



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

December 2009

SJBAS December Christmas Party



This fun event will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2009, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building at Fort Lewis College. The college facilities staff moved us from the Vallecito Room (previously the Student Memorial Lounge where we've been before), to the Ballroom. The Ballroom is in the same Student Union building as the Vallecito Room. It is on the south end of the building instead of the north. It is on the same level as the Vallecito Room. The easiest way to reach the Ballroom is to park in the lot we have used before below the Student Union Building, or if that is full, in the Noble Hall lot just to the north. Walk up the sidewalk and enter the east doors of the Student Union Building. Walk straight ahead along the hall on the left side of the stairway. You will see signs for the restrooms on the wall ahead. Turn right at the restrooms, enter the elevator, and take it to the second floor. Exit the elevator and walk to the end of the wall where you will enter

the Ballroom lobby. Enter the Ballroom through the center doors on the left. If you prefer, you may climb the three flights of stairs to the Ballroom. The party replaces the December business meeting and lecture.

Plate dinners will be served, with a choice of entrees -- Roast Top Round of Beef, Chicken Piccata, or Vegetarian Lasagna, together with Caesar salad, Risotto with mushrooms, green beans with almonds, fresh baked rolls and butter, fresh brewed coffee or decaf, hot or iced tea, and Carrot cake. The cost, \$30 per person, which includes appetizers and lemonade, the room rent, caterer setup charges, podium, screen and AV table for the PowerPoint presentation of 2009 field trip photos, a bartender (required by FLC), and all taxes and gratuities. Wine, purchased by SJBAS will be offered for donations.

Your reservations (with checks made out to "SJBAS") and your entree selections should be sent to Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 S. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301 no later than December 1, 2009. There will be door prizes, a description of 2010 field trips and activities by Richard Robinson, the results of Bud Beebe's pottery workshop, and Lyle Hancock's PowerPoint

presentation of highlights of 2009 field trips and activities. Please email photos for Lyle's PowerPoint 2009 as attachments to Lyle at lylehancock@bresnan.net, in JPG format, no larger than 1.5 MB and no smaller than 500 kb. You may also copy the photo files to a DVD, CD or thumb drive and deliver them to Lyle. Call Lyle at 764-4531 or email him to figure this out.

2010 chapter officers will be elected. Candidates include: Andy Guilliford, Pres; Bill Cagle and Gail Schulz, Co-

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vice Pres; Mark Gebhardt, Treas; Jeff Davis, Sec; Bob Powell, CAS rep; Eliane Viner, PAAC coordinator.

For more information contact Gail Schulz at mschulz@frontier.net, 970-259-3249, or Bill Cagle at cagle81301@yahoo.com, 970-385-4566. **Come and have a great time!**

Gulliford to Speak

On Tuesday, December 8th, at the Durango Public Library, Dr. Andrew Gulliford will present an illustrated slide lecture entitled, "*Interpreting Historic Photographs of Native Americans: The New Illustrated Edition of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*," on how to "read" historic photos of Native Americans and how to interpret photographic "truth." Dr. Gulliford will also discuss the meaning and importance of the book "*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*." The program is from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Program Rooms 1 & 2. For more information please call 375-3380 or visit the Library's website at www.durangopubliclibrary.org.

SJBAS Is 30 Years Old



John Viner has just brought it to our attention that SJBAS was founded in April 1979 so this year is our 30th anniversary. John Sanders and Jill Tripp are charter members.

We will celebrate this anniversary at our Christmas Party and have asked John Sanders, Jill Tripp, and early member and frequent trip leader Guy Tomberlin to share their memories with us at the Christmas Party. Some of our other members joined SJBAS in the early years also. If you are one of our first members or if you know things about the early times, we invite you to share your memories through the years with us at the Christmas Party as well.



PAAC CLASSES

"Rock Art", Durango, December 11-13; Contact Peggy Morris. "Lithics Description & Analysis, Gunnison, December 4-7. Contact the PAAC Coordinator for the Gunnison chapter or Kevin Black to register.

Virginia (Ginny) Graham Dies

Ginny's obituary appeared November 14. She her husband (Chuck) belonged to SJBAS. She was the mother of Heather Lundquist of Durango.

