



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**December, 2012**

## You're Invited!

We will be holding our **CHRISTMAS PARTY**, instead of a regular meeting, on **December 8, 6:00 p.m.**, in the Strater Hotel Pullman Room (downstairs). Included in the per person cost of \$35 are:

- Veggie and cheese appetizers;
- Dinner salad;
- Entre maple rosemary chicken breast with Boursin cream sauce or vegetarian Grilled Portabella Stack with Ratatouille;
- new potatoes and seasonal vegetables;
- rolls and butter;
- Chef's selection dessert;
- Coffee, iced tea and water service.

There will be a cash bar and soft drinks available. All taxes and gratuities, except those for cash bar are included in the \$35.

Send your checks, made out to "SJBAS", \$35 per person, to Mark Gebhardt, 107 St. Andrews Circle, Durango CO 81301 by December 1, 2011. Include your entre preference with your order for either the chicken or the vegetarian entree. To get a free Strater parking permit, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Mark with your dinner check. He'll mail a permit back.

There will be door prizes, election of 2012 officers (thanks to volunteers for all positions), descriptions of 2012 field trips and activities, and , of course, photo highlights of 2011 field trips and activities. We can't have this photo highlights unless you email your photos for the presentation as attachments in jpeg format to Bill Cagle at [cagle81301@yahoo.com](mailto:cagle81301@yahoo.com) ASAP.

Can't wait to see you there!

*Merry  
Christmas!*

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## Meetings



## PAAC



**Hisatsinom Chapter:** Will also be having a December social event on December 6, 7:00 p.m., at the Cortez Cultural Center. Dave Dove will present results from 2011 field season at Greenlee & Mitchell Springs Sites.



## Lectures



### Colorado Archeological Society:

**Poudre River Library:** *History Comes Alive - Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, **Dec. 2, 7-80 p.m.**, Longs Peak Student Center, Front Range Community College Campus, 4616 S. Shields, Fort Collins. Portrayal of Butch Cassidy, Sundance and Etta. Free and open to the public but seating limited. Doors open at 6 p.m. [www.poudrelibraries.org](http://www.poudrelibraries.org).

**Wyoming State Museum:** *The History of the Weston County Fair and Rodeo*, **Jan. 13, 2012, 7 p.m.**, 2301 Central Ave., Cheyenne. Free and open to the public. [www.wyhomuseum.state.wy.us](http://www.wyhomuseum.state.wy.us).

**Archaeological Institute of America:** *Power and Authority at the Edge of Empire in Ancient Persia*, by Dr. Elspeth R.M. Dusingberre. **Jan 15, 2012, 2 P.M.**, Tattered Cover Bookstore, 1668 16th St. - 16th and Wynkoop, Denver. From 550-330 BCE, the Achaemenid Persian empire stretched from the Aegean to the Indus, from Egypt to the Central Asian Republics -- the largest sociopolitical entity the world had ever seen, only brought to its knees by the conquest of Alexander the Great. [www.archaeological.org/events/5513](http://www.archaeological.org/events/5513).

**2011 CAS Annual Meeting** Raffle and Silent Auction fundraisers for Scholarship Fund totaled a record \$4,362. The winning raffle ticket was bought by Mancos resident, John Callender, who visited a Hisatsinom monthly meeting and now thinks that joining CAS is a really good idea!

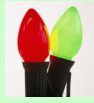


**PAAC Classes:** **Dec 2-16**, Denver: PAAC Lab Project, on intermittent dates at the Museum Support Center in east Denver. See P A A C Web site <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>.

Kevin Black is considering holding a PAAC Class at FLC, April 20-22, 2012. He suggests either: *Field and Lab Photograph*, a 15-hour course, or *Perishable Materials*, the full 20-hour course (last time held, 2002). One of the following four courses might be offered if there is demand: Rock Art Studies, Basic Site Surveying Techniques, Colorado Archaeology, or Prehistoric Ceramics Description and Analysis -- although these were held fairly recently in our area. Please let Eliane Viner know at the upcoming SJBAS dinner, by email, or calling her at 382-2594. She asked about the first two offerings at the November meeting



# Winner!



### Diane McBride, Hisatsinom Chapter Member, One of Three Winners of Josephine Miles Award, for Contributions as Educator for Archaeology.

Those on the Zuni trip met Diane and her husband Bob. For 15 years, she has been an elementary school teacher, and since moving to the area in 2004, she has made archaeological resources come alive for both locals and visitors, through many outlets, with archaeological education her vocation.

