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ELECTION 2022 | OREGON GOVERNOR’S RACE

Latest debate: Candidates clash on issues

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG AND BETSY HAMMOND
The Oregonian

Homelessness policies, accusations of dishonesty, track records on education spending and support for police separated Democrat Tina Kotek, Republican Christine Drazan and unaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson on Wednesday during a televised debate sponsored by The Oregonian and KGW.

All three candidates agreed that homelessness is among the biggest issues facing the state and said they would support a so-far bare-bones

plan by Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler to ban unsanctioned camping in the city and relocate homeless individuals to large designated camping areas. Wheeler briefed each of the three candidates on his proposal ahead of telling the public about the initiative later this week.

Kotek said Wheeler’s proposal, if enacted, would make it easier for outreach teams to reach homeless individuals and she vowed to hold Wheeler accountable for getting people off the streets. “From what I understand of Mayor Wheeler’s plan,

I think he’s headed in the right direction,” she said. “But I’ll be honest, Mayor Wheeler and the city have promised a lot of things. They need to actually make it happen.”

Johnson blamed Kotek for enabling sidewalk camping when she served as House speaker, while Drazan said that Kotek prioritized “almost everything before she prioritized homelessness” and failed to act on the issue. Kotek responded by blaming Drazan for delaying more than \$100 million in spending on homelessness and affordable housing by leading Republicans

in a walkout at the Capitol during the 2020 session.

Drazan said as governor, she would focus on moving homeless individuals into supportive housing and onto stability but would also take action if individuals refused help. “Frankly, if people decline services, if they are choosing a homeless lifestyle because they’re facing substance use disorder or in fact it’s a choice they’re making, it’s time for our state to recognize there must be accountability.”

See **Candidates** / A6

Drazan visits Bend for discussion on homelessness

BY ANNA KAMINSKI
The Bulletin

Republican gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan said she favors declaring a “state of emergency” to deal with Oregon’s growing homelessness crisis during a visit to Bend on Thursday.

Drazan visited Bend’s Veterans Village for a discussion about the crisis with local nonprofits and leaders just weeks ahead of the Nov. 8 general election. The governor’s race is one of the most contested gubernatorial races in the nation. Drazan is running against Democrat Tina Kotek and nonaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson.

“Establishing a homelessness state of emergency gives you that authority — frankly, that power — to be able to... innovate and get real serious about finding support services and also ensuring on the other side of that there is accountability,” Drazan said.

See **Drazan** / A4

Time for transition

Mount Bachelor may get 13 inches of snow by Sunday

BY JOE SIESS • The Bulletin

An abnormally warm and dry start to October is forecast to give way this weekend to more seasonable weather conditions and below average temperatures, which could bring more than a foot of snow to Mount Bachelor.

“The Cascades will definitely see snow,” said Camden Plunkett, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service office in Pendleton. “I think our snow levels are sitting at just over 4,000 feet (elevation) Saturday morning.”

Plunkett said a weather system moving in over the weekend could bring about 13 inches of snow to the summit area of Mount Bachelor between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. A bit further down from the summit, below 5,000 feet, 7 to 10 inches of snow is expected.

Plunkett said he grew up in Oregon, and cannot recall an October like this one. A stationary weather pattern affected by meteorological conditions as far away as the East Coast and the Desert Southwest, resulted in persistent warmer and drier weather through October so far. Plunkett called that a “blocking pattern,” which is what he expects will change.

“We are transitioning tomorrow to a cooler and wetter pattern,” Plunkett said Thursday.

The forecast for next week calls for a cooling trend, with temperatures lower than normal for this time of year, Plunkett said. Highs are forecast for the

upper 40s and lower 50s. Normally, highs are in the upper 50s and lower 60s at this time of the year.

Plunkett said it is difficult to say with certainty whether a La Niña or El Niño pattern, both of which are tied to sea-surface temperature in the equatorial Pacific, is responsible for any given weather event. But he said the current La Niña pattern has a 58% chance of persisting through January, February and March. Typically a La Niña winter will bring colder and snowier conditions to the Northwest, according to the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center.

“We are still in that La Niña pattern right now. Equatorial sea-surface temperatures are below normal,” Plunkett added. “That is expected to continue through at least early winter.”

Johnny Sereni, director of marketing and communications at Mt. Bachelor ski area, said as of Thursday, there is virtually no snow on the mountain, but ski area officials are looking forward to the first snow of the season.

“We’ve seen the fall linger and the higher temperatures linger a little bit longer, and when it gets this close to the season we start to get a little bit nervous,” Sereni said. “But with all of the staff of Bachelor knowing there is possibly a foot of snow coming in the next few days there is actually a pep in everyone’s step more than there used to be.”

See **Snow** / A4



» A stand-up paddleboarder takes advantage of warm weather on the Deschutes River in Bend on Tuesday. But it might time to put the paddleboard away and get out the skis. The forecast calls for cooler weather and the possibility of 13 inches of snow on Mount Bachelor by Sunday.

Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Slavery is on the ballot in Oregon

BY KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — More than 150 years after slaves were freed in the U.S., voters in five states, including Oregon, will soon decide whether to close loopholes that led to the proliferation of a different form of slavery — forced labor by people convicted of certain crimes.

None of the proposals would force immediate changes inside the states’ prisons, though they could lead to legal challenges related to how they use prison labor, a lasting imprint of slavery’s legacy on the entire United States.

The effort is part of a national push to amend the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that banned enslavement or involuntary servitude except as a form of criminal punishment. That exception has long permitted the exploitation of labor by convicted felons.

See **Slavery** / A4



NOV. 8 ELECTION

All coverage online at bendbulletin.com/elections

TODAY’S WEATHER



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