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## **Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience to Open in Cañon City in May of 2016**

*“High-Value Family Fun Straight Out of the Jurassic Era”*

**Cañon City, Colorado:** The Reynolds Family – multi-generation Cañon City residents and business owners – are thrilled to announce their plans to open the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience in the summer of 2016. The Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience will center around an architecturally stunning, 16,200-square foot, custom-built museum, and will also include outdoor-education and recreational opportunities on the facility’s 39.5-acre parcel of land, which is conveniently located at the intersection of US Hwy 50 and FR County Road 3a (just four miles from the Royal Gorge). Here, families and kids of all ages can experience everything from science-focused interactive displays, full-scale dinosaur fossil casts, skinned animatronic dinosaur exhibits and hands-on exhibits with real dinosaur fossils, as well as recreational-focused activities including a multi-story ropes course. Guided tours will be available, and a refreshment center will serve light bites and beverages for hungry and thirsty budding paleontologists.

While the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience is a brand-new and exciting business venture, there’s nothing new about the business of digging for dinosaur bones in the Garden Park area of Colorado. Starting in the 1870s, two of the world’s leading paleontologists and arch rivals, Othniel C. Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope, both traveled to Cañon City to conduct digs that became famously known as the Bone Wars. Fortunately, the winner of this (nonviolent) war was science, as both Marsh and Cope helped to unearth many significant fossil finds that put Cañon City on the paleontological map, and which bolstered scientific knowledge of these magnificent creatures that once walked the earth’s crust.

“Cañon City has a deep, rich paleontological history that we want to celebrate and share with the world,” said Zach Reynolds, director of the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience. “This began with Marsh and Cope and continued through



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my grandfather's time digging in the 1950s with noted local paleontologist Freddy Kessler, right up through contemporary finds. There's a local passion for dinosaurs in the Garden Park paleontological area, and we're excited to expand on it in a family-friendly, kid-focused educational environment."

The Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience will be an inclusive, family-focused business that will cost a fraction of the price of a day of white-water rafting, horseback riding or zip lining (Adult admission fees at the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience will start at \$12, while the charge for children aged 5-12 will start at only \$8; children 4 and under are free, and package deals will be available), enabling families to both learn and recreate together on a piece of land with stunning views of the famed Royal Gorge Bridge, as well as Colorado's world-famous Sangre de Cristo mountain range.

"The Royal Gorge region provides a wealth of entertainment and adventure in a beautiful outdoor setting," said Reynolds, who inherited his grandfather's deep love of science and dinosaurs, and went on to graduate from Western State Colorado University in 1997 with a degree in geology. "This museum will give families the opportunity to interact with the region's paleontological past while experiencing the Royal Gorge's many outdoor recreational opportunities."

Zach is joining his parents, David and Marion Reynolds (both longtime Cañon City residents and business owners) in this endeavor, and is being supported by his wife, Carman, his three children, Emily (14), Megan (12) and Owen (9). "As a father of three smart and curious kids who has experience in the art of finding high-quality, educational activities that are affordable, my goal is to create a dynamic museum environment that offers something for everyone, while helping to mint family memories that can be shared and enjoyed long after the guided tours have ended."

For more information or high-resolution imagery of this exciting new museum experience, please contact Zach Reynolds at 719-240-2922, or via email at [zach@dinoxp.com](mailto:zach@dinoxp.com), or visit [www.dinoxp.com](http://www.dinoxp.com).

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