

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 1

The following exhibit is several assorted documents that exceeds the 10-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. A small portion has been scanned to aid in your research for information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton



EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2.3.05
HB 423



CREATION OF
GREAT PLAINS DINOSAUR PARK
IN MALTA

House
SENATE BILL 423

Prepared by
Senator Sam Kitzenberg

2008

HOUSE BILL NO. 423

1
2 INTRODUCED BY

Raymond Stoltz
(Primary Sponsor)

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING \$500,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO BE
5 USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING FOR THE
6 ACQUISITION OF LAND AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FACILITY FOR CREATION OF THE GREAT
7 PLAINS DINOSAUR PARK IN MALTA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
8

9 WHEREAS, because of their relatively remote locations, northeastern Montana communities are
10 uniquely challenged when it comes to attracting tourists and promoting economic development; and

11 WHEREAS, the Great Plains Dinosaur Park will showcase the paleontological treasures that have been
12 found in northeastern Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, currently, there is no facility in the area large enough to accommodate the newly discovered
14 dinosaur exhibits; and

15 WHEREAS, currently, there is no facility in the area large enough to support the growth of the research
16 faculty to a size appropriate for meeting the scientific demands posed by paleontological study; and

17 WHEREAS, a park of this size may attract tourism into the area, infusing much-needed funds into the
18 local economy; and

19 WHEREAS, the creation of new jobs may contribute to greater economic vitality in the area;

20 THEREFORE, the Legislature of the State of Montana directs that the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and
21 Parks administer grants to nonprofit organizations in Malta to ensure the creation of the Great Plains Dinosaur
22 Park.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
25

26 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation. There is appropriated \$500,000 from the general fund to
27 the department of fish, wildlife, and parks for fiscal year 2006 for providing grants enabling local nonprofit
28 organizations to purchase the land and purchase or construct a facility for a park in Malta, Montana, to display
29 the products of paleontological research in the area and to provide research facilities for paleontologists,
30 complete necessary building upgrades, and pay property taxes.

1

2

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2005.

3

- END -

Economic Impact of Visitors 2001

Dave Sharpe
Extension Service
Montana State University

Shannon Taylor
College of Business
Montana State University

Victor Bjornberg
Travel Montana

Thale Dillon
Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research
University of Montana



11/19/2001

1

Phillips County, 2001 Malta, Montana

Groups of Visitors = 209,090
Groups Staying Night = 24,545 (12%)
People per Group = 2.2*
Days Spent in Montana = 7.1*
Total Visitor \$ in County = \$2,396,994
Population of County = 4,692
Visitor \$ (in county) per Capita = \$511

*-groups who spent night in county



11/19/2001

Shannon Taylor

2

State of Montana 2001

Groups of Visitors = 3,804,000

People per Group = 2.5

Days Spent in Montana = 4.3

\$ per group per day (in MT) = \$99

\$ per group for whole visit = \$426

Total Visitor Spending = \$1,661,600,000

Montana Population = 902,195

Visitor \$ per Capita = \$1,842



11/19/2001

Suzanne Taylor

3

Phillips County 2001 Expenses for those who spent night in Phillips County:

Per Group per Day*	Total
Motels \$8.79	\$431,450
Transportation \$1.95	\$95,878
Gasoline \$10.74	\$527,328
Restaurants \$8.79	\$431,450
Groceries \$3.91	\$191,756
Retail Sales \$11.72	\$575,267
Services \$2.93	\$143,817
Total	\$2,396,944

Groups Spending Night = 24,545

* Assuming a two day visit

11/19/2001

Suzanne Taylor

4

"The business of dinosaurs", an opportunity to expand minds and grow our economy...

The economic base of Phillips County, Montana has historically stemmed from industry sectors such as agriculture, mineral extraction and government support services. Currently population and business activity is decreasing with a related fall in real and perceived community prosperity.

However, an additional resource to the economic base of the area has been discovered. This resource is Dinosaurs. Coupled with a true potential for rapid tourism growth with an extended research and educational value, Dinosaurs will positively affect and change the economic composition of our region of north central Montana.

The Judith River Foundation, Inc. is a legal non-profit corporation (501c3 application has been filed, awaiting award) established to bring the exciting dinosaur discoveries of Phillips County, to life. Our mission is to curate and prepare paleontological resources for use in educational programs, scientific research and interpretive displays in support of the advancement of knowledge and the benefit of all people.

As a citizen-driven organization, we are dedicated to making our community strong in our efforts to recover, prepare and display paleontological wonders from millions of years ago for the world to appreciate, enjoy and fully understand.

