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MAY 17, 2022

Pen Argyl Women's Club Celebrates 100th Anniversary!

By Rep. Ann Flood

PEN ARGYL - On Tuesday, I presented the Pen Argyl Women's Club with a House citation recognizing its 100th anniversary!

Established in 1922, these women were a pinnacle of our community making inestimable contributions to the welfare of society through a sense of fellowship and through its programs.

Some of their community projects throughout the Slate Belt include scholarships to local students, supporting reading education, donating bottles of milk to families, as well as provide dental and medical care to children. As I presented the citation to this amazing group and looked out at the many women in the room, it was not lost on me how many directly or indirectly touched my life in some way. From my childhood Sunday school teacher, to my next door neighbor and even my son's kindergarten teacher.

All these women working behind the scenes making our community better. I was honored to be there with these amazing ladies.

This is a wonderful milestone for a group of ladies who pour so much into our community.



Lehigh Valley Zoo Welcomes A New Masai Giraffe Joshua Joins Tatu at the LV Zoo from Houston Zoo

By Matt Provence

LEHIGH VALLEY Lehigh Valley Zoo is excited to officially announce the arrival of a new Masai giraffe. Joshua, a six-year-old male giraffe from Houston Zoo, will join six-year-old male giraffe, Tatu, in the Masai giraffe habitat at LV Zoo. Joshua is currently 16-1/2-feet tall and is still growing. He weighs more than 2,000 pounds.

Born July 23, 2015, at Virginia Zoo, Joshua was the fifth calf born to mother, Imara, and father, Billy. Per the recommendation of the Giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Joshua joined the Houston Zoo in hopes for him to sire calves. While there, he successfully sired a son, Bobbie, with mother, Kamili, in September of 2019 -- making them both firsttime parents.

Joshua has been remarkably trained by his team at Houston Zoo for behaviors such as blood draws. The LV Zoo team is thrilled to continue to work with him on his voluntary medical behaviors. The experts at LV Zoo have created an introduction plan to help Joshua and Tatu establish a bond. In the initial period after his arrival, Joshua will have access to the giraffe barn so he can learn the lay of the land and settle into his new surroundings.

Tatu will be able to investigate him through "howdy points," which are designed to allow the pair to greet each other by choice. The animal care team at LV Zoo is well educated in animal behavior and once both giraffes are comfortable, staff will continue to give them more access to each other in different parts of the exhibit.

This entire process will be carefully monitored by LV Zoo's senior keepers, curators and veterinarians.

By participating in the SSP, accredited zoos are provided the opportunity to educate guests about Masai giraffe conservation and its importance to the ecosystem. Masai giraffes are listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), primarily due to poaching and changes in land use. There is an estimated 35,000 Masai giraffes remaining, but their population has fallen by 50 percent over the last three decades.





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Continued on page 5 Joshua (L) Tatu (R)

