Researchers Study Natives Through Heating Process

By Duane Schrag
The Salina Journal

REPUBLIC COUNTY, Kan. (AP) — You might be surprised what you can learn from a campfire. A campfire that has been cold for, say, 300 years.

Stacey Lengyel is hoping she can tell, within 30 years or so, when it was used.

Lengyel, a research associate in anthropology at the Illinois State Museum, is the country’s leading authority on archeomagnetic dating, a process built around two phenomena: when heated, magnetic particles reorient themselves to magnetic north; and over time, magnetic north is, literally, all over the map.

“They call it a ‘drunken wander,’” said Lengyel. “Around 1600, it was real close to Earth’s rotational axis. Now, it is around 75 degrees latitude.”

Lengyel is one of scores — mostly volunteers, but also some highly credentialed professionals — who were enlisted this summer to help uncover new information about a Pawnee Indian settlement in northwest Republic County.

“One of the things we’re really hoping to learn is the actual age of the village,” said Richard Gould, administrator of the Pawnee Indian Museum. The museum encloses the floor of an 1820s earth lodge. It is surrounded by the remnants of many other structures. The earth has settled where each of the lodges once existed.

“We have 22 lodge depressions within the fenced area,” Gould said. “What we really want to do is pinpoint when it was lived in.”

The group also wants to learn more about this Pawnee Nation band’s lifestyle.

The Kitkehahki band was one of four Pawnee Nation bands. It also was dubbed the Republican band by French traders, who were impressed by the Pawnee’s collaborative culture. The Republican name then was adopted for the river and the county.

Band members were hunter-gatherers, Gould said. But they were transitioning to a farming lifestyle. They planted crops in the spring, went hunting for buffalo in the summer, harvested in the winter, and then left to hunt buffalo again in the winter.

The two-week archaeological dig is a project of the Kansas Archaeology Training Program, a venture now in its 33rd year that involves the Kansas Historical Society, the Kansas Anthropological Association, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

Donna Roper, research associate professor at the University of Kansas, is one of the principal investigators.

“Almost everyone here is a volunteer,” Roper said, pointing to dozens of people — young and old, scraping and sifting, pouring and lifting — swarming around intersecting trenches.

More than 150 volunteers, some of them students enrolled in KU’s Kansas Archaeological Field School, participated in the two-week dig.

Whenever potentially significant fragments were uncovered, their location would be charted before they were moved. Dirt shaved from the floor was bagged and then shaken through a series of increasingly fine meshes.

The team was looking for any telltale objects, such as seeds, tools or building materials, that offered insights into the band’s daily lives.

The archeomagnetic dating is a rather technological process. Once potential samples have been identified, “their location
and orientation are precisely measured, Lengyel said. About a dozen 1-inch cubes are then excised, encased to preserve them, then taken to a lab.

The chunks are then progressively demagnetized until their natural remnant magnetism can be measured, she said. The objects may have been partially magnetized by nearby lightning strikes, for example, or if they were stored near objects with strong magnetic fields. These weaker magnetic fields must be removed.

First their magnetic fingerprint is taken, and then they are slightly demagnetized. The process is repeated several times; each time weaker magnetic signals are purged. Eventually all that is left is the baseline magnetic signal, she said. If the material was fired to about 500 degrees Celsius or more, the magnetic field will point to where magnetic north was located at the time.

"The best dates we can get are within a 30-year time period," Lengyel said.
Gas production up in southeast Kansas

LAWRENCE — Recovering methane from underground coal beds helped elevate production in southeast Kansas and boosted Wilson County into the state's top 10 list of gas-producing counties, according to the Kansas Geological Society, based at The University of Kansas.

Wilson County, which ranked 11th in gas production in 2006, rose to eighth place in 2007 and onto a list of top producers previously comprised only of southwestern counties located in the expansive Hugoton gas area.

The Capital-Journal
Rebein elected to Humanities Council board

David J. Rebein, attorney with Rebein Bangerter PA, has been elected to the Kansas Humanities Council board of directors.

With offices in Topeka, KHC is a nonprofit organization that encourages the appreciation of history and heritage. Elected to a three-year term that began in March 2008, Rebein joins a 22-member board of directors representing civic and education leaders from across the state.

Rebein earned his law degree from the University of Kansas and his B.A. in political science from Washburn. He served as president of the Kansas Bar Association in 2006 and has been active on boards across the state, including the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce, Dodge City Community College, the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Kansas Sunflower Foundation and the Kansas Association of Commerce.
The names of more than 4,450 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas this spring have been announced by the University Registrar.

KU’s Class of 2008 numbers more than 7,000, including 2,555 who completed degree work in summer and fall 2007. KU conducts only one formal commencement ceremony each year. Sunday, May 18, was the date for the university’s 136th commencement procession into Memorial Stadium.

Included in lists of graduates this year were:

- Michael Austin Oller, son of Mike and Melva Oller of Hays, who received his Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees. Michael is the grandson of Mary Oller of Cunningham and Ed and Mary Tatro of Pratt.

- Megan Diane Jarmer Olson, daughter of Frank and Trish Jarmer of Pratt, who received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Megan is the granddaughter of A. J. and Mary Lou Jarmer of St. Leo and Lois Eskew of Penalosa.

- Ashley M Depenbusch, daughter of Jean Depenbusch of Hays and Alan Depenbusch of Victoria, who received her Bachelor of Arts in Women’s Studies with a minor in sociology. Ashley is the granddaughter of Priscilla Eck of Pratt.

