



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**July 2009**

## **SJBAS July Meeting**

The Durango Chapter of the San Juan Basin Archeological Society is being held on July 09 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum, Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College. Sally Cole, noted rock art scholar, will speak about the "Falls Creek Ranch Project".

## **SJBAS Annual Picnic**

Our traditional SJBAS picnic held Thursday, June 11, 2009, at the Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds was the wonderful social event that it always is. The weather cooperated and rains held off. Temperatures were cool enough to require a jacket for most of the 60 plus people who attended, but not cold enough to be a problem. The easy camaraderie and friendship helped to warm us all. The food from the tasty brats and hot dogs to the delicious appetizers, salads, side dishes and desserts were excellent.

The Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds excellent facility with sturdy picnic tables on concrete topped with a heavy canvas cover was very nice. It even included propane grills and a covered kitchen with a range top and a sink with hot and cold running water.

Thanks again to our Edgemont Ranch residents and members David and Nancy Wright who sponsored our use of this lovely facility located in a green, secluded area with many trees and NO GNATS! Our president Andy Guilliford held a short meeting and discussed upcoming events and projects. Various field trip leaders discussed upcoming trips. Peggy Morris told us about upcoming events at the Center of Southwest Studies and opportunities to volunteer with Jeannie Brako on various projects. Your picnic organizers, Bill

Cagle and Gail Schulz, wish to thank everyone who attended and brought delicious food to share and everyone who helped with set up, cooking, food prep, and clean up. We could not have done it without you!

## **San Juan River Float Trip**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 23<sup>rd</sup> twenty members of SJBAS headed off to Bluff, Utah for a weekend on the San Juan River. On our first day we had an afternoon tour of Bluff lead by our esteemed president, Andy Gulliford. Andy took us to the Bluff cemetery where we perused the old Mormon grave sites and learned about the Hole in the Rock expedition of 1879.

The following day we took an all day float down the San Juan River to Mexican Hat. We stopped at the amazing Butler Wash petroglyph panel. Only a few feet from the river's edge, this broad panel is filled with mysterious alien like images. The panel is very large and has images that date back as far as early basket makers some 1500 years ago to images of just 100 years ago. After spending time here we journeyed on a little further down river, and landed at the "River House," or "Snake House" site; a Pueblo III style cliff dwelling. This structure has a small round kiva and several adjoining rooms, and a large snake image that runs along the top of the alcove. The site is in fairly good condition and is estimated to be approximately 800 years old.

After viewing the site we had a riverside lunch before commencing down the river to Mexican Hat. Although our afternoon was a bit on the damp side, we all seemed to have fared well and enjoyed the magnificent views and geologic wonders of the San Juan.

For the long, humorous version of this trip from Beverly Dittmer go to the SJBAS web site.

Our group before the rain started. SJBAS float adventurers.



## Summer Solstice Three Site Trip

By Linda Robinson

Seven SJBAS members attended the 2009 Summer Solstice Three Site Field Trip. The trip progressed with few problems. We went to the Holly Ruin at Hovenweep, N.M., the Lance site, and Yellow Jacket ruin. We could not see the direct sun light at any of the sites but still had a great time. The weather was just changing from cool to warmer. The bugs were neither as bad nor as hungry as they had been in the past. The Monument has a wonderful two page hand out with close up photos if you have a need to know the facts.

There was a diffused shadow at the Lance site allowing us to see the solstice event with the shadow of a mouth surrounding a dot, but it would have been more spectacular with a brighter sun. We also visited a ruin in a side arm of Westwater canyon which was much cleaner than I have seen it in the past. We also visited the Five Kiva Ruin in Westwater Canyon out of Blanding. I found it very interesting. We toured the Yellow Jacket Ruin which may have been the largest in the area with some 2,700 people and 41 separate buildings, 165 kin-kivas, a great kiva, 6 shrines and a reservoir. In other words, it's a major site, which is privately owned. Our visit was facilitated by the Anasazi Heritage Center and the Archaeological Conservancy. Over half of the site is owned by another private individual and is off limits. Hopefully we will return to these sites next year.

