

# Star NEWS

THE HOLLYWOOD



**SPRING FORWARD**  
Head out to see new art and awaken the senses.  
**PAGE 17**

★ SERVING NORTHEAST AND NORTH METROPOLITAN PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOODS ★ MARCH 2024 ★ VOLUME 41, NUMBER 9 ★



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## PAINT the TOWN green

**BETTER THAN A FOUR-LEAF CLOVER** Don't miss the 35th annual St. Paddy's Day Parade on March 17. **PAGE 7**

### BLOCK BY BLOCK

Cully strives and thrives in its efforts to build a welcoming, diverse community.

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THE HOLLYWOOD STAR NEWS  
NORTH AND NORTHEAST METRO NEIGHBORHOODS  
2000 N.E. 42ND AVENUE PMB 142  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97213



★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



BY RITA SHELLEY

RITASHALLEY@STAR-NEWS.INFO

ROSE FESTIVAL COURT FINALISTS CHOSEN

The 2024 Rose Festival Court includes finalists from Grant, Jefferson, McDaniel and Benson high schools in Northeast Portland.

Junior and senior female-identifying students from 4A, 5A and 6A -Class schools qualified for the court with a combination of a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 20 hours of verifiable community service.

Candidates presented speeches and answered questions from panels of judges from around the community. For the final round of court selection, Portland Public Schools candidates gave a speech to their student body, who cast votes to help select the person who will represent their school on the court. The official court member announcements begin during the week of March 4.

Each selected court member receives a \$3,500 scholarship provided by The Randall



Group. The Rose Festival queen will be crowned at the Queen's Coronation presented by Unitus Community Credit Union in June.

Northeast finalists are Milan Birkhahn-Van Deusen, Claire Coffey, Daniela Gray and Akira Robinson from Grant High School; Kendall Brown, Kobi Flowers and Anais Robertson from Jefferson High School; Amelie Carter, Brenda Hernandez-Randel, Julie Liu, and Lucy Shields from McDaniel High School; and Caitlin Bice, Taeya Chambers, Laedyn Romero and Maria Siquina from Benson High School.

PARKS FOUNDATION NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Portland Parks Foundation has announced the appointment of Jessica Green as executive director.



Jessica Green

Green joined the foundation in 2017 and established PPF's Friends & Allies initiatives, forming strategic partnerships with community leaders, raising the profile of the foundation's Small Grants Program and increasing diversity in giving. Green also has played key roles in many of PPF's major projects, including the Barbara Walker Crossing campaign, downtown-centered Summer Paseo Festivals and the Rose City Park Playground replacement project.

"Our organization and community of park advocates continue to celebrate the more than 20-year impact we have all made working together for our outdoor and green spaces. Jessica has been instrumental to move our mission forward," says JR Lilly, PPF board chair.

As Green takes the helm, "we look forward to expanding our broad range of public/private partnerships, and to continue building on our success of reimagining the role parks can play in civic health, especially in historically disadvantaged communities." Lilly says.

Green is the mother of three young children and also is the board chair at Friends of Tryon Creek.

GRANT STUDENT MAGAZINE LAUDED FOR EXCELLENCE

Grant High School's student-run and student-funded magazine has been

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Fairleys Pharmacy and 42nd Street Station

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★ STAR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

recognized by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association with a Crown award for journalistic excellence. According to Julian Balsey, the publication's adviser, the 36-page, full-color magazine serves the Grant community with investigative news, profiles, photo stories, reviews, opinion editorials, comics and crosswords.

Student representatives will attend the March 15 award ceremony at New York's Columbia University and are seeking donations to fund the trip. To subscribe to Grant magazine or to make a donation, visit: www.schoolpay.com/parent/mip/MeAk

**CENTERWALL TO LEAD LIBRARY FOUNDATION**



Love Centerwall

Love (pronounced LEW-vah) Centerwall has been named executive director of The Library Foundation for Multnomah County Library. Centerwall succeeds Merris Sumrall, who retired in February after more than 21 years as the foundation's

leader.

Born in Stockholm and educated in Sweden, Denmark and Spain, Centerwall brings a strong belief in the power of public libraries and early learning.

For the past seven years, he has served as the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's vice president of development. And earlier was vice president of corporate relations at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette.

**DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATE FORUM SET FOR MARCH 6**

Candidates seeking to represent North and Northeast Portland as District 2 city commissioners will participate in a candidate forum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, at St. Johns Church, 8044 N. Richmond St.

District 2 is one of four districts created by Portland's 2022 City Charter reform that created four voting districts. Each district will elect three commissioners. District neighborhoods have not had city representation for 50 years.

In addition to current council member Dan Ryan who was elected in 2020, candidates who have entered the District 2 race are: James Armstrong, eye care clinics owner; Reuben Berlin, mortgage loan officer; Alan Blake, "Career Taxpayer" advocate for

seniors facing homelessness; David Burnell, Multnomah County Democratic Party Precinct Committee Person; Mariah Hudson, OHSU senior health care communicator; Marc Koller, retired from a career in organizational development and customer education; John Middleton, business courier service owner; Debbie Kitchen, residential and commercial renovation contractor; Chris Olson, communications specialist for Neighborhood Health Center serving low-income and at-risk patients; Brooklyn Sherman, Portland Public Schools bus driver and Slabtown walking tour business owner; Laura Streib, arts and music education Vibe of Portland nonprofit executive director; and Jonathan Tasini, workers' rights advocate and executive director of Just Transition For All.

**OPEN HOUSE & CONCERT**

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
 Open house: 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
 Alumni gatherings: 3:00 - 4:00 pm  
 Tom Grant concert: 4:00 pm  
**Grant High School**  
 2245 NE 36th Ave. Portland, OR 97212

Join alumni, current students and their families, and community members to celebrate Grant's excellence. Over 20 student groups will be showcasing their talents, including Performing Arts, Constitution team, the Grant Magazine, Culinary Arts, and more. Connect with alumni across the decades & enjoy the free jazz concert.