The rich land mass known as the Judith River formation presents a multitude of outstanding dinosaur specimens so well preserved, they have gained widespread popularity and worldwide attention. To date the most significant discovery, a 2 ½ ton Brachylophosaurus or duck billed dinosaur named "Leonardo" was excavated north of Malta, Montana in 2001

National Geographic states that the mummified Leonardo was only about three or four years old when he died, but he is proving to be a bonanza for paleontologists today. His skeleton is covered with soft tissue – skin, scales, muscle, footpads and even his last meal in his stomach." The Guinness Book of World Records has named Leonardo the best-preserved dinosaur ever discovered.... In addition, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology called Leonardo the "Fossil in the Flesh": a spectacular new dinosaur mummy.

Nate Murphy, President and Director of Paleontology for the Judith River Foundation states, "this will advance our science a quantum leap". We look forward to developing this opportunity locally, where the specimens are discovered.

The Foundation has an 18-month timeline to establish the Great Plains Dinosaur Center, an expanded research, curation, education and display center capable of handling the numerous specimens held by the Foundation. We envision a world-class paleo center that will be a fun-filled and educational attraction promoting dinosaurs, prehistory and science in general to a diverse range of visitors including families and school groups of all ages.

Total project costs are estimated at nearly \$1 million dollars and include a 24,000 square foot facility located on US Highway 2 in or near Malta. We are seeking assistance in the amount of \$500,000 dollars and pledge to secure the balance needed with outside resources such as local cash, grant awards and in-kind contributions. Annual operation



Name: Nate Murphy

Occupation: Research Director: Judith River Dinosaur Institute

Residence: Malta, MT, USA

Nate Murphy is a second-generation paleontologist with over 30 years working in the field of dinosaur paleontology. He has held the position of Curator of Paleontology since 1992 at the Phillips County Museum, in Malta, Montana.

In 1994 he formed the Judith River Dinosaur Institute, an educational and funding vehicle for the museum's paleontology program. Nate's real love lies in hands-on field work. In 1993 he started excavating one of the largest bonebeds ever found in Montana's Judith River Formation.

Also in 1994 he discovered a complete *Brachylophosaurus* that would be called the finest preserved dinosaur ever found in Montana.

In 1996 Nate was part of an international team assembled by the National Geographic Society sent to Patagonia, Argentina to excavate the world's largest meat-eating dinosaur, *Giganotosaurus*. Nate has had the pleasure to excavate many dinosaur remains all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, and South America. In 1966 he found his first *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, and has helped with the excavation of seven *T. rex* finds. Nate has been a consultant for the U.S. Government, public museums, and documentary film groups such as PBS, BBC, The Discovery Channel, and The Learning Channel.

Copyright 2004 - A JRDI photo.



<http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?display=rednews/2002/09/29/build/local/85-dinos.inc>

Rare dino bones found

Associated Press

GREAT FALLS (AP) - When a Great Falls-area family unearthed a big, fossilized leg bone with their backhoe, they hosed it off and saved it as a curio.

It would take them four years to learn that they'd found Jurassic Park in their back yard.

The roughly 150-million-year-old tibia belongs to the first dinosaur found near Great Falls and the first stegosaurus skeleton found as far north as Montana.

Courtesy of the Jurassic Period, 145-210 million years ago, the skeleton is twice the age of most fossils found in the state, such as T. rexes, which hail from the more recent Cretaceous Period, 65-145 million years ago.

"The odds of actually putting in their backhoe bucket and hitting it are just astronomical," said Nate Murphy, director of paleontology at the Phillips County Museum in Malta. "We have hardly any good Jurassic dinosaur material. All of it's down in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah."

Until now, the nearest finds of stegosaurus skeletons in the United States were in southern Wyoming. Based on his research so far, Murphy believes the Great Falls discovery is the northernmost stegosaurus in the world.

Next summer, Murphy and a team of volunteers will spend two weeks chipping the stegosaurus from its resting place, a stone's throw from the backdoor of the family's farmhouse, 20 miles southeast of Great Falls.

Bristling with medieval spikes and plates, the plant-eating stegosaurus is a favorite of schoolchildren and a coveted find for grown-up paleontologists. The beast in the family's yard was up to 18 feet long and stood about 10 feet tall.

Only half a dozen stegosaurus skeletons exist, compared with roughly 28 T. rex specimens, Murphy said.

Fearing a stampede of stegosaurus groupies, family members granted interviews to the Great Falls Tribune on condition their names not be used.

