



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**July, 2012**

## SJBAS July Meeting Talk on El Malpais

Our meeting will be held on July 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College (FLC). Steve Baumann, the Chief of Heritage Preservation for El Malpais and El Morro National Monuments, NM, will speak on *The Unique Archaeological Landscape of the El Malpais National Monument Lava Flows*. El Malpais is at the edge of the Colorado Plateau near the southern boundary of the San Juan Basin.

Steve's program will describe some of the recent archaeological discoveries on and around El Malpais' lava flows. He has been a professional archaeologist for over 30 years, serving 25 years with the National Park Service (NPS). He has supervised archaeological research and preservation projects and compliance activities at El Morro and El Malpais since 2006. Prior to this, he was an archaeologist and Archaeological Databank Administrator with the NPS, Western Archaeological and Conservation Center where he conducted archaeological investigations and Section 106 compliance and compliance reviews for NPS units in AZ, CO, TX and CA. His research interests include Southwest prehistory, Acoma origins, Spanish Colonial Archaeology and History, and GIS applications for cultural resource management.

## ***An Apology from Your Editors:***

***To those who did not get the corrected invitation to the Annual SJBAS picnic we want to offer our sincere apologies. For some reason ( mostly a lack of proper editing ) the time was misprinted in the Moki and for that we are extremely sorry. We continue to try to make the Moki a fun and interesting news organ and over the coming months you will see some changes which we hope you will enjoy. As always we welcome your comments.***

***Beverly, Janice, and Jill***

## SJBAS Field Trips

**July 11, Carson City.** (TL: Mary Ann Hiller, johnhilldurco@durango.net)

This group will be taking a field trip to Carson City near Lake City CO with Rudy, our host. Rudy who has a lot of knowledge about this area. His knowledge includes information about many of the mining sites in the area.

We will visit both the upper and lower Carson Cities. Carson City is often considered one of the best preserved ghost towns in all of Colorado. Carson city was established in 1882 and named after J.E. Carson, a nephew of the better known Kit. Gold was discovered on one side of the continental divide and silver on the other.

As you can tell the area has had a lot of mining activity and holds a bucket of information for us to learn. Participants may choose three options for this trip; 1) make it as a long day trip, 2) camp out at either a campground or in an undeveloped area, or 3) stay in Creed at a hotel or cabin and take in a show.

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The road off the main Engineer Cinnamon pass road will require 4WD vehicle but we can car pool that couple of miles. Contact Mary Ann Hiller (at johnhilldurco@durango.net) the assistant field trip leader to sign up or ask question about the trip.

**TBD, Pigg and Lowery Sites.**

(TL: Bev & Bob Danielson, 970-385-1058, bndan@bresnan.net.) Day trip to learn about excavation efforts with Dr. Charles Riggs and FLC students. Limit: 20.

**Aug 18 or 19, Champagne Springs,**

This site is near Dove Creek, with 400 rooms and 100 kivas, while excavation is ongoing. Those who sign up may vote on date. It can be very busy with 20+ people moving around, tapes and levels for measuring finds, sifting screens, and bags for the collections, notebooks and photographers. Because of site size, it will take time to gather all needed information. Some rooms had a large number of animal bones -- turkeys, dogs, and bear. Contact Mary Ann Hiller at 970-259-5170. Hats, sunscreen, cold drinks and sack lunch needed.

**Sept 22-23, Dinetah Pueblitos and Petroglyphs,**

A 2-day trip, offered as a B&B trip with two beds/room at the School House, to visit the School House and Fire Place pueblitos, an equinox petroglyph, and other features in the area. Those wishing a day trip may participate in some activities. (TL: Jerry Lincoln, jkinindia@gmail.com).

**Sept 26, La Plata Canyon,**

Day trip to Parrot City, county seat of La Plata County from 1876 to 1881. Learn about early history of SW CO from John Sanders, 259-0841.

