

Email:
[Register/Subscribe](#)

Password:

Search Site:

[AdvancedSearch](#) [Archive](#)

**[Subscribe to
The Daily Record](#)**



[FREE SamplePDF Edition](#)

News Sections

- [Local News](#)
- [Home](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Farm](#)
- [Special](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Breaking](#)
- [Featured News](#)
- [Latest Headlines](#)
- [AP Ohio News](#)
- [AP National News](#)
- [AP National Sports](#)
- [AP Entertainment](#)
- [AP Health](#)
- [AP Economy](#)
- [AP Automotive](#)
- [AP Technology](#)
- [AP Business](#)

Citizen Journalism

[Home](#) | [Back](#)

Weeklong riding camp's end bittersweet for students, staff

[Email To A Friend](#)
[Printer Friendly](#)
[Comments](#)

July 17, 2007



Photo By Linda Hall Madelyn Rumbaugh, an 11-year-old Wooster Township Elementary School sixth-grade student, takes her horse for a spin around the outside ring at Christian Children's Home of Ohio Poplar Ridge horse riding day camp.

By LINDA HALL

Staff Writer

WOOSTER -- "There will be a lot of tears," predicted John Plegge, director of Poplar Ridge Stables and Reins for Life at Christian Children's Home of Ohio, as day campers said goodbye Friday to the horses they had ridden and cared for all week.

Poplar Ridge "teamed up with Wooster Parks and Recreation," said Steve Ferguson, CCHO director of advancement, to operate the camp.

Six sessions are being offered in two age divisions -- 8-12 years old and 13-15 years old.

The objective of the purely recreational camp -- "We just wanted to help kids," Ferguson said. "Kids are really

- [Citizen News](#)
- [Citizen Photos](#)
- [Citizen Opinion](#)
- [Citizen Videos](#)

Marketplace

- [OhioAutoFinder](#)
- [JobFinder](#)
- [ClassifiedFinder](#)
- [Legal Ads](#)
- [HomeFinder](#)
- [Buy Photos](#)
- [Local Businesses](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

Forums

- [Sports](#)
- [News](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Classmates](#)
- [Area Events](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Singing Sensations](#)

The Daily Record Newspaper Subscriptions

- [Subscriptions](#)
- [Question/Problems](#)

Services

- [Online Newsroom](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Website Feedback](#)
- [Privacy](#)

Community

- [City Hall](#)
- [College](#)
- [OSU/ATI](#)
- [OARDC](#)
- [Wooster Today](#)
- [Community Hospital](#)

interested in riding horses."

Brenda Moser -- an Orrville resident whose 11-year-old granddaughter, Breanne Welty, a Greene Middle School student, participated in the camp -- affirmed Breanne's enthusiasm as she watched her parade her horse around the ring, showing off her new skills. Moser pointed out the ribbons Breanne had attached to her horse's mane and also noted the day camp was her granddaughter's present for earning an all-A average in school last year.

"She probably (likes) the grooming even more than the riding," said Breanne's father, Brad Welty, also a guest of camp participants putting on an end-of-session program Friday.

"She has loved horses forever. If she got a horse, she'd melt," said Breanne's other grandmother, Marlene Keith.

Another camper enjoying a week with horses was 11-year-old Claire Benson, a Melrose Elementary School sixth-grade student and the daughter of Richard Benson, the city of Wooster's law director.

Because his wife, Tina, grew up with horses, "she wanted our daughters to have the same experience she did," he said.

"We started with two horses, and now we have 12," said Plegge, who instructed riders during the week along with his wife, Carla.

The oldest horse, an Arabian, is named "Doughnut" because of the white star with a black center on his forehead, Plegge said.

Although this summer marked "the very first day camp," Plegge said, as far back as 15 years ago CCHO was using horse therapy for residents.

As part of the new day camp, youth learn how to control a horse and how horses react to the pressure of a rider's leg. For instance, he said, if the rider presses his or her leg against the horse's right side, the animal will move to the left, and vice-versa.

Campers also learned how to use the reins and the proper way to mount and dismount a horse.

"Some people want to step right off the horse," Plegge said. "You can't do that."

The Plegges made sure students understood the duties involving horses, not just the fun.

They were taught "how to clean stalls, grooming of the horses, how to tack up the horse," Plegge said. Participants were rewarded with gifts for "the cleanest stall, the best groomed horse, the most improved (rider)."

- [Chamber](#)
- [City Schools](#)

Wayne County

- [Orrville Today](#)
- [Amish Heartland](#)

Holmes County

- [Amish Heartland](#)
- [Chamber](#)
- [Holmes Today](#)
- [Millersburg](#)

Forms

- [Anniversary](#)
- [Club Reports](#)
- [Engagement](#)
- [Wedding](#)

One young lady earned the "Brave Award" for not giving up on a black horse who gave her quite a bit of trouble at first. "She decided she wouldn't switch (horses)," Plegge said, and eventually triumphed.

"I like how they taught them about the work involved ... not just the pleasure," said Lisa Rumbaugh, whose 11-year-old daughter, Madelyn, a Wooster Township Elementary School sixth-grader, thoroughly enjoyed the week.

"We told John (Plegge) we'd take Noche (the horse she rode) home and put her in her bedroom."

One of the special features of the camp was a short trail ride.

Poplar Ridge is exploring expanding trail rides, talking to local farmers because more land is needed, Plegge said. In the works is an overnight trail ride; participants would either set up a primitive camp or stay at the CCHO retreat center, he said.

Poplar Ridge is open to the public for one-hour trail rides with a half-hour lesson beforehand, Plegge said.

Reins for Life offers therapeutic riding lessons for special needs participants, said Carla Plegge, who is working toward therapeutic riding certification.

College of Wooster students helped put together the business plan for the horse riding camp and lessons venture as part of the social entrepreneurship program at The College.

The Plegges may be contacted at (330) 464-3380.

Reporter Linda Hall can be reached at (330) 264-1125, Ext. 2230, or e-mail lhall@the-daily-record.com.

Comments

Please note by clicking on "Post" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. Be polite. Inappropriate posts may be removed. The-Daily-Record.com doesn't necessarily condone the comments here, nor does it review every post.

Login above or [Register](#) to comment.