



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

August 2009

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Quote of the Month

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.
~Thomas Jefferson



Mayor's Message By Ron Brean, Mayor

On the Sunday, July 19th I was a participant in an event that proved to be quite moving and enlightening. It started out, when I penciled it in on my calendar, to be one of those obligations that fall to mayors. I was to participate in the dedication of a trail. Though I am extremely fond of trail amenities and found this obligation to be a pleasant one, I still thought of it as something I *had* to do. It turned out to be something I would not have wanted to miss, mayor or not.

The event was the dedication of the final link of Amanda's Trail. The City acquired grant funds from Oregon State Parks to complete the remaining link between Yachats and the existing Amanda's Trail, thereby making it possible to walk from Yachats to the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area. That by itself is a grand reason to celebrate. Citizens and visitors to Yachats have long expressed their support of walking trails and their desire for more. I will not give you all of the details here, but suffice it to say that 35 years of effort by many dedicated people made it possible for this wonderful trail to be finished.

Here's the part that made it really special. Amanda was a Coos Indian woman of the 1860's. She was blind. She had a child who was half white. It was an incredibly dark day in the evolution of our understanding of human rights in this country and the laws of the time required that Native Americans be rounded up and imprisoned. The Coos people were force-marched to the Alsea Substation in what

is now Yachats. Amanda was separated from her child and made to walk the treacherous, sometimes jagged lava rock trail from the south to the substation. She was blind and barefoot, but forced to keep up. Her blood laced the trail from her home to her prison. Amanda's Trail was named for her that we might never forget the evil oppression that was our nation's policy at the time.

The descendants of Amanda's people have never forgotten. Yachats, the place that we love, call home, and where we are because we want to be here has been a place synonymous with hatefulness and oppression to them. In spite of that, they came to the dedication. Chief Warren Brainard of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians as well as tribal elders and tribal members joined with us to celebrate the trail opening, but more specifically to recognize together what that trail route once meant.

We did that formal ceremony, that obligation. Then, at the request of the Chief some of us traveled to the Amanda statue. In a lovely and peaceful streamside grotto the statue stands as a poignant reminder of how cruel people have sometimes been and how we should all guard against anything that remotely resembles that cruelty. About forty people had found their way up the trail to the site. A wreath was placed at the base of the statue. Beautiful and sorrowful notes of a hand carved flute filled the air. All were silent. All were reverent. All of us were together as people. We were not divided by our various ethnicities. We were one.

I will let you draw your own conclusions as to what this may mean to you as a citizen of Yachats and what I, as Mayor, may be trying to tell you. Your conclusion will be more valid than one I might ascribe. I just know that this dedication event, this obligation I had, was a very special Yachats occasion. People who care made the trail happen. People who care came to celebrate. People who

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care came to remember. The people of Yachats are people who care, who give, who contribute, who reach out, and who remember. I'm glad to be one of you.



Natural Disaster Imminent on Oregon

Coast

**Betty Johnston, SLC CERT
Coordinator**

James Roddey, Earth Sciences Information Officer (Public Education Team) for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Studies, was a special guest speaker at the July 9th City Council meeting.

Mr. Roddey reported that with recent research being compiled relating to the underwater landslides in the Pacific Ocean, scientists have concluded that the length of time between mega-events such as earthquake/tsunamis has been drastically changed. Scientists were previously predicting every 300-500 years between Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquakes/tsunamis. It is now predicted that within the next 50 years, Oregon will experience another Cascadia event.

With this in mind, now is the time to prepare. Yachats area residents can receive emergency response and preparedness training free of charge. *Unit One* of CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training is scheduled for August 29, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons. For more information or to register please contact me at (541) 547-4934 or e-mail me at seaspruce@peak.org



Lincoln County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

By Larry Lewis, City Planner

Lincoln County just completed development of the multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). The mission of the NHMP is to promote public policy and mitigation activities that will enhance the safety to life and property from natural hazards.

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The NHMP includes a City of Yachats addendum that focuses on natural hazards that could affect Yachats including coastal erosion, earthquakes, floods, landslides, tsunamis, wildfires, windstorms and droughts. Upon adoption by Lincoln County, Yachats and other cities in the county will be eligible to apply for Federal disaster mitigation funds.

The Yachats addendum provides a set of actions that aim to reduce the risks posed by natural hazards through education and outreach programs, the development of partnerships, and the implementation of preventative activities such as land use or storm water management plans.

If you are interested in additional information please contact City Recorder Nancy Batchelder at (541) 547-3565 or log on to <https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/handle/179/4/9439> to review the plan.



Public Works Department

**By John McClintock,
Director**

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. We ask that users do not flush or pour down the drain any unused medications or toxic materials.

