



**MOKI MESSENGER**  
**Newsletter of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society Chapter  
of the Colorado Archaeological Society  
March 2011**

**A Word from your Editors**

We apologize for the uninteresting format and lack of color of this Moki issue. As you know, our fabulous newsletter formatter, Beverly Dittmer, broke her femur skiing and had complications which kept her in the ICU for almost two weeks. Beverly is now out of ICU and is able to receive visitors for short visits. Because of the breathing tube that was in her throat for an extended period, she has difficulty speaking. You can find Beverly's background progress on [www.caringbridge.org/visit/beverlydittmer](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/beverlydittmer). She will need extensive PT for her recovery and we all send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery. In the meantime we will do our best to provide you with a monthly newsletter that will be informative but doesn't have that very special "Beverly" touch.

**LECTURES: SJBAS:** Kristie Arrington will speak on "New Discoveries at Cannonball Pueblo", at the March SJBAS Meeting, to be held at 7:00 p.m., March 10, 2011, at the Center for SW Studies, Lyceum. Kristie is a recently retired BLM Archaeologist, who served in SW Colorado for over 32 years. For 23 of those, she was the BLM's San Juan Resource Area Archaeologist in Durango and for the last 9 years she was the BLM's regional archaeologist for the SW Colorado Fire/Fuels Team, on projects in the Durango, Cortez, Montrose and Gunnison areas. She now lives in Aztec, NM and owns her own cultural resource consulting company, Two Dog CRM Services, with BLM permits in 3 states. At least a couple days she hikes or mountain bikes with her two dogs to all the places she never got to explore when she was working. **Hisastsinom Chapter:** March 1, 7:00 p.m., Cortez Cultural Center, SJBAS President Andrew Gulliford will discuss "Kokopelli in the Canyon: The Rock Art of Canyon Pintado National Historic District." Andy will draw upon his thirty years of research and photography in the historic district north of Grand Junction, as well as his interviews with area archaeologists, for his presentation. He will discuss the various rock art styles in the area as well as identify archaeoastronomic sites. **Friends of Crow Canyon:** Presentations begin at 7:30 pm. **March 13** (Gates Building, Crow Canyon). William Winkler, *Ansel Hall's Rainbow Bridge - Monument Valley Expedition*. **April 29** (Dolores Community Center ("DCC")) Maraleen Manos-Janes, *On a Wing: Flight of the Monarch*. **May 20** (DCC) Dr. Patricia Crown, Distinguished professor,

Dept. of Anthropol., U. of NM, *Science and Serendipity: The Discovery of Chocolate at Chaco Canyon*. Call 970-564-4341 for reservations. **San Juan College's ("SJC") Chautauqua Performances**. Free, 7 pm, Little Theater, SJC. Contact Dr. Jimmy Miller, 505-334-9325, or Sha Lyn Weisheit, 505-599-8771. **March 18**, Dr. Jon Hunter, "New Mexico's March to Statehood," surveys the history of NM from 1850 to 1912. **April 30**: Fred Hampton and Van Sanders, "Buffalo Soldiers - Military Heroes of the Southwest."

**TRIPS. SJBAS. March 3-7, Cochise County, AZ.** Meet in Tombstone, AZ to learn about the history of southern AZ. Leaders: Gail and Marlo Schulz, 970-946-5234, mschulz@frontier.net. **March 25-28, Comb Ridge and Cedar Mesa, UT.** Car camping trip to visit rock inscriptions and dwelling sites from the past. High-clearance, 4WD vehicle required for portions of trip. Limit 16. Leader: Bill Cagle, 970-385-4566, cagle81301@yahoo.com. **April 2, Waterflow, NM.** Day trip with Gail LaDage, Leader. Fast food place nearby or bring sack lunch. Limit 15. gladage@yahoo.com. **April 9, Dinetah Area East of Bloomfield, NM.** Day trip including Navajo Pueblitos Citadel, Wall and Landon site, with NM Trust Land Archaeologist David Eck. High-clearance, 4WD vehicle required. Leaders: Marion and Andy Simon, 970-749-2927, msimon183@aol.com. Limit 20. **April 16, Sites on Chacoan North Road.** Long day trip to two Chaco outliers along Chacoan North Road, south of Bloomfield, NM. High-clearance, 4WD vehicle required. Limit 15. Leader: Bob Estes (contact Mary Ann Hiller 970-259-5170, johnhilldurco@durango.net. **April 21, Yucca House.** Day trip south of Cortez. Limit 20. Leader: Mary Ann Hiller, 970-259-5170, johnhilldurco@durango.net. **April 28-30, Gathering of Nations.** U of NM, Albuquerque. We will view the grand entry of dancers and attend several other cultural sites (a Mayan display, Chaco Collection and a Chacoan Outlier). Up to eight will be able to stay at Arnolds B&B. No limit. Leader: Mary Ann Hiller 970-259-5170, johnhilldurco@durango.net. For the complete schedule of SJBAS field trips through the end of the year check our website at **www.sjbas.org**

