

## UPDATE ON VANDALIZED DINOSAUR

July 18, 2016 - Just less than a week after three men vandalized the Reading Public Museum's outside dinosaur, the community has rallied around the local institution to help raise funds to repair the Spinosaurus - the total, \$5000 in contributions and pledges - halfway to the campaign goal of \$10,000.

"After being inundated with requests, we thought an easy solution to submit donations would be to set up a GoFundMe site, **Save RPM's Vandalized Dinosaur**," Museum Director and CEO John Graydon Smith said. "The initial goal was set at \$10,000 and 47 donors contributed to the online campaign, raising some \$1,820 from Pokemon Go players to even members of our staff."

In addition to online requests, a local retail store Fig and Will is showing its support. The children's consignment boutique in West Reading posted on its Facebook page: "Help fix RPM's dino! Make a donation at Fig & Will, enter to win your own dino-guy! Or, check out The Museum's GoFundMe page and enter "Fig and Will" in the comments section!"

On Saturday, a little girl Mary Monsour collected money near the intersection of South Park Road and Wayne Avenue in Wyomissing and raised \$50 - she was upset about what happened to the dinosaur. She said it cost money to repair it so she wanted to do something to fix it.

Over the weekend, a gentleman from Lancaster pledged \$1,000 after hearing about the incident on the news and other Museum supporters contributed another \$2,130 towards to the campaign.

On Tuesday, July 12th, security surveillance captured three young males climbing on and damaging the Spinosaurus about 1:30 a.m. They pulled six of the dinosaur's teeth out, broke its sail, and tore off the tips of its finger and tail.

The Reading Police Department launched an investigation which included fingerprinting the dinosaur. They also reached out to the Reading Hospital and inquired about acquiring additional security footage. The Hospital shared video footage that shows the suspects leaving on foot heading East on Parkside Drive South toward West Reading Park.

The animatronic Spinosaurus is part of the popular exhibition, *Dinosaurs Around the World: Passport to Pangea*, which is on display until October 2nd. Other than the Spinosaurus, the rest of the exhibit will remain open with all animatronic features fully functional and operating.

For more information, visit **Save RPM's Vandalized Dinosaur** GoFundMe campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/2e886g4>. Donations are also being accepted at the front desk of The Museum. Funds collected that are over and beyond the cost of the repair will be directed to adding additional security measures at the request of the *Dinosaurs Around the World: Passport to Pangea* show's owner, Imagine Exhibitions.

If anyone has any information on this crime, please contact the Director of Building & Grounds Pete Poncheri at 610-371-5850 x225.