Galisteo and Santa Fe Field trip Notes

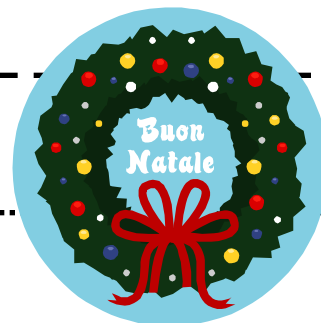
Eleven of our Durango SJBAS members joined 2 from Jemez Springs, 2 from Albuquerque, and one of our Santa Fe members for an enjoyable trip to Santa Fe, NM. After our arrival on Nov 6, we went to the “new” New Mexico History Museum on the plaza. They have really done a marvelous job presenting the history of New Mexico using an array of techniques, and the museum requires many hours to see. The next day we went out to Galisteo Basin, an area with a large PIV occupation and toured Pueblo Blanco and a ridge with unique petroglyphs with the Archaeologist for the New Mexico State Land Office, David Eck. Pueblo Blanco is a large PIV site with some 1,450 rooms in 16 room blocks and was occupied between 1400 and 1600 AD.

In the afternoon with Bill Baxter we toured the Santa Fe Counties Petroglyph Hill and went to a site with some 1800 glyphs. Permits were required for both sites. We are sending a requested letter to the Santa Fe County Open Space Commission recommending our suggestions for development or lack of such for the site before they open it to public. The weather was great and was, therefore, quite a contrast to our visit last year.

On Sunday with the assistance of Beth and Paul of the Site Steward Foundation Inc. we toured several sites in the Chama River drainage. The views from these sites were extraordinary, with two of the larger sites having around 300 rooms. This site was occupied during the PIV period. There were also shires and agriculture fields in the area.

Due to the number of escorts and their excellent knowledge base, we learned much about the history and archaeology of the area and using a provided key were able to identify many examples of different styles of pottery. Although the walls of these sites are the typical fallen walls of that period of time it was the wealth of information presented to us that made the trip memorable.

On our way home on Monday a couple of us stopped at Poshouinge, a very large 2000 room PIV site. We spent a lot of time covering the site and located some features that we had just learned about.



Tentative January and February Trip Schedule

From Richard Robinson

The 2010 trip schedule is not complete. Tentatively we will be going to the Anasazi Heritage Center on Sat Jan 23. We will be leaving Santa Rita Park at 8:30 to carpool, or you can meet us there at 9:30 AM. The trip leader Diane Skinner can be contacted at 970-247-0849. There will be a trip limit of 20 persons. Fred Blackburn will be showing us the Whetherill Collection. We hope to have a second surprise on this trip that is still being negotiated. This will be a very special trip.

Bruce Howard (970-385-4539) will be leading us on an adventure to see “The Architecture of Salmon and Aztec Ruins” with Gary Brown and Larry Baker on February 19, 2010. There is a trip participation Limit of 15. We will leave Santa Rita Park at 8:30 AM.

Another trip is planned for February. Peggy Morris and Dennis Lopez will be leading us on a tour of the Senate Room at Fort Lewis College. The date and time for this visit have not been determined at this time.

Trips, Meetings, & Museum Information

HISATSINOM CHAPTER. Tuesday, December 1 will be the Chapter's Christmas party.

Friends of Crow Canyon 2009-2010 Distinguished Lecturer Series. These lectures will be held on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Feb 19, 2010 at the Dolores Community Center, 400 Riverside, Dolores, CO., Dr. Steven Lee, Dept. Chair & Curator of Planetary Science, Denver Museum of Nature and Science will give a lecture entitled *Mars Exploration Update: What's New on the Red Planet*.

March 12, 2010 at the Gates Building, Crow Canyon Campus ("CCC"), Dr. William Lipe, Prof. Emeritus of Anthropology, Washington State University will give a lecture entitled *Before Lake Powell: Memories of Glen Canyon Archaeology*.

April 23, 2010 at the Gates Building, CCC, Dr. Maelee Thomson Foster, Prof. Emerita, School of Architecture, U of Florida will give a lecture entitled *The Megalithic Temples of Malta: Their Astronomical Significance Compared to Sites in the American Southwest*.

May 14, 2010 at the Gates Building, CCC, Dr. Peter Decker, Rancher and Author, Director of National Western Stock Show and Rodeo, past member of Colorado Commission on Higher Education, former Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture will give a lecture entitled *The Utes Must Go!: American Expansion and the Removal of a People*.

Seating for these lectures is limited. The series costs \$135 for one and \$250 for two. Cost per lecture is \$30.00. Call 970-564-4341 for reservations.

Friends of Archaeology ("FOA"), a Museum of New Mexico Foundation Support Group for the Office of Archaeological Studies Lecture Series; New Mexico Film Museum Theater, 418 Montezuma Street, Santa Fe

Contact & Conflict in the American Southwest, will be the title of the lecture series given on Friday at 7:00 p.m. on January 15. - February 12, 2010. It will explore the darker side of cultural change as a result of contact and conflict between different ethnic groups within the American Southwest. Lecturers will draw on archaeological, ethnohistorical, and military historical research to examine this theme.

