



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**January, 2012**

## **SJBAS September Meeting**

Our meeting this month will be **September 13**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, at Fort Lewis College. **Tom R. Kennedy** will speak on "Hawikku - Impacting the Zuni world - past, present and future." Those of you on the Zuni field trip last year will remember Tom's excellent talk at the Zuni Tourism Center and his field trip leadership.

Tom has managed a wide variety of projects throughout his almost 25-year career as a museum, as well as tourism, professional. His experience includes work at museums of all types, in many capacities and at various locales, including a small historic museum in TX; a large progressive children's museum in the Midwest; state museums in NM; a university museum in IN; a national museum in the Caribbean; and, from 1995-2001, the community museum in Zuni, Pueblo, NM.

Tom's training in anthropology, folklore, and

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## **Champagne Springs Trip**

By Barbara Dawson

On August 19, six SJBAS adventurers were given an up-close-and-personal tour of the 300-room Champagne Springs excavation -in-progress by its director, archaeologist David Dove. From the test trenches begun with a backhoe to the meticulous work completed with dental picks, Dave and his field school volunteers are learning more about the Pueblo I to Pueblo II transition period in the northern San Juan—900 to 1075.

Discovering fantastic ceremonial burials of a variety of animals including dogs, turkeys, rabbits, and snakes makes each day of work an adventure. During the more than two-hour period of our visit, six tiny arrow heads were discovered with trowels, brushes and screening trays. One highlight of our visit was examining a beautiful turquoise pendant that had been discovered shortly before our arrival, the second one this week. Earlier recovery of a

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SJBAS Members learning about the dig.

## SEPT. MEETING CONT.

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museology has enabled him to effectively incorporate personal experiences growing up overseas, his work in Guatemala and the Caribbean with his interests in culture and the arts. His positions have included Curator, Educator, Museum Consultant, Director of Artifact Collections, and Museum Director. Since 2001, as Director of Tourism for the Zuni Tribe, Tom has been able to apply his cultural and educational experience towards the economic development of the Zuni community.

### SJBAS FIELD TRIPS

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

**Oct 3-5, Cedar Mesa,** 3-day car camping trip to hike sites in White Canyon and on Cedar Mesa. Hikes will be several miles long and moderately difficult, with some exposure on sandstone ridges. High-clearance 4WD vehicles required. Limit: 12. (TL: Barb & Lyle Hancock, 764-4531, lylehancock@bresnan.et).

**Oct 13, Historic Ranches in Largo Canyon,** "Wild, Wooly and Wonderful: The Upper Landscape of Upper Largo Canyon," day trip, with Jim, BLM archaeologist. Limit: 20. (TL: Rhonda Raffo & Jim Mueller, 259-8870, rhondaandjim@msn.com).

**Oct 24-28, Winslow Area and Hopi Mesa.** 4-day motel trip to visit sites/ petroglyphs in Winslow area and on Hopi Mesa. Hopi guide on Black Mesa will provide unique cultural opportunities. Visit Homolovi State Park and Petrified Forest

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gorgeous, curved ceremonial point/blade and an obsidian bird effigy pendant encourage everyone to participate in future field work. Sound exciting? Have you ever had a desire to get your hands dirty looking for such ancient wonders? Dave's school might be just right for you.

But by far and away the best part of the tour was detailed explanations and insightful interpretations given by Dave. For over an hour and a half we systematically toured this fascinating site learning of the discoveries and improved understanding obtained from each of some half dozen active trenches. One pit structure exhibited three major remodels as it evolved from four central posts and wing wall pit house, through removal of the wing walls and addition of a clay bench with posts against the perimeter wall, to ultimately containing a masonry bench with socketed post pilaster predecessors. Champagne Springs is truly a unique archaeological site which is sure to gain widespread attention over the next few seasons.



SJBAS getting "down and dirty" in the excavation.

## **SJBAS TRIPS CONTINUED**

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National Park. Limit: 20. (TL: Mary Ann Hiller, 259-5170, johnhilldurco@durango.net.

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

For **Hisatsinom Chapter Trips** call Jane Williams, trip coordinator, 565-8867, jswill@frontier.net.

## **PACC CLASSES**

Class information can be found at <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>.

