

# The Uncompahgre Journal

May 2024

CHIPETA CHAPTER OF THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 41 Issue 5

## Mark Your Calendar

**May 1:** [Montrose Historical Society](#) monthly meeting with Tallmadge Richmond on the county's stance on solar farms. Montrose Events Center, Rooms 1 and 2, 7:00 pm.

**May 2:** Steve Baker on Juan Rivera. Cascade Hall, Cascade Ave and South 3rd. 7:00 pm. (See poster next page.)

**May 7:** [Hisatsinom Chapter](#) monthly meeting with Dave Dove on Great House formation dynamics at Mitchell Springs. First United Methodist Church, 515 N. Park St., Cortez, 7:00 pm.\*

**May 8:** [San Juan Basin Archaeological Society](#) monthly meeting with Jeff Pigati and Kathleen Springer, on dating the White Sands footprints. Lyceum, Center of SW Studies, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm.\*

**May 25:** Eagle Rock open house event, sponsored by Chipeta Chapter CAS and the BLM. 9:00 to 12:00 AM at Eagle Rock site (see poster below).

**July 17:** Chipeta Chapter picnic, Cerise Park, 5:00 pm (see poster below).

## Our May Presentation

### Underwater Archaeology

by **Vida Jaber**

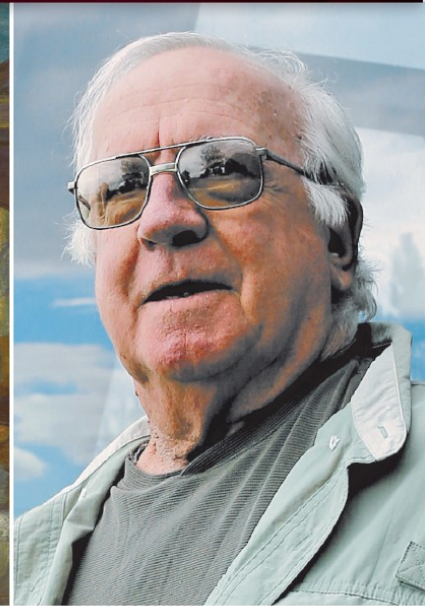
Vida Jaber is the Curator of History & Archaeology at the Museums of Western Colorado in Grand Junction. She is a Grand Junction native and started working at the Museum during her final semester while attending Colorado Mesa University in 2018. Her interests are in maritime archaeology, but her work ties her to Western Colorado history. She is currently working on a variety of exhibits that explore the material culture of the local history.



Vida will present on the maritime archaeology techniques and her own personal experiences that have taken her all over the world. In 2019 she attended two field schools and a three-month long internship on the archaeologically-rich island of Sint Eustatius in the Dutch Caribbean. In 2022 she had the opportunity to dive the historic shipwrecks of the Red Sea. She is currently saving up to go on another adventure to Turks and Caicos or perhaps somewhere in the Pacific.







## JUAN RIVERA'S COLORADO, 1765: THE FIRST DESCRIPTIONS OF COLORADO AND THE UTE INDIANS

Thursday, May 2, 2024  
7–8:30pm

Montrose Campus, Cascade Hall  
Cascade Avenue and South 3rd • Montrose, Colorado

While most readers of the history of the American West are familiar with the Dominguez-Escalante expedition in the late 18th century, few are familiar with their predecessor and trailblazer Juan Rivera, a Spaniard who set off from New Mexico a decade earlier. In two journeys through Southwestern Colorado, including the present-day locations of Montrose and Delta, Rivera encountered and recorded his early contacts with Ute and Paiute Natives.

Steven Baker is the first scholar and historian to explain Rivera's experiences in his quest to find silver, the Colorado River, and the mysterious bearded men of Teguayo.

Illustration credit: Gail Carroll Sargent, *The Rivera Party Trading with the Tabeguache Utes at Pissochi on the San Miguel River near Naturita in the Fall of 1765.*

### Steven G. Baker Archeologist and Author

Steven G. Baker is an ethnohistorian and Registered Professional Archeologist whose seminal book *Juan Rivera's Colorado, 1765: The First Spaniards Among the Ute and Paiute Indians on the Trails to Teguayo* presents the story of this first Spanish company to travel to the Ute territories of Southwestern Colorado as recorded and translated from Rivera's journals, among other sources, a 2017 finalist for the Colorado Book Award in history. Baker's career spans almost 60 years and includes major studies of the Utes of Colorado as well as Victorian mining settlements.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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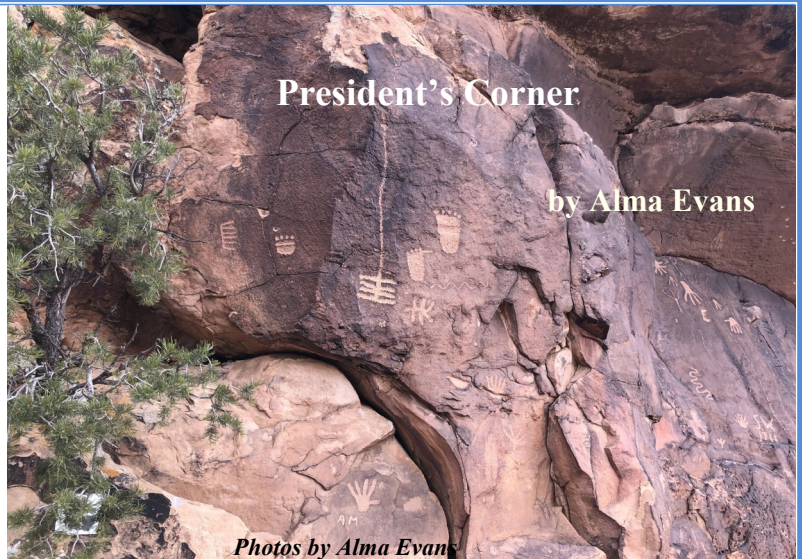
## Happy Archaeology Month!

