

Condor chick takes first flight

(AP) - The 4-month-old California condor chick being nurtured at the Oregon Zoo ventured away from his second-story nest for the first time recently, spreading his wings and floating about 10 feet to the ground.

"It wasn't exactly a graceful first flight - they rarely are. But it worked," Joe Burnett, the zoo's assistant curator for condors.

The chick spent about two hours last week exploring the netted pen where he lives with a pair of surrogate parents at the zoo's captive breeding program in rural Clackamas County.

Born May 9, Mother's Day, he is thought to be the first California condor hatched in Oregon in more than a century; the last condor sighting in Oregon occurred in 1904 near Drain.

The breeding program, designed to boost the drastically endangered species' population rapidly, is the fourth of its kind in the world.

During the first flight, the chick learned the hiker's maxim: Going down is always easier than going up. Because his pectoral muscles aren't strong enough to make the upward flight, the chick used his beak and feet to crawl back up the log leading to the nest.

"He's mimicking his parents," Burnett said. "If they sun, he suns. They preen, he preens. He gets excited when he sees them feed because he knows he'll feed soon."

At hatch, the chick weighed about half a pound; today, he weighs in at around the 18-pound mark - a pound heavier than his full-grown surrogate mother.

Unless the chicks are retained for captive breeding, all chicks hatched in Oregon will move to pre-release pens in California, Arizona or Baja, Mexico, when they are when they're 8 or 9 months old.



Selena Boise/Splyay Tymoo

After having moved out of her jungle room, Carol Allison of the Community Center has been moved back into "Carol's Room." The jungle room was being used as a weight room for some time when the Boys and Girls Club was located at the Community Center. Carol's Room didn't exist for that period of time, but she has moved back and is serving up popcorn and providing after school activities for the children in the jungle room once again. The kids are usually coloring, playing games, or watching TV.

Thinking small: Can scaled-down schools make a big difference?

(AP) - Thinking small may be the next big thing at American high schools.

From Oregon to New York, school districts are scaling down to combat problems that are very big indeed: high dropout rates, sinking test scores and low attendance.

Over the years, plenty of ballyhooed ideas for curing such ills have come and gone. But the "small schools" movement has a powerful godfather in Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and is getting some backing from Washington, too.

Schools strategically designed to have no more than 400 students are in place or starting up in at least 41 states. Some urban districts, like Sacramento, Calif., have converted to all small high schools. In some places, the schools are new; others were created by subdividing large high schools.

Now, as the movement expands, educators are watching the outcome closely.

In the past decade, the Gates Foundation has poured \$745 million in grant money into promoting small schools. Also, the federal government is operating a \$142 million grant program for subdividing larger high schools.

Making the change over work is not easy.

"A lot of schools that launch into this will get stuck," said Tom Vander Ark of the Gates Foundation. "They might spend several years debating schedule options or structural options and never get to the heart of the matter, which is instruction."

A 2003 report commissioned for the Gates Foundation found that many of those working with new small schools were running into similar roadblocks.

Start-up schools often had trouble finding locations and hiring teachers with the right training. Some students were thrown by the independence offered in their new school. Other missed the wider choice of courses of their old schools.

Young Achiever Cirelle Frank Sponsored by Les Schwab

Cirelle Frank wants to be a scientist when she grows up; so she works hard in school. Cirelle is in the second grade at Warm Springs Elementary School.

"She is one of the hardest workers in the whole school, and all of her work is exemplary," said principal Dawn Smith.

"But what I love most about Cirelle is her kindness and positive attitude," said Smith.

At school Cirelle's favorite things are reading and math. She reads the Chapter Books, which are the larger and more advanced books.

After school she likes to go and play



with her friends at the Early Childhood Education Center.

Cirelle lives with her mom Tana Frank. Congratulations, Cirelle, and keep up the good work!

Clinic welcomes new social worker

My name is Michelle Kuntz and I am the new Social Worker at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center. I have been here since early September, and I am enjoying my job and the people I have had the pleasure to meet so far.

In addition, I would like to invite anyone who has small or large concerns to come by my office at the Health and Wellness Center in Pod A, and we can problem solve together. I have an open door policy, or you can make an appointment. My phone number is 553-1196 ext. 4498.

I am originally from Topeka, Kan. In Topeka I attended Washburn University, where I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in social work in 1997.

Then I went to work in foster care and adoption social work, where the main goal was always permanency for



Michelle Kuntz

the child. In 2000 I returned to school at Washburn and earned my Master's degree in social work.

I then passed the licensing exam and started working right after graduation. I have provided outpatient therapy, and worked as a case manager for persons who were diagnosed with mental illness.

My favorite thing about being a social worker is building relationships with various people from a variety of backgrounds and helping them help themselves, if at all possible.

I feel especially honored and

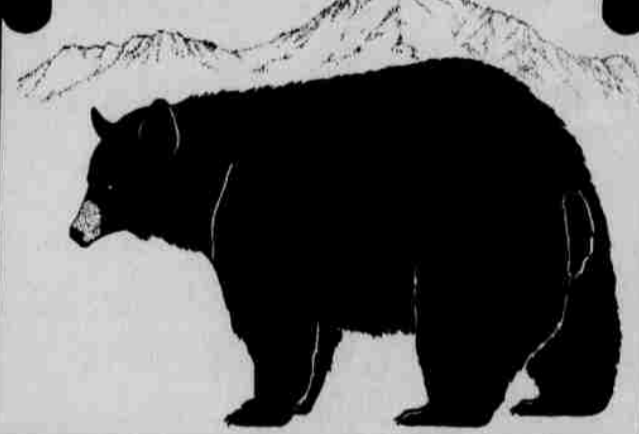
excited to be working with a culture I have always respected and been curious about. I can only hope that over time I may develop a special relationship with this community.

I am here to assist people access resources, fill out paperwork, address personal problems, and a variety of other duties. I also enjoy just visiting with people from the community. Please feel free to tell me what you feel your community lacks, or is especially proud of. I am open-minded and excited to learn more about the three tribes of Warm Springs.

On a more personal note, I am a mother of 2 children. My son Jesse is 13 and my daughter Alix is 7. My fiancé also relocated with us, and his name is Aaron. We are very happy to be living in such a beautiful state, and one so rich in cultural heritage.

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