



# NEWSLETTER



**CITY OF YACHATS**

**DECEMBER 2009**

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## **Mayor's Message** **By Ron Brean, Mayor**

*I believe talent is like electricity. We don't understand electricity. We use it.*  
—Maya Angelou

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of being part of a group that gathered at a local restaurant to bang on the tables. No really! Burgundy Featherkile was filming a production for release on youtube.com. Although you should look for it (it's really quite fun), the production itself isn't the topic of this article. It's "talent."

Those of us who gathered for the filming were all asked to fill out a waiver form. I guess it's standard operating procedure, but some of us (perhaps just myself) were a little startled by the form. On the line that you would normally expect to fill in your name, instead of "Name" it said "Talent." I felt a little self-conscious putting my name on that line. I sing a little, play guitar a little, paint a little, and draw a little but all of that is for my own entertainment. I don't think of myself as a "talent." Nevertheless there I was performing along with a host of my neighbors in a lighthearted and uplifting experience in which all of the collective talent merged into a production. It's a wrap. It's in the can.

Not surprisingly, I began to muse about the experience. I am prone to musing. What Burgundy knew and what I discovered as I pondered is that talent is where you find it. All you need to do is look around and you'll see it. I've written in the past about how blessed we are with local artists and writers and musicians as well as academics and world travelers, knowledgeable and interesting people. Those special talents stand out and entertain or inspire us all. The group at the filming was a bunch of people mostly like me...the non-

standout type of talent. We don't have the by-line on a prize winning novel or our work hanging on the

walls of prestigious galleries. But we do have our own brand of less-showy talent.

In successful city government, particularly in a city as small as ours, talent rises daily to answer both the small and large questions and to solve the picayune and the seemingly enormous problems. Someone always seems to know how to meet a challenge and rises to the occasion. Or perhaps a group is convened and the collective talent devises the solution. Sometimes we pay for that talent (your City staff and contractors provide it in significant quantities) but more often than not it is of the "community theater" type of talent. It is volunteers playing difficult roles for the good of the troupe and the wellbeing of the audience. It's committed and caring souls taking responsibility for protecting and improving our community just because it needs to be done for the good of all.

As Mayor, I pretty much get to hear about all the problems, real and perceived. But I also get to see the work done that researches the issues, analyses the alternative, and decides on a course of action. I get to look around, perhaps ask a few questions or make a few requests, and then watch as the "talent" rolls up its sleeves and performs.

Right now seems to be a time where there are some things that are unsettled in our community. We've lost some neighbors. The economy is having its affect here just like it is elsewhere. One local development needs some governmental intervention to get the basic infrastructure in place for those Yachadians (or soon-to-be Yachadians) that have invested there while there are other projects in the offing. And with the approaching solstice, the darkest day of the year, it's easy to fear and forecast gloom.

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**Newsletter - Page 1**

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I, however, remain optimistic. The renowned poet Maya Angelou observed "I believe talent is like electricity. We don't understand electricity. We use it." When I look around our town I see talent everywhere, and we are unapologetically plugging it in, tapping its energy, and using it. We're improving trails, devising methods of fixing streets, upgrading water and sewer systems, finishing the unfinished, making the Commons more attractive and energy efficient, and generally putting on a pretty good show. It's not the kind of show where there are bows at the end; neither is there applause, nor bouquets of flowers for the performers. But it's still a pretty good cast in which to be a player. Stay tuned for the next exciting episode.



### **Councilor's Corner** By Greg Scott, Councilor

Every two weeks, a small group of Yachatsians and me meet over a cup of our favorite hot beverage and discuss recent news. Topics include economics, balance of trade, medical care, energy, and other issues of general interest. Some of us find our information in newspapers and magazines. Others find it on TV, but the bulk of it comes from Internet sources. The diversity of the group ensures a wide range of perspectives because we cull our information from different sources. Reflecting on these discussions reminds me how information shapes our perception and understanding of issues and events.

We have more sources of information today but more doesn't necessarily mean better when it comes to accuracy. Print media and traditional news programs today are very different than they were twenty years ago. I remember when Walter Cronkite was "the most trusted man in America." Can any of us think of a news reporter today that might be described in those terms?

Yachats has been the focus of several recent newspaper articles. Most of the recent articles have had some errors of fact. This started us thinking about how people learn and remain current about local issues. The City Council is interested in ideas that would improve communications with residents.