January 15 the talk is entitled *Tragedies of the Largo-Gallina*, and will be presented by J. Michael Bremer and Tony Largespada.

January 22 the talk will be *Coronado Expedition & Impacts on Indigenous Populations*, given by Dr. Clay Mathers and Charles Haecker.

January 29 the lecture will be on *Pueblo Revolt via Research at San Marcos* presented by Dr. Ann Ramenofsky;

February 5 the talk will be *Kit Carson & Kidnapping on the Santa Fe Trail* presented by Dr. Paul Hutton.

February 12 the talk will be entitled *Archaeological Perspective of Nuclear Proliferation -- the Trinity Site* by Dr. David T. Kirkpatrick.

FOA members can hear the series for \$50 or \$12 per lecture. For the public the cost is \$60 for the series, \$15 per lecture. For reservations, call (505) 92-2715, ext. 8, after November 15.

FOA 2010 Field Trips. March 20-22, Saturday a.m. to Monday noon. *Hohokam & Southern Arizona Field Trip*. San Pedro River cuts through a valley filled with ruins dating from 11,000 B.C. to the late 19th century. For multiple tribes (the Hopi, Zuni, Tohono O'odham and Apache) this area was part of their migration history. The tour will include visits to the San Pedro Valley, and the Amerind Foundation and the Arizona State Museum for behind the scenes views of collections and background on the cultures. The tour will also visit Hohokom sites within and near Tucson. Registration begins January 15. Call (505) 982-7799, ext. 5 See the FOA website for more details, <http://www.museumfoundation.org/foa.html>.

Trips, Meetings, & Museum Information—Cont.

CAS Field Trip to Easter Island, June 22-28, 2010: This trip includes a day in Santiago, Chile followed by a five-day stay on Easter Island. Visiting the Poike Peninsula and the whole coastline consisting of black volcanic rock, Vaihu archaeological sites, Ranu Raraku (the quarry where all moais were sculpted), the restored giant Ahu Tongariki and its 15 moais, the ceremonial villages Orongo and Ahu Akivi, and more. Trip is limited to 10 people. Land only cost is \$1630 per person based on double occupancy (\$500 single supplement). The pricing subject to change.

CAS Field Trip to the Archaeological Sites in Northern Peru and the Sacred Valley, June 29 - July 11, 2010: This trip includes sites around Trujillo (the Temples of the Sun and Moon, royal palace complex of Chan Chan), Chiclayo (the tomb of the Lord of Sipan, the Royal Tombs of Sipan Museum, and the 26 pre-Columbian pyramids of Tucume), Cusco (Kenko, the ceremonial bath of Tambomachay and Sacsayhuaman, a huge fortress of massive stones, and the Koricancha - Temple of the Sun), and Machu Picchu, the Inca citadel located 113 km from Cusco at 2400 meters above sea level. The trip is limited to 12 people and is moderately strenuous. It involves walking and climbing steep ramps and irregular stairs. The altitude will range from sea level to near 13,000'. Cusco is at 12,000' feet. Machu Picchu is at 9,000'. Pricing (based on double occupancy. Singles supplement \$1050). Peru land-only: \$2845 + \$670 for domestic flights = \$3515 (4% surcharge assessed for credit card payments). International roundtrip from the US to Lima, Peru (Runs from \$720 and up). Contact: Teresa Weedon; (303) 366-7843(h); (303) 478-6705(c); weedon@comcast.net; or Sheridan Samano, Reefs to Rockies, (303) 860-6045; sheridan@reefstorockies.com. This trip is customizable for an additional day.

Museum of Western Colorado Trips: See [www.museumofwesternco.com/programs and events/trip and tours/](http://www.museumofwesternco.com/programs_and_events/trip_and_tours/).

Animas Museum Exhibit: (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), November 13, 2009)

"Pioneers, Prospectors & Trout: La Plata County's Rural Legacy," the current exhibit, explores through historic and modern photographs, the county's past while revealing that for many, the old days are still very much a part of everyday life. Jill Seyfarth and Ruth Lambert compiled the stories and photographs. Seyfarth owns Cultural Resource Planning and Lambert is the cultural programs director for the San Juan Mountains Association. Contracted by the county to survey historic preservation sites in the unincorporated areas of the county, Seyfarth and Lambert drove more than 1,000 miles and spoke to numerous families and individuals to find 100 examples of historic themes. They narrowed their list from more than 1,600 possible sites.

