



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

September, 2011

SEPTEMBER MEETING

September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for SW Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College. SJBAS will hold their monthly meeting. The speakers, Dawn Mulhern and Mona Charles, will discuss "The Falls Creek Rockshelters: Re-evaluating the Archaeology and Human Remains of the Durango Basketmakers."

Dawn is an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology, FLC, and Curator of Human Osteology. Prior to teaching at FLC, she was FLC's NAGPRA Coordinator; a contract osteologist, Repatriation Osteology Laboratory, Dept. of Anthropology, National Museum Of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute; and research associate, Dept. of Anthropology, National Museum Of Natural History, Smithsonian. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the U. of Colorado; and her B.S. from Cornell U. She has published articles on osteology in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, and *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.

Ms. Charles is the director of the FLC archaeological field school and instructor for field school and laboratory methods. She also shares a joint appointment with the Office of Community Services at Fort Lewis. She has extensive skills in the areas of gearchaeological interpretation, laboratory analysis, report writing and production, large and small-scale inventory projects, large and small-scale testing projects, large and small-scale excavation projects, grant writing, teaching, and public outreach.

She has authored or co-authored over 30 archaeological reports and has presented her research nationally. Mona authored a chapter in *The Mesa Verde World Explorations in Ancient Archaeology* in which she leans heavily on her field school research on the hunters, gatherers, and first farmers of the Mesa Verde region.

More recently, Ms. Charles' interests have expanded to include historic archaeology. This new focus has come about mainly as a result of her work at the Old Fort Lewis Campus near Hesperus, Colorado. This 6300 acre reservation was the site of a frontier military post occupied from 1881 to 1892. After the fort was decommissioned the land and buildings were used for an Indian Boarding School until 1910 when the land was transferred to the Colorado State Land Board with the provision that the land would be used for educational purposes.

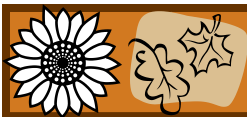
Ms. Charles became interested in geophysical prospecting while she was in graduate school at the University of Nebraska. Today, Ms. Charles instructs students in the use of two complimentary geophysical instruments, the electrical resistance meter and the fluxgate gradiometer. She and her students have worked on such diverse projects as searching for historic military cemeteries in Southwest Colorado to validating historic trading posts near Tsalie, Arizona. Field school students are currently using these instruments to try and locate foundation footprints to historic buildings at the Old Fort Lewis.

Come for an interesting evening.



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SJBAS Field Trip Reports



Follow the Trams Excursion

On **July 13, 2011**, 13 SJBAS members met mining historian Rudy at the Silverton Visitor Center, and also one of SJBAS's members, Bill Alsup, a long-time employee with a tram firm in Silverton, who added his knowledge and experiences of the area. The two experts provided a day filled with awe! We learned about the history and mechanics of aerial tram towers and then traveled to the Arrastra Gulch Interpretive Sign. There is much to learn at this spot, including the experiences of the Stoibers, who built quite an empire along the Animas, including a train stop, several mills and the first aerial tram in the San Juans. No interpretive sight can compete with the inclusion of Rudy's view on some of the personal activities of the family and workings of the mill and tram. One mine worker jumped into an ore bucket, rather than walk down only to become trapped when the tram shut down since no one else knew he was a passenger.

Then we crossed the Animas to view where the Wilfley Table was invented and to venture up Arrastra Gulch, then drive up the Little Giant Basin Road, viewing the Contention Aerial Tram and stopping to learn about the Black Prince Mine before turning back. In addition, we took a short run up Cunningham Gulch to view the trams before going to the town site of Eureka (Greek for "I found it") to view the Sunnyside Mill, many of the parts and machinery for which came from the Animas Forks Gold Prince Mill. We then drove up the Eureka Gulch caldera to view the remains of Lake Emma at 12,240' elevation and the Sunnyside Mine. Lake Emma seeped into the mine tunnels below on a Sunday evening, resulting in a wall of water rushing down Cement Creek. There is not space to discuss all we learned on this journey into the past.

