

<b>DOW</b> 31,097.97 +56.84	<b>NASDAQ</b> 13,201.97 +134.49	<b>S&amp;P 500</b> 3,824.68 +20.89	<b>30-YR T-BOND</b> 1.86% +0.2	<b>CRUDE OIL</b> \$52.24 +1.41	<b>GOLD</b> \$1,834.10 -78.20	<b>SILVER</b> \$24.58 -2.62	<b>EURO</b> \$1.2212 -0.0056
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**BRIEFING**

**2 accused in fraud for COVID-19 loans**

Two men are accused of converting for personal use more than \$2.2 million in loans meant to help small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

Andrew Aaron Lloyd, 50, of Lebanon, and Russell A. Schort, 38, of Myrtle Creek, are charged with wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering in federal court in Eugene.

The FBI investigated after receiving information that the men fraudulently obtained Paycheck Protection Program loans, which were authorized by the federal coronavirus relief act.

Between April 7 and May 8, financial records showed both applied for and received at least three loan payments using three different entities, totaling more than \$2.2 million, according to a criminal complaint filed in court.

**Consumer credit at best in 5 months**

U.S. consumer borrowing rose 4.4% in November, its strongest showing in five months, led by gains in auto and student loans that offset a drop in credit card borrowing.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that the rise represented an increase of \$15.3 billion, the best showing since June. Borrowing had risen \$4.5 billion in October.

Consumer borrowing is closely watched for indications of the willingness of households to take on more debt to support their spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity.

— Bulletin wire reports

**PEOPLE ON THE MOVE**

- Standard Paint and Flooring in Bend has hired **Melissa Soriano** and **Ana Dupont**, who will join the sales team.



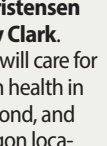
Soriano

- Dermatology Health Specialists added **Samuel Christensen** and **Lindsey Clark**. Christensen will care for patients' skin health in Bend, Redmond, and Eastern Oregon locations, and Clark will specialize in skin cancer, medical dermatology and aesthetics.



Dupont

- Kathleen Cody** has been selected by the High Desert Education Service District as its executive director. Cody comes to the organization with more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership.



Cody

- Megan Burgess** has been named president of the board of directors at Bethlehem Inn. In addition the Central Oregon organization that serves the situationally homeless population named **Mike Bonetto** as vice president, **Kevin Link** as secretary and **Jill Craveiro** as treasurer.

## U.S. loses 140,000 jobs, first monthly drop since spring

BY CHRISTOPHER RUGABER

AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON — U.S. employers shed jobs last month for the first time since April, cutting 140,000 positions, clear evidence that the economy is faltering as the viral pandemic tightens its grip on consumers and businesses.

At the same time, the unemployment rate stayed at 6.7%, the first time it hasn't fallen since April.

Friday's figures from the Labor Department depict a sharply uneven job market, with losses concentrated among restaurants, bars, hotels and entertainment venues, many of them affecting

low-income employees, while most other sectors are still adding workers. Still, the nation has nearly 10 million fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic sent it into a deep recession nearly a year ago, having recovered just 56% of the jobs lost in the spring.

The pandemic will likely

continue to weaken the economy through winter and perhaps early spring, and further job losses are possible in the coming months. But many economists say that once coronavirus vaccines are more widely distributed, a broader recovery should take hold in the second half of the year.

See **Jobs** / A6



Capital Press

The Western bumble bee.

## New OSU program is nation's 1st native bee inventory

BY SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN

Capital Press  
CORVALLIS — Oregon is the first state in the U.S. to create a Master Melittologists program that trains volunteers to become bee experts and use that knowledge to preserve and catalogue bees native to the state.

A melittologist studies bees. Oregon State University modeled its new program after its Master Gardener program.

The program teaches volunteers to locate, identify and preserve the more than 620 species of native bees in Oregon, many of which are pollinators, in a database called the Oregon Bee Atlas.

The program expands knowledge about the natural world, but it also has practical applications. Researchers identify bees experiencing declining populations, and knowing more about native bee species has enabled growers to boost crop yields.

It has also produced unexpected benefits. Volunteers looking for bees inadvertently stumbled across invasive species, which may help stop their spread.

"Volunteers have been committed to producing the best museum-quality specimens possible. The people attracted to this program are super passionate, super capable," said Lincoln Best, lead taxonomist for the Oregon Bee Atlas.

Collecting specimens isn't easy.