**Hisatsinom. April 23, Salmon-Aztec Ruins.** Meet guide Paul Reed in the Salmon Ruins parking lot, 9 a.m., with sack lunch and water. After touring Salmon and eating lunch there, the group will proceed to Aztec for a tour until about 3 p.m. All fees are waived but a donation to Salmon Ruins is suggested. Contact Tom Hoff, 882-2191 or thhoff@hotmail.com to confirm participant availability. **CAS. June 7-9, Rafting & Rock Art, Bluff to Mexican Hat (2 day trip)** with Sally Cole, noted archaeologist/rock art expert and author of *Legacy on Stone*. Explore rock art sites, including Butler Wash panels and seldom-seen Chinle Wash on the Navajo Reservation. **Special discounted rate of \$493/person**, includes all meals and a 10% crew tip (regular rate is \$713). \$50 goes to Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund and is tax deductible. **\$200 deposit needed by March 23**, but only credit cards accepted, with a 4% non-refundable service charge. The balance, \$293, must be paid by check, received no later than April 23. Cancellations prior to April 24 subject to \$100 fee. No refunds after April 24, but if your space can be filled, deposits will be refunded. Trip contingent on minimum of 18 registrations by March 23. Registrations after March 23 subject to 22-person trip limit. More details and camping equipment checklist available after registration period. Contact Tom Hoff, CAS Exec. Sec., 882-2191, thhoff@hotmail.com, 27505 Road U.6, Dolores, CO 81323-9409. **National Park Fee Free Days:** The 2011 fee free days at National Parks are: National Park Week (April 16-24); June 21; National Public Lands Day (Sept. 24); and Veterans Day weekend (Nov. 11-13).

**Ute Mountain Tribal Park.** During National Preservation Month, the "Eleventh Annual Ute Mountain Tribal Park Open House" will be held on May 28, 2011, with the following events: Porcupine House Tour at 9:10 a.m.; Anasazi Sun Calendar & Petroglyph tour at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; and Native American Stories by Norman Lopez at 8:30 a.m. Transportation is free on a first come/first served basis. No reservations required. "Nordenskiold Cliff Dwellings Tour," in Pool Canyon, will be held on July 2, 2011, at 8:15 a.m.; "Inaccessible, Casa Colorado, and Casa Blanca House Cliff Dwelling Tour," will be held on July 23 at 8:15 a.m. Reservations required. "Turning Red Tail Hawk Tour to Morris Three Cliff Dwelling" in Johnson Canyon, will be August 30 and September 3, at 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Departure times from UMTF Visitor Center). Reservations required. Full day tours, half day tours, remote tours, and private tours are conducted April to October. UMTF tour information: (970) 565-9653, 800-847-5485, or utepark@fone.net.

