

# Condors to Idaho for release preparation



Four condors from the Oregon Zoo were recently sent to The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, for preparation leading to release in the wild in Arizona. Among these birds is Tatoosh (No. 367), born in April 2005, the second condor to be hatched in Oregon in more than a century. The others are Meriwether (No. 379), also hatched in 2005, and Ursa (No. 404) and Wiley (No. 420), both hatched in the spring of 2006.

Tatoosh and Meriwether are slated for release this summer into the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument of northern Arizona, and the younger two will be released during the summer of 2008.

The zoo also acquired a new condor, known as No. 385, from The Peregrine Fund. Condor No. 385 hatched in May 2005 and is considered too "genetically valuable" to be released into the wild, according to assistant condor curator Shawn St. Michael. The zoo plans to use No. 385 for breeding purposes when he reaches maturity in six years.

The past two springs have been successful breeding seasons for condors at the Oregon Zoo, and the zoo hopes this season will be successful as well. "We are just starting the

breeding season, but are seeing lots of encouraging behavior so far," says St. Michael. "All of the pairs are showing good breeding behaviors, and we have high hopes for a very productive season."

In 2001, the Oregon Zoo became the third zoo in the nation to join the California Condor Recovery Program. California condor captive-breeding programs are also operated at San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, the Los Angeles Zoo, and The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. The Oregon Zoo was the recipient of The Wildlife Society's Conservation Award for "creating the nation's fourth California condor breeding facility" in April 2005.

The zoo's condor recovery efforts take place at the Jonsen Center for Wildlife Conservation, located in Clackamas County on Metro-owned open space. The remoteness of the facility minimizes the exposure of young condors to people, increasing the chances for captive-hatched birds to survive and breed in the wild.

Condors, the largest land birds in North America, have wingspans of up to 10 feet and weigh 18 to 30 pounds. They are highly intelligent and inquisitive, often engaging in play.

Their range extended across much of North America during the Pleistocene Era, which ended about 10,000 years ago. By 1940, that range had been reduced to the coastal mountains of Southern California, and in 1967 condors were added to the first federal list of endangered species. In 1987, the 17 condors remaining in the wild were brought into captivity and a captive-breeding program was developed.

For more information about the Oregon Zoo's California condors, visit <http://www.oregonzoo.org/Condors/index.htm>.

# City of Banks hires city manager

The search has ended and Donald Whitman will start work for the city of Banks on March 5, 2007. He will be the first city manager the city of Bank's has hired. Whitman is moving from Caney, Kansas, where he was the city manager. He signed an

open-ended contract with an annual review.

Whitman's contract signifies the end of a year-long process undertaken by the city to establish a city manager position for Banks.

# Don't miss Soup Festival on Feb. 3

The Banks 2007 International Soup Festival will be Saturday, February 3, at the Banks Elementary School cafeteria from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Advance tickets are available (at discounted prices) by

calling Denise Dethlefs at 503-324-2422. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$10.00 (adults) and \$5.00 (child). Children five and under are free.

# ASSE looks for international team members

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE) is seeking volunteers to serve as Area Representatives in their communities. ASSE provides academic year, semester and short-term exchange programs in the United States for high school-aged students from around the world. Students are 15-18 years old, have passed a series of academic and character requirements, and are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to embark on their American adventure.

Area Representatives recruit and screen prospective host families, interview students to study abroad, and supervise the visiting exchange students in their community. Area Representatives are reimbursed for their expenses and are provided with some travel opportunities.

ASSE's primary goal is to contribute to international understanding through exchange programs, enabling students to learn about other languages

and cultures through active participation in family, school, and community life. ASSE Area Representatives are the cornerstone of the organization, making placements possible!

For more information, call Bonnie Chalmers at 541-514-4565, or at the regional office at 1-800-733-2773. ASSE looks forward to welcoming new Area Representatives nationwide – striving toward a world of understanding, one child at a time!

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