Pointe-À-Callière/Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History: *Pirates, Privateers and Freebooters*, (through January 2010); 16th to 19th century sea adventurers along N. Am. Eastern seaboard and the Caribbean. 514-872-9150, www.pacmusee.qc.ca.

Historic Arkansas Museum: Little Rock, AR. (permanent exhibit) *We Walk in Two Worlds: The Caddo, Osage & Quapaw in Arkansas*, the story of Arkansas' first people. 501-324-9351, www.arkansashistory.com/exhibits.

Detroit Science Center and other places: [Accidental Mummies of Guanajuato Makes Trawley Exhibit.](#) (Summary, [The Durango Herald](#), October 9, 2009) A new touring exhibition offers a glimpse into the lives of people whose bodies accidentally were mummified in the mining town of Guanajuato, Mexico, more than a century ago. The exhibit is designed to tell the story of Guanajuato, its culture, and its people. Thirty-six mummies on loan from Guanajuato's Museo de las Momias are on display at the Detroit Science Center, one of 67 stops.

Trips, Meetings, & Museum Information—Cont.

New Archaeological Conservancy Acquisitions. A Glimpse of California Prehistory: The Lathrop Mound is one of the few intact Central Valley mounds; Preserving New Philadelphia: The Conservancy obtains a portion of the first town founded by a freed slave; Landowner Donates Ancient Paleo-Indian Site: The MacHaffie site is the Conservancy's first Montana preserve; Working Together: The acquisition of the Frazier site is another example of the Conservancy working with a developer.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association ("CRIA") is looking for volunteers. Email Helen Richardson at 1218HL1944@century.net.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE EDITORS' CORNER

The Second Edition of Linda Cordell's "Archaeology of the Southwest" Published by Left Coast Press. (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, September 2009)

This second edition of this well-known textbook on Southwestern archaeology provides a coherent and comprehensive summary of the major themes and topics central to modern interpretation and practice. This edition offers a readable and accurate representation of current debates and research in the American Southwest. It challenges readers to integrate the structure and meaning of various broad regional trends that preceded the European conquest. It covers the latest in field research and topical syntheses. It addresses curricular cultural diversity requirements and contains new maps, line drawings, and photos.

CAS Annual Meeting 2009, Keynote Speaker: Stephen Lekson, "The Chaco Meridian: Centers of Political Power in the Ancient Southwest". (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, September 2009)

Currently working in the desert Southwest, Lekson is a generalist in a field of specialists, a big-picture guy. He advances bold and sweeping ideas that confound his colleagues. Nothing Lekson has published in his 30 years of research has stirred up the hornet's nest as has his idea of the Chaco meridian. According to the National Geographic, March 2005, Lekson is on a quest to solve some of the most puzzling mysteries in the American Southwest. He has spent the past 20 years investigating the answers and the last ten shoring up a controversial theory that came to him in 1995. In addition to environmental factors, Lekson theorizes that Chaco may have been driven by a power struggle and that the Chacoan leadership deliberately moved and resettled along longitude 107° 57' west of Greenwich. This is the basis for his Chaco Meridian book. Lekson has published extensively on Chaco and ancient Puebloan societies. For further information on Dr. Lekson, check out: www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/0503/excerpt1.html; http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/about/Bios/lekson_cv.pdf; www.albookstores.com/author/Stephen_H_Lekson.html.

Lekson's "History of the Ancient Southwest" is Now Available. Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter,

(September 2009) According to Lekson, much of what we think we know about the Southwest has been compressed into conventions and classifications and orthodoxies. This book challenges and reconfigures these accepted notions by telling two parallel stories, one about the development, personalities, and institutions of Southwestern archaeology and the other about interpretations of what actually happened in the ancient past.



Archaeology Near and Far

Southwest News

Chimney Rock. (Summary, *Hands of Time*, October 1, 2009)

Chimney Rock Archaeological Area ("CRAA") is being considered for a change in its status from an Archaeological Area to a National Monument. Over the summer Rep. Salazar and Jim Bedwell (USFS, Head of Heritage and Recreation) visited the site for special tours. On August 12, Richard Moe, President, National Historic Trust, plus many representatives from Washington D.C. and Forest Service management toured the Great House Pueblo on one of the busiest days of the year. The visitors saw what a great job Chimney Rock Interpretive Association ("CRIA") does. CRIA representatives made a strong case that making CRAA a National Monument would likely increase tourism. Without funding changes to accommodate the increase in traffic, including expanded parking facilities and a larger cabin, the changes could be detrimental to the site. Following a meeting with members of the City Council and the Town Tourism Council, Mr. Moe indicated he wanted to give a no-strings-attached grant of \$10,000 to CRIA. Glenn Raby will administer this grant, along with the other three grants already in place for stabilization and other work. Wendy Sutton, USFS liaison, asked CRIA to create a long-term plan for CRAA and CRIA. The \$10,000 grant would probably best be used as matching money for other grants.

