



BRIEFLY
NATION

**Netflix raises prices
for new subscribers**

SAN FRANCISCO — Netflix is raising its Internet video prices by \$1 per month for new customers and giving its current U.S. subscribers a two-year break from the higher rates.

The changes mean anyone signing up for Netflix's video subscription service will pay \$9 per month. The old price of \$8 per month will continue until May 2016 for Netflix's existing 36 million U.S. subscribers. The price increase, Netflix's first in nearly three years, isn't a surprise. The company disclosed its plans to raise its rates last month without specifying the precise amount.

**U.S. job openings slip
in March after gain**

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers advertised slightly fewer jobs and slowed hiring a bit in March, though the declines came after healthy gains the previous month.

The Labor Department said Friday that employers posted 4 million jobs in March, down 2.7 percent from February. But February's total nearly matched November's for the highest level of openings since January 2008, when the Great Recession was beginning.

The report also showed that February's data for hiring and quits was revised much higher, indicating that the job market was in better shape that month than initially estimated.

**Research tax credit
made permanent**

WASHINGTON — The House voted Friday to make permanent a tax credit that rewards businesses for investing in research and development, pushing Congress toward an election-year showdown over a series of expired tax breaks that are popular back home but add billions to the budget deficit.

The research tax credit expired at the beginning of the year, along with more than 50 other temporary tax breaks that Congress routinely extends.

House Republicans said Friday's vote was the beginning of a broader effort to add more certainty to the tax code.

**Wholesale stockpiles
increase in March**

WASHINGTON — U.S. wholesale businesses increased their stockpiles in March by the largest amount in five months while sales increased at the fastest clip in 10 months.

Wholesale stockpiles rose 1.1 percent in March after a 0.7 percent gain in February, the Commerce Department reported Friday. It was the ninth consecutive monthly gain and the largest increase since a 1.2 percent rise in October.

Sales at the wholesale level were up 1.4 percent, the best showing since a 1.9 percent rise in May 2013.

WORLD

**Detergent removed
over neo-Nazi code**

BERLIN — Procter & Gamble has apologized for "any false connotations" after stirring anger in Germany for unintentionally placing a neo-Nazi code on promotional packages for its Ariel laundry detergent.

Outraged shoppers had posted pictures online of Ariel powder boxes featuring a white soccer jersey with a large number "88." The number is sensitive because far-right extremists in Germany often use it as a code to skirt a ban on the use of Nazi slogans in public: since "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet, "88" represents the phrase "Heil Hitler."

— News service reports

County's tourism rises in '13

Room tax revenues reach a record high, but the biggest share of spending was in the food service industry

By ILENE ALESHIRE
The Register-Guard

Travel and tourism spending generated \$575.7 million for the local economy in 2013 as room tax revenues hit a record high, Travel Lane County said Friday.

The biggest share of this spending was in Lane County restaurants and other food-related services, the travel and tourism organization said. This was followed by spending on accommodations, retail sales, arts, entertainment, recreation

and transportation, the agency said, based on a study by national research firm Dean Runyan Associates.

The majority of overnight visitors to Lane County stayed in private homes, according to the Runyan study, but it was the ones who stayed in hotels and motels who had the biggest economic impact — \$153.6 million for people who stayed with friends or family vs. \$233.5 million for people who stayed in hotels and motels.

Visitors to Lane County who

didn't stay overnight spent \$145.9 million in the county last year, according to Runyan, with the rest of the total \$575.7 million in direct visitor spending coming from people who stayed in campgrounds or vacation homes.

Spending by visitors to Lane County continued to increase slightly almost every year throughout the recession, dipping only in 2010, and was up by about 3 percent in 2013 compared with 2012 and by 12 percent compared with 2008, when the recession hit Lane County hard, according to the Runyan report.

Tourism tax receipts totalled

about \$9.4 million in Lane County last year, up by 6.4 percent from 2012.

The lion's share of visitor spending last year was in the eastern part of the county — about \$6 for every \$1 spent in the western part of the county, but this includes transportation to other destinations in Oregon.

For Lane County residents interested in boosting the local economy, Runyan had this suggestion: If every household in the county encouraged one more overnight visitor this year, it would add almost \$22.8 million in visitor spending and create 327 more jobs, the research firm estimated.

LUXURY GOODS



ERIC RISBERG/Associated Press

Jenna Starr of The RealReal inspects a pair of Louis Vuitton handbags to authenticate them at the headquarters of the company in San Francisco.