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**GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL**



Tom Grant

Grant High School, at 2245 N.E. 36th Ave., will observe its centennial year with events planned throughout 2024.

An open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, will be followed by a 4 p.m. concert featuring GHS alum and acclaimed jazz musician Tom Grant.

On May 30 and 31, Grant High's theater, music and dance groups, including the Royal Blues, Jazz Ensemble and Grant Dance Collective, as well as guest alumni stars, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale this month. The festivities will culminate with a September celebration featuring a rose planting ceremony.

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Community reporters needed for monthly Hollywood Star newspaper serving Northeast and North Portland neighborhoods.



Applicant must:

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- ★ Interview, photograph and write about new businesses, projects and more.
- ★ Have writing experience and grasp of grammar, punctuation and syntax.
- ★ Be able to meet monthly deadlines.

If interested send resume to: [marydehart@star-news.info](mailto:marydehart@star-news.info)



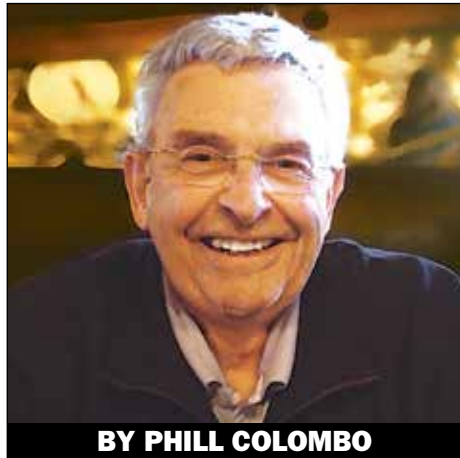
★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS

82ND AVENUE REVAMP SLATED FOR THIS SUMMER

With the December endorsement of the 82nd Avenue Business Association and 60% of design draft modifications complete, a summer 2024 start for the first construction is planned. Association President Nancy Chapin voiced commendation of Portland's Bureau of Transportation's business outreach work and the modifications.

"For our group, this represents a meaningful change in how the city reacts to community needs compared to similar projects recently completed. We look forward to this continued cooperation as 82nd Avenue matures into a vibrant commercial and residential corridor," Chapin said.

The bureau's major maintenance project will improve the 2.5-mile stretch of the north/south avenue between Northeast



BY PHILL COLOMBO

PHILLCOLOMBO@STAR-NEWS.INFO

Fremont and Schuyler streets and between Southeast Mill Street and Foster Road. At \$55 million, it is the largest part of the \$185 million overhaul of 82nd Avenue that will be



A design rendering shows pedestrians walking and pushing strollers along a wide sidewalk on 82nd Avenue with a new tree-lined median in the center lane. The wider sidewalk and trees are part of a near-finished design where construction is scheduled to start this summer. (PBOT)

built through the end of 2026.

Pending City Council approval this spring, construction will start this summer and include major improvements such as: replacing pavement curb-to-curb in key areas, rebuilding outer two travel lanes, rebuilding or replacing traffic signals, updating signs and street markings, installing pedestrian signals, bicycle signals (at neighborhood greenways), and median refuge islands, installing median islands and separators in areas with a high crash history, planting approximately 250 trees, updating or replacing 200 ADA curb ramps for people using mobility devices, wheelchairs, and strollers, and building or upgrading 15,000 linear feet of sidewalk.

To receive periodic construction updates by email or to contact project staff, visit 82nd Avenue Critical Fixes website.

sipping on a red wine.

Former Stanich's customers fond of "America's Greatest Hamburger" will find their favorite fare still offered at the new venue along with a full menu of options. The bar is the fourth establishment Paula and Mark Hylland have invested in. They took over their first drinking hole, North Portland's Mousetrap Tavern, from Paula's parents, Jerry and Carol Krum in 2021. Shortly thereafter, they acquired Rose City Park's G.O.A.T. Bar and Billy Ray's Dive in Eliot.

The Hyllands said their driving force is a strong belief in the importance of neighborhood taverns. "We love having places for people to meet over a cold beverage, a bite to eat, see old friends and make new ones. While the quality of the food and drinks are important, we hope the atmosphere is comfortable and inviting."

THE MULE BAR OPENS IN SITE LONG-OCCUPIED BY STANICH'S

Business was brisk two days after The Mule Bar's Feb. 11 grand opening at 4915 N.E. Fremont St. in Cully. The lone bartender doubled as a waiter, trying to keep up with requests from over four dozen patrons. This reporter enjoyed a juicy cheeseburger with French fries, worth the 20-minute wait while

PERMITS APPROVED

In Cully at 5626 N.E. Wygant St., Jon Munns secured a permit to construct a new, single-family, single-story modular residence with additional site-built living space and crawl space basement and no garage.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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**★ STAR DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

The interior of the former Stanich's Bar on Northeast Fremont Street in Cully has been renovated and reopened as the Mule Bar by Paula and Mark Hylland. It's the Hyllands' fourth neighborhood tavern where they said they've "worked hard to maintain some of the iconic atmosphere known to so many, while giving it our own twist." (The Mule Bar)



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**In Lloyd at 1606 N.E. Ninth Ave.,** Manna Investments LLC of Southwest Portland has been issued permits to move a 3100-square-foot, commercial/residential structure built in 1907 five blocks to the north to 2133 N.E. Ninth Ave. and to deconstruct the basement while removing the existing driveway and deconstruct a detached garage.

Washington, intends to build an array of six-unit, two-story townhouses on currently vacant shared lots.

**In Irvington at 2825 N.E. 18th Ave.,** Jordan Allensworth and Kathleen O'Brien want to deconstruct a detached garage built in 1916.