**PAAC.** Summer Training Survey at Antelope Gulch, June 21-28. See: <http://coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/summersurvey2.htm>. The **deadline** for applicants to contact Kevin Black to participate is **May 13**. Selection will be based on past criteria as posted on the Web site at the link above. The closer a volunteer is to earning a PAAC certificate, the more likely a space will be reserved for that person. Kevin hopes to have some help supervising another crew or two, which would expand the volunteer opportunities. **Class Schedule:** **March 4-6**, Pueblo, Prehistoric Lithics; **Mar 18-20**, Alamosa, Principles of Archaeological Excavation; April 6, Boulder, Basic Site Surveying Techniques (session 1 of 8); **April 9-10**, Gunnison, Archaeological Dating Methods; **April 13**, Boulder, Basic Site Surveying Techniques (sess 2); **April 16-17**, Gunnison, Introduction to Archaeology, CAS, and PAAC; **April 20 & 27**, Boulder, Basic Site Surveying Techniques (sess 3-4); **April 29-30 and May 1, Durango, Colorado Archaeology**; **May 4**, Boulder, Basic Site Surveying Techniques (sess 5); **May 7-8**, Colorado Springs/Fountain, Field and Lab Photography; **May 11, 14, 18**, Boulder, Basic Site Surveying Techniques (sess 6-8); **May 20-22**, Glenwood Springs and **June 3-5**, Craig, Prehistoric Ceramics. **Contact Eliane Viner, 970-382-2594, j\_e\_viner@frontier.net for more details.**

**CONFERENCES:** **April 29-May 1**, "Chimney Rock in the Chacoan World Conference", Pagosa Springs, CO, [www.chimneyrockco.org/mainnew](http://www.chimneyrockco.org/mainnew).

**EXHIBITS: J. Paul Getty Museum,** Los Angeles. (Summary, *Am Arch*, Winter 2011) "Obsidian Mirror-Travels: Refracting Ancient Mexican Art and Archaeology". (310) 440-7300, [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu). (through March 27). **Denver Art Museum's New American Indian Galleries.** (Summary, *Denver Post*, January 23, 2011) The overhauled American Indian galleries on the third story of the Museum's original building makes it clear that this aesthetic world, which can be traced back thousands of years, is not so different from other western art. The exhibit's continuum runs through the present with dozens of examples of contemporary works, which make up ten to 15 percent of the works on view. Although prejudice or ignorance kept artists' names from always being recorded, American Indian art has its share of artistic giants, including Nampeyo, who drew on ancestral designs to reinvigorate modern Hopi pottery. The big change in these new galleries is the emphasis on the aesthetics and the artists who produced them. Indian artists have created sculpture, paintings and decorative objects in both

representational and abstract styles and used many materials, including clay and textiles. The new galleries, which can contain about 700 works -- 650 of which have never been shown before -- abound with contextual aids, from labels and wall graphics to varied multimedia information. A video monitor at one entrance poses the question: What is American Indian art? Does it have to be functional, old, handmade; but the innate beauty of the work speaks for itself. Until the past several decades, art museums typically addressed Indian art, if at all, from an exclusively ethnographic point of view, showcasing the historical and cultural significance of objects.

**JFK Library Opens the First Online Presidential Archive.** (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 14, 2011) Caroline Kennedy unveiled a \$10 million project to digitize the most important papers, photographs and recordings of President John F. Kennedy's days in office. Users can sort through the drafts of Kennedy's "Ask not what your country can do for you," speech and see how he tinkered with the words of that most famous line from his inauguration. Or they can listen to his personal phone calls and read his letters. The library started with all of Kennedy's Oval Office files -- everything that went across his desk -- along with his personal papers, official White House photos, audio of all his public remarks, video of his famous speeches, and home movies. Drafts of Kennedy's speeches show how he was writing and editing along with speechwriter Theodore Sorensen, giving people a sense of the president's power as a writer.

**Lonnie Bunch III, as Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, is Charged with Creating an Institution that Embodies the Story of Black Life in America.** (Summary, Denver Post, January 23, 2011) To open in 2015, in a \$500 million building designed to evoke the art of an ancient West African kingdom, the museum will stand on the National Mall. African-American culture is used as a lens to understand what it means to be an American. Every topic -- the role of African-Americans in the military or the fight for access to public education in the South -- will be examined for how it affected society as a whole and what it says about America's evolving definitions of citizenship and equality. The push to create a national black museum on the Mall dates to 1915, when a group of black veterans proposed a memorial be constructed there. Congress approved the idea in 1929 but refused to finance it. In the late 1960s, lobbying by James Baldwin, Jackie Robinson and other prominent blacks went nowhere. By the late 1980s, nearly a hundred African-American history museums were started in other cities. After Congress authorized the museum in 2003, major planning bodies opposed putting another museum on the Mall. The Smithsonian chose a site between the National Museum of American History and the Washington Monument. So far, the museum has acquired roughly 11,000 objects by donation and purchase. Bunch plans to acquire 20,000 more before its opening in a building that Tanzanian-born architect David Adjaye designed to evoke a crown motif from ancient Yoruban sculpture. Bunch must raise half of the \$500 million construction budget.

