

Contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email: apaul@co.linn.or.us

Linn County offers free rides to area veterans

ALBANY —Are you a veteran, or do you know a veteran who has a VA medical appointment or exam, but no longer feels comfortable driving around the state?

Linn County Veterans Services can help you thanks to a grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans Services.

Veterans Services Director Dee Baley-Hyder said funding is available to pay for round-trip transportation for local veterans to anywhere in the state.

"The only criteria is that this is earmarked for veterans who can no longer drive themselves," Baley-Hyder said. "And, we need them to call at least 72 hours before their trip is needed."

Baley-Hyder emphasized this is a free service to veterans and rides will be provided by an area medical transportation company.

The service is available Monday through Friday and hours are flexible based on the veteran's needs.

"We're excited to be able to provide this service," Baley-Hyder said. "This is not income-based. The trips must be based on Veterans Administration meetings or examinations."

 To make a reservation, call 541-967

 -3882, toll free at 1-800-319-3881

 or
 email

 <u>Linn-Vet@co.linn.or.us</u>.

 Call and our

 1-800-319-3882

Linn County Veterans Services is at 330 SW Third Ave., Albany. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

Linn County Veterans Services provides assistance with VA disability claims, education benefits, pensions, life insurance, medical benefits, home loans, burial benefits, vocational rehabilitation, widow and dependent services and more.

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Dee Baley-Hyder Veterans Services Director