



**CITY MANAGER'S
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Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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Loss of Rothschild's Giraffe at Hillcrest Park Zoo

CLOVIS, NM (November 11 2023) – It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Rothschild's Giraffe, Jael, at Hillcrest Park Zoo. Born in July 2001, Jael has been an integral part of our zoo community.

Rothschild's Giraffes, named after the famous British zoologist Lord Walter Rothschild, are a unique and endangered subspecies known for their distinctive markings and towering stature. Typically, giraffes in zoos have a lifespan of around 20 to 25 years, and our giraffe lived a long and fulfilling life under the dedicated care of our zookeepers.

At this time, the City of Clovis and Hillcrest Park Zoo are actively investigating the cause of Jael's passing. Preliminary examinations are underway, and our team is working closely with veterinary experts.

"While this is a difficult time for all of us at Hillcrest Park Zoo and the City of Clovis, we would like to continue to assure the community that the well-being of our animals is our top priority," said Stephanie Chavez, Curator of Hillcrest Park Zoo, Saturday. "We are committed to conducting a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Jael's passing, and we will keep the public informed as we gather more information."

The Hillcrest Park Zoo is a source of joy and education for the community and surrounding area, and the loss of our giraffe is deeply felt by everyone who had the privilege of knowing and caring for this magnificent creature. Jael was the mother of Jerrica who is housed at the giraffe enclosure which was constructed for them at the Hillcrest Park Zoo. Further updates regarding the investigation will be shared as they become available.



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For questions or for more information, please contact the Clovis City Manager's Office at 575-763-9653 or email administration@cityofclovis.org.