Did Ancient Elites at Chimney Rock Dine on Better Sources of Meat? (Summary, *Hisatsinom Newsletter*, September 2009)

When the elite ancient residents of Chimney Rock craved a haunch of venison or an elk loin, it appears they did what the privileged class of today does: They counted on caterers. New research by a University of Colorado archaeological team at the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area suggests that the rabbit- and turkey-eating commoners living below the dramatic sandstone mesa brought the best provisions to those who were living on the top.

Utah Nine Mile Canyon Rock Art Sites Up for National Register of Historic Places.

The BLM nominated 63 sites along Nine Mile Canyon, which some call the world's longest art gallery. It contains more than 10,000 prehistoric rock carvings and paintings of bighorn sheep, owls, a two-headed snake, spear-wielding hunters, and warriors engaged in hand-to-hand combat. In the upcoming years, the BLM in Utah plans to nominate more than 800 sites in the canyon for national register. It is the largest such attempt for archaeological sites in Utah. The canyon has been a place of controversy because of plans for nearby mineral development. Being Listed on the National Register wouldn't provide additional protections for the canyon's petroglyphs and pictographs. However, it may prompt decision makers to be more thoughtful about development in the area. Such designation was first sought more than 30 years ago. The canyon's drawings were discovered in the late 1800s. Some of the art is believed to be the work of the Fremont people, who lived in present-day Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Nevada from 700 to 1300 A.D. Other inscriptions in the canyon's walls are from the Ute Indians, early explorers, and members of the U.S. 9th Cavalry. The first batch nominated for the national register includes 19 rock art sites, 40 that include evidence of people living and working during the Fremont period and four sites with homesteads and cabins from the late 1800s and early 1900s. All the proposed properties are on BLM land. The public has until November 25 to comment on the nominations.

Canyons of the Ancients Enlarged by 4,573 Acres. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, November 17, 2009)

Departments of the Interior and Agriculture will acquire 4,573 acres of property within the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The property was purchased by The Conservation Fund in August and was offered to the agencies at fair market value -- \$3.315 million. The property has been considered for purchase by the BLM, a division of the Department of the Interior, since 2006. The acreage accounts for a quarter of the private lands within the monument boundaries. Some of the sites in Canyons of the Ancients were discovered in 1874 by William Henry Jackson. That is even before Mesa Verde was located by the Wetherills. It is historically significant for that reason, and it has very high cultural and natural resource values. We expect it to have high site densities. The property contains 25 documented sites of cultural importance, including Jackson's Castle and the Skywatcher Site, a 1,000-year-old Ancestral Puebloan solstice marker, according to a press release from the two federal agencies. The property is be-

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Archaeology Near and Far—Cont.

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lieved to contain more than 700 other undocumented sites of cultural importance.

Buckhorn Wash Pictograph Panel and San Raphael River Hanging Bridge (Summary, Daily Sentinel, September 27, 2009)

Driving to Buckhorn Wash, cutting through the northern San Rafael Swell, is dramatic. Slot canyons, mesas, pinnacles, and arches are testament to the sculpting powers of wind and water, but the swell itself is remnant of a huge stone dome, uplifted 60 million years ago by internal pressures within the earth's crust. This is a well-maintained dirt road, but it could become impassable depending on the weather and is susceptible to flash floods. To get to Buckhorn Wash Pictograph Panel, take Interstate 70 west from Grand Junction past Green River, Utah, to Exit 131, about 130.6 miles from 4th and Main in downtown Grand Junction. Exit 131 is an old Ranch Exit. As you turn off the highway, you will find a BLM recreation kiosk and map. Head back east along the frontage road on the north side of the interstate for 3.5 miles until the Hyde Draw turn. Veer to the north and travel 15.8 miles to the San Rafael Bridge Recreation Site and campground. At this point, you will see the famous old hanging bridge. Two cultures separated by 1,000 years apparently created this rock art -- people of the Barrier Canyon Culture painted figures at least 2,000 years ago, and people of the Fremont Culture pecked figures called petroglyphs into the rock face about 1,000 years ago. There are a number of interpretive displays and numerous canyons to explore. There is an impressive dinosaur track only a few miles north of the pictograph panel.

