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PRESS RELEASE

RE: Cancellation of the 2020 Washington County Fair

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(Hillsboro, OR) After much thoughtful consideration and study, the Washington County Fair Board regretfully announces the cancellation of the 2020 Fair. "This decision has been a tough one for us," says Fair Board President, Gary Seidel. "We had sincerely hoped we could move forward with the 2020 edition of our Fair. This was to have been the debut of expanding the Fair to 10 days and incorporating the new Wingspan Event and Conference Center into the Fair, which is why this is extra painful for us and the staff to have to cancel this year after so much planning and anticipation, but our Fair dates are early in relation to how soon we all might be able to get back out into the community after sheltering in place due to the Corona virus. There are too many unknowns related to keeping the community safe right now and what might be allowed in relation to "Mass Gatherings" and how that could impact an event the size of our Fair. As such, for the protection and well-being of our community, we concluded it would not be responsible to move forward with the Fair this year."

"We are now upon the time in our planning of the Fair where we have to start making commitments with suppliers, contractors, concert acts, the list goes on and on" says Fair Manager Leah Perkins-Hagele, "Yet, we truly do not know, at this point, if the Fair could realistically be held since we are a large mass gathering and we always have to keep the safety and health of our community, staff, and exhibitors, as our first priority. We have been asking ourselves: "If we still have to adhere to Social Distancing, how do you move people through the Fair and the barns in a way that gives them an enjoyable experience? How do you operate the carnival area? How do you hold a concert or have any type of entertainment with an audience?" We will all come back together again to celebrate as a community, when it is safe to do so and we're looking forward to bringing back our Big Fair Fun in 2021!"

Westside Commons, Home of the Annual Washington County Fair
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