

Ninth-annual Agate Festival being held this weekend in Yachats

Yachats is gearing up for its ninth-annual Agate Festival, to be held this Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the event is free.

Recent winter storms make January a prime time for agate hunting. Enthusiasts around the world enjoy discovering the treasures available to them this time of year.

This year, more than 30 vendors from Oregon and Washington 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 Street, in the heart of town. In addition, there will be speakers, demonstrations and fun things to do for all ages.

On Saturday, at 11 a.m., the featured speaker will be Marli Miller, a geological sciences faculty member at the University of Oregon since 1997. She is a geologist, photographer and author of the new second edition of "Roadside Geology of Oregon."

Her work showcases the state's splendor while also helping enthusiasts understand geologic processes at work.

She will be available to

sign her book at the Agate Festival.

Also on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m., Dan Sawyer, of "Wild Coast Kelp," a specialist in sea vegetables available on the central coast, will speak about how to find these plants and understand their nutritional benefits.

The speaker on Sunday at 11 a.m. will be K. Myers, who has served as the Yachats Agate Festival's "Rock Doc" for a number of years. Myers is the author of "Agates of the Oregon Coast," a handy guide to finding agates, jaspers and other natural treasures on the Oregon Coast.

At 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Cameron Rauenhorst (aka

"Captain Clameron" because of his knowledge of clam digging in this area) will speak about the variety of treasures that can be found on local beaches.

Rauenhorst has been an enthusiast of beach rock-hounding for many years. He has been a part-time Oregon Park Ranger and has given many talks for kids of all ages on what you can discover on the beach.

Other attractions will include demonstrations in the art of making cabochons and wire wrapping.

Again this year, the Yachats Area Presbyterian Church, also known as the "church of the agate win-

dows," will offer access to the sanctuary where six large agate panels are on display.

A volunteer will be available at the church at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday to tell their story.

The festival will be offering three separate drawings for valuable baskets of fine prizes from many local merchants.

This year, all proceeds from the raffle will be donated to SOLVE (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism), an organization of volunteers who help clean up litter and marine debris from the entire Oregon coast.

Since 1986, this home-grown tradition of

twice-yearly beach clean-ups has benefited people and wildlife alike, supporting clean seas and healthy communities.

This is a family-friendly event and SOLVE invites all Oregonians to participate in the next beach clean-up weekend next March.

Since the festival began in 2012, the January event has drawn visitors from throughout the northwest and beyond.

For more information, visiting the Yachats Agate Festival Facebook page, festival website at www.yachatsagatefestival.com or call the Yachats Visitor Center at 800-929-0477.

ODOT names leaders of new Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is developing a new focus on comprehensive solutions to congestion, access and mobility issues, which affect quality of life and economic health far beyond the Portland metro area.

This new focus responds to public and stakeholder feedback and aligns with the visions of the Oregon Transportation Commission and ODOT Director Kris Strickler for the future of the transportation system.

ODOT's newly formed

Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery (OUMMPD) is a key part of that comprehensive approach. While its work will continue to evolve, the office will immediately focus on developing and delivering innovative solutions for comprehensive congestion relief as directed by the Legislature in HB 2017.

ODOT Director Kris Strickler laid out his vision for the new office, saying "The creation of this office not only signals ODOT's commitment to addressing congestion on all fronts, but signals our new way of doing business," said Strickler. "The agency will enhance its efforts to grow beyond just a highway department into an organization focused on providing transportation

options for all users, making decisions through the lens of social equity and ensuring equitable access to transportation choices and economic opportunities for communities and individuals across our state."

The work of the new OUMMPD will include delivery of the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, the I-205 and Abernethy Bridge Project, and active development of a tolling and congestion pricing program to meet the region's immediate needs. According to Strickler, these projects are just the beginning; the OUMMPD will take the lead on the region's greatest transportation challenges as ODOT moves to provide greater access, options and reliability to the

transportation network in the region.

ODOT recently announced the three individuals who will lead the effort:

Director, Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery:

Brendan Finn most recently served as the transportation policy advisor for Gov. Kate Brown. Finn spent 19 years at the City of Portland, rising to chief of staff for Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who oversaw the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Finn will make the transition into this role on March 1.

Deputy Director, Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery:

Della Mosier has over 20

years of transportation experience in the private and public sector, with the last 10 years in various roles at ODOT. She most recently held leadership roles in the ODOT's Bend office and has assisted multiple efforts in the Portland office the past year.

Mosier will immediately begin the transition into this new role.

Tolling Program Manager:

Lucinda Broussard has more than 20 years of tolling experience and most recently led tolling programs in Georgia and Washington.

Broussard will join ODOT and this new position situated in the Office of Urban Mobility and Mega Project Delivery on Feb. 1.

240 HOURS

Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency first aid kit started with these essentials:

- ☐ First aid manual
- ☐ Aspirin or pain relievers
- ☐ Laxatives, diarrhea medicine
- ☐ Rubbing alcohol, petroleum jelly
- ☐ Soap, salt, baking soda
- ☐ Sanitary napkins, matches
- ☐ Triangular bandages
- ☐ Elastic bandages, pressure dressings
- ☐ Cotton balls, disposable diapers
- ☐ Scissors, needles, tweezers
- ☐ Popsicle sticks, splints, heavy string
- ☐ Thermometer, paper tape
- ☐ Syrup of Ipecac
- ☐ Personal prescription medications



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Threat from 1B

The district could not get a secondary robocall out when the threat was deemed moot, as the system was timed out until 6 a.m.

However, the district updated its website and mass emails went out late Monday night.

When school came back into session Tuesday

morning, there were a few more absences than is typical.

"For students that did attend, it was school as normal, with a bit more additional chatter," Grzeskowiak said.

The district worked swiftly to let students know what had occurred.

"Middle school students were taken directly to advisory class upon entering school [Tuesday] and ad-

ressed by staff about the incident," Grzeskowiak said. "Then, students went on to first period like a regular day. Each school site had two Florence Police Department officers onsite for the morning and then as people were a bit more comfortable, some officers returned to their regular duties."

As for the mood inside the school, Grzeskowiak said, "Some did express being initially scared. But when it was determined that it was a hoax they were relieved."

The district is not able to release exact details of the threat, though Grzeskowiak was able to state that, "It was a threat to physically hurt the victims, possibly with some sort of weapon."

Legally, the district is limited in the information it can release, including the name of the student and what type of disciplinary action the student would

face.

"Since the child is also a minor, their name would most likely not be released by law enforcement," Grzeskowiak said.

However, Grzeskowiak did state the incident will result in both discipline and legal issues for the student.

"The student is currently prohibited from campus, pending the outcome of an expulsion hearing, which will be scheduled at a later date," Grzeskowiak said. "The potential disciplinary outcomes for this type of act could be suspension, assignment to an off-campus learning environment and potentially expulsion from school with no educational services provided by the district."

As far as criminal charges are concerned, Grzeskowiak stated that will be handled by local law enforcement.

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BLUEGRASS Friday

Kathy Kallick Band • John Reischman and the Jaybirds

AMERICANA Saturday

HEADLINER: Livingston Taylor

Circus No. 9 • Jim Hurst • Greg Blake Band • Mr & Mrs Something

FOLK Sunday

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