She has participated in numerous workshops; taken almost all of the PAAC classes; goes to the Pecos Conference annually and other regional talks and lectures; has taken trips with Crow Canyon; is a member of their "Friends of Crow Canyon" Advisory Board; is active in CAS activities both local and state; volunteers at the Anasazi Heritage Center and Crow Canyon's research lab, and serves as a steward on seven Colorado and one Utah prehistoric sites.



# Museum Exhibits



**Migration Exhibit, "Journey Stories," at Aztec Museum,** showcasing stories of those who settled this area. [www.daily-times.com](http://www.daily-times.com).

**Maxwell Museum of Anthropol., University of NM,** through February 2012. New photography exhibit, "Chaco Uncovered: The Field Schools 1929 to Present"; [www.unm.edu](http://www.unm.edu);

**Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, George Gustav Heye Center, NY, NY.,** long-term exhibit, "Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian," includes 700 works of native art from North, Cent. and South America, [www.americanindian.si.edu](http://www.americanindian.si.edu);

**NM Historical Museum,** *The Threads of Memory: Spain and the United States*);

**Museum of International Folk Art,** in Santa Fe, Through March 10, 2013. "Folk Art of the Andes," religious and secular folk art;

**Museum of Indian Arts & Culture,** in Santa Fe, Nov. 18, 2011 through May 1, 2014. "Woven Identities", 250 baskets from Western North America; Through Feb. 12, 2010, "Huichol Art and Culture: Balancing the World" explores ties between Huichol, Native American and Hispanic art and cultures.

**Center of SW Studies Celebrates Ten Years of Progress.** (Summary, [Pagosa Sun](#), October 1, 2011)

With open house, followed by a special presentation by local author, Jack Turner, on his book, *Landscapes on Glass: Lantern Slides of the Rainbow Bridge - Monument Valley Expedition*. The Center opened its 50,000 square-foot building in 2001, housing the Center's museum/gallery space and the summer solstice window, the Delaney SW Research Library and archival collections, an auditorium for public lectures, the Departments of Anthropology and Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Office of Community Services. The building was in part funded by the local community, under the leadership of the late Morley Ballantine, who chaired the fundraising campaign and was the Center's founding donor, along with her husband Arthur.

**Salmon Ruins Museum Exhibit "The Language of Rock Art: a Collaboration Honoring the Work of Dr. Hugh Chilton Rogers," Honors his Research.** A blessing ceremony opened the year long exhibit featuring the American Indian rock art of the Largo and Gobernador Canyons through pictures captured by Rogers and other local photographers. Until his death in 2009, the Farmington urologist was one of the primary researchers and documentarians of Navajo rock art in the region. [www.daily-times.com](http://www.daily-times.com).

**Aerial Photography Exhibit From Above Opens in Oro Valley.** A collaboration among internationally acclaimed photographer Adriel Heisey, Center for Desert Archaeology, and Albuquerque Museum, features sixty large-format aerial photographs of historical landscapes across the SW, such as Chaco Canyon's Pueblo Bonito and Tucson's Tumamoc Hill, as well as other special places off the beaten path. [www.cdarc.org](http://www.cdarc.org).

**Houston-based Museum, Exhibiting the Menil Collection, a Rare 13th Century Byzantine Frescoes, Looted from Cyprus more than Three Decades Ago, Agrees to Return them next Year.** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), October 15, 2011) Antiquities smugglers looted frescoes from the Ayios Themomianos church in northern Cyprus following a 1974 Turkish invasion that split the island into a Turkish-speaking north and a Greek-speaking south. Menil Collection founder Dominique de Menil obtained the frescoes in 1983 and struck an agreement with the Cyprus church to exhibit them at a purpose-built chapel in Houston. A decade later, the Cyprus church granted the museum a loan extension until February 2012 in recognition of its efforts to restore the fragmented frescoes. Archbishop Chrysostomos II turned down requests to keep the frescoes longer, offering instead to dispatch an iconographer to recreate them on the chapel's dome and apses, along with a gift of ten late-19th and early-20th century icons. The Cyprus Antiquities Department will oversee the transportation of the frescoes back to Europe. The

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## Museum Exhibits - cont.

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church says scores of religious artifacts, including icons and mosaics, were looted from Creek Cypriot churches in the island's north. Many have since appeared on the international art market. Millions have been spent purchasing them for repatriation. The church's biggest success was the recovery of several priceless 6th century mosaics. Christianity in Cyprus goes to the faith's earliest years. The Apostle Paul is said to have preached the gospel in Cyprus in A.D. 45 and converted the island's Roman governor Sergius Paulus -- the first Roman official to undergo conversion.