Yes, this is the month to celebrate archaeology!

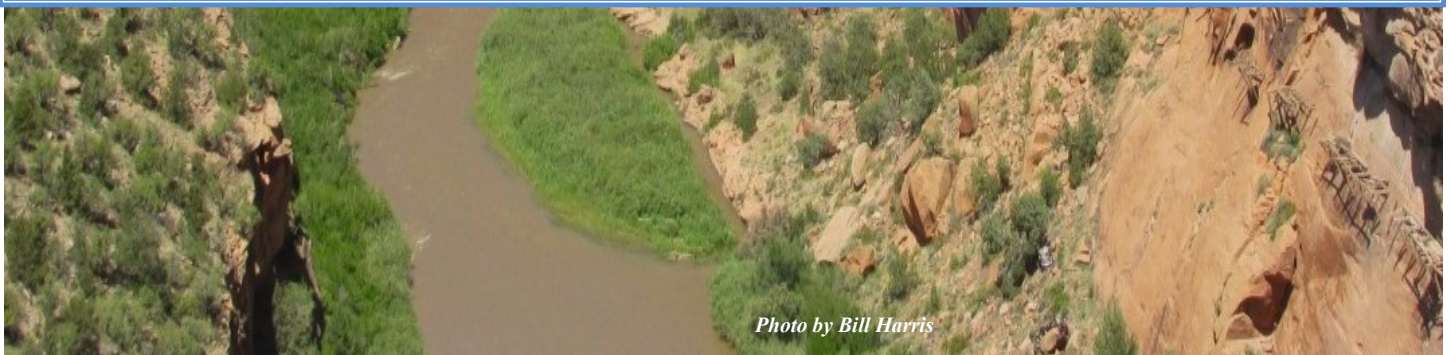
Why is May archaeology month? Etymologists suggest it comes from the word maiores –“ancestors”–those greater or major in terms of generational precedence. That may be the reason May is Archaeology Month. Archaeologists, both professional and amateur, are still searching for our first ancestor.

### Announcements

- ◆ On May 25, 2024, to acknowledge the month of May, we are going to host at Eagle Rock Shelter (our area’s most famous archaeological site) an open shelter, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon. Several members will be there to answer questions.
- ◆ The Presentation Committee is in good hands, Dan Elsner - Chairman, Leigh Ann Hunt, Dennis DeVore, and Pat Readon, have provided us with excellent speakers. Therefore, I am stepping back from that committee to allow more time for the duties of the Presidency.
- ◆ I attended the ZOOM Colorado Archaeology Quarterly Board Meeting. The two reports that concern us the most are listed.
  - \* The publication *Southwest Lore* will become available by subscription only for a fee to be determined.
  - \* We have received the liability insurance quotes for field trips from CAS. The Board members are reviewing the proposal and may have a recommendation by our May meeting.
- ◆ This will be the last publication of the *Uncompahgre Journal* until September.



**Have a happy and safe summer!**



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Submissions for publication may be emailed to: Dave Batten: [david.batten@enmu.edu](mailto:david.batten@enmu.edu)



# FREE PUBLIC TOURS OF ANCIENT EAGLE ROCK SHELTER ON THE GUNNISON RIVER



**SATURDAY MAY 25, 2024 9:00 am to 12:00**



From 9 to 12 a.m. there will be volunteer guides to share the story of the site with visitors. Eagle Rock is one of the oldest prehistoric sites in Colorado, where excavations revealed evidence of hunting, tool making and cooking along with rock imagery. The site is located between Hotchkiss and Delta.

**This free tour is open to the public and is hosted by the Chipeta Chapter of the Archaeological Society and the BLM.**

Directions: Take Highway 92 east from Delta to the signed turnoff on the right-hand side of the road at approximately Mile 12.8. Pass through the gate and follow the far-left gravel road generally west for 2.5 miles to the trail head parking lot. The quarter-mile trail down is slightly steep with steps in places. Guides will be on the site.

For more information contact: [sjcas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjcas1@gmail.com)

What a great chance to visit this site! We are looking for just a couple of volunteers to help that day. We need one at the top of the trail head and maybe one or two at the site. Please let Sally know if you can help with this community event at [sjcas1@gmail.com](mailto:sjcas1@gmail.com). Thanks!

