There is an expression that is often bestowed on others, “May You Live in Interesting Times”. As many times as I have heard it, I have never understood if it is a blessing or a curse. With the advent of the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), and what it has means for Rolling Hills Zoo and the community, I think that I now know that it is both one and the same time.

Yes, the coronavirus is something of a curse. We don’t necessarily know where it came from or how we are going to defeat it as we move into the days and weeks ahead. This is a vexing problem and one that has forced us to close our beloved Zoo and cancel our upcoming public education programs and special events to do our part to reduce infections and protect our animals.

But it is also something of a blessing as we learn each and every day just how strong, resilient and creative we are in the face of adversity. In an effort to keep our staff healthy we are aggressively engaged in the daily practices of hand washing, social distancing and the other recommendations made by our healthcare providers. After all, we need healthy employees to provide the very best in animal care and to support one another.

Our dedicated staff members are working diligently to protect and care for the incredible animals we have at the Zoo. Schedules are adjusted, duties reassigned and additional tasks taken on, to ensure that no harm comes to those in our care. The staff, indeed your staff, have stepped up like never before to ensure that the Zoo comes out of this stronger and better.

The public programs, educational experiences, and all the other things we do each and every day have not gone away. They will be delayed for a bit but they are being rescheduled as I write. Staff in Animal Care, Education and Marketing are working together to create video experiences from inside the Zoo that will not only provide some much-needed relief for our community, but will help you stay connected with your Zoo and the animals you love.

The benefits that you know and love, like membership, will remain in place. We will be extending everyone’s membership for the period we are closed to the public. We look forward to welcoming you back once the Zoo is open again.

As we move into the weeks ahead, the Zoo will face many of the same challenges as our community and nation. But with a sense of optimism and hope, we welcome the opportunity to work with each and every one of you to make our future brighter than ever before.

Robert Jenkins, Executive Director

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Membership Update Due To COVID-19

As you may know by now, Rolling Hills Zoo, like other AZA Zoos & Aquariums across the nation, closed its gates on March 18th to visitors in an effort to protect our guests, staff and volunteers from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) while still providing quality care for our animals.

We will remain closed until it is deemed safe to re-open. In addition, our ZOOrific EGGstravaganza which was planned for April 4th is being rescheduled for a future date yet to be determined. Not to worry if you are a zoo member. The duration of your membership will be extended for the amount of time that the zoo is closed. We look forward to getting past this hurdle and re-opening Rolling Hills Zoo to you as the coronavirus situation and the weather improves!
For over 130 years, the goal of The Bennington State Bank has been to listen to the needs of their customers and communities and offer an exceptional banking experience. BSB is locally owned, managed, and staffed and has grown to be one of the largest independent banks in Kansas with locations in Salina, Bennington, Minneapolis, Lucas, Sylvan Grove and Wamego.

As a locally owned and managed community bank, BSB not only does business in their communities, they also invest in them. As a community bank, BSB realizes that they have the unique ability and responsibility to help support, give back, and improve every facet of the communities they serve. As such, the BSB team proudly dedicates their time, resources and hearts to give back to their communities. A recent example of giving back in the community happened during the month of February when several passionate BSB employees came together to raise over $8,000 to give to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Salina Bowl for Kids Sake!

The Bennington State Bank is proud to invest in the local communities where you live and work, helping local businesses and individuals thrive. BSB has deep roots in the Agricultural and Commercial sectors, as well as becoming a leading hometown bank for consumers. When you bank at BSB, you are helping to build the local economy as BSB gives back thousands of dollars each year to support local organizations like Rolling Hills Zoo.

As a Corporate Sponsor with Rolling Hills Zoo over the last twelve years, Bennington State Bank feels that the Zoo plays an important part in our community's quality of life. From special events to family outings, our Zoo is a great place for people of all ages to connect with nature and animal species from around the world.

BSB takes pride in being able to offer personalized service for all of your banking needs from opening an account, questions about an existing account, purchasing a home, investing for your future, or starting a business. They have the latest leading edge technology that you would find at a large bank but pair it with the personalized care and service of a local hometown bank. The Bennington State Bank understands and cares about central Kansas communities!

Candlewood Suites of Salina, Kansas, a local family owned hotel, was newly remodeled in August of 2019. Their 69 spacious rooms are equipped with fully stocked kitchenettes and designed for the guests’ comfort in every aspect. Whether an overnight or extended stay guest, you’ll be warmly welcomed with the comfort and conveniences of “Home”. They even have an outdoor gazebo with grills for their guests wanting to grill a meal, a Conference Room that seats up to 62 guests, an onsite gym, a free laundry facility, a free membership to Genesis Health Club, and “Cupboard” filled with an array of snacks, drinks or personal toiletries, plus free coffee – hot & fresh 24/7! Bring your pet along as they are Pet Friendly with a low fee of $25 for up to 7 nights.

