



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

August, 2011

SJBAS August Meeting

SJBAS August Trip, 19-20

Our next meeting will be held August 11, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College. The speaker, Shawn K. Collins, will discuss "Collapsing Assumptions: Climate, Agriculture, and Their Effects on New World Cultures." She will examine the alleged role of drought in cultural "collapse" in Guatemala and the American Southwest. Dr. Collins is the Executive Director of the Cortez Cultural Center. She is an archaeologist, paleoethnobotanist, and phytolith analyst by training, having received her Bachelor's in Anthropology from FLC, and her Master's and Doctorate degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Collins' work has focused on prehistoric agricultural innovation and technology, and the impact of agriculture on prehistoric cultures and environments.

Annual Historic Mining Districts Tour. Limit 20. Visit several historic mills and mining sites in the Cunningham Gulch. Leader Bob Danielson, with assistance from Richard Robinson. Tentative plan is to tour Cement Creek and surrounding areas as time permits. Members with knowledge about the area are encouraged to attend and share their knowledge. This area has a history of monsoon rains in the afternoon and warm sunny mornings, so dress accordingly. This trip can be a day trip (August 20) or a one or two night campout. For the campers it is important to obtain a site early because spaces are limited and often occupied by Fri. evening. Contact Bob at 970-385-1058 for additional information. 4WD/HC is required, carpooling options are available. For further information on trip for the remainder of the year go to our website www.SJBAS.org and click on "trips and activities".

PAAC Classes:

- Aug 27 and Sept 15**, Denver: Site Forms Workshop;
- Sept 17-18**, Glenwood Springs: Archaeological Dating Methods;
- Oct 14-15**, Boulder: PAAC Board meeting at CAS annual meeting;
- October 21-23**, Pueblo: Principles of Archaeological Excavation;
- Nov 5-6, Cortez: Research Design & Report Writing**, followed by lab training at Lowry Dec-Jan;
- Nov 19-20**, Denver: Introduction to Laboratory Techniques;
- Dec 2-16**, Denver: PAAC Laboratory Project, on intermittent dates at the Museum Support Center in east Denver.

For more information, contact Eliane Viner at 970-382-2594 or j_e_viner@frontier.net, regarding dates. See PAAC Web site <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>

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Other's Meetings

Hisastsinom Chapter: There will be no August meeting because of the Pecos Conference. At the **September 6** meeting, at the Cortez Cultural Center, Shanna Diederichs will speak on the newest Crow Canyon dig site - the Dillard site at Indian Camp Ranch.

CAS, Denver Chapter - Monthly talks/tours are held on Saturday mornings at the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve in the Roxborough area of Douglas Co., running through October, to discuss mammoth, extinct buffalo, and paleo-Indian finds dating to 15,500 CALYBP.

See www.douglas.co.us/lambspring.

Area Information & Activities

Remaining National Park Fee Free Days: National Public Lands Day (Sept. 24) and Veterans Day weekend (Nov. 11-13).

Ute Mountain Tribal Park Open Houses to be held as follows: "Turning Red Tail Hawk Tour to Morris Three Cliff Dwelling" in Johnson Canyon, **Aug 30** and **Sept 3**, 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Departure times are from UMTTP Visitor Center). Reservations required. UMTTP tour information: (970) 565-9653, 800-847-5485, or ute-park@fone.net.

Denver Chapter Trip (Summary, *All Points Bulletin*, April 2011, by Jann Dillon) Tentatively, October 1-10, the Denver Chapter will also visit Little Petroglyph Canyon and the Coso Range, the Mojave Desert, and other rock art sites. Priority to Denver Chapter members.
E-mail TeresaWeedin, weedin@comcast.net.

Mesa Verde NP is selling tour tickets at the Colorado Welcome Center at 928 E. Main, Cortez. Tickets must be purchased in person and will be sold from two days to two hours in advance of each tour. Tour tickets are \$3/per per-

Area Information Activities-Cont.

son, per site, and will be sold for Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House. The Welcome Center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September 4. Mesa Verde NP is offering this service through the Mesa Verde Museum Assoc. Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House tour tickets may still be purchased on the same day or up to two days in advance at the Far View Visitor Center in Mesa Verde, open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tour tickets may also be purchased at the Morefield Ranger Station through early August, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Estes Park Museum - Historic Sites of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and Estes Valley, August 8. Meet at Museum at 9 am, then caravan to the various sites, guided by Estes Park Historian Laureate James Pickering. No additional fee for entrance into RMNP. Cost: \$6/ members; \$12/non-members. Registration opens July 1. Call 970-586-6256.



