City hosting open house about proposed landscaping ordinance

The public is invited to trees along street frontagattend an open house to review and offer comments on a potential ordinance that would set minimum landscaping standards for all new commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments in Hermiston. The open house will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. May 7 at Hermiston City Hall.

The proposed language for the ordinance would require a minimum of 6 percent of the developed area in the Outlying Commercial Zone (C-2) to be landscaped. The minimum requirement would be 3 percent of the developed area in the Central Commercial Zone (C-1). Properties in the Downtown Commercial Overlay (DCO) would be able to meet the landscaping requirements by using alternate enhancements, such as planter boxes, hanging baskets, decorative lighting and others.

In the Industrial Zones (M-1 and M-2), the minimum landscaping requirement would be 3 percent, or 10,000 square feet, whichever is less. Industrial sites larger than 5 acres could also plant es to screen the development, in lieu of part of the landscaping requirement.

The only residential properties that would be required to meet landstandards are scaping multiple family residential developments. Multi-family developments would be required to install landscaping on at least 15 percent of the developed area.

The proposed ordinance would only apply to new development in Hermiston. The proposed language also includes reference to a reference handbook of design examples and illustrations. A full copy of the proposed language is available at www.hermiston. or.us.

Creation of a landscape ordinance is a City Council priority and was assigned to the Community Enhancement Committee when it was formed in the spring of 2014. Since then, city staff have researched similar ordinances in similarly sized communities and presented initial draft language to the CEC in the fall of 2014. The CEC devel-

oped the ordinance further over several months before forwarding a copy

to the city's Planning Commission for an initial review. The Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance at its March 11 meeting and made additional comments and changes to the proposal.

The CEC and Planning Commission wish to gather additional public input on the initial proposed ordinance and will be soliciting input and suggestions at the open house. After the event, the public comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the proposed ordinance, and the proposal will be presented to the City Council. After review by the City Council, council members may offer additional comments and amendments before sending it to the Planning Commission for a public hearing, or the council may choose not to move forward with the ordinance.

For more information about the open house or the ordinance, contact Hermiston Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, 541-667-5003.

Corrections

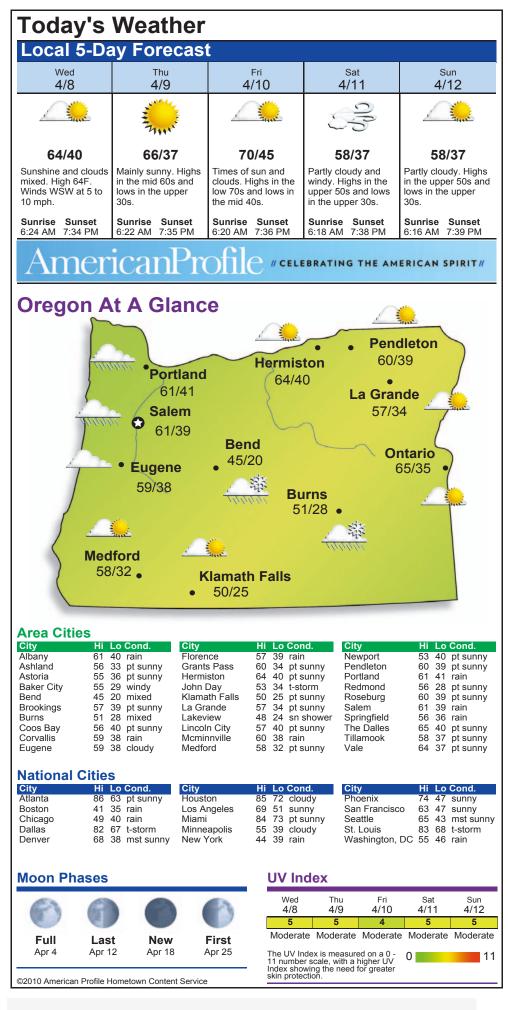
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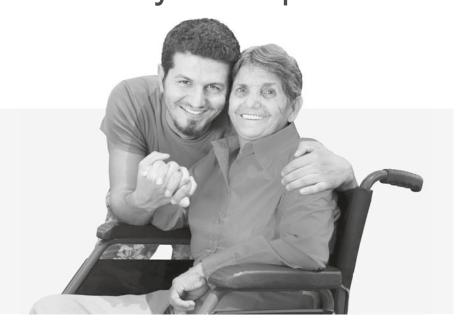
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