

Dig wraps up at Kanorado

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they migrated with the seasons. The tribes would find water and places to camp along the streams and would hunt from these camps. The tools would be chipped out of larger stones carried by the tribes, and some of these tool-making chips or flakes are what archeologists were finding at Kanorado.

“We have demonstrated that people were mobile back at this time,” Holen said, “and the tools are made from stones that came from Wyoming, Texas and maybe eastern Kansas.

“There is not a large amount of evidence, but there was not a large population in the Clovis days.”

Some volunteers, including Arendt, returned to the sites on Sunday to clean up and finish scraping in a few places. Arendt expected to excavate the vertebra. She has been digging for several years and is the president of the High Plains Chapter of the Anthropological Association, organized in the last year.

The high school cafeteria was packed with about 100 people for the ice-cream social and resumé. Photos taken at the dig sites were shown, and the main specimens discovered were on display in cases on a table.

Virginia Wulfkhule, an archeologist from the state Historical Society, said the Kanorado dig was the

30th site excavated with the help of the association. She introduced Harold and Margie Reed from Scott City, who had been on the first dig in 1975 near Scott City.

“Goodland has treated us super,” Wulfkhule said. “We want to thank all those who helped us, and especially the high school staff.”

Vita Tucker, president of the association, said 111 volunteers had registered and that 54 of those were first-time workers. She said it was encouraging to see the number of young people who participated for the first time.

From Goodland, Brad Geist, 14, and Tanner Oharra, 14, were digging at one site and Syndee Thornburg, 11, was at another. Other kids from Kansas came to dig and work in the lab.

A small group assisted Martin Stein, a state archeologist, survey other sites along Beaver Creek in Sherman County, looking for places for future research.

In the lab, volunteers helped clean, separate and catalogue artifacts from previous digs. Mary Conrad said volunteers spent 1,167 hours washing, dry brushing and sorting materials from eight sites.

Chris Garst, lab supervisor, said volunteers catalogued over 300 bags of artifacts from the sites, including 121 from historic Fort Hays. Dr. Mandel said the founder of



All the volunteers had packed up and left archeology dig site 106 south of Kanorado (above) on Saturday afternoon at the end of the two-week excavation. Hai Huang, a graduate student from Shanghai, China, (right) split a watermelon to share with the volunteers at site 106 during the last break on Saturday.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

the Odyssey Archeological Research Fund, Joe Horner, had visited the Kanorado site during the second week, and was impressed with the efforts of the volunteers.

“We were glad to see the number of kids involved,” Mandel said, “because these are our leaders for the next generation to help preserve our history.

“We were glad to work with the Denver museum people and we will be scratching at Kanorado for years to come.”



Volunteers enjoyed evenings camping, visiting, eating

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Around 100 new faces have been seen in restaurants, hotels, downtown shops and campsites around town the last 10 days as participants of the archeological dig near Kanorado invaded the area.

Some stayed in tents at the county park at Smoky Gardens, while others set up camp across from the high school, at the Sherman County fairgrounds and at the KOA Campground. Still others abandoned the outdoors for the privacy and running water of a hotel room, with one group staying in the Goodland High gym.

After a day digging in hot sun, Vita Tucker, president of the Kansas Anthropological Association, said she can't wait for a shower.

“If you're out in the field,” she said, “it's kind of mandatory to take a shower.”

Tucker came from Burlingame in northeastern Kansas in a recreational vehicle and has spent her time at the KOA.

The campground has had about 20 campers from the dig, managers say, filling about seven spots over the two weeks.

Every night, Tucker said, the association has put on a program, from touring the historic Ennis-Handy House and downtown Burlington, to talks from scientists.

Most nights, she said, she grabs a quick bite to eat at the camper before heading back out. After the programs, she said, some people will stop for an ice cream at Dairy Queen.

The tours of Goodland, she said, have been interesting and she has enjoyed the town.

Tucker said on most digs, association members stay in the same place and share meals, play games



Rick Ellerman (right) played a game of Uno with Erin Spencer on Friday night after a long day spent cleaning artifacts and attending classes for the archeological dig.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

and hang out. This time, she said, people are staying in too many different places.

“We like to get together as a group,” she said.

Another group of dig participants said they had visited every restaurant in town, and Reynaldos is a favorite.

“We love Reynaldos,” said one student who said he had visited the Mexican food restaurant for breakfast and dinner.

Erin Spencer, a student from Valley Falls in northeastern Kansas, spent two weeks camped out in the high school gym along with her friend Rick Ellerman, from nearby

Nortonville.

The floor in the high school gym was spread with two air mattresses and two folding cots made up with sheets blankets and pillows. Next to the beds were areas with room for luggage and personal items, including folding chairs and a table.

Ellerman said the gym was nearly full at the beginning of the dig, but participants had thinned out over the two weeks.

He and Spencer found some room in bleachers above the gym floor, making room for a cooler, chairs and other items normally used for outdoor camping.

Spencer was disappointed they couldn't camp outside at the school, but after seeing the weather — cooler-than-normal nights and some rain — she was glad for the roof over her head.

She said access to the showers in the gym was nice.

Ellerman and Spencer said they spent most evenings at the programs.

Spencer said to pass the time they talked about their busy day of classes, digging and lab work.

“It's like a full-time job,” she said, “working 8 to 5.”

In the evenings, she said, they

walked downtown, played Uno and read.

“It's a nice town,” Spencer said. “Hopefully we'll have a dig out here again.”

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