



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**November, 2012**

## ***SJBAS Monthly Meeting—“Revealing the Secrets of Bones”***

Our regular meeting will be held on **November 8**, 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, at Fort Lewis College. Dawn Mulhern will speak on *Revealing the Secrets of Bones*.

Dawn received her Ph.D. from CU-Boulder. She is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology at FLC, where she teaches biological anthropology. She is also the NAGPRA Co-ordinator for FLC, coming to FLC in 2005 after working as an osteologist in the Repatriation Office at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, where she gained extensive experience in the biological analysis of Native American skeletal remains. She is a forensic anthropologist for the Disaster Mortuary Operation Response Team ("DMORT") under the Dept. of Health & Human Services and also serves as a consultant to local law enforcement on forensic cases. Her primary areas of interest include skeletal biology, bioarchaeology, repatriation, and forensic anthropology.

### ***Field Trips***

**Nov 11-13, Jemez Mountains**, 3-day motel/car camping trip to attend San Diego Feast Day at Jemez Pueblo, with food and dances. See sites and petroglyphs on east side of Jemez River. Limit: 20. (TL: Janice and Brooks Taylor, durangofolk@frontier.net.

For **Hisatsinom Chapter** field trips, call Jane Williams, trip coordinator, 565-8867, jswill@frontier.net. Some are limited to only Hisatsinom members.



*December Meeting and Christmas Party*  
will be held on Thursday, December 13.

*Don't forget to make your reservations early.*  
*Lots of fun for all.*

### **Officers for 2012**

President	Andy Gulliford
Vice President	Jim Shadell & Florence (Foxy) Mason
Secretary	Diane Skinner
Treasurer	Mark Gebhardt
CAS Representative	Bob Powell
PAAC Co-ordinator	Eliane Viner
MOKI Editors	Jill Ward, Jan Sheffel, & Beverly Stacy Dittmer

### ***What's Inside***

Christmas Party Information...	2
Christmas Party Reservation...	3
PAAC Classes.....	4
Conferences.....	4
Lectures.....	4
Museum Exhibits.....	5
Lecture Reviews.....	6
Editors Corner.....	8
Archeology Near & Far: SW...	8

**Invitation to the SJBAS Christmas Celebration and Party**

**Thursday, December 13, 2012 6 p.m.**

**Dalton Club House, Dalton Ranch**

**\$35.00 per person**

**Dress: Festive!**

Send your reply form and check made out to SJBAS to Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Deadline December 7, 2012. Attendance will be limited to 60, so make your reservations soon.

Please indicate entrée choice (chicken, pork or vegetarian) when sending in reservation. Members may invite non-members to attend. Additional information: Foe Mason [fmason@frontier.net](mailto:fmason@frontier.net) 247-0252

The Christmas Party will begin with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. with a cash bar followed by dinner and program activities.

**The dinner menu will include:**

**Passed appetizers**

**Salad**

**Entrée choices of Chicken Breast with Sautéed Shrimp, or Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Roasted Pork Tenderloin or Vegetarian selection**

**Bread/butter, Ice Tea and Coffee**

**Dessert: Carrot or Chocolate Cake**

**We need your field trip photos for the photo presentation!** Please email your field trip photos ASAP to: Lyle Hancock at [lylehancock@bresnan.net](mailto:lylehancock@bresnan.net).

**Address and driving instructions:**

589 County Road 252, Trimble Lane.

From Durango: North on U.S. Hwy 550 to Trimble Lane traffic light. Right (East) on Trimble Lane, 1/4 mile past the curve, make a left into the clubhouse driveway. If needed due to disability or bad weather, drive up the curved driveway and drop off passengers under the porte-cochere at the door.

The Party will feature a photo presentation of 2012 SJBAS field trips and activities; introduction of new society members; door prizes; election of 2013 chapter officers, and good holiday cheer.

**Join your friends for this fun party and hope to see you there!**

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)



**SJBAS Christmas Party Reservation Reply Form:**

SJBAS Christmas Party and Annual Meeting. Thursday, December 13, 2012  
Dalton Club House, Dalton Ranch. 6 p.m. \$35.00 per person, to SJBAS.

Send form and check to: Mark Gebhardt, Treasurer,  
107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Deadline December 7, 2012.  
Questions: email [fmason@frontier.net](mailto:fmason@frontier.net), or phone 247-0252.

Name(s) of each attendee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address and Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate entrée choice (chicken, pork or vegetarian) for each attendee  
when sending in reservation. Provide one selection per attendee:

Number of Entrees Requested:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Cordon of Bleu
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pork
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

Do you prefer low sodium? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  
We will attempt to accommodate your request to the extent possible.

Would you prefer to car pool to the party? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  
If so, we will contact you. Please leave a phone number or email address to enable us to notify you of car pooling plans.