Red Mountain Mining District ("RMD")

Six SJBAS members joined Bob Danielson on **Aug. 20, 2011** for a drive through the RMD over Corkscrew Pass, following Cement Creek into Silverton. Bob worked hard putting this trip together since it took the snow a long time to melt this year, and he did not want to cover the same areas as our two previous mining history trips. We viewed (1) the National Belle, which operated from 1883 to 1897 and had high grade ore, but not a large amount; (2) Red Mountain Town, which boomed in response to the National Belle, but was established so quickly in the winter on several feet of snow that what the surprised population discovered in the spring was they were on top of a swamp and had to move the town; (3) the Genesee-Vanderbuilt mine; (4) the Yankee Girl Mine; (5) the Mogul Mill; (6) Gold King Mill sites; and (7) the Mayday mine. We then traveled along the route of the Silverton, Gladstone and Northerly RR. The flowers were abundant, and the three Red Mountains glowed. The trip ended in Silverton with a dish of ice cream. Others stayed for the Brass Band.

Good Job and Thanks Bob!



Nearby Meetings & Activities

Remaining National Park Fee Free Days: National Public Lands Day (Sept. 24) and Veterans Day weekend (Nov. 11-13).

Ute Mountain Tribal Park Open Houses to be held as follows: "Turning Red Tail Hawk Tour to Morris Three Cliff Dwelling" in Johnson Canyon, **Sept 3**, 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Departure times are from UMTF Visitor Center). Reservations required. UMTF tour information: (970) 565-9653, 800-847-5485, or utepark@fone.net.

Hisatsinom Chapter: At the **September 6** meeting, 7:00 p.m., at the Cortez Cultural Center, Shanna Diederichs will discuss the newest Crow Canyon excavation, the Dillard site, at Indian Camp Ranch, a Basketmaker III location. Diederichs will discuss the Basketmaker III period (A.D. 500 to 750), a time marked by a rapid increase in population in the central Mesa Verde area. Where did these people come from, how many people migrated here and what was the nature of the communities they formed? These are questions that Crow Canyon archaeologists are hoping to answer with the center's current excavation project, the Basketmaker Communities Project. Diederichs will introduce the project, discuss its research design and update Crow Canyon's progress in the field.

Four Corners Lecture Series.

September 9, 7:00 p.m. CCAC, Marjorie Connolly & Shirley Powell: "American Indians and Archaeologists: Multiple Perspectives on the Past." Crow Canyon Archaeological Center ("CCAC"), 970-564-4385; dgangloff@crowcanyon.org.

September 16, 7:00 p.m., CCAC, Vince Lee: "Romancing the Stones, Back When Size Mattered", an overview of megalithic architecture in the "west" (Roman world) from the earliest examples such as Malta and Stonehenge on through Greece, Crete and Egypt down to Roman Baalbek, in Lebanon, a little-known but enigmatic site epitomizing megalithic work just before it ended with the Christianization of Rome in the 4th century AD. Deborah J. Gangloff, CCAC, 970-564-4385;

September 17, 3:00 p.m., Chapin Mesa Amphitheater, MVNP, Jane Baca and Starr Tafoya: "Santa Clara Pottery Demonstration, Firing, and Sale. Contact Linda Martin, MVNP, 970-529-4632, linda_martin@nps.gov.

September 22, 6:30 p.m., Fort Lewis College ("FLC"), 120 Center of SW Studies, Esther Belin: "Klóó dii Sizíí, Klóó Si dáa, Standing Outside, Sitting Outside," a talk which coincides with poetry that will be part of the art exhibit at the FLC gallery that explores the marginalization of Diné living on the fringes of the reservation. The exhibition creators will examine the situation of place created/destroyed/built around the political manipulations of borders/borderlines. Contact Kathleen Fine Dare, FLC, 970-247-7438, fine_k@fortlewis.edu.

September 29, 6:30 p.m., FLC, 125 Noble Hall, Carey Vicenti: "'Indians Don't Read': Narrative and Oratorical Destination". Contact Kathleen Fine Dare, FLC,

September 30, 7:00 p.m., CCAC, David Whitley, ASM Affiliates, Tehachapi, CA: "Petroglyph Dating and the Peopling of the Americas: Recent advances in chronometric techniques have resulted in a suite of 60 well-dated petroglyphs from the California Desert". Petroglyph production began about 15,000 years ago, and was part of a very long-lived religious tradition that continued into the recent past -- making Native American shamanism the longest continually practiced religion that is known globally. The petroglyph dates are important for the peopling of the Americas, as well as the origins of both New World and Siberian shamanism.

