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The Friends of the Moonridge Zoo is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to support the Moonridge Animal Park through (1) educating the public regarding the treatment, protection, and conservation of wildlife, (2) recruiting and coordinating zoo volunteers, and (3) Fundraising.

The Moonridge Animal Park is owned and managed by the Big Bear Recreation and Park District of San Bernardino County. The park is an alpine wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center. For those animals that cannot be released, they are provided a "Home for Life" in the park.

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Milo A Snow Leopard *Carmen Prouty*

On Valentine's Day this year, our little zoo lost a star. Milo died.

While usually a very pleasant cat, Milo could be stubborn, very stubborn if he thought it was necessary. And he was a fussy eater, a really picky eater, but he sure loved a good steak or venison from time to time. Above all, Milo loved to be petted, but even then, he would hiss just to remind you that he and he alone was in charge. After all, he was a leopard and leopards demand respect.

When Milo became ill, he was treated by Dr. Karl Hill, SSP's specialist for Snow Leopards for the entire United States. Dr. Hill visited Milo twice, but the second time would be his last. Milo had lost his battle to the cancer. He was 14 years old.

We will all miss Milo—the keepers, the docents, and his many fans. But maybe, just maybe, another star with golden eyes will grace our little zoo. Until then, dear Milo, be happy on your heavenly journey.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bill Young, President

Fellow Educators...

Before we can educate zoo visitors, we have to get them in the front gates. We long ago realized that we couldn't duplicate the scale of Busch Gardens or Disney's Animal Kingdom, but we don't have to. At Moonridge Zoo the entrance fees are lower, and the expectations of the guests are less grandiose. People don't come to the Moonridge Zoo hoping to ride a screaming roller coaster... they come to see real animals, and to hear their real stories. And we as Docents make it easier not just to connect with the animals, but to believe the animals are opening a window into their private lives. Even without knowing it, visitors can slip outside of themselves and the old become younger, the smart see things in a different light, and the young beam with thoughts of becoming a Vet. Isn't it cool to watch "the light come on"?

Let's consider the Mt. Lions; they're soft, they purr, they rub against Debbie's leg, and they seem to be big tame house cats. But watch the visitor's reaction when the big cats jump the full length of the enclosure in a single bound! You just know there's much more than a "house cat" inside their bodies. It's our job to help visitors understand the differences between large cats and small cats, round pupils vs vertical, retractable claws, growl vs. purr. Isn't it cool to watch "the light come on"?

We get to explain the "Circle of Life" when the kids are watching Lulubelle eat a whole rat piece by piece. We get to chat about the power in her talons, and talk about her nesting habits, why she lays eggs, and why she's here. Isn't it cool to watch "the light come on"?

We encourage kids of all ages to try out their best howl to see if the coyotes and wolves will respond. We tell the story that wolves won't howl at the same pitch as other wolves, that they're constantly changing individual pitch so nobody is singing in the same voice.

Then we get to tell the story of the wolf puppies and all of the "9s" in their life. We explain that even when they're being playful, they move with a heaviness that has nothing to do with how much they weigh and everything to do with what they're becoming. Pretty cool to see the "light come on", isn't it? And finally, we understand that our zoo visitors won't care about how much we know, until they know how much we care. On a good day, our zoo shakes people into thinking about what it's like to walk on the earth with four legs, what it's like to eat a whole rat, or to get from here to there by crawling on your tummy, or to fly above the forests... even though most of the animals on display will never have the chance to do any of those things again, at least not in the wild. So, no matter how you serve the Zoo with volunteer hours, you are all very special... Whether we work in the kitchen, as roamers, as the Dept. of Water and Flowers, or working in the Gift Shop or Grazing Corral, you've made the "light come on" for thousands of zoo visitors in the past, and together we'll "keep the lights burning" for decades to come.

Meet the New Editor

Sue Morrissey

Hello, Paw Prints readers. This is my first issue as the editor of the newsletter, but some of you may recognize my name from Critter Chatter, which I took over from Carmen Prouty last year. That has been such a joy to work on that I decided to give Paw Prints a try. I've been a docent for almost 3 years, and a member of the Board of Directors since last fall. I have been part of the "Department of Water and Flowers" at the zoo since I became a docent in the spring of 2008. I also volunteer at the Sheriff's station as a Citizen on Patrol, and I started doing fingerprinting there last summer. In the winter, I work at Snow Summit as part of the Mountain Security crew. Prior to moving to Big Bear in 2006, my husband and I lived in Irvine. He is a retired aerospace engineer, and I spent most of my working career as a Human Resources manager at a couple of large manufacturing firms. I also spent 8 years as a manager at the student center at UCI Irvine. I love living in Big Bear Lake and, after being a part time resident for almost 20 years, I am thrilled to call this my home.