**Volunteer Opportunities: Cortez Cult. Cntr.** Call Deb Avery (970) 565-1151; deb.avery@cortezculturalcenter.org; (or visit [www.cortezculturalcenter.org](http://www.cortezculturalcenter.org)); **Chimney Rock Interpretive Assoc.** Email Helen Richardson, 1218HL1944@century.net or go to [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org); **Colo. Hist. Society.** Contact Kevin Black at [Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us](mailto:Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us); **Center of SW Studies.** Contact Julie Tapley-Booth at 247-7456 to volunteer; **Mesa Verde.** Visit [www.mesaverdevolunteers.org](http://www.mesaverdevolunteers.org)., email Cheryl and Chuck Carson, volunteer coordinators at [cccason@aol.com](mailto:cccason@aol.com), or phone at 259-2699; **Aztec Ruins.** Call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or [tracy\\_bodnar@nps.gov](mailto:tracy_bodnar@nps.gov); **2011 Pecos Conf.** Contact David Purcell, [davidpurcell@gmail.com](mailto:davidpurcell@gmail.com); **Site Stewardship Program.** After training, volunteers

are responsible for checking on the condition of an archaeological sites in Canyons of the Ancients or other public land about four times a year. Contact Diane McBride, Monument Coordinator for the Program at [trowelgal\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:trowelgal_1@yahoo.com), phone: 970-565-9637; or Program Director Ruth Lambert at 970-385-1267. **Facilities Restoration and Maintenance at Historic Mountain Park Campground ("Campground" and Arrowhead Lodge ("Lodge"))**. Join HistoriCorps and National Forest staff in Arapahoe-Roosevelt Nat. Forest **May 16-20**. The 14 volunteers must commit to the full session; be physically capable of project tasks and be willing to work long days in variable weather; **previous construction experience is preferred**, but not required. At the Campground, the focus will be on the picnic shelter built in the 1930s by the WPA, later expanded by the CCC, and in constant use. Participants will install a new cedar-shingle roof and reconstruct and replace windows, shutters and the door. The Lodge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places was constructed in the 1930s and was used as a recreation, rental, and vacation lodge. The project will re-roof log cabins and restore them to their original, usable condition. This project will engage participants in a hands-on historic preservation project and present learning opportunities, including how to repair deteriorated roof decking, shingle a cedar roof and an asphalt tab-style roof, reconstruct historic pine tree motif shutters, and install historically accurate windows and doors. HistoriCorps will provide tools and safety equipment, and three supervisory instructors. The area has wonderful vistas and outdoor distractions for "off-duty" time. **Facilities:** Tent and RV camping available, no charge at campground; water, restrooms, showers, disabled facilities, electrical hookups, group camping areas; volunteers responsible for personal camping equipment, food and transportation. **Nearest towns:** Bellevue, 28 miles; Laporte, 29 miles; Fort Collins, 35 miles. **Applications due: March 14, 2011.** Details at [www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com).

**EDITOR'S CORNER**. The Editors want to thank all those who completed the Moki survey. A summary of results will be provided in the April Moki.