\_\_\_\_\_



*Happy Thanksgiving*

## **PAAC Classes:**

<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>.  
**Nov. 2-5**, Dolores, *Basic Site Surveying Techniques*.

**Register for PAAC Class.** Kevin Black will teach a 25-hour class on Basic Site Surveying Techniques Nov. 2-5. This class discusses the history of archeological survey, site identification, reading topo maps, and field procedures. At least a half-day will be spent in the field putting to use the class information. The course is a necessity for anyone anticipating in an active role in archaeological field work. Hours are: Nov. 2 from 4-8 pm; Sat. and Sun. from 8-5 pm, and Mon. 4-8 pm, at the Anasazi Heritage Center. Cost is \$12 to cover materials. For questions and to sign up, email Terry at [Terrywoodrow@gmail.com](mailto:Terrywoodrow@gmail.com), or call 560-1318. Space is limited.

## **Hisatsinom Chapter Speakers:**

**7:00 p.m.**, Cortez Cultural Center - **November 6**, Joel Brisbin (kilns).

## **Lectures**

Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum. Santa Fe Trail, Dec. 8, 10-11:30 a.m., by Otis Halfmoon, Santa Fe.

**Nov. 28, Center for SW Studies, Director's Colloquium with Jay Harrison.** Jay's term as director of the Center of SW Studies began August 15. He is a historian of the early SW whose research considers colonial and early national transformations of peoples and places in the region. His experience includes nearly 17 years in private and public business concerns, most recently as director of federal programs at a Washington, DC area technology and policy firm, and several university and collegiate faculty appointments. This is the first of a series of conversations with Dr. Harrison about the SW, its peoples and cultures, and various perspectives on its study. More information at: <http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu>.

## **CONFERENCES:**

**Southeastern Archeological Conference,**  
**Nov. 7-10**, Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Papers, poster presentations and symposia focus on latest regional research. Saturday afternoon field trips to local archaeological sites. Rebecca Saunders at (225) 578-6562, [rsaunders@lsu.edu](mailto:rsaunders@lsu.edu), or [www.southeasternarchaeology.org](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org).

**Anthropology Association of America,**  
**Nov. 14-18**, San Francisco, CA;

**114th Archeological Institute of America and American Philological Association Joint Annual Meeting,** Jan. 3-6, 2013, Seattle, WA;

**Society for Historical Archeology Annual Conference,** Jan. 9-12, Leicester, GB;

**Society for American Archeology Annual Meeting,** Apr. 3-7, Honolulu, HI;

**International Federation of Rock Art Organizations Congress,** May 26-31, Albuquerque, NM.

**2013 International Rock Art Congress,**  
**May 26-31, 2013**, Albuquerque.

**Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference,**  
**Oct. 17-19, 2013**, Santa Fe.

## **Colorado Archeological Society:**

**Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund** committee seeks a "treasure" with an estimated retail value of at least \$700 and appeals to CAS members, to be raffled in 2013 to raise scholarship monies. Contact Terri Hoff at [SwedishGirl20@gmail.com](mailto:SwedishGirl20@gmail.com) or 970-882-2191; or Phil Williams at [p2pwms@comcast.net](mailto:p2pwms@comcast.net) or 719-594-0176. This is a wonderful opportunity to "pass it forward!"

## **National Park Fee-Free Days**

**Nov. 10-12**

In addition, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), and U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") will waive their entrance and standard amenity fees on **Nov. 10-12**.

Reclamation will waive standard amenity fees on **Nov. 12**.

## **MUSEUMS/EXHIBITS**

**Animas Museum: Law & Disorder.** Tells the stories of rowdy elements that colored the early history of the area and of the lawmen who tamed them.

**Museum of Indian Arts & Cultural/Lab of Anthropol (Santa Fe),** (505-476-1269; indianartsandculture.org)

**Woven Identities,** 250 baskets by artists representing sixty cultural groups. www.miaclab.org. (long term)

**Here, Now and Always:** explore SW's indigenous communities and landscapes.

**Buchsbaum Gallery of SW Pottery. Margarete Bagshaw: Breaking the Rules.** Thru December 30, 2012.

**New Mexico Museum of Art.** *It's About Time: 14,000 Years of Art in NM.*

**Museum of International Folk Art.** *Statehood: New Mexican Art from the Past 100 Years,* a NM Centennial exhibition, until March 13, 2013. (505-476-1200; internationalfolkart.org)

**Governor's Gallery,** NM State Capitol, 4th Floor. *NM Art Tells New Mexico History.*

**Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology, Harvard Univ. (Long Term)**

"Encounters with the Americas" explores the native cultures of Latin America before and after 1492, considering 16th century native responses to military and religious missions; the introduction of new plants and animals; and the toll of new diseases. Exploring the unique, pre-1492 civilizations, exemplified by the Classic Maya and Post Classic Aztec, the exhibit presents the struggle of contemporary Maya, Panamanian Kuna, and Amazonian native groups to maintain their values and autonomy. (617) 496-1027, www.peabody.harvard.edu/exhibits.