## Field Trip Report

**Dinosaur National Monument,** by Richard Robinson.

On March 31, seven SJBAS members traveled to Dinosaur National Monument to look at Dinosaur Fossils and petroglyphs. In-order to break up the long drive to the Green River Campground, we stopped in Rabbit Valley to hike "Trail Through Time" located North of I-70 West of Grand Junction, which contains the remains of eight species of dinosaur, two chelonians (turtles) and more than 130 plant species. I am not sure that we saw all of them, particularly in light of the fact that vandals had stolen 350 pounds of fossils three weeks prior to the opening of the park, but it was an enjoyable walk.

Marlo and Gail arrived early to Green River Campground and reserved spots for our group; the site is along the Green River and is very relaxing. The next morning we met with BLM Archaeologist Michael Selle in Rangely for a tour of eight petroglyph sites in the Canyon Pintado National Historic District. The last area he took us to had holes ground into the rock surface that must have been alignments but there has not been a study of this site to determine for sure what these holes were used as. There was also a set of three holes that were in a line. We didn't have exact explanations for these oddities, but they left us with lots of good speculative thoughts and conversations.

The next day we went to the McConkie Ranch in the Dry Fork to view their many impressive petroglyphs. The final panel, called the Three Kings, is very impressive and was written up in the January 1980 National Geographic. It is a must see! The glyphs are from the 1000 to 1200 AD period, and several styles can also be observed at Canyonlands National Park, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, that are of this Fremont Style. There are also many pit houses in this valley.

After lunch, we went to the Utah Natural History Museum in Vernal. To end the day, we drove out to view the McKee springs petroglyph site, which was spectacular, just smaller in area. We spent the morning of our last day driving out to the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery, which has a cool refreshing stream. This area provided for us an easy hike with some archaeological interest has a lot to offer. It deserves much more attention!

## CONFERENCES

**Plains Anthropological Society Conference,**  
Oct 3-6, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; [www.ou.edu/cas/](http://www.ou.edu/cas/).

**Colorado Archeological Society Annual Meeting,**  
Oct. 5-7, Boulder, CO; [www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/htm](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/htm)

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS

**Mary Cabot Wheelwright collection marks 75 years for her museum.** (Excerpted from the Albuquerque Sunday Journal, June 10,2012)

"A Certain Fire: Mary Cabot Wheelwright Collects the Southwest" showcases that vast reach by focusing on Wheelwright's contributions to Santa Fe area museums, as well as her own. The exhibit features textiles, metal work, wood carving and pottery from the city's premier institutions including the School for Advanced Research, the Museum of International Folk Art and others

Location: 704 Camino Lejo, Museum Hill Santa Fe. [www.wheelwright.org](http://www.wheelwright.org).

**Anasazi Heritage Center** "Pieces of the Puzzle, New Perspectives on the Hohokam," highlights recent Hohokam discoveries, thru October 2012, with artifacts from the Pueblo Grande Museum and AZ State Museum (970) 882-5600, [www.co.blm.gov](http://www.co.blm.gov).

### **Rio Tinto Center, U. of Utah, Houses Natural History Museum of UT. Salt Lake City**

(Summary, *American Archaeology*, Spring 2012)

The "First Peoples" tells the story of the Great Basin's prehistoric peoples, putting visitors in shoes of archaeologists. Explore Median Village, reconstruction of an actual archaeological site excavated in the 1960s in Sevier County. Stop in the Dry Caves Learning Lab to understand why Utah's archaeological preservation is so good. (801) 581-4303 or [www.nhmu.utah.edu](http://www.nhmu.utah.edu).

**NM Historical Museum/Palace of Governors, Santa Fe.** *Telling New Mexico: Stories from Then and Now*, 500 years of history. Long term. *Santa Fe Found: Fragments of Time*, archaeological and historical roots of America's oldest capital city. Long term. *Tesoros De Devoción*, bultos and retablos dating from the late 1700s to 1900. Long term. *Segesser Hide Paintings*, earliest known depictions of colonial life in US. Long term. *Native American Portraits: Points of Inquiry* features more than 50 of the most beautiful and elegant portraits in the collections of the Palace Photo Archives. Thru Nov. 4, 2012.

**Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Lab of Anthropology, Santa Fe,** (505-476-1269; [indianart-sandculture.org](http://indianart-sandculture.org)) *Woven Identities*, 250 baskets by artists representing sixty cultural groups in six cultural areas of Western No. Am: the SW, Great Basin, Plateau, CA, NW Coast, and Arctic. [www.miaclab.org](http://www.miaclab.org). (long term) *Here, Now and Always*: explore SW's indigenous communities and landscapes. *Buchsbaum Gallery of SW Pottery* tells the story of two millennia of pottery making in

## Don't Forget Your Dues

Don't forget to send in your membership dues for 2012 to Mark Gebhardt. The membership application and fees are attached on the last page of the Moki. Please remember that we are no longer offering the option of a \$15 newsletter only. You can also access the membership application on our website:

[www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).

### **Colorado Archeological Society (CAS):**

**Alice Hamilton Raffle Quilt.** Terri Hoff and her sister Gail have made and donated a queen-sized 'on-point' designer log-cabin quilt "Southwest Mimbres 2" in five shades of turquoise and clay, featuring Mimbres pot and "critter" blocks for the 2012 Alice Hamilton Scholarship Raffle Prize. The quilt will be displayed at the 4/16 NCC-CAS meeting and raffle tickets will be available \$4 each or 3 for \$10.

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Pueblo communities of SW. *They Wove for Horses: Diné Saddle Blankets*, highlights the aptitude, range and brilliance of Diné weavers who wove complex saddle blankets and accessories, and also the design skills of Diné silversmiths who created headstalls of silver and turquoise, all for an animal integral to its culture and survival. Thru Sept. 2, 2013. *Margarete Bagshaw: Breaking the Rules* celebrates the breadth and multi-dimensionality of an American modernist, who, like her grandmother, Pablita Velarde, and mother, Helen Hardin, is connected to her Native heritage and artistic forebears but not defined by them. Thru December 30, 2012.

**NM Museum of Art, Santa Fe.** *It's About Time: 14,000 Years of Art in NM* presents 120 works of Native, Hispanic, and European-American art as one long chronology. Opens May 11, 2012.

**Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe.** *Statehood: New Mexican Art from the Past 100 Years*, a NM Centennial exhibition, highlights 20th and 21st Century art and artists from the permanent collection, until March 13, 2013. (505-476-1200; internationalfolkart.org)

**Governor's Gallery,** NM State Capitol, 4th Floor, Santa Fe. *NM Art Tells New Mexico History*, opens May 16, 2012.

**Summer Events:**

Mon-Sat, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Santa Fe History Walking Tours. Led by NM Historical Museum/ Palace of Govs. guides. Meet at Blue Gate on Lincoln Ave.; \$10; 16 & younger free with adult.

Mon & Fri, 10 a.m. - Art Walking Tours. Led by NM Museum of Art docents. Meet at museum gift shop steps. \$10/under 18 free.

Free Friday Events on Museum Hill, 5-8 p.m. Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Museum Hill Cafe. Free Friday Evenings Downtown. 5-8 p.m. NM Museum of Art and NM Historical Museum Free admission.

**Albuquerque Museum of Art & History,** *Exploring Art of the Ancient Americas, the John Bourne Collection.* 19th and Mountain NW (In Old Town), thru August 26, 2012

**Windsor Mus, Boardwalk Park,** 100 N. Fifth St., Windsor, CO. Thru Sept 1, T-Sa 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Historic original Windsor structures restored and refurbished. Free, open to public.

**Meeker House Museum,** 1324 9th Ave., Greeley. July 7 & Aug 8; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Costumed guided tours of the 1870 Greeley family home. Special Nathan Meeker birthday celebration July 7, 10-2. Admission \$3/adults; \$2/seniors; \$1/children.

**Poudre Landmarks Foundation,** 2005 N. Overland Trail, Fort Collins. 2nd Sat. of each month, June - Oct., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open House at the 1882-1883 Historic Water Works. Friends of the Water Works will hold "Big Splash IV" with tours, displays, exhibits and food on June 9. Free, open to public.