### **Archaeology Near and Far: Southwest**

Round Stone Found on Grand Mesa Likely Weaponry from Spanish Era. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 19, 2011) The stone, discovered last year by a Mesa State College biology and forensics student intern with the Western Investigations Team, who was sifting through gravel and debris on a hillside overlooking Kannah Creek, where an ancient wall once stood. The ball looked too round to be normal. The stone shows the military interest in the Kannah Creek area, and suggests that the history is more than one of occupation, but also of combat. Sometime in the 1600s or 1700s, the stone was fashioned into a sphere, smoothed and jacketed in an iron-copper alloy. It was carried into the Kannah Creek area, where, the evidence suggests, it was fired by a Spaniard, presumably in battle. Examination of the ball using a digital microscope showed traces of iron crystals and copper, which match what is known about how the Spaniards then fashioned ammunition. The Spanish in the 1600s began adding copper to the iron to coat stone shot to minimize the damage to the barrels of their weapons, especially small cannon. Some of the crystals had a flattened, "polished" appearance, expected if the ammunition actually had been blasted from a firearm. An ancient Spanish swivel cannon is the kind of weapon from which the stone ball might have been fired, most likely as part of a payload of shot. The swivel cannon amounted to "an oversized shotgun with very little accuracy," with a range of about 90 feet. It could fill a wide area with a hail of iron-jacketed stone, regular rock, nails, whatever

could be stuffed down its barrel. The shot from a swivel-cannon blast could have shattered on impact with the surrounding rock, splattering a cloud of lethal, razor-sharp shrapnel back into the air. The stone eventually will be displayed at the western Museum as part of the "Distant Cities in the Mist" exhibit. How the shot stayed relatively intact despite a gunpowder blast and the ravages of at least three centuries remains a mystery.

Three Petroglyph Styles Dominate Native Rock Art at Escalante Canyon. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 9, 2011) The three distinct petroglyph styles are: Barrier Canyon rock art (6000 B.C. - 100 B.C.), Fremont Indian rock art (600 A.D. - 1250 A.D.) and Ute Indian rock art (1300 A.D. - 1880 A.D.). To reach marked sites, drive 28.8 miles south on Highway 50 toward Delta. Turn right, or west, on the Escalante Canyon Road, then travel 2.6 miles to the railroad tracks and the Gunnison River. Don't cross either. Park out of the way near the Delta County gravel pit sign, then look to your right, or north. The rock-art panels are about two-tenths of a mile from where you are. Follow an old two-rut ATV trail on public property to the sandstone cliffs until you find brown carsonite sign posts that say, "PLEASE don't erase traces of America's Past." If you continue on the Escalante Canyon Road across the tracks and the Gunnison River, you soon come to a crossing of Escalante Creek. Ford the creek with a four-wheel-drive vehicle and continue until you come to the Dry Mesa Road. Veer right, and in .3 miles you will come to an archaeological site marked by the BLM with numerous markings from modern man, scratched over many Ute Indian markings.

Yule Marble Quarry, Town of Marble, that Produced Marble for Lincoln Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Reopens. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 13, 2011) The quarry is under new ownership, with strong ties to the European marble market, after a 10-month closure because of the recession and transportation costs. The quarry's marble, described as breathtakingly white, was discovered in the 1870s. Its development was boosted in 1905 by an investment involving the Rockefeller family.

House of Muskets: Pagosa Springs Retail and Manufacturing Facility Creates Custom Parts for Muzzleloader Firearms. (Summary, Pagosa Sun, January 24, 2010) Since 1973, the shop has offered products, service and support for black powder gun enthusiasts. Black powder, a newer version of gunpowder, was originally a mixture of sulfur, charcoal and potassium nitrate and was known for leaving a thick, heavy and corrosive film when exploded. Modern black powder is less messy, but a black powder firearm has many moving parts that need regular maintenance, cleaning and replacement. Because the company founder built black powder guns, but had no luck finding the bullet molds he needed for his creations, he became a distributor for the hard-to-find parts he manufactured himself on an engine lathe. Brass is the main raw material, and the price of brass has gone up 500 percent in less than six years. Each round in a muzzle loader rifle has to be measured and packed before each shot, then re-measured and packed before the next shot. Parts of the firearm wear out, and many pieces are not manufactured anymore. To complicate matters, there are many different types of black powder guns of different calibers, all with specific parts. Custom parts for specific black powder firearms are milled from Ampco 45, a patented Gem an alloy of aluminum and bronze that was originally developed for valve guides on Ford racing engines. A percussion cap is another popular part manufactured, a precursor to the modern bullet. Rather than having to pack in a specific amount of powder each time, a single cap is inserted and fired when the cocked hammer slams against it, causing the packed bullet to

leave the firearm in the same manner as if powder had been poured in. Percussion caps aren't as susceptible to the moisture that can prevent the powder from firing, but one cap is used for every shot. The term "half-cocked" is shown by the position of the striker mechanism on a long black powder rifle. The powder is loaded into the gun with the striker safely half cocked to expose the powder pan, but the gun can go off by mistake in this position. When the striker mechanism causes a spark but the powder doesn't ignite and discharge the bullet or projectile, this is called "a flash in the pan."