**Autry Center (Los Angeles) thru June 23, 2013, Exhibit Highlights Katsinas as Window onto Hopi World; Brings together Katsinas, Spirits or Deities of SW Indians, Yearly Cycle Beginning in February and Ending in July.** (Summary, SW Arch. Today)

According to the Hopi, when human beings came to the American SW, the spirit Maasaw gave them a stick, seeds and a watering gourd -- gifts of agriculture by which they could sustain themselves. A carved and painted figure of Maasaw begins the story of "Katsina in Hopi Life." www.latimes.com.

**Denver Museum of Nature & Science,** *A Day in Pompeii,* running thru Jan. 13, 2013. Hundreds of exceptional artifacts offer a insider's glimpse into the daily life -- and tragic end -- of this ancient Roman city.

**Historical Documents on Display: Part of Collection, Owned in part by R.H. Crossland Foundation, at Durango Main Mall.** (Summary, Durango Herald, March 5, 2012)

The display includes a Civil War promotion signed by Abraham Lincoln; a Lee Harvey Oswald savings account withdrawal receipt; a baseball signed in 1968 by rookie of the year Johnny Bench. (The collection has several baseballs, including a lemon-peel ball used in the 1850s.) This stuff is from just one room of Crossland's home. One of his most prized possessions is a Naval cadet's requisition book from the 1850s, which contains 38 signatures or initials from the then-superintendent at West Point: Robert E. Lee. His oldest document (not here) is from Spain's Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand from 1495. He has signatures on an arrest warrant issued by both Wyatt and Virgil Earp, constable and sheriff, respectively, in Barton County, MO. before they moved to Tombstone, AZ. There are autographed documents from George Washington, Geronimo, golfer Bobby Jones, and Confederate general J.E.B. Stuart. He has an 1861 law partners desk he acquired in Atlanta, big enough for law partners to share. Sometimes people wander in and marvel at the framed and plastic-coated documents.

Crossland grew up in NJ in the 1950s and '60s, not far from Yankee Stadium. His first col-

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

lectibles were baseball cards. After a college professor made history "come alive," he was hooked. In the mid-1980s, when buying an antebellum home outside Atlanta, his historical collecting obsession began, and he began studying more about historical documents and he started to collect, most things coming from auctions.

When he moved to Aspen in 1994, a dealer helped him bolster the collection. By 1996 he had several hundred documents. Now he has several thousand. The collection includes several guitars and other memorabilia related to John Denver. The money to accumulate the collection came from Crossland's business ventures, as a founder of Primerica, a financial planning services company for middle-income families, with offices scattered across the US and Canada. Crossland took \$1 million and created the R.H. Crossland Foundation in honor of his father, Ralph Crossland. He is still in the process of moving here, and anxious to support Durango-area charities. Crossland, although he grew up poor, learned from his dad that there's a lot more reward in giving something than receiving something."

## **Lecture Reviews**

**Colorado Archeological Society (CAS) General Meeting of July 9, 2012**, included Jakob Sedig, Colorado University-Boulder, speaking on *New Research at Woodrow Ruin (NM) in the Gila Wilderness*, from his Ph.D. dissertation. The site includes a Mimbres (1000-1130 AD) occupation on the Upper Gila River. Because the Mimbres are known for their "burial bowls" placed on the top of the deceaseds' heads, many Mimbres sites have been destroyed by pot hunters. The Woodrow Ruin, currently owned by NM, was surveyed and mapped in the late 1960s; 6.4 acres were fenced, which preserved some of the surface ceramics. The site was noticed by early Spanish explorers. There are archaeologist's field notes from 1929. In the late 1980s one central room block was excavated.

Jakob's project started in 2011, with a surface analysis of ceramics. Transects were established and GPS contour maps were produced. Even an etched crystal was found at the site. Distribution maps for ceramic sherds were established for three periods, 550-1130 AD. A geophysical survey began in March 2012, to determine how (1) people interacted with their environment; (2) the transition at Woodrow compared to those in the Mimbres River Valley; and (3) the occupation of the site changed through time. On the north side of the site, river cobbles and pithouse sherds were found. On the eastern edge (above floodplain), trash was tossed over the edge of a high area -- outside the fenced area. The center of the site held two communal structures: Great Kiva and a room block. Why two? Redware was found in one area of the room blocks, indicating an older period of occupation, but not a continuous one. The artifacts from this part of the site will be studied further.

Unit 5, from which were uncovered ash pockets, rocks/stones, worked sherds, and intact mammal bones, could have been a "workshop." Deeper excavations yielded corrugated jar pieces with middle holes and more animal bones, projectile points, plaster and roof fall pieces and a piece of a wood beam. A pit house was thought to be present below a classic period dwelling.

