

Bikes

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Schuyler Harrison, the owner of the Joe Bike in southeast Portland, said March typically a slow month — was the best in his shop's history, and double the business he saw last year. The brief downturn in the pandemic's outset quickly rebounded during the summer of 2020. Harrison said people since last March have made the trip from Eugene, Eastern Oregon and Washington state to buy bikes, and that pent-up demand hasn't gone away. "It's kind of just a weird phenomenon where bikes are starting to sell themselves," he said. "If you found a bike that was in your size and somewhat within your price range, it's kind of like you're almost forced to purchase it." But with manufacturers falling behind, bikes have been difficult to come by for the shop, resulting in fewer sales in recent months, Harrison said. Manufacturers still haven't filled orders the shop placed a year and a half ago. He said having enough shipping containers to ship bikes from factories overseas has been a challenge for manufacturers. And with bike makers expecting the demand to "normalize" in the next year or two — and already running at capacity - they are hesitant to invest in new machinery or increase capacity. Requests for bike service has also run high ever since gyms were shut down last year. With fewer new bikes available, Portlanders began pulling their bikes out of their basements and garages to get them



Hackers

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The NSA issued a "best practices" guide for mobile device security last year in which it recommends rebooting a phone every week as a way to stop hacking.

King, an independent from Maine, says rebooting his phone is now part of his

reboot a phone reflects, in part, a change in how top hackers are gaining access to mobile devices and the rise of so-called "zero-click" exploits that work without any user interaction instead of trying to get users to open something that's secretly infected.

There's been this evolution away from having a target click on a dodgy link," said Bill Marczak, a s searcher at Citizen Lab, an internet civil rights watchdog at the University of Toronto. Typically, once hackers gain access to a device or network, they look for ways to persist in the system by installing malicious software to a computer's root file system. But that's become more difficult as phone manufacturers such as Apple and Google have strong security to block malware from core operating systems, Ziring said. "It's very difficult for an attacker to burrow into that layer in order to gain persistence," he said. That encourages hackers to opt for "in-memory payloads" that are harder to detect and trace back to whoever sent them. Such hacks can't survive a reboot, but often don't need to since many people rarely turn their phones off. "Adversaries came to the realization they don't need to persist," Wardle said. "If they could do a one-time pull and exfiltrate all your chat messages and your contact and your passwords, it's almost game over anyways, right?"

Joe Bike, a bike shop in southeast Portland, on Saturday.

"We cannot get bicycles. If we order them, they don't show up. That's been going on since the pandemic *started on and off.*" — Mike France, owner of West End Bikes

repaired.

But parts suppliers are backlogged as well.

All the parts that would go on a new bike, in many cases, those are the same parts people would use for repairs," said Mike France, the owner of West End Bikes. "There is a worldwide shortage of parts."

France said that while his store's manufacturers would prefer to build more products, even they are unable to get parts from other manufacturers that produce them.

"We cannot get bicycles. If

we order them, they don't show up," he said. "That's been going on since the pandemic started on and off."

Last spring, Oregon Bike Shop in southeast Portland saw a surge in sales that lasted a couple of months before slowing down during last summer's wildfires, owner Sue Hanna said. They have since slowed "back to normal."

The store was initially able to meet the demand of people looking to buy bikes without spending much because most of the bikes and parts it sells

are used, but that success was temporary.

Dave Killen/The Oregonian

"Ēven the used bikes got hard to find," Hanna said. "New bikes, we can't even purchase any until 2023."

Sorenson said retailers of cycling equipment and other products falling short of demand should be transparent with consumers regarding when products might be avail-able, as well as about their own challenges during the boom.

"Until last year, there was really never a significant and unpredictable disruption to demand. High or low, it was a pretty stable industry," he said. 'I think that's really a big challenge, and I'm pretty confident that manufacturers and retailers are going to get a handle on this going into 2022."

ple with special needs.

Just working through that and the anxiety that the individuals and my peers and myself felt was stressful," Sydenstricker Brown said. "But we did the job ... We kept Oregon going through this pandemic and we still are keeping Oregon going through this pandemic. So I just want to thank all my co-workers and all the other essential workers out there that helped keep Oregon going."

"I'd say probably once a week, whenever I think of it," he said.

Almost always in arm's reach, rarely turned off and holding huge stores of personal and sensitive data, cellphones have become top targets for hackers looking to steal text messages, contacts and photos, as well as track users' locations and even secretly turn on their video and microphones.

"I always think of phones as like our digital soul," said Patrick Wardle, a security expert and former NSA researcher.

The number of people whose phones are hacked each year is unknowable, but evidence suggests it's significant. A recent investigation into phone hacking by a global media consortium has caused political uproars in France, India, Hungary and elsewhere after researchers found scores of journalists, human rights activists and politicians on a leaked list of what were believed to be potential targets of an Israeli hacker-for-hire company.

The advice to periodically

Fed

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Fed leaders also offered an early signal that progress was moving in the right direction for the Fed to eventually ease its support for the markets. In the coming months, the Fed may give more direct guidance on how and when it plans to scale back \$120 billion a month in asset purchases, including \$80 billion in Treasury debt and \$40 billion in mortgage-backed securities. Any policy changes, including eventual interest rate hikes, will depend on how the economy and labor market heal from the recession's depths.

Even with progress, Powell said "the labor market has a ways to go," noting that the June unemployment rate of 5.9 person is an understatement. He said that caregiving needs, ongoing fears of the virus and unemployment insurance payments appear to be weighing on job growth, especially as people reevaluate what kinds of jobs they was altogether.

Hazard pay

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But legislators could not agree which workers should receive the payments, so a broad proposal that would have benefited categories of workers across the economy — includ-ing the private sector — never gained much traction. The \$450 million proposal also envisioned \$1,200 back-to-work incentive payments for frontline workers who collected

unemployment during the pandemic. Front-line workers who stayed on the job would have received \$2,000 in stimulus money, The Oregonian reported.

Christina Sydenstricker Brown, a direct support specialist who cares for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with co-occurring mental health issues, is a member of AFSC-ME's bargaining team. Sydenstricker Brown said she expects approximately 1,000 state employees to qualify for the additional overtime payment including workers at the Department of Corrections, Oregon Youth Authority, state psychiatric hospital and the stabilization and crisis unit where she works.

Sydenstricker Brown said she and her co-workers played an essential role during the pandemic, donning full personal protective equipment to provide in-person care to peo-