### **CAS: 2012 Alice Hamilton Scholarship Raffle: Queen-sized Quilt.**

The 'on-point' designer log-cabin quilt "Southwest Mimbres 2" raffle price is in five shades of turquoise and clay, featuring Mimbres pot and "critter" blocks. Raffle tickets are available at \$3 each or 4 for \$10.

## **CAS CHAPTER PROGRAM**

**Mark Varien, Res. & Ed. Chair., Crow Canyon Cntr** *Spoke to Denver CAS Chapt., re: Pueblo Origins and Development of the Mesa Verde World (from Hunter Gatherer to Domestic Agricultural Production and Basketmaker Communities Project, Describing Hist. of Pueblo Indians: The Neolithic Revolution and Roots of Modern Civilization: What we can Learn from the Mesa Verde Region.* (Summary, CAS All Points Bulletin, May & June 2012)

Diverse populations, both historically and linguistically, all created the Pueblo Indian culture. The domestication of corn played a large part in its origin, starting in Mexico and spreading to the AZ-Mex. border. (Corn cannot propagate on its own.) After this, people started to live in one place year round. It took another 1,500 years to spread to the CO Plateau, as corn had to adapt to the area's climate. .

A current project at CC is the Basketmaker Community Project ("BCP"), a multi-year excavation project focused on the dense concentration of sites dating to the Basketmaker III period (AD 600-725). This was the first time that non-individual structures were built and the first period where the material culture starts to look more homogeneous. This is the era when the first public architecture -- great kivas -- were invented, used for community activities rather than domestic activities. The BCP includes excavations at the Dillard Site, the only known great kiva in the Mesa Verde Region. Around AD 600 the total effect of the Neolithic revolution came about, including development and use of the bow and arrow, pottery for storage purposes, public architecture (shared houses, storage areas, and kivas), and development of new varieties of corn and beans. Later, populations start to grow and there are more communal large villages.

To be determined is why there was eventual depopulation of major centers -- by study of tree ring data, soils, precipitation and corn yields with comparison to those in modern areas -- to estimate the amount of corn that was grown in each area in the past. At one time, villages/structures were placed on what would have been the best soils for farming. Evidence of some defensive siting has also been found. Film clips were shown of Native American elders and farmers talking about what the corn plants mean to them, how they plant the seeds, and other traditions. The CC Arch. Cntr. has conducted research into the history of Pueblo peoples since its founding in 1983

# MUSEUM/EXHIBITS

**Anasazi Heritage Cntr. " Cross Orchards Historic Site, Overseen by Mus. West. CO -- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday - Saturday.** (Summary, Daily Sentinel, May 6, 2012)

Chores that today take minutes could have, in the early 1900s, taken hours: taking a bath; making soap, making towels; boiling the water. To have a delicious dessert, one needed to grow the apples, mill the flour, milk the cow, make the butter, gather the stove wood and make the pie. Now-simple chores weren't easy, and were time-consuming.

The site's mission is to demonstrate how people lived, worked and played 100 years ago. The 24-acre site is more than an orchard. Visitors can taste homemade sugar cookies baked in a period-appropriate wood stove; play with wooden toys made with hand tools; work in the garden; touch wool as it's spun; get married in the new gazebo; watch a blacksmith at work; learn gold panning with the Grand Junction Gold Prospectors; watch a volunteer spin angora goat wool; visit the pigs and chickens and tour Uintah Railway cars restored by members of the Rio Grande Chapt. of the Natl. Railway Hist. Society.

**100 Years Pueblo Exhibit: History of NM's Native Americans.** Thru Feb. 4, 2013 at Indian Pueblo Cult. Cntr, 2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque. (Summary, Durango Herald, July 22, 2012)

**Treasures at San Juan Hist. Soc. Mus., Pagosa Springs,** Open Daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Summary, Pagosa Sun, July 12, 2012)

The Empire State Camera, one of several non-digital cameras in the museum's collection, is on display. It is a front focusing camera produced from 1894 to 1914 by Rochester Optical. The 1987 Sears-Roebuck catalog shows all the adjustments necessary to meet the requirements of the professional as well as the amateur, with all the movements necessary for both indoor and outdoor photography. Made from selected mahogany, it is well finished with trimmings of polished brass, with a front rack and pinion movement for focusing, held firmly after being set, by turning a milled head placed inside of the one used for focusing.