Unit 4 showed evidence of what could have been The Mangas Phase (approx. 900-1000 AD), a phase the existence of which was debated during the 1970s and '80s. In this unit were impressed adobe (from thatching) wall pieces, an adobe mixing pit, and a hearth. More research must be done in this area.

Units 1 and 3 include a pit house and the edge of a storage pit. A bulldozer went through Unit 7, the south side of the ruin, in the past. A classic period room was found, to be researched further and compared to another area of the site. Jakob showed a photo of the amazing results of just one day of excavation -- a long tableful of artifacts and sherds.

One conclusion of the work is that more people were at Woodrow during the late pithouse

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

than the classical period. Jakob had received a CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship, used to buy a hand-held GPS unit. For more information on the site, visit <http://woodrowruinarchaeology.wordpress.com>.

**CAS Pikes Peak Chapter, Oct. 16, 2012.** *An Educational "Guided Tour": Significant Archaeological Sites of Western Europe*, was presented by Mark Mann, Natural & Cultural Resources Manager, Peterson AFB. Two of the sites highlighted were Herculaneum and Pompeii. Buried in ash when Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79, these ancient Roman cities have been preserved in a "time capsule" for nearly two millennia and now offer extraordinary historical insight.

**Brenda K. Todd, CU, Denver CAS Chapter, September 2012,** *Chimney Rock Great House: Export, Emulation, or None of the Above?*. (Summary, [CAS All Points Bulletin](#), October 2012) ‘

Todd's dissertation research was on the regional archaeology of the Chaco Canyon area. The region surrounding Chimney Rock was looked at and the question was asked, "Would two separate groups of peoples make the same exact choices?" It was not occupied after the Chacoan period, making the study easier. Chimney Rock, which appears to have been a lunar observatory, based on the 18-year cycle of the moon, was inhabited for 58 years.

Two rooms were studied. Room 5 held shert from afar (Chuska?), a mandible and effigy of a grizzly bear, stone knife, and some pottery. Room 7 was full of artifacts, including complete pots, burned corn and husk knot, pine needles, and elk antler. Architectural features and ceramic assemblages were compared with other sites such as the Bluff Great House and Chaco Canyon. Such features include great houses, masonry, great kivas, roads, round rooms, formal plazas, and earthen architecture. Wares and vessels were also compared, the diversity of such, temper types, etc. Unique and rare feather holders were found, all of these found at Chimney Rock were manufactured in that area, some were exported to Chaco Canyon. Tree ring dates were also studied, findings showed that the Chimney Rock site was built in AD 1076 and was improved during major lunar events (standstills), one being in AD 1093.

"Threatening Rock" near Pueblo Bonito (Chaco) reflects solar and lunar events also. The conclusion was that Chimney Rock was built by peoples originating from Chaco.

**Dr. Catherine Gaither**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Dept. of Social/Anthropological Behavior Science, Metro Street College, Denver, presented *Death in the Clouds: Bioarchaeology in the Northern Highlands of Peru* to Northern CO Chapter. (Summary, [The Folsom Point](#), April 2012)

Archeologist Klaus Koschmieder has been conducting a multi-year survey of the area bordered by the Utcubama and Jucusbamba rivers in the Luya Province of the department of Amazonas in northern Peru. He has identified numerous archaeological sites dating from the Late Intermediate and Late Horizon periods in Peruvian prehistory, and the Early Colonial Period following Spanish conquest of the region. The results of the bioarchaeological analysis of human skeletal remains recovered from these sites offer insight into the general health problems faced by the populations inhabiting this area through time. They demonstrate high levels of trauma, particularly that associated with interpersonal violence and accidents related to the rugged terrain of the area. Notable are the numerous trepanations, some of which were performed in response to other types of trauma, that demonstrate a high survival rate suggesting skilled medical practitioners.

Non-specific indicators of stress suggest populations that are generally well-adapted to their environment. A mass grave demonstrates what many bioarchaeologists define as the signature of an epidemic outbreak dating to the Early Colonial Period. The talk presented results over four field seasons and discussed the implications of these results for our understanding of the cultures that lived in this area of Peru.

## **THE EDITORS' CORNER**



Features in the Nov./Dec. issue of Archaeology, include:

*The Maya Sense of Time* - As one Maya calendar reaches the end of a cycle, a look at how an ancient people understood their place in the cosmos.

*Factory of Wealth* - A mint from the Han Dynasty produced billions of coins that enabled vast economic growth and trade along the Silk Road.

*Zeugma After the Flood* - New excavations continue to tell the story of an ancient city at the crossroads between east and west.

*Down by the Savannah Riverside* - By studying ancient landforms, archaeologists are uncovering evidence of a novel hunter-gatherer behavior.

*Pilgrimage to Sudan* - Miracles of Banganarti.

