

Oregon dig uncovers ancient stone tool

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS — Archaeologists have uncovered a stone tool at an ancient rock shelter in the high desert of eastern Oregon that could turn out to be older than any known site of human occupation in western North America.

The find was announced Thursday by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which controls the land on which the site was found.

University of Oregon archaeologist Patrick O'Grady, who supervises the dig, says the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter outside Riley has not been fully excavated. But the tool, a hand-held scraper chipped from a piece of orange agate not normally found in eastern Oregon, was found about 8 inches below a layer of volcanic ash from an eruption of Mount St. Helens that has been dated to 15,800 years ago. The depth was about 12 feet below the surface.

Bureau of Land Management archaeologist Scott Thomas said that if the age of the site holds up to scrutiny, it would be the oldest west of the Rockies, and another predating the so-called Clovis culture, once generally believed to be the first people to migrate from Asia into North America. The earliest Clovis artifacts, known for distinctive and elegant stone points, are dated to about 13,000 years ago.



AP Photo/University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Patrick O'Grady
This June 2013 photo provided by the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History shows the Rimrock Draw Rockshelter archaeological dig outside Riley.

O'Grady called the find "tantalizing," but he added that they want to continue digging this summer to see whether the volcanic ash covers the entire area.

Donald K. Grayson, professor of archaeology at the University of Washington, said the scientific community would be skeptical.

"No one is going to believe this until it is shown there was no break in that ash layer, that the artifact could not have worked its way down from higher up, and until it is published in a convincing way," he said. "Until then, extreme skepticism is all they are going to get."

Two pre-Clovis sites are well documented and generally accepted by scientists, Grayson said. One is Paisley Cave, located about 60 miles southwest of the Rimrock site. The other is Monte Verde in Chile. Both are dated about 1,000 years before the oldest Clovis sites.

If the date of Rimrock holds up, it would put people at the site about 1,500 years earlier, at the end of the Pleistocene era, when mastodons, mammoths, camels, horses and bison roamed the area.

The find has yet to be submitted to a scientific journal for publication, but it has been reported

in newsletters and at conferences, Thomas said.

Thomas found the site several years ago, while taking a break from carrying supplies to a session of the University of Oregon Archaeological Field School nearby that O'Grady was overseeing.

Thomas said he noticed an outcropping of an ancient lava flow, with some very tall sage brush growing in front of it, indicating very deep sediment deposits. The soil was black in front of the rock, indicating someone regularly built cooking fires there for a long time. An ancient streambed ran by, which would have given people more reason to stay there. And on the surface, he found a stone point of the stemmed type, found at sites both older and younger than Clovis. Similar points have been found at Paisley Cave.

Volunteers looking around the surface found some 30 stemmed points, and the field school started excavations in 2011, O'Grady said. Uncovered above and below the volcanic ash layer were fragments of teeth believed to be from ancient camels.

Tests by Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc. of Portland on blood residue on the agate scraper were consistent with the bovid family of animals, Thomas said. The most likely bovine animal living in Oregon at that time would have been an ancestor of the buffalo.

BRIEFLY

Albany man kidnaps woman, assaults her for a week

ALBANY (AP) — An Albany man has been accused of kidnapping, raping and trying to kill a woman he kept against her will for about a week.

The woman slipped away from him on Monday, according to an affidavit, and ran to a neighbor's house for help.

Police arrested 37-year-old Craig Alexander Lazon on charges that included attempted aggravated murder, kidnapping, rape and assault, the *Albany Democrat-Herald* reported.

Court documents say he had previously been convicted of assaulting the woman.

The woman was tied up beginning Feb. 24 and was repeatedly assaulted, Linn County District Attorney Doug Marteeny said Wednesday at a hearing.

In a police interview at a Corvallis hospital, according to the affidavit, the victim said that, during the beatings, every time she made a noise or cried out in pain, Lazon would hit her harder.

It said he hit her on the back of the head with a screwdriver handle, choked her with his hands and a phone cord, and told her nobody came looking for her because nobody cared about her.

The affidavit said her face bones were broken. Police didn't immediately respond to a request Thursday for information about her condition.

On Monday, the affidavit says, Lazon tied her to the passenger door of a car and told her he would drown her in the Calapooia River. But when he returned to the house for his phone, she was able to escape.

Lazon is being held with bail set at \$500,000.