**In Kenton at 8846 N. Drummond Ave.,** DEZ Development of Clackamas wants to build a two-unit, two-story townhouse with attached accessory dwelling units and no garages. Permit was issued in November to deconstruct a 1,060-square-foot single-family residence built in 1908.

**In Laurelhurst at 4331 N.E. Hazelfern Place,** Joseph and Stacy Squires of Southeast Portland want to build a three-story, single-family residence with a basement accessory dwelling unit (two kitchens and four baths) and single-vehicle garage on vacant property.

**In Overlook at 2237 N. Humboldt St.,** Oregon Homeworks of Southwest Portland has filed for permits to construct an eight-unit cottage cluster of two-story structures on a shared lot without garages.

**In Piedmont at 6374 N. Commercial Ave.,** Rebecca Feathers and Chelsea Spangler filed to deconstruct a detached garage built in 1907 and replace it with a two-story, detached accessory structure with a first-floor storage room and office, four-toilet bathroom and storage room on the second floor with no garage.

**In Sabin at 4740 N.E. 18th Ave.,** Mary Scofield has filed to deconstruct a 1,404-square-foot, single-family residence built in 1908.

**APPLICATIONS FILED**

**In Arbor Lodge at 7214 N. Boston Ave.,** Kimco Properties applied for permission to build a two-story, single-family residence without a garage.

**In Cully at 4250 N.E. Going St.,** 3BIG Development of Milwaukie has filed to deconstruct a 610-square-foot, single-family residence and a detached garage built in 1946.

**At 4604 N.E. 77th Ave.,** Portlandia Construction of Lake Oswego has filed to build a two-story, two-unit townhouse with single-vehicle garages on vacant property.

**In Grant Park at 2534 N.E. 35th Ave.,** Ian and Catherine Sheppard have filed applications for permission to deconstruct a detached garage built in 1926 and replace it with a two-story, 712-square-foot accessory dwelling unit with living room, kitchen, stairs, bedroom and bathroom and no garage.

**In Humboldt at 4316, 4320, 4366, 4368, 4370, 4372 and 4374 N. Gantenbein Ave. and at 251, 255, 261 and 265 N. Skidmore St.,** Gantenbein LLC of Vancouver,

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★ STAR FEATURE

# Passion in motion

North Portland's Jefferson Dancers make every step count

By Hillary Wendroff and Lisa Roth

Jefferson High School in North Portland boasts one of the country's oldest and most elite high school dance programs. The Jefferson Dancers, affectionately known as the JDs, are the pinnacle of dance excellence at the high school, displaying a rich legacy spanning 48 seasons. Artistic Director Steve Gonzales, who himself was a Jefferson Dancer company member, has led the company for 25 of those 48 seasons.

This elite dance company is composed of 17 talented Jefferson High School students, ranging in age from 14 to 19 years old, and from varied ethnic, racial, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. The dancers undergo rigorous training that includes a 90-minute technique class and three hours of rehearsal after school each day. The members study many styles of dance, including hip-hop, tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, ballet, pointe and African, among others. The troupe performs at many local elementary and middle schools in Portland to introduce dance to younger children. The Jefferson Dancers' performances begin in August and continue throughout the year.

Senior students choreograph original pieces that get submitted to regional (Pacific Northwest) and national

competitions. Last year, for instance, the Jefferson Dancers traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to compete in the National High School Dance Festival and returned as national champions, winning first and third place in the Student Choreography category. This is the first time ever that one school has placed twice in the same category in the

competition's history. The Jefferson Dancers also have won the Regional Competition title for the past three years.

Each spring, the company performs its annual Spring Concert at the

Newmark Theatre in downtown Portland. This three-day performance is the culmination of an entire season's hard work and practice, allowing these high schoolers to perform nine dances at a professional venue. Portland has grown accustomed to this fantastic exhibition of our city's youth. Additionally, the Jefferson Dancers hold an annual fundraiser every November to raise money to support this amazing program. The dancers perform six works at this fundraiser and get to mingle with guests and discuss their love for dance.

The Irvington neighborhood, which is just one of the neighborhoods in Jefferson High School's Dual Assignment Zone, proudly claims two current Jefferson Dancers as residents — sophomore Harlow Kleffner and Lila Wendroff, the only freshman in the company. "Being a JD has given me opportunities that no other school or dance program could offer," Wendroff says. Beaumont-Wilshire resident Henry Roth is a proud second-year sophomore with the troupe.

Come out and enjoy the Jefferson Dancers at any of their upcoming performances.

If you would like to book the Jefferson Dancers for a school performance, a community meeting or function, or if you'd like to contribute, visit: [www.jeffersondancers.com](http://www.jeffersondancers.com) or Instagram: [jeffersondancerspdx](https://www.instagram.com/jeffersondancerspdx)



Top row, from left: Harlow Kleffner, Lila Wendroff, Payton Nabors Hilburn; second row, from left: Jay'Quan Lewis-Price, Aysha Stone, Amira Quaranto-Aziz, Conlan Savalli-Smith, Henry Roth; third row, from left: Alex Windsong, Beatrice Pierson, Devon Watters, Abigail Calaima, Finn Chisholm; bottom row, from left: Akayla Cole, Kaelei Wilford, Nya Brown, Addyson Razo; reclining in front: Steve Gonzales, artistic director

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★ STAR FEATURE

Fun gets the green light when annual St. Patrick's Day parade kicks off Sunday, March 17



# Shamrockin'

The queue will be formed for the 35th annual Northeast Portland St. Patrick's Day parade at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Beverly Cleary School, 1915 N.E. 33rd Ave.

Neither old-timers nor newcomers will want to miss the dozens of participants like Portland's Royal Rosarians and drum line. There also will be a troupe of Irish Wolfhounds, not to be outdone by bagpipers and high-steppers. Mascots from minor league baseball teams like the Portland Pickles and Hillsboro Hops will entertain once again, as will several dozen handmade floats and decorated cars and trucks, kids on bikes, stroller brigades and a Cub Scout color guard.