**Lamb Spring Archeological Tour,** July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by Douglas County Archeological Conservancy and Lamb Spring Archeological Board, includes background video and site walking tour. Reservations required: 303-660-7460.

**Centennial Village Museum,** Thru Sept 30, W-SA, 10 a.m. 4 p.m., S 12-4 p.m., 1475 A. Street, Greeley. \$6/person (less for children/seniors).

**Loveland Museum,** Thru Aug 21, T/W/F 10 a.m.-5 p.m., TR 10-7 p.m., Sa 10-4, S12-4, 503 N. Lincoln Ave., Loveland. "Hobos to Street People" compares artistic interpretations of homelessness from the Dust Bowl migrants of the 1930s to today's street people. \$5; free for Museum members.

**"Beasts of Ice Age Grand Valley," Traveling Robotic Exhibit Open at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita.** (Summary, Daily Sentinel, May 19, 2012)

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The museum seeks another hit with Grand Valley residents and tourists. The exhibit depicts the Grand Valley much as it might have looked anywhere from 12,000 to 2.5 million years ago, during the Pleistocene epoch. Removed by tens of millions of years from the Age of the Dinosaurs, the valley had by then taken on a recognizable form, with the Bookcliffs jutting up with a recognizable Mount Garfield and Grand Mesa looming on the moonlit horizon, depicted by Mary Hertert of Color Creek Fiber Art in Grand Junction. The saber-tooth cat is joined in the display by a familiar (still standing) robotic woolly mammoth, as well as two of the more peculiar of the age: a ground sloth totting its baby and a glyptodon, a predecessor of the modern armadillo, but armed with a heavy spiked tail. All the robotic creatures move and emit howls and growls.

**Cortez Celebrates Preservation Week.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, May 12 and 15, 2012)

May 15 was Cortez Historic Preservation Week, with local historians organizing events to celebrate the community's past. 2012 marks the first time the community has had an official preservation week to raise the awareness of Cortez citizens about some of the significant historical resources in the city. Activities included a talk entitled "Montezuma Memories: Results from the 2011 Historic Building Survey of Montezuma Avenue and free walking tours of historic Montezuma Avenue. Brochures for a self-guiding walking tour of Main St. and Ash and First Streets were available. The Cortez Cultural Center hosted a panel discussion titled "Building the Crossroads," moderated by Dale Davidson. The week of celebrating Cortez and Montezuma County's history was sponsored by the Montezuma County Historical Society, the Cortez Cultural Center, and the Cortez Historic Preservation Board.

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## Some Prehumans Feasted on Bark Instead of Grasses

By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD *NY TIMES*

Published: June 27, 2012

Almost two million years after their last meals, two members of a prehuman species in southern Africa left traces in their teeth of what they had eaten then, as well as over a lifetime of foraging. Scientists were surprised to find that these hominins apparently lived almost exclusively on a diet of leaves, fruits, wood and bark.

If you are what you eat, the new research and other recent studies suggest there was more diversity in the diets of early prehumans, both within and between species, than previously understood. And this could in part account for the recently recognized physical diversity among the long intermediate line of hominins belonging to the genus *Australopithecus*.

The dietary pattern of the enigmatic species, *Australopithecus sediba*, discovered four years ago in the Malapa caves northwest of Johannesburg, was unexpected for several reasons. It contrasted sharply with available data for other hominins in the region and elsewhere in Africa; they mainly consumed grasses and sedges from the savanna.

The *Au. sediba* diet also appeared to be a matter of choice, not necessity. Other evidence from animal fossils and sediments in the area indicated the presence at the time of vast grasslands in the vicinity. Yet these hominins, their skeletons adapted for tree climbing as well as upright walking, chose to feed themselves in adjacent woodlands. In this, scientists said, their behavior was more like that of modern chimpanzees, which tend to ignore savanna grasses, or perhaps the more apelike hominin *Ardipithecus ramidus*, which lived largely on hard foods some 4.4 million years ago.

