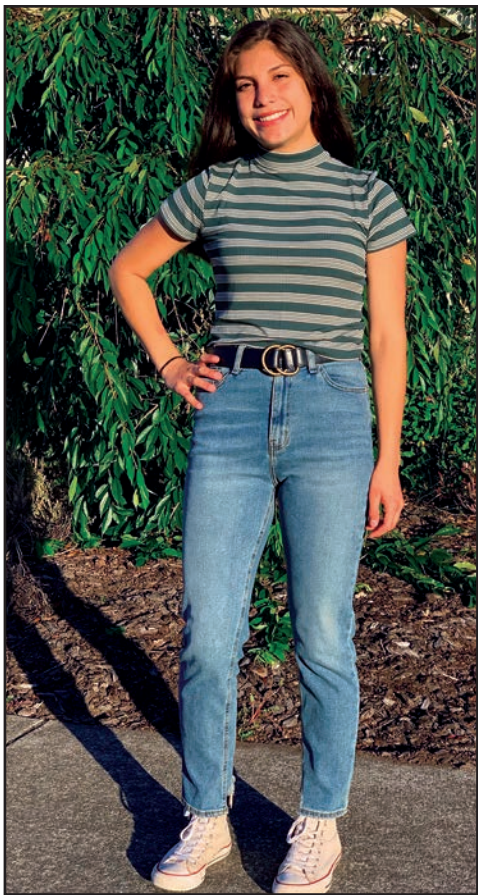




Dearest Jordyn and Jaylin – It's been a blessing to raise you. We're very proud and happy to be part of your journeys through life. While both of you excel in different ways, we know you'll do great things in life. The world is a better place with you girls in it and we love you from the bottom of our hearts. Happy 17th Birthday on Oct.

12, Jordyn! Time seems to fly by, but we have cherished every moment. Have a wonderful school/sports year, girls. Keep making us proud.

Love, Mama, Papa and the whole fam bam



Ed and Delores Ben with five generations of their family



Happy Birthday to my Sunny girl!
You're an official teenager now.
Love, Mom, Bubby, Bradlee and Spooky

Passages Policy

Submissions to Passages are limited to two 25-word items per person, plus one photo if desired.

All birthday, anniversary and holiday wishes will appear in the Passages section.

Siletz News reserves the right to edit any submission for clarity and length.

Not all submissions are guaranteed publication upon submission.

Please type or write legibly and submit via e-mail when possible.

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The cuteness is here: Oregon Zoo welcomes Pacific lamprey

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Zoo's newest residents are also its oldest. Five Pacific lamprey moved into the Cascade Stream building in the Great Northwest area in August and the ancient fish are making themselves right at home.

Older than dinosaurs and even trees, this 400-million-year-old native species is an important part of the history and culture of the Pacific Northwest.

"We're thrilled to welcome Pacific lamprey to the Great Northwest," said Shelly Pettit, the zoo's senior fish keeper. "It's a great opportunity for people to see them up close and learn about this unique species."

The Pacific lamprey is an eel-like fish with a jawless mouth, third eye and no scales. Since the zoo's lamprey can often be seen suctioned onto the glass of their habitat displaying rings of sharp teeth, it's no wonder Pettit and the rest of the lamprey care team like to point out the slimy fish's "cute" factor.

"Lamprey have a lot of charm once you get to know them, even if they aren't your typical cuddly critter," Pettit said. "We've been saying 'the cuteness is coming' to get visitors ready to meet these fish. The cuteness is here now and it's been really fun to introduce people to a different type of adorable animal!"

The five Pacific lamprey came to the zoo from the Confederated Tribes of the

Umatilla Indian Reservation as part of a Tribal-led effort that collects lamprey returning to fresh water below the three lowest dams on the Columbia River.

Their new habitat in the Cascade Stream building was paid for in part by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. When the fish are ready to spawn, the Tribal team will transport them to their original range on tributaries of the upper Columbia River and the Snake River.

Pacific lamprey have survived three ice ages and five mass extinctions, but in the past 70 years their numbers have declined due to a combination of habitat loss, climate change and lack of food.

Now designated as a Species of Concern by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and by Oregon's and Washington's departments of Fish & Wildlife, the lamprey are disappearing from their native ranges in the Pacific Northwest.

American Indian Tribes are collaborating with federal, state and local agencies to aid Pacific lamprey recovery. These groups are installing passage structures, removing dams to ease passage and restoring damaged streams to help lamprey spawn and rear young.

By moving lamprey to areas where they used to live — above the dams along the Columbia — they allow the industrious Pacific lamprey to rebuild their own habitat.



Courtesy photo by Michael Durham, from the Oregon Zoo

A Pacific lamprey shows off its jawless mouth at the Oregon Zoo.

As part of the Metro family, the Oregon Zoo helps make greater Portland a great place to call home. Committed to conservation, the zoo is also working to save endangered California condors, Oregon silverspot and Taylor's checkerspot butterflies, northern leopard frogs and western pond turtles.

Other projects focused on saving animals from extinction include studies on polar bears, orangutans and cheetahs.

Support from the Oregon Zoo Foundation enhances and expands the zoo's efforts in conservation, education and

animal welfare. Members, donors, and corporate and foundation partners help the zoo make a difference across the region and around the world.

The zoo opens at 9:30 a.m. daily and is located five minutes from downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. Visitors who travel to the zoo via MAX receive \$1.50 off zoo admission.

Call TriMet Customer Service at 503-238-RIDE (7433) or visit trimet.org for fare and route information.