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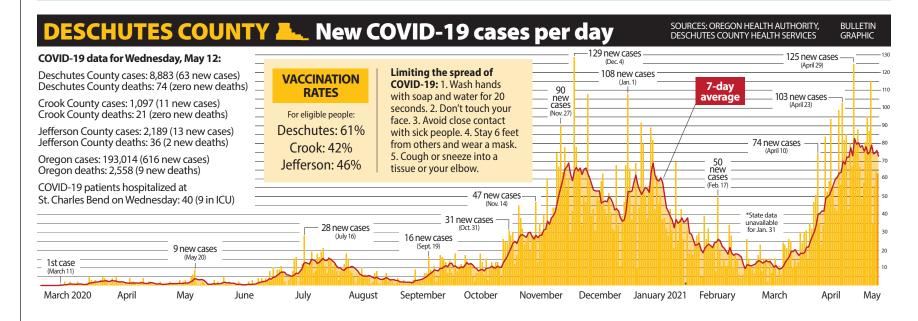
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

## LOCAL, STATE & REGION



### **LOCAL BRIEFING**

### Crook County senior receives \$200K NROTC scholarship

Crook County High School senior Elizabeth Barker received a \$200,000 nursing scholarship from the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps — one of only 12 students in the nation to receive the award.

Barker, 18, chose to attend Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she will study pre-med, according to a school press release. The scholarship will cover all college expenses, said school district spokesperson Jason Carr.

After graduating from Rutgers, Barker has a four-year commitment to the U.S. Navy, such as serving as a combat nurse or in a Naval medical facility, Carr said.

Barker has participated in Navy Junior ROTC at Crook County High School since 2019, the release stated. She is also a three sport varsity athlete for the Cowgirls — softball, basketball and volleyball - a member of student council and had a 4.12 GPA as of January, the release stated.

### Jefferson among 10 Oregon counties to ask Brown to declare drought emergency

For the second year in a row, Jefferson County commissioners have asked the governor to declare a drought emergency for the county. Governors granted Jefferson County this relief eight times in the past 30 years.

Wickiup Reservoir, the source of the county's irrigation water, had its lowest peak this year since it began operating 72 years ago. The U.S. drought monitor places much of Jefferson County in

severe drought status. Many areas of the county received less than a quarter of average precipitation in March. Making matters worse, the extended forecast calls for higher

than normal temperatures and lower than average precipitation. These drought conditions pose hardships for farmers and

ranchers and set up conditions for a severe wildfire season. A governor's emergency declaration makes more resources available to the people in the county hurt by the dry conditions.

Nine other counties have also requested drought emergency declarations this year: Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Baker, Douglas, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler.

— Bulletin staff reports

# **Bend construction contractor** spared jail time for extortion

BY GARRETT ANDREWS The Bulletin

A Bend construction contractor was spared time in jail for threatening to bring immigration authorities into a business dispute with a landscaper.

At his sentencing Tuesday in Deschutes County Circuit Court, Thomas George Schlossmacher received three years probation and was ordered to work 100 hours community service, pay a \$1,500 compensatory fine and write an apology letter to his victim. In exchange for pleading guilty to one count of felony extortion, Schlossmacher, 61, avoided any incarceration.

Schlossmacher's case was announced in February in a news release by Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, who has been outspoken about prosecuting several recent instances of discrimination.

Hummel represented the state Tuesday at Schlossmacher's sentencing.

Last summer, Schlossmacher arranged a deal for landscaping with Cuauhtemoc Cardona, who runs a

landscaping company. In partial payment for work, Schlossmacher gave Cardona his pickup truck.

On Aug. 15, following a dispute over the final payment for the truck, Schlossmacher sent Cardona a text message reading, in part, "I will file a complaint with the small claims in Deschutes County to get my monies and turn you and your family into INS for deportations, your choice."