An international team of scientists led by Amanda G. Henry of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, reported on Wednesday the research that supported their findings. Their paper was published online by the journal *Nature* and will appear later in a printed edition.

"If these individuals are representative of the species," the scientists wrote, "*Au. sediba* had a diet that was different from those of most early African hominins studied so far."

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They also concluded that the “inferred consumption” of woodland products “increased the known variety of early hominin foods.” But there is still much that is unknown or unclear about the newfound species: how or if it is related to modern humans and just where it fits on the hominin family tree.

The discovery, by Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, of two partial skeletons — one an adult female, the other a juvenile male — was the basis for the announcement two years ago of the new hominin species. These and at least one other adult specimen indicate that these hominins stood little more than four feet tall and had small brains and a mix of primitive and more modern anatomies. Dr. Berger was an author of the new journal report.

Few other paleoanthropologists agree with Dr. Berger’s contention that the new species is the most plausible known ancestor of archaic and modern humans. Dr. Henry’s group said that studies of additional fossils from the Malapa caves “will provide a better understanding of the dietary ecology of Au. sediba.”

Ian Tattersall, a paleoanthropologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, who was not involved in the research, called the findings “intriguing” and the research “an imaginative and multisided approach that makes you want to know more about this morphologically unusual species.”

“Fortunately,” Dr. Tattersall added, “rumor has it that more specimens are on the way.”

Dr. Henry’s team followed three lines of research. One was an analysis of carbon isotopes extracted by laser from tooth enamel, one of the most durable and least contaminated body parts, and one that preserves chemical signatures of what was eaten in one’s youth. The type and amount of isotopes left from a diet of tree leaves, fruit and bark were well outside the range of those seen in all previously tested hominins — at least 95 percent forest food.

A second approach was an examination of dental microwear, which can reveal pits, scratches and cracks left by hard foods consumed shortly before death. Dr. Tattersall said that this “doesn’t help much to clarify the situation, since it appears to differ significantly between the two individuals.”

Finally, microscopic plant particles, called phytoliths, were recovered from dental tartar for the first time from a very ancient hominin (but from only one of the two individuals). Scientists said this apparently confirmed the carbon isotopic evidence for woodland diets.

Benjamin H. Passey, a geochemist at Johns Hopkins University, who conducted the tests determining the high ratio of carbon isotopes indicating a diet mostly of forest foods, explained why the research was important to an understanding of human evolution. “One thing people probably don’t realize is that humans are basically grass eaters,” Dr. Passey said in a statement. “We eat grass in the form of the grains we use to make breads, noodles, cereals and beers, and we eat animals that eat grass. So when did our addiction to grass begin? At what point in our evolutionary history did we start making use of grasses? We are simply trying to find out where in the human chain that begins.”

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### **For PAAC Classes and Activities See**

<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>.

**Volunteer Opportunities in Archaeology. See SJBAS web site: [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).**

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# **Archaeology in the Southwest**

***Indian Camp Ranch Homeowners Assoc. Announces Indian Camp Ranch ("ICR") Archaeological District Listed on National Register of Historic Places and CO. State Register of Historic Properties.*** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), May 31, 2012)

ICR is a private residential community two miles from Cortez. ICR has covenants that protect the archaeological sites that are spread across its 1,200 acres so they may be studied and enjoyed for future generations. Developing ICR in the late 1980s was to create a model for how archaeology and preservation can meet the interests of private landowners.

***Champagne Springs at Upper Squaw Point Near Squaw Canyon (South of Dove Creek) Dates Back to 900 A.D.*** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), June 5, 2012)

The information being unearthed at the dig is shifting perspectives on the Ancestral Puebloans, their lifestyle, history and communities. Dating back to 900-1100 A.D., the dig is an early Pueblo II era site, a rare find in the San Juan Region, according to head archaeologist David Dove.

The Pueblo II era precedes the time frame which produced the Mesa Verde National Park cliff dwellings, yet the archaeological record has little to say about Ancestral Puebloan communities in Montezuma and Dolores counties during that time period. Surprisingly, the Champagne Springs site is not mentioned in any records of archaeological exploration of the Four Corners, though there is anecdotal evidence that some historical researchers were aware of the site. As a result, the site has laid undisturbed.