"This annual locally run celebration routinely brings out hundreds of families to cheer a fanciful collection of floats and Portland-centric community groups," said Steve Slavik, parade founder and master of ceremony. For the annual event, he adopts the surname of his Irish per-sona

– O'Slavik. What has become a 16-block-long, uniquely Portland event started out as a small neighborhood affair. But it has "morphed into something larger and beloved by an entire community," O'Slavik said. To register a float or join this year's special 35th anniversary parade, visit [www.portlandstpaddysparade.com](http://www.portlandstpaddysparade.com) for details.

Bring on the parade brigade!



Tuesday, March 5  
**PORTLAND FILM FESTIVAL MONTHLY INDIE FILM NIGHT: WOMEN'S VOICES**  
(Women's History Month)  
7pm · \$8 · Q&A to follow  
Advance tickets recommended

Wednesday, March 6  
**DRAG QUEEN BINGO w/ POISON WATERS**  
7pm · \$20 adv, \$25 at door · 21 & over  
Advance tickets recommended

Sunday, March 10  
**ACADEMY AWARDS w/ POISON WATERS**  
Red carpet coverage 3pm · Awards start 4pm  
Free · Minor w/ parent or guardian

Saturday and Sunday, March 16 & 17  
**ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**  
**SATURDAY · GYM**  
Murray Irish Dancers · 12:30-1pm  
Two Rivers Céilí Band · 1:30-3:30pm  
**SUNDAY · GYM**  
The Stomptowners · 2:30-4:30pm  
Yeates Academy Dancers · 5-5:30pm  
**SUNDAY · THEATER**  
Celtic Light Orchestra · 7pm  
\$20 adv; \$25 at door  
**DEVILS BIT WHISKEY**  
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Thursday through Wednesday, March 21-27  
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Sunday, March 24  
**LOOSEWIG JAZZ SERIES**  
hosted by BRENT FOLLIS ft. **MIKE HORSFALL QTET**  
7pm · Free · Gymnasium  
Suggested donations: \$20 adults, \$10 students

Monday, March 25  
**HISTORY PUB THE THREAD OF WWII WOVEN INTO OREGON'S FAMILY HISTORIES**  
presented by BECKY ELLIS AND MARY JAMIESON  
7pm · \$5 adv, \$6 at door  
Advance tickets recommended

Saturday, March 30  
**McMENAMINS WEDDING SHOWCASE**  
Featuring nine McMenamins venues  
10am-noon and 1-3pm · \$5  
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Sunday, March 31  
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The Grant High Constitution Team is headed to Washington, D.C., in April to compete against 44 other schools for the national title. (Andie Petkus Photography)

# We the People



## Grant High School Constitution Team to vie for national title

By Maggie Grainger

maggiegrainger@star-news.info

The Grant High School Constitution Team — or ConTeam — is heading to Washington, D.C., in April to compete in the We the People National Finals.

This is the ninth year in a row Grant High's team has made it all the way to the Capitol, having secured Oregon's wildcard spot in the state finals. During the national competition, they will face off against 44 other schools from around the country, including first-place winner and fellow Portland rival, Lincoln High School.

The team came in second in D.C. last year and took home first in 2013, 2015 and 2018.

The Constitution Team is part of the nationally recognized We the People curriculum and competition designed to foster a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and other government institutions. Grant High's ConTeam is open to seniors and comprises six units, each focused on a different area of constitutional history and law. The rigorous program includes weekly practice hearings with volunteer attorney coaches, weekend research and development meetings and moot sessions.

Government and U.S. history teacher

Angela DiPasquale has been advising the team for the past six years.

"Many of my students are involved in multiple athletic activities, lead school clubs, volunteer in the greater community and work part-time," she says. "I am inspired by their commitment and dedication to upholding the tradition of excellence at Grant, not only for themselves but for future students to look up to."

"I get a glimpse of the world from their perspective and learn from them. I am heartened because they represent some of the best and brightest of our future leaders."

During a competition, teams are judged on their understanding, reasoning, responsiveness and application of constitutional clauses and cases. Students develop a 4-minute presentation before judges counter with followup questions.

"Participating in ConTeam has been one of the most demanding and rewarding activities of my senior year," says student Francesca Senatori. "I have no doubt it is preparing me to be an informed and engaged citizen and civic leader in the years to come."

There are currently 26 students on the Grant High team and they are looking to raise \$90,000 before leaving for the East Coast on April 11. Funds raised will cover the cost for students, coaches and teachers to participate in the three-day competition.

"Constitution Team has been an opportunity to connect with my peers and become a more well-rounded citizen," says student Elizabeth Marshall-Hendrix. "It has made me more prepared to engage in our democracy than any other academic opportunity."

DiPasquale says programs like ConTeam are important for the community now more than ever.

"We need more people to engage in civic life, not less," she says. "The knowledge and understanding students gain in a program like this helps create a more informed and engaged citizenry that will ensure our democracy continues to function."

Interested in helping the entire Grant High ConTeam get to D.C.? Every donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to help support travel expenses by donating via School Pay ([bit.ly/48hQLI4](https://bit.ly/48hQLI4)), scanning the QR code below or writing a check

to: Grant High School Constitution Team, c/o Angela DiPasquale, 2245 N.E. 36th Ave., Portland, OR 97212. Their tax ID number is 93-6000830.



Grant ConTeam Unit 5 answers First and Second Amendment questions relating to book banning and gun control. (Andie Petkus Photography)



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★ STAR FEATURE



Phil Philly demonstrates a sequence where he juggles five hoops on a sunny day in Wilshire Park. (Mike Wright)

# All things considered ... I'm glad Phil isn't in Philly

## MIKE on a BIKE



Michael Wright | mgw1424@gmail.com

As I was heading out for a ride on a bright and sunny, blue-sky day, something caught my eye as I cycled past Wilshire Park.

