

Duniway to be honored with historical marker

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News-Register Staff

LAFAYETTE — Lafayette will dedicate a marker Friday, Sept. 14, to one of its best-known historical figures, Abigail Scott Duniway.

Ceremonies will start at 2 p.m. in Joel Perkins Park, Eighth and Jefferson streets.

Duniway is best-known for her role in winning the vote for women in Oregon. She was a leader in the women's suffrage movement, campaigning tirelessly for equal rights for decades.

Her efforts helped win approval of voting rights for Oregon women in 1912. Gov. Oswald West recognized her achievements by asking her to write and sign Oregon's Suffrage Proclamation — the first time an equal suffrage proclamation was authored by a woman.

Oregon and several other Western states were well ahead of the nation. The 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote in nationwide elections and in every state, wasn't ratified until 1920.

As a Lafayette resident in the 1860s, Duniway established a school, published her first novel and took in boarders in addition to raising her own family.

Lafayette city officials and members of the Oregon Historical Marker Committee have been involved in honoring Duniway with a marker. Lafayette officials have declared Sept. 14 "Duniway Day."

This isn't the first time Duniway has been the subject of a permanent honor in Yamhill County. When McMinnville built its second intermediate school in 1997, the building was named Abigail Scott Duniway Middle School.

For more information, call Jenn Smith at 800-574-9397.

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