

Memorial Day Ceremony plans given

The public is invited to a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 28, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., at the Washington County Fair Complex.

The ceremony, which is a unique collaboration among Washington County, City of Hillsboro, Oregon National Guard, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, will honor our nation's service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Program highlights include recognition of Purple Heart recipients, a prisoners of war ceremony, 21-gun salute, a flyover by the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard and the re-dedication of the newly completed Veterans

Gateway segment of Veterans Drive in Hillsboro.

Among the participants will be leaders from the Hillsboro VFW and American Legion, 2012 Outstanding Oregon Woman Veteran of the Year Betty Pomeroy, Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey, Board of Commissioners Chairman Andy Duyck, and Sheriff Pat Garrett. A keynote address is planned by Brigadier General Steven Gregg, Commander, Oregon Air Guard.

The Veterans Gateway, first dedicated in December 2010, will eventually serve as a passage from the Fair Complex/Hillsboro Airport MAX Station and Park & Ride to a Veterans Memorial Plaza extending north towards the fair-

grounds. Community input is being sought on the plaza design, which will be on display at the event and was developed pro-bono by LRS Architects.

Fundraising efforts for the plaza have begun and include the sale of paving stones that can be engraved to honor veterans with ties to Washington County. Information will be available at the event, and on the county website.

The Memorial Day Ceremony will take place rain or shine. Attendees may park in TriMet's lot at the Fair Complex/Hillsboro Airport MAX Station. For more information, call Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services at 503-846-3060.

Rental property event set for May 23

The Washington County Department of Housing Services is hosting a free event on May 23, for landlords, property owners and property managers to discuss the value of inspecting rental property. It will be held at the Shirley Huffman Auditorium in the Washington County Public Services Building, 155 N. 1st Avenue, Hillsboro, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The 2-hour informational session will cover: reasons to inspect, key items to look for, who should perform inspections, and optimum inspection times. The evening will include information on the inspection process for properties rented through the Housing Choice Voucher program, but the main focus of the event will be discussing how landlords can

boost their bottom line by implementing a solid inspection program.

Real Estate Instructor Gary Calvert will host the event. Calvert has over 30 years experience in the real estate industry with a primary career focus in real estate management, and holds several professional real estate designations including the Certified Property Manager®. Calvert is Asset Manager for the Washington County Department of Housing Services, overseeing more than 1,500 multifamily units and single family homes.

Interested in attending? The forum is free, but seating is limited. Please reserve a seat by contacting Gary Calvert at 503-846-4784, or gary_calvert@co.washington.or.us.

Governor has named May "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month"

As the weather improves, more and more motorcyclists will hit the roads. With that in mind, Governor Kitzhaber has proclaimed May 2012 "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month" in Oregon. Oregon is joining with motorcycle organizations and other federal, state

and local highway safety and law enforcement organizations to raise awareness about motorcycle safety.

Unfortunately, 40 people lost their lives in motorcycle crashes in 2011 according to preliminary data from the Oregon Department of Transportation, up

from 38 in 2010. Nationally, motorcyclist fatalities increased slightly in 2010 (the latest year available for national statistics) to 4,502, up from 4,462 in 2009. Almost 50 percent of fatal motorcycle crashes in Oregon are single vehicle crashes, meaning another vehicle was-

not involved in the crash.

During May – and the rest of the year – drivers should safely "share the road" with motorcycles and be extra alert to help keep motorcyclists safe. Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too. They should obey traffic rules, be alert to other drivers, never ride while impaired or distracted, and always wear a helmet and highly visible gear.

"It doesn't matter if you're on four wheels or two; we all have

to do our part to share the road safely," said Michele O'Leary, Motorcycle Safety Program manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation. "One simple thing motorcyclists can do to improve their safety is wear high visibility gear so they can be seen by other traffic users."

ODOT offers these safety tips for drivers and motorcyclists.

See Motorcycle, page 13



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