



# CITY OF ASHLAND



## TREE COMMISSION AGENDA March 7, 2019

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room of the Community Development and Engineering Services Building located at 51 Winburn Way.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. **Approval of February 7, 2019 regular meeting minutes.**
- III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS**
  - Council Liaison
  - Parks & Recreation Liaison
  - Community Development Liaison
- IV. **PUBLIC FORUM**  
Open to guests.
- V. **PRESENTATION**  
Short presentation by Oregon Community Trees from Mike Oxendine
- VI. **TYPE I REVIEWS**  
None.
- VII. **TYPE II REVIEWS**  
None.
- VIII. **STREET TREE REMOVAL PERMITS**  
None.
- IX. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - Tree City USA
  - Tree of the Year
  - Annual City Council Update (7 p.m. on March 19th)
  - Arbor Day/Week Activities (12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>)
  - Rogue Valley Earth Day event tabling (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 20<sup>th</sup>)
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> Alternate Meeting Date
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:** April 4, 2019



# CITY OF ASHLAND



## DRAFT TREE COMMISSION MINUTES February 7, 2019

<b>Tree Commissioners:</b>	<b>Parks Liaison</b>
Christopher John	Peter Baughman
Asa Cates	
Cat Gould	<b>Staff Present:</b>
Eric Simpson – Absent (E)	Derek Severson
Russell Neff - Absent (E)	
<b>Council Liaison</b>	
Steven Jensen - Absent	

### I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Christopher John called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room of the Community Development and Engineering Services Building located at 51 Winburn Way.

Severson introduced newly appointed Tree Commissioner Cat Gould and members introduced themselves.

### II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Severson spoke briefly about the January 14<sup>th</sup> site visit to the Japanese Garden.... He noted that he had understood this to be more than anything an informational site visit and had not been aware beforehand that the Commission would be asked to make a recommendation on site. He further explained that while notice had been provided to the newspaper as required by code when a quorum of a city commissioners will be present, this was not announced on the City website as a “special meeting” of the Commission as suggested by the minutes that were prepared by Parks. He suggested that the Commission make the following amendments to the draft minutes:

- 1) Instead of calling this a “Special Meeting” it would be better titled something like, "**Japanese Garden Site Visit & Presentation**", and
- 2) He further explained that the Tree Commission making a recommendation had some present confused about whether this was a quasi-judicial land use decision that could be appealed. The Parks department is exempted from Tree Removal permits by city code, and the recommendation was actually requested under the Tree Commission’s advisory role to city departments. So... instead of saying that the Tree Commission voted to "formally recommend" it might be better to say that "**When asked to provide an advisory recommendation pursuant to AMC 2.25.040.3, by a 3-0 vote, the Commission recommended that...**"

Gould noted that she had asked whether keeping the Firs would be a deal breaker to the project, and the response had been that keeping the Firs would not prevent the project from moving ahead. She indicated that she thought it was important that this be captured in the minutes.

**John/Cates m/s to adopt the minutes summarizing the January 14<sup>th</sup> Japanese Garden site visit and presentation with the amendments suggested by staff and Commissioner Gould. Voice vote: All AYES.**

### III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS**

Council Liaison Jensen was absent so no report was given.

Parks & Recreation Liaison Baughman gave his report.

Community Development Liaison Severson reported:

- A new Assistant Planner had been hired and that the department should be fully staffed by the end of the month.

- Severson also reported that there was another applicant for the commission vacancy and he hoped that he, John and Jensen would be able to meet with her and make a recommendation to the Mayor on the appointment before the March meeting.

#### IV. PUBLIC FORUM

- Julie Newman, residing at 596 Helman, thanked the Tree Commission for their recommendation to save the two trees that were to be slated for removal. **(See letter as exhibit A)**
- Brian Holley, former Tree Commission Chair, suggested a meeting to resolve the questions of how to handle donations to the Parks Foundation. Mr. Holley also raised issue about considering design for ephemeral streams. **(See exhibit B)**
- Jim Falkenstein submitted drone photos and spoke about Wildfire management and described the Tree Commission as the “thin green line” that is protecting the City’s trees. **(See photos as exhibit C)**

#### V. TYPE I REVIEWS

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2018-00046  
**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 495 Chestnut Street  
**OWNERS/APPLICANTS:** Tudor Heights Homeowners Association/Canopy LLC  
**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Tree Removal Permit to remove three trees from the Tudor Heights property located at 495 Chestnut Street. Tree #1 is an approximately 11-inch diameter multi-trunked Almond due the tree’s marked decline, large dead branches in its crown and stress cracks which an arborist indicates poses the potential for damage due to branch failure. Tree #2 is an approximately eight-inch diameter Sweetgum which the arborist notes is near a larger Sweetgum. Removal of the smaller tree is noted as benefitting the larger tree. Tree #3 is a 14 ½-inch diameter Scots Pine which the arborist indicates is in severe decline.  
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Low Density Multi-Family Residential; **ZONING:** R-2;  
**ASSESSOR’S MAP:** 39 1E 05DB; **TAX LOT:** 60000

John recused himself as his firm had prepared the application.

