

The Bandera PROPHECT

March 6, 2020

Dinosaurs, Cowboys and Family Fun in Bandera

By Rebecca Huffstutler Norton
Frontier Times Museum Executive Director

Two museums in Bandera are together offering entertaining and educational activities for families over Spring Break, March 7-14, 2020. The Bandera Natural History Museum and the Frontier Times Museum have teamed up to present “Dinosaurs, Cowboys, and Family Fun in Bandera,” with special daily events in addition to their regular displays and activities.

The Frontier Times Museum is one of the oldest history museums in Texas, with an “eclectic and eccentric” collection of art and treasures gathered over 85 years. On display are fossils, old-time photos, implements, and curiosities such as a shrunken head. The museum also honors the American cowboy, with displays of local rodeo champions and collections of barbed wire, brands, and western hats.

For the week of Spring Break, they are adding daily activities that can be enjoyed with regular admission. The schedule includes Be a Cowboy Day on Monday, March 9, and will feature a real live chuckwagon, cowboy singing and longhorn rides; Tuesday is Paint Like a Cowboy where little buckaroos can paint and draw; make pioneer soap on Wednesday; and on Thursday, learn about fossils and pan for fool’s gold. The week’s activities end on Friday 13th with a fire spinner and the museum’s Spring-Cleaning sale of antiques, vintage treasures and other goodies.

Newly-opened in 2016, the Bandera Natural History Museum features 14,000 square feet of exhibits going back millions of years to the age of dinosaurs. Sixteen life-size reproductions are on

display on the eight-acre grounds. Inside the International Hall, the Museum Collection features animals and artifacts from around the world, along with a full-size replica of Quetzalcoatlus and Trixie, the famous triceratops that “comes to life” in *Night At The Museum*. The Trail of Habitats is a walk through six dioramas depicting life at different parts of the planet. Outside, kids can unearth bones at sandy “dig sites.”

The Bandera Natural History Museum will also offer special activities for Spring Break. Spring Break kicks off on Monday, March 9, with Dinosaur George who brings dinosaurs to life in a fun and lively presentation; here’s your chance to pet wild and exotic animals with Happy Tails on Wednesday, March 11, and learn about Mulemanship and the fascinating world of mules with mule handlers, Paul & Alejandra Garrison. On Saturday, March 14, hawks, owls and other predator birds are featured in Birds of Prey. All activities are included with regular museum admission for both museums. Visit one museum and receive a discount coupon to attend the second museum. For details and times, visit www.banderanhm.org and www.frontiertimesmuseum.org or visit their Facebook pages. The Frontier Times Museum is located at 510 13th Street and the Bandera Natural History Museum is just around the corner at 267 Old San Antonio Highway.