

HORSE RIDING CLUB FOR STUDENTS TO BEGIN SOON

C&M Stables is once again offering Horse Club to area boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 during the 2018-19 school year.

Horse Club sessions are held after school, with specific class days and times dependent upon the number of students that participate.

Through this program, kids learn about the day-to-day chores that take place to have a horse and be able to ride. Their interaction with the horses also enables them to gain confidence as their skills and abilities increase over time. There are occasional mini trail rides planned as students get to a safe riding level, as well as a trail ride that includes parents at the end of

the session.

The program offers two Horse Club sessions during the school year, which follow the Siuslaw School District school calendar. Sign-ups are being accepted now for the first session, which begins the week of Sept. 16, and ends the week of Jan. 13, 2019.

For more information or to sign up for Horse Club, stop by C&M Stables (eight miles north of Florence at 90241 Hwy 101) between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week, or call 541-997-7540.

C&M Stables, established in 1981 by Florence native Jeff Chastain, also offers beach, dune and trail rides, as well as Horse Club and an Adult Riding Club.

OSAA TO LAUNCH OSAATODAY WEBSITE THIS FALL

WILSONVILLE — The Oregon School Activities Association will be providing original Oregon high school activity news content on its website, www.osaa.org/ today, beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

The content — to appear under the banner OSAAtoday — will include news, event coverage, features, polls and more. Historical pieces commemorating the OSAA's 100-year Centennial will be among the recurring features.

OSAAtoday's aim will be the production of high-quality and insightful content

covering the entire state, every classification and every activity.

The content will be produced through a partnership with Jerry Ulmer, longtime prep writer at *The Oregonian*, and John Tawa, founder of PrepVolleyball.com and former managing editor at *Student Sports Magazine*.

In addition to the content produced by OSAAtoday, they will also work with the association's member schools to develop a network of student contributors whose work could be highlighted on the OSAA website.

OSAAtoday will be an additional platform in Oregon to promote the benefits of interscholastic activities.

"The OSAA is extremely excited to partner with these two exceptional writers that have such extensive experience in the Oregon prep space," said Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director. "We are also thrilled to be able to provide an educational component to this initiative with our student contributors. We feel this will be a great resource to get journalism and year-book classes involved in their local communities."

Help spot invasive loosestrife weed in Siuslaw River region

Purple Loosestrife is easy to spot because it is blooming now (July to September) in the Siuslaw River area. The flowers are pinkish-purple held upright on long, rigid spikes. A great way to identify it is to touch the stems — its squarish-shaped stems may have four to six sides. A single plant may have up to 30 stems from a central, woody base, and can be five to 10 feet tall.

It seems to be a recent invader here, with a few known small populations around Mapleton and west to Phey Lane. Its tiny seeds are easily spread by wind, animals or other disturbances, and root sprouts up to 6 feet or longer; little pieces of root or stem will also grow.

Purple Loosestrife invades wetlands and crowds out natives, has little or no food or habitat value to wildlife and affects nutrient cycling. It prefers freshwater wetlands, but can adapt and spread to both saltwater marshes as well as drier areas. It is on

noxious weed lists in most states and several Canadian provinces.

An online search for "Identify Purple Loosestrife" yields many great resources and photos, including its lookalikes. Here are some of our locally most common, similar flowers:

- **Hardhack**, or Douglas spirea — Native plant with a round stem and fluffy, pink flowers arranged in tight, sometimes lumpy clusters.

- **Fireweed** — Native plant that commonly grows on more dry ground than purple loosestrife with loose flower clusters, and does not have a square stem. 2-3 inches long seed pods are easily visible below the spent blooms.

- **Butterfly Bush** — also an invasive weed, it has a round stem, and bright purple flowers grown in a tight, cone-shaped head. This bush may get to be fifteen feet tall, with usually drooping flower heads and greyish leaves with fuzzy undersides. Older stems have peeling, grayish

bark.

A common question is: *Is my garden variety (cultivar) of Purple Loosestrife safe?*

No.

