



State unveils new Crater Lake plate

Oregon DMV began issuing a new Crater Lake license plate design for passenger cars this month.

Residents can order them at DMV offices or online at dmv2u.oregon.gov/eServices.

The Oregon Legislature established the Crater Lake plate in 2001.

Since its launch, Oregonians have ordered 400,000 sets, and there are about 250,000 currently valid on vehicles today. The redesign was released Sept. 9.

The plate's surcharge of \$30 remains the same, due only when first obtaining the plates. The surcharge is in addition to regular title and registration fees, plate manu-

facturing or replacement fee.

The surcharge benefits the nonprofit Crater Lake National Trust.

Plates can be ordered when applying for Oregon title and registration when buying a car, when renewing existing registration, or to replace current plates during the vehicle's registration period — not at renewal.

Those who already have Crater Lake plates can replace them with the new design without paying the \$30 surcharge, however, there is an additional fee for plate manufacturing and replacement.

The Crater Lake plate is eligible for passenger vehicles only.

Longtime Animal Control supervisor retires

Animal Control Supervisor Stephen Hildreth has retired after two decades serving Clatsop County.

Undersheriff Paul Williams called Hildreth a "champion of Animal Control" during his 18 years as supervisor of the division, which operates the county animal shelter, issues licenses, responds to animal abuse calls and cases of abandoned and nuisance dogs, and finds new homes for dogs, cats and other pets.

Hildreth earned certification in animal abuse investigation, which enabling him to offer



Hildreth

support to local law enforcement in cases of abuse.

"I have always valued Stephen's willingness to accept calls or to respond to cases at all hours of the day or night to help his fellow deputies with difficult calls," Williams said.

Hildreth also received certification for animals in disasters with the county Emergency Management Department.

Hildreth developed strong relationships in the region, from the local Clatsop Animal Assistance organization to departments in other states. The relationships allowed him to

acquire significant volunteer support and financial donations and helped with the compassionate transfer of animals.

He once drove more than 10 hours on his day off to reunite two dogs with their family, Williams said. "Stephen has always been there for the benefit of the dogs and cats entrusted to his care."

Replacing Hildreth is Justin Dersham, a longtime sheriff's deputy and detective.

Dersham has served 15 years with the Sheriff's Enforcement Division, including as deputy, forest and resident deputy, detective, and search and rescue coordinator.

Peace tree campaign ends with healthy growth

A four-year campaign to plant peace throughout Oregon came to an end Wednesday with a celebration at the Oregon Department of Forestry's headquarters in Salem.

Peace trees — saplings grown from seeds of trees that survived the atom bombing of Hiroshima — were planted in Seaside's Cartwright Park, Tillamook's Carnahan Park and in 33 other communities across the state.

Wednesday was International Day of Peace as declared by the United Nations General Assembly back in 1981.

Representatives from 45 organizations that planted a total of 51 peace trees were invited to the ceremony. Members of several Japanese-American organizations also attended.

Oregon State Forester Cal Mukumoto, whose ancestry is Japanese-American, welcomed guests and thanked them for making Oregon home to one of the densest concentrations of Hiroshima peace trees outside Japan.



State Forester Cal Mukumoto

Guest of honor was Hideko Tamura-Snyder, who lives in Medford. She was 10 years old and living in Hiroshima when the city was flattened by the first of two atomic bombs by the United States dropped on Japan in August 1945.

Buried in the ruins of her grandmother's home, Hideko was able to free herself and survived the firestorm that later engulfed the city. Her mother and other relatives were killed.

Hideko moved to the United States, eventually settling in Oregon where she wrote two books about her experiences. She founded the One Sunny Day Initiative to promote peace and nuclear dis-

armament around the world.

At her urging, arborist Mike Oxendine in Ashland obtained seeds of survivor trees from the Green Legacy Hiroshima organization. Its volunteers collect and send the seeds around the world as ambassadors of peace.

After Oxendine germinated the seeds, Oregon Community Trees and the Oregon Department of Forestry collaborated in finding homes for the trees.

The 51st tree was planted in Gresham on Sept. 19.

"These peace trees not only convey a message of peace from the residents of Hiroshima, they are symbols of survival and resilience in the face of unimaginable destruction," Mukumoto said.

"Seeing them putting down roots in the good soil of Oregon and reaching for the sky gives me hope that people in our state — like the survivors in Hiroshima — can not only endure harsh times but can share with others the hard-won wisdom from having persevered through them."

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