Nearby Lectures

Four Corners Lecture Series.

August 5, 7:00 p.m., Crow Canyon Archaeological Center ("CCAC"), Jeffrey Hoell: "New Cowboy Tradition in Amazonia". Contact Deborah J. Gangloff, CCAC, 970-564-4385; dgangloff@crowcanyon.org.

August 12, 7:00 p.m., Far View Lodge, NVNP, Frank Matero: "Rediscovering the Colored Walls of the Ancestral Puebloans of Mesa Verde". Contact Linda Martin, MVNP, 970-529-4632, linda_martin@nps.gov.

August 19, for information contact Deborah J. Gangloff, CCAC, 970-564-4385; dgangloff@crowcanyon.org; Shanna Diederichs: "The Basketmaker Communities Project". The Project is a multi-year investigation of early Pueblo community development. Started in the spring of 2011 at the Dillard site at Indian Camp Ranch, part of the more extensive and best-preserved cluster of Basketmaker III remains in the central Mesa Verde region.

September 9, 7:00 p.m. CCAC, Marjorie Connolly & Shirley Powell: "American Indians and Archaeologists: Multiple Perspectives on the Past." Deborah J. Gangloff, Crown Canyon Archaeological Center, 970-564-4385; dgangloff@crowcanyon.org.

September 16, 7:00 p.m., CCAC, Vince Lee: "Romancing the Stones, Back When Size Mattered", is an overview of megalithic architecture in the "west" (Roman world) from the earliest examples such as Malta and Stonehenge on through Greece, Crete and Egypt down to Roman Baalbek, in Lebanon, a little-known but incredible and enigmatic site that epitomized megalithic work just before it ended with the Christianization of Rome in the 4th century AD. Deborah J. Gangloff, Crown Canyon Archaeological Center, 970-564-4385; dgangloff@crowcanyon.org.

September 17, 3:00 p.m., Chapin Mesa Amphitheater, MVNP, Jane Baca and Starr Tafoya: "Santa Clara Pottery Demonstration, Firing, and Sale. Contact Linda Martin, MVNP, 970-529-4632, linda_martin@nps.gov.

September 22, 6:30 p.m., Fort Lewis College ("FLC"), 120 Center of SW Studies, Esther Belin:

"Klóó dii Sízíí, Klóó Si dáa, Standing Outside, Sitting Outside". The talk coincides with poetry that will be part of the art exhibit by the same name at the FLC gallery that explores the marginalization of Diné living on the fringes of the reservation. The exhibition creators (Belin, Gloria Emerson and Venaya Yazzie) will examine the situation of place created/destroyed/built around the political manipulations of borders/borderlines. Contact Kathleen Fine Dare, FLC, 970-247-7438, fine_k@fortlewis.edu.

September 29, 6:30 p.m., FLC, 125 Noble Hall, Carey Vicenti, J.D.: "'Indians Don't Read': Narrative and Oratorical Destination". Contact Kathleen Fine Dare, FLC, 970-247-7438, fine_k@fortlewis.edu.

September 30, 7:00 p.m., CCAC, David Whitley, ASM Affiliates, Tehachapi, CA: "Petroglyph Dating and the Peopling of the Americas: Recent advances in chronometric techniques have resulted in a suite of 60 well-dated petroglyphs from the California Desert". Petroglyph production began about 15,000 years ago, and was part of a very long-lived religious tradition that continued into the recent past -- making Native American shamanism the longest continually practiced religion that is known globally. The petroglyph dates have important implications for the peopling of the Americas, as well as the origins of both New World and Siberian shamanism.

Aztec Ruins Lecture Series. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Aztec Ruins Visitor Center. Free.

August 5, *Life and Ritual at the Edge of the Lava: The Las Ventanas Community*, Paul Reed, Chacoan Scholar, Salmon Ruins, and Preservation Archaeologist, Center for Desert Arch., Tucson;

August 19, *Clothing at Aztec Ruins and Beyond: A Look at Clothing Styles across the Prehispanic Southwest*, Dr. Laurie Webster, Anthropologist/textile consultant, Mancos, CO;

August 26, *Local Potters of Aztec Ruins: Technology and Artistry*, Loris Stephens Reed, NPS, Archaeologist and Ceramics Consultant, Aztec Ruins;

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Nearby Lectures - Cont.

