

<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>DOW</b> 34,060.66 -267.13	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>NASDAQ</b> 13,303.64 -75.41	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 4,127.83 -35.46	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 2.38% +01	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> <b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$65.49 -.78	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>GOLD</b> \$1,867.80 +.30	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>SILVER</b> \$28.31 +.05	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> <b>EURO</b> \$1.2229 +.0070
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**BRIEFING**

**Eugene company slammed over sale of fake N95 masks**

The federal government has seized \$3.6 million from the bank account of a Eugene company involved in a deal to sell \$4.5 million in overpriced, counterfeit N95 masks to the state of Maine.

The U.S. attorney is seeking to force the company, Med-Tech Resource LLC, to forfeit the money and reimburse Maine for 1.8 million fake respirators. But the company's CEO already agreed to refund the state, the Portland Press Herald reported.

"We'll do everything in our power to make everyone whole," said Michael Modrich, founder and CEO of the 30-year-old medical supply company.

The National Recall Alert Center notified Maine that the state had purchased masks that might be counterfeit, according to a forfeiture claim filed on Friday.

3M, which manufactures the real N95 masks, later confirmed the masks were counterfeit. The money was seized in March, according to court documents.

**Shares in biotech firm plunge**

Little-known Vancouver biotech company CytoDyn lost nearly a third of its market value after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found "no clinical benefit" for the firm's purported treatment for COVID-19.

Further, the FDA said Monday that data the Vancouver company had published that purported to show a small benefit from CytoDyn's Leronlimab drug were statistically insignificant. The agency issued an unusual public statement on the typically confidential results, citing "substantial public interest."

CytoDyn's shares fell 76 cents, or 27%, Monday after the FDA issued its findings. The stock which trades over the counter, was down another 9 cents Tuesday morning, to \$1.95. Even so, the company still has a market value of \$1.2 billion.

The company had 19 employees at this time in 2020, when CytoDyn issued its last annual report to securities regulators.

**Home construction falls 9.5% in April**

U.S. home construction fell a sharp 9.5% in April and economists attributed that partially to builders who delayed projects because of a surge in lumber prices and other supply constraints.

The April decline left construction at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.57 million units, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. That was down from a rate of 1.73 million units in March, which had been the best showing since July 2006 at the peak of that decade's housing boom. Applications for building permits, considered a sign of future activity, rose 0.3% in April, suggesting that the April dip will be temporary.

The price of lumber alone has added \$35,872 to the price of an average single-family home, according to the National Association of Home Builders. Part of those increases are border taxes imposed by the Trump administration in a trade dispute with Canada.

— Bulletin wire reports

**DATA CENTERS**

## Pacific Power and Facebook partner on renewable energy



Submitted image, file

An overview of Facebook's Prineville data center campus provided in March.

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

Facebook's Prineville Data Center is being fueled by a partnership with Pacific Power support, which fits the mission of building and operating sustainable centers in the United States.

Of the 55 new solar and wind projects Facebook supports across 18 states, 1,033 megawatts are from projects located in Oregon, Montana and Utah, including two solar projects generating 100 megawatts in Crook County, according to a Facebook economic impact report released Tuesday.

"We are proud that our commitment to renewable energy has brought additional investment and benefits to communities in the U.S., including Central Oregon," said Urvi Parekh, head of renewable energy at Facebook. "We appreciate the partnership of numerous utilities, developers and community members."

"It is clear that renewable energy is not only good for the environment but creates opportunities for businesses, people and communities."

In March, the social media giant announced it would add two new buildings to its campus in Prineville that will make it the largest in its fleet of data centers in the United States.

The two new buildings will add 900,000 square feet to the campus, expanding the 11-building campus to 4.6 million square feet or the equivalent to nearly 80 football fields.

"We applaud the data centers for their commitment to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy," Prineville City Manager Steve Forrester said in an email. "Their commitment has resulted in Crook County and Prineville having the largest solar plant farms in Oregon."

Prineville has a more robust power infrastructure in place today only because of the presence of data centers, Forrester said. The community also benefits. More than 500 high-paying jobs have been created as a direct result of the data center, creating the most economic stability seen in Crook County since the height of the timber industry after World War II, he said.

"The data centers replaced lost jobs with new industries like tech and construction and driven our economy when we needed it most," he said.

Data centers are energy-intensive buildings, using large amounts of electricity to power servers and cooling equipment, according to the report.

Generally, they're built in communities with low land costs, low and reliable energy and access to water.

See **Energy** / A12

**COVID-19 | Federal aid**

## Small-business grants flow to 960 Oregon restaurants

BY PETER WONG

Oregon Capital Bureau

Han Ly Hwang is one of almost 1,000 Oregon restaurant owners who shared a total of \$138 million from a Small Business Administration program spearheaded by U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer and Oregon restaurateurs.

