

Originating in Seaside, art day programs thrive

How a student drove state legislation

By Katherine Lacaze
For Seaside Signal



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside High School sophomore Hayley Rollins, organizer of Art Day.

Seaside High School will be celebrating Honorary Artist of Oregon Day for a second year April 14, thanks to the efforts of sophomore Hayley Rollins. Every student at the school will have the opportunity to participate in an hour-and-a-half art workshop or lesson, led by about 20 honorary Oregon artists, primarily from the North Coast. Each artist will be assigned a different classroom with a teacher and student assistant. The students

can select which art form, most of which are visual arts, they would like to learn.

Last year, the 25 workshops covered oil portrait painting, acrylic painting,

cartoon portraits, printmaking, calligraphy, art therapy, pysanky egg art, culinary décor, wire sculpting, origami, photography and more. Several local artists who

participated will be back this year, and there will be some new ones, as well, according to Rollins. Among the new artists coming on board, a couple are book illustrators.

During the high school's Art Day, the artists will arrive and set up, and then workshops will be held from 10 to 11:35 a.m. Afterward, the school will hold an assembly honoring the Oregon Artists. During the following Art Walk, students can visit the various classrooms and view the finished works created by their peers. Finally, to cap off the event, a luncheon for the artists will be held in the library.

In addition to being the primary organizer of the event this and last year, Rollins also was instrumental in

getting April 14 recognized as Honorary Artist of Oregon Day in the first place.

Rollins was in her eighth-grade social studies class at Broadway Middle School when State Rep. Deborah Boone gave a presentation and talked to the students about passing a bill.

"I saw that as an opportunity that shouldn't be missed," Rollins said.

Rollins, who loves anything to do with creativity, approached Boone about the idea of honoring artists and promoting arts in the school. She said she feels "this is important, because a lot of it is going away." While schools are emphasizing the fundamental subjects, like math and science, she sees creativity as an important part

of succeeding in all industries and professions. Artistic expression, she said, helps "create those passageways in our mind" that generate new and innovate ideas.

Boone, also an art enthusiast, was on board with Rollins' idea. Shortly after, House Bill 3042 was drafted. Boone, along with State Sen. Betsy Johnson, sponsored the bill. Rollins also participated in the legislative process, lobbying for the bill and helping it pass. The bill, which designated April 14 as Honorary Artists of Oregon Day, was passed in 2015. It was enacted, according to the legislation, "to celebrate art and artists, to promote art education in this state and to encourage engagement in artistic endeavors."

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