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September 16, *Violence, Sex and Witchcraft - Twenty Years of Writing the Southwest*, Michael & Kathleen Gear, Archeologists and Authors of The First North Americans Series, Thermopolis, WY. For more information, call 505-334-6174 or www.nps.gov/azru Schedule of Events.

CAS Raffle

CAS Announces 2011 Raffle of Polychrome Olla by Loretta Joe, One of Acoma's Best Potters, to Benefit CAS's Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund.

The olla features an array of tribal prayer feather symbols and designs and is valued at \$850. The drawing will be held at 7 p.m., October 15, 2011, during the CAS Annual Meeting at A Spice of Life, Boulder, CO. The winner need not be present. Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. For additional information, contact Terri Hoff, 970-882-2191, tthoff@hotmail.com;

or www.coloradoarchaeology.org. Loretta Joe, a Yellow Corn Clan member, has been making traditional large polychrome jars, bowls and ollas since 1977. Her works are in well-known collections, including the Peabody Museum (Harvard), and are displayed for sale at the Dept. of Interior Indian Craft Shop in Washington, DC, as well as galleries, shops and trading posts across the country.



Excavation Opportunity

Dove Creek Archaeological Project, August 20-25.

Dave Dove, president of the Hisatsinom Chapter has invited SJBAS to participate in an archaeological project on his property near Dove Creek, to also include members of the Arizona Archaeological Society ("AAS") and the Hisatsinom Chapter. This opportunity will both (1) provide attendees the opportunity to learn about this site of about 400 rooms and many, many kivas; and (2) just as important, help develop friendships and open opportunities among the attendees and their organizations. Contact Richard Robinson (Robinson@frontier.net) to reserve a spot ASAP or for additional information. Attendees may participate for any or all of the above dates.

Camping spaces are available on site with porta John's, but no water. Motels are not far away. Previous experience is desired, but not required. It will be very hot, but there will be a range of activities for learning about the proper techniques of digging, sifting and recording site information.

Both Dave and his father Don, who recently passed away, have been active in the Archaeological community. Don helped develop the AAS in publishing, studying modern human behavior at sites, the state certification program and other important functions. Dave helped to start CAS interest in the Four Corners. The SJBAS toured his privately owned Mitchell Springs Ruin several years ago. Dave has presented his findings at the PECOS conference, to personal contacts and through publishing his findings. He has also surveyed the base of the Mesa Verde area for sites which had not been recorded. He will speak to SJBAS next year.

It is "legal" for owners to excavate sites on their own property. Dave has discussed this project with local archaeological sources. Opportunities like this to learn and participate do not occur very often in our area. Please contact Richard ASAP if interested, since he must inform Dave of our participation.

Conferences

2011 Pecos Conference. August 11-14, Mile-and-a Half Lake, AZ, south of Jacob Lake. www.swanet.org/2011_pecos_conference.

(Summary, *Am. Arch.*, Summer 2011)

Will feature special sessions on the archaeology and history of the Arizona Strip, SW Utah, and southern NV, including a hands-on workshop on Ariz. Strip ceramic traditions.

Reception, Thursday evening, hosted by the Kaipab Vermillion Cliffs Heritage Alliance.

Friday night, a "star party" in one of N. America's darkest night skies.

Saturday night's Bigfoot BBQ to feature live music by a Bluegrass band.

Sunday, tours to local sites. An important opportunity for students of prehistory to meet with professional archaeologists on a one-on-one basis to learn about the profession, gain access to resources and to new research opportunities, and to test new methods and theories related to archaeology.

Utah Rock Art Research Association Symposium, September 32-26, Price, UT;

Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, October 6-8, Missoula, MT;

Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, October 15-16, Boulder, CO;

Plains Anthropology Conference, October 26-29, Tucson, AZ, www.pac69.com;

Society for American Archaeology, April 18-22, 2012, Memphis, TN; Call for paper submissions due Sept. 15, 2011, www.saa.org/call

Museum Exhibits

Anasazi Heritage Center, through October 30. *Sacred Images*. Rock art photos.