Aztec Ruins Lecture Series. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Aztec Ruins Visitor Center. Free. September 16, *Violence, Sex and Witchcraft - Twenty Years of Writing the Southwest*, Michael & Kathleen Gear, Archeologists and Authors of *The First North Americans* Series, Thermopolis, WY. For more information, call 505-334-6174 or www.nps.gov/azru Schedule of Events.

CAS, Denver Chapter - Monthly talks/tours are held on Saturday mornings at the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve in the Roxborough area of Douglas Co., running through October, to discuss mammoth, extinct buffalo, and paleo-Indian finds dating to 15,500 BP. See www.douglas.co.us/lambspring.

SJBAS Field Trip Reports - Cont.

CAS 2011 Raffle of Polychrome Olla by Loretta Joe, an Acoma Potter, valued at \$850, to Benefit CAS's Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund. The drawing will be held at 7 p.m., October 15, 2011, during the CAS Annual Meeting at A Spice of Life, Boulder, CO. Winner need not be present. Tickets are \$3 each or 4 for \$10. For additional information, contact Terri Hoff, 970-882-2191, tthoff@hotmail.com; or www.coloradoarchaeology.org.

Trip (Summary, *All Points Bulletin*, April 2011, by Jann Dillon) Tentatively, October 1-10, the Denver Chapter will also visit Little Petroglyph Canyon and the Coso Range, the Mojave Desert, and other rock art sites. Priority to Denver Chapter members. E-mail TeresaWeedin, weedin@comcast.net.

PAAC Activities

PAAC Classes:

Sept 15, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Denver: Site Forms Workshop, Office of Arch and Historic Preservation, fourth floor, Civic Center Plaza Building, 1560 Broadway, Denver. Anyone may attend, no application needed, but Kevin Black: 303-866-4671, fax: 303-866-2711, e-mail: Kevin.black@chs.state.co.us, would appreciate a brief advance notice if you plan to attend. Each workshop will cover tasks necessary to transform partially filled-out field form, into a report-ready final form including inking sketch maps, computing legal locations and UTM's, topographic map plots, artifact illustrations, etc. Bring pencil, eraser, clipboard or comparable writing surface, and draft forms you are preparing. Lunch break around 12:30 p.m., with many local restaurants nearby at the end of 16th St. Mall, or you can brown bag it.

Sept 17-18, Glenwood Springs: Archaeological Dating Methods;

Oct 14-15, Boulder: PAAC Board meeting at CAS annual meeting;

October 21-23, Pueblo: Principles of Archaeological Excavation;

Nov 5-6, Cortez: Research Design & Report Writing, followed by lab training at Lowry Dec-Jan;

Nov 19-20, Denver: Intro to Lab Techniques;

Dec 2-16, Denver: PAAC Lab Project, on intermittent dates at the Museum Support Center in east Denver. For more information, contact Eliane Viner at 970-382-2594 or j_e_viner@frontier.net, regarding dates. See PAAC Web site <http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/program-avocational-archaeological-certification-paac>.

College Credit for PAAC Classes: Adams State College, Alamosa, Extended Studies Program (http://www2.adams.edu/extended_studies) offers credit for PAAC classes. Those who want college credit must register with Adams State College in addition to enrolling through Eliane.

Conferences

Utah Rock Art Research Association Symposium, September 22-26, Price, UT;

Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference, October 6-8, Missoula, MT;

Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, October 15-16, Boulder, CO;

Plains Anthropology Conference, October 26-29, Tucson, AZ, www.pac69.com;

Society for American Archaeology, April 18-22, 2012, Memphis, TN; www.saa.org/call.



Museums/Exhibits



Anasazi Heritage Center, through October 30. *Sacred Images*. Rock art photos.

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, U of NM, through February 2012. New photography exhibit "Chaco Uncovered: The Field Schools 1929 to Present"; 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, Central and South America, www.americanindian.si.edu.

Drylander Museum open Sat/Sun 1-4 pm, 755 3rd St., Nunn, CO. 970-897-3125; www.homestead.com/highplainshistory;

Centennial Village Museum open Apr 30-Sept 30, Tues-Sat, 10 am - 4 pm, 14th Ave. & A St., Greeley, CO; <http://greeleygov.com/Museums>;

Global Village Museum, Tue-Sat, 11 am - 5 pm, 200 W. Mountain, Fort Collins. Learn more about other cultures -- people, arts, history, food, living environment. <http://globalvillagemuseum.com>;

Poudre Landmarks Foundation - Fort Collins Waterworks Open House; Sept 10, Oct 1. 10 am - 3 pm, 2005 N. Overland Trail, www.poudrelandmarks.com.



