

# LCC hires Willett to coach new volleyball team

EUGENE — Lane Community College has announced the appointment of Stephanie Willett as the head coach of the school's newly established women's volleyball team.

Willett brings strong experience both as a coach and a collegiate player.

Formerly as the head coach at her alma mater Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC), Willett took the program and improved it year after year, culminating in quali-

fying for the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) Volleyball Championship Tournament.

"We have hired an excellent coach who brings invaluable experience as a coach and a player from within the NWAC," said Greg Sheley, LCC director of athletics. "We could not ask for a better leader for our new women's volleyball program."

In addition to coaching at the collegiate level, Willett has coached successful high school

and club programs, including most recently being the head coach at Atrisco Heritage Academy and the Rebels Volleyball Club in Albuquerque, NM.

As a student athlete, Willett had a successful collegiate career at SWOCC and Eastern New Mexico University in the NWAC and Lone Star Conference. She competed in the NWAC All-Star game, was selected to an NWAC All-Southern Region team and received multiple Player of the

Week honors. Willett graduated with a degree in communications that she has found has served her well in the coaching community.

"Coach Willett can help our student athletes compete at this level right away because she has been there herself and knows what it takes as both a player and a coach," said Sheley. "She will also be able to help get our student athletes to the next level as she appreciates the balances that are required for student athletes."

Willett said she is excited to be back in Oregon and at LCC, where she plans to hit the ground running, getting right into the recruiting process.

There have been dozens of potential student athletes who have registered their interest in playing for Lane through the Lane Titans website and by reaching out directly to LCC athletic staff.

Any LCC student interested can access this interest form at [www.lanetitans.net/recruits](http://www.lanetitans.net/recruits) for more information.

The Lane Community College Women's Volleyball program has the maximum number of Grant-In-Aid financial aid awards that are allowable under NWAC rules. This puts Lane in a strong place to compete for the best student athletes and offer them an opportunity to continue their education and their love of volleyball at a reduced tuition cost.

For more information, contact Greg Sheley, LCC Director of Athletics, at 541-463-5548.

## SAILORS COME UP SHORT AT SILETZ

BY NED HICKSON  
Siuslaw News

MHS GIRLS: 14 SHS GIRLS: 62  
MHS BOYS: 28 SHS BOYS: 66

With only six players suited up for the Lady Sailors in Tuesday night's road game at Siletz, "it was a struggle to keep five on the floor," said Mapleton Coach Jesika Crook. "And the six we had were already pretty banged up."

Though Mapleton junior Josi Hays and senior Hannah Rodet were strong off the glass, combining for 25 rebounds, the Sailors struggled to find their offensive rhythm against the Warriors' high-pressure defense.

"The girls tried hard but our

lack of depth caught up to us," said Crook.

Senior guard Destiny Weber led scoring with six points, three rebounds and two steals. Freshman Alyssa West had four points and three boards, with freshman Gabrielle Gibney chipping in two points.

Rodet had two points to go with 14 rebounds and a steal.

Sophomore Alexis Gierke had a pair of rebounds and a steal.

In the boys game, taking on the 17th-ranked team in the 1A was a challenge that Mapleton coach Will Crook felt his team rose to meet.

"I was real proud of the way our boys played," Crook said. "We knew it was going to be a tough match but our guys never backed down."

After keeping things within reach during the first period, the Sailors were outscored 25-2 in the second quarter.

"We struggled to defend their transition offense," said Crook.

Junior guard Hunter Simington scored a team-high 13 points to go with seven rebounds and a blocked shot. Sophomore post Dominic Wells had a season-high six points and brought down 11 rebounds to go with a steal and four blocked shots.

And though junior point guard Tyler Packebush only had five points in the matchup, "you can't beat his hustle and quickness," said Crook. "He is becoming a serious offensive weapon for us."

The Sailors also got scoring

from junior Nick Smith, who had four points, two rebounds, a steal and a block; freshman Gabe Simington with two points and five rebounds; a rebound and a block from sophomore Gene Carnes; and four rebounds from freshman Evan Moso.

Heading into last night's home game against Eddyville (after press deadlines), Crook was optimistic.

"I'm very encouraged by the strides we're making, and how hard these guys play every game regardless of the scoreboard."

The Sailors are back on the hardwood Tuesday at Mohawk.

Girls tip off at 5:30 p.m., followed by the boys at 7 p.m.

## Yachats to host fifth annual Agate Festival

YACHATS — Yachats is gearing up for its annual Agate Festival, to be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 16 and 17, the weekend of the Martin Luther King three-day holiday.

Dubbed the "Gem of the Oregon Coast," 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 specimens 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

St., in the heart of town. In addition, there will be speakers, demonstrations and fun things to do for all ages.

Noted geologist William Orr will speak Saturday at 11 a.m., and his topic will be "Lagerstätten: Spectacular Fossil Locations."

On Sunday, at 1 p.m., Guy DiTorriss, also known as "The Fossil Guy," will share his knowledge of local fossils found on the central Oregon coast beaches. There will also be a representative from the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center speaking about local treasures that can be found on central coast beaches.

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 a two-night stay at the newly refurbished Ocean Creek Bed and Breakfast in Yachats.

In keeping with the festival's commitment to preserving and enjoying the beautiful natural environment that surrounds the Yachats area, proceeds from the raffle will be contributed to the historic Little Log Church Museum's garden enhance-

ment projects.

The event draws visitors from throughout the northwest and beyond. Merchants, restaurants and lodging providers enjoy participating in the weekend activities.

For more information, visit [www.yachatsagatefestival.com](http://www.yachatsagatefestival.com) or the Yachats Area Chamber of Commerce website at [www.yachats.org](http://www.yachats.org).

## Siuslaw Rod, Gun Club to host Trophy Night dinner

The Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club's annual Trophy Night social and dinner is set for Friday, Jan. 15, starting at 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse on Munsel Lake Road.

In addition to awards for best trophies in elk, blacktail and mule deer categories, there will be a free spaghetti dinner for members and

guests.

Only members are eligible for awards, guests can bring in horns for viewing.

The evening will feature raffles for prizes and telling hunting stories.


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### Siuslaw Baseball Association Annual Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 12th, 6:00 pm  
Siuslaw Public Library - Bromley Room  
(Open to the Public)

For more information contact [siuslawbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:siuslawbaseball@gmail.com)

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