

## Star Wars

**Continued from A7**

These changes are among several ways the state's health protocols are altering how theme park fans experience their favorite attractions.

The state guidelines that allowed theme parks to reopen this month include rules that are designed to reduce the time parkgoers spend doing things in close proximity to strangers, such as standing in queues or inside poorly ventilated areas. For that reason, the rules limit the parks' overall capacity and require that all queues be outdoors and that indoor rides last no longer than 15 minutes.

Over the last couple of decades, major theme parks such as Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood had leaned the opposite way, investing heavily to make rides' long lines more tolerable by moving them indoors. That protects visitors from the weather and creates an opportunity to fill the space with entertainment to enhance the theme of the ride.

The parks "spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours designing all the stuff in those queues," said Martin Lewison, a business administration professor and theme park expert from Farmingdale State College in New York.

Now, where possible, the parks are shortening or eliminating the indoor queues instead of shortening the rides.

At Universal Studios Hollywood, which also reopened this month, one of the most popular rides — Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey — takes place primarily inside what resembles the enchanted Hogwarts castle. During the indoor queue, parkgoers stroll past statues of wizards and listen to dialogue coming from moving paintings, animated creatures and 3D projections.

To reduce the time spent inside, Universal Studios is sending visitors into the queue in what Senior Vice President of Operations Scott Strobl described as "pulses" of 15 to 20 people at a time, with short breaks in between.

## Recovery

**Continued from A7**

In March, employers added 916,000 jobs — the biggest burst of hiring since August. Meantime, retail spending has surged, manufacturing output is up and consumer confidence has reached its highest point since the pandemic began.

"We are seeing all the engines of the economy rev up," said Gregory Daco, chief economist at Oxford Economics. "We have an improving health environment, fiscal stimulus remains abundant and we are starting to see rebounding employment."

For all the U.S. economy's gains, it still has a long way to go. More than 8 million jobs remain lost to the pandemic. And the recovery remains sharply uneven: Most col-

lege-educated and white collar employees have been able to work from home over the past year. Many have even built up savings and expanded their wealth from rising home values and a record-setting stock market, which has rocketed more than 80% from March of last year.

By contrast, job cuts have fallen heavily on low-wage workers, racial minorities and people without college educations. In addition, many women, especially working mothers, have had to leave the workforce to care for children.

A major reason for the brightening expectations is the record-level federal spending that is poised to flow into the economy. A \$1.9 trillion package that President Joe Biden got through Congress in March provided,

among other rescue aid, \$1,400 stimulus payments to most adults.

The Federal Reserve's ultra-low interest-rate policy, designed to encourage borrowing and spending, has provided significant support, too. In fact, the economy is expected to expand so fast that some economists have raised concerns that it could ignite inflation.

As more business restrictions are lifted and more people venture out to shop and eat out, companies that serve them are benefiting. McDonald's, for example, posted a sharp jump in revenue last quarter — even surpassing the same period in 2019, long before the pandemic flattened the economy. Likewise, most major tech companies have reported impressive earnings.

## Bees

**Continued from A7**

"Then the 80,000 honey bee colonies in (Oregon) don't have a lot to go to."

According to the California Farm Bureau, beekeepers statewide are worried about diminishing food sources.

Experts say it's important for bees to have access to late-blooming plants through August when the landscape is dry and brown.

Jacob, the beekeeper, said he's prepared to do whatever it takes to feed his bees through the drought, including feeding syrup. But this is expensive, and when beekeepers across the sector do so, it can drive up hive rental costs for farmers.

Tucker Pyne, owner of the Lucky Elk Farm in Rogue

River, is one farmer Jacob works with. Pyne runs a small organic farm producing hemp, vegetables, fruit and meat.

Pyne uses cover cropping systems — a rare practice in the hemp sector, according to experts. He said his primary goal is to enrich his soil, and supporting pollinators is just a secondary benefit.

"The main reason why I use cover crops is to build organic matter in the soil," Pyne said.

Pyne uses several cover cropping methods: rotating fields, inter-seeding directly into his crops and planting in the aisles. His cover crops include sunflowers and buckwheat, which bloom through August.

