

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Penguins Make Big Splash

It's homecoming for 16 Humboldt penguins at the Oregon Zoo.

For much of the past two years, the penguins shared a divided portion of the zoo's polar bear habitat while improvements were made to their own quarters. Last week the sleek seabirds returned home, waddling over the familiar rocky terrain and darting through the clear water of the zoo's Penguinarium.

The popular exhibit reopened to the public after a much-needed upgrade of the Penguinarium's air conditioning system and water-filtration system, one of many sustainability improvements funded by the 2008 zoo bond measure. The upgrade saves 7 million gallons of water each year.

Previously, a constant flow of fresh water was required to keep the pool clean and free of scum that builds up from the oils in penguin feathers. And each week, the 25,000-gallon pool was completely drained for cleaning.

Also moving back home this month were 15 Inca terns, South American seabirds that share an exhibit space with penguins at the zoo. The two species coexist in the wild as well.



A young visitor watches one of the Oregon Zoo's Humboldt penguins. The birds returned to the Penguinarium last week following a much-needed filtration upgrade that will save 7 million gallons of water annually.

Get Fit before the Feast

The Oregon Zoo invites runners and walkers of all ages to its annual Turkey Trot on Thursday, Nov. 22.

The Thanksgiving Day event, organized by the Oregon Road Runners Club, includes a four-mile run and fitness walk, starting at 8 a.m., and a half-mile Tot Trot, beginning at 9:45 a.m. A portion of Turkey Trot proceeds will fund animal care and programs at the zoo.

"Turkey Trot is a fun, healthy and festive way to start Thanksgiving Day," said Kim Smith, zoo director. "People really get into the spirit of it and often show up in costumes. We've had runners dressed as turkeys, pilgrims — even Elvis."

Events are non-competitive and meant for fun, but a timing clock will be available at the finish line for participants who wish to time themselves.

For information and registration forms, visit orrc.net.



A costumed turkey mascot limbers up outside the Oregon Zoo in preparation for the traditional Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. The run-walk takes place Thursday, Nov. 22 beginning at 8 a.m. at the zoo.

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