They are a franchised hotel with IHG - International Hotel Group, with other Candlewood Suites throughout the USA as well as other IHG hotels.

As a supporter of many Salina area organizations and businesses, their work with the community and surrounding area has made Candlewood Suites a trusted name. “For many years now we've enjoyed being a part of the exciting adventures and exhibits Rolling Hills Zoo has to offer year after year, so it was only natural to become one of Rolling Hills Zoo's Corporate Sponsors," shared Joni Mundell, Director of Sales for Candlewood Suites.
Maned Wolf Pup Born
Rolling Hills Zoo’s first successful birth of a maned wolf pup was on December 30, 2019. This female pup is the first offspring of Zachary, a 8-year old male, and Viti, a 9-year old female. Born with black fur, it will take about a year for the pup to be fully grown, at which time she will sport a thick red coat long black legs and tall, erect ears.

Viti arrived at Rolling Hills Zoo from the Dickerson Park Zoo in 2019 on a breeding recommendation from the Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoo and Aquariums (AZA). This was Viti’s second litter. Zachary is a 7 year resident of RHZ.

During the pup’s first official exam by veterinary staff on February 13, she weighed 4.5 lbs, and also received her first vaccination. This pup is bold, curious, very playful and quite vocal. She likes to play with her shadow in the back of the den box and has started eating some solids foods. She enjoys pushing her food dishes around and plays in the water bowls. She is curious about the keepers and very watchful, but takes mom’s cues like a proper pup should. RHZ guests may see her roaming in the yard as she follows her parents.

Viti has been an amazing mom,” shared Brenda Gundlach, RHZ Curator. “Very nurturing and watchful, while allowing the pup some independence.” Both parents share the responsibility of caring for the pup, including bringing food to the pup by regurgitating earlier meals. and Zachary has been at the girls’ beck and call.

The maned wolf is the largest canid of South America. Its markings resemble those of foxes, but it is neither a fox nor a wolf. Reminiscent of a skunk’s smell, maned wolf urine has a powerful aroma that lets one know when you are in their territory, or in our case, the vicinity of their exhibit.

New Wallabies
Our three wallabies, Ava, Gerdy and Marge (who is the daughter of Ava – so three generations) have joeys that are now popping their heads out of their pouches as they start to explore the world around them. It won’t be long before they will be venturing out and exploring the yard.

Speaking of wallabies (and who isn’t?), a new male wallaby has joined our mob from the Virginia Zoo. At a year and nine months old, Barley is very sweet and sociable with his keepers. He loves to eat his produce and watch what the keepers are doing in the building and the yard.

Baby Skink
Our reptile department has added a baby oscillate skink. While the gender has yet to be revealed, it is very cute.

Davy & Toka Will Be Missed
Our sire male red kangaroo, Davy, passed away earlier this year. At 13 years old, he had outlived most kangaroos who life expectancy is about 10 years old. Davy had been at Rolling Hills Zoo for most of his life, moving here from the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS when he was very young.

Davy was a wonderful painter and a guest favorite, especially when he was playing with his toys out in the yard or painting for an audience with his keepers.

Toka, our giant anteater, also passed away earlier this year. Living at Rolling Hills Zoo for most of his 20 years, Toka was wild-born and brought to Rolling Hills Zoo at about a year old with our female anteater, Simiri. He will be missed by the keepers who had the pleasure of working with him.
As we gear up for this year’s summer season, we are excited to introduce you to our new and returning part time/seasonal staff members who are looking forward to seeing you at the Zoo:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin Adkins</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duncan Anglin</td>
<td>Tram Driver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Blakey</td>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason Fisher</td>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyla Jost</td>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonard Lambert</td>
<td>Tram Driver</td>
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<td>Fritz Logan</td>
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<td>Marcina McNabb</td>
<td>Tram Driver</td>
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<td>Ronald McWilliams</td>
<td>Restaurant</td>
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<td>Grady Mueller</td>
<td>Feed Stations/Gift Shop</td>
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<td>Gage Pierce</td>
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<td>Kate Richards</td>
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<td>Maci Sutton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan Werner</td>
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<td>Robert Wygal</td>
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**New Faces at the Zoo**

**Veterinary Aspects of Hoofcare**

By Danelle Okeson, DVM, Rolling Hills Zoo Staff Veterinarian

Zoo veterinarians are involved in a wide variety of husbandry aspects of captive wildlife. When one of the exotic hoofstock species in our care, such as the endangered addax antelope, scimitar-horned oryx, or the Sichuan takin, needs a hoof trim we can’t simply walk up to the animal and pick up its feet. Anesthesia is typically required so the animal can be handled safely. Having the animal under anesthesia also affords the opportunity to do other preventive health care including hands-on examination, collect blood for a routine complete blood count and chemistry, and take radiographs (x-rays) if needed.