Volunteer Opportunities



Cortez Cultural Center. Call Deb Avery (970) 565-1151; deb.avery@cortezculturalcenter.org; (or visit www.cortezculturalcenter.org);

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Email Helen Richardson, 1218HL1944@century.net or go to www.chimneyrockco.org;

Colorado Historical Society. Contact Kevin Black at Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us;

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

Mesa Verde. Visit www.mesaverdevolunteers.org;

Aztec Ruins. Call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or tracy_bodnar@nps.gov

THE EDITORS' CORNER

Cradle of Gold: The Story of Hiram Bingham, a Real-life Indiana Jones, and the Search for Machu Picchu, by Christopher Heaney, 2011. (Review by Janice Sheffel)

A fascinating account of Bingham's life and his search for ruins in Peru, including Machu Picchu; Bingham's issues with the Peruvian government regarding excavation; his attitude towards Incan descendants; his excavation techniques; his ways of acquiring antiquities and finally Yale's long fight with Peru regarding the Peruvian antiquities in Yale's collection.

Images of America: Cortez, by Janet Weeth, Dale Davidson and Vila Schwindt. (Summary, [Cortez Journal](http://CortezJournal), August 16, 2011)

Fierce self-reliance is how Cortez pioneers are described in the upcoming book, to be released August 29. Arcadia Publishing contacted the Cortez Cultural Center for a book about Cortez. Vila Schwindt and Dale Davidson were recruited as writers, and Janet Weeth came on board to keep the history on track, since she has a degree in archaeological history. Arcadia has a catalog of more than 6,000 titles in print about local histories. The Images of America series features a town or area and tries to get locals to tell the history in pictures. The Cortez book has 200 photographs, maps and timelines. The theme of the book is water development in the Montezuma Valley. Though the book's main focus is water supply to the Montezuma Valley, there are old photographs



THE EDITORS' CORNER—Cont.



that longtime members of the community can remember: Pony Express Restaurant in the 1950s; the sale barn when it was originally built north of town; a 1918 photo of students at Cortez High School, and an image of the first installation of a metal bridge across the Dolores River with residents lined up across it. The publication includes a few contemporary photos, such as the pumping station at Cortez City Park where people who live outside of town can fill their water tanks; the oldest residence in town, the home of the Grahams, at Ash and First streets; Mitchell Springs; and Montezuma-Cortez High School that, with the exception of landscaping, looks the same as it did when it was built in 1968.

Lost to the West: The Forgotten Byzantine Empire that Rescued Western Civilization, by Lars Brownworth, reviewed by Preston Niesen. (Summary, *CAS All Points Bulletin*, August 2011)

Lost to the West guides the reader through the little understood period between the fall of the Roman Empire and rise of the Ottoman Turks in the 15th century, using historical and archeological documents, letters and eyewitness accounts. In the latter part of the third century AD, Diocletian divided the Roman Empire into West and East, largely along linguistic lines, from which two distinct identities grew antagonistic to each other: Latin vs. Greek and Catholic vs. Orthodox. In the early fourth century AD, the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire ("ERE") under Constantine I built a new capital at Byzantium on the Bosphorus, Nova Roma, which became Constantinople (now Istanbul). The residents of the ERE, however, always referred to themselves as Romans. *Lost to the West* traces the highlights of the ERE through more than 1,100 years of upheaval and dynastic successes and describes early attempts by Julian to reunite the empire; fighting back assaults by barbarians and the sacking of Rome; the golden age under Justinian, who re-conquered numerous lost lands; and the meeting of the Islamic challenge from the seventh century onward, until the devastation of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 and holding ancient secular texts safe from the West's Dark Ages. The book concentrates mostly on military, rather than cultural events and is full of stories of assassination, mass mutilation and executions, sexual scheming, tens of thousands of slain army warriors, and with stories of emperors, generals, and religious patriarchs, as well as fascinating glimpses into the life of the ordinary citizen, and how much we owe to the ERE. The book's introduction draws a parallel between our society and that of the ERE, struggling with immigration, the role of church and state, and the dangers of a militant Islam. Byzantium during the Medieval period is of major interest both in itself, and because the history of Western European, Slavic and Islamic cultures is not understandable without taking into consideration relations with the ERE.