Used top-drawer draws top dollar

More websites fuel the trend of high-end resale

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jenna Broems shops for clothes the same way she hunts for a new car: She considers resale value. Broems only buys brands such as Abercrombie & Fitch and 7 For All Mankind because she believes they will fetch the highest prices when she's ready to move on.

"I'm now walking in like 'What's the return of this? Am I going to be able to resell?'" said the teacher who has gotten \$2,500 from items she's resold on ThredUP, an online resale site for used clothes.

Americans increasingly are considering the resale value when they shop for everything from jeans to handbags. The habit is in part due to a growing number of websites that make it easy for shoppers to buy and resell preowned goods.

It's the latest reflection of the tough econ-

omy. Buying used goods at consignment shops became popular during the recession.

The habit has stuck during the economic recovery as people have gotten used to being able to wear the latest fashions without paying top dollar: Just as people lease a new car every couple of years, reselling clothes is a way for Americans to trade up or splurge without spending a lot of additional cash.

The trend also is a consequence of the escalating cost of luxury. Rising prices of designer merchandise in recent years have tested the willingness of even affluent shoppers to pay full price. The price tag of a classic Chanel handbag, for example, is now \$4,900 this year, up from \$2,250 in 2007.

The size of the resale market is tiny: about 10 percent of overall luxury merchandise — including clothing, handbags, accessories and home furnishings, are sold in the aftermarket

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Man admits to fraud in Boeing contracts

A subcontractor used inside information to win bids to produce military aircraft parts

By ROBERT PATRICK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — A California man pleaded guilty in federal court here Friday and admitted using inside information from a Boeing employee in a bid to win contracts to produce 16 different military aircraft parts, prosecutors said.

William Boozer, 59, of Hacienda Heights, owns Globe Dynamics International, Inc., of Santa Ana, Calif., which produced precision-machined parts and assembled complex components for Boeing, prosecutors said.

From November 2009 to February 2013, Boozer got Boeing's procurement officer, Deon Anderson, to provide inside information on historic prices and competitors' bids, using the coded term "Isle 5," short for "price check on aisle five," prosecutors said.

In exchange, Anderson, 47, of St. Louis, got cash, they said.

Boozer used that information to prepare and submit bids to Boeing, eventually winning seven purchase orders to supply parts worth \$1.5 million.

The "net benefit" on the orders was \$116,339, prosecutors said.

Boozer pleaded guilty Friday to one felony count of wire fraud and is scheduled to be sentenced August 15.

Anderson and two other company owners, Jeffrey Lavelle, 52, of Mukilteo, Wash., and Robert Diaz, Jr., 54, of Alta Loma, Calif., also were charged.

They all have pleaded not guilty but court documents show all have scheduled to change those pleas June 4.

Writers fume over Amazon spat with publisher

Authors use Twitter to denounce the retailer's tactics to keep customers from buying books by Hachette

By DAVID STREITFELD
The New York Times

Amazon's secret campaign to discourage customers from buying books by Hachette, one of the big New York publishers, burst into the open Friday.

The uneasy relationship between the retailer and the writing community that needs Amazon but fears its power immediately soured as authors took to Twitter to denounce what they saw as bullying.

Among Amazon's tactics against Hachette, some of which it has been employing for

months, are charging more for its books and suggesting that readers might enjoy instead a book from another author. If customers for some reason persist and buy a Hachette book anyway, Amazon is saying it will take weeks to deliver it.

The scorched earth tactics arose out of failed contract negotiations. Amazon was seeking better terms, Hachette was balking, so Amazon began cutting it off. Writers from Malcolm Gladwell to J.D. Salinger were affected, although some Hachette authors were unscathed. On both sides, the stakes are

high. Amazon controls about a third of the book business, which means big publishers cannot live without it. But Amazon risks alienating readers as well as authors, and undermining its carefully wrought image as the consumer's friend.

As accusations flew, the two antagonists kept a low profile. Hachette stressed it was shipping orders promptly and yet Amazon was still showing the books as being unavailable. Amazon, as usual, declined comment.

The retailer appeared to be using three main tactics in its efforts against Hachette, which owns Grand Central Publishing, Orbit and Little, Brown as well as many other imprints. One is simply warning that

books would take a long time to show up. If a reader wants a Malcolm Gladwell book from Amazon, many were listed as taking two to three weeks. A Spanish edition from another publisher was available immediately.

Then there is the question of price.

Gladwell's "Outliers" was selling Friday for \$15.29. On Barnes & Noble, it was \$12.74.

With some Hachette authors, Amazon seemed to be discouraging buyers in other ways. On the top of the page for Jeffery Deaver's forthcoming novel "The Skin Collector," Amazon suggested that the prospective customer buy other novels entirely.

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