At his sentencing Tuesday, Schlossmacher apologized, saying he was in "extreme grief" at the time, having lived through a string of misfortunes including the death of his wife, Jill, in 2019. He also cited being forced to sell his house and close his business, "stress over bad prior employees, major hail damage at my home and a flooded home in Arizona."

Schlossmacher said he sent the text message in anger after seeing the truck he'd sold Cardona on the TV news after it was involved in a wreck. The truck still had signs and stickers from Schlossmacher's business, High Desert Contracting, which Cardona said at the time of the sale that

he would remove, Schlossmacher said.

"I'm sorry that it had to come down to all of this," he said. "This is just something I just never thought I'd go through."

He told the court he and Cardona had once been friends.

For his part, Cardona said Schlossmacher still hadn't removed the lien he'd placed on the truck. "I felt very discriminated

against," he told the court through an interpreter. "I felt very hurt by all the texts that the accused had sent to me and my family, down to the littlest of the children."

Judge Alyson Emerson told Schlossmacher the fact he and Cardona had once been friends made his actions worse.

"Mr. Schlossmacher, your anger here today falls flat for this court," Emerson said. "I understand that you had things going on in your life, but none of those reasons are an excuse for the language that you chose to use. The reality is that words matter." Reporter: 541-383-0325,

aandrews@bendbulletin.com

## Survey: 4 in 5 Oregonians say U.S. economy is a stacked deck

fers a fair shake and 8% who

are unsure. Those earning less

were more likely to see a rigged

economic conservatives (34%)

than \$50,000 annually (77%)

deck, while a larger share of

BY ZANE SPARLING Pamplin Media Group

Life is unfair — especially when it comes to money.

Only 1 in 5 Oregonians say the economic system of the United States is fair for all, according to a new poll by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

The public opinion nonprofit's recent survey also found that nearly 7 in 10 state residents rate Oregon's economy as middling-to-lousy, though the other three see things as goodto-great. That might not seem like much to crow about, but it's actually a sign of a sunnier outlook, compared to what polling figures showed when the end of the pandemic was nowhere in sight.

"This is an improvement from a September 2020 DHM Panel survey, when only 2 in 10 rated conditions as excellent," Oregon Values and Beliefs said in a briefing.

Residents are somewhat split on whether things are getting better, worse, or just plodding along, per the polling.

Even when examining conditions closer to home, where survey respondents are in general more likely to find a silver lining, only one-third gave a thumbs up when asked about

the economy in their towns.

Oregonians in the

survey who said the

state's economy is

improving; 34% said

it was getting worse.

"The cost to live in Oregon has become outrageous," said one survey respondent, identifying as a Republican woman living in suburban Clackamas County. "I think many have learned this and are planning to move out of the state or start an emergency fund."

Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted the online survey of 600 Oregonians, who were selected to be statistically representative of state demographics, in early April. The margin of error is 2% to 4% depending on the question. Here are the takeaways:

• 72% say the American economic system favors the rich and powerful, compared with 19% who believe it of-

of Oregonians think the state economy is doing good or great, compared to 68% who gave it a poor grade and 2% who were unsure. Democrats (39%) are more likely to give the economy high marks, as are college grads (42%). The middle-aged (72%) and those with no education beyond a high school diploma (71%) were more likely to pan the economy.

believe things are generally

• Almost one-third (30%)

• Slightly less than a quarter (22%) say Oregon's economy is improving, while 39% said it was trending toward equilibrium; 34% said it was getting worse, and 4% were unsure.

Rural residents (47%) were more likely to see the numbers turning red, while urbanites (31%) were in the black.

• About 3 in 10 (32%) say the economy is favorable in their town, but the majority (65%) said it's not, with the remaining 3% unsure. Those in the rural-to-suburban exurbs (57%) were more likely to say their community is successful than either town or country dwellers. In general, "exurbs" are urban centers unattached to a main metro area — think McMinnville — as opposed to a "suburb," such as Tigard.

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