It all started when the family was digging a retaining wall one summer afternoon and the couple's son, who was 17 at the time, came home.

Strolling over to inspect his father's handiwork, he noticed a grayish, brown leg bone jutting from the freshly exposed earth.

He wiggled the fossil out of the soil.

The heavy rock, about the size of a football, was black on the inside. The broken stone looked like one end of a classic-shaped dog bone. It was, in fact, the bottom end of the tibia, where the bone attached to the creature's huge ankle.

They wondered what strange animal the bone once belonged to.

But fall blew in, with busy schedules at work and school, and the fossil was pushed aside.

In fact, it made a fine door stop, the homeowner said. Sitting beside him, Murphy winces.

But Murphy is convinced that this was the right family to find the dinosaur.

Come spring, the family took the bone to a paleontologist, who they decline to name, who said it could be an allosaurus, a carnivore from the late Jurassic Period.

Another expert said it was an iguanodon, a grazer from the Cretaceous era.

It was likely an isolated specimen, perhaps washed from another site by water millions of years ago, they were told.

The homeowner's wife didn't agree. She spent hot days hacking at the hard silt stone that summer. Finally, she says with a guilty glance at Murphy, she swung a pickax at the stubborn wall.

The family began taking shards and clumps of bone pulled from the hillside to paleontology centers in Montana and South Dakota.

Yes, they had a dinosaur, the experts told them. The scientists offered help in preserving the find, including mapping the site on graph paper and taking meticulous measurements.

Brittle specimens were protected with plaster and burlap sacks.

By the fourth year of their excavation, the family had uncovered neck bones, vertebrae, part of the skull, shoulder pieces and the left arm.

Most thrilling, two of the stegosaurus's trademark back plates, one large and one small, were recovered.

It was about that time that the homeowner's wife, who had been doing most of the digging, started to fear she had taken on more than she could handle.

One day an intriguing chunk of rock crumbled in her hands before she could cast it.

She bagged the pieces and, with a dash of earthy farm humor, labeled it "pile of poop." Not long after, one of the paleontologists she consulted spotted teeth in the bag. Her "pile of poop," was part of the stegosaurus's tiny head, they said.

From the rest of its formidable girth, the family had expected something a little more, well, T. rex-like.

Finally, a young paleontologist took interest in the skeleton in the homeowner's basement, and recognized it for what it was.

The word was out.

Jack Horner, from the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, got wind of the find. He came by for a personal look and confirmed it: stegosaurus.

With a positive ID, the family began the search for a museum to house their dinosaur.

They had heard about the Phillips County Museum, which has had several high-profile finds in recent years, and liked its small-town setting.

The museum gets a lot of calls from folks who think they've found dinosaurs in their back yard, said Murphy's Australian colleague, Mark Thompson.

Murphy, Thompson and their team from the museum's Judith River Dinosaur Institute will excavate the stegosaurus in early July.

None of the remaining bones in the hillside are exposed. Though the bones are slightly scattered, Murphy hopes to find a nearly complete skeleton.

It should take only two weeks to free the fossils from the yard, but could be 10 years before they're standing in a skeletal display.

Copyright 2002 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Click here to return.



CSI: Jurassic Park

Digging into the past on the banks of the Missouri

By Richard Bangs

Correspondent, Great Escapes

Updated: 1:46 p.m. ET Sept. 21, 2004

MALTA, Mont. - On the south side of Highway 2 in Malta, there is a converted tire shop where the past is being unearthed. It is the Dinosaur Field Station, headquarters to the Judith River Dinosaur Institute, brainchild of "the people's paleontologist," Nate Murphy.

Nate never got his doctorate — nor his masters, nor bachelors degree, probably in part because he has severe dyslexia. Naturally, some overly-degreed academics in the field look down noses at the un-doctor. But he's been a fossil hound since he was 10, and he's made some impressive and important finds. Now 47, he is the most unabashedly enthusiastic evangelist for the art and science of paleontology on, or below, this earth.

We meet him in the bar of the Great Northern Hotel in Malta. The railroad inn is really little more than a motel, but it does have the first high-speed wireless connectivity we've encountered on this trip, due, we're told, to the number of finely funded dino-diggers who come to town. Before the first beer Nate produces a long black serrated scimitar-shaped something, which looks like a potato peeler.

