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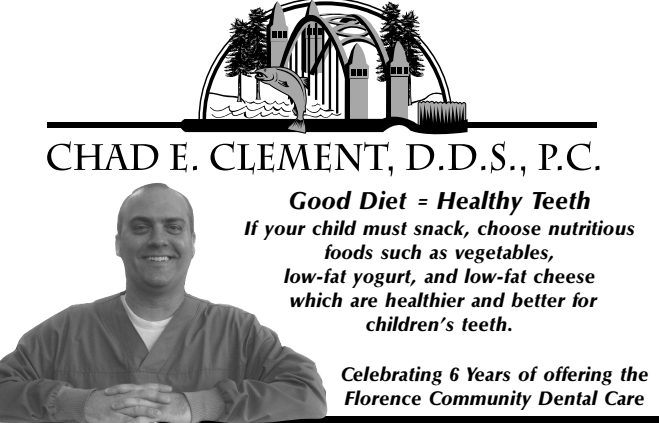


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# Annual Agate Festival to be held in Yachats

YACHATS — Yachats is gearing up for its fourth annual Agate Festival, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 17 and 18, during the weekend of the Martin Luther King three-day holiday.

Yachats is internationally known for its natural beauty, including the treasures uncovered by winter storms and winds, making January a prime time for agate hunting.

Vendors from throughout the state as well as from Washington and Northern California will be on hand to display and sell rough speci-

mens and finished artistic creations of minerals, gems, crystals and fossils.

The show will take place at the Yachats Commons, at Highway 101 and West Fourth Street, in the heart of town. In addition, there will be speakers, demonstrations and fun activities for all ages.

Noted geologist William Orr will speak on Saturday at 3 p.m., and Guy DiTorriss, "The Fossil Guy", will speak on Sunday at 1 p.m.

This year, the festival will offer a raffle for a valuable basket of fine prizes from many

local merchants. The basket will include a gift certificate for an overnight stay at the famed Heceta Head Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast.

In keeping with the festival's commitment to preserving and enjoying the magnificent natural environment that surrounds the Yachats area, proceeds from the raffle will be contributed to the Yachats Trails Project, an organization that has helped create and maintain a comprehensive system of trails in the area that has attracted outdoor enthusiasts from near and far.

Since the festival began in 2012, the event has been a big success, drawing visitors from throughout the Northwest and beyond. Merchants, restaurants and lodging providers enjoy participating in the weekend activities.

More information about the festival is available online at [www.yachatsagatefestival.com](http://www.yachatsagatefestival.com) as well as the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce website at [www.yachats.org](http://www.yachats.org), or by contacting the Yachats Visitor Center at 1-800-929-0477.

# Applications now available for handgun safety class

A handgun safety class has been initiated due to the Oregon state law requiring the average citizen show a certificate of competence and safety to their county sheriff's department before applying for a concealed handgun license.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office set the minimal requirements for that application in Lane County, and the Siuslaw handgun safety class has been structured to comply with the requirements set by the sheriff's department and State of

Oregon.

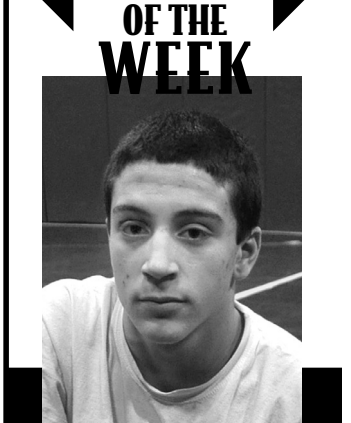
After passing the class, most students can then apply for a concealed handgun license through their local sheriff's department.

Applications for the Siuslaw Handgun Safety Class are now

available at the Florence Police Department, 900 Greenwood Street in Florence.

For more information about the class or registration, call Troy Ronning at 541-997-7667.

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**Isaiah Burkhalter**

Siuslaw H.S. Wrestling

The Viking junior captured weight class titles in his last two outings, winning the 138 pound weight class at the 17-team Willamette Tournament December 27th, then the same class at the 15-team Riddle Invitational January 3rd.

