We think this legislation will have devastating consequences for our family farms and their employees, will likely result in significantly reduced farm employment in Oregon and is really going to change the landscape of Oregon agriculture," said Cooper.

In contrast, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, or PCUN, a Latino union, welcomed the governor's signature and is gearing up for implementation.

"PCUN will be working on educating farm laborers about the phased implementation and about how their employers can access the fully refundable tax credit," said Reyna Lopez, executive director of PCUN.

See **Farmworkers** / A12

Drone maker flying high in the Gorge

Insitu, founded in 1994, produces aircraft for militaries

BY SARAH WOLF
The Columbian

BINGEN, Wash. — In the Columbia River Gorge, in the small town of Bingen, is Insitu — a business crafting unmanned aircraft systems for militaries across the globe.

Founded in 1994, it was created by engineers with the

thought of making miniature robotic aircraft, said Patrick Host, spokesman. On Aug. 21, 1998, Laima — a drone designed by Insitu — became the first unmanned aircraft to cross the North Atlantic.

Today, the company — a Boeing subsidiary — creates remote-piloted aircraft that can provide surveillance, maritime surface searches and target identifications, as well as security for ports, waterways and coastal areas.

"The Gorge is a great loca-

tion for Insitu because Portland International Airport is an hour away and we also do our flight testing and training in Eastern Oregon," said Host. "There is also a regional (unmanned aerial vehicle) industry here, and many Insitu suppliers are based in the Columbia Gorge."

Another reason the founders chose to put their drone business in the Gorge was that one of the company's founders liked windsurfing.

Insitu regularly secures con-

tracts from the U.S. military. In March, the Navy awarded a \$21.35 million contract to Insitu to provide aircraft and airframe components.

Insitu, which employs more than 1,000 people worldwide, deployed its first ScanEagle for the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq in 2004. In 2010, it provided the ScanEagle to its first European customer, Poland. And in 2018, Insitu added satellite-communication-based, extended-range capabilities to its portfolio.