



PRESS RELEASE

June 17, 2025

Tree Removal at Historic Crook County Courthouse Scheduled for Friday, June 20th

PRINEVILLE, OR – In an effort to preserve and protect the structural integrity of Crook County’s historic Courthouse, six cedar trees surrounding the building will be removed this Friday, June 20.

The trees—four located on the front of the Courthouse and two on the west side—are large, mature cedars that were not part of the original landscape design. While their presence may seem picturesque, their size and placement now pose a serious threat to the foundation of this iconic structure. The trees are leaning outward in search of sun, and their roots are placing significant stress on the Courthouse’s historic rock foundation. In the event of severe weather or saturated soil conditions, these trees could fall, potentially pulling on and damaging the Courthouse’s foundation.

“This is a proactive measure to safeguard one of Crook County’s most iconic and beloved buildings,” said Facilities Director James Preuss. “These trees, while beautiful, have unfortunately become a risk to the structure we’re working hard to preserve.”

The removal will be conducted by Lindsey Land & Tree LLC, a local tree service company based in Crook County. Work is expected to take place throughout the day on Friday.

In addition to addressing safety and preservation concerns, the removal will also help restore the original character and visibility of the Courthouse, allowing its architectural beauty to once again be fully appreciated. Clearing the overgrowth will allow the community to once again admire the historic details and craftsmanship that have defined the Courthouse since its construction.

“This is part of a larger effort to spruce up the Courthouse and return her to her former glory,” Commissioner Susan Hermreck noted. “These particular trees were not part of the historical landscape, and while the decision to remove them was not made lightly, it is ultimately the most prudent step for the long-term health and safety of the building.”

The County appreciates the community’s understanding as this important preservation work is carried out.

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