We are on Facebook

www.facebook.com/bigbearzoo

Milo

3 Hawks

You have gone home
Home to your spirit place
Free of bondage
Free to be free

You came to us
In the place of another
Yet none of you
Is a replacement for another

Each a spirit
Each to know
Each to be one with
Each we love

Enter your spirit lodge with peace
Know you brought joy to us
The beauty of your being
Was only a cover of your beautiful
spirit

Your family is ours
We are one with you
Always it will be
And to it shall be

Your family is in peril
We love you enough
To stand up for your own
We are the Friends...this is what
we do

Stand tall Milo
You are a great teacher
Of how fragile things are
We love you enough to do what we
do

Always we will honor you
And those who come after you
It is the way of the Friends
Each life a sacred path

Enjoy your new freedom
Roam as you were meant to roam
Please never forget us
Nor the love of the Friends of the
Moonridge Zoo

2011 SPECIAL EVENTS

DATES & TIMES	SPECIAL EVENTS: All special events in the park, except the Photography Contest and the Ice Cream Safari have no additional costs--regular admission applies.
May 14 10am - 4pm	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: Four photography groups: Advanced, Intermediate, Apprentice and Children (under 13 years old).
May 28-29 10am - 3pm	OLD TIME BEAR COUNTRY FAIR: Enjoy country fair activities for the whole family. Includes face painting, jewelry making, bear toss, and bear roaring contest. Also pie eating contest between our 3 black bears--who eats their pie the fastest?
July 2-3 10am - 3pm	23rd Annual ZOOCCASION: An educational program with a several fun games for kids such as a Walk-around-the-Park quizzes to win an "Expert Wildlife" button.
August 6 1pm - 7pm	BLUES FOR THE ZOO CONCERT: Showcasing Chicago Blues at Swim Beach. Details to follow.
September 3 11am - until ice cream runs out	ICE CREAM SAFARI: Tour the Zoo and enjoy ice cream at special stations throughout the park. Additional price to participate in Ice Cream Safari is \$5.00 per person.
September 10 9:30am - 5pm	RUN FOR THE GRIZZLIES: 16th Annual Harley Bike Run fundraiser for our Grizzly Bears. Open to the public and all bikes welcome! Poker Run around the Lake.
October 15 11am - 3pm	WOLF AWARENESS DAY: We dispel myths about wolves and provide information about their importance within the circle of life.
October 29 1pm - 5pm	BOO IN THE ZOO: Bring your children (and yourself) dressed in costumes to this special afternoon of Tricks 'n Treats. Enjoy seeing the park animals receive their Halloween treats! Win a prize for best costume(s) in several categories.
NOTE	The Native American Arts Festival and "Sentinel" Day will not be held this year, but are planned for future years. Please call (909)878-4200 for more information about any of our events.

TWO IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

DOCENT TRAINING CLASSES begin on Saturday, April 16th., and will continue for the next three consecutive Saturdays. A second session of classes will be held on Thursdays, beginning May 12th. You will learn about our park's history, meet the animals, and explore volunteer activities. Docents must be at least 18 year old. Classes run from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

OUR ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST will be on Saturday May 14th. The contest is open to all. Registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under thirteen. Register at the zoo on the day of the event. Please call 909-878-4200 or visit our website for more information.



WILLOW THE PORCUPINE

Melinda Hope

Willow is our female porcupine. She was born in 2002 and came to our Zoo from Awesome Exotics in 2004.

Porcupines have approximately 30,000 sharp barbed quills interspersed with bristles, under-fur, and hair. These quills or spines defend them from predators. The microscopic barbs on the ends cause the quill to be continually driven into the muscle of its predators. Porcupines release their quills by backing into the enemy and making contact. Quills may drop out when the porcupine shakes its body or slaps its tail, but **porcupines cannot throw their quills**. As soon as a quill is released, another one grows to replace it.

Porcupines are the largest North American rodent and weigh 10-28 pounds. They are herbivores, and their diet in the wild consists of leaves, herbs, twigs, and green plants. They are excellent climbers and are frequently seen at the tops of trees. They usually live in forested areas. To attract a mate, the porcupine will urinate on itself.

Our Willow is in her enclosure across from the mountain lions and on the way to see the wolves. Be sure to stop by and give her an appreciative look. And don't worry about her quills!