Tohono O'odham Nation to Rebury Remains of Nearly 200 Ancestors, Dug Up in Late 1970s and Early 1980s by Archaeologists at Anamax-Rosemont Site. (Summary, Daily Times, June 1, 2009) The Nation fears further disturbance of ancestors' graves if permission is given to Rosemont Copper to open a pit copper mine in the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains -- an area rich with archaeological evidence of Hohokam and other settlements. If that happens, the Nation will bless the remains and rebury them in "traditional" ceremonies, but there is no ceremony for reburial because the Nation doesn't do that. The Nation is poring over inventories of human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred items or objects of cultural patrimony compiled by the nation's museums. They don't understand why archaeologists need to study their ancestors' bones. If they want to know how people lived and what they ate, they should ask their descendants. This disparity has led Native Americans to protest the desecration of their ancestors. The movement toward repatriation is traced to 1971, when archaeologists working in advance of a highway project near Glenwood, Iowa, uncovered 28 skeletons. They reburied 26 that were of European descent in the hallowed ground of a nearby cemetery. Two skeletons identified as Indian were sent to the U. of Iowa for curation as part of a museum collection. Native Americans believe NAGPRA is a major human-rights advance. In 1989 there was a huge fear that museums would be emptied. With the 20th year of NAGPRA, this hasn't happened. Rather than limiting research, it has inspired new research that wasn't done before 1990.

Neighbors of Kit Carson Mountain and Saguache County Officials want to Change the Peak's Name to Mount Crestone Because of Concerns about the Indian-fighting Frontiersman. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, November 21, 2010) The US Board on Geographic Names in Washington will decide on the proposals to rename the mountain. Kit Carson, a 19th century rancher and trapper, helped crush a Navajo uprising during the Civil War. Carson was a guide for Western explorer John C. Fremont, who became one of California's first senators, and is credited for helping organize a volunteer infantry in New Mexico for the Union during the Civil War. But Carson also helped the federal government put down a wartime Navajo uprising by ordering the destruction of crops and villages belonging to Navajo Indians hiding in the Canyon de Chelly in northeastern Arizona. Carson then led the Navajo to a reservation on a forced march in 1864 that killed an estimated 300 Navajos. Carson's name has been attached to a Colorado county and its largest military base, but some residents in the San Luis Valley say they would rather not have Carson's name on the mountain.

The Anasazi Heritage Center Switches to Sustainable Power. (Summary, *Hisatsinom* Newsletter, December 2010) The Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi Heritage Center may be experiencing short-notice closures to the museum during the next few weeks because of construction activities and the installation of a photovoltaic system. Visitors are encouraged to call the center at 970-882-5600 for current status. Winter hours for the museum will be from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, through February. There is no entry fee this time of year. BLM offices remain open as usual Monday through Friday.