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, U of NM, through February 2012. New photography exhibit "Chaco Uncovered: The Field Schools 1929 to Present"; www.unm.edu;

Smithsonian's National Museum of the Drylander Museum open Sat/Sun 1-4 pm, 755 3rd St., Nunn, CO. 970-897-3125;

www.homestead.com/highplainshistory;

Centennial Village Museum open Apr 30-Sept 30, Tues-Sat, 10 am - 4 pm, 14th Ave. & A St., Greeley, CO; <http://greeleygov.com/Museums>;

Global Village Mus, new location, Tue-Sat, 11 am - 5 pm, 200 W. Mountain, Fort Collins. A place to engage visitors to learn more about other cultures -- people, arts, history, food, living environment -- to promote understanding and peace. <http://globalvillagemuseum.com>;

Poudre Landmarks Foundation - Fort Collins Waterworks Open House; Aug 6, Sept 10, Oct 1 - 10 am - 3 pm, 2005 N. Overland Trail, www.poudrelandmarks.com;

High Plans Arch Museum, open for early June - late Aug. Call for hours. 211 Elm St., Pine Bluffs WY. Check for open periods at Windows on the Past Archaeological site at I-80 Pine Bluffs rest stop. 307-245-9372.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities: Cortez Cult. Cntr. Call Deb Avery (970) 565-1151; deb.avery@cortezculturalcenter.org; (or visit

www.cortezculturalcenter.org); **Chimney Rock Interpretive Assoc.**

Email Helen Richardson, 1218HL1944@century.net or go to

www.chimneyrockco.org; **Colo. Hist. Society**. Contact Kevin Black at

Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us; **Center of SW Studies**. Contact Julie Ta-

pley-Booth at 247-7456 to volunteer; **Mesa Verde** contact

R_Godin@nps.gov or visit www.mesaverdevolunteers.org **Aztec Ruins**.

Call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or tracy_bodnar@nps.gov.



THE EDITORS' CORNER

Sisters in Sin, by Duane Smith.

(Summary, Durango Herald, June 21, 2011)

Tells the story of prostitution in the mining towns of the San Juan Mountains in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Much of this book is based on Smith's interviews with Nellie Spencer, Durango's most famous working girl, in the 1980s when Spencer was in her 90s. She died in 1984 and is buried in Greenmount Cemetery. The Durango Discovery Museum sits in the middle of Durango's former Red Light District. One of Smith's shortest and most entertaining books.



Archeology News of the Southwest

Anasazi Heritage Center to Offer Tours of Curation and Storage Facilities to Give People Chance to See Full Operations of a Large Curatorial Facility and Explain Extent of Collection.

(Summary, Cortez Journal, May 31, 2011)

The project resulted in 120 fully excavated sites and information from more than 1,600 prehistoric households and villages in the Dolores River Valley. Behind the scenes tours begin in the research lab, where researchers can compare collections of different materials gathered in the area. Next is the conservation room, with information on conservation treatment for antiquities. The primary agents of destruction include mechanical agents, biological agents and inherent vice. The room houses a hydrothermograph that measures and records humidity and temperature. Most readings are completed using computers to avoid spikes in temperature or humidity and keep temperatures below 68° F since pests won't hatch below 68°. Visitors also see the archive room, where all documents relating to the scope of the collection are held. The archives is home to provenance, the record of ownership of the artifacts in the Center, and a collection of letters and photographs from the Wetherill family, which also encompasses artifacts, including a leather quiver decorated with arrowheads found in a cliff dwelling at Mesa Verde. Finally, the tour covers the artifact storage rooms. For more information or to request space on a tour, contact the center at 882-5600.

New Cortez Cultural Center Director: Shawn Collins. (Summary, Cortez Journal, June 9, 2011)

The mission of the Cultural Center is to provide a forum for art, education and culture. (SJBAS' August speaker)

Report on Denver Chapter's Rock Art Field Trip to Southwest Texas.

(Summary, CAS All Points Bulletin, May 2010)

Panther Cave and Parida Cave, located on the Rio Grande within Amistad National Recreation Area, are accessible only by boat. Panther Cave (41VV83) is a large Rockshelter famous for its large figure, a 9-foot leaping cat, but there are at least four more cats in the mass of paintings. There are many, many pictographs in the shelter, which is being studied intensely by the Shumla Institute in Comstock. The Pecos River Style is characterized by large, costumed, faceless, anthropomorphic figures, generally called shamans. Dark red predominates, followed by black, light red, yellow, orange and white. The style is characterized by massive polychrome anthropomorphic and abstract figures. Many of the sites have signs of hundreds of years of occupation, while others are completely free of deposits (White Shaman, Curly Tail Panther). Painted Cave is on a private ranch, but little Pecos River Style rock art is still showing due to weathering, flooding and over painting.