A Town's love of Artifacts from Indians Backfires (Summary, The Durango Herald, October 5, 2009).

High above Comb Ridge, archaeologist Winston Hurst treads carefully through ancient dwellings, carved into the cave more than a thousand years ago. While the puebloan ruins seem intact – walls and windows and rooms still standing, storage chambers strewn with thousand year-old corn cobs, and brightly colored pottery sherds scattered throughout, Hurst sees destruction, pointing to the trashed “pit houses” dating from 500-700 A.D. – distinctive mounds in the brush, where looters have dug for the tools, pottery, and jewelry traditionally buried with the dead. In the cave, rock petroglyphs depicting animals and people are daubed with modern graffiti from “H.E.E.” (the Hyde Exploration Expedition of 1892) to “Liz Jones, age 8, 2003.” A few yards away, another signature, the archeologist's own name, scratched into a rock when he was a 12-year old boy and scrambling through the ruins collecting arrowheads was a way of life.

Ghost Hunters Investigate 180-year-old Adobe Building in Sierra County, New Mexico (Summary, Durango Herald, May 17, 2009)

The former owner of the Old Cuchillo Bar hears the door of a potbellied stove opening and wood being stacked inside, but no one is there; whispers echo in the current owner's ear; things fall off shelves. The West Coast Ghost and Paranormal Society has been asked to investigate the property. Only about five percent of the group's investigations cannot be explained by electromagnetic radiation, thin walls, faulty wiring, lights from passing cars, or other normal explanations. The investigators are usually ghost debunkers. They explain the mysteries their clients relate to them using science or common sense. WCGAPS is booked through July with investigations, mainly in the Southwest.

The Old Cuchillo Bar dates to 1830, when it was a stagecoach stop. At one time, freight was unloaded and taken by wagon to nearby mines in Winston or Chloride. The 5,00-square-foot complex has housed a trading post, stables, mercantile, post office, hotel and saloon over the years. Once home to 2,000 people and the hub of the county, Cuchillo has about 35 residents.

Rice, a business analyst, became interested in investigating ghosts when someone or something pushed him down stairs, lifting him off the floor and leaving scratch marks on his back. For the investigation at Cuchillo, Rice will search area building codes and the site's history, talk with residents, review the property's title history and look at photographs of the original buildings. He and seven other investigators will bring cameras and video and audio equipment to record noises or anything found in the buildings.

Native Tribal Nations Request Repatriation of Blanding Artifacts (From the Deseret News)

American Indian tribes should be given the first opportunity to reclaim thousands of ancient Southwest artifacts being seized by the government in its prosecution of theft and trafficking. Tribal leaders will have something to say to the government on this issue, said Larry EchoHawk, assistant Interior secretary for

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Archaeology Near and Far—Cont.

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Indian Affairs. <http://www.cdarc.orgt/page/b4fl> - Deseret News.

Is Stone Tablet from 1340 or 1940? (Summary, Daily Sentinel, September 7, 2009)

A flagstone tablet inscribed with symbols and what looks like an ancient, stylized, Mayan confounded experts in Mexico. The tablet, as well as dozens of arrowheads and a half-dozen clay pots reflecting far less sophistication, are at the heart of the latest inquiry by the Western Investigations Team, a cooperative effort of the Museum of the West and Mesa State College. The trove was found on private land 53 years ago. The pots were scattered out in the open, not buried, and not hidden. The tablet has so far resisted all efforts to explain its meaning or its presence at the site. The markings on the stone, or glyphs, reflect only two known characters, one for Aztecs merchants who traveled long distances and another, more common, character that denotes the four suns as the Aztecs saw the ages of the earth. It is not a known glyph system, although it is serpentine. The Aztecs wrote in such a manner that the first line would be read right to left, then the line below would run left to right, leading the eye in a serpentine path. Even in Mexico, experts in glyph systems don't recognize the tablet markings. It is possible the site where the items were found was two sites in one, the first of a people who were beginning to understand pottery making and another of a more technically advanced people. Stone workers who have seen the tablet have been struck by the high level of workmanship, including beveling of the characters and the polished gloss of the head. The tablet might have been created and planted precisely to confound one particular researcher.