Have you watched any of the videos we have online? They are located at <http://moonridgezoo.org/map/education.html>

Getting to Know....Gale Nichols, FOMZ Office Manager Sue Morrissey

Gale Nichols has been the FOMZ Office Manager since July of 2010, and we are so fortunate to have her. She became a docent in April of the same year. Gale says that she had wanted to become a docent since she and her husband began visiting Big Bear about 10 years ago, but wasn't able to make it fit her schedule. When she became a full time resident last year, one of the first things she did was to sign up for docent training classes. Gale says "I just wanted to help. I wanted to be a part an organization that I believe in." Gale still volunteers in the zoo's kitchen every Sunday, and took over the position of buyer for the gift shop last November. Cheryl Moore had been trying to find someone to be the buyer for a long time, and Gale stepped in to fill the need. She is one busy lady!

Gale and her husband bought their home in Big Bear about 7 years ago, and were able to move here full-time a little more than a year ago. He works as a chef at a local hotel. Gale and her husband, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Valentine's day, have 5 furry children (3 cats and 2 dogs), but she tells me they don't have any of the "bald two-legged kind".

When I asked Gale what she liked best about her job with FOMZ she said "I absolutely love everything about my job! I love being creative and putting a shiny new look on things. I love learning how the organization works. I love working towards our growth and success for the animals and their future location. I truly look forward to taking on more duties if possible. I simply love being able to contribute. How many people can say, "I can't wait to go to work"? I am one of those people." It sounds like this is a perfect fit all the way around.

Gale had a very interesting series of jobs "down the hill" – she was an office manager for an investment/financial planning firm for 9 years, and prior to that was an Advertising Account Executive & Advertising Coordinator for a major newspaper for 5 years. She was also in the Entertainment Industry as a Set Lighting Technician / Electrician for 15 years.

She loves living in Big Bear Valley and tells me "I like the small town feel, the mountains, the pines, the lake, nature, and of course it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, I like being near to the animal park. No more big city! Yet we are still close enough to the bigger city when we need to go to Trader Joe's, Costco, the mall and let's not forget Coffee Bean (which is far better than that other coffee chain)."

Gale says that she feels so fortunate to have been chosen to be a part of our organization, but I think the Friends are the fortunate ones. If you haven't had a chance to meet Gale, stop by and say hello to her at the FOMZ office – or you can see her at the zoo every Sunday. She'll be the one carrying trays of animal food around the park.

Of Wolves and Humans

(Way...that voice in the distant wind which stirs the primal birth path of life's mystique.)

3 Hawks

Many of you may never see any of my family in our natural home nor enjoy the thrill of listening to our sacred song as we walk upon the beautiful face of our Earth Mother.

Once, our home was from horizon to horizon in this land you humans call North America but now we have little freedom left, and yet still we work diligently to keep your natural world in balance. The Cherokee call us Waya (Wah-yah) and we were respected and honored for all we were able to teach the first humans upon this land.

Today, you call us Wolf...and for many of you, this word strikes a sense of fear into your spirit. Chief Dan George, one of your Native wise men once said, *'If you talk to the animals they will talk with you and you will know each other. If you do not talk to them you will not know them, and what you do not know you will fear. What one fears one destroys.'*

There are not many of my family left so I would like to speak on their behalf that you might get to know us and understand that which we can teach you about your own journey along this path of life.

Please take a moment and imagine, if you will, that you work hard to raise your young and provide for their every need in matters of food, training and shelter. Imagine you being one who is dedicated to your family where family value exceeds the self and you care for your old ones as few others would do. Imagine you being the one who spends a lifetime working to keep nature in balance so that all things natural exist in a harmonious cycle for the betterment of all that is. Imagine the amount of work and dedication this takes.

Now, imagine being hunted to near extinction because your media, books, movies and old children's stories have spread misinformation about you to the point that for all your good work you are now feared by others.

This has been our earth journey among you humans and we hope it will change.

In taking care of our family, we will travel many miles over rugged terrain and through hostile weather conditions to make sure our family is fed and that our young ones can grow strong. This takes

endurance and will teach you that you too may have to go to great lengths to provide physical, spiritual, and educational foods for your family but with the same endurance we show you can accomplish your goal as well. This will also help you pass through personal fears and endure the 'cold winds' that may figuratively blow across your life path. We do not have stores to go to so when we hunt it often takes great patience to get what we are after and this is good to keep in mind on your daily journey where patience can 'wear thin' with your species. How often do you find yourself in front of your microwave...a device you have that will cook a product in one minute...and notice yourself strumming your fingers wishing it would hurry up! Patience...we teach you patience!