## **Other Activities**

### **Community-based Archeology Allows Public Participation in Farmington.**

(Summary, SW Arch. Today)

One of the largest Anasazi ruins in the area still lies buried by the banks of the San Juan River on Tommy Bolack's B-Square Ranch. San Juan College offers students and community members the opportunity to participate in the active archaeological dig, uncovered each summer from the rocks and dust where the bluffs come to a point along the river bank. [www.daily-times.com](http://www.daily-times.com).

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

### **Chimney Rock Archaeological Area ("Chimney Rock")**

After Five Years of Lobbying and Congressional Negotiating, Pres. Obama Signs Chimney Rock National Monument into Existence. (Summary, Durango Herald, Sept. 22, 2012)

About 225 people -- area residents, conservation groups, Native American tribal leaders and public officials -- gathered below Chimney Rock's twin spires to commemorate the designation. Enthusiasm emanated from those assembled, many of whom were heavily invested in the push to achieve monument status. Interior Secretary Salazar was one of several dignitaries on hand to speak about the historic worth of Chimney Rock and about the sweeping grassroots effort that made the change possible. US Senators Bennet and Udall and Representative Tipton, had sent Pres. Obama a letter urging him to use his executive authority to make Chimney Rock a monument. Leaders from Archuleta Cnty and Pagosa Springs had sent Pres. Obama letters asking for his support.

The President's measure designates 4,726 acres of land surrounding the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area as a national monument, to still be considered part of the San Juan National Forest and to still allow access to the site for cultural and spiritual uses for Native Americans. The ultimate goal is to preserve, protect and restore the cultural, historic, natural, educational and scenic resources of Chimney Rock and its adjacent land. It will allow continued archaeological research and exploration of the area. National-monument status will (1) ensure new protections to preserve the site for future generations, without interrupting the hiking and other outdoor pursuits that locals and visitors currently enjoy; (2) means proper recognition of the important cultural contribution of the ancestral Puebloan people to the region's, and the nation's, rich history; and (3) raise the landmark's profile, boosting tourism and economic development across SW Colorado.

The Antiquities Act has been used by 15 different presidents -- from Teddy Roosevelt to John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush -- to protect nationally significant resources. Chimney Rock fits that bill. The USFS held a public meeting to gauge public support for a presidential Proclamation and ask for feedback about how to proceed.

Native Americans supported National Monument status. "Our core values started here," said Joseph Suina, a leader in the Cochiti Pueblo in NM. The site encompasses 4,000 acres. The ultimate goal is to preserve and restore the cultural, natural and educational resources of the site. Mark Varien, chairman of research at Crow Canyon Archeological Center, said Chimney Rock saw population growth and cultural

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

changes that rivaled the later industrial revolution. Ed Morlan and Donna Graves, Region 9 Economic Development District said monument status could only strengthen the appeal of Chimney Rock. The archaeological site already is high on the list of must-see places of visitors here. Morlan and Graves cited a study that found if 8% of the 300,000 annual visitors here stayed one more night, an extra \$3.8 million would be generated annually. The additional time of the visitors would create 45 jobs and produce \$1.2 million in job earnings annually, they said.

**Bypassing Congress on Chimney Rock.** (Summary, Editorial, Daily Sentinel, Sept. 25, 2012)

Pres. Obama's designated Chimney Rock Archaeological Area as a national monument under the Antiquities Act, with the support of CO's two senators and Rep. Tipton, whose district includes Chimney Rock, as well as groups such as the Archuleta County Commissioners, the City of Pagosa Springs and the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. In the US Senate, partisan gridlock had bollixed up Chimney Rock legislation for the second straight year. Chimney Rock holds cultural, spiritual and historical significance. The twin spires frame the lunar standstill -- a peak in the moon's travels that occurs once every 18.6 years. A new economic report released in August indicates that a national monument designation for the Chimney Rock Archeological Area could double the economic impact Chimney Rock has on the region, bringing an additional \$1.2 million to the area within five years.

**With National Monument Status, Annual Tourism at Chimney Rock could Double in Five Years, Bringing Addition \$1.2 Million to Area, According to August 2012 Report.** (Summary, Durango Herald, September 9, 2012)

Palm-leaf imprints and prehistoric fish fossils embedded in the sandstone hint at a wetter age at Chimney Rock. A shallow sea once flooded the area. Chimney Rock's twin spires have not always been so prominent. Nature -- water, erosion, time -- carved the rocks into their current shape over millions of years. Starting in the 9th century, Chimney Rock became home to people who found meaning in the heavens and eked out a hardscrabble existence in a semi-arid climate. Anthropologists believe Chimney Rock was inhabited by ancestral Puebloans -- forbearers of the Hopi, Zuni and Acoma pueblo tribes, among others -- from AD 850 to 1130.