However, before we consider possible solutions, we need to understand how Yachatsians gather their news today. To do this we need a little information from you. Providing us with answers to a few questions will help the City to keep you informed about community issues.

You may either return the printed survey included with your utility bill or complete the on-line version at: <http://GoYachats.com/surveys.html>. The survey link is also included on the GoYachats.com home page at the bottom.



### **Planning Department** By Larry Lewis, City Planner

#### **Planning Commission Approves Partition and Variance Request and**

#### **Dissolves Planned Unit Development**

On November 17, 2009 the Yachats Planning Commission approved a request to dissolve Phase 1 of The Village at Yachats Planned Unit Development (PUD), and reestablish the land into the original 3-lot configuration.

The subject property is located at the southwest corner of Highway 101 and Marine Drive. The application included a request for a 3-lot partition and a variance to the standard lot widths and lot depth-to-width ratios. The approval enables the original lot configuration to be reestablished and The Village at Yachats PUD is now officially dissolved.

#### **City Council Adopts Amendments to Flood Damage Prevention Regulations**

The City Council recently adopted amendments to Yachats Municipal Code Section 9.54 Flood Damage Prevention Regulations. The purpose for amending the flood-related regulations was to ensure the City's regulations are in conformance with recently adopted Federal Emergency Management Agency standards. The amendments ensure that the City remains in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program. This enables property owners to purchase and maintain flood insurance.

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The primary amendments were related to 1) obtaining a permit prior to development in the flood hazard zone, 2) regulations for the placement of manufactured homes, 3) placement of recreational vehicles, and 4) design of below-grade crawl spaces for structures. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps were updated however the flood hazard boundaries did not change.

**Public Works Department**  
**By John McClintock, Director**



Public Works will begin flushing the water distribution system and cleaning of the reservoirs during the first two weeks in December. We will be starting at the north end of town and work our way south. The whole process shouldn't take more than 7-10 working days. We will not flush or clean on the weekends.

Flushing the distribution system makes sure that any pipe scale or dead ends are cleaned out. Flushing also gives us the opportunity to monitor the entire system to ensure that disinfection residual requirements are being met.

Cleaning the reservoirs not only assures the turnover of water, but also allows for a visual inspection and opportunity, if necessary, for any repairs to be made while reservoirs are empty.

If you should experience slight discoloration or air in your tap water let it run for several minutes and it should clear up. Any drop in pressure should be minimal and short in duration.

If you have any questions please call Public Works at (541) 547-3243 or (541) 547-3851 or City Hall at (541) 547-3565, all are available Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



**Can only 20 People**  
**Save South Lincoln**  
**County in a**  
**Disaster?**

**Betty Johnston, SLC**

**CERT Coordinator**

September 29, 2009 seemed to be a regular day as we all attended to our daily routines. I started receiving information on the NOAA Weather Alert

website reporting an 8.0 magnitude earthquake that began 20 miles below the ocean floor in the area of the South West Pacific Ocean. It was 120 miles from American Samoa and 125 Miles from Samoa, with 3 aftershocks of 5.6 magnitude.

A 5-foot tsunami wave swept into Pago Pago, the capital of American Samoa, shortly after the earthquake. It is believed that some tsunami waves reached the height of 20 feet and reached as far as half a mile inland according to CBS correspondent Bill Whitaker.

The beach village of Sau Sau Beach Fale was leveled. According to witnesses there wasn't a building standing. There were also reports of landslides on the main island of Upolu.

Thirty-four people were killed as the tsunami ravaged the shores of Samoa and American Samoa. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center at Hilo, Hawaii issued a general alert, warning of the prospect of a destructive wave. Strong currents and dangerous waves were also forecast from California to Washington State.

When this information made its way to Yachats, Fire Chief, Frankie Petrick started the protocol for possible strong currents and dangerous waves on our local beaches. Beginning south at Ponsler State Park to north at Patterson Park, Chief Petrick and her volunteer fire fighters drove the beaches warning people of the possibility of strong currents and dangerous waves. She encouraged those on the beach to get off of the beach by 8:45 p.m. Most people heeded her advice and evacuated. Although the wave only measured 2 inches, it is better being safe than sorry. Chief Petrick and her volunteer fire fighters were well-prepared and deserve thanks for a job well done.