He owns Kim Jong Grillin, a Korean barbecue restaurant in southeast Portland.

He was among the 960 Oregon owners — of 38,000 nationwide — who got shares in the first round of the program totaling \$6 billion. SBA got more than 300,000 applications for the \$28.6 billion that Congress set aside for the program in President Joe Biden's pandemic recovery plan. The applications totaled \$69 billion.

Still, after Blumenauer spent nearly a year crafting the program with help

from Portland restaurateurs — and barely 60 days after Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law — Hwang got help from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. The average grant was \$143,000.

"This is a complete game-changer. For someone like myself, being a Korean American, this money gives me more of an opportunity to put my culture first and to really share it through the food," Hwang said Monday during a conference call sponsored by Blumenauer.

"This is far from over, but how easy and smooth (Congress and SBA) transitioned this program from being in writing to actually being implemented is jaw-dropping. The help means the world to us. It means that we're not alone, and we really appreciate that."

See **Restaurants** / A12

## Oregon hiring stalls as recovery slows

BY MIKE ROGOWAY

The Oregonian

Oregon added just 2,200 jobs in April — one-tenth as many as in March. That's a worrying sign for the state's economic outlook and parallels a national hiring slowdown.

Oregon's unemployment rate remained steady at 6.0%, according to data released Tuesday from the Oregon Employment Department. That's unchanged from March, making April the first month since the pandemic's outset that the state's jobless rate didn't improve. The national jobless rate was 6.1% last month.

Overall, there are 117,400 fewer jobs in Oregon than in the month before the pandemic hit, a 6% decline.

Government jobs posted the biggest gains in March, at 2,300, which economists said reflected school reopenings. Leisure and hospitality added 2,000 jobs, the next-largest gains. Manufacturing, warehousing and retail all lost hundreds of jobs last month.

Economists across the country are puzzling over the hiring slowdown. A computer-chip shortage has

cooled manufacturing by limiting access to key components. Some workers may be cautious about returning to their jobs during the pandemic, and many parents are unable to work while schools are closed or operating on severely reduced schedules.

Employers, though, say some workers are staying away because they can make more from unemployment benefits than they can at certain low-wage jobs. In Oregon, the value of the average weekly jobless benefit is \$16.75 an hour, including a \$300 federal bonus paid each week through Labor Day.

That's above the minimum wage, which ranges from \$11.50 to \$13.50 an hour, depending on region. But it's well below the roughly \$24 an hour that full-time workers average in Oregon.

Regardless of the reason, Tuesday's jobs numbers indicate a slowdown in Oregon's economic recovery. Economists are divided over whether it's a signal of more trouble ahead, or if it's a brief pause ahead of the broad reopening now underway as COVID-19 vaccines become prevalent.

## Enchanted Forest delays reopening after threats

Amusement park requires masks if proof of vaccination is not given

BY JAMIE HALE

The Oregonian

On Monday afternoon, Enchanted Forest announced on social media that it would finally be reopening to the public, after the coronavirus pandemic, financial woes and an ice storm all devastated the beloved Oregon amusement park over the last year.

But as word of the reopening got out, some fans responded with threats and angry comments, and own-

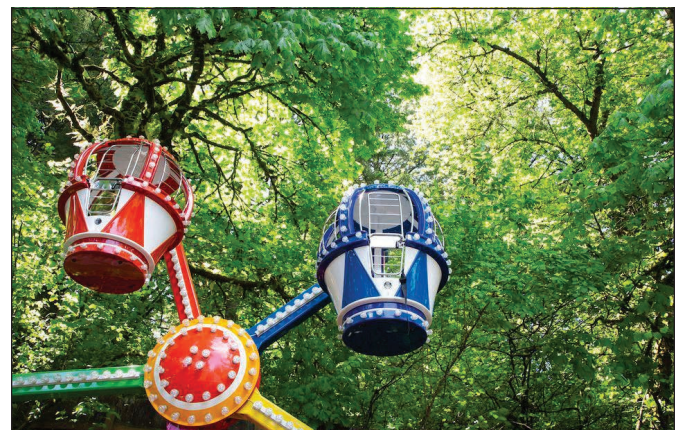
ers walked back the reopening plan Tuesday morning.

Park co-manager Susan Vaslev said most people seemed to be upset about the requirement to wear face masks inside the park, a state requirement, and Enchanted Forest's decision to allow people to go without masks provided they show a vaccination card upon entry. On Tuesday, the state released new guidance: Businesses no longer have to require masks, but vis-

itors must prove they're fully vaccinated.

"We weighed it all out and decided that we cannot open safely," Vaslev said. "Until we reach the point where we all agree how this transition is going to take place between mask, unmasked, vaccinated, unvaccinated and everybody can be together safely and commingle — that has to happen before we can reopen."

See **Park** / A12



Beth Nakamura/Oregonian file

Enchanted Forest had initially planned to reopen this weekend.