The Mus.'s farm and ranch display features saddles used by ranchers, an ox yoke, cream separator and other farm equipment. Outside is machinery used on area farms and ranches -- a thresher, hay press, hay rake, potato digger and more, to provide appreciation of the work that went into providing for families in Archuleta County.

There are many other very complex, interesting machines of early times in this area. It is worth a visit to see the unusual displays.

## CONFERENCES

**UT Rock Art Research Assoc. Symposium,** Sept. 21-24, Vernal, UT.

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

**CAS Annual Mtg., Oct. 5-7,** Boulder, CO; [www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/htm](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/BULLETINBOARD/htm).

**Great Basin Anthropological Conference,** Oct. 17-20, Stateline, NV.

## HISATSINOM CHAPTER SPEAKERS

At the **August 7** Hisatsinom meeting, Paul Reed discussed "Chaos or Order: Salmon and Aztec in the post-Chacoan Pueblo III Period, presenting how these two successors of the Chaco cultural traditions developed on different tracks: a continuation of the Chaco tradition at the Aztec community whereas Salmon forged ahead as a non-Chacoan, local. For more information on the Four Corners lectures, call 564-4396 or 800-422-8975, ext. 136.

**September 4, 7:00 p.m.,** Cortez Cultural Center. The speaker will be James Potter from Archaeology Southwest, discussing Early Village Development and Collapse: The Case of Ridges Basin.

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Chimney Rock Events.** (Summary, Durango Herald, June 15, 2012)

"Introduction to Chimney Rock," will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month in the upper parking area. Arrive at 4:30 p.m., Reservations recommended, 883-5359 or [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

**Dinosaur Dig Adventure, Sept. 11-13:** Rocky Mountain PBS and the Mus. of West. CO's three-day "Tracks and Bones Expedition," an introduction to geology, paleontology and adventure.

Day 1: See dinosaur tracks;

Day 2: Assist paleontologists digging at a quarry famous for yielding many of the area's important fossils;

Day 3: Tour area geology on Co River raft trip through Ruby and Horsethief Canyons. Cost: \$699/ person. Includes transportation from Dinosaur Journey Museum, lunches, one dinner, raft trip, tours and instruction. Appropriate for ages 5 and older. Children must be accompanied by participating adult. Tickets and more info: 1-888-488-DINO. Net proceeds will be donated to RMPBS.

**National Park Fee-Free Days. Sept. 29 and Nov. 10-12.** In addition, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), and USFS will waive their entrance and standard amenity fees on **Sept. 29** and **Nov. 10-12**. The USFWS will also have a fee free day on **Oct. 14** to recognize Natl. Wildlife Refuge Week. Reclamation will waive standard amenity fees on **Sept. 29** and **Nov. 12**.

**MVF Will Host First Annual MVF Family Bicycle Event at Mesa Verde National Park 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.

**Mesa Verde Mus. Assoc. Offers Three-day Fall Photography Workshop for Digital or Film Cameras, led by Photographer, on October 12-14; Limited to 13 Participants.** (Summary, Durango Herald, June 29, 2012)

Tuition includes three days of instruction, two nights in-park motel lodging at the Far View Lodge and all meals, including two dinners at the Metate Room Restaurant. Workshop participants will visit sites around the park at times designed to capture ideal lighting conditions and will work on compositional skills. The group will visit some archaeological sites at hours when they're closed to the general public and also will visit Mug House, a cliff dwelling that is not normally open for visitors. For more information and registration, visit [www.mesaverde.org](http://www.mesaverde.org) and click on "Institute".

**Mus of Western CO ("MWC"), Downtown Grand Junction ("GJ"): Rock Carved in 1915 by Trail-blazer of CO Natl. 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.

**MWC Attempts Oral History of Little-remembered Grand Junction Teachers Strike.** (Summary, Daily Sentinel, April 29, 2012)

The only people who are aware of the history of the School District 61 strike of 1973 are the teachers and others who lived it. Several of the people who played roles in the strike are planning to collect the most significant recollections of the strike. Participants in the project will describe their experiences in separate taping sessions in July and August. Teachers voted 527-109 on October 15, 1973, to go on strike, angry that the board had denied them a pay increase, even though the district was 14th from the bottom in the state for teacher pay. The strike ended October 29 when the district agreed to spend \$1.5 million more on teacher salaries. Administrators kept a 14% salary increase, though. Gone were programs that teachers said they wanted kept and were willing to sacrifice to keep. The strike closed schools for nine days, eight of which never were restored. That the strike succeeded in Mesa County was stunning.

