

The Bulletin

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BALANCING ACT



Photo by RYAN BRENNECKE • The Bulletin

Colter Thomas, 11, of Bend, fights to stay upright on the balance beam as several bags spin around him while he spends the sunny afternoon with a friend at the Woodward WreckTangle, an outdoor ninja obstacle course in the Old Mill District, on Saturday. Monday is forecast to be partly sunny with a high of 59 degrees.

Pandemic

GAMES FOR SOCIAL GOOD

Architect of Oregon's vaccine lottery supports the concept

BY JOHN NOTARIANNI
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The tagline is pretty easy to understand: Get a vaccine, get a chance to win a million bucks.

That was the scheme cooked up by Ashby Monk when Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Reed gave him a call in April.

Monk is the executive and research director at the Stanford Global Projects Center. He'd spent much of his career studying institutional investing before turning his attention to a thornier question: how to motivate people to make smarter long-term personal finance decisions.

On the phone, Reed was looking for creative ways to convince more people to get vaccinated. Oregon's vaccination rate had been strong for several months, but demand was beginning to taper off as the most vaccine-hungry Oregonians had already scheduled their appointments. The state still had a long way to go to hit its aim of a 70% vaccination rate by July 4, President Joe Biden's target.

How do you help the vaccine-ambivalent get off the fence and get their shots, quickly?

Monk's answer was also elegant in its simplicity: make it a game.

Saving to win

Monk said convincing the vaccine-hesitant to sign up for a shot carries a lot of the same challenges he saw when he was researching how to motivate people to begin saving money. In both cases, there are a lot of up-front challenges, and the long-term payoff is hard to visualize.

"Many people are intimidated by personal finance," he said. "There's tons of misunderstanding, there's high cost, you have to put money away."

With COVID-19, the combination of uncertainty about the vaccine itself, an unwieldy scheduling process and competing obligations for personal time was preventing many individuals from prioritizing their vaccine appointments.

Monk said the one thing that wouldn't work, though, was telling people what's best for them.

"There's a whole world in the personal finance space that's focused on financial literacy," Monk said, "which is another way of saying, 'Let's just try to teach everybody how to behave.'"

See **Lottery** / A10

Nose doesn't know: Drug-sniffing K-9s are retiring

Police dogs are getting out of the business early as states legalize marijuana — Virginia is next on July 1

BY DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Asking dogs to follow their noses won't work anymore in states that have legalized marijuana.

As Virginia prepares to legalize adult possession of up to an ounce of marijuana on July 1, drug-sniffing police dogs from around the state are being forced into early retirement, fol-

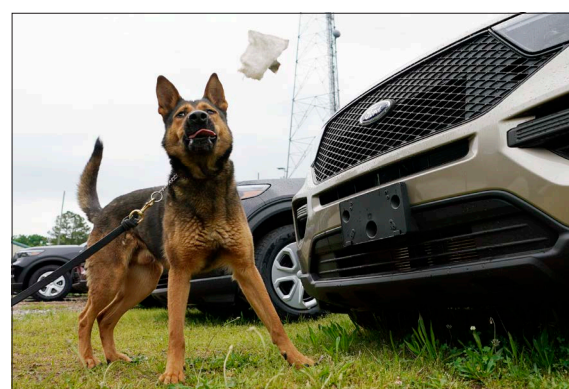
lowing a trend in other states where legalization has led to K-9s being put out to pasture earlier than planned.

In Virginia, the rush to take marijuana-detecting dogs out of service began even before lawmakers voted last month to accelerate the timetable for legalization. A separate law that went into effect in March prohibits police from stopping or searching

anyone based solely on the odor of marijuana.

Virginia state police are retiring 13 K-9s, while many smaller police departments and sheriff's offices are retiring one or two dogs. Most are in the process of purchasing and training new dogs to detect only illicit drugs, including cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines. Some departments are unable to afford up to \$15,000 to buy and train a new dog, so they are disbanding their K-9 units.

See **K-9s** / A10



Virginia State Police K-9 Aries detects and tosses a test bag during a training exercise at state police headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, on May 10. Drug-sniffing police dogs from around Virginia are being forced into early retirement as the state prepares to legalize marijuana July 1.

Steve Helber/AP

