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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo & Botanical Garden to Celebrate Elephant Savannah's Birthday

EL PASO, Texas— The City of El Paso Zoo and Botanical Garden invites the community to a giant birthday party for the Asian Elephant Savannah at noon on Sunday, September 24.

Savannah is turning 71 years old, reaching an age more than two decades older than her species' average life expectancy.

"The significance of Savannah turning 71 years old is remarkable," said El Paso Zoo Director Joe Montisano. "In the wild, elephants live an average of 45 to 50 years. Their care in zoos can extend this but at 71 Savannah is setting new records. She remains in good health and has some minor arthritis. It is a tribute to our Zookeepers for the care of our animals."

For the birthday party, Savannah will get edible decorations, treats, and a massive birthday cake made of fruit and vegetables. In addition, guests are encouraged to sing "Happy Birthday," and will receive commemorative stickers as well as special Savannah decorated cookies (while supplies last). Guests can also sign an enormous birthday card in her honor and take a picture next to a Savannah pop-up.

Elephant zookeepers will also be available to answer questions. Savannah will also create a custom footprint painting that a lucky raffle winner will be taking home.

About Savannah

Savannah was born in the wild in 1952. She arrived at the El Paso Zoo in 1997 from the Baton Rouge Zoo. She has recently gained about 1,000 pounds in the last year and currently weighs about 8,000 pounds.

The El Paso Zoo supports a broad range of efforts to help wild elephants. The zoo supports elephant conservation through educational programs as well as providing funding to elephant conservation organizations worldwide.

To learn more about Savannah and all of the animals at the El Paso Zoo as well as programs and activities, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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