# ARCHAEOLOGY: SOUTHWEST

**Virginia City Dig may Shed Light on 1880s Medicine.** (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), August 13, 2012)

More than 150 years after silver boomed on the Comstock, much of the evidence of culture and livelihood left behind by mining era inhabitants is covered by the dirt, moved in by wind and water. Virginia City's newest archaeological site is the backyard of what was a community hospital, St. Mary Louise Hospital, run by the Daughters of Charity from 1876 to 1897, now an arts center -- St. Mary's Art and Retreat Center. The grounds could give some valuable clues to the practice of medicine in the late 1880s, along with examples of everyday household items.

**Close Ties of Pioneering McCluer Family to La Plata Co. Reaffirmed: Donation to Animas Museum of Two Handguns and Two Badges Belonging to Timothy J. McCluer, Jr., Sheriff from 1910-12.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), May 25, 2012)

The historical and sentimental value of the items to the museum and the county outweigh the monetary value. Ann Dierks, McCluer's granddaughter already has given the museum two flat irons, two linen nightgowns with crocheted tops, a pair of pillow cases bearing the embroidered initials McC and 61 photos of family members, friends and scenes from the Durango area. Timothy J. McCluer came to La Plata County from KY in 1875, the year after the area was opened to settlers. Among his 11 children was Timothy Jr., the first white child born in the county. As sheriff, McCluer tried to keep peace between cattlemen like Cox and Sam Truby, who fell out when Cox began raising sheep. A Truby underling shot and killed Cox. McCluer died in 1920 at age 43 from a blood clot that developed after the amputation of his left leg as a result of frostbite while riding with a posse.

**Southern Ute Cult. Cntr. & Mus. Named Top History Mus. of Year by True West Magazine, Dedicated to "Preserving the American West" by Presenting True Stories of Old West, September 2012 Issue.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), July 28, 2012)

The award validates the museum's hard work and high quality, even as it must cut operating and maintenance costs in the face of a budget shortfall, caused by unanticipated expenses and lower-than-expected financial support from grants, foundations and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The award is a boost for the Tribe. People are understanding how important this history is to this area. *True West's* recognition will provide a welcome advantage as the museum seeks grants and other funding in the future. Operating and maintenance costs for the museum building and eight acres of surrounding property total \$350,000 annually, much higher than museum officials were expecting. The museum's total annual operating budget is \$1.2 million; the organization needs to raise at least several hundred thousand dollars more to make it through the rest of the year.

**Pres. Obama to Use Exec. Authority to Declare Chimney Rock Archaeological Area a Natl. Monument.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 1, July 13, August 3, 2012)

The decision bypasses Congress, which has not been able to pass a bill for Chimney Rock despite bipartisan support. Sen. Bennet and Rep. Tipton both sponsored bills to establish a national monument. "Coloradans have made a great case for national monument status, which will be an extraordinary boost for the region and the state. For the last three years, we've been making that case to Congress and more recently to the Administration to use its authority under the Antiquities Act," Sen. Bennet said in an email. "Making Chimney Rock a national monument will preserve and protect the site and drive tourism, drawing more visitors to the region and the state and bringing more dollars into the local economy. Designating Chimney Rock Arch. Area a national monument would bring an additional \$1.2 million from tourism to the region within five years, according to a study by Denver-based BBC Research & Consulting, commissioned by the Natl. Trust for Hist. Preservation. Activists had delivered a petition to Obama's state campaign headquarters in Denver urging him to use his presidential power to create a national monument at Chimney Rock.