"It provides tremendous food for pollinators, and it's beautiful — very Instagram-friendly," he said.

## Rent

**Continued from A7**

However, it could take up to two months for those landlords to receive the money as local public housing authorities finalize the grants.

The state approved the grants despite a rocky rollout to the program and technical issues with the online application portal that initially prevented landlords from submitting required documents with their applications.

Applications for the first round opened in February, but the technical issues led to major processing delays.

Those technical issues forced the state to delay the second round. Applications for the second round open at 10 a.m. Thursday and close at 5 p.m. May 17. Landlords can seek funding to cover 80% of outstanding rent accumulated between April 2020 and May 2021. The state plans to make \$70 million available during the second round.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Lynne W. Haley**  
of Prineville, OR  
June 18, 1926 - April 10, 2021  
*Arrangements:*  
Autumn Funerals of Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485  
Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family on our website at [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
*Services:*  
A graveside service will take place at Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, OR on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

**Opal I. Wonsor**  
of Bend, OR  
Aug 1, 1936 - April 26, 2021  
*Arrangements:*  
Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
*Services:*  
Graveside services will be held on Tue., May 4 at 1 PM at Pilot Butte Cemetery, Bend

**OBITUARY DEADLINE**  
Call to ask about our deadlines  
541-385-5809

## GUTTER SHUTTER IS THE STRONGEST GUTTER ON THE MARKET

**10% OFF\***  
ALL IN ONE  
GUTTER SYSTEM

- Lifetime no-clog warranty
- Will never clog or fill with debris



Contact Us and Schedule Your Free Quote

**541-283-0644**  
[pacificgutter.com](http://pacificgutter.com)



WA: PACIFGC809MA | OR: CCB#231981

\*Minimum purchase required. Expires 4/30/2021

## ShopSmart™

EMPLOYEE OWNED - COMMUNITY VALUES

# 3 DAY MEAT BONANZA

### HUGE SAVINGS

FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH  
THROUGH SUNDAY,  
MAY 2ND



**Whole in the Bag  
Boneless Beef  
Rib Eye**  
USDA Inspected

**6<sup>77</sup>**  
per lb

**Fresh Boneless  
Skinless Chicken  
Thighs**

Approx. 10 lb bag

**1<sup>67</sup>**  
per lb

**Whole in the Bag  
Boneless Beef  
New York Strip**  
USDA Inspected

**5<sup>49</sup>**  
per lb

**Whole in the Bag  
Boneless  
Pork Loin**

**1<sup>79</sup>**  
per lb

**Bulk Pack  
Big Buy Sliced Bacon**  
Sold in 10 lb box

**2<sup>25</sup>**  
per lb  
\$22.50 ea.

**Family Pack  
Boneless Beef  
New York Strip  
Steak**  
Choice Grade

**7<sup>97</sup>**  
per lb

**Bulk Pack  
Pork Riblets**  
Sold in 10 lb box

**1<sup>80</sup>**  
per lb  
\$18.00 ea.

**Whole in the Bag  
Pork Shoulder  
Roast**

**1<sup>57</sup>**  
per lb

**Extra Lean  
Ground Sirloin**  
8 lbs or more

**3<sup>99</sup>**  
per lb

**Pork  
Baby Back Ribs**

**3<sup>77</sup>**  
per lb

**Fryer  
Hind Quarters**  
Frozen  
Sold in a 10 lb bag

**6<sup>90</sup>**  
ea

**Whole Beef  
Tenderloin**  
USDA Inspected

**7<sup>79</sup>**  
per lb

**Beef  
Back Ribs**

**1<sup>39</sup>**  
per lb

**Kansas City BBQ  
Dry Rubbed  
St. Louis Style Ribs**  
cook in the bag

**3<sup>77</sup>**  
per lb

**Sugar Tree  
Spiral Sliced  
Hams**

**1<sup>49</sup>**  
per lb

**Hill's Meat  
Cherrywood  
Sliced Bacon**  
3 lb pkg

**14<sup>77</sup>**  
ea

LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND - NO RAIN CHECKS

# WOW!

51370 Hwy 97, La Pine  
(541) 536-1724