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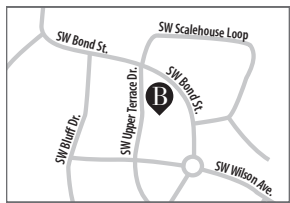
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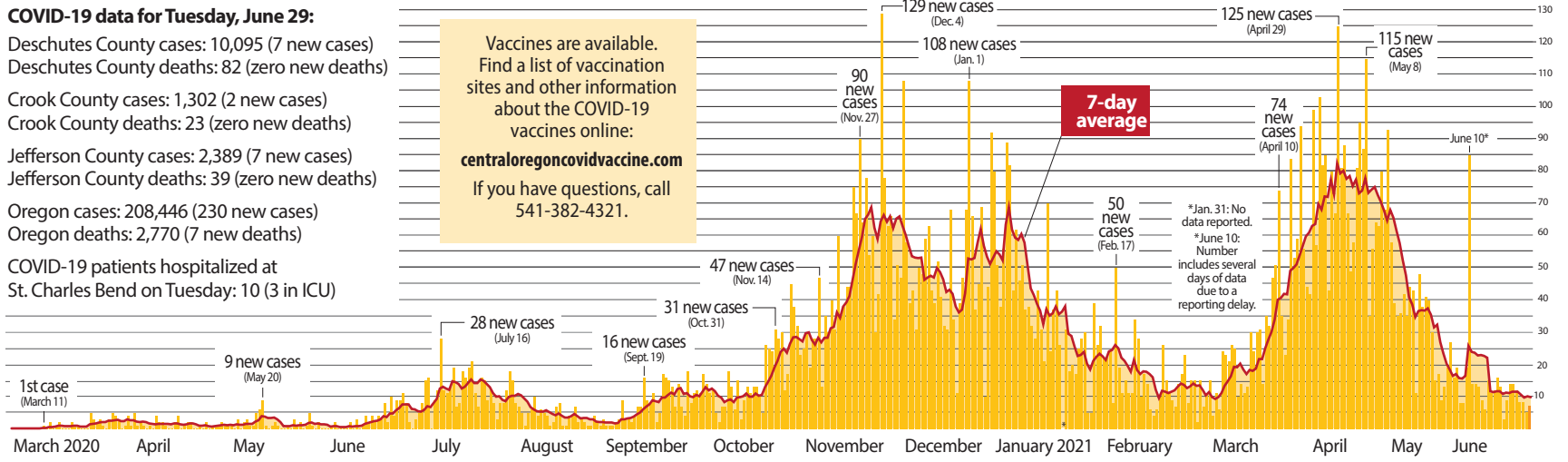
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

DESCHUTES COUNTY New COVID-19 cases per day

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



First African American named to lead U.S. Forest Service

Randy Moore is the regional forester for a region covering California and Hawaii

BY MATTHEW DALY

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Veteran forester Randy Moore has been named chief of the U.S. Forest Service, the first African American to lead the agency in its 116-year history.

Moore, 66, replaces Vicki Christiansen, who has led the agency since 2018. The Forest Service, a division of the Agriculture Department, oversees 193 million acres of public lands in 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands.

Moore has served as regional forester in the California-based Pacific Southwest Region since 2007, where he has responsibility for 18 national forests in California and Hawaii.

He will take over from Christiansen as head of the 30,000-employee agency upon her retirement July 26. Christiansen and Moore will collaborate on what is already shaping up as a severe wildfire season in the West, where

an epic drought, complicated by climate change, has made putting out fires more challenging and strained firefighting resources throughout the region.

In the Pacific Northwest, where an extended heat wave has triggered record-breaking temperatures in Oregon and Washington state, fire crews have been positioned in high-risk areas, and cities and counties have imposed burn bans.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who appointed Moore, called him “a catalyst for change and creativity” in carrying out the Forest Service’s mission to sustain the nation’s forests.

