



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Series

The Gypsum Overlook Paleo-Archaic Archaeological Site in New Mexico's White Sands

Free Zoom Presentation by archaeologist Matthew Cuba

Some archaeological features and artifacts encountered at the Gypsum Overlook site



Excavated Features 4a and 4b, overlapping structure floors



Projectile points



Slab metate



One-hand mano

 **Thursday June 20, 2024, 7 to 8:30 pm*** 

* ARIZONA/Mountain Standard Time – Same as Pacific Daylight Time

Photos courtesy of Matthew Cuba / Holloman Air Force Base

When and how did the late Pleistocene, Paleoindian cultures make the transition from a big game-hunting focus to foraging and other pursuits at the dawn of the Holocene epoch? Recently some archaeologists in southern New Mexico, the Great Basin, and southern California have recognized a "Paleo-Archaic" adaptation that marks the change to the Archaic period's gathering-and-hunting economy.

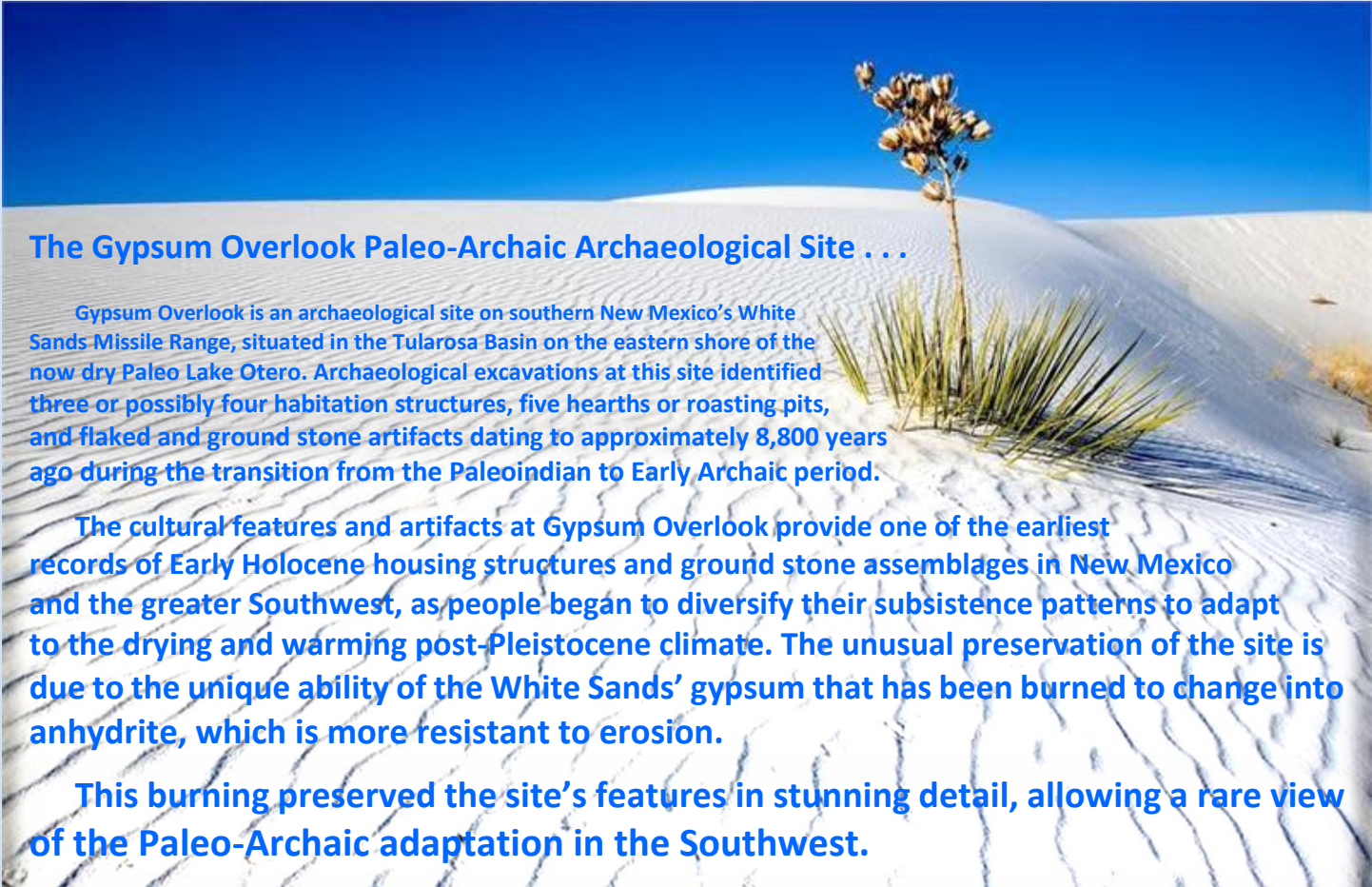
In this Third Thursday Food for Thought program, archaeologist Matthew Cuba will discuss the Gypsum Overlook archaeological site in southern New Mexico, which has provided unusually good evidence of the Paleo-Archaic transition.

See next page.

To register for the Zoom program, click on this link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9b7Yc2L2RrenZu-tWlq4Wg

For more information contact Old Pueblo at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.



The Gypsum Overlook Paleo-Archaic Archaeological Site . . .

Gypsum Overlook is an archaeological site on southern New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range, situated in the Tularosa Basin on the eastern shore of the now dry Paleo Lake Otero. Archaeological excavations at this site identified three or possibly four habitation structures, five hearths or roasting pits, and flaked and ground stone artifacts dating to approximately 8,800 years ago during the transition from the Paleoindian to Early Archaic period.

The cultural features and artifacts at Gypsum Overlook provide one of the earliest records of Early Holocene housing structures and ground stone assemblages in New Mexico and the greater Southwest, as people began to diversify their subsistence patterns to adapt to the drying and warming post-Pleistocene climate. The unusual preservation of the site is due to the unique ability of the White Sands' gypsum that has been burned to change into anhydrite, which is more resistant to erosion.

This burning preserved the site's features in stunning detail, allowing a rare view of the Paleo-Archaic adaptation in the Southwest.

For more information contact Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at info@oldpueblo.org or 520-798-1201.



*Photo above: New Mexico Department of Tourism
Photo below: Holloman Air Force Base*



Our Third Thursday presenter Matthew Cuba has been an archaeologist in the Tularosa Basin for 18 years and is currently the Cultural Resource Manager at Holloman Air Force Base. He graduated with his BA from Southeast Missouri State University in 2004 and his MA from New Mexico State University in 2014.

Matt's research interests focus on the Pleistocene/Holocene transition and the adaptation of Early Archaic subsistence patterns and lifeways in southern New Mexico and the American Southwest.