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MAS Newsletter (Winter 2026)

The Newsletter of the Montana Archaeological Society

Layers of Time: Explore, Educate & Engage



Photo courtesy of Crystal Alegria

MAS Annual Meeting Notes

The Montana Archaeological Society (MAS) is hosting its 2026 Annual Meeting on **April 10–12** at the **Holiday Inn Downtown** in the lively city of **Missoula**. This three-day event will feature educational field trips and workshops, academic papers and

posters, a keynote address from Dr. Larry Loendorf, and plenty of time to connect with friends and colleagues. We hope the meeting will be a celebration of community—reflecting on the archaeological communities' good work while looking toward an informed and engaged future. Please consider submitting an abstract for a poster or paper presentation. We look forward to learning more about your research – either completed or ongoing!

MAS understands that conferences are expensive, and we are trying to lessen the financial burden on membership with low registration fees and a hotel block with discounted rooms. If you would like to stay at the conference hotel, you must book your room before March 10th to receive the discounted rate. We are also offering a limited number of travel stipends for students or early career professionals who are in need of support. Finally, student presenters who submit a student reimbursement form receive a \$275 (paper) or \$225 (poster) award, as well as a free Saturday night banquet ticket.

We will soon be sharing a tentative schedule of events with you all, but in the meantime, you can find additional information at the links below.

[MAS 2026 Meeting Info - Montana Archaeological Society](#)
[Meeting Registration 2026 - Montana Archaeological Society](#)

What's Happening

ARCHAEOLOGY HAPPY HOUR!

MAS is having another Happy Hour! As the new year begins, hopefully everyone can block out some time and come together for some socializing. All are welcome! Please pass along this invitation to colleagues, graduate students, so on and so forth.

Where? In a city near you!

When? January 20th @ 5PM

Missoula: The Union Club (208 E Main St)

Bozeman: Shine Beer (451 East Main Street A)

Helena: Mt. Ascension (317 Cruse Ave)

When? January 21th @ 4:30PM

Billings: Carter's Brewing (2526 Montana Ave)

We hope to see you there!



Photo courtesy of Sophia Etier

Heritage and History Public Lecture Series

with Sophia Etier

February 26th @ 6PM at the Headwaters Foundation Confluence Center

From Chop Suey to Chow Mein: Heritage Adaptation Exhibited through Archaeological Culinary Remnants and the Evolution of Chinese Restaurants in Western Montana, 1860-1980

From Chop Suey to Chow Mein explores heritage adaptation in Western Montana's nineteenth and twentieth century Chinese communities exhibited through archaeological culinary remnants and the evolution of regional Chinese restaurants. The lecture will also explore the shift from private heritage sites to public spaces shaped by anti-Chinese legislation and economic adaptation. Regionally, restaurants such as the Pekin Noodle Parlor became cultural anchors, preserving cultural identity amid decades of severe cultural exclusion and discrimination. Later establishments such as the Golden Pheasant and Ming's Restaurant served as tangible memory spaces, bridging historic traditions with modern community life. By integrating archaeological evidence and historical narratives, this talk aims to demonstrate how adapted culinary practices offer insights into the cultural adaptation and heritage resilience in Montana.

Want to join online?

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89891403808pwd=qgwe3WkPiF99rxKswdwobA8oqs82l.1>

Meeting ID: 898 9140 3808 Passcode: 004118

Paleoamerican Odyssey 2026

Dear Montana Archaeological Society,

The Center for the Study of the First Americans is organizing a three-day conference on the first Indigenous people to enter the Americas during the end of the last Ice Age. The PaleoAmerican Odyssey Conference, will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from October 14–17, 2026. In 2013, we held the first Paleoamerican Odyssey conference and we had 1200 people attend which included professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and interested members of the public.

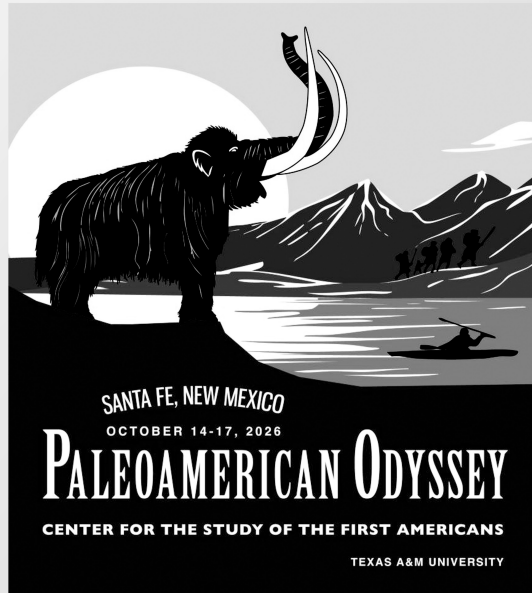
Please visit the CSFA website (www.centerfirstamericans.com) for more information on Paleoamerican Odyssey 2026!

Mark the date on your calendar!

The Center for the Study of the First Americans invites you to participate in a three-day examination of the first people to explore and settle the Americas at the end of the last Ice Age. This conference is for everyone—archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, Quaternary scientists, students, and anyone interested in archaeology.

Much new information generated about the peopling of the Americas since the 2013 Paleoamerican Odyssey conference is changing how we view the First Americans. The archaeological genetic revolution took place after 2013, with genomic analysis of human individuals and their dogs creating a biological outline of the ancestry of the First Americans and estimates for their arrival south of the Ice Sheets. New information generated about the coastal and inland corridors more clearly defines the timing of their opening and viability. The Western Stemmed Tradition of the Intermountain West now appears to be coeval with Clovis. Many new archaeological sites excavated in the Americas place the arrival of humans between 23,000 and 16,000 years ago. New dating and other studies tell us much about the timing and cause of the extinction of megafauna at the end of the Pleistocene and the role of humans in this event.

Hear 35 lectures given by preeminent scholars on all aspects of the study of the First Americans. Examine 400 poster presentations on a variety of topics and view artifact casts from important sites. Enjoy the opportunity to ask questions, meet, and discuss the First Americans with the speakers, poster presenters, and others throughout the day and during our evening meet-and-greet sessions.



Visit the CSFA website (www.centerfirstamericans.com) for more information on Paleoamerican Odyssey 2026!

We'll see you there!

www.mtarchaeologicalsociety.org



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