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**For Immediate Release**

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**FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO EXPECTING FIRST RHINO CALF IN ZOO'S HISTORY**

*Fresno, CA* – Fresno Chaffee Zoo officials are thrilled to announce that the Zoo's pair of Southern white rhinoceros, Tim and Kayla, are expecting their first calf together.

Zookeepers and veterinary staff are expecting the calf to be born in approximately 30 days. While this will be Tim and Kayla's first calf together, it is Kayla's third pregnancy.

"We're thrilled to be expecting the first rhino calf in our Zoo's history," said Lyn Myers, general curator at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. "Tim and Kayla are both such charismatic animals and we can't wait to share this new addition with our guests so they can learn even more about this species."

Although veterinary staff have been unable to obtain an ultrasound confirming Kayla's pregnancy, they have been monitoring her closely.

"Since we do not have a hormonal profile on Kayla, and the abdominal wall of a rhino is too thick for an abdominal ultrasound, the only way to confirm her pregnancy is through a trans-rectal ultrasound," said Vernon Presley, curator at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. "That's not something that Kayla is accepting at this time. So, although we haven't been able to confirm it, all of Kayla's physical indications and behavioral changes point to pregnancy."

Kayla will be visible on exhibit intermittently over the next few weeks as she prepares for birth.

Both Tim and Kayla moved to Fresno in 2015 for the grand opening of African Adventure. Kayla was born in 2005 at Disney's Animal Kingdom while Tim was born in 1996 at San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium but came to Fresno from Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

*"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation."*

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