**Anasazi Heritage Center ("AHC") Behind-the-Scenes Tours Show Over Three Million Artifacts.** (Summary, [Dolores Star](#), July 27, 2012)

Every Thursday at 2:00 p.m., the curation staff at the AHC will host "Behind-the-Scenes" tours of the

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collections management facility through October 31. Tours are open to the public, with the cost of admission to the AHC. Federal recreation pass holders and people under 18 enjoy free museum admission. Each tour can accommodate a maximum of ten. Participants may register in advance at the museum's front desk, or by phone at 970-882-5613 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays

**Pagosa Springs Cemeteries: Responsibility for Heritage?** (Summary, *Pagosa Sun*, July 26, 2012)

The Old Fort Lewis Cemetery ("OFLC") in downtown Pagosa Springs is the resting place of many of Archuleta County's earliest settlers and is believed to be one of the oldest historical sites in Pagosa Springs. With minimal preservation efforts by the Town of Pagosa Springs, the OFLC has fallen into a state of disrepair. It was not until the 1970s when Ann and Leroy Oldham, co-authors of a book documenting Archuleta County's cemeteries, discovered the deed granting ownership of the OFLC to the Town. Town officials acknowledged its ownership. The deed is dated March 20, 1908, and states the site "to be used as a cemetery or for the burial of the dead and no other purpose whatsoever." The OFLC was the official cemetery of Fort Lewis while the fort was located in Pagosa Springs between 1878 and 1881. The earliest known burial in the OFLC occurred in 1878. When the fort was moved to Durango, the bodies of two soldiers originally buried in the OFLC were transported to Fort Leavenworth, KS. After Hilltop Cemetery was established sometime between 1883 and 1887, the bodies of Civil War soldiers buried in the OFLC were transported to Hilltop Cemetery. For a time, both cemeteries were in use as active burial sites.

**Champagne Springs at Upper Squaw Point Near Squaw Canyon (South of Dove Creek) Dates 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. Because Pueblo II sites are rare in the archaeological record, everything being found is new since there is so little data on that time period. There are not many sites in this time period in the Northern San Juan region. The Pueblo II era precedes the time frame which produced the Mesa Verde NP 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. First researched from 2002-08 by Don Dove, David's father, Champagne Springs has quickly been recognized as a significant research opportunity. David now owns the site. Don passed away two years ago. Excavations at the Champagne Springs site welcome professional and amateurs alike to piece together the history of a community.

**Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP"): Deterioration of Mesa Verde's Cliff Palace Prompts Restoration Campaign: Its Preservation of Increasing Concern to Park.** (Summary, *Durango Herald*, August 4, 2012)

MVNP's chief archaeologist, Scott Travis, has found cracks in the stone walls and misshapen kivas of Cliff Palace. The MVNP structures, including 600 cliff dwellings, were built by the ancestral Pueblo people from A.D. 550-1300. Cliff Palace, a mix of towers, multistory stone rooms and kivas, is visited by 160,000 people every year. Many of the palace structures are exhibiting signs of alarming destabilization and deformation. A fault line running parallel to the back of Cliff Palace is threatening the southern half of the ruin and Kiva F, one of the key stops on guided tours, which Park officials closed to avoid further damage.

The structures are slowly sliding toward the lip of the alcove because the ground beneath them is loose material. The walls of other kivas are sagging or disfigured and large cracks run down the walls of the buildings. Precipitation at the opening of the alcove and water seepage near the back have speeded the degradation of many structures. The destruction is the result of many fac-

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tors, including water seepage and precipitation, natural geological aging and impacts from rodents, birds and insects. Visitation also presents a challenge. While more preservation work has been done to Cliff Palace than any other place in MVNP, the work added outdated modifications and materials that preservationists now have to work with.

Officials don't know how fast the sliding, cracking and deformation is occurring in many of the structures. While not a scientific measure, tour rangers see the Park's condition evolve daily. One ranger who has worked at the park for 12 years has watched while visitors' footsteps slowly wear away scrape marks where native people used to sharpen stones. The vast majority of visitors abide by the Park rules and walk only where they are supposed to, but even those repeated footsteps on the soft sandstone cause wear over time. At Cliff Palace, staff has conducted a detailed analysis of the south half of the ruins. They will assess the structural integrity of the north portion and finish a culvert system to direct water from the parking lot above the alcove to drainage areas away from the ruins.

Officials are considering several options to stabilize structures that are sliding or buckling, including back filling beneath the ruins to solidify the foundation; installing buttresses and creating a more permanent set of braces to hold up walls. A new retaining wall near the ledge of the alcove will help support the entire foundation and prevent the downward slide. The project will take at least two years. The nonprofit Mesa Verde Foundation ("MVF") supports the Park financially and has rallied around the Cliff Palace stabilization work. MVF and the Natl. Parks Foundation are working on an agreement for a joint effort to raise \$150,000 for preservation efforts that represents a huge change in archaeological work, involving a proactive strategy to get at bigger problems. Archaeologists now combine geology, hydrology, geography and historical knowledge with sophisticated techniques like three-dimensional laser scanning and ground-penetrating radar mapping, a very technical science to manage and understand the resources. A new summer seminar at the U of PA allows graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to learn from the work going on at MVNP.

