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## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:** Vivian VanPeenen  
Education Curator  
(520) 837-8188  
(520) 248-3607  
Vivian.VanPeenen@tucsonaz.gov

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### **ELEPHANT CALF AT REID PARK ZOO IS NAMED: NANDI**

Reid Park Zoo's African elephant calf, now one month old, has a name! A poll conducted through the Arizona Daily Star's Caliente received 7,880 votes, with 65% selecting Nandi as her name.

**Nandi** (Nahn-dee) is a common siSwati girl's name, and in the Zulu language it means "sweet" or "fun." This calf has proven herself to be both - capturing the hearts of Tucson residents. With two older brothers, this feminine name also celebrates the joy of welcoming a female calf to Tucson.

Immie, meaning "rain" in siSwati, was the second name choice, receiving 35% of the votes. Both names were chosen because of their origin or connection to the siSwati language. All three of Reid Park Zoo's adult elephants were rescued from Swaziland, and all members of the herd have names connected to this region. Keepers wanted to continue this tradition in honor of the elephants' origin.

Nandi will be on exhibit daily from 8 a.m. until at least 11 a.m. She may remain on the main exhibit longer, depending on how tired she is. When Nandi demonstrates she is ready for a rest, the Keepers shift the herd to allow her the quiet time she needs.

#### MEDIA RESOURCES

- Zoo staff members are available for interviews by calling (520) 837-8188
- A new video of Nandi demonstrating how "sweet" and "fun" she is has been posted to the Zoo's YouTube channel at: <http://bit.ly/1mvd2nn>. Media can link to or embed a YouTube video player with the Zoo's original content (please do not duplicate).
- Photos of the calf are updated regularly and can be downloaded at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/reidparkzoo/sets/72157646690410302/>

#### PUBLIC RESOURCES

- For regular updates and current photos, the public can visit the Zoo's Elephant Baby Blog at: <http://reidparkzoo.org/baby-elephant-info/baby-elephant-blog/>

Reid Park Zoo is a 24-acre accredited zoo, owned and operated by the City of Tucson. Reid Park Zoo is located in central Tucson, with over 550,000 visitors each year. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children ages 2 to 14. The Zoo is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. through September, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. starting October 1. For information, visitors can call (520) 791-4022 or visit the Reid Park Zoo website at [www.reidparkzoo.org](http://www.reidparkzoo.org).

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