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The majority of the figures are in the Red Monochrome Style: large solid, red figures of anthropomorphs, aquatic life (catfish, turtle), and quadrupeds (lion, coyote). A natural spring in the cave has been dammed to make a pool for sheep and goats. The Red Monochrome Style is identified by the appearance of the bow and arrow and is considered post-Archaic. These murals are painted in light red, reddish-orange, or yellow. The Continental Ranch has bedrock petroglyphs above the Pecos River at Lewis Canyon, a lengthy drive away from paved highways. Many hundreds more glyphs have been uncovered since 1996. While petroglyphs appear elsewhere in the Pecos River area, they are isolated sites. This site is the largest in the immediate area. The White Shaman site is truly special. Nearby is the Judge Roy Bean Visitor's Center. At another private ranch, owned by Jack Skiles, there is rock art in Eagle Nest Cave and Bonfire Shelter, the southern-most and eastern-most bison jump site in North America. There are two other styles of rock art in the Pecos River area: the Red Linear Style is identified by tiny, dark red stick figures. The Historic Style exhibits themes indicative of European contact.

Representatives from Four Corners Meet at Ute Mountain Casino, Towaoc, for Third Installment of Native American Education Roundtable in SW Colorado.

(Summary, Cortez Journal, June 4, 2011) Montezuma-Cortez School District Re-1 is committed to sponsoring a fall conference aimed at Native American youths in Silverton, Durango, Pagosa Springs, Bayfield, Ignacio, Mancos, Dolores, Dove Creek and Cortez. The discussion will be sponsored by the Colorado Dept. of Education in partnership with the Re-1 District. The goal was to find a better understanding of how to support and advocate for the needs of Native American students in public schools. Two meetings, held earlier this year, narrowed a broad range of concerns to five areas of common interest: student advocacy, parent advocacy, instruction and curriculum, cultural awareness and community involvement, and communication and collaboration around legislative issues.

Jeanne Redd, Widow of Blanding Doctor who Killed Himself after Arrest in Utah Ancient Artifacts Theft Case, Files Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against BLM and FBI.

(Summary, Daily Sentinel, May 29, 2011) The lawsuit claims the agencies pushed her husband to suicide through excessive, overreaching and abusive treatment of him. Armed federal agents arrested the Redds along with 22 others on June 10, 2009, after a two-year undercover operation in the Four Corners area of southern Utah. James Redd was charged with one felony count of theft of Indian tribal property, specifically an effigy bird pendant worth \$1,000. The lawsuit claims that agents "manhandled" her husband and interrogated him for hours at their home, and that the "physical and psychological assault" focused on his family, religion, profession and community.

McElmo Creek Irrigation Flume, Located Three Miles East of Cortez Near the Montezuma County Fairgrounds, Named to Colorado Preservation Inc.'s 2011 Most Endangered Places List; Flume is First Site of Its Kind to Gain Such Recognition.

(Summary, Cortez Journal, February 12, 2011) The flume was nominated for placement on the list by the Cortez Historical Preservation Board, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co. ("MVI"), the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners, the Montezuma County Historical Society, and the Dolores Water Conservancy District. The flume was one of six sites chosen from a list of 44 nominees. It is the first site in Montezuma County to garner recognition as an endangered place. Having a water resource on the list speaks to the vital importance of water in Colorado's history. The McElmo flume was one of roughly 104 flumes constructed throughout Montezuma County to transport irrigation water across canals and arroyos in the region. The original flume system was conceived in the late 1800s, to deliver water throughout the Montezuma Valley. In 1920, MVI started using the flumes when they bought out Montezuma Valley Irrigation Water District ("District"). MVI, District successor,

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restored many of the flumes in the early 1950s. In 1978, 78 were still in use. Most of the flumes were replaced after the 1950s with concrete or metal culverts with fill over them, which did away with all the flumes. The McElmo Creek flume was the last in service, but use was discontinued in 1992 after the completion of the Dolores Project. The recognition of the flume as an endangered place carries with it the hope of restoration efforts. There is discussion of using HistoriCorps, a workforce for saving places, to do some of the work. HistoriCorps utilizes a volunteer network to engage in preservation efforts across the state. Local organizations also hope to work with the Colorado Department of Transportation to allow for a historic marker at the site along U.S. Highway 160.