While still debated, most scholars agree they arrived in two main phases. Earlier groups tilled fertile soil near the Piedra River, growing maize and beans. Not until about 1050 did migrants from Salmon or Chaco Canyon trek north to join them. Both the original settlers and the newcomers viewed the skies as sacred. Chimney Rock's location dovetails with one special cosmic phenomenon: the lunar standstill. The Puebloans observed that the moon rose between the two spires, like clockwork, for a 30-month period every 18.6 years. During that time the moon appears to stay in place at the northern edge of its orbit -- similar to the pause of a swinging pendulum when it reverses its swing.

Lunar activity made an impression on the locals, who responded by covering the mesa beneath Chimney Rock with stone structures: a 35-room Great House (complete with two ceremonial kivas), a defensive "guardhouse" atop a narrow "causeway" and dozens of pit-house domiciles. The buildings may have been coated by a white gypsum plaster. Based on tree ring samples, the Great House was built in two stages -- in 1073 and 1096 -- to match successive lunar standstills.

The next cycle will occur in 2022. Viewing the standstill was a major milestone for the locals. Most only witnessed one or two, given the average Puebloan lifespan of 40 years. Evidence suggests Chimney Rock was a sacred site for sojourning pilgrims to visit -- a natural observatory of sorts. Artifacts not native to the area, like red pottery and abalone necklaces, could have been gifts, trade items or offerings. Construction on the mesa required hauling building materials up steep inclines, 1,000 feet above the nearest water source. The Puebloan inhabitants left mere decades later. Experts cite incursions by rival tribes, resource depletion and prolonged drought as possible causes for the exodus. The specifics remain a mystery.

**Chimney Rock's Designation by Pres. Obama as Nat'l Monument Draws Ire from some Republican Critics, Despite their Previously Stated Support for Designation.** (Summary, Durango Herald, Sept. 24, 2012)

Representative Hastings, chairman of the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, issued a news release condemning the White House's declaration, using powers in the Antiquities Act, as a face-saving action. The criticism surprised those involved, including the business, community and political leaders who called the national monument declaration a positive step toward improving tourism and commerce for the area, as well as a positive step toward protecting a special archeological and natural resource.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## **Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP").**

### **MVNP's New Visitor Center and Research Facility ("V Cntr") Drawing Praise for Innovation, while Keeping Costs Down.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), Sept. 23, 2012; [Cortez Journal](#), Oct. 2, 2012)

The Visitors Center, which can be seen from the highway, will help boost tourism, Secretary Salazar told a small group of local dignitaries and federal lands employees. Several attending a preopening visit suggested the new V Cntr will be the most public face of the whole complex of the Four Corners national archaeological parks and monuments. Several attendees pointed out to the Secretary and others the cooperative nature of the project with state and local governments, tourism officials and others.

The V Cntr originally was estimated to cost around \$19 million, received a bid of about \$12.1 million, and the final cost will be around \$14.1 million. Funding came from the Obama administration's stimulus package for "shovel-ready" projects. The V Cntr is an energy-efficient building. Power is supplied in part by photovoltaic cells barely visible to visitors, as well as hydroelectric power generated by the Mancos River from water at Jackson Gulch Reservoir. It uses 18 geothermal wells to power the cooling and heating system. Other energy-saving advantages include windows with an insulating "R" factor of 14, just slightly below the R-18 rating for insulation used in most homes.

Due to favorable weather conditions, construction crews made phenomenal progress in the V Cntr's construction. The dedication of the building will occur in spring, 2013. The building features a dramatic curved roof. National Park Service (NPS) museum standards stipulate that park staff wait six months after completion of construction to move in artifacts that require climate control, to give the park time to ensure the HVAC system is operating as planned. In addition to designing the exhibits, the contractor designed the archive/storage portion of the facility. No new additions to the current collection of artifacts has been allowed because the NPS inventoried, cataloged and assessed each piece, packaged them for the move, and provided design and storage expertise for the new climate controlled storage space.

Exhibits were installed in early September. The V Cntr will open in November. Electricity to the building, including photovoltaic supplied power, is the primary power source, allowing the V Cntr to utilize renewable energy for its operations. The main welcome entrance has stucco and stone work. A majority of the exterior walls will be covered in native stone. Interior walls will carry the theme of the buff colored stone as well. Complimentary buff multi-colored tile was selected to accent the stone walls. The exhibit area spans about 6,000 square feet, with the other 18,000 square feet of the V Cntr for museum collections and archives. MVNP has about three million artifacts that were moved into the research part of the V Cntr. Through a window into one of the research rooms, visitors will be able to watch archaeologists looking at artifacts.

### **Mesa Verde Museum Association Offered 3-day Photography Workshop for Digital or Film Cameras on October 12-14.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 29, 2012)

Thirteen participants visited sites around the park at times designed to capture ideal lighting conditions even when they are closed to the general public. They visited Mug House, a cliff dwelling that is not normally open for visitors.

