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90 Years is Cause for a Celebration

90th birthdays are certainly a cause for celebration. Lee Richardson Zoo only residents who could potentially celebrate a 90th birthday are the two African spurred tortoises. These giant tortoises are, in their mid-20's, but they could easily live to be 90 or older. While it will be many years before we celebrate a 90th birthday for the tortoises we, are excited to be celebrating Lee Richardson Zoo's 90th birthday next week!

May 14th, Mother's Day, will kick off our week of events leading to the 90th Birthday Bash. For this special day animals at the zoo who are moms will be recognized with a bow on their exhibit sign. See how many zoo moms your family can spot throughout the zoo. Keeper chats will showcase iconic zoo moms starting at 10:30 am with the Goeldi's monkey, red kangaroo at 11 am, red panda at 12 pm, African lion at 1 pm, trumpeter swan at 1:30 pm, and Bactrian camel at 2:30 pm. At the keeper chats, you will have the opportunity to talk with keepers who care for the animals and find out about breeding programs at the zoo that are helping to save species. Giraffe Encounters will run from 1:30- 2:30 pm, weather and giraffe permitting, and moms will be able to feed the giraffes for free (one free encounter per a mom) when they purchase an encounter for a child. Don't forget to visit the Safari Shoppe where moms will receive 10% off any purchase, as well as 10% purchase of Family, Grandparent, or higher level zoo memberships, and mothers can combine the Mother's Day discount with membership discounts to save 20%. Celebrating Mother's Day at the zoo is sure to be a wild time!

Tuesday, May 16th, the Friends of Lee Richardson Zoo will be hosting "Blues at the Zoo". The southwest gate on the West Green will open at 6 pm for entrance for a concert featuring the Nighthawks starting at 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased at Patrick Dugan's Coffee House, Clarion Inn, Lee Richardson Zoo, and online at folrz.org. Adult tickets are \$20 at the gate but are \$15 if you purchase your tickets in advance. This is a family friendly event and admission is \$5 for kids ages 6-12 and free for children 5 years and under. Food and beverages will be available for purchase as well as \$1 beer for those 21 and over with proper ID. Bring the family and the lawn chairs for this fun evening at the zoo.

Join us May 19th from 3 pm-6 pm for Endangered Species Day. Explore discovery carts and fun activities which will highlight animals from around the world and how we can help endangered species. Keeper chats will be at siamang at 3 pm, addax at 4 pm, and the bald eagle at 5 pm. At Endangered

Species Day you can show your support for endangered wildlife by purchasing a temporary tattoo featuring endangered species. The temporary tattoo sales will go towards the conservation of endangered wildlife; large tattoos are \$1 and small tattoos are 50 cents. It will be a fun-filled afternoon to raise awareness for endangered species.

Finally, join us for the 90th Birthday Bash on Saturday, May 20th, with activities running from 10 am to 4 pm. Walk the zoo grounds and explore Community Exhibitors, attend Keeper Chats throughout the day, or take a closer look at Discovery Carts highlighting some of our resident animals. Don't forget to drop in and visit the Finnup Center for Conservation Education to vote for your favorite Cake Decorating or Photo Contest submission. If you are interested in entering our cake decorating contest with the theme of "Zoo Birthday", the application form must be submitted by May 16th. A matted 8X10 printed photo highlighting "My favorite thing about Lee Richardson Zoo!" can be submitted to our photo contest by May 12th. At 1:30 we encourage all guests to join us in their best animal outfit for the Wildside Walk. All family friendly costumes or your best zoo shirt are welcome. The Wildside Walk will meet at the north side of the rhino exhibit and from there will their stuff to the Finnup Center for Conservation Education where participants and zoo guests will enjoy birthday refreshments and hold a Happy Birthday sing-along. Birthday refreshments will be available on the Finnup Center patio from 2 pm until they're gone.

If you would like more information on any of the events occurring the week of May 14th- 20th visit our website, leerichardsonzoo.org, or call, 620-276-1250. Join us for our 90th Birthday Bash, it will be a wild time!