Downtown Main Avenue, Durango, Revered for its History, but Antiquated Architecture Presents Challenges to Firefighters Charged with Protecting the Downtown.

(Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 22, 2011)

Sidewalks that have tunnels underneath and cannot support the weight of a fire truck; crumbling brick mortar that turns to dust with the scratch of a fingernail; Victorian overhangs that look nice but are a danger to firefighters. Interconnected historic buildings create a real challenge. If there is a fire in the middle of the block, officers look at holding the fire to the room of origin, building of origin or, finally, block of origin. Over the last 130 years, downtown Durango has experienced its share of fires. Some destroyed multiple city blocks; others have taken human life. The first significant blaze occurred on June 25, 1881, when a restaurant fire spread to 11 buildings. On October 20, 1882, fire destroyed about 60 small buildings on the west side of Narrow Gauge Avenue. Days after the blaze, *The Durango Herald* wrote that the lesson learned was that water works should be considered more in the light of a necessity than a luxury. During the summer of 1889, an arson fire burned six to eight city blocks in the business district, leaving the city almost in ruins. The Central Hotel fire burned 24 apartments above El Rancho Tavern on July 29, 2006. That building lacked sprinklers. When Seasons caught fire in February 2008, the fire spread through holes in the brick walls and multiple ceiling voids. Many building owners like the aesthetics of old brick, so they power wash it to bring out the looks, which washes out the mortar between the bricks and weakens the wall. Many of the worst fires in downtown Durango's long history were the result of arson. On August 24, 1974, an arsonist set fire to his apartment in the 800 block of Main Avenue. The fire spread to nine businesses. A brick wall in an alley exploded and killed two firefighters. The Central Hotel fire in 2006 also was started by arson.

Archeology News Outside the Southwest

The Florida Mounds and the Calusa Indians. (Summary, [CAS All Points Bulletin](#), July 2011)

Florida had thousands of mounds and other earthworks constructed by American Indians, some going back thousands of years. Many have been destroyed since the mid-19th century for road material. Most of the mounds were built of earth, sometimes mixed with shell (mostly oysters and whelks) or marl (clay). Many of the mounds were built with a platform top, where temples were built, or sometimes charnel houses which contained the remains of deceased relatives. Tombs, often located inside the mounds, could have housed sacred items such as ceramic vessels which contained sacred medicines. The mounds were often part of a planned city with plazas, elite residences and religious temples as well as other ceremonial buildings, not unlike the Mayan civilization. The earliest Florida mounds are 6000-7000 years old, some of the oldest in North America. Originally, they were believed to be middens from village settlements, mainly composed of shellfish shells. Later research showed they were earthen burial mounds from 5000 years ago. There were expanded alli-

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ances between communities, as objects from Mississippi and Georgia were found buried as grave goods in the mounds. Burial mounds were linear, but later the shell mounds changed to U-shaped, circular, or semi-circular rings. By 1000 B.C., the Florida Indians were building a greater variety and number of mounds than their ancestors. By 1400 years ago, large flat topped, trapezoid-shaped mounds with ramps to the top were being built. These platform or "temple" mounds were part of elaborate ceremonial centers and often housed their leaders. Over time, the mounds were rebuilt and enlarged before being abandoned. They are evidence of the social connections that covered thousands of years of culture and spanned thousands of miles. The shell mounds are now known to be intentional monuments and not just shell middens with remains of food and other refuse. In the 19th century, the sand and shell mounds were used for road base, fertilizer or as an additive to chicken feed. Others were looted; the net result was a loss of the majority of them. In the 1960s and 1970s, after several burial mounds were destroyed, the American Indians and government proposed legal protection for all unmarked human burial sites, which served to protect all of the surviving mounds from further destruction. There are over 100 mounds along the coasts of Florida, many of which are open to the public.

Cleanup After BP Oil Spill Turns up Dozens of Sites Where Archaeologists are Finding Human and Animal Bones, Pottery and Primitive Weapons Left Behind by Pre-Historic Indian Settlements.

(Summary, [Durango Herald](#), July 17, 2011)

It's a trove of new clues about the Gulf Coast's mound dwellers more than 1,300 years ago. But scientists also fear the remains could be damaged by oil or lost to erosion before they are fully studied. So far, teams of archaeologists hired by BP have visited more than 100 sites and sent back a growing list of finds to labs for radiocarbon dating and other tests, though extensive excavations haven't been done. Scholars have also accompanied cleanup crews to make sure they don't unwittingly throw away relics.