## Upcoming Anasazi Pottery Workshop

On July 21 an all day anasazi pottery workshop will take place. The purpose of this workshop is to learn, with hands on and in the clay, how the Anasazi made some of their pottery. Each person attending will make a corrugated pot using only locally gathered materials. The forming techniques used will be those available to Mesa Verde Anasazi around 900 AD. In addition to making their own authentic replica pot, attendees will gain an appreciation of the pottery skills used by the Anasazi over 1000 years ago. The class is already full but if anyone wishes to stop-by just to watch and learn they are welcome. Contact Bud Beebe 970-382-9789 for details.

## July 30th Trip to Pigg Site

We will soon tour the Pigg Site with Dr. Charles Riggs who, with his students, is completing a third summer of excavation of this site that is part of the Lowry community. We are returning at the request of members who visited it last year and found it very interesting and exciting. Following that we will do a self-guided tour of Lowry Ruin enhanced by John Sanders. This is an easy trip for all with good foot access everywhere.

We will leave Santa Rita Park at 7:30 AM to tour before afternoon heat and possible storms, returning to Durango in mid-afternoon. Bring lunch, lots of water, and sun protection. Members may want to stop at the Anasazi Heritage Center or other sites to be determined on the way home.

There is no limit on this trip, but we would like sign-ups in case of changes. Rhonda Raffo and Jim Mueller are the trip leaders. 970-259-8870

## 2000 Annual Mining Trip, SJBAS

The annual trip of the SJBAS devoted to mining will take place on Friday-Saturday, August 21-22, and will focus on Summitville and Creede. Departure from Durango at Santa Rita Park will be on Friday morning, August 21, at 8 A.M. The group will travel over Wolf Creek Pass, and then proceed by way of the secondary dirt forest roads 380 and 339 to Summitville for lunch. 4-wheel-drive vehicles with high clearance are recommended.

Summitville, a gold mining camp that thrived from 1870-1900, lies at 11,480 feet elevation. Many of its old buildings still stand. Open pit gold mining using cyanide leaching was started in 1984, and was abandoned in 1991 after fish kills on the Alamosa River. Summitville is now an EPA Superfund site.

After lunch, the group will travel in the afternoon from Summitville, returning by the same route to Highway 160, by way of South Fork to Creede. Creede boomed in 1889-1893 after silver was discovered. The citizenry included Soapy Smith, Calamity Jane, Bat Masterson, and Bob Ford. There should be time to explore Creede, with a visit to the Creede Museum as an option.

The Creede Repertory Theatre will show "Swiss Family Robinson" on Friday night, August 21,

and "The Imaginary Invalid" on Saturday night, August 22, for those who choose to remain an extra night. Available lodgings in Creede can be viewed at [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com), and includes bed and breakfasts, motels, RV parks and campgrounds. Reservations should be made well in advance.

Saturday morning, the group will meet at the Creede Underground Mining Museum for a one-hour guided tour at 10 A.M. The Bachelor Historic Tour by automobile will follow, with stops at old mines and town sites, and at the Creede Cemetery. The tour takes about two hours, and can be traveled in 2-wheel-drive, low-clearance vehicles. For further details, please contact Bruce Howard at [brucehoward@frontier](mailto:brucehoward@frontier) net, or (970) 385-4539.

# Service Opportunities

## *Want to be part of a blockbuster?*

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College is currently working on its new blockbuster exhibit, Mountain Lion! We need your help to ensure it is a huge community success! The Center seeks volunteers to help at events and in the museum. Mountain Lion! will open in late August. Training is scheduled for August 13 at 5pm. Please call Julie at 247-7456.

## 2009 (72nd Annual) Pecos Conference August 6-9, McPhee Campground

**Volunteer Opportunities:** If you can help with any of the following committees, please let Patricia Lacey know: 565-0634; patricia@fone.net.: **WEB SITE, REGISTRATION, PROGRAM, BOOK SALES, FIELD TRIP, KIDS ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, FOOD SERVICE, ENTERTAINMENT.**

# Upcoming Events

## SJBAS FIELD TRIPS

**Telluride Historical Museum** - July 11. Early morning day trip to view the 800-year-old "Telluride Blanket" found in an alcove site, and also other displays. Leaders: Jan & Ralph Blanchard.

**Mesa Verde Black on White Pottery Demonstration** - July 21. Learn about pottery with the Beebes. Limit: 10. (There is a waiting list.) Hosts: Sandy & Bud Beebe, 382-9789, anasazi@frontier.net.