As a regional forester, Moore has been on the forefront of climate change, most notably leading the region’s response to the dramatic increase in catastrophic wildfires in California over the last decade, Vilsack said. “His proven track record



Jacquelyn Martin/AP file

Veteran forester Randy Moore, shown here in 2015, has been named chief of the U.S. Forest Service, the first African American to lead the agency in its 116-year history.

of supporting and developing employees and putting communities at the center of the Forest Service’s work positions him well to lead the agency into the future at this critical time in our country,” Vilsack said in a statement.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., praised Moore’s selection as Forest Service chief.

“California understands all too well the challenges facing

our forests and I’m glad a Californian will head efforts to tackle them,” she said.

Arkansas Rep. Bruce Westerman, the top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, called Moore “a seasoned professional,” adding: “I sincerely hope we can work together on mitigating catastrophic wildfires, opening up our national forests to sustainable lumber

harvesting, making forests more resilient against insects and diseases and much more.”

Before heading the Pacific Southwest region, Moore was regional forester in the Wisconsin-based Eastern Region, where he oversaw forests in 20 states.

Moore started his federal career in 1978 at USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service in North Dakota. He has worked at national forests in Colorado, North Carolina and Missouri, a national grassland in Kansas and as an administrator in Washington.

Moore’s appointment comes as Congress and the Biden administration push to increase firefighter pay and convert at least 1,000 seasonal wildland firefighters to year-round workers as fires have grown more severe. President Joe Biden last week called for an increase in pay for federal firefighters, who start as low as \$13 an hour.

“That’s a ridiculously low salary to pay federal firefighters,” Biden said. “That’s going to end in my administration.”

Baker City mayor announces bid for Oregon governor

Baker City Herald
Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten is aiming for a much higher political office: Oregon governor.

McQuisten, 49, who is a Republican, has announced a gubernatorial campaign for 2022.

Oregon’s current governor, Democrat Kate Brown, can’t run in 2022 due to term limits.

On her campaign website — kerrymcquisten.com — McQuisten writes: “Campaigns always claim that change is needed. This time, it couldn’t be more true! Oregonians need a leader who will get our

children back in school, fight for medical freedoms, protect our individual constitutional rights, prevent criminals from burning and destroying our once-flourishing cities, remind Oregonians of their inherent pioneer spirit, and prevent the kind of rule we’ve seen from ever happening again.”

McQuisten was elected to the Baker City Council in November 2020.

Her fellow councilors elected her as mayor in January 2021 (in Baker City’s form of government, elected councilors, not voters, choose the mayor).



McQuisten

‘Bailey’s Bill’ now law after tough journey

BY KATHY ANEY

East Oregonian
With several strokes of her pen, Gov. Kate Brown signed “Bailey’s Bill” into law.

The bill, named for Bailey Munck, a student at Weston-McEwen High School in Athena, increases penalties for criminal sexual contact with an underage victim if the offender was the victim’s teacher. Munck, now 17, testified to the Oregon Senate and House judiciary committees, telling of sexual abuse in 2019 during a volleyball road trip by Andrew DeYoe, an English teacher and also a scorekeeper for the volleyball team.

Senate Bill 649, despite attracting no vigorous objections, nearly ended up in the

place where bills go to quietly die when they don’t make it out of committee.

The bill puts teachers in the same category as coaches when it comes to sentencing for crimes of sexual abuse involving a student. Previously, coaches could face a maximum sentence of five years if convicted of sexually abusing a student, while teachers were not specifically mentioned.

“What is the significant difference between a teacher and a coach?” Munck asked senators during the hearing. “Do coaches somehow carry more authority than a teacher might?”

After pleading guilty, Munck’s abuser spent only two days in jail and received

five years probation. He did not have to register as a sex offender. If he had been her coach rather than her teacher, he could have received up to five years in prison.

The bill first ran into problems getting a hearing in the Senate, but it eventually passed. When it got to the House the bill hit another wall, and members of the House Judiciary Committee dusted off a seldom-used rule to force a hearing. When the bill reached the House floor, it passed unanimously. On June 23, Gov. Brown signed it into law.

Munck heard the news Saturday. “I felt really happy and sort of relieved,” she said. “There were so many obstacles.”

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