

# The Bulletin

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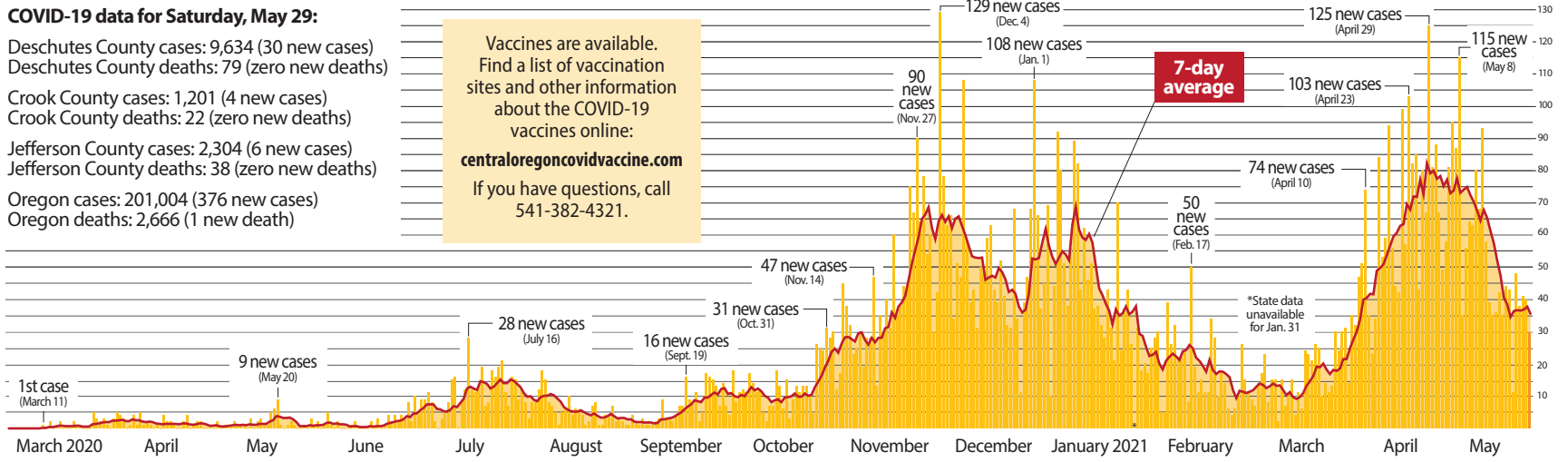
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Lottery results can now be found on the second page of Sports.

## LOCAL, STATE & REGION

### DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, DESCHUTES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES BULLETIN GRAPHIC



### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

## Forestry veteran picked as interim leader

BY TED SICKINGER

The Oregonian

The state Board of Forestry voted unanimously to appoint Nancy Hirsch as the interim state forester and leader of the Oregon Department of Forestry while it conducts a national search to find a permanent leader.

Hirsch's appointment Thursday came after the agency's embattled director, Peter Daugherty, submitted his resignation in early May after losing the confidence of the board, Gov. Kate Brown and the Ore-

gon Legislature. His last day in office was Friday.

Hirsch is a familiar face, having retired in 2019 after 33 years at the agency, including stints as the chief of both its fire protection and state forests division and as deputy state forester.

"Nancy has a wealth of knowledge and experience in forestry and fire protection in Oregon, and I am grateful for her willingness to return from retirement to serve in this capacity while we search for the next state forester," said Board

Chair Jim Kelly in a news release. "I am confident in her ability to seamlessly integrate back into the department's operations and lead the department during this critical period of transition."

Hirsch takes the helm at a time when the department and the board's role are under close scrutiny by lawmakers, the governor's office and outside stakeholders. A recent forensic audit of its fire finance unit found a fundamental lack of financial controls that contributed to delays invoicing and

collecting hundreds of millions of dollars in fire costs from federal agencies, which created an acute cash flow problem and undermined other work at the agency.

The agency is potentially facing another big wildfire season, while some legislators are skeptical of pouring tens of millions more dollars into the troubled department to bolster its firefighting and new wildfire mitigation efforts. Meanwhile, the newly reconstituted forestry board is striving to reestablish its own credibility

with lawmakers and push the department to make headway on a number of big initiatives.

"I respect and care deeply about the dedicated employees at ODF and the services they deliver every day throughout Oregon," Hirsch said in the news release. "ODF is at a critical moment, and I am confident that with the support of the Board of Forestry, Governor's Office, and Legislature, ODF can begin rebuilding trust and confidence in our fiscal responsibility and accountability."

### TACOMA, WASHINGTON

## 3 officers plead not guilty in Black man's restraint death

BY GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Five weeks after ex-Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd, three Washington state police officers pleaded not guilty in the death of Manuel Ellis, another Black man who pleaded for breath under an officer's knee.

Tacoma Police officers Christopher Burbank, Matthew Collins and Timothy Rankine appeared in orange jumpsuits by video conference from the Pierce County jail Friday as Superior Court Judge Michael Schwartz set bail at \$100,000 for each of them. By midafternoon, all three were listed as on the online jail register as having been released on bond.



Ted S. Warren/AP

A woman walks past a mural honoring Manuel "Manny" Ellis on May 27 in the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, Washington.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson charged Burbank and Collins, who are white, with second-degree murder Thursday after

witnesses reported that they attacked Ellis without provocation.

Timothy Rankine, who is of Asian descent, faces a charge of

first-degree manslaughter. He is accused of kneeling on Ellis' back and shoulder as he repeatedly told them he couldn't breathe, according to a probable cause statement filed in Pierce County Superior Court.

Special assistant attorney general Patty Eakes, representing the state, asked for bail to be set at \$1 million, citing the severity of the charges. But defense attorneys argued that their clients had no criminal history, turned themselves in, and posed no risk of flight or danger to the community.

"There's nothing to suggest he's ever going to commit a crime — he didn't commit this

crime," Burbank's attorney, Wayne Fricke, told the judge. "If these guys were going to run — and he, specifically — that would have occurred in the last 14 months."

Ellis, 33, died on March 3, 2020 — Tasered, handcuffed and hogtied, with his face covered by a spit hood — just weeks before George Floyd's death triggered a nationwide reckoning on race and policing.

The Pierce County medical examiner called Ellis' death a homicide because of a lack of oxygen caused by restraint, with an enlarged heart and methamphetamine intoxication as contributing factors.

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