

Baby orangutan being bottle-fed, which intrigues others

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An endangered Sumatran orangutan infant at New Orleans’ zoo is being bottle-fed because its mother wasn’t producing enough milk.

The still unnamed baby was being tube-fed as well, but the tube was removed January 13, Audubon Zoo spokeswoman Annie Kinler Matherne said last month.

The great apes with long red hair are considered critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Threats to the Sumatran species include hunting and the destruction of the forests and peat swamps where they spend nearly all their time in trees.

Twelve-year-old Menari gave birth to the baby on Christmas Eve; a twin brother was stillborn. Days later, the baby was showing signs of weakness and lack of nursing.

Veterinarians examined Menari, a first-time mother, and discovered the lactation problem.

Since then the infant has had round-the-clock care from zoo staffers wearing furry vests that the baby can cling to. Until the feeding tube was removed, their duties included making sure he didn’t pick or pull at the thin tube inserted through his nose.

As of January 20, he was eating well and weighed in at 1.98 kilograms (4.35 pounds), Audubon Nature Institute vice



BOTTLE BABY. An endangered Sumatran orangutan infant, who was born on December 24, 2021, is bottle-fed milk in this undated photo provided by the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. The infant is being bottle-fed because its mother wasn’t producing enough milk. (Audubon Zoo via AP)

zoo’s senior veterinarian. “We don’t know if she will maintain or restart lactation if we have a successful reintroduction of the infant to her,” he said.

But there’s hope in Menari’s history: She also was hand-raised.

“Her mother, Feliz, did start lactating for Menari when she was finally successfully reintroduced to her and started suckling at around 8 months of age,” MacLean said in a statement.

A video last month showed Dr. Daniel Cutler, the zoo’s associate veterinarian, gently pulling the baby’s hands from hospital keeper Amy Jones’ fur vest, saying, “He’s ... probably not going to like it — he wants to be nice and close and cuddle.”

The baby clung to Cutler’s index fingers as it was raised into the air. Looking around, he pulled himself up until the top of his head was almost even with the fingers he gripped.

“He’s starting to say, ‘I don’t like where I’m at ... put me back down.’ Which is exactly what we want him to do,” the veterinarian said.

president and general curator Bob Lessnau said in a statement sent by Matherne.

Since January 8, six to seven hours of his day has been spent in front of the other orangutans so they can get to know him, Lessnau said.

“Care staff have noticed that the group is most intrigued when there is a diaper change or a bottle feed happening!” a January 13 update said.

Bulan, at age two the oldest of father

Jambi’s three New Orleans offspring, “is especially interested in the new little guy,” the statement said. Madu, the second, was born in February 2021.

Experts from Children’s Hospital of New Orleans have helped out, including a speech pathologist brought in to suggest ways to stimulate the baby’s suckling, Lessnau said.

Menari is receiving a drug that can help maintain lactation, said Bob MacLean, the

Asian Americans mark Lunar New Year amid ongoing hate crimes

By Terry Tang
The Associated Press

For two years now, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the country have endured racist verbal, physical, and sometimes deadly attacks fuelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

With the start of the Lunar New Year, many are looking forward to carrying out family traditions and joining in community celebrations throughout February. These include family dinners and giving children red envelopes filled with money. New York, Chicago, and San Francisco are among the cities with parades planned later this month in their respective Chinatowns.

The Year of the Tiger — a zodiac symbol that represents strength and courage — also is the perfect time to convince Asian elders who have lived in fear because of widespread anti-Asian sentiment to join in the festivities.

“We really just want to share our culture, and basically be able to celebrate this joyous event with everyone,” said



William Gee, a longtime organizer of San Francisco’s annual Chinese New Year Parade & Festival. “Just the presence alone in numbers, it might actually deter anything — any malicious or nefarious activity that might be planned.”

While most Lunar New Year revelry was sidelined last year because of COVID-19, many outdoor events are returning with organizers encouraging masking for the public but mandating them for staff. The various parades will feature floats, marching bands, lion dances — and even “Star Wars” cosplayers in San Francisco.

“I hope anyone that is actually in fear of stepping outdoors because of everything that’s been happening can find assurance and a bit of solace, in terms of coming to an event where you’re going to be surrounded by like people,” Gee said.