Fortunately a lot of our extremely large patients can be trained to allow hoof work without the need for anesthesia, and our zoo has expanded our knowledge and emphasis on giraffe hoof care over the last few years. Anesthesia in giraffes is extremely risky for the patient, so it is wonderful that our keepers have worked so hard to train our largest and oldest giraffe, Btuanza (aka “BT”), to voluntarily allow us to trim his hooves. At 17-18 feet in height and weighing over 2,500 pounds, 17½-year-old Bt is considered a high risk anesthesia patient due to the nature of his species, his size, and his advanced age. This gentle and intelligent giant has allowed us to trim his front hooves 3-5 times a week and take radiographs of his lower legs for over a year now.

Recently keepers made excellent progress in trimming the toes on BT’s back feet and training him to allow us to eventually trim all of his hooves.

The greater one-horned rhinoceros, Joya, has been a long-time willing participant in the care of his nails and the bottom of his feet. He will lie down on cue and allow us to safely check his feet and perform any needed care. Uzazi, the southern white rhinoceros, also allows us to trim his nails and check the bottom of his feet when we can catch him lying down. He would probably stay in place all day for belly rubs!

Our continued consultation with the Zoo Hoofstock Trimming Program (ZHTP) based in Colorado has been a tremendous asset in expanding our knowledge and providing a resource to help train us. It truly is a team effort. I look forward to the future as more of our zoo keepers increase their knowledge and skills to help us provide excellent care for our animals.
**GIRLS-ONLY Overnight Camp**

We will soon have a GIRLS-ONLY Overnight Camp, where girls ages 7-12 can enjoy live Animal Encounters, a Museum tour, a craft, snacks, movie, sleepover, breakfast and an early morning tram ride through the Zoo!

Please watch for our announcement on Facebook once a date has been confirmed!

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**Bringing the ZOO TO YOU**

Since you can’t make it to the zoo while we’re closed, we are taking you behind the gates in our new series, Bringing the Zoo to You. During this time we will keep you connected to the Zoo, our animals and what happens behind the scenes.

Each weekday check out our Facebook page to get the inside scoop from Rolling Hills Zoo. During some of our segments we will be joined by Jessica Olp, RHZ Education Curator, who will be introducing you to our education ambassadors. In other segments we’ll be heading into the Zoo to visit with our Keepers and learn more about our animals and explore what goes on behind-the-scenes at the zoo.

We are so excited to share all of these great adventures with you in the coming days with our virtual visits as we bring the zoo to you!

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**SUMMER CAMPS**

**KIDS SUMMER CAMPS**

Ages 4 - 6
Ages 7 - 12

$25/Member per Day • $30/Non Member per Day
$65/Member for Monday-Thursday • $85/Non Member for Monday-Thursday

Dates: June 1 - July 9
Times: 8:30 a.m. - Noon for both ages 4-6 group and 7-12 group.

Description: These educational 4-day camps will include zoo & wildlife museum tours, animal showings & feedings, stories, games & crafts. Each week presents a different theme! Snacks provided daily. Must be registered by the Thursday prior to selected camp week.

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**JUNIOR ZOOKEEPERS**

Ages 13 - 17

$80/Member • $85/Non Member

Dates: Fridays - June 5, 12, 19, 26 & July 3
Time: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Description: Teens will learn about the important aspects of being a zoo keeper! Preparing animal diets, feeding, cleaning, grooming & enrichment are just a few of the activities they’ll take part in. Must be registered by May 29.

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**CAMPS START JUNE 1ST! TO ENROLL, VISIT US ONLINE!**

Go to rollinghillszoo.org. Click on Education & scroll for Summer Camps!
1st Tuesday of Every Month • AND • Every Tuesday in June & July, at 10 a.m.  
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • July 7, 14, 21, 28

Toddler Tuesday is an educational experience for toddlers, ages 1-5,  
where they will enjoy a special story, learn more about the animal  
featured in the story, create a fun craft, and enjoy playtime.  
Then, stroll through the Zoo, the Museum, or both.  
Toddler Tuesday is a free event with paid admission. Members get in free.

**Wild about Moms**

Sunday, May 10th  
Moms Get in FREE!

Keeper Encounters  
throughout the day! Treat Mom to a special lunch at the Overlook Restaurant!

**ARMD FORCES DAY**

Saturday, May 16th  
FREE ADMISSION  
for all active and retired military  
and their immediate families.  
(Military ID required.)

We’ll have Keeper Encounters  
throughout the day and a  
delicious lunch special at  
the Overlook Restaurant!

**Rolling Hills Zoo Honors All Military!**  
Thank You for Your Service!

**DAD'S ROCK!**

Sunday, June 21st  
Dads Get in FREE!

