



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Big Mama and Baby Bones Return to the Neville New and Improved!**

Green Bay, WI—December 7, 2012—Big Mama and Baby Bones, the Neville dinosaur sculptures, returned home with fresh paint, an anatomically correct position and bright lighting on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. under Brown County Sherriff's Department escort.

Big Mama and Baby Bones left the Neville on Wednesday evening, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Ideal Crane Rental, Inc. removed the dinosaurs where they were then transported to Renco Machine Company, Inc. for refurbishing. Working with the sculptor Don Debaker, Renco sandblasted the dinosaurs, re-positioned them into an anatomically correct stance (under the guidance of Museum Director/Paleontologist Rolf Johnson) and gave them a new coat of paint.

Johnson said, "These two dinosaur sculptures are iconic elements of the Neville Museum, greeting visitors before they even enter the building. Project T-Rex, as we've dubbed this initiative, has allowed us to combine the art and science aspects of our mission into a fun, high-profile and mission-related PR and educational opportunity. Being a dinosaur-hunting paleontologist myself, I was thrilled when the artist joined us to both update these wonderful sculptures and create an opening to use them as a metaphor for all of the positive and exciting things now happening at the museum, since we're also 'evolving' into a more dynamic, participatory and fun place for visitors of all ages."

Don Debaker, the original T-Rex artist adds, "I built them and every time I saw them, I knew they were in a wrong position. As a builder, I could always see a bit of a defect and that bothered me. I'll be glad to see them in a correct position."

During the dinosaur vacation, students were invited to participate in the Neville's T-Rex Story Project. Students responded to the question "If you were Big Mama and Baby Bones and were on the loose in Green Bay, where would you go and what would you do?" Answers were submitted via essay or drawing for a chance to win a classroom visit from Rolf "Wisconsin" Johnson, who spent over 30 years as a paleontologist at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Landon of Mrs. Bemmels first grade class at Suamico Elementary was the lucky winner. All stories and drawings are on display inside the Museum's first-floor exhibit, *MuseumPLACE*.

The dinosaurs traveled via Photoshop to different Green Bay locations throughout their vacation. The locations include Associated Bank, Bay Park Square Mall, the Green Bay

Botanical Gardens, On Broadway, Inc., Fox 11, the Children's Museum of Green Bay, the Brown County Courthouse, the Green Bay Gamblers, Green Bay Packaging, Gnome Games, Heritage Hill, Zippin Pippin, Brown County Library, Lambeau Field, Meyer Theater, Green Bay Press Gazette, National Railroad Museum, Tiletown Brewery, WIXX, NEW Zoo, Wisconsin Public Service, Arketype and Renco Machine Company, Inc. All photos can be seen on the Neville Facebook and Twitter page.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of Renco Machine Company, Inc. and Ideal Crane Rental, Inc., two local companies who stepped-up to help us with this herculean task.

Editorial expansion of story available upon request.

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