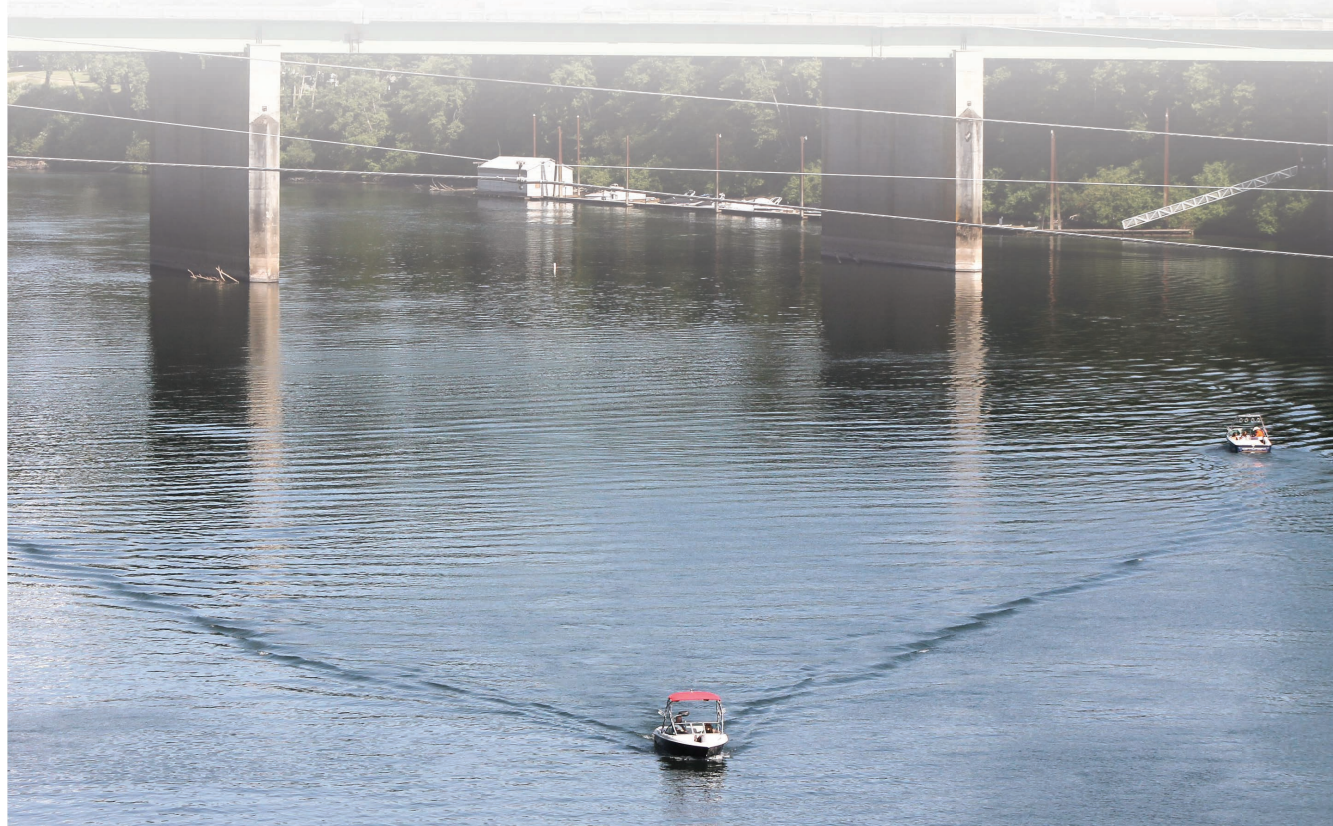
To become Master Melittologists, volunteers receive a year of training covering bee biology, how to prepare collections and plan trips.

"We were looking for people we could train to be entomologists in their own right," said Andony Melathopoulos, OSU Extension's pollinator health specialist, who runs the program.

Melathopoulos tries to make it fun. The act of putting identification on a bee is called "determinating," so Melathopoulos recently awarded one of his volunteers the "Determinator" award.

See **Bee** / A6

## A new face for the WILLAMETTE



Lake Oswego Review

### Officials try to draw tourism to 'clean, safe' Oregon river

BY COREY BUCHANAN • Lake Oswego Review

While Heather King saw more people flock to the Willamette River in the summer than ever before due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deputy director for the Willamette Riverkeeper nonprofit organization said the waterway can sometimes be an afterthought compared

to other destinations like the Mackenzie or John Day rivers.

"It is a beautiful river. It's a river you can take overnight trips on and never see another boat on the river depending on the trip," King said. "People just don't think about it as a place to go."

See **Willamette** / A6

## More virus aid on the way for small businesses



Jae C. Hong/AP file

**Victor Flores, 66, sweeps the steps of his Los Angeles gift shop Dec. 16. The Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department are reviving the Paycheck Protection Program.**

BY JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

The Associated Press  
NEW YORK — For Nancy Sinoway, a second coronavirus relief loan would increase the chances that her dressmaking business will survive.

"I could use it for marketing, for new samples. I could use it as a lifeline," says Sinoway, who designs and makes dresses for occasions like weddings and proms. She was flooded with order cancellations starting in early March as the virus spread and large gatherings and events were abandoned.

Sinoway got a Paycheck Protection Program loan in

May and used it to pay her three employees. But the loan money fell far short of what she needed to maintain her Port Washington, New York, shop. She was forced to close it and move the business into her home.

Millions of business owners like Sinoway are about to get help. The Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department are preparing to revive the Paycheck Protection Program five months after its first two rounds of funding ended.

In the latest round, businesses that received loans last year will be able to borrow up

to \$2 million as long as they have no more than 300 employees and suffered at least a 25% drop in quarterly revenue. First-time borrowers with no more than 500 workers will be able to borrow up to \$10 million.

The loans, which can be forgiven, will have five-year terms and carry an interest rate of 1%.

The SBA will initially accept only applications submitted by community financial institutions, lenders whose customers are minority-owned and economically disadvantaged businesses.

See **Aid** / A6