St. George City Paleontologist Andrew Milner Finds Jurassic Plant Fossils (Summary, Daily Sentinel, October 29, 2008)

The flora fossils, the only ones from the early Jurassic period, 198 million years ago, found so far in western North America, were unearthed in a bare lot near the Virgin River, not far from the city's Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm, where dinosaur tracks were found eight years ago. Every plant identified has been new and may fill in gaps about life during a transitional period between the mass extinction of the late Triassic and the rise of dinosaurs as a dominant species on the landscape.

Earlier Dates for Peopling of the Americas (Summary, Hisatsinom, July 2009)

Many, if not most, Native people insist that their ancestors have lived on this continent since time immemorial, and some mainstream scientists are beginning to weigh in on their side. Scholars are pushing evidence of human habitation in North America well beyond the non-Native accepted wisdom that places it at a relatively recent 13,000 to 14,000 years ago. "Since Europeans came to the Americas, they have often been wrong about the Native inhabitants, and Western science has not been immune to this problem," said one Denver scientist. A perhaps-controversial 33,000 years ago, "and probably long before that," people lived here, according to Steven R. Holen, curator of archaeology in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Department of Anthropology. www.indiancountrytoday.com.

Southwestern Archaeology is Becoming a Tool for Collaboration, Rather than an Irritant for Native American Population Summary, Hisatsinom, November 2009)

From a Native perspective, archaeology has often been seen as the central villain in America's quest to uncover and claim -- and sometimes illegally market -- the remnants of an ancient past. But if current trends are any indication, archaeology's rehabilitation may be well underway, as Native scholars and students bring a living past into a vibrant present to offset a history marked by non-Native disrespect for tribal traditions, including those dictating burial practices. www.indiancountrytoday.com

Researchers Report on Major Clovis Discovery in Sonora (Summary, Hisatsinom, November 2009)

Scientists have discovered a site containing the most extensive evidence seen so far in Mexico for the Clovis culture. The find extends the range of America's oldest identifiable culture, which roamed North America about 13,000 years ago. The bed of artifacts in the state of Sonora in northwest Mexico also includes the bones of an extinct cousin of the mastodon called a "gomphother". The beast was probably hunted and killed by the Clovis people, known for their distinctive spear points, who mysteriously disappeared within about 500 years of leaving their first archeological traces. www.nature.com

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Archaeology Near and Far—Cont.

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Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center Project Moves Ahead (Summary, Daily Sentinel, November 17, 2009) A project to demolish and replace parts of the condemned visitor center at Dinosaur National Monument has gone out to bid. The project is expected to be finished in 2011 and is getting more than \$13 million in federal stimulus funds. The Quarry Visitor Center, which houses the nation's premier quarry of Jurassic-period dinosaur bones, was shuttered more than three years ago because of safety problems. Its closure frustrated paleontologists who have been unable to access its 1,500 dinosaur bones.

White Mesa Ute History Presentation Included Yellow Leaves, History, and Lunch in Allen Canyon (Summary, Daily Times, October 14, 2009) The White Mesa Ute Council held its community's History Day, in partnership with the Utah Humanities Council and the Edge of the Cedars Museum. The program was entitled "Avikan: Remembering the Homeland." Participants drove to Allen Canyon for a discussion and walk through the remains of a little known piece of history. Following the Posey incident in 1923, the federal government established a sub-agency at the mouth of Hammond Canyon for the White Mesa people whose welfare was administered from Ignacio, Colorado. For 15 years, Blanding resident E.Z. Black and his family worked with the Ute people to develop farms and livestock herds and provide education. The farmer's station, a school, and other archaeological materials will be discussed on site. Life was not easy as the Ute people transitioned into white society. Based on oral histories of participants, as well as site mapping by archaeologist Winston Hurst, their story comes alive. The trading post is gone, the station in ruins, but through the recollections of those who lived there, an interesting picture of life in the surrounding canyons brings back those by-gone days. The White Mesa Ute Council provided lunch.

Elsewhere

Egypt Severs Ties with Louvre Over Disputed Artifacts (Summary, Daily Times, October 8, 2009)