- Kyle A Kitson, son of Curt and Jennifer Kitson of Hays, who received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Students have been honored with selection to the two honor roll listings, with 466 achieving the Dean’s Honor Roll (3.5 to 3.99 GPA).

- Mike Simon, Nashville has been named to the Dean’s Honor Roll
A collaborative effort between Nebraska Furniture Mart and Kansas City Kansas Community College has earned one of the highest honors from the Kansas City Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development, or ASTD.

Their partnership was one of several top Kansas City businesses and educational institutions receiving awards at the 2008 ASTD awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency. Other honorees included

On hand for the presentation of the ASTD Award included Pat Evers, NFM Warehouse Operations Manager; Jody Shipley, Human Resources Manager; Joanne Crane-Smith, KCKCC Director of Emerging Workers; Ed Lipsett, Director of Human Resources; and Denise Simmons and Kathy Brant, Human Resources Training Specialists.
Award

Continued from PAGE 1

Black & Veatch, Sprint, Cerner, the KU Confucius Institute and KU Continuing Education.

We did well; right there with the big dogs. There’s no doubt Nebraska Furniture Mart (NMF) is one of Kansas City’s leading retailers which provides language and cross-cultural training for their diverse workforce,” said Jeanne Crane-Smith, KCKCC Director of Emerging Workers, who coordinated much of the training programs offered to NMF.

Since May of 2005, KCKCC has offered a series of four programs aimed at improving working relationship and communications with NMF’s non-speaking English employees. Those programs included Cross-Cultural Training, Command Spanish for Warehousing, Command Spanish for Retail and English in the Workplace.

“We could not have done it without the College; it’s been an outstanding series,” says Denise Simmons, Human Resources Training Specialist for NMF. “We’ve been real pleased with what KCKCC has to offer. They’ve really met our needs. Whatever we’ve asked for, we’ve gotten – and some of those requests were made with a sense of urgency.”

Simmons says NMF implemented the training to keep up with the changing components of the staff and workforce and to mirror the demographics of the community. “Employees are taught NFM lingo so they can talk the same language which increases productivity and communication,” says Simmons.

“Also, it improves work relationships and provides life skills not only in the business field but out in the community. Our motto is ‘Improve Peoples’ Lifestyles’ which is why this is a win-win for both management

and our employees.

In addition to the four programs, KCKCC language consultant Stephanie Marquez has provided translation of Human Resources documents. The four programs:

Cross-Cultural Training – Taught by Dawn Strickland, members of management were taught how to manage Spanish-speaking employees. “They learned such things as the difference in work ethics, understanding Hispanic names, the demographics in our area and understanding the diversity of a Hispanic community that includes employees from Panama, Honduras, Cuba, El Salvador and Mexico,” says Crane-Smith.

Command Spanish for Warehousing – Taught by Sara Martella and Marquez, warehouse supervisors learned how to better interact with Spanish-speaking employees, primarily in the areas of giving and receiving instruction as well as safety and emergency language.

Command Spanish for Retail Sales – Taught by Marquez, retail employees learned common courtesies in dealing with Spanish-speaking customers. “They learned how to find what someone was looking for, numbers, costs, gathering specific personnel data and in some cases how to say ‘Could you

wait a moment until I can . . . and someone to help,‘” says Crane-Smith.

English in the Workplace – Approximately 60 non-English speaking employees are currently taking one of two seven-week classes taught by Crane-Smith for 1 hour each Tuesday and Thursday and there’s a waiting list for the next class. The classes are offered free of charge on company time and NFM provides necessary materials. “Everything is focused on work and how they can communicate with their English-speaking supervisors and co-workers.”
says Crane-Smith. "They're learning catch phrases and business culture tips such as the importance of making eye contact when speaking with their supervisors. Also, sometimes when they don't understand they'll still say yes so we're working on that cultural difference."

In addition to offering the English in the Workplace class, Simmons says NMF offers college tuition reimbursement for those employees who wish to take English as a Second Language or GED classes. "We've already gotten four very interested in enrolling," says Simmons, who is aided in coordinating the programs by Human Resources Specialist Training Specialist Kathy Brant.

Key to the success of the training has been the support of management. "Ron Blumpkin, our president; Ed Lipsett, the Director of Human Resources; and Pat Evers, the Operation Manager for the Kansas City Warehouse Center have all been big proponents with the their commitment of time and finances," says Simmons.

KCKCC photo by ALAN HOSKINS

KCKCC Director of Emerging Workers Jeanne Crane-Smith (left) introduced Nebraska Furniture Mart Human Resources Training Specialist Denise Simmons to NMF non-English speaking employees as part of an English in the Workplace class provided by KCKCC.
LBJ faculty, staff, and friends of the school gathered on Saturday, May 17, 2008 to celebrate the LBJ School’s 37th annual graduation convocation. This year, 128 LBJ students earned their Master of Public Affairs degree and four attained their Ph.D.

Leslie Jo Lukens, daughter of Ted and Vickie Lukens, Medicine Lodge, and granddaughter of Huston and Lois Mills, Lake City, and Ralph and Betty Lukens, Medicine Lodge, received her Master of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School at the University of Texas. Leslie graduated from Medicine Lodge High School in May 2000 and received a dual degree in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Kansas in May 2004 where she graduated with honors.

Leslie was employed by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City for a year and moved to Austin, Texas in 2005 to further pursue her education. She worked for the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas in Austin before starting her studies in the fall of 2006. She has accepted a job as a Research Analyst for Texas Guaranteed in Austin.