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Former UM administrator to appear in 'Forensics Files' episode filmed on campus

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NEWS RELEASE

CORRECTION: A previous version of this release made reference to Ray Murray's career in forensic anthropology. Murray is a forensic geologist. Please use this corrected version.

April 18, 2007

Contact: Ray Murray, retired UM vice president for research, 406-549-7081.

FORMER UM ADMINISTRATOR TO APPEAR IN 'FORENSICS FILES' EPISODE

FILMED ON CAMPUS

MISSOULA -

Ray Murray's career as a forensic geologist began accidentally one day 30 years ago.

"This Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent came through the door with two bags of dirt, and I guess I helped him in some way," said Murray, a former UM vice president for research.

That day launched a successful career in the field of forensic geology - so successful that on Friday, April 20, the CourtTV hit "Forensics Files" will interview Murray in the Charles H. Clapp Building at UM about the techniques used by the FBI in the 1960 murder of Adolph Coors III.

The FBI agent who actually cracked the case using soil analysis passed away in 1998, Murray said, and his job on the show is to explain how dirt under the fender of a burned-out car led authorities to the killer.

Joseph Corbett Jr. stalked Coors - heir to the Coors beer fortune - for more than a year before attempting to kidnap him outside his Colorado ranch. Coors was shot and killed in the

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ensuing struggle, and his body dumped in the mountains west of Denver. Corbett then drove his car to Atlantic City, N.J., where he set it on fire.

The FBI found four layers of dirt under the car's charred fender, the first from the area around Denver, where Corbett lived; the second from Coors' ranch; the third from the site the body was hidden; and the last from Atlantic City, Murray said. The soil evidence was instrumental in putting Corbett behind bars.

The TV crew will interview Murray about the case in the geology department on the third floor of the Clapp Building.

Murray traces the beginnings of forensic geology back to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective Sherlock Holmes, who could tell what part of London a person had walked in by the dirt on his trousers.

Today it is a full-fledged science, with Murray among the most highly respected practitioners. He has published two books on the subject, the most recent in 2004 by Mountain Press titled "Evidence from the Earth."

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