**Pigg Site and Lowry Ruin** - July 30. Day trip: Learn about findings from Fort Lewis College summer dig. Leaders: Bev & Bob Danielson, 385-1058, bnbdan@bresnan.net.

**Shavano Petroglyphs** - August 15. Long day or overnight trip to Montrose to visit Ute Museum and an interesting petroglyph panel. Leaders: Peggy Morris, sipapu\_72@q.com; and Dennis Lopez, 970-382-8688.

**Historic Mining Districts** - August 21-22. Either camp or stay in a motel. High country mining camp tour, including several historic sites in South Fork-Creede area. Leader: Bruce Howard, 970-385-4539, brucehoward@frontier.net.

**Sunnyside Mill** - August 29. Day trip to one or more historic mining mills near Silverton. Dave McCrillis' many years of mining experience will help him interpret the mill processes. Leader: Dave McCrillis, 970-259-9698.

## Animas Museum—Durango

July 25 Living History Program, 10:00—4:00;  
Aug. 29 Living History Program, 10:00—4:00.

## Four Corners Speakers' Series - July, August & September

**The Lomayestewa Family** - "Traditional Hopi Dances" - July 4-5, 11:00 a.m., 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., Chapin Mesa Amphitheatre, MVNP and July 5, 6:30 p.m., Cortez Cultural Center ("CCC").

**Davina Two Bears** - "An Exploration of Anthropological and Archaeological 'Stories' about Navajo History and Origins", July 17, 7:00 p.m., Cortez Rec Center.

**Joseph H. Suina** - "The Cochiti Experience" - July 23, 6:30 p.m., Crown Canyon.

**Sally Cole** - "Changing Perspectives on Colorado Plateau Rock Art" - July 26, 1:00 p.m., Anasazi Heritage Center.

**Don Whyte** - "Let Me Walk in Your Shoes While My Moccasins are Being Analyzed" - July 31, 7:00 p.m., Cortez Rec Center.

**Craig Childs** - "Living in an Archaeological Landscape" - August 8, 7:00 p.m., Morefield Campground, MVNP.

**Connie Garcia** - "The People Shall Continue" - August 23, 1:00 p.m., Anasazi Heritage Center.

**Art Neskahi** - "Traditional Rehab vs. Whiteman's Rehab" - August 25, 7:00 p.m., CCC.

**Michael Kabotie & Mark Varien** - "Journey of the Human Spirit" - August 27, 6:30 p.m., Crow Canyon.

**Scott Ortman** - "Oral Tradition and Archaeology: Do They Tell the Same Story?" - September 3, 6:30 p.m., Crow Canyon.

# Upcoming Events—Continued

## Denver CAS Chapter Lectures

Should you be in Denver the following lectures will be held:

**Curtis Martin** - *Ute Indians and the Wickiup Project* - July 13, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural Science ("DMNS");

**Mahmoud Khodir** - *Recent Discoveries at Abusir* - July 20, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, DMNS;

**Mahmoud Khodir** - *2008 Denver CAS Egypt Trip* - August 10, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, DMNS;

**Richard Wilkinson** - *Funerary Temple of Queen Tausert (Egypt)* - September 21, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, DMNS.

## Aztec Ruins Summer Series 2009

**7:00 to 8:30 p.m. - Free Admission.**

**Dr. Patricia Crown** - *Chaco Chocolate: The Recovery of Cacao at Pueblo Bonito* - July 11.

**Ramona Begay**, NPS - *Rock Art of Chaco Canyon; the Navajo Perspective* - July 17

**Paul Reed** - *The Diversity of Chacoan Society* - July 31.

**Dr. Michael Whalen** - *Architecture and Authority in the Casas Grandes Region, Chihuahua, Mexico* - August 7.

**Sally Cole** - *Across the San Juan: Rock Art and Murals of the Mesa Verde, Aztec, and Chaco Areas, AD 1000 to 1300* - August 21

**TBA** - Fridays - 7/24, 8/14, and 8/28.

## 2009 (72nd Annual) Pecos Conference

**August 6-9, McPhee Campground: Volunteer**

**Opportunities:** This conference will be held in Cortez and Delores. Early bird registration ends June 30. Papers and presentations of recent research concerning the Southwest will be presented. On Thursday night a reception will be held at the CCC. Oral and poster presentations will be given on Friday and Saturday at McPhee Reservoir Campground. Craig Childs will make a presentation Friday night. A catered dinner and dance featuring live music will be held on Saturday night. Tours to local sites will be led on Sunday.