## Volunteer Opportunities

**Cortez Cult. Cntr.** Call Shawn K. Collins, Ph.D, Director, (970) 565-1151; email: scolins@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);

**Colorado Historical Soc.** Contact Kevin Black, Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us;

**Center of SW Studies.** Contact Julie Tapley-Booth at 247-7456;

**Mesa Verde** email Cheryl and Chuck Carson, volunteer coordinators at cccarson@aol.com, or phone at 259-2699;

Visit [www.mesaverdevolunteers.org](http://www.mesaverdevolunteers.org).,

**Aztec Ruins.** Call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or [tracy\\_bodnar@nps.gov](mailto:tracy_bodnar@nps.gov).

**Anasazi Heritage Center,** Call David Kill at 882-5621 or [dkill@blm.gov](mailto:dkill@blm.gov).

## THE EDITORS' CORNER

*How Delicate These Arches*, is by David Feela, former Montezuma-Cortez High School English Teacher. This travel guide for the metaphorical tourist contains vignettes and the musings about the Four Corners of a curious and quirky observer of the world. The book's sense of place is deeply rooted: readers can almost smell juniper and sagebrush. From adventures in wrangling skunk and emu to an analysis of local housing, the writing looks at area culture from a perspective where anthropology and humor meet. Feela called one essay "The Trailers of Montezuma County," a tribute to the 1995 Clint Eastwood film "The Bridges of Madison County." The column Feela wrote for a long time was called "Footnotes From the Four Corners" for *Inside Outside Magazine*.

*In Search of Domínguez & Escalante: Photographing the 1776 Spanish Expedition through the Southwest.* Photojournalists Greg MacGregor and Siegfried Halus Retrace Explorers' Steps with Benefit of Modern Transportation and Documentation.

(Summary, *Durango Herald*, June 3, 2011)

Three weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante started on a trip to connect their hometown, Santa Fe, with the California coast at Monterrey. They didn't make it, but



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## **THE EDITORS' CORNER—Cont.**

the 1,800-mile journey gave Western colonizers their first look at the Four Corners' landscape. Domínguez and Escalante headed northwest through Abiquiá and crossed the Animas River a few miles south of current Durango. They passed directly through what would be Mancos and Cortez before reaching the northernmost point in the trip near Jensen. They traveled Southwest almost as far as modern-day St. George, UT, before turning back east through northern AZ. Railroads, tourist traps and even horses are some of the changes chronicled in the 2010 photos, but there are just as many pictures that illustrate the timelessness of the landscape, including the cottonwoods at Utah's Green River Crossing and the Mud Spring Bench in the Escalante Desert. The book is arranged chronogeographically, each chapter detailing a dated and measured segment of the expedition. The photos are supported with text by the authors Domínguez and Escalante's letters sent back to Santa Fe, and Escalante's journal entries of the five-month trip, describing the real-life perils of the unknown, from attacks by native tribes and espionage to arid wastelands with promise but starvation. MacGregor is professor emeritus of photography at Cal. State. University and Halsus is the former director of the art department at Santa Fe Community College. Both live in Santa Fe.

### **Contents of American Archaeology, Fall 2011:**

"**Making a Case for the Pre-Clovis**" - Archaeologists excavating a 15,500-year-old site in central Texas.

"**Reassessing Winterville Mounds**" - Centuries of occupation brought dramatic changes to this site.

"**The MesoAmerican-Southwest Connection**" - Was there extensive contact between the peoples of these regions? (Interesting in light of recent talk by Steve Lekson at FLC.)

"**Polynesian Contact?**" - Some researchers believe that Polynesians visited the New World before Columbus.

### **New Acquisitions:**

"**A Glimpse of Connecticut's Past**" - Conservancy signs option for its first Conn. preserve.

"**Learning About the Apishapa**" - Roper's Walk offers insights into a little-known culture.

"**An Enigmatic Site**" - Researchers have largely ignored Newton-Hopper for the last several decades.

"**From Mississippi to Liberia**" - Conservancy obtains the Prospect Hill plantation, from which roughly 300 slaves immigrated to Liberia.

"**Preserving a Pueblito**" - Conservancy acquires an 18th-century structure surrounded by a modern subdivision.





# Museum Exhibits DC & NYC



The standing exhibit at the New York City Heye Museum, which is a branch of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), is titled “An Infinity of Nations”. When it was first put together it was criticized as being a “hodge podge” of artifacts without adequate explanation and interpretation. This led to the exhibits becoming interpretive, and geared to the level of an unknowledgeable school child with no artifacts of any consequence being displayed. I hated this loss of beautiful artifacts. Likewise I was disappointed by the new Washington D.C. NMAI as it also was largely only interpretive displays with the artifacts being hidden away in drawers beneath the exhibits which were awkward (at best) to access.