Archeological News in the SW



Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP"):

New Visitors Center Takes Shape at MVNP Entrance. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, July 23, 2011)

Nearly a century after the idea was first conceived, construction is well under way on a multimillion dollar visitor and research center near the entrance of MVNP. Construction on the new facility began this spring, following a groundbreaking ceremony in October 2010. The project is funded through the NPS line-item construction budget. The new 24,000-square-foot facility was designed to receive a U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Platinum rating, the highest available. The site will have a photovoltaic array, and a micro turbine to gain energy from high water pressure. The entire building will be heated and cooled by geothermal energy. Initial block and steel work has been completed, primarily for the center's "comfort stations," including restrooms. Curbs have been poured in the parking area, which will include parking for alternative fuel-powered vehicles and carpool parking. Many design features were finalized in collaboration with the 24 Native American tribes who partner with MVNP. There will be symbolism in the

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finished building important to the tribes. Roughly 50 to 60 construction workers are on site. The project has an estimated completion date of May 2012. MVNP will then move its artifacts into the center to replace the Far View Visitor Center. New displays are being designed and will be installed in the summer of 2012. The research and curation portion of the facility will be home to roughly three million artifacts now stored in "the tin shed." The new center will consolidate visitor, storage and research facilities in one location. MVNP is designing a transition plan to move all the artifacts. Park officials hope the new visitors center will encourage visitors to extend their stay at the park and the area by providing a day's worth of activities at the park entrance.

History Comes to Life: Twilight Tours Bring Unique Perspective to MVNP. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, July 26, 2011)

The Civilian Conservation Corps ("CCC"), President Franklin Roosevelt's work program in the 1930s, employed a young farmer named George Judstra from the late 1930s and early '40s. His story is told by Scott Kortemeyer, an interpretive ranger at Mesa Verde as Kortemeyer's alter ego, part of the Mesa Verde Institute's Cliff Palace twilight tours. The tour, held at 7 p.m. each night, allows a group of 20 visitors to take a 90-minute tour to experience the park's history from the perspective of a historical character who has contributed to the reinvention of Mesa Verde as a national park -- a different way to view the history of the park. A different ranger takes the group each night. The quiet of the ruins is a different experience to the bustle of the park during the day. The rangers may ask the group to sit down and listen to the silence in the dwelling for nearly three minutes, taking in the twilight and the white-tailed swifts building their nests in the cracks in the rocks. As the ranger begins to tell Judstra's story, interacting with visitors as though it were July 13, 1941, a picture of Mesa Verde little seen by the public develops. Kortemeyer developed the character in honor of his grandfather, George Judstra. Though the actual Judstra was not a member of the CCC, he did live in South Dakota during that time period and experienced the dust storms and uncertainty of the Depression and WW II. The story is a composite of information gathered regarding the experiences of CCC men working at Mesa Verde. Kortemeyer has been leading the occasional tour at Mesa Verde as Judstra for three years. In addition to Kortemeyer's tour, six other rangers lead twilight tours from the perspective of Willa Cather, Lucy Peabody, Jean Pinkley, Gustav Nordenskiold, Jesse Nusbaum and Virginia McClurg. All the tours are led by historical characters who had a hand in discovering Mesa Verde, working on initial research, or helping to create the National Park. Tickets for the tours are \$10 and sold only in person at the Far View Visitor Center. For more information: www.mesaverdeinstitute.org.

Bill Promotes Chimney Rock. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, July 23, 2011)

Bills to designate Chimney Rock as a national monument have the backing of U.S. Sens. Bennet and Udall, and Rep. Tipton. The Senate bill passed the National Parks Subcommittee in May. According to Tipton's office, the bill calls for no additional federal funds, therefore no spending increase. It will maintain multiple use of the land, which will ensure local ranchers will be able to utilize the lands they depend on for grazing, hunters will be able to take advantage of the game opportunities in the area, and members of the Native American tribes will be able to continue to use Chimney Rock for traditional ceremonies. The bill also allows for continued archaeological research and exploration of the area. Chimney Rock Archeological Area is managed by the USFS's Pagosa Ranger District.