Our families have structure and each one has a role in the well being of the unit or pack. Our young are trained from early on to be responsible and respectful, to do their part and look after the whole. You humans would do well to study our ways and perhaps your family unit will be prepared for whatever may cross your path. With us, family value transcends pride and ego and when our young grow up and have their own pups they stay and take care of them.

We have a great sense of smell and can pick up scents from great distances and it is not unusual for us to lift our lips to make use of a gland in our gums to help define the scent. This is often taken by your media as being aggressive and threatening and thus stereotyped my family to horrific dimensions. Our hearing is excellent to about 12 of your miles and we listen

well to what is going on around us. This can help you humans to remember to be aware of what is happening in your circle or near you. Do you walk in busy traffic areas wearing headphones...do you really 'listen' to what your children are saying or pay attention to your friends, spouse or others? It is easy to get absorbed in your busy world and forget to listen...so listen...and be safe!

Since we live in the great outdoors and don't wear shoes, our feet 'feel' the earth and we learn to walk carefully. I hope you will also take time to walk barefoot on the earth so you can 'feel' her. Shoes take away the sensitivity of your feet and it is easy for your kind to walk in delicate areas and not be aware of the damage you might be doing to what is there. We also have an ability to alter the temperature in our feet when walking in near freezing water or in deep snow and ask that you also alter the 'footprint' you leave behind by placing your trash in proper areas or hiking it out with you.

We all share this small planet and we all can do our part to live in harmony.

You may not see me in the wild, but I have cousins at the Moonridge Animal Park in Big Bear Lake, California who would love to see you and give you a reasonably close encounter with them so you can see just how beautiful and wonderful they are. They cannot be released into the natural areas that I roam but are treated with the greatest of love and respect by the staff and volunteers who care for them and all the other residents there.

Animals that can be released are released and those who cannot are given a 'home for life' and I am glad my Wolf cousins and all their neighbors have such a place to live out their lives. This is made possible by your donations and each thanks you for your help.

Well...we didn't get to grandma or the pigs in this article but perhaps we will do that in the future. Until then, please take time to learn more about us and how we work to keep nature in balance and that we are not the 'Big Bad Wolves' that some have portrayed us to be! 'Hooowww!' you'll 'see' us is now up to what you learn!

Your wolf family...

3 Hawks *(on behalf of those who do not speak the human language)*

Musings by Paddy

Paddy Speyers

The 1959 fire in Big Bear Valley and the 1987-88 fire in the eastern Yellowstone Park area contributed to the creation of the Moonridge Animal Park. Fires do destroy – but they also clean and initiate new beginnings.

In 1959, a bear cub was rescued from a tree after the wildfire in Big Bear Valley. He was among several injured animals that were brought to safety at the Snow Summit ski area for rehabilitation and a second chance at life in the wild. But for some, returning to the forest was not an option – due to injuries that compromised their survival.

Moonridge Animal Park was created to fill this need. The directors of Goldmine Ski Corporation donated a 50 year lease on 2 ½ acres, and Big Bear Valley Recreation and Park District agreed to care for the animals. The original bear cub, Herman, was among the Park's first permanent residents and lived for 21 years.

A Grizzly bear cub is “kicked out” by its mom at age 3. Cubs are taught by their mom where to find food and shelter. Cub #163 was forced to flee from her home area by the huge year long fire in eastern Yellowstone in 1987-88. Unable to find food in the North Fork corridor in Wyoming, she got into trouble – initiating her first capture and release into an area further away from people.

Grizzly bears have a keen sense of smell and when they can't find enough of their natural food (fruits, berries, nuts, acorns, grass, roots, sapwood, insects, and fish), they will raid garbage from campgrounds or break into cabins and cars. #163 was captured a second time in 1992 and was released in the Sunlight Peak insect area. #163 was caught a third time in August 1995, and this time she had two cubs with her. After “three strikes”, a bear is usually put down. This time, the decision was made to try to find a facility that would accept the Grizzly family before resorting to killing them.

Our Director at that time, Don Richardson, asked FOMZ if they could raise the funds to keep the Grizzly family alive. So, the campaign to “Bring ‘em Back Alive” began. The Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle offered to keep them for three months while FOMZ publicized the need. Anne Bailey spread the word nationally; the Marines helped clear the habitat area; local businesses helped, and soon we were getting offers of help from all over America.

The Grizzlies came home on May 16, 1996. At that time, Mom was eleven and the cubs were fourteen months old. The mother was renamed from her forest tracking number #163 to TuTu, a name associated with the Serrano Native Americans, whose people once roamed the San Bernardino Mountains. The male cub was named Harley by the Inland Empire Harley Davidson club. His sister was named Ayla by zoo personnel. They adapted quickly to their new surroundings, and enjoyed romping in their pool. Today, the cubs tower over their mother, and all three bears are healthy. Tutu is now 26 years old. Grizzly bears typically live about 25 years in the wild. However, in captivity they tend to live longer, so we plan on having this special family around for quite a while.

