

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

A 10,000-year-old Site is Discovered along Oregon's Coast

Researchers at Oregon State University (OSU) have discovered another ancient site on a bluff along the coast of Oregon. News of the findings were reported in the *Associated Press* and the *Portland Oregonian*, coming soon after their article appeared in the recent issue of the journal *Radiocarbon*. The Bandon site is now the second oldest site in the state.

The site contains lithic debitage, fire-cracked rock—portions of a stone hearth remain. The site was initially recorded in 1951 and surface surveyed by archaeologists in later years, however, its maximum depth or age was never tested until they acquired the deep charcoal samples from 235 to 245 cm below surface.

Headed by Roberta Hall, professor emeritus at OSU, and Loren Davis, geoarchaeologist, this research builds upon their research at other sites along the coast (They described their research program for *Midden* readers in 2003 [35(3)]). Using a geomorphological approach, they have been targeting ancient beach deposits, from 8,000 to 15,000 years old, along the coast as likely areas to contain evidence of early peoples. So far, that premise seems to be working.

BA

More Tombs Near King Tut

The recent discovery of a new 18th century tomb in the Valley of the Kings has Egyptologists and archaeology buffs excited. While not likely a royal tomb, this new discovery reveals that there are still discoveries to be made in the Valley of the Kings. The discovery of KV63, as the tomb has been named, gives current and future archaeologists something new to dream about.

LK

Utah Law would Soften Archaeological Oversight

A Republican state representative in Utah, Brad Johnson, has proposed legislation to transfer the administration of archaeological excavations from the Antiquities Section—which is equivalent to the Archaeology Branch in BC—to the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office. Critics charge that the proposed bureau would be more concerned with facilitating development and less responsive to preservation concerns that express caution. The law would remove the State Archaeologist and also would lessen standards for excavators participating in projects. Those opposed to the law, mainly archaeologists, complain that a bureau unfamiliar with archaeological concerns would not be in a position to adequately assign permits or assess the work performed or the reports produced. John Harja, assistant director of the coordination office, told the *Associated Press* that he had worked on the initial antiquities law years ago, but that “There weren’t nearly as many companies [then] doing archaeological or historical work as today. And some of that is starting to strain the structure.” Proponents of the bill, according to the *Salt Lake City Tribune*, state that this law would help “expedite energy, wildlife and other projects” that are currently being “slowed by state archaeological reviews.” This law, if successful, would most likely be supported by the pro-development Bush Administration and possibly serve as a precedent for other Western states. The law, HB139, passed the state House on February 23, 2006, with a 61 to 13 vote, and awaits passage in the Senate.

BA

Pyramids – in Europe?

Controversial Bosnian-American explorer Semir “Sam” Osmanagic claims to have found a group of gigantic stepped pyramids in mountainous country near the town of Visoko, 30 km north of Sarajevo. The largest, dubbed the “Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun,” is similar in size to the great pyramids of Giza; it is located under the pyramid-shaped Visocica hill, which preliminary geological investigation indicates may be man-made. Many Bosnian-Herzegovinian scientists have received Mr. Osmanagic’s claims with healthy scepticism, awaiting the results of further research. If real, the pyramids could rattle accepted notions of European prehistory and early civilisation.

The Foundation “Archaeological Park: Bosnian Pyramid of the Sun” plans ambitious investigations of the possible pyramids over the next five years. The first season will last from mid-April to the end of October, the Foundation asserting that this will be the “largest geological-archaeological project in Europe in 2006.” If strong evidence for man-made structures is indeed found beneath the pyramid-shaped hills, and if they date to anywhere near the 12,000 BP Mr. Osmanagic speculates, the town of Visoko will earn its place on the archaeological map of the world. [Source: www.piramidasunca.ba]

RC

Precontact Shoe Melts from Yukon Ice

A 1,400-year-old moccasin has been released from its icy storage and reassembled. This is yet another artifact rescued from the ice of the Yukon, and it has potential to provide a brief glimpse into the life of the early Athapaskan people.

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