***Crow Canyon Plays Starring Role in Upcoming Episode of PBS Science-Archaeology Series, Time Team America ("TTA"), Produced by OR Pub. Broadcasting.*** (Summary, [CC Newsletter](#); [Cortez Journal](#), June 7, 2012; [Durango Herald](#), June 11, 2012)

TTA archaeologists joined CC staff at the Dillard site to help answer questions about the Basket-maker III community that formed there over 1,500 years ago at what is now Indian Camp Ranch. The question is "Was the concentrated Dillard Site settlement a hot bed of innovation that propelled this culture. The show is scheduled to air in 2013.

***Undercover Officer from BLM Witnesses Digging up Grave; Now Two Montezuma County Men Face Prosecution for Tampering with Archaeological Resources on Federal Land in SW CO.*** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 16, 2012)

Howard Drake and Harry Hance are negotiating plea bargains with prosecutors and are due in federal court in Durango on July 3. The misdemeanor charge carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail, but most other recent prosecutions for similar crimes have not brought jail sentences. The BLM got a tip about a human grave being excavated in June 2010, according to BLM agent Randall Carpenter, who wrote an affidavit in support of a search warrant on Drake's trailer in Pleasant View. Agents recovered several pieces of pottery when they searched Drake's home in May 2011. An undercover officer joined the May 2011 hike to Pedro Point, McLean Canyon and the "Dead Man" site, all within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. During the hike, Drake said a previous hiker had reported him to the sheriff, and he thought law enforcement might be waiting to catch him digging up pots. The undercover agent told Drake he would really like to see the skull. Drake laid on the ground and, using his hands and a stick, dug up the skull of an ancestral Puebloan and showed it to the group of four people. He told the group that he had found the skull four or five years earlier.

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The hike was promoted on the website of Seniors Outdoors! Hance had served as a volunteer site steward for Canyons of the Ancients, patrolling ancestral Puebloan sites to make sure artifacts are not stolen. Monument volunteers and employees get mandatory training about the treatment of artifacts and ancient sites every year.

**Artist-in-Residence Program Started by BLM.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, May 29, 2012)

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, the 170,965-acre expanse of high desert west of Cortez, offers a palette of stone hues, Native American spirits, furtive wildlife and twisting canyons that can lure the muse out of an artist. Recognizing that value, the BLM selected Canyons of the Ancients to inaugurate the BLM's new national artist-in-residence program. BLM's new artist-in-residence program will feature lands within the agency's National Landscape Conservation System, which includes premier BLM properties like Canyons of the Ancients.

**Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP") Again Offering Backcountry Ranger-guided Hikes, Including 2-hour Hikes to Mug House and Square Tower House and 4-hour Hike on Wetherill Mesa in September.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, May 1, 2012)

Tickets for these special hikes are limited and must be purchased online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Mug House, built about AD 1150 was likely home to approx. 80-100 people. The hike is a moderately strenuous 2-hour, 3-mile roundtrip trek along an unpaved, uneven, narrow trail that descends 100 feet and includes steep drop-offs, switchbacks, and scrambling up and down boulders. The hike is offered Wednesday, Fridays and Sundays through Sept. 2. Limit: 10; ticket price: \$25/person.

Square Tower House is an intimate cliff dwelling accessed by a short but strenuous hike. Unusual aspects of Square Tower House include an original kiva roof and the Crow's Nest, both features that cannot be seen from the viewpoint on the canyon rim. Hikers should expect a 2-hour, 1-mile roundtrip hike, along an unpaved, uneven, narrow trail with exposed cliff edges, scrambling down rocky slopes and climbing three ladders -- the longest is 20 feet. The hike is offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays through June 16, and Sept. 4 through Oct. 6. Limit: 10; ticket price: \$25/person.