Washington House approves marijuana deals with tribes

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The Washington state House of Representatives passed by a wide margin a bill to allow the state's Native American tribes to formally participate in the state's legalized marijuana business.

The bill passed the House Thursday with bipartisan support in an 80-18 vote Thursday afternoon. It authorizes the governor's office to negotiate compacts with tribal groups that want to coordinate their marijuana businesses with the state's rules. The bill's lead sponsor, Rep. Christopher Hurst, D-Enumclaw, said the bill was needed after the federal government last year took the position that tribes in states with legal marijuana are free to set their own policies about the drug.

The bill moves next to the Senate for consideration.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

Automatic voter registration bill passed to governor

By PETER WONG
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Automatic voter registration, linked with Oregon driver records, is headed to Gov. Kate Brown.

The Senate passed the bill on a 17-13 vote Thursday.

"I applaud the Senate for passing House Bill 2177, Oregon's motor voter bill," Brown said in a statement after the vote. "Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for eligible voters to participate in our elections. As secretary of state, the motor voter bill was my top priority, and I look forward to signing this bill into law."

As she did on a similar bill two years ago, Democratic Sen. Betsy Johnson of Scappoose joined 12 Republicans against HB 2177. All other Democrats voted for it. The 2013 bill died on a 15-15 vote; Republicans then had 14

members.

The House passed it on Feb. 20, also along party lines.

As secretary of state, Brown testified for the bill on Feb. 2, the first day of the session. She became governor on Feb. 18 after John Kitzhaber resigned under pressure.

According to Gina Zejdklik, senior policy adviser to Brown and her chief of staff when Brown was secretary of state, the bill would add 300,000 to 400,000 voters to Oregon's 2.2 million registered voters. Estimates put the total eligible but unregistered at 800,000.

The bill authorizes electronic transfer of records from the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division to the secretary of state, which maintains the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration system that ties in Oregon's 36 counties.

Under current practice and a 1993 federal law, people are

asked if they want to register to vote or change their address when they obtain a driver's license. But those changes are made in paper form.

Driver records would not be transferred for those who are under age 18, those who are legally in the United States but are not citizens, and police officers, survivors of domestic violence and others whose records are already shielded from disclosure.

New voters can opt out of registration if they return a postcard within 21 days, up from the 14 days proposed in 2013. They also can indicate a political-party preference on the card; if they do not, they automatically will be registered with no party affiliation.

Republicans raised concerns about the security and privacy of records, citing a data breach last year on the secretary of state's website, although the breach did

not affect the voter registration system.

"With new technology, new problems arise," said Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. of Grants Pass.

Republican attempts failed on party-line votes to send the bill back to committee to add amendments.

Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum, D-Portland, said Oregon has done well in the share of registered voters who cast ballots in elections, because of statewide mail elections that voters authorized in 1998.

"Today our pioneering spirit brings us to a crucial reform that will empower our citizens," she said.

"While other states take steps to limit voter participation and to disenfranchise voters, the Oregon Legislature is bucking that trend. We are leading the nation."

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Sunshine; mild this afternoon	Mostly sunny and mild	Mostly sunny and comfortable	Mostly sunny and mild	Cloudy, breezy and mild
64° 37°	63° 34°	65° 39°	67° 40°	65° 45°
66° 32°	65° 31°	67° 36°	70° 37°	67° 43°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
66° 32°	65° 31°	67° 36°	70° 37°	67° 43°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	57°	29°
Normals	52°	33°
Records	74° (1972)	10° (1955)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.17"
Year to date	1.55"
Last year to date	2.77"
Normal year to date	2.68"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	58°	23°
Normals	54°	32°
Records	70° (1987)	8° (1955)