### **Outside the Southwest**

Researchers Find 9,400-year-old Bone Fragment from the Earliest Confirmed Domesticated Dog in the Americas. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 20, 2011) The fragment was found when a graduate student was analyzing a dried-out sample of human waste unearthed in southwest Texas in the 1970s. A DNA analysis confirmed the bone came from a dog -- not a wolf, coyote or fox. Because it was found deep inside a pile of human excrement and was the characteristic orange-brown color that bone turns when it has passed through the digestive tract, the fragment provides the earliest direct evidence that dogs -- besides being used for company, security and hunting -- were eaten by humans and may even have been bred as a food source. The research was looking into the diet and nutrition of the people who lived in the Lower Pecos region of Texas between 1,000 and 10,000 years ago. Dogs have played an important role in human culture for thousands of years. There are archaeological records of dogs going back 31,000 years from a site in Belgium, 26,000 years in the Czech Republic and 15,000 years in Siberia. Canine records in the New World aren't as detailed nor do they go back nearly as far. The fecal samples were unearthed in 1974 and 1975 from an archaeological site known as Hinds Cave and kept in storage at Texas A&M University. The fragment is about six-tenths of an inch long and three- to four-tenths of an inch wide, or about the size of a fingernail on a person's pinkie. The bone is a fragment from where the skull connects with the spine. It came from a dog that probably resembled the small short-nosed, short-haired mutts that were common among the Indians of the Great Plains. Judging by the size of the bone, the dog weighed about 25 to 30 pounds. A bone from a dog foot may have been found, but the fragment was too small to be analyzed. Other archaeological digs have put dogs in the U.S. dating back 8,000 years or more, but this is the first time it has been scientifically proved that dogs were here that far back. A study from the 1980s dated a dog found at Danger Cave, Utah, at between 9,000 and 10,000 years old, based on an analysis of the surrounding rock layers. For many years, researchers thought that dog bones from an archaeological site in Idaho were 11,000 years old, but additional testing put their age at between 1,000 and 3,000 years old. The earliest dogs in North America are believed to have come with the early settlers across the Bering land bridge from Asia to the Americas 10,000 years ago or earlier. A lot of people in Central America regularly ate dogs. Across the Great Plains, some Indian tribes ate dogs when food was scarce or for celebrations.

Modern Humans may have Left Africa Thousands of Years Earlier than Previously Thought, Turning Right and Heading Across the Red Sea into Arabia Rather than Following the Nile to Northern Exit. (Summary, Durango Herald, January 30, 2011) Stone tools discovered in the United Arab Emirates indicate the presence of modern humans between 100,000 and 125,000 years ago. While science generally has accepted an African origin for humans, anthropologists have long sought to understand the route taken as these populations spread into Asia, the Far East and Europe. Previously, most evidence suggested humans spread along the Nile River valley and into the Middle East about 60,000 years ago. The findings open a more plausible route for a massive movement than the northern route. Because of the different climate at the time, Arabia was moister and would have been a grassland with animals for prey. The lower sea levels at that time meant that the narrow point at the southern end of the Red Sea would have

separated Africa and Arabia by between one-half and two and one-half miles and should not have been a difficult crossing for people used to dealing with east African lakes and rivers where they used rafts or boats. The techniques used to make the hand axes, scrapers and other tools found at Jebel Faya in Sharjah Emirate suggest they were produced by people coming from somewhere else. Similar tools were made about that time in East Africa. If these tools were not made by modern man, might they have been made by Neanderthals. Neanderthals were mainly in Europe and migrated into Russia, but there is no evidence for any Neanderthals south of that zone at that time. The tools were dated using optically stimulated luminescence, which is able to date the sand grains on top of the tools and determine when they were last exposed to light. The discovery points convincingly to an early dispersal of (anatomically modern humans) along a southern route, from eastern Africa into South Arabia. It is reasonable to hypothesize that Arabia represents a separate center for population expansion, in addition to the northern Levantine corridor.

Archaeologists have Cleared out 2,000-year-old Tunnel Under the Walls of Jerusalem's Old City, Plugged by Generations of Accumulated Debris. (Summary, Durango Herald, January 30, 2011) The tunnel probably served to drain rainwater near the Second Temple, the center of Jewish faith, destroyed in A.D. 70. It runs near -- but not underneath -- the sacred and politically explosive enclosure known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, home to the Al-Aqsa mosque. There has been criticism of new excavations from both Palestinians and Israelis. The tunnel runs almost 2,000 feet from inside the Old City to the nearby Palestinian neighborhood of Silwan, where an Israeli settler group both funds archaeological digs and moves in Jewish families, angering Palestinians. The excavations are being carried out jointly. Palestinians claim Silwan as part of the capital of a future Palestinian state. Israelis know Silwan as the City of David, named for the biblical king believed to have ruled from Jerusalem.

**\*\*Don't forget to pay your dues for 2011 to Mark Gebhardt, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. NOTE: SJBAS is no longer offering the membership option of \$15 Newsletter only. Please find the membership application and dues categories at SJBAS Web site, [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).**

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