### **Marketing Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP").** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), May 22, 2012)

Forty percent of MVNP's visitors are from outside the US. MVNP has about 500,000 visitors annually and is the end destination for many travelers, especially people traveling on a tour bus. Mesa Verde Country markets all of the attractions in Montezuma County and the surrounding areas, which includes MVNP. The goal is to encourage visitors to take advantage of other activities in the area as well as visiting the popular national park. Mesa Verde Country sends out 150,000 visitor planners to various organizations in an attempt to let people know what is happening in Montezuma County.

### **MVNP Again Offers 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

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

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 to ID 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.
- (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.

**572,329 People Visit MVNP in 2011, the Most since 1999 and a 2.5% Increase over 2010's 559,712 Visitors.** (Summary, Durango Telegraph, March 1, 2012)

Park visitation plummeted to around 400,000 in 2002, the lowest number since 1966, because of the Mesa Verde Fire, and slowly rose until dipping again at the onset of the recession in 2007. Numbers have been on a slow rise since. The 2010 visitors to Mesa Verde spent \$41.3 million in surrounding communities, supporting more than 575 jobs.

**National Parks Subcommittee Finds Mesa Verde Model of Best Practice in Archaeological Preservation.** The programs and policies at Mesa Verde can serve as an example for struggling parks nationwide. Over the last decade, the Center for Park Research evaluated natural and cultural resources at 80 national parks. In its assessment, the Center found that 91% of those heritage properties and museum and archival collections in 77 parks were in poor condition. [www.cortezjournal.com](http://www.cortezjournal.com).

**Civilian Conservation Core (CCC) Impact Huge on MVNP Development.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, July 26, 2011)

Many of the trails, buildings and roads at MVNP were built over half a century ago by the CCC, a 1933 New Deal public works relief program. In the nine years of the CCC's existence, roughly 2.5 million young men participated. At MVNP, CCC workers did a little bit of everything, from fighting a major forest fire, to

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

building park accommodations for staff and visitors and creating miles of trails. Plumbing, electricity, roads, trails and buildings, of that of that started with the CCC.

MVNP was home to roughly 180 CCC workers a month for nine years. Two companies of enrollees, Companies 861 and 1843, each with their own staff and camp, were set up at MVNP, according to "New Deal Days: The CCC at Mesa Verde," by Ronald C. Brown and Duane A. Smith. Three to four thousand CCCers passed through Mesa Verde. Most enrollees in the CCC joined because there was little or no work, or hope, at home. The program was an option for young men ages 18 to 25 and paid \$30 a month. Workers kept \$5 and the rest was sent home to grateful families.

In the 1930s, national parks were struggling under a collapsing economy. The CCC provided a way for the parks to receive upgrades without burdensome costs. During the nine years the CCC had camps at MVNP, the workers built the museum building, the well-known dioramas depicting the activities of Ancestral Puebloans, the offices and storage facilities for the park service and the museum association, the Knife Edge road, the stone curbing and walls around the park, the Chapin Mesa Amphitheater, many trails and walkways and the fire lookout tower at Park Point. The impact of the government programs on Mesa Verde was great. Whether or not the men who worked at MVNP realized the impact they were having on the future of the tourist destination, the work accomplished by the CCC at MVNP laid the groundwork for the features of MVNP that are so beloved today.

**Rick Braveheart, Landscape Photographer, as Second MVNP Artist-in-Residence 2012.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, May 31, 2012)

Braveheart has studios in OH and FL and has been a National Park Service (NPS) 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.

Braveheart had a multi-media presentation on June 2 in the library located at the Far View Lodge. He spoke about his decades-long passion of photographing America's national lands and his work with the NPS, The Nature Conservancy, wildlife and conservation groups and nature preserves across the country. Begun during MVNP's 2006 Centennial, the artist-in-residence program provides accomplished writers, composers, and visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their particular art form while being surrounded by the inspiring ancient architecture of the Ancestral Pueblo People and the sweeping natural landscape of the park. The park provides a historic, rustic residence to selected participants for four two-week periods each year.

To see some of his pictures and video set to music follow this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsMDN2TX5w&noredirect=1>

**MVNP to Receive \$10,000 from National Park Foundation for Winter Exploration Program to Allow Visitors to Enjoy Sites Year-round by Creating Snowshoe and Ski Trails to Outlying Areas.** (Summary, Durango Herald, June 1, 2012)

The Active Trails grant gives Mesa Verde the money to invest in a snowroller to help groom trails, signs to mark winter trails, winter trail guides, ecology brochures, binoculars and snowshoes.

**Archeological Damage at Cliff Palace Linked to Geological Fault Beneath Mesa Verde NP.** (Summary, SW Arch. Today)

Archaeologists first noticed a Cliff Palace crack earlier this spring. It made its way into some of the masonry and it was later discovered that the northern wall had a slight lean. [www.daily-times.com](http://www.daily-times.com).