Originally many garden varieties of purple loosestrife were considered to be sterile (safe). Recent scientific studies have shown that these plants can readily cross pollinate with other garden varieties, as well as wild loosestrife populations.

The majority of wild infestations of purple loosestrife are the result of garden escapes (www.PurpleLoosestrife.org)

North Dakota State University's website has excellent information on this subject, as well as great substitute plant suggestions for your garden.

Control:

- Small outbreaks may be removed by digging, being careful to bag the whole plant. Any pieces left behind may grow. If flowers are starting to age, gently cut the flower stalks first and bag

them to minimize spreading any tiny seeds, and then bag as much of the remaining plant as possible in a dark plastic bag, tie it securely and let it rot before sending to the landfill.

- Herbicides should only be used with no wind, on a dry, upland area on private property, and at least 50 feet away from any open water. Any herbicide used near or over water requires a special formulation such as Rodeo, with a permit and a specially-licensed applicator.

- Several agencies and groups are in discussions about developing a coordinated weed response system for this area, and may use biological controls in the future.

Contact Liz Cadiz at projects@siuslaw.org if you know of Purple Loosestrife in the Siuslaw or its tributaries, or for more information.

— Submitted by Liz Cadiz, Mapleton

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BRAS FOR A CAUSE
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 ... COUNTLESS DREAMS

Fishing from 1B
 available.
ALSEA RIVER:
 Cutthroat trout
 Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22.
 Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.
SALMON RIVER:
 Cutthroat trout

Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.
SILETZ RIVER:
 Steelhead, spring Chinook, cutthroat trout
 Summer steelhead are in the river. Fishing is good in the lower gorge. Casting spinners, drifting bait or using a bobber and jig can be effective.
 Spring Chinook are available in the Siletz. Be aware of the regulations for the Siletz, 1 wild Chinook per day and two for the season through July 31.
 Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22.
 • **Note:** The 3.5 mile bridge (aka Steel Bridge) in the Siletz gorge is now open to motorized vehicles, but is only open to public vehicles on the weekend.
 Anglers can walk/bike in the road during the weekdays. If anglers do walk in they can park at the one mile gate and start from there.
SIUSLAW RIVER:
 Cutthroat trout

Trout fishing in streams and river opened May 22. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures through Aug. 31.
WILSON RIVER:
 Steelhead, spring Chinook, trout
 Summer steelhead are present in decent numbers. Low clear water can make fishing for summer steelhead challenging, but there can be some good action at first and last light, or on those drizzly overcast days. Concentrate on deep pools and deeper riffles. Drift fishing, spinners, and flies are good choices. Light line, small presentations, and fishing the riffles and deep pools at first and last light can increase success.
 There are still a few spring Chinook available in the Wilson River, although numbers will be very low, especially considering the low runs we are seeing on other basins.
 Cutthroat trout can be found throughout the river, with sea-runs beginning to enter tidal areas. Fishing should be fair to good, with spinners or flies good bets for success.
YAQUINA RIVER:
 Cutthroat trout
 These lakes and ponds are now listed individually in the

alphabetical listing. Spring trout stocking begins around March 1.
COOS COUNTY LAKES/PONDS: Trout
 These lakes and ponds are now listed individually in the alphabetical listing. Spring trout stocking begins around March 1 (see stocking schedule).
COOS RIVER BASIN:
 Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish, trout
 Streams and rivers are open to trout fishing. Trout anglers are having success using small spinners or flies. Anglers can use only artificial flies and lures in streams above tidewater. The daily limit for trout in streams is 2 fish per day and they must be 8-inches or longer.
 Recreational fishing for bottomfish is open in the ocean along with bays and estuaries. Beginning July 1, the daily bag limit for marine fish will be reduced from 5 to 4 plus 2 lingcod. The retention of cabezon starts on July 1 with a 1-fish sub-bag limit. Anglers have reported catching rockfish, greenling and striped surfperch inside Coos Bay near the north jetty.

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