

Pygmy rabbits being raised at Zoo and then set free

From page 8
mesh enclosures in the wildlife area.

"We've taken extra steps to try to ensure that we don't lose these unique creatures. Every animal is important," said Kim Smith, Oregon Zoo director. "We're committed to conservation of many endangered species – large and small – and the fact is, these are the last Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits in existence."

The shy rabbits are depend-

ent on sagebrush, which makes up the majority of their diet and grows in deep loose soil in which the rabbits dig burrows. The rabbits have been edged out of their habitat as sagebrush steppe has been converted to agricultural land. Disease, wildfire and predation by raptors, coyotes and weasels also have contributed to the rabbit's decline.

Until this release, there were no Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits known to be left in the wild.

Although there are other Idaho, Oregon and Utah, the pygmy rabbits, including in **See Pygmy on page 18**

Goulart dies of gunshot wound

Stephanie Potter Goulart, 25, Rainier, died from a self-inflicted gun shot, after driving into a ditch on Hwy. 47 near Big Eddy County Park. Oregon State Police (OSP) responded to a report of a vehicle crashing into a ditch, at about 12:50 p.m. on July 21. When the OSP

trooper arrived, witnesses reported that, as they stopped to see if Goulart needed help, she shot herself in the chest with a handgun.

OSP determined that there was no evidence of any crime associated with the incident.

Police/Court Abbreviations

Abbreviations: A&D, Alcohol & Drug; DUII, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants; BUII, Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants; CCSO, Columbia County Sheriff's Office; DWS, Driving While License is Suspended; MIP, Minor In Possession of Intoxicants; MV, Motor Vehicle Accident; PCS, Possession of Controlled Substance; ODL, Oregon Driver License; FTA, Failure to Appear in Court; NTSI, National Traffic Safety Institute; DA, District Attorney; VIP, Victim Impact Panel; FF&A, Fines, Fees and Assessments.

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