

## Horse Club saddling up again in February

Junior equestrians should be ready for the second half of Horse Club, which will begin Friday, Feb. 3, for equestrians ages 6 to 18.

Horse Club meets every Friday (except for school holidays) until May 19, 2017.

Each week, the club builds on the skills learned in the previous weeks and uses hands-on techniques to help the participants learn safety around horses, grooming and riding.

The program also reviews horse and tack parts and provides written handouts on the

major parts of the program. By the end of the year, the goal will be for the kids to have learned the basic fundamentals of horsemanship, how much fun it is to ride and what wonderful animals horses are.

For more information, call 541-997-7540, or stop by C&M Stables, 90241 Highway 101, eight miles north of Florence.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

C&M Stables was established by Jeff Chastain, a Florence native, in 1981.

## Coastal Gem Walkers announce January jaunt

Celebrate the New Year with the Yachats Coastal Gem Walkers, which is expecting good walking weather for its January stroll.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the group will be walking the new Toledo Ridge and River YRE. This 10K walk includes some hilly areas that would be difficult for wheelchairs or strollers.

Since the walk is divided into three separate loops, it is easy to modify the distance for folks who want a shorter walk.

Those wishing to carpool to Toledo should meet at the Commons in Yachats. The car-

pool will depart at 9 a.m., so arrive a few minutes early.

Walkers can also meet at JC's Thriftway in Toledo at 10 a.m. to register for the walk.

The walk will begin at 10:15 a.m. As always, leashed pets are welcome walks, but bring water and clean up materials for pets. A sturdy 6-foot leash, not the retractable type.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4, the Gems will hold their monthly meeting at the home of the club president in Yachats.

For more information, call Jean White in Florence at 541-997-8577 or visit [www.yachatscoastalgems.org](http://www.yachatscoastalgems.org).

## Unfortunately, 'Tis the season' for sea turtle strandings

NEWPORT — If you're out walking the beach this winter, keep an eye open for stranded sea turtles. Winter storms along the Pacific can push sea turtles northward into colder waters, where they quickly grow weak and end up stranded on Northwest beaches.

Pacific green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) and olive ridley sea turtles (Lepidochelys olivacea) are the two most commonly encountered species that strand on Oregon beaches, and both are classified as endangered.

Green and olive ridley turtles have extensive global ranges and breed in warm waters, including along the Pacific coast of Mexico.

Most of the sea turtles recorded in Oregon likely originate from this coastal Mexico population.

"Sea turtles do not reach Oregon beaches unless injured or sick, and once stranded, they require immediate specialized care to survive," said Jim Burke, Director of Animal Husbandry at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. "Last winter, four hypothermic turtles were recovered from Pacific Northwest beaches — a record for the region."

If ocean conditions and weather patterns continue as they have over the last couple of years, more turtles are expected to arrive in the future.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium and Seattle Aquarium are the only rehabilitation facilities in the north-west United States authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide the specialized care sea turtles require. These care facilities were at their maximum capacity with four turtles last year, so the service is examining ways to increase rehabilitation capabilities should more turtles arrive.

"The recovery of stranded turtles is always a group effort," said Laura Todd, Newport Field Office Supervisor for the Service. "Reports from the public, emergency transport from the beach, intensive care at the treatment facilities, return to warmer waters, and eventual release are all crucial steps in the process. This work couldn't be done without highly capable partners like the Oregon Coast Aquarium, the U. S. Coast Guard, and SeaWorld."

Such teamwork is the cornerstone of recovering any

threatened or endangered species. Cooperation between the public, federal and state agencies and partner organizations are the hallmark of a successful conservation program and key to halting the decline of our sea turtle populations.

"Rehabilitation returns reproductively viable individuals to the wild breeding population that otherwise would not have survived, which contributes to species recovery," said Todd. "Rehabilitation efforts also help us prepare for catastrophic events such as oil spills or disease by establishing clinical familiarity with listed species."

The Service urges anyone who finds a sea turtle on the beach to immediately note its location, remain nearby to observe it if possible and contact the Oregon State Police Tipline at 800-452-7888 or the Marine Mammal Stranding Network (MMSN) at 1-866-767-6114.

The MMSN and its partner organizations, including Seaside Aquarium, have proved invaluable in reaching stranded turtles quickly and transporting them to authorized care facilities.

## 'FREE FIRST DAY HIKE' AT N. JETTY

For the sixth consecutive year, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is partnering with state parks around the nation to offer free guided First Day Hikes in state parks throughout Oregon on New Year's Day.

Among the parks participating will be Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park.

Hike time begins at 10 a.m. at the Siuslaw North Jetty, at the last parking lot near the Coast Guard tower. It will be a moderate, two-mile hike on the

beach with some hiking in sections of loose sand.

Come hike, celebrate and appreciate the 50-year anniversary of the Oregon Beach Bill, which allows millions of people to experience the beauty of the Oregon Coast annually.

Ranger Paul Reilly will discuss the local flora and fauna of the area, geology and the historical perspective on the Oregon Beach Bill and how it affects us today.

Participants should dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes and bring water as well as a camera

or binoculars for wildlife viewing.

In case of inclement weather, the park should be contacted directly to find out about cancellation. This year, OPRD is asking participants to share photos of their First Day Hike via social media by using the hashtag #ORfirstdayhikes on Twitter and Instagram, or tagging "Oregon State Parks" on Facebook.

Images can also be emailed to [social.oprd@oregon.gov](mailto:social.oprd@oregon.gov).

For more information, call 541-997-3851.



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### Plover from 1B

Siuslaw National Forest published the final Record of Decision designating motorized travel routes and areas in the Oregon Dunes NRA.

This seasonal detour is one

of the management directions included in the decision and, with completion of construction of the new access route, is being implemented for the first time this year.

For more information, contact the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area at 541-271-6000.

## ...need a friend?

### Meet Ariel

Hello! I'm Ariel. I am a distinguished lady that commands attention with my beautiful, emerald eyes. I'm very gentle and love a comfy lap. I have a special diet plus Cosequin because I have Stage 2 kidney disease and I'm a little wobbly in the back legs but that's about as high maintenance as I get. If you're looking for a cuddle bug that will give you all of their love then I'm the one!



If you would like to meet Milo or any of his friends, please visit us at:

**OREGON COAST HUMANE SOCIETY**

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[www.oregoncoasthumane.org](http://www.oregoncoasthumane.org)

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