It's a T-Rex tooth, he informs us, one of 60 in a typical set. Nate reports that a full grown Tyrannosaurus could swallow 150 pounds of flesh in a bite. It turns out Spielberg's Jurassic renderings were pretty close to reality, according to Nate, with one huge error. "Remember when the T-Rex, the greatest predator that ever lived, chomps the lawyer in two? Would never happen. Professional courtesy."

I ask the adolescent question that piques most Michael Crichton readers: Could we actually extract dinosaur DNA, like in the book, and bring them back? "Well, imagine a spiral staircase 100,000 miles high, and we're missing 80,000 miles worth. It ain't gonna happen while we're around," Nate twinkles.

In good company

Thomas Jefferson was also an avid paleontologist without formal training, and when he gave his instructions to Lewis and Clark in 1804 to explore the Missouri, he specifically asked they look for and bring back fossils. In the spring of 1805 they passed a tributary river Clark named Judith, after a young woman he fancied back home. (She happened to be his cousin and later became Mrs. Clark.)

Lewis and Clark never ventured up the turgid stream, thereby missing one of the finest dinosaur fossil beds in the world. It's here that in 2000 Nate Murphy found Leonardo, a 77-million-year-old mummified brachyophosaurus (duck-bill), since entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the "best preserved dinosaur" specimen discovered to date.

The next morning we take the block-long trek to Nate's Dinosaur Field Station, where he and his volunteer assistant Rhonda Suggs work to clean, prepare and place pieces in giant fossil jigsaw puzzles. First he shows off Roberta, a perfectly articulated duck-bill he found here in Phillips Country two years ago.

The key to being a good fossil, Nate shares, is being buried quickly in the right position in the right environment, such as a creature who stumbles in a tar-pit. Most animals when felled are either picked apart by scavengers, or cleaved and bleached away by weather and erosion, so that when unearthed after a 100 million years or so there are but pieces of the whole. "To find one articulated specimen in an entire career is like hitting the Powerball, it's the jackpot," Nate says. "One tenth of 1% of all dinosaurs discovered are well-articulated," meaning all the bones and pieces are intact and in place. "And I've found five," he boasts.

Up close and personal

Nate gives us a tour of Roberta, pointing out her stomach: Her last meal consisted of ferns, conifers, magnolia and 36 other species of plants. "The brachylophosaurus was the ultimate Cretaceous Cuisinart, a Cretaceous cow, so to speak." Then he moves on to point out Roberta's broken bill, and pronounces the likely cause of death as starvation.

"How do you know the sex?" I ask, wondering why his finds have names of both genders.

"Must be a male," Rhonda calls from across the room. "Brain the size of a peanut."

"It's still a mystery," Nate gives the more scholarly answer. "We just name the fossils for the inspiration at the moment, male or female."

We spend a couple hours wandering around the rooms crammed with 500 specimens, listening to tapes of imagined dinosaur sounds, gawking at bones and dinosaur eggs, and trying to imagine the arc of time represented. One fossil, that of a 30-foot long marine crocodile (*Terminonaris cretaceous*) is only 110 million years old. Ralph, a new species of long-necked sauropod, hails from the Jurassic period, 150 million years ago or more.

One set of bones, that of a sub-adult hadrasaur, has a big chunk missing from his pelvis. "What happened here?" I ask.

"Attacked by a T-Rex," Nate chimes back with merry eyes. "Probably tasted like chicken."

At the end of the tour, he allows us to step into his Negative Air Chamber (basically a room hooked to a vacuum cleaner that sucks out the dust) and view up close and personal the "Rosetta Stone of paleontology": Leonardo. The 22-foot long duck-bill is in perfect shape. He's all there, and looks as though he's about to get up from a nap and skitter away.

Leonardo is the prime draw at the field station, and the viewing and educational fees are the major source of income that keeps Nate's work going. Since he doesn't have a Ph.D., Nate can't qualify for academic or public funding, he can't dig on public lands, and he has to make deals with private landowners when out hunting bones. But it's almost as though a lifetime of studying extinct species has given him a special perspective on his own place in the cosmology of bone collectors.

He tells us 99.9% of all things that ever lived on this earth are now extinct. "It's a natural thing, extinction." So the academic shrugs and slights in this blink of time don't seem to matter. He's happy to keep on digging, pursuing his boyhood passion along a meandering tributary of the Missouri.

As we step out into the sunlight of the present, Nate Murphy throws on his brimmed explorer's hat, hops into a truck with the license plate "Boneman," and heads off towards the field, for another dig.

The Great Escapes media team is traveling the length of the Missouri River in September, filing daily dispatches along the way. If you have a question or comment, mail us at