

Siuslaw Volleyball Club tryouts set for Tuesday

LI'L TOADS TO BEGIN WRESTLING NOV. 6

The Siuslaw Volleyball Club (SVC), now in its 15th season, will be hosting tryouts for girls ages 9 to 14 for teams in the 12U and 14U divisions.

Tryouts will be Tuesday, Nov. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Siuslaw Middle School gym.

Teams practice twice a week, Tuesday and Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (coach-

es will determine the exact times). All teams will play in six or more tournaments between January and April.

All players must pre-register online at www.cevaregion.org and pay the \$10 tryout/deposit fee. The fee is due at the time of online registration, but only players making the team will pay fees associated with the SVC.

Bring a copy of registration or \$10 and the membership form to tryouts on Nov. 7.

SVC is a competitive atmosphere, with teams traveling to at least one tournament per month for a full day of competition with no fewer than four matches. The season ends with the Regional Tournament.

Players that make team will be required to pay a total of

\$175 no later than Nov. 27 (\$55 to CEVA and \$120 to the Siuslaw Volleyball Club.)

SVC fees cover tournaments, insurance for tournaments and practices, and team sweatshirts and T-shirts players keep.

For more information, contact Jenny Alberty at 541-999-1749 or Michelle Rose at 541-999-0401.

Latest research looks at growing cougar population in mid-coast region

A few decades ago, cougars in the coast range were practically unheard of. But as Oregon's healthy cougar population has expanded into north-west Oregon from population strongholds in the Blue Mountains and south Cascades, ODFW is observing more cougar harvest, sightings and damage complaints along the coast.

Researchers have studied

cougar home range sizes, population densities and diet in the Cascades and eastern Oregon, but not along the coast. A new study aims to change that through a research effort that will collar 10 adult cougars in the Alsea Wildlife Management Unit, which includes parts of Lincoln and Benton counties.

ODFW will work with volunteer agents who have hounds

to tree cougars in the study area so ODFW can immobilize them, take samples including blood and DNA, and get them fitted with a GPS collar. Location data collected from the collars will be used to calculate home range size and habitat selection.

Collaring of the cougars will begin this month and will continue until 10 adults are collared or April 1, 2019. Once a

cougar is collared the GPS unit will collect location data for 17 months.

It is legal to harvest a collared cougar but ODFW prefers that hunters not shoot a cougar with a collar if possible.

Oregon's statewide cougar population is estimated at 6,400. The research is being funded through federal grants from the Wildlife Restoration Act.

Viks

from 1B

district meet, following through on predictions of dual crowns for Siuslaw's boys and girls teams.

Today, both teams will be on hand when the state starting pistol goes off and the top 4A runners and teams from throughout Oregon race the 5,000-meter course at Lane Community College in Eugene.

"Getting to the state meet isn't something that's new for this program, but it's new to for these teams," said Johnson, whose underclassmen-dominated ros-

ters include only a handful of runners — Hannah Rannow, Chloe Madden, Anne Wartnik and Isaac Griffes — who have run at the state level. "We set our sights on winning the conference, and now they're set on state. If we execute our strategy and run our race, we have a good chance in both races to come home with something for the trophy case."

With Griffes' winning the individual boys league title last week by a solid margin, the Viking boys are coming into today's meet with an extra boost of momentum.

However, neither team is at

100 percent as they deal with illness and injuries.

"Fortunately, our strength is our depth," Johnson said. "State is the end game, and we've been preparing for it all season. We've had lots of kids go to the state meet with the sniffles or run with a fever."

"Being a champion is about being your best even when it's not your best day."

In both races, Tillamook is heavily favored to win the state title, with the field opening up after that.

Though prognosticators have the Vikings placing among the

top four in both races, with the girls predicted to finish third and the boys fourth, Johnson said there are a lot of variables that contribute to the final outcome.

Those variables range from mental preparation and experience, to course conditions and eating properly before the race.

And of course, the weather — something that Johnson and his team are hoping includes a chance of, well... *reign*.

Races begin at 11:15 a.m. with the varsity girls, followed by the boys at 11:50 a.m.

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