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## **HILLSBORO HOSTS WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SOFTBALL TOURNEY AUG 3-8**

**Hillsboro, Oregon** – On August 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Hillsboro’s Gordon Faber Recreation Complex/Hillsboro Stadium will be bustling with competitive fast pitch softball action, as the City of Hillsboro hosts the ASA (Amateur Softball Association of America) Girls 16B Western National Championship tournament.

“This is a very significant tournament for Hillsboro and for the 16B girls ASA softball program, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of dollars it is expected to bring into the local economy through hotel stays and retail purchases,” says Tournament Director and Hillsboro Parks & Recreation Facilities Manager Gary Wilson.

The 2010 ASA Western National Championships will feature 36 division B age 15-16 girls’ softball teams from various western states, including Oregon, Washington, California, and Montana. Games will be played on the seven grass and one artificial turf fields at the Gordon Faber Recreation Complex/Hillsboro Stadium. Opening ceremonies will take place at the Hillsboro Stadium on the evening of Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by two days of tournament pool play and three days of championship play. All will culminate in a final championship game on August 8. There will also be a “Skills Competition” on Thursday, August 5, which will raise funds for HomePlate, a Hillsboro non-profit offering services for youth facing homelessness in Washington County.

This tournament was awarded to Hillsboro through a competitive bid process, thanks to a partnership between the City of Hillsboro, the Washington County Visitor’s Association (WCVA) and the Oregon Amateur Softball Association (ASA), as well as support from the Hillsboro School District and the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce. This is the first tournament of this magnitude for which Hillsboro or Washington County has submitted a bid. Subsequent to this award, the City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, WVCA and Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District partnered on and were awarded a bid for another large ASA girls tournament in 2012.

Youth and amateur sporting events are an important segment of Washington County’s tourism efforts. According the WCVA, this ASA tournament is expected generate as much as \$700,000 in revenue to Washington County.

The City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation’s Gordon Faber Recreation Complex/Hillsboro Stadium regularly hosts softball tournaments, including the largest one tournament in the Northwest – the 128 team Valley Invitational College Exposure Tournament. The facility frequently hosts other large sporting events and tournaments of regional significance.

The **City of Hillsboro Parks & Recreation** department inspires and expands the minds and horizons of citizens of all ages by enabling access to recreation, nature, culture, and adventure. The department

provides more than 1,500 acres of park land and open spaces, an array of recreational facilities, and a multitude of recreational, educational and cultural programs. The department's Gordon Faber Recreation Complex is a 90+ acre recreation site including a 7,000-seat multipurpose stadium with all-weather artificial turf, and seven natural grass softball fields. The Complex is a unique facility that serves community sports and event needs, and also hosts events and tournaments that attract spectators and participants from throughout the region and the country.

The **Washington County Visitors Association (WCVA)** serves the region's tourism industry by actively promoting Washington County, Oregon, as a destination for conventions, sports, business, and leisure travelers. Spanning 727 square miles, Washington County includes the growing communities of Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, Durham, Forest Grove, Gaston, Hillsboro, King City, North Plains, Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville, and is home to world-class golf courses, award-winning wineries, scenic parks, wetlands and wildlife preserves, and a variety of restaurants and shops.

The **Oregon Amateur Softball Association (ASA)** is one of many ASA associations in the United States serving teams/players, coaches, and umpires in the sport of Softball. Oregon ASA is part of the national Amateur Softball Association of America, a volunteer driven, not-for-profit organization based in Oklahoma City, OK, that is the national governing body of softball in the United States. Founded in 1933, the ASA regulates competition in every state through a network of 85 local associations to insure fairness and equal opportunity to the millions of players who annually play the sport. The ASA has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 250,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than four million.

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