<http://Pecos.cortezculturalcenter.org>.

## 2009 (72nd Annual) Pecos Conference

**August 6-9, McPhee Campground, Cortez**

Papers and presentations of recent research concerning the Southwest will be presented. There will be a Thursday night reception at the CCC. Oral and poster presentations will be given on Friday and Saturday at McPhee Reservoir Campground. Craig Childs will make a presentation Friday night. There will be a Catered dinner and dance featuring live music on Saturday night. Tours to local sites will be available on Sunday. <http://pecos.cortezculturalcenter.org>.

## Hisatsinom Field Trips

Call Larry Tradlener, 565-7804; [insitu@fone.net](mailto:insitu@fone.net). Hisatsinom Chapter members have first preference for trips.

Place, Leader, Date, Type

Parott City Mining Town, Open, July, Day Trip;

Elk Ridge, Open, August, Day/Overnight;

Hammond Canyon, Larry Tradlener, August Back Packing /Overnight;

Lancaster House, Tom Hoff, September, Day Trip;

Cedar Mesa, Larry & Sandy, September, Day/Overnight;

Range Creek, Open, Date Unset, Overnight

Dinetah sites/Gobernador, Larry & Sandy, October Overnight;

Gallina sites, Open, Date unset, Overnight

## Denver Chapter Field Trip

Contact Ken Andresen (303) 278-0855; [gandresen@earthlink.net](mailto:gandresen@earthlink.net).

September 4-7. Rock Art: Lander, Wyoming area.

## Museum of Western Colorado Trips

Trips include Meeker Sheepdog Trials, McDonald Canyon, Climb Independence Monument, and regional day trips include: a Discover our Local Museum series travelling to Delta, Montrose, Telluride and Gateway; Rifle Falls; Saturday Family Dinosaur Dig. International trips include: Mexico and Peru, including Machu Picchu, the Amazon Basin and Lake Titicaca, Oaxaca, Puebla and Mexico City.

[www.museumofwesternco.com/programs\\_and\\_events/trip\\_and\\_tours/](http://www.museumofwesternco.com/programs_and_events/trip_and_tours/)

(Continued on page 5)



# Upcoming Events—Continued

(Continued from page 4)

## Times of Events, Meetings, and Openings

### Cortez Cultural Center

Open from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the summer.

### Animas Museum Activities

Living History Programs - July 25 and August 29, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### CAS Meetings:

July 25 - Durango; October 2-4 - Pueblo (Annual Meeting); Steve Lekson will be featured speaker at Saturday's banquet.

### Hisatsinom Chapter

The Hisatsinom Chapter is not having speakers in July and August.

## Conferences, Markets, & Displays,

**Native American Festival and Basketmaker's Market:** July 11, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine. Co-sponsored by the Abbe Museum, Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, and the College of the Atlantic. 207-288-3519, [www.abbemuseum.org](http://www.abbemuseum.org);

**2nd Annual Northern Arizona Archaeology Fair:** July 11, This fair will show the Low campus of Northern Pioneer College. There will be public education about cultural heritage preservation through opportunities for interaction with professionals via talks, hands-on activities, and interactive educational displays. Contact Cheryl Ford at 928-205-3188, [nazarchfair@gmail.com](mailto:nazarchfair@gmail.com);

**Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference,** October 8-10, Western State University, Gunnison, with field trips on October 11. Call for papers by September 1, 2009, to [DByears@missouristate.edu](mailto:DByears@missouristate.edu);

**Plains Anthropological Conference,** October 14-17, Norman, OK. ([www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth.html](http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth.html));

**Southwest Traders Rendezvous:** September 25-27, Cortez Cultural Center.

**Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park, Phoenix.** "Pieces of the Puzzle: New Perspectives on the Hohokam", latest methods for dating and analyzing archaeological material; new perspectives on the Hohokam and cultural changes in the 15th century. (602) 495-0901, [www.pueblogrande.com](http://www.pueblogrande.com).