Staff presented a brief staff report:

Tree #1 is an approximately 11-inch diameter multi-trunked Almond due the tree’s marked decline, large dead branches in its crown and stress cracks which an arborist indicates poses the potential for damage due to branch failure. Photos provided highlight the significant cracks in larger branches. HOA voted to request removal.

Tree #2 is an approximately eight-inch diameter Sweetgum which the arborist notes is near a larger Sweetgum. Removal of the smaller tree is noted as benefitting the larger tree’s structure over the long term. The photo provided illustrates the proximity of these two trees and the crowding of canopy branches...

Tree #3 is a 14 ½-inch diameter Scots Pine which the arborist indicates is in severe decline and is not expected to survive another summer. As viewed in the photo provided, the tree is very near already to meeting the definition of a “dead tree” – ***“a tree that is lifeless... evidence of lifelessness may include unseasonable lack of foliage, brittle dry branches, or lack of any growth during the growing season.”***

After a brief discussion regarding the trees to be removed the Commission rendered their decision.

***Cates/Gould m/s to approve TREE-2018-00046 with the “friendly suggestion” that the applicant consider pruning the almond or replacing with another almond tree as mitigation. Voice vote: All AYES with John recusing himself.***

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2018-00049  
**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 210 E. Hersey St.  
**OWNERS/APPLICANTS:** Matthew Bernard  
**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Tree Removal Permit to remove two birch trees which

are noted as dying and posing a potential hazard from the Darex Corporation property at 210 East Hersey Street.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:** Employment; **ZONING:** E-1; **ASSESSOR'S MAP:** 39 1E 04CD; **TAX LOT:** 2000

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

The application is prepared by Rick Ehlers and he noted that the birches are dying and pose a hazard.

Severson reported that these trees were outside the limits of disturbance for the Site Review that was done here in 2015 and as such were not assessed by an arborist at that time and were not addressed in the Tree Protection Plan.

After a brief discussion regarding further damage to the tree and what to plant, the Commission rendered their decision.

***Cates/John m/s to approve TREE-2018-00049 as proposed, with mitigation plantings as described by the applicant during the meeting. Voice vote: All AYES. Motion passed.***

## **VI. STREET TREE REMOVAL PERMITS**

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2018-00047  
**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 281 Fourth Street  
**OWNERS/APPLICANTS:** Garfas/Quality Tree Service  
**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Street Tree Removal Permit to remove one 14-inch Zelkova street tree that is lifting the sidewalk at 281 Fourth Street.

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Severson presented the staff report, noting that the application was prepared by arborist Jeff Ford of Quality Tree Service, and that the tree is a shallow-rooted zelkova that is lifting the sidewalk. Mr. Ford noted that the tree is a mature specimen and given circumstances, pruning or cutting roots is not an option. The application proposes to remove and replace the tree with a Red Bud (*Eastern Redbud/cercis Canadensis "Alba"* is an approved street tree noted for its smaller stature as being more suited for placement under power lines...)

The Commission discussed concern with loss of trees on the corridor and questioned if the sidewalk could be grinded or the installation of rubber sidewalks could help. They discussed working with the Public Works Department to explore other options.

***Cates/Gould m/s to recommend that the tree not be removed and that Public Works and Planning staff instead pursue other options with the applicant including but not limited to grinding the sidewalk where lifted, installing pavers or rubber sidewalks, looking at options similar to those recommended by James Urban when he visiting this block with commissioners in 2016. Discussion: Commissioners recognized that if other options were not feasible and other considerations such as ADA came into play, staff could be placed in a position to approve the removal permit. Voice vote: All AYES.***

**PLANNING ACTION:** TREE-2018-00048  
**SUBJECT PROPERTY:** 44 North Second Street  
**OWNERS/APPLICANTS:** Trinity Episcopal Church/One Fine Day Garden Care  
**DESCRIPTION:** A request for a Street Tree Removal Permit to remove one approximately 9-inch diameter Ash street tree which is noted as having been severely topped, dying and missing many limbs.