Besh-Ba-Gowah and the Salada Phenomenon. (Summary, *Hisatsinom Newsletter*, August 2011)

Globe's Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park, where rustic stone ramparts and reconstructed dwellings evoke what archaeologists now call the ancient Salado "phenomenon."

<http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/mysterious-besh-be-gowah>.

Salt Lake Tribune Attributes Firing of Utah Archaeologists to a Combination of Political Retribution and Lack of Respect for the Past. (Summary, *Hisatsinom Newsletter*, August 2011)

The positions of state archaeologist Kevin Jones and assistants Derinna Kopp and Ronald Rood were eliminated, not only to save money, but also because the three had become an annoyance to some of the powerful people in the Legislature, governor's office and the Utah Transit Authority, and they had opposed powerful real estate developers.

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Archeological News of the SW - Cont.



Western La Platas 1936 Avalanche. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), February 14, 2010)

Five miners and the female camp cook disappeared when a snowslide destroyed the Doyle-Hesperus Mine, claiming every ski and snowshoe in camp except one broken pair. A dozen survivors and two injured men were cut off from the outside world, without food. At dawn the next day, Ben Hartley set out on a 10-hour, 16-mile trip to Mancos to get help, wearing leather lace-up boots and wooden skis with a long wooden pole for balance, according to Ben's son, Homer. Mancos mobilized to begin the dangerous job of finding victims. The story was that on that Sunday afternoon in February, the miners had finished lunch and were playing poker. A dry slide brought tons of snow off Jackson Ridge crashing down on the mining camp, sweeping away buildings, demolishing the bunkhouse, blacksmith shop and half the cook shack, and twisting the mill's stout timbers. The cook's helper climbed out through the cook shack's shattered roof by climbing up on the hot stove, suffering burns to her feet in addition to bruises. On the Monday that Hartley sounded the Mancos alarm, 22-year-old Robert Beers had cleared the road between Mancos and Dolores with a Caterpillar bulldozer. He had just put the Cat into a barn when he received a call from his boss on the Montezuma County road crew. The road to the mine was packed in, since it hadn't been plowed at all in the high country. Other workers secured the bulldozer with a cable and volunteers from Mancos helped search for bodies. For Ben Hartley, the tragedy had just begun. Homer Hartley has a journal his father, Ben, had kept. He led the task of searching through the avalanche for usable supplies as well as victims buried beneath 12 feet of snow. Living in the wreckage of the mining camp, scrounging food buried in the snow, Ben and his men performed their humanitarian task. He kept careful records for his boss of all the canned goods, cases of dynamite, engines, tools and sacks of flour they recovered. The snow did not give up the last man, Parley Jensen, until April 30. He was found down the ravine and up the other side under a piece of galvanized roofing.

David Lacy, Blanding, UT Math Teacher, Faces Multiple Felony Charges in Illegal Trafficking of Native American Indian Artifacts, Reaches Plea Agreement with Federal Prosecutors. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), July 1, 2011)

Lacy was indicted on accusations that he sold a woman's prehistoric loin cloth, a turkey feather blanket, a decorated digging stick, a set of knife points and other artifacts for more than \$11,000.

For Quarter Century, Wayne Shurtleff's Home in Springville, UT, has Doubled as Workspace for Custom Gunsmith Business, Skyline Rifle Specialties, where Shurtleff Creates One-of-a-kind Rifles and Restores Guns. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), June 24, 2011)

A custom gunsmith, Shurtleff encourages his customers to participate in the gun-making process by deciding on everything from the type of wood used to the final finish. Many of the guns Shurtleff restores are heirlooms, including a recent restoration of an original 1894 .32 Winchester Special that Shurtleff completed for a friend, which had been used frequently by the friend's grandfather at the turn of the 20th century on a cattle ranch in Spanish Fork Canyon. Although not a common practice, Shurtleff sometimes gets so customized as to use real animal sources for stains, including lamb's blood, when customers want their firearms to be crafted in accordance with the past. Despite spending countless hours in the shop, Shurtleff's attention to detail and side restoration projects have put him more than two years behind schedule.



Archeology News from Afar



Wright Water Engineers held a field exploration in Peru. One researcher climbed up about 4,000 vertical feet to find and document an ancient Inca water reservoir high above the new project area, Ollantaytambo. Others analyzed the 16 ceremonial fountains and many buried conduits and collected information and photos at the site for development of public education materials. Wayne Lorenz, of WWE, continues to study the hydrology and hydraulics of the Roman water supply system of Pompeii, the first century Roman city famed for being buried by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius, preserving sections of the city and petrifying its people. The Roman civil engineers were able to deliver water at the proper grade over immense distances, which was also found at the Roman Berbegal flour mill in France.

