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SPORTS PULLOUT, A5-8

RETRIAL OF LUKE ANTON WIRKKALA | DAY 3

State presents more witnesses, evidence

BY GARRETT ANDREWS
The Bulletin

REDMOND — The retrial of Luke Anton Wirkkala, which entered its third day Tuesday, offered familiar evidence, with numerous witnesses careful to repeat their exact testimony from the original murder trial in 2014. Wirkkala is accused of the Feb. 4, 2013, killing of

a houseguest, David Ryder, 31, with a close range blast from a Remington pump-action shotgun. Wirkkala says he acted in self-defense after Ryder strangled and tried to rape him. Witnesses on Tuesday included police officers involved in the initial investigation and forensic analysts. Evidence included photos

showing obvious scratches on Wirkkala's neck — the same images seen on placards waved by relatives outside the Deschutes County Courthouse several weekends ahead of trial. Wirkkala testified in the first trial he feared for his life. He said it was a side of Ryder he'd never seen before. See [Wirkkala](#) / A4

OSU-Cascades responds to Alexander's resignation

BY JACKSON HOGAN
The Bulletin

The resignation of Oregon State University President F. King Alexander Tuesday shouldn't impact students and faculty at Oregon State University-Cascades, according to the leader of the Bend campus. "I don't think it will have a great, immediate impact," Becky Johnson, vice president of OSU-Cascades, told The Bulletin on Tuesday.

Alexander resigned after reports showed he mishandled sexual misconduct cases during his time as the president of Louisiana State University. Last week, the university board of trustees put Alexander on probation, but an angry reaction from OSU students, alumni and faculty changed that decision. The board accepted Alexander's resignation during its meeting Tuesday. Johnson agreed that OSU

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needed a new leader. "I think that given the feedback that the board has received from faculty, staff and students over the last few days, this is the right thing for Dr. Alexander to do, and the right thing for the board to accept his resignation," Johnson told The Bulletin. See [Alexander](#) / A4



Jared Leisek, a scuba diver from Redmond who runs the popular YouTube channel Adventures with Purpose, recovered these two cars from the Willamette River in 2019: a red Jaguar (left) at the Oak Grove boat ramp downriver from Oregon City, and a Mazda (right) near the Sellwood Bridge in Portland. Submitted photos



COVID-19 county risk levels continue to improve

BY GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau
Oregon's new COVID-19 risk levels show improving conditions around the state as officials expect to pass the 1 million shot mark on vaccinations.

"We are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel get a little brighter," Gov. Kate Brown said Tuesday in a statement.

Counties are assigned one of four risk levels based on the spread of COVID-19 infections: extreme, high, moderate and lower. The higher the level, the more restrictions on activities, businesses and gatherings.

The new risk levels will go into effect Friday.

Overall, the news was good as none of the state's 10 most populous counties is in the extreme risk category and just three are high.

The rest are moderate or lower risk.

In January, 27 out of the state's 36 counties were rated as extreme risk, including most of the population centers in Oregon. See [Risk](#) / A12

SEARCH & RECOVERY

Redmond man uses scuba diving to recover vehicles and remains of loved ones

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

Jared Leisek, a former residential developer in Redmond, decided three years ago to reconnect with his passion for scuba diving and use his underwater skills to remove debris from the Deschutes River.

Leisek cleared thousands of pounds of trash from the water in one year and then started to find unusual items, such as guns and vehicles. In 2019 he even found an urn filled with ashes that was accidentally dropped in the river seven years earlier.



Jared Leisek, of Redmond, stands in his trailer full of equipment he uses when scuba diving during recovery missions around the country. Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

He filmed his findings and posted them on the YouTube channel Adventures with Purpose with the help of his wife and two daughters. Eventually, Leisek gained an audience that has now reached more than 1 million subscribers. People started asking him to travel the country to help recover sunken vehicles and bodies. To date, Leisek estimates he's recovered seven bodies and found more than 100 vehicles. His effort to help the environ-

ment morphed into a national effort to solve cold cases of missing people and vehicles. "It's a trajectory I never thought would have taken me here when I started getting in the water," Leisek said. Leisek, 45, travels for a month or two at a time with his family and a few volunteers to do water recoveries. He's been to Kansas, Iowa and as far east as New Jersey. The scuba diving recoveries have become a full-time job for Leisek, who relies on donations, volunteers

and income from his YouTube channel. Last month, Leisek and his crew were able to assist law enforcement officials in Portland and recover the body of 57-year-old Antonio Amaro-Lopez, who died after driving his car off the Glenn Jackson Bridge in a winter storm. Leisek said he finds submerged vehicles using two sonar systems and three different screens while floating slowly at 1 to 2 mph in a small boat. See [Diving](#) / A4

Bend to use recycled tires in street preservation

BY KYLE SPURR
The Bulletin

The city of Bend is planning several street improvement projects this spring and summer, including some that will use recycled tires in a coating to pave roads.

The first project will begin Monday, when crews will repave the roundabout at Skyliners Road and Mt. Washington Drive. Detours will be in place until the work is completed April 23. See [Streets](#) / A12