Are **you** prepared for a possible disaster? The Yachats Rural Fire Protection District, Yachats Public Works, City Hall staff, and the South Lincoln County CERT Teams **are** prepared. This group of about **20** concerned citizens in our area meets periodically for Table Top exercises on various events that Yachats might encounter. Each entity has a specific plan to put into motion, for instance a winter storm.

- In the event of a power outage lasting more than 1 hour, during daylight or early evening

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hours, the Commons kitchen will be open to the public. The building has a generator that automatically turns on to supply electricity to the kitchen. The gas stove and oven will be available for cooking if the power outage is a lengthy one.

- Coffee and tea will be available as will the company of others. There is also a supply of canned tomatoes, rice and beans to start a soup. Other supplies are being stockpiled as well. There will be periodic updates about the event also.
- An orange flag will be placed on the flagpole to alert citizens that they are welcome in the kitchen.

With approximately 20 CERT trained volunteers in South Lincoln County, the City of Yachats needs your help to ensure the survival of yourself, your family, and your neighbors. Are you properly trained in the techniques of survival or will you become a victim of the next event?

The best method of training is to be educated. CERT-based education is provided **free** to the community. The next CERT class will be on January 30, 2009, Room 8 at the Commons. The class begins at 8:30 a.m. and will be approximately 3 hours long. Please call me at (541) 547-to reserve a space as the class size is limited to 30.



**New Marketing Strategy  
for City**  
By Andrea Scharf, Marketing  
Director

I am really pleased and excited to be the new marketing director for Yachats. The purpose of this position is to support the City's innovative interactive online marketing program, GoYachats.

Before moving to Yachats fifteen years ago, I had a business providing public relations services to large trade organizations. Before that, I was one of the founders of the Portland Saturday Market, owned and operated a retail business, and wrote for various trade publications as a freelance journalist.

I figured I would be a good match for the requirements of this new position.

Happily, the selection committee agreed. I was one of three candidates chosen to make a presentation to the committee, which consisted of council members, city employees, and business owners. I decided to demonstrate how I would use the GoYachats website to convince an association of rug hookers, "The Happy Hookers!", to choose Yachats for their annual meeting and workshop. With the GoYachats site, I was able to show their planning committee a selection of motel properties and meeting rooms, identify local caterers, and provide contacts for workshop speakers.

Following the selection committee's recommendation, City Council approved a contract with me at their October meeting. Since then, I have been meeting with local businesses to explain and promote the GoYachats site. The next phase of the job will be to identify businesses, institutions, affinity groups, and others and convince them that Yachats is the place for their next workshop, conference, or board retreat.

I believe that the citizens of Yachats are one of our best marketing tools. I invite anyone who has connections with such groups to let me know. My goal is to increase tourist business in Yachats in a way that will benefit everyone. Every city business, service and nonprofit is listed on GoYachats. People can find special events and sales at local stores listed on the website. "You should GoYachats every day!" Visit the website at [www.GoYachats.com](http://www.GoYachats.com)



**Friends of the Yachats  
Commons Hosts  
Lincoln Co. Cultural  
Coalition**

By Don Niskanen, LCCC  
Co-Chair and Friends of the Commons Member

The Friends of the Yachats Commons Foundation is honored to host the monthly meeting of the Lincoln County Cultural Coalition on Monday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m. in Room 8 of the Yachats Commons. The Lincoln County Cultural Coalition is part of the Oregon Cultural Trust, a state-wide attempt to create an endowment fund

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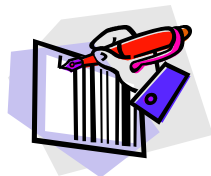
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that will continue to protect and enhance Oregon's cultural history and future.

The public is invited to attend. There will be a PowerPoint presentation by Rex Krabbe explaining the history and purpose of the Lincoln County Foundation, one of the oldest non-profit organizations in Lincoln County. A brief explanation of the Oregon Cultural Trust and the advantages of the tax credit will also be discussed. The Coalition will continue with their monthly meeting agenda.

There will be light refreshments available.

Anyone interested in participating with the Lincoln County Cultural Coalition can contact Co-Chair Catherine Rickbone at (541) 574-2652 or me at (541) 961-6695.



**Yachats Public Library**  
**By Marie Green, Commission Chair**

We are taking away your library card—just kidding! The Yachats Library is in the lengthy process of bar-coding patrons cards. Please bring your card with you next time you come. We only need to borrow it for about a week and will have it ready for you before your books are due. Change-over is slow, but will give us better control over our inventory.