**Anasazi Heritage Center,** through October 31, "The Old Spanish Trail: A Conduit for Change", traces the history of this first suc-

cessful Euro-American connection of the Mexican frontier provinces of New Mexico and California. (970) 882-5600, [www.co.blm.gov/ahc](http://www.co.blm.gov/ahc);

### **Santa Fe Museum**

13 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe. 1680 Pueblo Revolt exhibit. About 20 volunteers and staff from the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's Friends of Archaeology and the state's Office of Archaeological Studies crafted 300 replica arrows that hang in a mass from the ceiling via nearly invisible fishing line, pointing toward a mock-up burned and crumbling building -- in real life, the Palace of the Governors. The arrows, made in the styles and with the raw materials that were used during the 17th century, symbolize the drama and tension of the fight between American Indians, Spanish soldiers and settlers during the Revolt. The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge allowed the collection of cane and willow shaft materials, and various turkey ranchers and hunters provided feathers for the fletchings. Most of the stone arrow points were crafted by skilled flintknappers from Portales, Corrales and Santa Fe. Artists and religious leaders from New Mexico's 19 pueblos provided handmade arrows. 505-476-5200; **Arizona State Museum:**

Traveling exhibit "Circles of Life: Katsina Imagery in Hopi Basketry". Historical and contemporary works demonstrate ongoing vitality of basketry. Exhibits explore impact of the katsina religion on Hopi culture. Images of katsinas also appear on Hopi pottery and paintings. An overview of the Hopi basketmaking traditions, techniques and types, and information about how to understand katsina iconography. 520-621-6302, [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/exhibits](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/exhibits) (Through July).

## Contribution Idea

If you have ever considered donations to the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, now is the time to make it. Crow Canyon has furloughed many employees and others are on 60- 80% employment. Crow Canyon is currently offering two incentives for contributions of \$100 or more. They are a Saturday morning tour of Crow Canyon's lab and curation room and the opportunity to work with artifacts They are also offering a Saturday tour of Goodman Point to learn of the latest research there. Call 564-4395.

## **THE EDITORS' CORNER**

The Summer 2009 **American Archaeology** issue includes the following articles that are of interest to us:

*Montpelier's Other Half* - How did slaves living on the estate of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, fare?;

*When the Russians Were Coming* - attempts to colonize America;

*Changing Times* - Research archaeology has given way to cultural resource management;

*Revolutionizing American Archaeology* - Nels C. Nelson changed fieldwork by introducing stratigraphic methods;

*Relive the Past on Natchez Trace* - A drive on the Parkway, filled with history;

*New Archaeological Conservancy Acquisitions:*

*Two Oregon Rockshelters* - One site features myriad pictographs; Miller Grove, a Southeast Illinois community built primarily by freed slaves;

*Coastal Oregon* site - Glimpse of prehistoric life on the Oregon (Seaside) coast;

*Troyville* - A mound from a 1,400-year-old site in Louisiana;

***The Ancient Southwest: Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, and Mesa Verde***

by David E. Stuart (University of New Mexico Press, 2009).

This book reprints many of the author's newspaper columns for the layman. It is filled with stories about the ruins of the Southwest and the archaeologists who study them. It includes Chaco Canyon, Bandelier, and Mesa Verde, but also contains things from little known sites of the Mogollon and Mimbres. Each column describes a small part of the Native American legacy, from the Paleo-Indians of Clovis and Folsom, New Mexico to the modern Pueblos;

***Cave Paintings and the Human Spirit***

by David S. Whitley,

This is a book that explores links between rock art, shamanism and science. It discusses archaeological debates, quarrels and missteps that have marked the exploration and attempts at explanation of the cave art of prehistoric Europe and associated genres. <http://blogcritics.org/books/article/book-review-cave-paintings-and-the/>.



## **Moki By Mail**

Most of us are connected to the Internet and communicate by e-mail regularly. **In an effort to further reduce our costs, we will be sending the Moki Messenger by e-mail to every member who provided us with his/her/their e-mail address.** If you have not provided us with that address, please do so now by contacting our treasurer, Mark Gebhardt, at [mark@virtbiz.com](mailto:mark@virtbiz.com) or 970/382-0518.

