

Pygmy rabbits, seen only in captivity since 2002, are in the wild

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Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit has been separated from the other populations for thousands of years and is genetically distinct.

In 2002, the remaining 16 Columbia basin pygmy rabbits were placed into breeding programs at Oregon Zoo, Washington State University and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in Washington, and bred in collaboration with the Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2003 the rabbit was listed as federally endangered. In preparation for breeding the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits, the Oregon Zoo bred Idaho pygmy rabbits, the first in the world to do so.

To strengthen the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit stock and increase the chances of a successful recovery, the rabbits have been cross-bred with wild

pygmy rabbits from Idaho. Cross-breeding of the rabbits was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The first attempt to re-introduce the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit into the wild fell short. In the spring of 2007, 20 captive-bred pygmy rabbits were released into Sagebrush Flat, but by fall, none had survived, mostly due to predation.

"To ensure a better result, we're releasing nearly five

times the number of rabbits at a time as we did last time," said David Shepherdson, deputy conservation division manager at Oregon Zoo. "Also we've devised the transitional wire mesh enclosures for their protection and to help them get accustomed to their wild habitat, which has many predators and risks. Their habitat is being restored as well, and we're hoping these factors help ensure survival for these rab-

bits." The released rabbits will have implanted microchips and some will be fitted with radio collars so conservationists can continue to track them and monitor their recovery.

For more information about the Oregon Zoo's Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit breeding program, visit www.oregonzoo.org/Conservation/pygmyrabbit.htm.

Obituary

HELEN E. DELPLANCHE

Helen E. Delplanche, 98, Verboort, died July 25, 2011. A funeral mass was held July 30 at the Visitation Catholic Church in Verboort.

Mrs. Delplanche was born February 7, 1913, in St. Johns, to Achiel and Eugenia (Maes) Claeys. The family moved to Belgium when she was eight, then to Hillsboro in 1928.

In 1935, she married John "Jack" Delplanche. They made their home on the family farm in Verboort. she was a homemaker.

She enjoyed raising a big garden, especially her "Belgium peas," crocheting, cards and traveling.

She was preceded in death by her husband; two daughters, Marie Solomon, and

Jeanne Hunker; one grandson and one great-grandson.

Survivors include two sons, Marv Delplanche of Beaverton, and Ron Delplanche of Cornelius; one daughter, Betty Vanderzanden of Banks; 19 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to the Visitation School Endowment Fund or the Visitation Cemetery.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

STEPHANIE RAE GOULART



Stephanie Rae Goulart, 25, Rainier, died July 21, 2011. A celebration of life service was held July 24 at Alston's Corner Assembly of God Church, in Rainier, with the Rev. Steve Barry officiating. Private cremation rites were held.

Mrs. Goulart was born October 3, 1985, at Gasoline Alley

(on Hwy. 47), Vernonia, to Stuart M. and Kathleen C. (Everett) Potter. The family moved to Clatskanie when she was four years old. She returned to Vernonia when she was 18 and graduated from Vernonia High School in 2004.

She enjoyed art, the Oregon coast, the outdoors, fishing, and her pot belly pig, "Patsy" and her pug, "Prissy".

She was preceded in death by grandparents, David Samuel Potter, and Merle Everett, both of Vernonia, and Carol Williams of Libby, Montana; and an aunt.

Survivors include her fiancé, Todd Nelson and his son, Cody, of Rainier; two sons, Josiah David Goulart and Jonah Leroy Goulart, both of Rainier; her parents of Clatskanie; a brother, Joshua William Potter of Clatskanie; a sister, Shayla Elizabeth Potter of Clatskanie; aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Remembrances are suggested to the Stephanie R. Potter Goulart Trust Fund, for her children, in care of Stuart M. Potter, P.O. Box 653, Clatskanie, OR 97016.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia was in charge of arrangements.

JAMES F. HOLM

James F. Holm, 65, Ver-

nonia, died July 20, 2011.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia will release a complete obituary in the next issue.

STEPHEN JAMES MITCHELL

Stephen James Mitchell, 61, Banks, died July 24, 2011.

Mr. Mitchell was born December 31, 1949, in Oakland, California, to James and Shirley (Skaug) Mitchell. He was an Elevator Field Tech and Engineer for over 30 years.

He enjoyed golf, fishing and cooking. He never found a tool he didn't expect to need and was able to fix just about anything.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria; a son, Zachary; and three grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Diabetes Association.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

NORMA LEE TIPTON

Norma Lee Tipton, 75, Beaverton, died July 21, 2011. Graveside services were held July 25 at Mt. View Memorial Gardens, in Forest Grove, with funeral celebrant Helen Matzke officiating.

Mrs. Tipton was born April 19, 1936, in Brownwood, Texas, to Red and Anna Lee (Horton) McWhorter. She was



Norma Lee Tipton

raised in Texas.

In 1973, she married Jerry Wayne Tipton. They made their home in Tigard before moving to Hillsboro in 1981. She moved to Beaverton in 1995. She worked as a purchasing agent for Fujitsu for thirteen years, retiring at age 62.

She enjoyed crocheting, bicycling, collectables, gardening, music, and her dog, "Fifer".

She was preceded in death by her husband; a brother, James Elmer McWhorter; and a sister, Verna May Casper.


Survivors include four sons, Curtis Aaron of Springfield, Missouri; Jerry Dean Aaron of Brownwood, Texas, Michael Aaron of Buxton, and Danny M. Aaron of Beaverton; a step-daughter, Connie Tipton of California; a brother, Lynn Goss of LaGrande; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the Norma T. Tipton Memorial Fund, c/o Marquis Care, or the American Cancer Society.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home of Forest Grove was in charge of arrangements.

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