Hazardous waste, i.e., paints, etc. should be properly disposed of through Lincoln County Solid Waste District. They can be reached at (541) 265-4171 for details.

Unused medications should be poured into a sealable plastic bag. If the medication is solid crush it or add water to dissolve it then add kitty litter, saw dust, or coffee grounds to the plastic bag. Seal the plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash.

If you have any question about this matter, please call the Public Works Department at (541) 547-3243.



Yachats Wastewater Treatment Plant and Operator Receive Awards

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By Debrah Edwards, Deputy City Recorder

The West Central Oregon Section of the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association has named City of Yachats Senior Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, Dave Buckwald *2009 Wastewater Plant Operator of the Year*. In addition, the new City of Yachats Wastewater Treatment Plant was named *2009 Plant of the Year*.

Buckwald who has been employed by the City for the past three years feels honored by this recognition. The new wastewater facility went online in February and was officially opened in April with a toilet paper ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The awards were presented on July 16, 2009 during the West Central Section Annual Awards Meeting in Eugene, Oregon.

for payment of water/sewer accounts as it is cost prohibitive for the City.

The eBill/ePay service is not an automatic payment program. Customers must log-in each month to view their bills and make payments.

For our customer's convenience, we now accept Visa and MasterCard in the office or over the phone. We are, however, unable to take credit cards for other types of payments made to the City.



City Employees
Complete CERT
Training

Betty Johnston, SLC CERT Coordinator

On June 8th Yachats City employees started CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training at the Yachats Fire Station. CERT training covers nine units, a written test, and disaster simulation for a total of 20+ hours. All employees passed training with flying colors. Thanks also to our instructors, Frankie Petrick, Sheila Corley, and Adam Wilkinson.

In an event such as an earthquake or tsunami, our City employees now have the knowledge and training to assist those in the Yachats area after a disaster. What research shows is if people who are not properly trained try to help others they may actually become victims themselves.

South Lincoln County now has a total of 17 CERT trained personnel available to assist the fire and rescue units in the area during an emergency. That's about one CERT member per 222 people in South Lincoln County!

All South County residents can take CERT Training free of charge. Even if you have issues that you feel may prohibit you from being an active participant in CERT, being CERT trained is an asset to the entire community.

The next CERT training will be held on August 29th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons. Please call me at (541) 547-4934 to register.



Burn Season Ends
Frankie Petrick, Yachats Rural Fire District Chief

It's that time of year when open burning is no longer allowed in the Yachats Fire District. There is free disposal available in Toledo for those who are still clearing yard debris, but you must haul the material yourself. For more details contact Lincoln County Solid Waste District at (541) 265-4171.

Forecasts for dry weather this summer makes it especially important that you follow Yachats Municipal Code 5.08.110 Section C 2 about trimming the vegetation on your property. Keeping lots trimmed reduces the fire potential tremendously.

Handouts are available at the fire station with recommendations for making your property safer from fire. Please stop by or give us a call at (541) 547-3266.



Utility Billing FAQ
By Nicole Clark, Administrative Specialist

At this time the City of Yachats is unable to offer recurring bank drafts

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The Yachats Commons
By Leon Sterner, Commons
User Support Manager

The Friends of the Commons have commissioned Calder Bell to renovate the stage floor in the multipurpose room. He will replace sections of worn boards, then sand and refinish the entire stage area. Replacing the damaged boards will make it a safer and more user-friendly, and the refinishing will improve its appearance for our theatre productions.

Thanks go to the Commons renters for accommodating the construction activities...and a special thanks to Calder for helping with this project!



Yachats Public Library
By Marie Green,
Commission Chair

Yachats Public Library has no paid professional librarians. Many of our volunteers have previous library experience and some just enjoy books and people. If you like books and people and have a little extra time, we would love to provide training so you can become part of our volunteer staff. Any library experience is a plus, but for the novice we can team you up with a seasoned volunteer. Please leave your name and phone number at the front desk and Maggie, Janet or Carolyn will get back to you.

The library has a growing Northwest Collection of both fiction and non-fiction plus many books written by local authors. If you are aware of a recent publication that should be added, please ask to have it added to our list for purchase.

Perhaps you are cleaning out grandma's attic and wonder if we would like her old books. We can't tell until we see them, but please, no Reader's Digest Condensed books or romance novels. If the books are musty, we can't put them in our collection nor

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can we save them for the book sale. We depend upon the community to keep the library open, vital and expanding.