There was no conflict of interest or ex-parte contact indicated by the Commission.

Severson gave a brief staff report, noting that the applicant has hired certified arborist Matt Ison of Hooper Springs Tree Service working with them, he has indicated that the church is wanting to upgrade the landscaping in the park row here, and that given the tree has a large scar where a branch was torn away

and has been severely topped, he felt it would be preferable to remove it and replace it with a better tree at this time. Severson noted that standards would call for 30-foot street tree spacing, 25 feet from curb at intersection and 20 feet from a light pole, etc.

It was noted that tree was actually a Box Elder or potentially a Red Maple.

***John/Cates m/s to approve the request as submitted, with mitigation as proposed by the project arborist. Voice vote: All AYES. Motion passed.***

## **VII. DISCUSSION**

Severson noted that the 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Attendance Report was included in the packets. He explained that the Ashland Municipal Code calls for this report to be prepared and presented to the Commission twice a year. He noted that this was mainly an informational item, and that if no one saw any errors or issues he would forward on to the Recorder and Council with the monthly minutes as required in the code.

Severson apologized for not having dealt with the Tree of the Year voting in a timely fashion, and noted that he was working with the GIS department to get the map and voting on-line this week, with the idea that the voting could be complete and a winner announced during whatever Arbor Day or Arbor Week activities are conducted in the spring.

Severson noted that former Tree Commissioner Mike Oxendine, who now works as Parks Superintendent, had graciously offered to complete this year's "Tree City USA" renewal application in December, and that he was waiting for an update from Oxendine on the status of the renewal.

Severson explained that the Tree Commission's annual update to the City Council on commission activities for the past year was scheduled for the March 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, and inquired who might be available to attend/present at this meeting (the third Tuesday in March at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers). Severson also explained that as much as anything, this was an opportunity to publicize on RVTV any planned events for Arbor Day/Arbor Week. Chair John indicated that he was available to present to Council on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and other Commissioners were encouraged to attend as well.

Severson explained that the annual **RV Earth Day** event this year would be on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Science Works. He explained that the Commission typically tables at this event, and asked if Commissioners were available and interested in tabling at the event this year. Gould suggested that this would be a perfect opportunity for the Commission to team with the Fire Department and Firewise Commission to provide public education on the recently adopted Wildfire Management Ordinance (WMO) and the Firewise Community program. She indicated that she would be interested in tabling. Severson noted that there were new WMO brochures that could be distributed. Cates indicated that he could be available to table for the latter part of the day, as he was working to set-up and take down the event, and suggested that he might be able to help insure that the Tree Commission was near the Fire Department table or other related groups. John noted that he would also be available and willing to table for part of the event.

Severson noted that the Commission typically does a tree planting, tree walk or similar activity in cooperation with Parks and/or SOU for the annual observance of Arbor Day or Arbor Week. This year, the national Arbor Day observance is April 26<sup>th</sup>. He asked if Commissioners or Parks Staff had thought about potential events this year and whether there was interest in doing something this year.

Severson explained that he had reached out to Mike Oxendine to see if there was a recommended contact at Southern Oregon University (Oxendine's former employer) who would be best to contact about potential opportunities to coordinate Arbor Day/Arbor Week activities this year and in the future given past cooperative efforts AND SOU's recently receiving designation as a "Tree Campus USA."

Severson noted that the July meeting this year falls on July 4<sup>th</sup> which is a city holiday. He indicated that he could e-mail a "Doodle Poll" to select an alternate meeting date, or the meeting could be canceled. He questioned whether Commissioners wanted to stick to the same time slot for an alternate meeting or if there was interest in meeting during the work day?

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. Severson noted that the next scheduled meeting would be on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

# FW: Tree City USA - Congratulations!

Mike Oxendine

Tue 2/12/2019 12:26 PM

To: Derek Severson <derek.severson@ashland.or.us>;

Hey Derek,

You think the Tree Commission would volunteer to work with Pete and I to do a joint Arbor Day event in Lithia Park this year?

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**From:** LOMPA Katie \* ODF [mailto:Katie.LOMPA@oregon.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:32 AM  
**To:** Mike Oxendine <mike.oxendine@ashland.or.us>; Peter Baughman <peter.baughman@ashland.or.us>  
**Subject:** Tree City USA - Congratulations!

Congratulations! We are happy to announce that your city is 1 of **66** cities in Oregon whose 2018 Tree City USA application was approved by the Arbor Day Foundation. Additionally, we are thrilled that **10** Oregon Tree City USA communities achieved a Tree City USA Growth Award for their innovative urban forestry programs and projects that go beyond the Tree City USA standards (see which cities have an X by their name in the table below).