Peripheral vision can be an asset for a guy looking for the next fun neighborhood story. Trust me, bright blue hoops soaring through the air in a rhythmic pattern would catch anyone's eye. I stopped, did a double-take and hopped the curb and headed to the baseball diamond where an artist was performing for, as it turns out, an audience of one. Me.

I took a few moments to appreciate his talent. Then I wandered over to him as he took a break and introduced myself. I asked him if he was practicing for some act he would perform in the near future.

"Nope," was his easy reply. "I used to perform professionally, but I lost my passion for being in front of an audience — too

stressful. Now I do it for myself. It's relaxing and personally fulfilling."

I told him that as a young man, my tennis coach recommended that I learn how to juggle four tennis balls to improve my hand-eye coordination. I admitted that three was pretty easy for me, and I could juggle two in each hand, but the four ... not in his league.

At that point my new friend introduced himself as Phil Philly. I asked him if he minded if I wrote about him, and he readily agreed. As he gave me the spelling of his name, I volunteered that if he were born in Philadelphia, that would be way too much fun. Unlike the man who coined the phrase in my headline, W.C. Fields, Phil is a native Oregonian, born and bred.



W.C. Fields

I asked him if he would perform a few of his better tricks, and he showed me a sequence that just blew my mind, and then I took a video of him tossing all five hoops with style and precision.

We had a fun talk about the repetition required to master any skill. I mentioned Malcolm Gladwell and his theory about 10,000 hours to mastery in his book "Outliers." We laughed about that.

I bade Phil goodbye with a wave, remembering how that famous comedian W.C. Fields also got his start in show business. You guessed it, he juggled. Top hats.



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Photo by Jason Outgley



★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

# Cultivating culture in *Cully*

Family-friendly neighborhood is melting pot of people united in one vibrant, diverse community



BY MAGGIE GRAINGER

MAGGIEGRAINGER@STAR-NEWS.INFO

**C**ommunity. It's the one word that comes up again and again when speaking with neighbors, business owners and friends of the Cully neighborhood. It's the community that motivates, inspires and energizes the area, allowing for new and old businesses to thrive. From gyms to plant/coffee hybrid cafes (and everything in between), this historical neighborhood is known for its diverse, welcoming atmosphere. Find your own sense of community the next time you're in Cully.

## SORBU PANINOTECA

If you're looking for pure joy between two slices of bread, look no farther than Sorbu Paninoteca.

The popular food truck has been putting its own spin on sandwiches and other Italian-inspired plates since 2020. All of their bread is made in-house and every sandwich is made with local ingredients and a lot of love.

In fact, the cart has been a labor of love for chefs and co-owners Chris Ericson and Aurelia Galimberti who hope to take customers on a culinary journey with each bite.

"Since we live just a few blocks away, it

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



Sorbu Paninoteca owners Chris Ericson and Aurelia Galimberti combine local ingredients, traditional Tuscan dishes, old family recipes and a dash of experimentation on their food truck menu that changes every two weeks. They serve sandwiches on bread that is baked daily in-house. (Sarah Marguier)



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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK



Working Class Acupuncture offers treatment on a sliding scale. Sonya Gregg, right, manager at the Cully location, says the business relies on positive word of mouth and gets referrals from medical providers in the area. (Working Class Acupuncture)

was important to open up a spot within our own community," Ericson says. "The kids go to school close by, so it's easy to leave work and grab them. They are often in the truck snacking and playing.

"It's really nice to connect with our customers and neighbors at the same time."

The menu changes every two weeks and Ericson says they find inspiration in a variety of places — some that may seem unexpected.

"Travels, family recipes, our library of cookbooks, music, experiences all inspire us," he says, "Even trauma can inspire what goes on the menu. It's a very emotional thing. It's very vulnerable.

"Sometimes I need something that comforts me and it will show up on the menu."

Ericson says he wants everyone who stops by Sorbu to leave feeling happy and satisfied — even those who may not have the financial resources.

"If you are hungry and don't have the means to eat, please come talk to us," he says. "And, on the flip side, if anyone wants to buy anyone a meal (pay it forward) we are able to set that up. Food insecurity is a real thing right in your own neighborhood.

"We want everyone to feel like they can get comfort and acceptance from us, our space and our food."

**ADDRESS:** 5011-B N.E. 42nd Ave. **WEBSITE:** sorbupdx.com **INSTAGRAM:** @sorbu.pdx **DON'T MISS:** Follow their Instagram to learn more about upcoming pop-up events around town.

**WORKING CLASS ACUPUNCTURE**

A nonprofit clinic in Cully has been building community one prick at a time for more than 20 years.

Working Class Acupuncture, located at 3526 N.E. 57th Ave., offers low-cost acupuncture treatments on a sliding scale to



patients of all walks of life.

Sonya Gregg is the manager of the Cully location and says the sliding scale model helps the team reach populations that might otherwise not have access to acupuncture. Sessions always range from \$20-\$40 with an initial one-time \$10 paperwork fee.

"We're a social business," Gregg says. "It's all word of mouth. A lot of medical providers in the metro area know about us so we get referrals from all systems. That's why we really believe in the sliding scale. It gives

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

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Erin Engelke inserts very thin, fine-gauge needles into a patient at Working Class Acupuncture. Once they are placed, most people feel deeply relaxed or fall asleep. (Working Class Acupuncture)



Queer Plants Cafe combines a coffee shop and a plant store. Co-owners Ross and Ernest Koh were inspired by cafes in Europe and Latin America, which often include open-air gardens. (Queer Plants Cafe)



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Acupuncturists work closely with patients to make sure they are addressing their areas of concern.