Thanks to an item in the Moki last year on “A Song For the Horse Nation” at the Heye museum, I spent an afternoon last November (2010) touring the two major exhibits at the Heye. I was happy to find that the Heye now had a fine balance between display with excellent interpretation and discussion of the artifacts. Electronic touch screens further enhanced the viewing experience with photographs of historic figures, sites and graphics. In

viewing “A Song for the Horse Nation”, I was very impressed with both the interpretation and the display of significant artifacts and talked with a museum staffer who promised that more traditional displays were coming.

When we were in Washington D.C. this November, I again visited the NMAI in D.C. and found that the wonderful “A Song for the Horse Nation” exhibit had now traveled from NYC and was enlarged and improved at this bigger museum. The Heye has limited floor space while the NMAI in DC had more room and had doubled the size of the display. Featured were weapons used during the western Indian Wars including the rifles of Nez Perce Chief Joseph who surrendered at Bear Paw Battlefield (“I will fight no more forever”), Geronimo’s trapdoor Springfield (pre-civil war) and a Henry lever action, and the war club carried by Lakota war chief “American Horse” reported to have knocked Captain Fetterman from his horse at the “Battle of the Hundred in Hand” as the Lakota named the fight in 1866. The battle was fought near Fort Phil Kearny and a re-enactment can be seen of it depicted from the Indian viewpoint on this film clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yej9oQAwUY>.

The Horse Nation exhibit in the DC NMAI is about 200 yards in length, winding back and forth and has gorgeous bead and quillwork that was used to decorate favored hunting, war and race horses. They displayed a beautiful Quilled Horse Mask that is shown with this article. They showed the War Shirt of Crazy Horse. Of especial interest to me was the honor shirt of Little Big Man, the close friend of war leader Crazy Horse who gripped “Tsunka Witko’s” arms at the time of Crazy Horse’s assassination by the army. This honor shirt was reputed to have been worn by Crazy Horse on several occasions. Both warriors were recognized by being awarded honor shirts and to be “shirt wearers” were pledged to protect “The People” beyond their own interests.

The overall quality of all the exhibits at the NMAI had been greatly improved, and I am happy to report that it appears the fine balance between interpretation and display has been achieved at last. New exhibits on a variety of subjects were well done and interesting. A museum visit is a worthwhile experience for an Archaeologist or Historian in both NYC and D.C.

Submitted by Paul Dittmer

November 2011

## Slate of officers for SJBAS for 2012

<b>President</b>	Andy Gulliford
<b>Co-vice presidents</b>	Jim Shadell and Florence (Foxie) Mason
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mark Gebhardt
<b>Secretary</b>	Diane Skinner
<b>PAAC coordinator</b>	Eliane Viner
<b>CAS representative</b>	Bob Powell
<b>Editors of the Moki</b>	Beverly Dittmer, Janis Sheftel, Jill Ward

Election of officers will be held at the Christmas party on Thursday, December 8, 2011.



## Archeology of the Southwest



### Durango's Worst Flood: 1911 Deluge; News Stories Recount Devastation. (Summary, *Durango Herald*, October 9, 2011)

In 1911, more than 100 bridges washed away. Several deaths. Railroad tracks, more than 300 miles worth, destroyed. All telegraph and telephone communications lost. Six feet of water rushing down 15th Street. Virtually all the crops in the Animas Valley destroyed. An estimated \$1.5 million in damage across the region, after 3.42 inches of rain in Durango; four inches in Silverton, and 8.5 inches in Gladstone in 36 hours, a record that still stands today. The Animas River ran at about 25,000 cfs in Durango. The average for that gauge on October 5 is 441 cfs.

The precipitation stemmed from the remnant of a tropical storm in the Pacific. The storm centered near Gladstone above Silverton. In Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River carried the Archuleta County jail 35 miles downstream. There was no word as to whether the jail was housing any prisoners at the time. Durango and Silverton were not only cut off from the rest of the world, but cut off from each other as well. The primary concern was food and fuel shortages for the 3,000 residents living in Silverton with winter coming on, but fortunately, partial road and railroad routes to the north were restored within a week or two. Still, most travel was via burro and horse-drawn wagon. About 22 miles of tracks were washed out on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad between Silverton and Durango. South wasn't an option, either, as the Animas, already high, was joined by the Florida near Bonadad, taking out the bridges from there south.