Archaeologists Recover Anchor from Wreck Believed to be from Blackbeard's Flagship, Queen Anne's Revenge, off North Carolina Coast, Changing Plans about how to Save the Rest of the almost 300-year-old Artifacts from the Central Part of the Ship.

(Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), May 28, 2011) Divers had planned to recover the second-largest artifact, but discovered it was too well-attached to other items in the ballast pile. Instead, they pulled up another anchor that is the third-largest artifact and likely was the typical anchor for the ship. Apparently, pirates had everyday anchors and special anchors. It's the first large anchor that divers have retrieved; they earlier brought up a small, grapnel anchor. The anchor is 11 feet, 4 inches long, with arms that are 7 feet, 7 inches cross. It was covered with concretion -- a mixture of shells, sand and other debris attracted by the leaching wrought iron -- and a few sea squirts. Its weight was estimated at 2,500 to 3,000 pounds. The anchor's size is typical for a ship the size of the Queen Anne's Revenge, while the two other anchors probably were used in emergencies, such as storms. Archaeologists had planned to remove the second-largest anchor, 13 feet long with arms that are 8 feet across, from the top of the ballast pile. But it was too well-attached, so instead the divers went in from the side to retrieve the everyday anchor. Future dives may involve going in from the side of the shipwreck rather than the top. State officials hope the anchor and other artifacts will attract tourists. The largest exhibit of artifacts from the shipwreck, which was discovered in 1996, is being shown at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The team hopes to recover all the artifacts by the end of 2013. The Disney film "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" starring Johnny Depp was released in May and features both Blackbeard and the Queen Anne's Revenge.

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Bone Fragment at Least 13,000 Years Old, with Carved Image of a Mammoth or Mastodon, Discovered in Florida. (Summary, *Daily Sentinel*, June 23, 2011)

While prehistoric art depicting animals with trunks has been found in Europe, this may be the first in the Western Hemisphere. Much of the real significance of such finds is in the tangible, emotional connection they allow us to feel with people in the past. Cave paintings showing animals have been found in Texas, but those were dated about 4,000 years ago, paleontologists, forensic anthropologists, materials science engineers and artists. The bone was found by a fossil hunter near a location, known as the Old Vero Site, where human bones were found side-by-side with the bones of extinct Ice Age animals in an excavation from 1913 to 1916. It was heavily mineralized, which prevented standard dating. But mammoths and mastodons had died out in the Americas by 13,000 years ago, so it has to be older than that. All indications are that the carving is the same age as the bone. The only other report of an ancient bone in North America carved with the image of a mastodon came from Mexico in 1959, but questions were raised about that object and it subsequently disappeared.

Archeology News From Afar

Man-bites-dog Story Began Over 9,000 Years Ago.

(Summary, *Washington Post*, May 17, 2011) (Thanks to Diane Skinner)

In 1912, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team fought exhaustion, cold and hunger on their quest to be the first humans to reach the South Pole. When rations ran low, Amundsen and his men shot and ate some of their dogs, probably after hearing stories of aboriginal hunters in Greenland eating their sled dogs in winter. In a paper published online in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, a researcher reports finding a dog bone in 9,260-year-old naturally preserved human feces, the earliest evidence for domesticated dogs in the New World and the oldest direct evidence of human dog consumption. The bone was discovered while a researcher was identifying the contents of ancient human feces excavated from a lower layer at a rock shelter known as Hinds Cave, Texas. The ancient fecal material, littered with seared prickly pear seeds and flecked with small bones from fish, birds, rodents, and the bone of a larger mammal, part of a dog's skull, a knoblike structure on the back of the head, near the first vertebra. A team determined the age of the coprolite by radiocarbon dating one of the prickly pear seeds, which necessitated a more definitive identification of the bone, since claims for other New World dogs in this time range had been disputed. To conclusively identify the Hinds Cave bone, the Oklahoma researchers took two small samples of it for DNA testing and compared it to sequences from ancient dogs, as well as to sequences from modern dogs, wolves and coyotes. The Hinds Cave bone fell into a group belonging solely to modern and ancient dogs. A geneticist in Sweden, not involved in the project, was not surprised that ancient humans saw man's best friend as more than a companion or hunting assistant, because there are lots of historical records of Native Americans eating dogs.