"We can accommodate a lot of people and schedules," Gregg says. "People can usually get same-day appointments if they need them. If they're having back pain or headaches and in dire need, we can treat people on the fly."

"The patient has a lot of control over their treatment. It's always collaborative. People can rest as long as they need. We're another place or option to use as a tool to feel better."

ADDRESS: 3526 N.E. 57th Ave. WEBSITE: workingclassacupuncture.org DON'T MISS: All sessions are free on May 1 every year. You must schedule an appointment ahead of time to secure a spot.

QUEER PLANTS CAFE

Can you think of a better way to start your day than with a warm cup of coffee and a plant to call your own?

Now you can indulge your caffeine cravings and your love of all things flora at Queer Plants Cafe on Northeast 42nd

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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more people fewer barriers to show up and be here."

The clinic also relies on a team of volunteers to keep things running. Gregg says they are always looking for more help, and volunteers get free acupuncture once they complete training.

The Cully location is one of four Working Class locations in the area and has 28 open

Advertisement for 'The Arrangement' featuring floral graphics and text: 'Easter is March 31st', 'Fill your Easter Baskets', 'Decorate with Easter Decor', 'Enjoy New Spring Clothes', '4210 NE Fremont Mon-Sat 10-6 & Sun 10-5', 'Instagram: thearrangementpdx.com', '503-287-4440'



**★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK**



At Queer Plants Cafe, you can sip a beverage, get a bite to eat – maybe a bagel topped with Middle Eastern flavors – and enjoy the soothing ambience of the plant-filled space. If you like that plant you were admiring during a break from reality, it's for sale, and you can take it home.

(Queer Plants Cafe)

Avenue.  
The cafe just opened its doors in November and co-owners Ross and Ernest Koh say the reception from the community has been incredibly welcoming.  
“As queer people, we have faced an uphill battle in life, and starting a queer-presenting business is very involved,” says Ernest, who manages the cafe aspects of the shop. “Just having that noticed and appreciated has warmed our hearts and made all our years of efforts and planning worthwhile.”  
Ross, who takes on the plant aspect of the business, was inspired to incorporate foliage into their concept after working at a plant

shop for years.  
He says: “The customers were practically begging for a coffee or hot beverage while they shopped. We saw an opportunity and set about designing a hybrid cafe plant shop over the course of five years.  
“We view plants as not only living sculptures of beauty, but as intelligent life forms because they can learn and communicate. We love making shopping fun by individually naming the plants and having regular rainbow flash sales.”  
The duo also were inspired by the quiet

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK

and unassuming cafes of Europe and Latin America when coming up with the overall vibe for the cafe.

“In tropical regions, cafes often have open-air interior gardens, which create a serenity and a splash of romance that Queer Plants Cafe is trying to recreate,” Ernest says.

Their love of travel also inspired their menu items. Take for example their Loaded Oasis bagel, which features Middle Eastern flavors and is served open-faced with cream cheese, chia seeds, sliced dates, figs, toasted almonds, lemon curd drizzle and pomegranate kernels.

“We both love foods with layers of texture, crunch and bright colors,” Ernest says.

He recommends pairing it with their signature butterscotch and rosemary oak milk latte for an extra-special experience.

“We try to incorporate Pacific Northwest botanical offerings and flavors where we can.”

**ADDRESS:** 5027 N.E. 42nd Ave. **INSTAGRAM:** @queerplantscafe **DON'T MISS:** A passionfruit basil iced latte is coming just in time for spring.

**CULLY STRENGTH**

Usually when a friend asks to crash in your basement, they don't bring a whole gym and their clients with them.

But that was the case for Joey Cole, the owner and head coach of Cully Strength, when he first moved to Portland.

“A friend of mine had a basement,” he says. “She said I could start the gym there. It was an 800-square-foot basement, and I moved down and started training people.”

He eventually moved out of the basement and into the 3,000-square-foot space the gym now calls home.

“I couldn't have done it without her. I'm forever grateful for her help, especially considering the gym was right under her



At Cully Strength, getting comfortable with being vulnerable is part of the philosophy and allows for personal growth. Coaches — like Mike Haller pictured above — meet clients where they're at on their fitness journey. (Cully Strength)

bedroom,” he says.

These days he has four trainers working alongside him, offering personal training sessions and teaching group classes six days a week. He's also jumped from 40 clients in 2021 to more than 250 today.

“We weathered the storm in the basement

and came out the other side in a bigger place and have been growing ever since,” he says. “We wanted to make sure we created a space where everyone has the opportunity to get fit and stronger.”

He continues: “It's really our job as coaches to create a space where people

are comfortable being vulnerable. Every interaction you have with somebody is an opportunity for them to open up and be more vulnerable or to push away, making it harder for them to grow.”

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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**So Much in March!** Spring Begins, St Patrick's Day, March Madness and - **Real Estate Heats Up.** Time to Hop In. **Contact Me** for Your Next Move.



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**★ STAR BLOCK X BLOCK**



Owner and head coach Joey Cole started Cully Strength in an 800-square-foot basement space, before expanding to the 3,000-square-foot gym he now occupies on Northeast 42nd Avenue. (Cully Strength)

It's this philosophy that has not only helped him grow his business but foster a sense of camaraderie at the gym. He says the Cully community also has played a huge role in the gym's success.

"There's a certain pride about living in Cully that everyone shares," he says. "I feel so lucky that I was able to open this gym in this neighborhood. It feels like a hub where people can come together."

Says Cole: "What I've realized is the gym

and coaching are vessels that bring people together and help them live happier lives. It's cool to see the look on people's faces when they see themselves do the thing they thought they couldn't do.

"You can open up people's lives."

**ADDRESS:** 5224 N.E. 42nd Ave. **WEBSITE:** cullystrength.com **INSTAGRAM:** @cullystrength **DON'T MISS:** Your first week is free. Be sure to contact the gym to get on their waitlist.