So what is next? Planning for your city's 2019 Arbor Day observation! We encourage you to visit <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/index-strengthen.cfm> for inspiration!

Being recognized as a Tree City USA is quite the accomplishment. As a part of the city's Arbor Day/Week/Month celebration we hope you include in a schedule of events the presenting of the 2018 Tree City USA award to the mayor and/or city council. So you can do this, our goal is to make sure you have your award materials in hand by Mid to Late-March. If you know you will need them before this, please let us know.

**Attention:** Is your city one of the **15** cities celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, 30 or 40 years as a Tree City USA (in **bold** below)? If so, we have an offer for you! In the next few days we will send to the urban forestry contact in your city an email containing a link to a SHORT survey that will explain the offer. We would appreciate prompt attention to answering the survey's questions.

The work you and other city staff and volunteers do to support healthy Oregon urban and community forests is appreciated.

On behalf of all Oregonians, we thank you!

CITY	# Years Tree City USA	2018 Growth Award	CITY	# Years Tree City USA	2018 Growth Award	CITY	# Years Tree City USA	2018 Growth Award
Albany	25		Gervais	12		Redmond	14	
Ashland	34		Grants Pass	31	X	Rivergrove	3	
Aumsville	2		Gresham	11		Rogue River	36	
Baker City	34		<b>Happy Valley</b>	<b>15</b>		Roseburg	3	
<b>Bandon</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>Hillsboro</b>	<b>1</b>		Salem	43	X
Banks	13		Hood River	7		Sandy	14	
<b>Beaverton</b>	<b>25</b>	X	Independence	7		Seaside	21	
Bend	16		Klamath Falls	16		Sherwood	14	
Brownsville	13		La Grande	29	X	Sisters	12	
Cannon Beach	11		<b>Lake Oswego</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>Stanfield</b>	<b>5</b>	
Central Point	6		Lebanon	17		Sunriver Owners Assc.	39	
Coburg	21		Lincoln City	11		Sweet Home	32	X
<b>Coos Bay</b>	<b>25</b>		Madras	26		Talent	19	
Corvallis	18	X	McMinnville	22		Tigard	18	
<b>Cottage Grove</b>	<b>25</b>	X	Medford	23		Tillamook	32	
Creswell	9		Milwaukie	3		<b>Toledo</b>	<b>25</b>	
Dallas	11		Monmouth	17		Troutdale	19	
Eagle Point	27		Newport	7		Tualatin	32	
<b>Echo</b>	<b>30</b>		Oregon City	7		<b>Umatilla</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Eugene</b>	<b>40</b>	X	Pendleton	2		<b>Veneta</b>	<b>10</b>	
Falls City	3		<b>Philomath</b>	<b>25</b>		West Linn	26	
Forest Grove	29		Portland	42	X	Wilsonville	21	X

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Oregon Department of Forestry-Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Program

Kristin Ramstad, Manager

Katie Lompa, Statewide

Community Assistance Forester

503-945-7390 [kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov](mailto:kristin.ramstad@oregon.gov)

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## TREE COMMISSION COUNCIL UPDATE

MARCH 19, 2019

Hello Councilors.

Since last year's Tree Commission update, our Commission has:

- Reviewed and made recommendations on **27** Planning Actions, as well as **17** Street Tree Removal requests.
- Conducted Arbor Week events for 2018, which included hosting an educational tree planting event with students at the Bellview School garden with City and Parks Department staff.

### Tree City USA

The Tree Commission is pleased to announce that Ashland was recertified as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 34<sup>th</sup> year. We are one of 66 Tree Cities in Oregon, and one of only 9 to have held this honor for more than 30 years.

One criteria for certification as a Tree City is a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. Ashland was recognized as having per capita spending of approximately **\$11.36**. Last year community forestry expenditures for the City of Ashland were approximately **\$244,279**.

### Tree of the Year

On-line voting is now underway for the 2019 Tree of the Year at <http://www.ashland.or.us>. The candidates are:

- The **Giant Sequoia** at 965 Bellview Avenue
- The **Cork Oak** at 243 Fourth Street
- The **Ponderosa Pine** at 558 Holly Street
- The **Oak** at Scenic Drive & Church Street

The winner will be announced during Arbor Week.

An award presentation for the 2018 Tree of the Year winner, the Western Dogwood at 114 Granite Street, will be held during Arbor Week as well.