**Honorable Mention**  
**Jose DelaMora**

Fellow Siuslaw wrestler Jose DelaMora captured the 120-pound title at the 15 team Riddle Invitational.

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# Barbless hook rules to be reconsidered

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider a rule change that will allow salmon, steelhead and trout anglers to use barbed hooks on the lower Willamette River, Youngs Bay, and lower Gnat Creek when it meets in Salem on Friday, Jan. 9.

The meeting begins at 8 a.m. at the ODFW headquarters building, 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE, Salem, Ore. 97302. The meeting will be chaired by Michael Finley, who was recently appointed the new Commission Chair by Governor John Kitzhaber.

Finley has been on the Commission since 2011. He succeeds Bobby Levy as chair. Levy will continue to serve on the Commission until a replacement is named.

The meeting agenda also includes several informational

briefings, to include an update on implementation of Columbia River fisheries management reforms, progress on the 10-year update and revision of the Oregon Conservation and Nearshore strategies, and development of a state management plan for marine fisheries.

The intent of the barbless hook rule was to reduce mortality among ESA listed salmon and steelhead caught and released by anglers.

However, there are high proportions of hatchery fish caught in these areas and ODFW has more flexibility in how it manages ESA limitations in the Willamette than on the mainstem Columbia.

The Commission also will be asked to set harvest specifications and season structure for recreational groundfish that

includes significant changes to the composition of the seven fish daily bag limit for marine fish.

The Commission also will consider new management measures for the commercial nearshore fishery, which targets these same species. These proposed measures will increase the harvest limits for black rockfish and reduce the harvest limits for blue rockfish and other nearshore rockfish.

Testimony for issues not on the agenda is held Friday morning, immediately following the expenditure report.

Individuals needing special accommodations can call the ODFW Director's Office at 800-720-6339 or 503-947-6044 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

# 2014 hunt results due Jan. 31 to avoid fine

SALEM — Any hunter who purchased 2014 big game or turkey tags needs to report their hunt results by the Jan. 31 deadline for most tags.

Hunters are required to report on each deer, elk, cougar, bear, pronghorn and turkey tag purchased — even if they were not successful or did not hunt. Sports Pac license holders need to report on each big game or turkey tag issued.

Hunters have two ways to report:

- Online at [www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com) or at [www.reportmyhunt.com](http://www.reportmyhunt.com), or by visiting an ODFW office with a computer available for hunter reporting in Corvallis, Bend, Clackamas, La Grande, Portland's Sauvie Island, Roseburg, or the Salem Headquarters.
- By telephone at 1-866-947-6339. Talk to a customer service representative. Hours

are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Reporting deadlines are:

- Jan. 31, 2015, for all 2014 hunts that end by Dec. 31, 2014.

Hunters need the following pieces of information to report, which takes just a couple of minutes:

- Hunter/Angler ID number (located on ODFW licenses, tags and applications; this is a permanent number that stays the same from year-to-year).
- The two-digit Wildlife Management unit (WMU) number of the unit you hunted in most and the unit you harvested an animal in if successful.
- The total number of days hunted (including mentoring youth), the number of days hunted in the WMU hunted most, and the number of days hunted in the WMU you har-

vested an animal in if successful.

There is a \$25 penalty for not reporting deer and elk tags.

Hunters who fail to report 2014 deer or elk tags on time will be penalized \$25 when they purchase a 2016 hunting license.

This penalty is assessed once, regardless of the number of unreported tags.

"The information is used when setting controlled hunt tag numbers and hunting seasons," said ODFW Game Program Manager Tom Thornton. "We really appreciate hunters taking a few minutes of their time to complete the report."

For more information on mandatory reporting visit [www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/reporting/index.asp).

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**STEP** from 1B

Thursdays through the run.

A field trip was also planned on Tuesday to visit the Alsea Hatchery and review egg-taking methods.

New members and volunteers are always welcomed and encouraged.

For more information, contact STEP president Ron Caputo at 541-997-4961.

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