However, if you prefer to get the Moki by snail mail (USPS), please let Mark know; and we'll make that happen. It is our intent to ensure that every member receives the Moki when it is published. Any member can also access the latest edition of the Moki through our website: [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org).

## **ARCHAEOLOGY NEAR AND FAR**

**Genetic Data on Ancient American Populations Points to Single Ancestral Group.** For two decades, researchers have been using a growing volume of genetic data to debate whether ancestors of Native Americans emigrated to the New World in one wave or successive waves, or from one ancestral Asian population or a number of different populations. Now, after painstakingly comparing DNA samples from people in dozens of modern-day Native American and Eurasian groups, an international team of scientists thinks it can put the matter to rest; virtually without exception the new evidence supports the single ancestral population

(Continued on page 7)

# ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS—CONT.

(Continued from page 6)

theory. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/040428223836.htm>.

**The Mystery Disappearance of Everett Ruess Solved.** A skeleton found in Comb Ridge was that of a talented artist, poet and wanderer of the 1930s whose disappearance became the basis of Western lore and Navajo legend. <http://www.cdarc.org/page/7nyu> - *San Diego Union Tribune*.

**Inappropriate "Cleaning" of Rock Art in Utah's Nine Mile Canyon.** Someone may have secretly cleaned and damaged the rock art in Nine Mile Canyon with a high-pressure wash after a tourist-friendly development was completed near the rock art. Fence-rails were put up, a pedestrian walkway was created, and the gravel road was moved further away from ancient Indian art called "The Great Hunt Panel." <http://www.ksl.com/?nid>.

**Author Eric Skopec Challenges Ideal of "Collapse" for Ancestral Puebloans.** Mr. Skopec demonstrates that global warming did not destroy Ancestral Puebloan civilization. Although some authors bolster their warnings with historical references, he believes many popular authors misrepresent the archeological record and provide incomplete, misleading, and even just plain wrong information about the Ancestral Puebloans. <http://media-newswire.com/release>.

**Local Historian, Molly K, Compiles DVD Series of Railroad History.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, June 4, 2009) The history of trains and railroading in Southwest Colorado has been captured in a series of four DVDs and one video history. DVDs one and two, "West of the San Juans", trace the history of the railroad west of the San Juan Mountains, focusing on the Galloping Goose, the Four Corners, Mancos, Cortez, Hesperus and Durango, Ridgway, Placerville and Telluride. DVDs three and four, "Heart of the San Juans", examine train history in Durango, Silverton and Ouray. Contact Molly K at 565-7475.

**Utah Legislature OKs Bill on Ancient Site Development.** (Summary, *Daily Times*, March 13, 2009) The bill which allows the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") to build a development in Draper on the site of a 3,000-year-old Indian village may also allow the Department of Natural Resources to negotiate a land swap. UTA has assured protection for the village. The ten acres UTA will develop as a station would be predominantly, if not entirely, off the known archaeological resource. The archaic village shows signs of farming 500 years earlier than previously documented in the region. The Utah Professional Archaeological Council opposed the plan, saying it prefers in-ground preservation as opposed to possibly moving the artifacts. UTA may consider other sites in Draper and Bluffdale for its station.

**Webb Family Challenges CDOT on Hwy. 550 Reroute.** (Summary, *Durango Herald*, March 1, 2009) The dispute centers on CDOT's "Fourth Lane Project," which will add a second westbound lane to U.S. 160 between Grandview and the current Farmington Hill intersection. Complicating the issue is the 2008 discovery of numerous archaeological sites dating to the ancestral Puebloan period on the property, several of which lie in the direct route of the proposed realignment. Although CDOT representatives conducted cultural resources surveys on the ranch in 1995, 1998, 2002 and 2007, they missed all the other archaeological sites. Ignacio architect and archaeologist Doug Loebig discovered those in July 2008 at the expense of the owners of the Webb Ranch.

**Shard Bears Ancient Hebrew Writing.** (Summary, *Denver Post*) An Israeli archaeologist discovered what he believes is the oldest known Hebrew inscription on a 3,000-year-old carved pottery shard in the ruins of an ancient town on a hilltop south of Jerusalem, Hirbet Qeiyafa. The shard, bearing five lines of faded characters, suggests Biblical accounts of the ancient Israelite kingdom of David could have been based on written texts. The relic is evidence the ancient Israelites were literate and could chronicle events centuries before the Bible was written. This suggests that some of the Bible's accounts were based on written records as well as oral traditions.