Children's Book Club
Kelly Everfree, Early
Childhood Educator

Every Wednesday from now until August 12 is "Young Children's Afternoon Book Club" for ages 6 and under from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Children will not only have fun at the library listening to the stories, but will also receive a brand-new book free of charge for every 30 minutes of their own reading time. In addition to the book club, "Our Northwest Home" day camp is set for the week of August 24th through the 28th from 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.. This day camp is for children 3 to 6 and their siblings. Both events are free.



Little Log Church & Museum
By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator

At the end of each fiscal year we recollect the events at the Little Log Church and Museum and each year we are reminded how much this landmark has been a part of our lives. Herewith is a summary: Visitors- at least 1,839 (some got away without signing our guest book); Weddings-21; Private renewals-2; Funerals-1; Group visits-2; Elderhostel and 1 guided tour; Other events were: Our 2nd annual *Blessing of the Animals* hosted 11 dogs, 2 goats, 1 llama, 1 bearded dragon, 2 rats, and 4 cats in absentia; the annual wedding vow renewal service saw 27 couples renew their vows on Valentine's Day—an event covered by The Oregonian, South Lincoln County News, and Oregon Coast Magazine. The annual "Opening Ceremonies" for the Yachats Winter Celebration and the traditional Christmas concert in December; a weekly silent meditation evening began in September, with anywhere from two to fourteen persons in attendance each week; and a DVD has been produced about the Little Log Church and its history to be aired on selected cable access channels in the Willamette Valley.

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We are alive and well in our little town, and we thank you for your support!



In the Garden
By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator

The Little Log Church is just full of blooming things right now. The Watsonia (Bugle Lily) in both white and pink are in bloom as are the Hostas behind the sea lion sculpture. Of course the Fascias are still in bloom and the roses next to the side walk going into the museum. I hope you've had time to check out the Darlingtonia and small pitcher plants too. They are all doing well. I come down about every other day to make sure they have plenty of water.

Several months ago I mentioned that I was working on an ambitious project for the Little Log Church that would take place this summer. Well, it's time! To tell you the truth, I don't have a clue what I am doing, but am going to try to have a really fun day of "Music and Art in the Garden" on Wednesday, September 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. There will be music and Joann Kittel will talk about the early inhabitants of the area at 10:00 a.m. Later in the afternoon Mary Crook will give a talk about the history of the Little Log Church. Picnic-type lunches will be available for purchase. There will also be a silent auction with some surprises.

Right now I desperately need your help. What I need are talented people that want to sell any type of art, plants or even garden produce on that day. The space rent is \$20.00, which I hope will cover the costs of the music I've lined up. I especially want artisans that can be working on some aspect of their art while at their booth so people can have a learning experience too. Also, if you have some garden related item you would like to donate to the silent auction it would be most appreciated. All proceeds will go toward the gardens there at the Little Log Church.

Please call me if you can participate. I can be reached at (541) 563-4529 from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. However, since I am working much of the time it is I can respond to you faster if you e-mail me at jodean@peak.org. Thanks for helping The Little Log Church and Museum.



Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program
By Debbie Jackson, Director

Yachats Community Barbeque

All South County citizens and visitors are invited to a classic summer barbeque hosted by the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program and the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church. Meet behind the Yachats Commons on Friday, August 7 at 6:00 pm, for a summer evening of food and fun. Traditional picnic food will be provided by the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church, and a variety of fun and silly outdoor games for all ages will be led by Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program participants. There is no charge for this event. For more information, call (541) 547-4599.

Visitors Welcome at YYFAP's Recreation PLUS This Summer

If you have grandchildren or other young visitors this summer, consider bringing them by the Yachats Commons basement in the afternoons for a change of pace. The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program offers a safe place for children ages 6-18 to spend their afternoons every weekday from 1:00 until 6:00 pm. Activities such as cooking, photography, beading, and more are led by adults. There is also plenty of opportunity for free play. The cost is \$10 per week or \$5 per day. For more information call (541) 547-4599.

Guitar Workshop & Concert with Tony Kaltenberg

Aspiring guitarists have a rare opportunity to learn from a renowned guitarist this summer. Tony Kaltenberg's mesmerizing percussive style has been highlighted on radio programs and performances in diverse parts of the world, from large festivals like "Northwest Folklife" in Seattle and "The Oregon Country Fair," to intimate venues in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. His music draws from the works of artists like Fahey, Kottke, and Hedges.

Tony will be leading a workshop for youth during the week of August 24, culminating in a concert on

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Friday evening, August 28. The workshop is designed for guitarists, ages 11 and up, who have some experience with the guitar. Sessions are Monday through Friday, from 1:00 until 5:00 pm, plus the concert on Friday night. The cost for the entire week is \$40.00. Some partial scholarships are available. For more information call (541) 547-4599.

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