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# ★ STAR PET CONNECTIONS

## Urgent and intermediate care vet clinic opens



BY LISA LAKES

LISALAKES@STAR-NEWS.INFO

Star readers will be glad to learn that Riverbend Veterinary Care has opened at 3258 N.E. Broadway. The clinic is a hybrid office offering walk-in urgent care (please call first) and appointments on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Veterinary medicine has become more sophisticated and now offers pet owners a wide variety of options. In addition to primary care veterinarians, who provide ongoing care for the lifetime of your pet, there are specialists like oncologists or neurologists, as well as urgent care clinics and 24-hour emergency hospitals.

It's important to have a primary care veterinarian who sees your pet on a regular basis and provides ongoing care such as annual wellness exams, vaccinations and dental cleanings. If your pet becomes ill or has an accident and is stable but cannot be seen by your primary care veterinarian immediately, you may need to seek an urgent care clinic. For life-threatening situations, you may need to check your pet into a 24-hour emergency hospital for in-patient care.

Over the past few years, veterinary clinics of all types have struggled to keep pace with demand. If you have had to take your pet to an urgent or emergency clinic you know the wait times can be excessive.

But Riverbend Veterinary Care co-owner Dr. Julie March has good news. "Our work is to fill this gap in the spectrum of care in a supportive role to both primary care and emergency veterinary clinics as well as the people and pets in our community."

March and co-owner Dr. Cassandra Powell have the capacity to see, evaluate



Dr. Cassandra Powell, seated far left, and Dr. Julie March, standing left, are the co-owners of Riverbend Veterinary Care.

The clinic, on Broadway next to the New Seasons store, is a hybrid office offering both immediate and intermediate treatment for pets.

(Lisa Lakes)

### Riverbend Veterinary Care

<http://tinyurl.com/y34kwmxm>

#### Services at Riverbend include:

- Medical assessment
- Emergency stabilization
- Diagnostics and testing
- Radiology
- Ultrasound
- Procedures e.g. wound repair
- Pharmacy
- End of life care

#### Services at Riverbend do not include:

- Wellness care and vaccines
- Dental procedures
- Management of chronic illness
- Overnight hospitalization



hospitalization, we are skilled at knowing what cases need this care, the cost of such care and can openly dialogue about the process, helping folks figure out if transfer to such a facility is right for them and their pet.

"Along these lines, if a critically ill patient presents to us, we are prepared to stabilize them while simultaneously coordinating ongoing care," March added.

It is important to call before walking in. This allows the team to do some preliminary triage work, set expectations, ease stress, share information on current wait times and prepare for your visit. For pets that don't need same-day care but should be seen within a three-day period, appointments are available.

The door to the clinic faces west,

perpendicular to Broadway. Parking is free. Enter the lot next to the New Seasons. Drive to the left and go to the end of the lot. You will see a pink and green mural. Entry to the clinic is around the corner to the west. If you have special needs such as a fearful dog, arrangements can be made to bring the pet directly into the "comfort room" on the Broadway Street side of the building.

The clinic is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Later, the team hopes to extend hours to cover weekends as well. With the capacity to accommodate walk-in urgent cases and located within easy reach of several 24-hour emergency hospitals, the team at Riverbend is ready to consult, treat and support you and your pets during times of need.

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★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## KIDSTEENS AND FAMILIES

### INCLUSIVE FAMILY STORYTIME

March 1, 11:15 a.m.-noon. Rainbow Family Storytime. Children from birth to age 6 (with a favorite adult) enjoy books highlighting LGBTQ+ families, along with songs, rhymes and movement activities building language, literacy and community in an identity-supporting environment. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Gregory Heights Library, 7921 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

### TWEENS ADVISE LIBRARIANS

March 1, 4-5 p.m. Tween Council helps librarians choose books, movies, comics, programs and events while working on projects and making new friends. Snacks provided. For grades 4-6. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Belmont Library, 1038 S.E. César E. Chávez Blvd.

### FAMILIES BOND, GET CREATIVE

March 2, 11 a.m.-noon. Have fun crafting together with your family. Parents and caregivers are invited to assist their children on a project or craft. For ages 5 and up with an adult. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Belmont Library, 1038 S.E. César E. Chávez Blvd.

### ADAPTIVE STORYTIME

March 2, 11:15-11:45 a.m. Preschool Sensory Storytime welcomes children ages 3-5 and their families who are



Glass artist Carlyne Lynch is one of six artists whose work will be featured during Artistic Portland Gallery's Spring Artquinox group show March 7. (Artistic Portland Gallery)

looking for a smaller, more adaptive library experience. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Gregory Heights Library, 7921 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

### AT HOLLYWOOD, 'BOOKS' ARE 3D

March 2, 2-3 p.m. Kids learn how to make paper sculpture out of colorful paper. 503-988-5123. Multcolib.org. Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.

### GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB

March 7, 4-5 p.m. Kids in grades 4-5 are invited to talk about graphic novels and eat snacks. Every meeting includes a short activity related to this month's book. A limited number of books are available for pick up at the library. 503-988-5123. Multcolib.org. Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.



Osage Nation tribe member Karen Kitchen will conduct an online story hour on March 20 featuring songs and books from Native cultures. (Multnomah County Library)

### STEAM LAB AT THE LIBRARY

March 16, 2-3 p.m. Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math concepts in a hands-on, fun and engaging environment. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.

### ENJOYARTS

### CHECK OUT STEEL, MIXED MEDIA

March 1-24. Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5

p.m. Guardino Gallery. Jill Torberson shows steel sculpture, and Kim Hamblin shows mixed media in the main gallery. Zoe Larson has mixed media in the feature area. 503-281-904. guardinogallery.com. 2939 N.E. Alberta St.