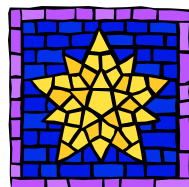
VHS and DVDs are especially popular on long winter nights. Believe it or not, many patrons living upriver don't have or don't want television reception. Donations of new or gently used movies are always welcome.

Two new books about mushrooms are now on the shelves. Also new is *Dewey: the Small Town Cat Who Touched the World*, an absolutely delightful story (no, we are not looking for a library cat). Come in and see what else is on the new on the bookshelves at the front of the library. We are currently flush with a lovely gift to buy books and other library materials. Please let know if there are new or classic books you would like us to purchase.

Winter library hours are: Monday and Friday 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Wednesday 12:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.; and

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Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Don't forget the Library is a WiFi hotspot.



**Little Log Church and Museum**

**By Mary Crook, Events Coordinator**

The board and volunteers at the Little Log Church and Museum extend a special invitation to all visitors during the magical month of December. For the holidays the sanctuary and museum are decorated to evoke even the "Grinchy-est" of us the spirit of the season.

In addition to garlands and lights, visitors can see the fragile paper "stained glass" windows created by members of the bygone Yachats Garden Club in 1986. They are hanging inside the east and west sides of the building. Also the large oil painting of the three wise men, done in 1954 for a Christmas pageant at the church, is showcased in the sanctuary. The story of these two creations is available at the museum at no charge.

We also invite you to enrich your holiday season by attending the annual formal opening of the *Yachats Winter Celebration* at the Log Church at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The brief program will be followed by refreshments and entertainment by the Sweet Adelines at the Yachats Ladies Club. We look forward to seeing you there!



**In the Garden**  
**By Jodi Sones, Landscape Coordinator**

Alright, who isn't getting their quota of herbs from the herb garden at The Little Log Church? I had to prune them a lot the other day, so that means someone isn't getting their share. We have sage, rosemary, and thyme (kind of reminds me of a song I know). There is also some beautiful parsley and oregano, even lavender. I just cut the oregano back, so you will have to wait until spring for that, but the others I mentioned are available. In the Spring we will have garlic and regular chives for whoever likes those. Please help yourself to

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anything in there that looks good to you. Fresh herbs are *always* so much tastier than dried.

Every year it seems like I have more and more pine needles to clean up at The Little Log Church. I guess that the trees are growing, getting bigger, and have more and more needles to shed every year. We have lost several of our shore pines in the past few years, so there are areas that aren't as bad as usual, but what is left sure blankets everything nicely with needles.

This is a good place to tell you about the local crows at the Little Log Church. It seems there has been a

crow (maybe more) assigned to the picnic table. I was having a little lunch with a gardening helper the other day and we had gotten up to look at the nearby Hebes. One especially large crow immediately came down and stole a small package of cookies we left on the table. We were able to retrieve the cookies, but for the rest of the day (I was there 6 hours) that crow gave me a good talking too. Just beware that the crows are around and will steal food right from under you. Please, please, please do not feed them as this only encourages this behavior and makes them even more aggressive.



**Yachats Youth and Family Program**  
**Bee Bui, Rec PLUS Team Leader**

**Space Still Available in South County Preschool**

The tuition-free preschool that opened October 21<sup>st</sup>, serving parents in the Waldport and Yachats areas, is still accepting new students.

The South County Preschool Program is made possible through a partnership between Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) and the Waldport 21<sup>st</sup> Century After-School Program, which is funded through a federal grant managed by Lincoln County School District. The classes are led by teacher Allison Bethel.

Classes are held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Yachats Commons,

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and from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Community Learning Center in Waldport. Parents may enroll their children at one or both locations, depending on available space. Classes in each location will be capped at 15 students, priority will be given to four, and five year-olds with younger children considered as space allows.

Although tuition is free, donations are gratefully accepted. Call Debbie Jackson at (541) 547-4599 for more information or to enroll your child.

**Happy Thanksgiving from the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program!**

The holidays are coming fast and YYFAP will be closed on November 26-27 for Thanksgiving and on December 21-January 4 for winter break. Not to worry though because we will still be spreading the holiday spirit during *Recreation PLUS*. We will be making Thanksgiving-themed crafts, building gingerbread houses, and creating ornaments. *Recreation PLUS* is located in the Yachats Commons and open Monday through Friday from 3:30 p.m.–6:00 p.m. for ages 6 and up. For more information call us at (541) 547-4599.