Wetherill Mesa Experience introduces the story of the Ancestral Pueblo people and the environment in which they lived. Hikers will visit archaeological sites that span the period of occupation on Mesa Verde, and will be introduced to the ecology of the pinyon-juniper woodlands. This moderate 4-hour, 4-mile roundtrip hike along gravel and paved trails crosses Wetherill Mesa and offers spectacular views. Offered on Wednesdays and Sundays, Sept. 5 through Oct. 3. Limit: 14; ticket price: \$15.

**Mesa Verde Foundation ("MVF") Board, Working with Staff at MVNP, Identify Six Special Projects for which MVF will Seek Funds in 2012.** (Summary, MVF Newsletter, Spring 2012)

(1) Cliff Palace Stabilization Study: Portions of Cliff Palace appear to be sliding from its alcove. Seeping water and visitor traffic could be the causes. Archaeologists and engineers are in the process of determining the appropriate mitigation.

(2) Native American Indian Internship Program: MVNP is creating a special internship program which matches up young tribal members with one of the numerous professional areas within the park. Interns will receive relevant training and experience that will directly benefit the tribes. Internships may focus on archaeological site documentation, preservation/stabilization training, facilities management, invasive plant management, or air quality monitoring.

(3) Native American Cultural Demonstrations: MVNP hosts a number of Native American artisans and performers to provide educational demonstrations, exhibits, lectures, tours and performances for the park's many visitors.

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(4) **MVNP Film**: The existing interpretive film presently on view at the Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum is outdated and needs to be redone. The new film not only will provide more up-to-date archaeological and cultural information, but also will be filmed in high definition with captioning, audio description, and assisted listening capabilities. The film will be shown at the new Visitor and Research Center during the winter months.

(5) **B-Cut Trail Reconstruction**: A historic roadbed into the park will be renovated and reconstructed for use as a recreational trail. Work will include trail brushing, erosion control, water bar installation, steps, and trail tread.

(6) **Park Horse Patrol**: Historically MVNP has used horse patrols. The equine unit assisted with trail maintenance, emergency situations, security for visitors, and support for ranger-led hikes into the backcountry. The park is re-establishing this historic and unique horse patrol program.

### ***MVF Will Host First Annual MVF Family Bicycle Event at MVNP on September 29.***

(Summary, MVF Newsletter, Spring 2012)

Bikes usually are not allowed on park roads and trails. This is a rare opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Mesa Verde up close. This is an opportunity for bicycle enthusiasts, naturalists, conservationists, historians and families to experience Mesa Verde.

### ***MVNP will have Rick Braveheart, Landscape Photographer, as its Second Artist-in-Residence for 2012.***

(Summary, Cortez Journal, May 31, 2012)

Braveheart has studios in OH and FL and has been a National Park Service Artist-in-Residence recipient nine times. His award-winning photography is found in private and public collections, seen regularly in gallery and art museum shows and is currently in a long-term exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum. In 2013, he will serve as the resident photographer for an International Arctic Expedition. Braveheart, a Native American, feels a deep connection to Mesa Verde. He strives always in his landscape work to honor the ancestors who have come before us by visually sharing the beauty of the land on which they lived, cared for, and made possible for future generations. He will carry out his work at Mesa Verde in a way that honors those ancestors whose vision, culture and ingenuity are seen everywhere throughout this magnificent and sacred place.

### ***Museum of Western Colorado ("MWC"), Downtown Grand Junction ("GJ"): Rock Carved in 1915 by Trailblazer of CO National Monument at Entrance of Museum Hurtful to Homosexuals and Jews because of Swastika Etched on it.***

(Summary, Daily Sentinel, May 23, 2012)

The museum was criticized for posting the "John Otto mystery rock" and its symbol at the main entrance. John Otto, a proponent of a national park on Colorado National Monument, carved the rock and its symbol in 1915, long before the rise of the Third Reich.