If there was a hero after the flood, it was Otto Mears ("The Pathfinder"), because he built several toll roads and railroads in some of the most difficult terrain in the San Juan Mountains. The estimated damage to his infrastructure alone was \$25,000, about \$568,000 in 2011 dollars. "Mr. Otto Mears is entitled to the thanks of the community for his promptness in repairing the damage to his lines," the *Standard* said. Mears didn't stop there. After finishing the repairs on his own railroads -- the Silverton Railroad, which went to Red Mountain and Ironton, and the Silverton Northern, which climbed to Eureka and Animas Forks -- the 71-year-old contracted with the D&RG to start repairing the railroad from Silverton south while another crew worked its way north. He paid the sum of \$3 a day, twice what his counterpart rebuilding the tracks from Durango was offering.

Area floods periodically come in the fall. The 1911 flood in the San Juan Mountains affected every town on every river throughout the Western Slope because it had been a wet summer, and September was wetter. Though historical reports from a century ago lack the precision of modern flow measurements, the flood levels were staggering. On July 18, 1911, Lightner Creek was at twice the size of the Animas River. By early October, the Animas reached three-quarters of a mile beyond its normal river bed and reached the orchard just below Trimble Hot Springs. The storm blew heavy timbers out of high-country mines and swept them down the Uncompahgre River. All the mines at Ironton, Red Mountain, Camp Bird and Sneffels experienced heavy flooding. Flooding between South Fork and Pagosa Springs destroyed the original dirt route over Elwood Pass that followed the San Juan River. State highway engineers never again wanted to contend with such wreckage so they rerouted US Hwy 160 over the top of Wolf Creek Pass, the route we now take.

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# Archeology of the Southwest - Cont.



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## **Prehistoric Grand Junction: Team Unearths Clues.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), October 23, 2011)

A rock overhang at the mouth of a small canyon in the Salt Creek valley north of Loma is unique because it has clues about the earliest inhabitants of western Colorado, what their daily life might have been like and the sort of climatic cycles that occurred several millennia before the Grand Valley was settled. Two months of digging this summer yielded artifacts and sedimentary evidence inside a rock shelter indicating human occupation 7,000 to 8,000 years ago. A concentration of charcoal recovered in older deposits at the site may indicate the presence of a culture from the Late Paleoindian time period known as the Foothills-Mountain people, who first appeared in western Colorado about 10,000 years ago. The site, whose exact location is being kept secret, was first recorded in 1980. Scientists revisited the site and conducted archaeological tests in 2009, which led to its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Archaeologists excavated more than ten feet of soil and rock deposits and found stone tools, remains of small invertebrates, remnants of a post hole where a wall might have been erected and evidence of fire hearths. The tool -- made of obsidian and known as a McKean point -- came from Idaho, providing insight into how far and wide prehistoric peoples' habitats ranged. The discovery of invertebrates, which prefer a cool, moist environment, suggests the climate of now-arid western Colorado was once much different. Funding for this summer's project came from corporate sponsors and a grant from the Colorado Historical Society. As noteworthy as the site in the Bookcliffs is for its age, the Dominguez Anthropological Research Group has found evidence of an even older occupation on the Western Slope.

## **Farmington Hills Bear Witness to Battles from Days Gone By.** (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), November 13, 2011)

On the top of a hill located above San Juan College and the Pinon Hills Golf Course, sits a small fenced-in cemetery with six stone-covered graves and a marble tablet that reads "Buried Here are John W. Brown, Pioneer doctor and Arbiter of frontier disputes, died 1896, his wife Hattie, his sons, George, Lee, Lee's wife Julia, and cowboy Aaron Barker. George Brown and Aaron Barker were shot and killed by the Stockton Gang." Local author and historian Marilu Waybourn has researched and documented this and other local graveyards and settlements, some of which go back to the Wild West days of San Juan County, NM. During her research for a book about abandoned cemeteries, Waybourn learned that the first cemetery in Farmington was located where the Tibbetts Middle School football field now stands. In the late 1800s, after one particularly heavy rain, the cemetery there was flooded. Dr. John Brown, who is attributed as being the first doctor in Farmington, wanted to make sure his family's future gravesite would never flood, so he chose one of the highest points in Farmington for his family's burial site. The five-member Stockton Gang, led by Ike Stockton and his brother Port, robbed and rustled cattle across northern NM in the late 1800s. Their crime spree soon led to an all-out feud with the Simmons family of Farmington, a feud which is sometimes referred to as the San Juan County War. The Simmons family accused the Stocktons, who were posing as prosperous cattlemen in the Durango area, of stealing their cattle and selling the beef to army posts. On April 16, 1880, a band of armed men calling themselves the Farmington Vigilante Committee descended on Durango and, after shots were exchanged with the Stockton gang, helped the residents of Durango drive the gang out of town.

