

## LOCAL, STATE &amp; REGION

# State hires arborist after outcry about excessive tree cutting

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon is hiring a Pacific Northwest-based arborist to review the state's removal of trees in wildfire burn areas after recent concerns that the operation has been hasty and excessive.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management announced Monday that Galen Wright has been hired as an independent contractor to review the hazard tree effort, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

Wright is president of Washington Forest Consultants Inc. He will provide a full assessment of Oregon's program and his recommendations are due in June.

"As this adaptive and evolving emergency response operation continues to make significant progress, Oregonians deserve to have confidence in the good work underway," said Mac Lynde the Oregon Department of Transportation's head of the three-agency Debris Management Task Force. It has been coordinating the tree-removal program in the aftermath of the 2020 wildfires that burned over 1 million acres.



A car drives past several piles of felled trees along state Highway 22 in October.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin file

The state is in the midst of the giant effort to cut down an estimated 140,000 burned trees that could be dangerous to people on state roads or burned properties.

Transportation officials told a legislative panel two weeks ago that it would bring on

an independent arborist after several workers publicly voiced concerns about the hazard tree program. They have said the operation, led by a contracting firm out of Florida, has irresponsibly marked trees for removal that weren't dead or dying.

## LOCAL &amp; STATE BRIEFING

## Sen. Merkley to hold virtual town hall Tuesday

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has scheduled a virtual town hall for Deschutes County residents on Tuesday.

Merkley will give an update about work in Washington, D.C., and answer questions about the issues facing the state and the nation.

Merkley has held a town hall in each of Oregon's 36 counties every year since joining the Senate in 2009, according to an announcement from Merkley's office. This town hall will be his 18th this year.

The town hall begins at 4 p.m.

For more information and access to the meeting link, email [sara\\_hottman@merkley.senate.gov](mailto:sara_hottman@merkley.senate.gov).

## Still no timeline to reopen Oregon Capitol to the public

Despite eased mask recommendations and increasing vaccination rates, don't expect the Oregon Capitol to reopen to the public anytime soon.

The building was closed in spring 2020 amid rising cases of COVID-19 and has remained closed through multiple special sessions as well as the entire 2021 legislative session to date. The public can still observe the legislative pro-

cess, as all legislative meetings are live-streamed, and lawmakers take testimony using virtual platforms.

Legislative leaders are awaiting updated guidance from the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Occupational Safety and Health, which regulate workplaces.

According to the "Capitol Operations Safety Plan" released in January by House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, the Capitol will not open its doors to the public until Marion County, where the building is located, enters the lower-risk category in the state's risk level framework.

Currently, Marion County is

considered high risk, which is two steps above lower risk. In fact, based on recent case counts, the Oregon Health Authority says the county would actually qualify for "extreme risk" were it not for a separate statewide metric on hospitalization rates of COVID-19 patients.

Republicans have been calling for the building to be reopened and blame Democrats for sticking to the reopening metrics contained in the safety plan. Keeping the Capitol closed indefinitely "is further evidence that our state is not following the science," said House Republican Leader Christine Drazan of Canby.

— Bulletin staff and wire reports

## TODAY

Today is Wednesday, May 19, the 139th day of 2021. There are 226 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On **May 19, 1967**, the Soviet Union ratified a treaty with the United States and Britain, banning nuclear and other weapons from outer space as well as celestial bodies such as the moon.

In **1536**, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In **1920**, 10 people were killed in a gunbattle between coal miners, who were led by a local police chief, and a group of private security guards hired to evict them for joining a union in Matewan, West Virginia.

In **1921**, Congress passed, and President Warren G. Harding signed, the Emergency Quota Act, which established national quotas for immigrants.

In **1935**, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England.

In **1943**, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan; that evening, Churchill met with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the White House, where the two leaders agreed on May 1, 1944 as the date for the D-Day invasion of France (the operation ended up being launched more than a month later).

In **1993**, the Clinton White House set off a political storm by abruptly firing the entire staff of its travel office; five of the seven staffers were later reinstated and assigned to other duties.

In **1994**, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

In **2003**, WorldCom Inc. agreed to pay investors \$500 million to settle civil fraud charges.

In **2019**, "Game of Thrones" aired its 73rd and final episode, with a record-setting number of viewers.

**Ten years ago:** President Barack Obama for the first time endorsed the Palestinians' demand that their eventual state be based on borders that existed before the 1967 Middle East war. Katie Couric, the first regular solo anchorwoman of a network evening newscast, signed off the "CBS Evening News" for the last time after five years.

**Five years ago:** Veteran "60 Minutes" correspondent Morley Safer died in New York at age 84. Actor-comedian Alan Young, who played straight man to a talking horse in the 1960s sitcom "Mister Ed," died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 96.

**One year ago:** A Trump administration policy of quickly expelling most migrants stopped along the border because of the COVID-19 pandemic was indefinitely extended.

**Today's Birthdays:** TV personality David Hartman is 86. Actor James Fox is 82. Actor Nancy Kwan is 82. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 76. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 74. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 72. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Archie Manning is 72. Singer-actor Grace Jones is 70. Actor Steven Ford is 65. Actor Toni Lewis is 61. Actor Polly Walker is 55. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 49. Former race car driver Dario Franchitti is 48. Country/rock singer Shooter Jennings is 42. Actor Drew Fuller is 41. Actor-comedian Michael Che (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 38. Actor Eric Lloyd is 35. Pop singer Sam Smith is 29. Actor Nolan Lyons is 20.

— Associated Press

We're all part of  
Central Oregon history.

# SHARE YOUR PHOTOS



The Bend Bulletin is proud to announce its partnership with Deschutes Historical Museum and our readers on a new pictorial history book, "**Hello Bend! Central Oregon Reinvented — 1950–2000: A Pictorial History.**"

## YOU'RE INVITED

We are excited to invite you, our readers, to participate in this unique project. Please bring your photos to one of our scanning sessions listed here — and be sure to check our submission guidelines. Photos will be scanned on-site and given right back to you. In order to keep things speedy, please fill out our simple photo submission form prior to the session. Forms can be downloaded at [HelloBend.PictorialBook.com](http://HelloBend.PictorialBook.com). Please plan to fill out one form for each photo you'd like to submit.

Download submission forms and pre-order at

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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- General interest photos, such as: commerce, industry, transportation, rural life, public service, etc.
- Photos taken between 1950 and 2000.
- Photos taken in Central Oregon.
- If you're a private collector, call 360-723-5800 to set up an appointment.
- Not all photos submitted or used in ads will appear in the final book.
- Photos will become part of the Deschutes Historical Museum's archived collection.

## SCANNING SESSIONS

- Thursday, June 10** 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 11** 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, June 12** 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- Saturday, June 12** 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Bend Bulletin
- 320 SW Upper Terrace Dr.
- Ste. #200, Bend

The Bulletin  
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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