### ***Galloping Geese, Most Picturesque of CO Train-motor Vehicle Cross, Develop on Rio Grande Southern Line ("RGS") Connecting Ridgway to Durango Via Telluride, Rico, Dolores and Mancos.***

(Summary, Denver Post, May 20, 2012)

Otto Mears, legendary road builder of the San Juan Mountains, constructed the RGS between 1890 and 1892 to capitalize on rich gold and silver discoveries in SW CO. A decline in mining and the Great Depression left this tiny, coal-fired narrow gauge line financially crippled. Seeking to avoid the cost of steam trains requiring a five-person crew, the RGS in 1931 improvised, placing a Buick gasoline engine into what became Galloping Goose No. 1, which one person could operate. Used car parts and automobile scrap were used to construct a locomotive housing for these peculiar looking, unique engines. When the gas engine overheated, side flaps were opened to cool it. These open

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flaps resembled wings and the honking horn sounded like a goose. The way this clumsy-looking contraption waddled down its narrow three-foot-wide track helped inspire the name. The train galloped so well that the RGS built six additional geese with automobile engines. These rail-auto hybrids were a godsend to the then-declining San Juan mining regions, where most of the once-booming mining towns had become ghosts. Thanks to the gaggle of Galloping Geese, passenger, mail and freight service continued. The geese flew until 1951. Later, the track was ripped out and sold as scrap. The CO Railroad Museum in Golden acquired Geese No. 2, 6, and 7 and has restored them to operation. Knott's Berry Farm of Buena Park, CA, bought Galloping Goose No. 3 and No. 4, which had resided in Telluride but is now in the Ridgway Railroad Museum, which also has a replica of Goose No. 1. No. 5, restored to operational condition in 1998, now lives at the depot-museum in Dolores. It occasionally runs on the Durango & Silverton and Cumbres & Toltec Scenic railroads.

**Arizona Tribes View Sun and Moon as Culturally Significant.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), May 20, 2012) Baje Whitethorne Sr. was called inside his home on the Navajo reservation to wait while the sun died and was reborn: there was going to be a solar eclipse. That day, he learned patience and a cultural teaching that he has passed on through a children's book he wrote about why Navajos shouldn't gawk at an eclipse. It was just the respect and honor you give to what nature does. The sun is reborn, and in acknowledging what nature does, you take a minute to acknowledge yourself. Many Native American tribes view the sun and moon as cultural deities, but the beliefs among northern AZ's tribes and individual members don't all signal a need to stay clear of the ring eclipse, or annular solar eclipse, that hasn't been seen in the US since 1994. Whitethorne says he will use the opportunity to read the first book he authored and illustrated 20 years ago, *Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo Sun*, to his grandchildren.

**Archaeology of the San Juan High Country: New Views from the Uncompahgre Cirque Site.** (Summary, [CAS All Points Bulletin](#), June 2012)

Dr. Mark D. Mitchell spoke at the Denver Chapter's June meeting. Colorado's San Juan Mountains encompass the largest contiguous expanse of alpine tundra in the Southern Rocky Mountains. Archaeologists know little about how or when American Indian peoples used the high-altitude resources. Recent work carried out by Paleocultural Research Group ("PCRG") and the United States Forest Service ("USFS") at the Uncompahgre Cirque site, produced an extensive quarry workshop perched high on the east flank of Uncompahgre Peak, sheds new light on the prehistory of this spectacular landscape. Dr. Mitchell is the research director for Paleocultural Research Group, a member-supported nonprofit organization devoted to public archaeology and student training. Previously, he worked for several cultural resource management firms and for the USDA Forest Service in CO, WY and KS. He earned his Ph.D. from CU at Boulder and his M.A. from CU at Denver.

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FIRST CLASS

## **San Juan Basin Archaeological Society**

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

If you're not a member of our group and would like to receive our newsletter, attend our monthly meetings, join us on our outings, and participate in our many other activities and those of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), call our President Andy Gulliford (970-375-9417) and ask for information about our organization. Annual dues, including those for membership in the Colorado Archaeological Society, are listed below and are payable by checks made out to SJBAS and mailed to our Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Dues cover membership for the calendar year. With SWL means that the membership includes a subscription to CAS's quarterly journal "Southwestern Lore" (SWL). No SWL means that the journal is not included with your membership, hence the difference in the dues.

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

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