(Continued on page 8)

# ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS—CONT.

## **19th-Century Watchmaker Secretly Inscribed Thoughts About the Beginning of the Civil War on Inner Parts of President Abraham Lincoln's Pocket Watch.**

(Summary, [Denver Post](#), March 15, 2009) Curators at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History opened Lincoln's watch and confirmed the tale of the inscription. Jonathan Dillon, a Washington, D.C. watchmaker and Union sympathizer, was working on Lincoln's watch in 1861 when he heard of the first Civil War shots. He wrote, in part "Fort Sump-ter (sic) was attacked by the rebels -- thank God we have a government." Unbeknownst to Lincoln, he carried those sentiments with him as he headed the war to keep the Union together.

## **Mexico Displays Part of the Largest Private Collection of Archaeological Artifacts Ever Donated to the Government.**

(Summary, [Denver Post](#), February 25, 2009) The set of 8,100 pieces ranges in size from tiny figurines to quarter-ton statues of the god Quetzalcoatl. The relics belonged to an American dentist, who settled in Mexico in the 1930s, and began collecting artifacts from the Aztec, Olmec, Mayan and other cultures. His widow donated the pieces on the condition they be kept together.

## **Crow Canyon Uses Computer-simulated Community, Native American-grown Corn to Study Historic Culture.**

(Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), March 24, 2009) Hopi farmers are helping Crow Canyon researchers learn about the area's sustainable farming practices as part of the Pueblo Farming Project. Two Hopi farmers shared their experience learning to grow corn, and their history and relationship with corn at a public lecture. Crop yields from three experimental corn plots will be plugged into a computer-simulated, virtual, 600 A.D. Mesa Verde region, with a population of 200 ancient Pueblo farm families. Three of the 20 contemporary Pueblo tribes, Hopi, Jemez, and Ohkay Owingeh, decided where to place the three garden plots. Each of the plots measures about 100 by 200 feet. Since dry land agriculture has a short growing season with little moisture, the selection of the seed and field locations were important to ensure optimum crop yields.

The computer simulation will help archaeologists gain insight into Ancestral Puebloans' habits and relationship with the land. Geographic, soil and lifestyle data about the 600 A.D. era, together with historic weather patterns based on tree rings, will create conditions in the virtual 600 A.D. world. Through the simulation, Crow Canyon will measure the 700-year relationship between humans and their environment and what the human impact on the land would have been. Researchers hope to learn how Ancestral Puebloans lived and farmed in the region, why they left, and what role sustainability played in agriculture.

Using the same techniques the Ancient Puebloans would have used, the model will "improve". Contemporary Puebloans will practice the same methods that enabled their ancestors to support the transition from hunting and gathering to agricultural. The Hopi still use digging sticks and the traditional methods of dry farming. As a result, in addition to gathering scientific and crop yield information, the Project will document the ways and beliefs surrounding the Pueblo's crop of choice: corn. The Project began seven years ago when Crow Canyon received a federal grant from the NSF for a biocomplexity study.

Measurement of variations in temperatures were conducted and recorded to help researchers understand how ancient people chose locations for corn, beans and other crops. The original boundary of the computer-generated world covered Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, including Goodman Point Pueblo, where an estimated 500 to 750 people once lived. With the help of a second grant from NSF, the virtual world has been expanded to include Mesa Verde and part of the Rio Grande area, to which Puebloans are thought to have migrated.

The complete simulation opens with the families making numerous decisions. Researchers compare where the virtual farm families are with the locations of known archaeological sites. Population growth and decline and the impact of the long-term settlement of this region will be studied, tracking each computer-simulated individual's choices in relation to 20,000 known archaeological sites. As in "real" life, people live and die, with some having accidents and others creating extended families. If a farm fails because of bad weather, do the farmers move or trade with an area family? If they move, how far do they search for a new farm -- five or 10 kilometers away? Those are a few of the questions the simulation will try to answer.

The Crow Canyon plots of corn are smaller than an average Ancestral Puebloan family farm size was estimated to have been -- about nine acres. Data will be extrapolated to accommodate the simulation. Contemporary elders are growing a blue corn, a yellow corn, a sweet corn, and a kachina corn, a mixture of white, red, and yellow kernels passed out during ceremonies.



# ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS—CONT.

**Greek Dig Finds 6,000-year-old Housewares.** A 6,000-year-old set of household goods, including crockery and two wood-fired ovens in excellent condition, has been found in the buried ruins of a prehistoric farmhouse, covering 624 square feet, in northern Greece, 360 miles north of Athens, providing valuable information on late Neolithic domestic architecture and household organization, especially because the remains were undisturbed by farming or other external intervention. During work to lay water pipes, archaeologists found a large number of clay vessels for cooking and eating, stone tools, mills for grinding cereals, and two ovens. The house was separated into three rooms, with walls made of branches and reeds covered with clay, supported by strong wooden posts. The building had been destroyed by fire, which baked the clay, preserving impressions of the wooden building elements, as well as the post holes. Archaeologists believe the inhabitants managed to escape the fire, taking with them their valued stone blades and axes. They left behind the large stone tools which would have been difficult to move.

**Germany Excavates Suspected Jamlitz Jewish Grave.** (Summary, [Daily Times](#), April 22, 2009) A birch-lined backyard, believed to hold the remains of more than 750 former Jewish prisoners slain by the Nazis in the final days of World War II, is being excavated by German authorities. Initial digging at the site established that in 1943 a former Nazi labor camp, Lieberose, which was a subcamp of the better-known Sachsenhausen concentration camp north of Berlin used this area as a burial ground. The digging began on the 64th anniversary of the liberation of the Sachsenhausen. Those deemed to ill to work in this camp were sent back to Auschwitz in nearby Poland, occupied by the Nazis for most of the war. Historian Guenter Morsch has carried out extensive research into the history of this camp, producing the expert report supporting suspicions of the mass grave's location.

**Prehuman Prints Show Modern Foot.** (Summary, [Denver Post](#), February 27, 2009) Footprints uncovered in Kenya show that as early as 1.5 million years ago an ancestral species, almost certainly *Homo erectus*, had already evolved the feet and walking gait of modern humans. The more than a dozen prints show the individuals had heels, insteps, and toes almost identical to those in humans and that they walked with a long stride similar to human locomotion. According to the journal *Science*, the prints were found in an eroding bluff east of Lake Turkana, providing the oldest evidence of an essentially modern humanlike foot anatomy and adds to evidence that paints a picture of *Homo erectus* as the prehumans who took long evolutionary strides, figuratively, and literally. Where the individuals are who made the tracks is not known. The variability of the separation between some steps suggests that they were picking their way over an uneven surface, muddy enough to leave a mark. Until now, no footprint trails had ever been associated with early members of the genus *Homo*. Preserved ancient footprints of any kind are rare. No *erectus* foot bones have been found anywhere.

**Recovery Act Allocates \$14.6 Million to Mesa Verde National Park ("MVNP").** (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), April 23, 2009) The NPS will receive \$750 million in Recovery Act funds to implement almost 800 projects, including MVNP's replacement of five miles of old water lines between Chapin Mesa and the park boundary (\$11.5 million). All MVNP water is pumped from outside the park. Funds will also cover installation of eight photovoltaic systems at historic park headquarters buildings; modifying trails at the Spruce Tree site to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; replacing failing waterlines at the Morefield Campground area; replacing inadequate electrical service in the Navajo Loop; and purchasing three alternative fuel transit buses like the open-air trams the park uses to transport visitors at Wetherill Mesa. They will be receiving \$55,000 in Recovery Act funds for preventive maintenance on historic structures at Hovenweep.

**Chimney Rocks' Southwest Collection Donated to Pagosa Springs Library.** (Summary, [Pagosa Springs Sun](#), June 4, 2009) The Chimney Rock Collection of 234 books plus ten non-fiction binders, 64 folders and numerous magazines focusing on various Southwest topics, previously in the library at Chimney Rock, were donated to the Pagosa Springs Library. The books focus on the Southwest, especially Chimney Rock, Bandelier, Canyon de Chelly, Chaco Canyon, and Mesa Verde. Subjects include archeology, antiquities, history, astronomy, anthropology, flora, wildlife, and field guides. Further information about Chimney Rock and to investigate volunteer opportunities at this site, go to [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org).

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 St. 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



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