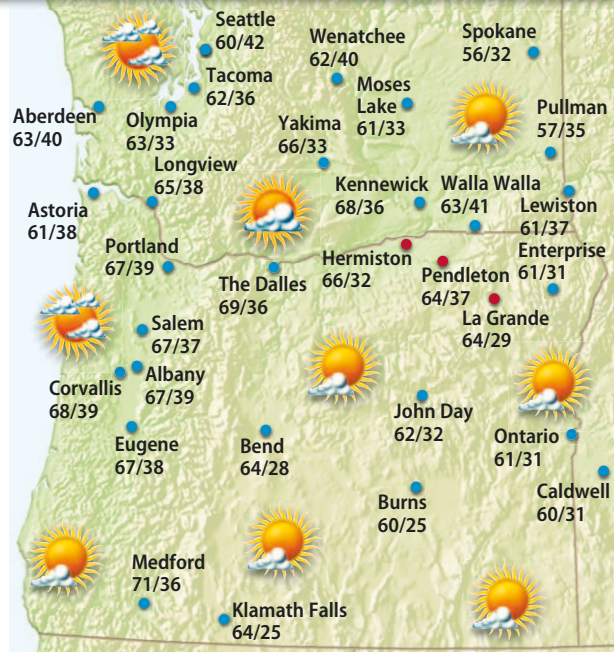
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.17"
Year to date	1.06"
Last year to date	2.02"
Normal year to date	2.41"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:48 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:06 p.m.
Moonset today	6:41 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 26	Apr 4



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Sunshine and patchy clouds today. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Some sunshine today. Partly cloudy tonight. Sunshine and patchy clouds tomorrow.

Cascades: Mild today with sunshine and patchy clouds. Partly cloudy tonight.

Western Washington: Times of clouds and sun today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

North Central California: Mostly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	61	38	pc	61	38	s
Baker City	60	26	s	62	26	s
Bend	64	28	s	66	29	s
Brookings	60	44	s	64	45	s
Burns	60	25	s	62	26	s
Enterprise	61	31	s	61	33	pc
Eugene	67	38	s	66	38	s
Heppner	67	36	s	65	35	s
Hermiston	66	32	s	65	31	s
John Day	62	32	s	61	28	s
Klamath Falls	64	25	s	65	26	s
La Grande	64	29	s	65	32	s
Meacham	59	28	s	59	27	s
Medford	71	36	s	71	38	s
Newport	60	42	pc	61	42	s
North Bend	61	43	s	63	42	s
Ontario	61	31	s	64	32	s
Pasco	64	31	s	65	31	s
Pendleton	64	37	s	63	34	s
Portland	67	39	pc	67	39	s
Redmond	64	25	s	65	26	s
Salem	67	37	pc	67	37	s
Spokane	56	32	pc	58	33	s
Ukiah	63	34	s	62	33	s
Vancouver	67	37	pc	67	36	s
Walla Walla	63	41	s	64	39	s
Yakima	66	33	pc	68	32	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	52	30	s	56	31	s
Hong Kong	72	66	c	74	67	c
Jerusalem	68	51	s	72	53	s
London	53	43	pc	58	45	pc
Mexico City	73	45	pc	73	50	pc
Moscow	33	26	s	35	25	c
Paris	50	33	pc	57	35	pc
Rome	54	40	s	55	39	s
Seoul	45	25	s	49	28	s
Sydney	83	66	s	80	69	s
Tokyo	49	41	c	48	43	r

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	VAR 2-4	N 3-6
Pendleton	WNW 3-6	NW 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 4 2 1 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

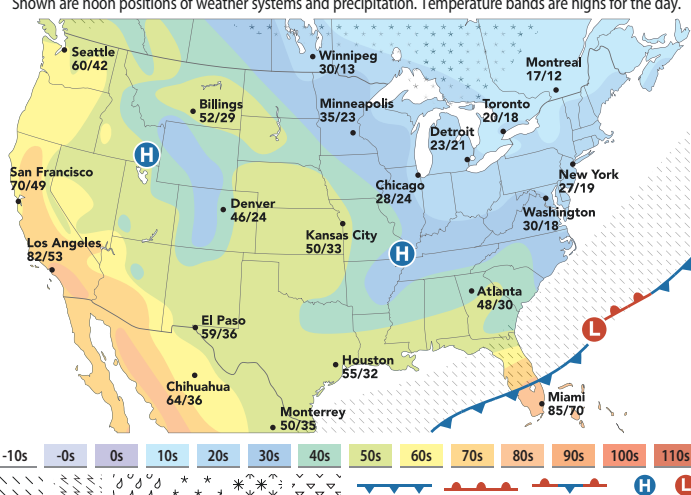
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Chilly rain will fall on the Florida Peninsula, while most areas from New England to the Upper Midwest and South are dry and cold today. Much of the West will be sunny with a warm afternoon.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 88° in Orlando, Fla. Low -37° in Brimson, Minn.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.				Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	59	28	s	61	31	s	Louisville	33	22	s	45	31	pc
Atlanta													