### GREET SPRING WITH ART

March 7, 4-8 p.m. APG kicks off its Spring Artquinox group show with music,

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



Accepting applications for grades PreK (3 & 4 yrs) through 8th!

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**★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

refreshments and a chance to meet the artists. Throughout March, six creators will present Artist Talks, pulling back the curtain on their techniques and processes. 971-339-0945. artisticportlandgallery.com. 4110 N.E.

Fremont St.

**JAZZ UP YOUR GARDEN**

March 10, 1-3 p.m. Make your garden even more beautiful by creating handmade ornaments. Artist Kathy Karbo will show you how to use hammers, anvils and other tools to create these decorative pieces. 503-988-5123. Multcolib.org. Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.

**ONLINE NATIVE STORY HOUR**

March 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sing, listen, learn and celebrate. Join Karen Kitchen (Osage Nation) for a story hour featuring songs and books from Native cultures. Children, families, elders, aunties and uncles — all are welcome. Hosted by Multnomah County Library with support from The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Fund. Register for Zoom at multcolib.org.



Physical comedian, ukulele player and clown Angel Ocasio will be among dozens of acts at a benefit for Clowns Without Borders at the Alberta Rose Theatre on March 30. (Alberta Rose Theatre)

**DO IT FOR FRODO**

March 24 11 a.m. The Fellowship of the Ring; 3:15 p.m. The Two Towers; 7:30 p.m. The Return of the King. Gather your Fellowship and embark on nearly 12 hours of cinema on a 50-foot screen that will return you to the incredible world of Middle Earth. \$25 general admission. 503-493-1128. hollywoodtheatre.org. 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

**CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS**

March 30, 2 p.m. An afternoon of circus, comedy and variety to benefit Clowns Without Borders USA that offers joy and laughter to relieve the suffering of all people, especially children, who live in areas of crisis including refugee camps, conflict zones and areas in emergency situations. Portland has the longest running and most successful fundraiser for Clowns Without Borders. \$20. 503-719-6055. albertarosetheatre.com. Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 N.E. Alberta St.

2024 Growing our Urban Forest Together featuring tree walks and presentations by Urban Forestry and community partners. Lunch provided. 503-201-7695. portland.gov/trees. Rigler Elementary School Auditorium, 5401 N.E. Prescott St.

**NOTABLE WOMEN OF PORTLAND**

March 3, 1-2 p.m. Historian Tracy Prince and her daughter and co-author Zadie Schaffer uncovered overlooked Portland history of women beginning with 10,000 years of Native American history and continuing through contemporary artists and politicians. 503-988-5123. multcolib.org. Belmont Library, 1038 S.E. César E. Chávez Blvd.

**MONTAVILLA FARMERS MARKET**

March 3, 17 and 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stock up on locally grown produce, small batch groceries and pasture-raised animal products. Montavillamarket.org. 7700 S.E. Stark St.

**PARKINSON'S DOCUMENTARY**

March 13, 7 p.m. A documentary featuring the journeys of three individuals with Parkinson's Disease — a cartoonist, a boxing coach and an optician — will be screened and followed by a community discussion. "Matter of Mind: My Parkinson's" presents stories of managing symptoms and



**ELEANOR**  
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**FORSENIORS**

**LEARN ABOUT NE VILLAGE PDX**

Monday, March 18, 11 a.m.-noon. Learn about activities and services offered by Northeast Village PDX that support seniors opting to remain in their own homes and stay involved in their community. The member-led organization serves residents in Northeast neighborhoods as they engage with and help one another. 503-895-2750. Hollywood Library, 4040 N.E. Tillamook St.

**INGENERAL**

**TREE SUMMIT 2024**

March 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tree Summit

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

Bach Cantata Choir  
*Ralph Nelson, Artistic Director*



Free Palm Sunday Lecture and Concert  
Sunday, March 24, 2024  
2pm Pre-Concert Lecture: "Music Printing in 1700s"  
3pm Concert:  
Cantatas by Johann Ernst Bach, Johann Pachelbel, and Heinrich Schütz  
Also: Symphony No. 1 by "Chevalier" Joseph Bologne

Rose City Park Presbyterian Church  
NE 44th and Sandy Blvd.  
Complete info at: [www.bachcantatachoir.org](http://www.bachcantatachoir.org)



**★ STAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

treatments, while living a fulfilling life. The film “offers insight into what it means to live with a degenerative illness,” according to event organizers. Eastside Jewish Commons, 2420 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

**GET MOVING WITH MARIMBA**

April 6, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; doors open at 11a.m. Eight marimba bands will perform at “Mallets of Mass Percussion: Marimba Music from Zimbabwe and beyond.” All band members are students of MyLinda King of Boka Marimba. The free, all-ages show and raffle is hosted by Alongsiders, with donations to benefit Humwe.org 2830 N..E Flanders St. Contact marimba@teleport.com

Here eight different marimba bands in a free, all-ages show April 6. (MyLinda King)



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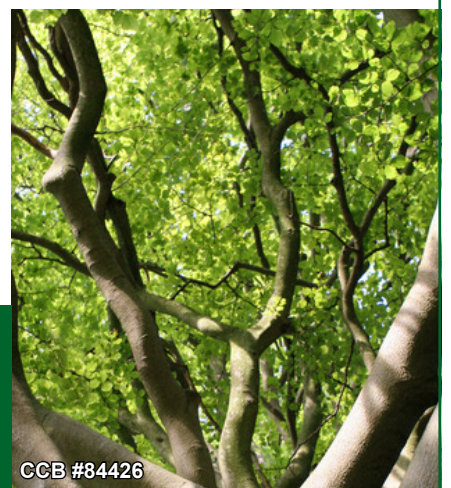
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## COLORING CONTEST 2024!



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Age categories:  
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9-12 years  
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By entering this contest you agree to have your name published in the April Star News