Several cities that are holding parades and festivals held rallies recently marking the one-year anniversary of the deadly attack on Vicha Ratanapakdee. The 84-year-old Thai American was assaulted while walking in his San Francisco neighborhood.

His death was one of the first reported in what has been a series of fatal incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The grim anniversary came just a couple of weeks after the death of Michelle Alyssa Go in New York City’s Times Square. The 40-year-old died after a mentally unstable man shoved her in front of a subway.

Amanda Nguyen, an activist whose January 2021 Instagram video highlighting attacks on elderly Asians gained wide attention, said the continuous hostility is all the more reason to openly celebrate Asian cultures. Having fun with family and friends isn’t dismissing tragedy but rather “the most radical form of rebellion.”

“I know that it’s a difficult time, but Lunar New Year is a joyous celebration that’s deeply rooted in community,” Nguyen said. “I want people to know that you can grieve. You can collectively grieve, heal, and also make space to be you, to have joy.”

Russell Jeung, co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, which has been tracking incidents nationwide based on victims self-reporting, said nervous elders in Chinatowns are stuck in “de facto segregation.” For two years, they’ve limited themselves to certain streets or neighborhoods.

“So to honor our elders, we really need to help address that sense of isolation, by making them again feel included, safe, and secure,” Jeung said. “You do that by ...

LUNAR NEW YEAR IN AMERICA. A customer purchases red envelopes, which are gifted as a symbol of good luck, for the Lunar New Year in the Chinatown district of Los Angeles on January 28, 2022. Lunar New Year celebrations in honor of the Year of the Tiger began on February 1 amid warnings against travel and large gatherings due to COVID-19. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

taking them out, escorting them around, bringing them shopping, inviting them to the meals, and then working for broader safety in the community.”

Earlier this month, the San Francisco Police Department reported that anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021 jumped 567% from 2020. Preliminary data collected by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism indicates Los Angeles and New York also saw record highs of anti-Asian hate incidents. Georgia saw the most fatalities after the March 2021 Atlanta-area spa business shootings that left six Asian women dead.

Initial figures from individual police agencies indicate anti-Asian hate crime overall in the U.S. increased 339% in 2021, compared to a 124% rise in 2020, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Many people attribute the trend to former President Donald Trump talking about the coronavirus, which first appeared in China, in racial terms.

“The data is just so horrific that to see it confirmed in other sources, it doesn’t surprise us and validates what we know,” Jeung said.

Nguyen thinks incorporating more Asian American and Pacific Islander history in K-12 education can help change the climate in the future. She has been organizing petitions in various states.

“That’s when people are learning about everything. I think that a lot of hate, the xenophobia, that professional foreigner stereotype, even ‘yellow fever,’ the way that AAPIs are characterized — that stems from ignorance,” Nguyen said, using the acronym for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. “Let’s celebrate the people who have broken barriers.”

U.S. representative Grace Meng last week announced proposed legislation to make Lunar New Year a federal holiday. Its passage would show Asian Americans their government values the holiday, the New York Democrat said in a statement.

Bing Tang, of Monterey Park, California, says he doesn’t dwell too much on anti-Asian hate because nothing would come of it. Tang, who was shopping in Los Angeles’ Chinatown for tiger decorations for a family dinner of steamed chicken, fish, and lobster, said fortunately neither he nor anyone close to him has experienced any harassment or attacks.

“There’s good people, bad people all around the country,” Tang said. “I just go out normally and just have a positive attitude. What can we do? We only can control ourselves and be nice to other people.”

Associated Press photographer Damian Dovarganes in Los Angeles contributed to this report. Tang reported from Phoenix and is a member of The Associated Press’ Race and Ethnicity team.

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					7			3
		8		5			9	
	2							
6	3			2			5	8
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Difficulty level: Hard

#64187

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that the digits 1 through 9 appear one time each in every row, column, and 3x3 box.

Solution to last issue’s puzzle

Puzzle #52164 (Medium)

All solutions available at <www.sudoku.com>.

6	4	5	9	2	8	7	1	3
1	3	7	6	4	5	2	8	9
2	9	8	7	3	1	5	4	6
4	6	1	3	5	2	8	9	7
8	5	9	4	7	6	1	3	2
3	7	2	8	1	9	4	6	5
5	8	6	1	9	7	3	2	4
9	2	3	5	8	4	6	7	1
7	1	4	2	6	3	9	5	8