Keeper Encounters  
throughout the day, plus Animal  
Feeding & Trams!  
Treat Dad to a rockin’ lunch special at the  
Overlook Restaurant!

**SAFARI BREAKFAST**

June 6 at 8 am • Tigers  
July 11 at 8 am • Colobus Monkeys  
Aug 1 at 8 am • Lions  
**Members** Adults $12 • Children $8  
**Non Members** Adults $20 • Children $12  

Enjoy breakfast in the Zoo,  
& get a peek of the animals  
beginning their day. Keepers  
will give a presentation  
followed by a Q&A.  
Attend all 3 Safari Breakfats  
& receive a T-Shirt!

Reservations required.

Event dates & details subject to change due to the Coronavirus situation.
Zoo Cruise Car Show

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Join us for our annual Zoo Cruise Car Show!

After the escorted cruise through Salina and out to the Zoo, the cars will be showcased on zoo grounds while you enjoy the evening's festivities.

Purchase Your Tickets ONLINE NOW!

Your Ticket Includes...
- Smoked brisket & pulled pork dinner, sides & dessert.
- Ice-cold beer & non-alcoholic drinks
- Wristbands for complimentary beer (for adults 21+)
- Tram rides through the Zoo
- Complimentary vehicle registration (if entering)
- Commemorative Dash Plaque (Car Show Entrants Only)
- Special RHZ Gift (Car Show Entrants Only)
- Live music by King Midas & the Mufflers, playing hits from the 50s to the 70s!

“Best of” trophies & two $200 cash prizes will be awarded!

Zoo Cruise Car Show is a FAMILY-FRIENDLY event!

$28 Single Admission, 21+
$15 Single Admission, under 21
$45 Couple Admission

Car entries are complimentary with either a single or couple admission purchase.

You may enter a vehicle, or just come to enjoy the party!

Your Ticket includes access to a pre-dinner buffet, a choice of main courses, a wine & beer lounge, music, entertainment, and fun for the whole family!

Sponsored by:

ZoolaLa 2020 Cancelled!

Yes, this year’s ZoolaLa has been cancelled. Normally at this time of year we would be telling you about the great charity dinner and auction we have planned for this year’s ZoolaLa. Rolling Hills Zoo’s major fundraiser. But unfortunately for all of us the Coronavirus has turned our world upside down, including the zoo’s original plans for ZoolaLa, and we had to make the heart-breaking decision to cancel this year’s event.

While the Coronavirus situation continues, caring for our animals remains our top priority. Unfortunately that takes money to buy food for almost 400 animals in the zoo, administer veterinary care, provide enrichment, maintain animal habitats, pay utilities and insurance, and pay the salaries of our staff that care for them. As a non-profit, without income from ticket sales, the restaurant and gift shop, this will become increasingly difficult without your support.

We know you love the zoo’s animals as much as we do and that you are looking forward to returning to the Zoo when our gates re-open. Until then, to help bridge this gap in our funding, would you consider making a financial donation now to support our Zoo?

Your gift can be made via our website at rollinghillszoo.org/donation or by mailing your gift to Rolling Hills Zoo, 625 N. Hedville Road, Salina KS 67401. All donations to the zoo are tax deductible.

For more information on ANY of these, or other upcoming events: Call (785) 827-9488, ext. 114 or visit our website: www.rollinghillszoo.org

Event dates & details subject to change due to the Coronavirus situation.
Match Madness 2020 Takes a Virtual Twist

This year’s Match Madness took a virtual twist in light of the coronavirus situation, and once again Rolling Hills Zoo was a proud participant in the event. On March 19th all donations for the Greater Salina Community Foundation’s Match Madness were made either online or submitted in-person by the participating organizations. On this special day of giving, 70 donors donated a total of $13,419.82 towards Rolling Hills Zoo’s endowment fund. These donations will be matched up to 50% by the Greater Salina Community Foundation. Thanks to our amazing donors, Rolling Hills Zoo received an additional $500 bonus prize by coming in second place for having the highest number of donors.

The Pop-A-Shot bracket contest replaced the free throw contest this year as each team played for the $1,000 prize sponsored by BE Wealth. While Rolling Hills Zoo didn’t make it into the bracket’s final four, we did earn an additional $70 from the Salina Regional Health Foundation, sponsor of this year’s Bill Grevas Memorial Free Throw Contest.

While we don’t have a final tally, we do want to send out a special THANK YOU to all of our donors for your support of Rolling Hills Zoo during this year’s virtual Match Madness event. A special Thank You to the staff at the Greater Salina Community Foundation for giving Salina’s area charitable organizations a great way to build our endowments to secure our future – and going the extra mile by making the event virtual in this unprecedented time.