**Santa Claus is Coming to Town**

Santa Claus's first stop will be at the Holiday Ornament Night and you are invited to join us for an evening full of good food, wonderful company and crafts for everyone. The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program in partnership with the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church invites people of all ages to join together on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church. There will be a delicious spaghetti dinner followed by holiday-themed craft tables. Projects will include gift making, candy cane reindeers, window stars, and decorative ornaments. This event is free. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Santa Claus will also be appearing at the *Yachats Indoor Park*. Children 0-6 years old and their parents or guardians are invited to celebrate the holiday spirit at *Yachats Indoor Park*. Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. will be Holiday Craft Day at the *Yachats Indoor Park*. We will be creating and decorating pinecone crafts and

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meeting Santa Claus. *Yachats Indoor Park* is open every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Yachats Commons. It is a place for children to take advantage of educational and stimulating activity stations, and playtime together. Call us at (541) 547-4599 for more information.



**Yachats Lunch Bunch**  
**Holds Annual Holiday**  
**Luncheon**  
by Paul Niblock,  
Coordinator

Each year the Yachats Lunch Bunch, once known as the Yachats Senior Luncheon, combines their November and December luncheons into one big holiday luncheon two weeks after Thanksgiving. This year's event will be held on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Yachats Commons multipurpose room. Doors will open at 11.30 a.m., open to those 55 and better with a suggested donation of \$4. There will be entertainment by Robert Ruben on piano and piano-accordion in addition to Prue Warren reading an excerpt from her latest book.

Last year we asked for donations to the Food Bank in lieu of gifts. We will continue this as a successful tradition.

Our menu is traditional consisting of roast turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, Waldorf salad, rolls with butter, and iced Christmas cookies.

The October 29<sup>th</sup> Halloween luncheon was well attended with many unique costumes. Bob Welch of the Register Guard and longtime Yachats resident was the featured speaker. He was very entertaining, reading excerpts from his new book "My Oregon 2."



**It's Not too Late to Donate**  
By Tonner Hayes, SRL  
President

There is still time to make donations to the Christmas Holiday Food Baskets and the South County Needy Children's Christmas Fund. The food and gifts for

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South Lincoln County residents rely entirely on donations.

The Yachats Fire Department will be collecting canned food and cash donations as part of "Operation Santa." Your fire and rescue friends will be in the Yachats Village Market parking lot on Saturday and Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Non-perishable food items can still be donated through most of December at the YRFPD Fire Hall, Yachats Village Market, Green Salmon, Shirley's, Bank of the West, Community Presbyterian Church, Yachats Baptist Church, and at the designated box located next to the entrance of the City Hall doors.

Christmas Baskets will be filled with canned foods such as: soups, vegetables, fruit, tuna, chili, and yams, as well as with peanut butter, pastas and other dry goods. South Lincoln Resources gathers the food and fills the baskets, also adding a ham, bread, potatoes, onions, carrots and eggs.

The South Lincoln County Needy Children's Christmas Program has gathered gifts for children of food basket applicants for more than 25 years. New clothing and non-electronic toys are matched to each child. These gifts are gathered all year using every dollar of donated funds to purchase the gifts. There will be Trees of Giving in all South Lincoln County banks this month, including Bank of the West. For more information about the children's Christmas gifts, please call Washington Federal Savings at (541) 563-3226.

This is the 27<sup>th</sup> year for Holiday Food Baskets serving children, families and seniors in Yachats, Ten Mile, Five Rivers, Tidewater, Waldport and Seal Rock. South Lincoln Resources is an all-volunteer, non-profit charitable organization with no paid positions and no government funding. You can also help by sending a check to South Lincoln Resources at PO Box 1638, Waldport, OR 97394. All donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, please call South Lincoln Resources at (541) 563-2388 or visit [www.SouthLincolnResources.org](http://www.SouthLincolnResources.org) anytime.



**Town Tidbits**

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- ◆ One of Us Productions is having Auditions for *Funny Money*, the British comedy by Ray Cooney. Auditions will be on Saturday December 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday December 6, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 3 at the Yachats Commons. Production dates will be announced at the auditions.
- ◆ Practice sessions for the Yachats Umbrella Drill Team will be postponed until Spring 2010 due to Daylight Savings Time.



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**Newsletter - Page 8**

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