The Paris museum's refusal to return painted wall fragments of a 3,200-year-old tomb near the ancient temple city of Luxor could jeopardize its future excavations in Egypt. It was the most aggressive move yet by Zahi Hawass, Egypt's tough chief archaeologist, in his campaign to reclaim what he says are antiquities stolen from the country and purchased by some of the world's leading museums. Almost immediately, both the Louvre and France's Culture Ministry said they were ready to return the pieces. Hawass took a similar step against the St. Louis Art Museum after it failed to answer his demand to return a 3,200-year-old golden burial mask of a noblewoman. But taking such an action against an institution of the Louvre's stature is unprecedented. Egypt immediately suspended the Louvre's excavation in the massive necropolis of Saqqara, near Cairo, and canceled a lecture in Egypt by a former curator from the museum. The French said there were five fragments, while the Egyptians report four. There was no way to immediately reconcile the discrepancy. It wasn't until November 2008, after archaeologists rediscovered the tomb from which the frescoes appear to have come, that serious doubts emerged about the legality of their removal from Egyptian territory. The Louvre's press office said a national committee made up of specialists from France's museum world and other experts will meet to decide whether to return the artifacts, with final approval given by the Culture Ministry. The readiness of the museum to work with Hawass could well stem from his total power to determine whose expeditions get to explore the continuing wealth of ancient artifacts in Egypt.

Egyptian Mummies Had Heart Disease (Summary, Daily Times, November 18, 2009)

Dr. Randall Thompson, a cardiologist at the Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City and several other researchers used CT scans, a type of X-rays, on 22 mummies kept in the Egyptian National Museum of Antiquities in Cairo. The subjects were from 1981 B.C. to 334 A.D. Half were thought to be over 45 when they died, and average lifespan was under 50 back then. Sixteen mummies had heart and blood vessel tissue to analyze. Definite or probable hardening of the arteries was seen in nine. One mummy had evidence of a possible heart attack but scientists don't know if it was fatal. Nor can they tell how much these people weighed -- mummification dehydrates the body. Of those whose identities could be determined, all were of high social status, and many served in the court of the Pharaoh or as priests or priestesses. The oldest mummy with heart disease signs was Lady Rai, a nursemaid to Queen Ahmose Nefertari who died

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around 1530 B.C. -- 200 years before King Tutankhamun.

Pottery in Cave in Southern China may be Evidence of Earliest Development of Ceramics

The find in Yuchanyan Cave dates to as much as 18,000 years ago and supports the proposal that pottery making by foragers began in south China, according to *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Pottery was one of the first human-made materials and tracing its development opens a window on the development of culture. Pottery initially served as a cooking and storage facility. Later, some pottery vessels become symbols of power and social status, as well as examples of art. The dates in this paper are slightly older than the dates [of pottery found] in Japan. However, the accuracy of radiocarbon dates in the limestone area has been under debate for many years. Pottery could have been produced more or less contemporaneously in several places in East Asia -- from Russia, Japan to North and South China by foragers living in different environments. The importance of this study is the high precision dating, the systematic dating of the whole cave, to exclude mixing or intrusion of materials from above layers and the very detailed dating of the strata around the new pottery.

Full-figured Figurine Focus of Early Art (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), May 14, 2009)

An archaeologist at the University of Tübingen, found a small carving in a cave last year. The voluptuous woman depicted is earthy, with huge, projecting breasts and sexually explicit genitals. It is at least 35,000 years old, one of the oldest known examples of figurative art in the world. It is about 5,000 years older than some other so-called Venus artifacts made by early populations of Homo sapiens in Europe. The tiny statuette was uncovered in a cave in southwestern Germany, near Ulm and the Danube. The find is being published in the journal *Nature*. The discovery changes our view of the origins of Paleolithic art. Before this, female imagery was unknown, most carvings and cave drawings being of mammoths, horses, and other animals. The figurine is roughly contemporaneous with other early expressions of artistic creativity, like drawings on cave walls in southeastern France and northern Italy. The artifact was one of 25 similar carvings found over the past 70 years in other caves in the Swabian region of southern Germany.

Suggestion for Iraq Site Stewards Program (Summary, [Hisatsinom](#), November 2009) Iraq's ancient archeological sites have suffered extensive damage from looting over the last few years. After the 2003 invasion, swarms of looters dug huge pits and passages all over southern Iraq in search of cuneiform tablets and cylinder seals. At Isin, where a Sumerian city once stood, men sifting through tons of soil for 4,000-year-old objects to sell to Baghdad dealers. It was mass pillage. [www.nytimes.com](#)

Last Archives Collection of FDR Papers to become Public (Summary, [Daily Times](#), November 17, 2009)

The House approved a bill to clear the way for the memorabilia to be donated to Roosevelt's presidential library and museum in Hyde Park, NY. Fourteen boxes of handwritten notes, gifts, and correspondence, including a letter from Italian dictator Benito Mussolini congratulating Roosevelt on his 1933 inauguration. The boxes were sitting sealed at Roosevelt's presidential library since July 2005, tied up in an ownership dispute between the government and a private collector. The bill makes it clear that the government has no claim to the papers. This allows the donor to claim the full tax deduction for turning the collection over to the library.



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