## **Centuries Ago, Pueblo San Marcos was Hub of Thriving Trade in Turquoise and Pottery, Probably Most Imposing Village in Galisteo Basin.**

It is now little more than dips of rust-colored earth with millions of potsherds and pieces of turquoise from a mine in the Cerrillos Hills, a few miles to the west. From about 1350 to 1680, more than a half-dozen similarly sized pueblos spanned the Galisteo Basin, with San Marcos being the largest. Its 2,000-room village was probably the valley's economic powerhouse. Covering over about 60 acres on a bluff overlooking the San Marcos Arroyo, the pueblo thrived thanks to its trade in turquoise and distinctive lead-glazed ceramic pottery, one of two places in the New World where it was developed. (The other was Honduras.) The archaeological record indicates the pottery was popular with surrounding pueblos, including those in the Jemez Mountains, who paid for the pottery with obsidian, flakes of which are everywhere at San Marcos.

Archaeologists can't say how many people lived in the Basin during the Pueblo era. A lot of people were there, but not at the same time. Plentiful water drew people to the area. San Marcos is only a few dozen yards from natural springs. The Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act was the first step

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## Archeology of the Southwest - Cont.



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toward what could be a long-range plan to preserve the Basin's most important sites, most on private land. The majority of landowners cherish the ruins and strive to protect them, but some sites have been lost to the ages.

The new law designated 24 sites, setting up a framework for protecting them in a public and private partnership. It allows the federal government to acquire sites from willing landowners. \$2.5 million is needed to fully implement the Act. Pueblo San Marcos itself was part of an unbuilt subdivision when the Archaeological Conservancy purchased 20 acres from the developer in 1980. Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado first passed through the Basin in 1541. It is unclear whether he contacted San Marcos, but he had contact with many of the other Basin pueblos. By 1620, a Catholic church had been built at San Marcos, and by then, Santa Fe had become the seat of Spanish government in the northern frontier of New Spain. As more and more Spaniards settled in the Basin, the pueblos grew increasingly restive. In August of 1680, hundreds of pueblo warriors marched into Santa Fe and laid siege to what is now called the Palace of the Governors. After an 11-day battle, the Spaniards fled to El Paso. When they returned 12 years later, the Galisteo Basin pueblos were largely abandoned. The decline actually began with Coronado, but the revolt finished them off. It's all very speculative, but Coronado could have likely introduced European diseases and there could have been environmental factors as well. A 2004-2005 dig exposed the remains of a Catholic chapel, complete with choir loft, baptismal font and altar, and a floor decorated with something unique: pawprints from what was probably the chapel priest's cat. No other such pawprints have ever been discovered. Cats were brought to New Mexico from the Old World. The turquoise that made San Marcos rich is still mined in the mountain that the Mexican Indians, traveling with the Spaniards, called Calchihuitl. The Spaniards extracted lead and silver from the mountain and built at least three smelters at San Marcos, some of the first in the Southwest.

**Arch Uncovered.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, October 27, 2011)

During the Cornerstone Project in Cortez, renovation of an old bank building, contractors discovered an arch behind the plaster and between a vault in the building next door. The surprise discovery will be a prominent feature of the new studios for KSJD radio when the project is completed.

**Animas Museum Appealed for \$16,000 by End of October to Meet Financial Obligations.** (Summary, Durango Herald, October 22, 2011)

The Animas Museum, with the mission of preserving La Plata County History, operates on a shoestring. The alternative to raising \$16,000 is to dip into reserves as was done recently to paint 40 deteriorating window frames to forestall a larger cost later. Historical society members and the general public were asked to help close the gap. The La Plata County Historical Society came up short this year in part because Durango provided no financial support after giving \$18,500 in 2009 and \$5,000 last year. La Plata County contributions, which have ranged from \$1,500 to \$2,100, this year totaled \$750. The combined reduction from two years ago represents 17% of the current operating budget of \$110,500, which pays the salary of the full-time director and two part-timers, utilities, insurance, bookkeeping services and maintenance. General building maintenance has been delayed and the museum director takes trash home to eliminate an expense.

The museum opened in 1983. Collections of 35,000 items tell the history of the County. The museum also has an extensive research library. To contribute, deliver a check made out to the Society, at the museum at 31st Street and West Second Avenue; mail a check to the Society, P.O. Box 3384, Durango CO 81302; donate by credit card by calling 259-2402; or donate by Paypal at [www.animas-museum.org](http://www.animas-museum.org).

