

# Oregon Zoo's condors prepare for release

(AP) - Oregon Zoo keepers say they have moved four California condors in their breeding program to the next stage of their release into the wild.

Three females and one male that hatched at the zoo's Jonsson

Center for Wildlife Conservation in Clackamas County will move to Boise, Idaho, where they will prepare to be released to wild flocks in Arizona, California and northern Mexico.

The California condor is

North America's largest land bird with a wingspan up to 10 feet.

The species was nearly extinct in the 1980s when about two dozen birds were known to exist.

Breeding programs boosted the population to about 360 with half of those flying free.

Zoo keepers also say they've brought in five birds to join the breeding stock.

The Oregon Zoo condor

breeding program has the support of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum chose the name for one of the birds that has already been released on California.

## Howlak Tichum

Christopher Chee, 1974-2009

Christopher Chee, a lifetime resident of Warm Springs, passed away on July 14, 2009 at his home. Chris was born in The Dalles, Oregon on August 15, 1974 to Charley Chee Sr. and Greta Polk. He was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and was employed on the camp crew for Warm Springs Fire And Safety.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at the Warm Springs Shaker Church.

# Obama administration scraps Bush logging plan

(AP) - The Obama administration is withdrawing the Bush administration's last attempt at increasing logging in Northwest forests occupied by northern spotted

owls and salmon.

Assistant Interior Secretary Ned Farquhar told a conference call of attorneys recently that they had determined the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's

decision not to consult federal biologists over the logging's effects on spotted owls and salmon was in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Parties to the conference call said the

Department of Interior will seek dismissal of the four lawsuits challenging the logging increase. The BLM sought to increase timber production in western Oregon and increase

revenues for rural Oregon counties still hurting from logging cutbacks. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was scheduled to discuss the decision in a teleconference.

# Meeting on Deschutes incentives program

The Deschutes Basin Work Group recently released a request for project proposals for the year 2010 Environmental Quality Incentives Program dollars for watershed projects in the Deschutes Basin that address the basin's priority resource concerns.

The purpose of the request for proposals was to encourage collaboration among partners to work together on projects in order to more strategically invest program dollars.

The basin work group will be

reviewing proposals and using an assessment tool to prioritize the projects at the basin work group meeting held at 10 a.m. on August 27 at the Madras Fire Hall, 765 S. Adams Drive, Madras, Oregon.

All partners, government and non-government, are invited to attend this meeting to discuss how to prioritize the use of USDA farm bill dollars in the Deschutes Basin.

For more information contact Gina Kerzman Deschutes Basin Team Leader, at 541-923-

4358 ext. 138. Information will also be posted on the Deschutes Basin Work Group website at:

[www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/bwg/deschutes\\_bwg.html](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/bwg/deschutes_bwg.html)

To arrange special accommodations for meeting attendees, please contact the Redmond NRCS Service Center at: 541-923-4358 ext. 135.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides voluntary technical and financial assistance to people interested in protecting and enhancing soil, water, and related natural resources on non-federal lands.

NRCS staffs work in every county in the state and directly assist farmers, ranchers, and others. NRCS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Local contact information is located in the telephone book under the federal government listing or can be found online at: [www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov).

# Baskets

(Continued from page 2)

Her parents preached the value of education, and although Gold didn't know anyone from her community who went on to higher education, she planned to attend college. Her math talents were well-known, and her school adviser recommended Whitman College in Washington.

She was shy, at first, finding the college environment foreign, but she dug in and tried to experience it all—took ballet, cello, studied Irish writers and, of course, mathematics.

"To this day I do focus a lot on reading, various topics. I don't focus on just one thing in my life," she said. "I think a lot of that came from taking classes at Whitman."

About 44 years ago, she met and married her husband, Phil Gold, an urban New York mathematician who had little experience with rural outdoor activities, but the pair shared cultural similarities. His Jewish ceremonies remind her of Wasco tribal ceremonies."

He is patient when the bathtub is filled with plant fibers she's soaking, Pat said. And he



Pat Courtney Gold baskets.

metal and plastic. She believes her ancestors—who changed with the times and added new materials when available, such as yarn from unraveled Hudson Bay blankets—would have liked that.

She also makes statements with her baskets. Images of deformed sturgeon reflect her concern about polluted groundwater that feeds into the Columbia River and threatens to impact the sturgeon, "old beings" that she said can reach 1,000 pounds and live 100 years.

In keeping with tradition, she never weaves when she's sad.

"I believe my feelings go into the basket," she said. "I want happiness to go with each basket."

"Some weavers have special songs that they sing while weaving their baskets, but I am not a singer," she said.

"But I do 'kiss' my baskets goodbye."

(Note: This article is reprinted here with the permission of Whitman Magazine, publication of Whitman College.)

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