## From the Editor

It's almost May, and this will be my last column until September. I didn't see any science news items this month that really spoke to me, so I thought I'd just present a potpourri of some of the articles that have caught my eye so far this year. At least some of these are open access, so you will be able to read the entire articles over the summer—or do like me, and just read the introductions and conclusions.

1. The first article is about an old friend of mine—the head louse. It seems lice have DNA too, and it is possible to trace their movements around the world by analyzing the home territories of their closest kin. And since human head lice are very picky about who they hang out with—namely, humans—their relationships can help us trace human movements around the world over time. Of course, the human love of traveling to new places can create some messiness along the way.

Ascunce MS, Toloza AC, González-Oliver A, Reed DL

2023 Nuclear genetic diversity of head lice sheds light on human dispersal around the world. *PLoS ONE* 18(11): e0293409. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0293409>. Open access.

2. The next article suggests that what is now called Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), though truly a challenge for modern folks, may have been an advantage in the past. In an interesting, though not particularly well-controlled experiment, the authors found that people who self-identified as having symptoms of ADHD did better in berry picking simulations than did those without attention issues, because they were inclined to abandon their foraging patches more quickly than other players. Thus, they ended up gathering more berries. These are very preliminary results, for sure, but it makes sense that this “proclivity to explore” could have been advantageous in hunting and gathering societies, which may explain why the trait didn't get purged by the evolutionary process.

Barack, David L., Ludwig, Vera U., Parodi, Felipe, Ahmed, Nuwar, Brannon, Elizabeth M., Ramakrishnan, Arjun and Platt, Michael L.

2024 Attention deficits linked with proclivity to explore while foraging. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 291:20222584. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.2584>. Abstract only.

3. A few months ago I allowed myself a mini-rant about lidar and all the new evidence of lost civilizations that it is finding all over the world. (It's a wonderful technology of course, but it's so darn repetitive). The latest one—that I know of—is in the Amazon Basin like many of the other recent discoveries, but this time in Ecuador. Described as a “lost valley of cities,” its population may have peaked at 30,000 people. The authors stress the system of roads that connect the various communities into an integrated system.

Rostain, Stéphen *et al.*

2024 Two thousand years of garden urbanism in the Upper Amazon. *Science* 383:83-189. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adi6317>. Abstract only.

4. Last is an article about tobacco use in ancient Guatemala. Apparently, there is plenty of evidence of the use of tobacco in Mesoamerica from historical and ethnographic sources, but not from archaeological remains. This is due in part to the fact that organic materials are rarely preserved in the warm, moist climates of the area. This article describes the high-tech chemical analysis of three vases recovered from ritual contexts of the late Classic Period that identified the presence of nicotine. The tobacco seems to have been consumed as a liquid, which they note is a dangerous practice. The authors suggest that it may have been used for curing and purification, or perhaps for the inducing visions and trances.

Negrin A, Chinchilla Mazariegos O, McNeil CL, Hurst WJ, Kennelly EJ.

2024 Residue analysis suggests ritual use of tobacco at the ancient Mesoamerican city of Cotzumalhuapa, Guatemala. *Antiquity* 98(398):518-534. <https://doi.org/10.15184/ajqy.2024.13>. Open access.





# SUMMER GATHERING for CAS

*July 17th 5- ???*

*Cerise Park under the Shelter*

*(Shanes Way, Montrose)*

We will supply the Chicken so please let us know if you will be attending. Please bring your favorite beverage (alcohol too), a side dish to share and your own plate and utensils.

**Please contact us at  
sjcas1@gmail for your piece  
of chicken!! Or for questions**



**Chipeta Chapter**  
 Colorado Archaeological Society  
 P.O. Box 593  
 Montrose, Colorado 81402



## Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street or RR Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos by Dennis DeVore



(email required to receive Chipeta Chapter newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:

- New  
 Renewal

**Annual Dues\*** (includes state CAS dues): Check one

- Family (2 or more members same household) .....\$40  
 Individual .....\$35  
 Student (Circle if Individual or Family) .....\$25  
 Secondary (Circle one) Individual (\$10) or Family... (\$15)  
 Opt out of printed *Southwest Lore*

\**Southwest Lore* is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society: a .pdf is posted to Member365 for download. Effective soon, if you want a print copy, you will have to go to the state CAS website and pay an additional fee.



### Code of Ethics

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge to:

- Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
- Respect the property rights of landowners.
- Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
- Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
- Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
- Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
- Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
- Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Family Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Colorado Archaeological Society" and mail the signed application to:

Chipeta Chapter  
 P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81402



## CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

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- **Membership:** Sally Johnson, [membership@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:membership@chipetachaptercas.org)
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- **Library:** Linda Manske, [library@chipetachaptercas.org](mailto:library@chipetachaptercas.org)

## Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

For information, visit:

<https://www.historycolorado/paac>

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## CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE

- <https://www.chipetachaptercas.org>

## TO JOIN OR RENEW:

- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

## Field Trip Committee

Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

*Masthead photo courtesy of Bill Harris. All other unattributed photos are by the editor.*