**Native American Art Roadshow.** (Summary, Durango Herald, October 27, 2011)

A hand-woven Navajo Yeibichai rug was one of numerous items brought to the Roadshow at FLC's Center of SW Studies. Jackson Clark, owner of Toh-Atin Gallery, estimated the rug's value at \$1,500. The Center sponsored the event to give locals the opportunity to have their Native American artwork appraised. The Center is not allowed to estimate the value of artwork. A similar event, the Native American Textile & Rug Roadshow, took place Nov. 12 at the Center.

**Museum of Western Colorado Bracing for Another Slash in Funding from Mesa County: Museum Ad-**

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# Archeology of the Southwest - Cont.



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## **ministrators to Plead with County Commissioners.** (Summary, Daily Sentinel, October 25, 2011)

The County has notified the museum it intends to cut funding from \$375,000 this year to \$250,000 next year, the fourth year in a row that the County has trimmed the amount of taxpayer dollars funneled to the umbrella organization that manages venues in Grand Junction, Fruita and Fruitvale.

## **Digging for Answers: Crow Canyon ("CC") Archaeological Center Takes on Enduring Questions about Ancestral Puebloans.** (Summary, Cortez Journal, October 29, 2011)

CC has spent 28 years conducting major archaeological research; teaching thousands of area school children and teachers; and building bridges between the archaeological community and Native Americans. Since its founding in 1983, CC has conducted 11 major multiyear archaeological excavations, such as Sand Canyon Pueblo and Goodman Point Pueblo. CC focused primarily on the Pueblo peoples, A.D. 750 to 1300, learning that weather conditions, diminishing natural resources and unsustainable population sizes probably contributed to their departure. For the last 20 years, the 13th-century exodus of the ancestral Puebloans was one of the largest archaeology questions on the plate. Now that there are some answers, the next big question is "Where did they come from?"

This spring, CC started a new three-year research project about the significant Basketmaker III settlements in the Indian Camp Ranch subdivision, just north of CC, going back to A.D. 500 to 750. While eventually much of the subdivision will be surveyed, this summer's dig focused on an eight-acre area, the Dillard Site, the earliest confirmed Basketmaker III great kiva in SW Colorado, dating to A.D. 650. Researchers found a wet-laid masonry wall. (The Pueblo people didn't start using masonry for another 250 years.) It would have been the largest structure these people entered. Many of the technological advancements of the ancestral Puebloan era started in that period. Beans and turkey were added to their diet. Pottery was invented so they could cook the beans. The bow and arrow improved hunting over the atlatl and the spear.

Projects at CC have two purposes: to learn more about the vanished people who called this area home and to teach people of all ages about the archaeological process through hands-on research, since recent studies have shown that American students learn science best outside of the classroom. Students from area schools take field trips ranging from half-day to two-day periods to CC.

For many nonprofits giving is down after three tough economic years, but CC has been trending up. An endowment, that has grown from \$3 million in 1994 to \$13 million in 2011, provides a financial foundation. CC's \$4.2 million income comes from a variety of sources: 35% from programs; 29% from about 700 individual contributors; 18% from foundations and grants; 16% from investments in the endowment fund; 2% from other income, including CC's gift shop. One concern is continuing cuts in public school budgets, which is hurting some schools' abilities to take field trips to the Center. Scholarship funding comes from individual contributors. One financial area put on hold because of the economic crash was a planned capital campaign to upgrade CC's facilities. In January the capital campaign may be resuscitated.

CC will make its national television debut in 2013, as one of four archaeological places chosen for their "Time Team America" program, with filming taking place next year, partnering with Oregon Public Broadcasting. A group of experts comes and solves an archaeological problem. CC also plans to expand its educational offerings, teaching pre-and Pueblo history at the elementary level and a science, mathematics and technology program at the middle and high school levels.

## **Valles Caldera: Having National Park Service (NPS) Manage 89,000-acre Preserve instead of Nine-member Board of Trustees, could Mean Dozens of Jobs and Millions of Dollars for Local Economy.**

(Summary, Durango Herald, October 30, 2011)

Made up of sprawling meadows, where SJBAS visited archaeology sites, the NM preserve was bought by the federal government in 2000, to protect the area and develop recreational opportunities while keeping it as a working ranch. If the NPS were to take over management, the preserve would draw \$11 million to the local economy and create about 200 jobs in 2016. Some of that would come from construction on infrastructure. The Consultants looked at the Great Sand Dunes National Park; Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument; and other sites when developing its projects for Valles Caldera.

