

## Mid-America Air Museum Prepares For Dinosaurs

The combination of dinosaurs and aircraft are uniform when comparing the length and weight of a FM-2 "Wildcat" fighter to a Stegosaurus and that blend will become a reality at the Mid-America Air Museum in Liberal this spring when the Dinosaurs of Kansas Exhibit, from a world renowned animatronics display, opens April 6.

“The prehistoric past will come to life for 30 days at the museum,” said Mid-America Air Museum Director Jim Bert, who is overseeing the animatronic displays being assembled at the museum. “This is a herd of dinosaurs - virtual denizens from the distant past - with the movements, lights and sounds to create an extraordinary experience.”

The exhibit comes from North America's leading provider of life-size animatronic dinosaurs for zoos, museums and theme parks. Billings dinosaurs have been exhibited not only nationwide at locations like Audubon Nature Institute, St. Louis Zoo and the Los Angeles County Fair, but also worldwide, most recently in Sydney, Australia and Madrid, Spain.

The Stegosaurus (which could grow to 29 feet long and 9 feet tall and weigh three to four tons) and its baby are just two of the 10 exhibits that will swarm the air museum. Another pair is the Triceratops and baby with their three horned faces. Continuing with the mother and child theme, a Parasaurolophus and its egg nest will show newly hatched babies.

A Tyrannosaurus (tyrant lizard king), an Acrocanthosaurus (high spined lizard), a Baryonyx (heavy claw) and a Dilophosaurus (double-crested lizard) will also tower inside the air museum.

“The exhibit is a partnership with the City of Liberal and has been in development for more than a year with the help of a great team of volunteers,” Bert said. Volunteers are helping create the atmosphere for the dinosaurs from huge trees, rock pathways, lights and big sound. Narratives available via cell phone and placards will guide and inform visitors.

In addition to individual tours of the Dinosaurs of Kansas Exhibit, the museum is offering school field trips, group tours, birthday parties and sleepovers.

More than a dozen field trips have been booked by area schools and the schedule is filling up. For more information contact Cindy Chance at 620-624-5263 or email [cindy.chance@cityofliberal.org](mailto:cindy.chance@cityofliberal.org).