**Cortez Cultural Center Turns 25.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, June 21, 2012)

The Center showcases Native American dancers six days a week, offers educational programs, art exhibits and a museum gallery epitomizing SW history. Every month, the art gallery features a new local artist totaling 16-17 different galleries each year. The Center's mission is to provide a forum for the community's artistic, cultural, educational, and scientific needs. It is a catalyst for cultural continuity, respect and innovation.

**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.

**La Junta.** (Summary, *Denver Post*, May 13, 2012)

Once a major junction for the Santa Fe trail, La Junta was a melting pot for Mexican, Spanish and Am. Indian cultures in its activities and restaurants, all of which offer glimpses into the area's past. This agriculturally rich town in the Arkansas River Valley is also a destination for those looking to track extinct species (dinosaurs) and the very much alive and abundant (around 500 types of birds have been identified). Picketwire Canyon has lots to explore, from more than 1,300 dinosaur tracks that you can get close enough to put your feet in -- it's the largest set in N. Am. -- to rock art, to ruins

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of a mission and cemetery and an abandoned old cattle and horse ranch. You can hike the eight miles, but biking it is better; either way, cool off in the Purgatoire River, from which "picketwire" comes. The canyon sits on Comanche National Grassland 25 miles from town. Instead of deciding between Koshare Indian Museum or Bent's Old Fort, do both, as the two together make for a full day of understanding CO's diversity and history. Koshare is packed with American Indian artifacts and hosts local dancers, while Bent's Fort is a replica of the adobe original, which you can wander about to see re-enacted trading post life depicted by blacksmiths and trappers.

**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 Rock 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 USFS at the Uncompahgre Cirque site, 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, Boulder, and his M.A. from CU, Denver.

**Ancient Art: UT's Horseshoe Canyon, in Canyonlands Natl. Park.** (Summary, [SW Arch](#))

Inside a warren of rock and sand is one of the most mysterious collections of ancient art in N. Amer. Towering pictographs, some more than 6,000 years old, stare down from stone walls, their meaning unknown. Horseshoe Canyon is one of the loneliest places in this country, in SE UT's labyrinth of slickrock, arches and desert. [www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com).

**SW Said to be Home to Some of World's Most Significant Examples of Ancient Petroglyphs.**

(Summary, [SW Arch. Today](#))

The word comes from the Greek *petra*, meaning rock, and *glyphe*, meaning drawing or engraving. Petroglyphs, according to archaeologist and rock-art expert David S. Whitley, are windows onto the emergence of human creativity and religion. Among his Top 5 sites in the world, two are in the US, up there with Lascaux, France: Horseshoe Canyon in UT and the Coso Rock Art District at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in eastern CA. [www.cowboysindians.com](http://www.cowboysindians.com).

**Archaeologists Campaign Against Two New Cable TV Shows Glamorizing Looting of American Arch. Sites.** (Summary, [SW Arch. Today](#))

Spike TV premiered *American Digger* on March 20, and the Natl. Geog. Channel debuted *Diggers* on February 28. Both shows "promote and glorify the looting and destruction of archaeological sites," Society for American Archaeology ("SAA") President wrote in a message posted to the SAA listserv. [www.news.sciencemag.org](http://www.news.sciencemag.org). The story of our shared past is not told by objects, but through examining objects in context, their relationship to surrounding objects and environments and their meaning within larger physical and cultural landscape. Removing ancient or historical objects from their resting places must be a carefully considered act – even among archaeologists – and not one done for personal gain or private ownership. [www.archaeologysouthwest.org](http://www.archaeologysouthwest.org). SSA and other groups, such as SHA, have sent strong letters condemning both of these programs to the production companies, networks, and others. Copies of the SAA letters can be found at <http://bit.ly/w2MHJM>. While Spike TV didn't respond, Natl Geog said that while it cannot stop the showing, it will place a disclaimer in the show about laws protecting archaeological and historic sites.

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

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

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