## **Story of Tunnels Under Durango's Main Avenue Allegedly Used by Women of Ill Repute and Male Customers to Travel Between Brothels and Bars while Hidden from Public and Protected from Cold**

(Continued on page 11)



# Archeology of the Southwest - Cont.



(Continued from page 10)

**Weather.** (Summary, *Durango Herald*, October 11, 2011)

The tunnels exist, but the rest of the story, according to Duane Smith, is false, based on the more than 150 interviews he has done with Durango old-timers about various aspects of Durango's history. The rumor persists because people love a great story.

Various tunnels were constructed in parts and pieces along the west side of Main Avenue beginning in the 1800s, concentrated under businesses along the 900 and 1000 blocks of Main Avenue, used by businesses to store coal in the basement, where most furnaces were located, without the hassle of hauling it through stores. Coal trucks drove down Main and dumped coal down a sidewalk chute that funneled into the storage space. Because they weren't used for travel, the tunnels never connected to form a unified system. Durango's two red-light districts were on the east edge of the Animas River near River City Hall and near the train depot. Tunnels never extended to these districts. Besides, most men weren't afraid to enter the saloons on Main Avenue, while women remained inconspicuous by entering through the buildings' back doors.

Robert McDaniel, former director of the Animas Museum, agreed that the tunnels probably were used for a utilitarian purpose like storing coal. Durango Fire & Rescue Authority is well aware of the hollow spaces beneath the sidewalks downtown. When it needs to extend a ladder to a building on Main Avenue, trucks can't extend their stabilizing equipment onto the sidewalks for fear of punching through. Most of the tunnels have been walled up because the businesses don't want people crawling around under there. Business owners are hesitant to tell stories about the tunnels because of the risk of break-ins. One part of the tunnel system is intact underneath the El Rancho building and is used for storing and transporting merchandise into the bar. Chris Lile, co-owner of El Rancho Tavern, after cleaning one day, found coins on the floor from 1890.

When it comes to other tunnels around the state, the scandalous stories are closer to the truth. A tunnel still exists underneath the sidewalk in front of the Grand Imperial Hotel in Silverton, which once connected the Grand Imperial to the bar across Greene Street. Men would walk through the tunnel to the bar that had a back door that opened up to Blaire Street where brothels were legal. The remains of another tunnel exist in downtown Denver that had similar purposes., connecting the historic Brown Palace Hotel and the building that formerly housed one of the city's most famous brothels.

**Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Historic Preservation Office Signs First Contract with CO's Historic Preservation Office.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, October 18, 2011)

The agreement provides the Ute Mountain Ute historic preservation office with more than \$200,000 from the state's historical fund, a program of History Colorado, to develop and implement a cultural resources management plan. The plan would develop criteria for prioritizing historic areas, archaeological sites and historic buildings on tribal lands. It also would create rules surrounding fees, permits and "unanticipated discoveries."

**Plains Conservation Center in Denver held Homestead Harvest at 1,100-acre Outdoor Education Facility to Connect Modern Fall Preparations and Harvest Rituals from 1887.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, October 4, 2011)

The Center's main facility includes sod homes, a 19th century schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, livestock pens and other authentic features from an 1887 homestead. Activities hint at a much more arduous harvest process, an effort that was labor intensive and involved. The houses, made of sod, bricks of soil and prairie grasses, needed to be chinked and plugged and made weather-tight. Wheat and corn were harvested; settlers may have started to smoke a pig for winter to have meat. The center's one-room schoolhouse showed off an American flag with 38 stars and detailed a different brand of in-class discipline. Students weren't allowed to write left-handed. Teachers would tie a student's left hand behind their back to break them of the habit. Organizers worked to balance 19th century authenticity with a more modern sense of fun. A festival atmosphere was encouraged, contrasting what was going on in 1887. People go on wagon rides out across the prairie so they can see it as it changes and gets ready for winter. The steady encroachment of civilization hasn't scared away the wildlife that frequents the site, a menagerie that includes coyotes, raptors and pronghorns. The Center, with its 9,000 acres at a West Bijou Creek site that hosts a herd of buffalo, can offer visitors firsthand views of native prairie wildlife and customs. The Center hosts a Full Moon Walk every month, a guided tour through the plains that allows hikers to look for coyotes, owls and other creatures in their natural habitats. Similarly, stargazing events give visitors a view of the night sky unspoiled by the light pollution of more densely populated parts of the city.

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society  
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FIRST CLASS

## **San Juan Basin Archaeological Society**

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

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

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.

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