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Archeology from Afar - Cont.



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Italian Researchers to Dig Up Bones in Florence Convent to Identify Remains of Renaissance Woman Believed to be Model for Mona Lisa. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, April 7, 2011)

The project aims to locate the remains of Lisa Gherardini, the wife of a rich silk merchant named Francesco del Giocondo. Tradition has long linked Gherardini to the painting, which is known in Italian as "La Gioconda" and in French as "La Joconde." Giorgio Vasari, a 16th-century artist and biographer of Leonardo, wrote that da Vinci painted a portrait of del Giocondo's wife. Gherardini was born in 1479. A few years ago, an amateur Italian historian said he had found a death certificate showing she died on July 15, 1542, with her final resting place, the Convent of St. Ursula in central Florence. That's where digging will begin. The project will employ CSI-like methods used in art history, for example, to find out about an artist's technique, discover details hidden in a painting or even learn about an artist's life or death. The faces of some Italian artists have already been reconstructed on the basis of their skulls. Last year the bones of Caravaggio were identified and a possible cause of his death discovered 400 years after the artist died.

Hominids have been Cutting Their Steak for much Longer than Anybody Thought. (Summary, *Scientific American*, October 2010)

The foragers, likely members of the primitive genus *Australopithecus*, specifically *A. afarensis*, the species to which the celebrated Lucy fossil belongs, carved the meat of cow- and goat-sized animals with sharp stone tools and smashed the bones to get at the rich marrow inside, 3.4 million years ago, pushing back by 800,000 years the earliest known example of hominids using stone tools and eating meat. Scientists had long believed that the australopithecines, whose teeth and jaws were adapted for eating fruit, seeds and other plant foods, were primarily vegetarian. New finds -- cut-marked animal bones recovered from a site called Dikika, just a few kilometers from the Lucy site in Ethiopia's Afar region -- suggest that there was an extended period of time when hominids were including meat in their diet and experimenting with the use of stone tools. Some archaeologists believe ecological shifts may have led the species to seek new sources of sustenance. Behavioral adaptations allows *A. afarensis* to adapt to environmental perturbations without anatomical changes. Critics have questioned whether the marks really are from stone tools, partly because none were found at the site. Future discoveries are likely to resolve that question because archaeologists will start searching more intently for this type of evidence.

Scientists Recover DNA of Human Relative Discovered in Siberia, which Roamed Far from the Cave that Holds Its Only Known Remains. (Summary, *Durango Herald*, December 26, 2010)

By comparing the DNA to that of modern populations, scientists found evidence that these "Denisovans" from more than 30,000 years ago ranged all across Asia. They apparently interbred with the ancestors of people now living in Melanesia, a group of islands northeast of Australia. There is no sign that Denisovans mingled with the ancestors of people now living in Eurasia, which made the connection between Siberia and distant Melanesia a shock. It is the second report in recent months of using a new tool, genomes of ancient human relatives, to illuminate the evolutionary history of humankind. The same scientists used the Neanderthal genome to show that Neanderthals interbred with ancestors of today's non-African populations. That might have happened in the Middle East after the ancestors left Africa but before they entered Eurasia. The new work is just the start of what can be learned from the Denisovans genome. Eventually, it should provide clues to traits like eye and skin color. The existence of a new human relative was first revealed a year ago from a sampling of DNA recovered from a finger bone discovered in the Denisova Cave in southern Siberia. Researchers proposed the informal name Denisovans for them, where they report the new results. There is not enough evidence to determine whether Denisovans are a distinct species.

Drainage at Angkor Wat, Cambodia. (Summary, *Wright Water Engineers Currents*, August 2011)

The World Monuments Fund ("WMF") is conducting preservation work at the Phnom Bakheng temple site at Angkor Wat in Cambodia. The WMF's preservation work must account for up to 3,000 centimeters of rainfall annually, which creates stormwater management challenges. WMF has contacted WWE to help develop a stormwater plan to protect the temple from erosion and runoff damage.



Fall Is Coming



San Juan Basin Archaeological Society
107 St. Andrews Circle
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FIRST CLASS

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

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

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

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