PARTY FOR THE WOLF PUPS!

On Saturday, April 9, 11am-2pm, we will be celebrating our wonderful wolf pups' second birthday with a party for them at the Zoo, and YOU are invited! We will once again offer for sale to the visitors wrapped appropriate gifts prepared for the pups by zoo staff. There will be a cake (for the wolves) and wolf cookies for the humans. Please come – it will be “howling good time”!

The pups are still growing. Blair is the largest at approximately 125 pounds, and Logan at approximately 65 pounds is the smallest. The other seven are somewhere in between. They all eat zoo wolf kibble and an all-meat diet including steak and chicken. They also enjoy dog biscuits and bones. If you would like to bring a special treat for the pups, please bring Pup-peroni still in the original unopened package and leave it with the cashier as you enter the Zoo. Pup-peroni is their favorite.

Their personalities are still developing. Logan and Noelle are acting like “evil step-sisters” with each other. This is due to being raised in captivity and is normal in this instance. Logan is also starting to challenge the males. The alpha male and alpha female will be determined when they are closer to three years old.

Do you remember their names? The females are Bayou, Logan, Noelle, and Spirit. The males are Blair, Legend, Lucien, Sedona, and Truck.

See you at the party!



Christy with 5 of the pups—it's very difficult to get all 9 active youngsters together for a photo!



RECYCLE !!!!!

<p>WORD SEARCH</p> <p>U B J L H E Y K M S N A I A W L J V M K K O W S Z O Y N X U B K O Z O G D A T N S G I C N N I C V K L R K S C W Z I F H G R E E D A H L R O T U R T L E R E E D R B E T I Y O P S E K O A O M O E G T U</p>	<p>Find: Bison Deer Grizzly Hawk Owl Pelican Raccoon Skunk Turtle</p>	<p>Chipper is a grey squirrel. She has 12 acorns. She wants to share with 2 friends. How many will each get? _____</p>	
	<p>Connect the names: Blue Pelican Brown Fox Black Deer Red Bear Mule Whale</p>	<p>Build a fun summer bird feeder!</p> <p><u>What you need:</u> pine cone, peanut butter, bird seed and string.</p> <p><u>What to do:</u> Have a parent help you smear peanut butter all over the pine cone...then roll it in bird seed and hang it up outside!</p> <p>ENJOY!!</p>	

Do YOU know?? A Hummingbird can fly backwards and upside down!

<p><u>Circle</u> the words that are spelled <u>correctly</u>:</p> <p>Eaggle Coyote Fox Beaver Snake Raccoon</p>	<p>WHO AM I?</p> <p>I am a very large bird and when my wings are open for flying they can span a distance of six or seven feet across. My head and tail are white when I am an adult and you can find me in many parts of the United States. I like to be around large areas of water so I can fish and feed my family. My nests can be several feet wide and we often use the same nest year after year. I am the North American.....</p> <p>_____</p>
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Howdy!!
 I am Wally the Frog and I hope you are enjoying your spring this year. I hope you and your family will take time to visit the Moonridge Zoo and learn about all my friends here. Please remember to recycle and when you are in the outdoors, please take your trash to the proper places so animals, birds and yes, us frogs, don't get hurt by them. Thank you for being smart and doing your partto keep our earth clean!

Meiko says....you are like our earth...one of a kind and very special!

**Yes! I'm wild about the
MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK**

Please help me Adopt a wild bird or animal for \$25.00

I want to adopt _____
(name of bird or animal)

for _____
(name of person)

Mail this form to: FOMZ, Adoptions
P.O. Box 2557 • Big Bear City, CA 92314

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

*Make check payable to: FOMZ
(Friends of the Moonridge Zoo)*

Date: _____ Amount \$ _____

Paid by: Check Cash MasterCard Visa

Acct. # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Visit Us on the Web

Discover More

Before your next visit to the Moonridge Animal Park, browse our website at <http://www.moonridgezoo.org>

Learn what's new at the park and when the next Special Event is scheduled. You can read about some of the animals and find out why they are with us.

Also background information of the Friends of the Moonridge Zoo can be reviewed, and you can read details regarding the relocation efforts to move the park.

Membership

Has your membership lapsed or would you like to join as a new member?

You can renew or become a new member online at <http://moonridgezoo.org/fomz/join.html> or call 909 878-4200

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