### Arbor Week April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>

- This year, in celebration of Arbor Week, the Tree Commission will be collaborating with the Ashland Parks Department to host an educational tree planting event at the Oak Knoll Golf Course on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. This event will be sponsored by Plant Oregon, a local nursery in Talent, with additional support via a grant from the Oregon Community Trees board. The event will kick-off at 12:00 noon and will go until all trees are planted (probably around 2:00 o'clock).

### Earth Day

- On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Tree Commission will also be participating in the Rogue Valley's annual Earth Day celebration at ScienceWorks. This year's theme is "Be a Changemaker." Commissioners will be available to distribute hand-out's and answer questions about trees in Ashland and the Tree Commission.

\* \* \*

The Tree Commission encourages everyone interested in trees to attend these events and our monthly meetings which are on the Thursday before Planning Commission meetings at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room at 51 Winburn Way. There are currently vacancies on the Commission, and anyone interested in being on the Tree Commission can find an application on the City's website or through the City Recorder's office.

***[THE MAYOR'S ARBOR WEEK PROCLAMATION WILL ALSO BE READ AT THE MEETING]***

# PROCLAMATION

- J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture in 1872 that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees.
- This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska.
- Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world.
- Trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, reduce heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide a habitat for wildlife.
- Trees increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community; and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal for many.
- Trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood, fuel, and countless other wood products.
- Ashland has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for 34 years and desires to continue its tree-planting ways.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Ashland, hereby proclaims April 1st to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as

## ***ARBOR WEEK IN ASHLAND***

and urges all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our City's community forestry program. I further urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019

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John Stromberg, Mayor

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Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder





Courtesy photo

Property owner Susan Bartholomew says passersby like to hug and kiss the tree in front of her home.

## Say goodbye to the 'magic tree'

**BY CAITLIN FOWLKES OF THE ASHLAND TIDINGS** | February 15, 2019

A railroad district "monument" might have to soon be removed for safety reasons.

The monument is a large silver maple tree between the sidewalk and the road in front of 355 B. St.

The tree, well over 100 years old, is very special to neighbors, said Susan Bartholomew, the resident who lives on the property.

In the three years she's lived in the house, she's seen countless people walking past the tree hug it, talk to it, meditate beside it and even lean against its trunk to read. She said several people have stopped by to tell her the tree is magical.

"It's sort of a monument in our neighborhood, and I'm trying to figure out what can be done to save it," Bartholomew said. "I'm a little worried that it might fall on someone."

She said she'd just woken up last winter after a snowfall when she heard a loud crash. When she looked out her window, she found that one of the tree branches had fallen and shattered the passenger side window of her car.

"I thought to myself, 'It's too early, I need a cup of coffee before I can deal with this,'" Bartholomew said. She said one cup of coffee and 20 minutes later, a second branch fell and broke the window on the driver's side.

She said it's dropped several other branches and appears to be dead and hollow.

She said if the tree must come down, she hopes the trunk can remain as a sort of monument marker.

"The trunk is maybe 5 feet in diameter," Bartholomew said. "It's really an amazing tree."

She said she's waiting to call an arborist until spring because she's afraid the arborist will condemn the tree.

"Because the tree is such a special part of this neighborhood, I was hoping to do something to honor the tree — quite apart from whether it can ultimately be saved," Bartholomew said. "People are really attached to the tree."

She suggests people say their goodbyes to the tree in case it does have to come down. She said she's afraid the neighborhood will be angry with her for taking it down, but she's concerned about safety.

"Across the street from me someone took a tree down, and the neighbors were up in arms trying to petition," she said.

City Senior Planner Derek Severson said the normal process is for the occupant to fill out a tree removal permit and have an arborist assess the tree. If the tree is deemed dead and a hazard, generally the stump would be ground out of the ground and a new tree would replace it.

He said occasionally the city will place a sign on the tree so neighbors know it's soon to be removed, and that can help diffuse neighborhood tension.

Bartholomew said she suspects the tree is as old as the house.

“The house is listed in one archive as having been built in 1899,” Bartholomew said. “In the land records it says 1905.”

Contact Tidings reporter Caitlin Fowlkes at [cfowlkes@rosebudmedia.com](mailto:cfowlkes@rosebudmedia.com) (mailto: [cfowlkes@rosebudmedia.com](mailto:cfowlkes@rosebudmedia.com)) or 541-776-4496. Follow her on Twitter [@cfowlkes6](https://twitter.com/cfowlkes6) ([twitter.com/cfowlkes6](https://twitter.com/cfowlkes6)).

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