**MVNP Welcomes Gary Johnson, Nationally Acclaimed Painter, as Artist-in-Residence.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, Sept. 20, 2012) For additional info, visit: [www.nps.gov/meve/support](http://www.nps.gov/meve/support); or call AIR Coordinator, Frank Cope at 970-529-4607.

**Twenty-four Zuni Middle School Students Introduced to Archeological Research** (Summary, SW Arch. Today) The week of Aug. 26-29, they participated in a hand-on field school connected with the PBS prime-time

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

archaeologist television series, "Time Team America," to inspire the next generation of archaeologists and scientists, especially populations under-represented in the sciences. [www.cibolabeacon.com](http://www.cibolabeacon.com).

**Bandelier National Monument Seeks Public Comment on Transportation Plans, Ways of Getting to Park.** (Summary, [SW Arch. Today](#)) A shuttle has ferried most visitors from White Rock into Frijoles Canyon since floods that followed last year's wildfire washed out a bridge and almost half of the visitor center parking lot. The administration is thinking about making the shuttle permanent. [www.santafenewmexican.com](http://www.santafenewmexican.com).

**Lee Univ. Reports on Summer 2012 Field Schools in SW CO under Auspices of BLM, Western WY College and Lee University in Ancient Pueblo area of Paradox Valley of SW CO near Mesa Verde NP and Arches NP.** (Summary, [SW Arch. Today](#)) Both May and August excavations included a team of four Lee Univ. students.

**Eisenhower Recording Unearthed in CO.** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), September 15, 2012)

On September 14, 1954, Pres. Eisenhower became the first sitting president to visit Boulder when he toured the new National Institute of Standards and Technology facilities. He delivered a dedication speech to an estimated crowd of 10,000 -- about half the size of Boulder's population at that time. Until recently, an audio recording of the speech was not so easy to come by. Now, Boulder's Carnegie Branch Library for Local History has digitized a recording of the speech made by KBOL radio.

Research by Laura Ost, director of media relations for NIST in Boulder into the 1954 speech led to the uncovering of the recording. She was looking for historical material about NIST, originally called the National Bureau of Standards, for an exhibit that the lab is developing. That led her to the Carnegie library to sort through historic photos. But she also found an entry in the library's catalog for the KBOL radio collection. The entry noted that the collection was a box of reel-to-reel tapes. Most of the reel boxes had topics taped onto them, including one that read "1954 Bureau of Standards dedication." The library archivist helped Ost listen to the tape.

**Lehi, UT Ranch Draws Visitors.** (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), September 3, 2012)

Visitors travel down a dirt road to another time. Parked along the pathway sides are old threshers, rakes and other equipment, pulled by horses. There was nothing there when Bud and Kathleen Lott bought the ranch in 1996, except the outhouse. The small buildings the Lotts have brought onto the property give the place the feel of a pioneer village. Popular with friends, the ranch is well-used by church groups, committees, clubs, scouts, and schools.

Three years ago, the couple began recording who visited. Bud Lott moved the sheds there by putting each on telephone poles and pulling the poles and shed by tractor, including the Grant Kirkham granary that was situated across from Lehi Roller Mills where the Bank of American Fork branch building is today. Farmers used wooden granaries to store grain for their animals. The square sheds look like they have been turned inside out, with the framing on the exterior. They are built up on wood foundations about a foot off the ground. Pieces of wood, about one foot square, are nailed outside to secure the corners. Inside the building, the wood plans are flush with each board.

Another granary, found elsewhere in Lehi, has been transformed into pioneer shops: a tinsmith's, a blacksmith's, and a general store. Outside the building is a 1915 shop sign that reads "Johnson's Market." Both Lotts have a history in Lehi that goes back six generations.

**Expensive Antique Revolver Stolen from Private Museum Outside Santa Fe Recovered after Curator Spotted Suspected Thief on TV Appraisal Program.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), August 19, 2012)

The curator was channel surfing at a Gallup hotel in February when he began watching an episode of the Discovery Channel's "American Guns," filmed at a gun shop in the Denver suburb of Wheat Ridge. He was astonished to see 65-year-old Wylie Gene Newton trying to have the museum's missing 1849 .44-caliber Colt Dragoon appraised. He contacted NM law enforcement, who followed up with police in CO. They set up a sting and offered to meet Newton and buy the \$40,000 gun. Newton was arrested on a larceny charge.

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society  
107 St. Andrews Circle  
Durango, Colorado 81301

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.

Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore")	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
Individual (no SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$ 8.00 = \$23.00
Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
Family (no SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$10.00 = \$30.00

Editors of this newsletter are in alphabetical order:

Beverly Stacy Dittmer - [mokibev@frontier.net](mailto:mokibev@frontier.net) or (817-266-5046 or 970-375-9568)

Janis Sheftel - [jsheftel@mbsllp.com](mailto:jsheftel@mbsllp.com)

Jill Ward - [jward@peterpattison.com](mailto:jward@peterpattison.com)

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

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