

For Immediate Release

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Cast Your Vote and Help Name a Penguin Chick at the Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (April 7, 2016) – Six endangered Humboldt penguin chicks have hatched at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo this season. Now that its gender has been determined, the zoo would like the public to vote on a name for the fourth chick, a male. The chick hatched on March 3 to parents Veinte and Isa and weighed 80 grams. It was introduced by County Executive Joanie Mahoney at a March 23 press conference.

Humboldt penguins are named after the Humboldt Current, a nutrient-rich ocean current in South America that flows along the coast of Peru and Chile. Penguin keepers at the zoo have selected names that reflect this cultural heritage, in addition to one with local sports appeal and pride. The zoo is asking for the public to cast their votes. The five name choices are:

Emilio

Meaning: Friendly

Hector

Meaning: Tenacious

Lorenzo

Meaning: Crowned with a laurel

Salvador

Meaning: Savior

Otto

Meaning: Wealth, fortune; in celebration of

Syracuse University Orange men's and women's basketball and their historic 2016 NCAA Tournament run



Online voting is now available via the contest page: rosamondgiffordzoo.org/naming-contest.

Votes will be taken for five days, April 7-11; all votes must be received by 4 p.m. on April 11. The name that receives the highest number of votes will be the name by which the penguin chick will be known. The winner will be announced via a media alert and on the zoo's website and social media platforms on April 12.

Only 10,000-12,000 Humboldt penguins remain in the wild. The Rosamond Gifford Zoo plays an important role in conserving Humboldt penguins as part of the Species Survival Plan. Penguins from the zoo's colony travel to other AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to ensure efforts to continue populating the species.

Animal staff has named the four other chicks. The gender of the sixth could not be determined at this time; the chick will be named by staff at a later date (see chart below). There are currently 37 penguins in the zoo's colony; 48 chicks have hatched at the zoo since 2006. The newest chicks will remain under the care of their parents until they are weaned. They will join the rest of the colony on exhibit at Penguin Coast later this spring and summer.

New Humboldt Penguin Chicks at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Birth Date	Gender	Name	Meaning
12/5/15	Female	Estrella	Star
02/20/16	Male	Luis	Famous warrior
02/21/16	Male	Elmer	Elmer's Glue (repaired crack in egg)
03/03/16	Male	(Vote now!)	(Vote now!)
03/03/16	Female	Luz	Light
03/07/16	Undetermined	TBD	TBD

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests "the best day ever," ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

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County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
 Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