Acoustic Archaeology. (Summary, *Hisatsinom* Newsletter, December 2010)

Researchers are uncovering the secrets of ancient civilizations who built fun house-like temples that may have scared the pants off worshippers with scary sound effects, light shows and perhaps drug-induced psychedelic trips. The emerging field of acoustic archaeology is a marriage of high-tech acoustic analysis and old-fashioned bone-hunting. The results of this scientific collaboration is a new understanding of cultures who used sound effects as entertainment, religion and a form of political control.

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Archeology News From Afar - Cont.

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Archaeologists are Excavating 4,500-year-old Wooden Boat Found Next to the Great Pyramid of Giza, One of Two Buried Next to the Pharaoh Khufu in what Appears to be Religious Custom to Carry Him in the Afterlife. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 26, 2011)

Khufu, also known as Cheops, is credited with building the Great Pyramid of Giza. Scientists discovered that the second ship is inscribed with Khufu's name. Khufu founded the 4th Dynasty around 2680 B.C. and ruled Egypt for 23 years. Egypt hopes the boat's display will boost tourism in Egypt, which has fallen sharply since the country's popular revolution deposing President Hosni Mubarak. The boat was originally found in 1954 along with another ship, which was restored and is regarded as one of the most significant discoveries on the Giza plateau for its age, size and condition. Experts say the ships are the oldest surviving vessels from antiquity. The second boat is thought to be smaller than its sister ship, which is about 140 feet long. Using a pulley system, a team of scientists lifted the first of 41 limestone slabs, each weighing about 16 tons, to uncover fragments of the ancient ship. Experts expect to unearth about 600 pieces from the boat's underground resting place

Two Million Years Ago, Men Among Prehuman Forerunners Stayed Put, while Women Traveled to Start New Families, Study of Human Fossil Teeth Suggests. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 19, 2011)

Females from two prehuman species seemed to move out of their birth homes and journey elsewhere, probably to prevent inbreeding. Chimpanzees, our closest living primate relative, also have females that travel to mate and raise families. That's in contrast to lower primates and most mammals. Researchers studied 19 teeth, including eight from *Australopithecus africanus* individuals, a species considered a probable ancestor from about 2.2 million years ago. The other 11 were from *Paranthropus robustus* individuals, a dead-end species who were not our direct ancestors but more like prehistoric aunts and uncles from 1.8 million years ago. The mineral strontium in the teeth varies by landscape and was reviewed to see if they moved to different areas during various seasons. The research didn't show that. The bigger teeth showed almost no mineral variation while more than half of the smaller teeth indicated they were from individuals who grew up elsewhere. Other scientists not involved in the research said the tooth sample may be too small to draw that conclusion. The study's lead author, Sandi Copeland, a paleoanthropologist at the Univ. of CO, said the switch from male to female dispersal may indicate the start of a sense of community, which has its evolutionary advantages. And it continues in many societies to this day. In less-evolved animals, it makes evolutionary sense for the male to wander and impregnate many females and show his might. In this case, the female moving could show that males in a community have bonded and cooperated, maybe for common defense. So it makes sense for the men to settle while the females disperse.

Lucy's Feet Made for Walking. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), February 11, 2011)

A team of researchers got a first look at a foot bone from Lucy, who lived three million or more years ago, and concluded this ancestor was comfortable with life on the ground, rather than the trees. The discovery shows that ancient *Australopithecus afarensis* had feet similar to modern humans. The study of Lucy's other bones showed she was able to stand upright. But no foot bones were found with her skeleton, so researchers puzzled over whether she walked like modern people. The new discovery shows these relatives "were fully humanlike and committed to life on the ground." The new bone, discovered with other *A. afarensis* bones at Hadar, Ethiopia, is a metatarsal, one of the long bones connecting the toes to the base of the foot. It shows that Lucy's kin had arches stiffening their feet like modern people, as opposed to apes whose feet are more flexible for grasping tree branches. This was an important step in evolution, which shows our early ancestor walked like we would walk, not shuffling. The development of arched feet was a fundamental shift toward the human condition, because it meant giving up the ability to use the big toe for grasping branches, signaling that our ancestors had finally abandoned life in the trees in favor of life on the ground. That doesn't mean *A. afarensis* didn't climb trees. It was probably a very adaptable creature, using trees when they were available but being quite comfortable on the ground. *A. afarensis* still retained the well-muscled arms that would have been useful in trees.

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San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

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We welcome your comments, reports, pictures, and news to include in this newsletter.

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