

One Colby woman looks to start archaeology group here

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

April is Kansas Archaeology Month and for one Colby woman it is her hope that by raising awareness about this fascinating field, others will consider joining her in starting a chapter locally.

As a member of the Kansas Anthropological Association, Nancy Arendt said that a chapter could be started here and there would be support from archaeologists.

Three years ago, she said she joined the association because of her passion to explore the past.

"I have always wanted to search for native American sites and learn more about that era through archaeology," she said.

As an amateur, she has surveyed and recorded three sites in the

Rawlins County area. Those sites were native American campsites, she said. Along with her personal interest in this field, Arendt also said she is concerned about the state's cultural heritage.

"It is so important to protect and preserve these sites while making a scientific investigation about the resources in the state," she said.

When talking about investigating and preserving, Arendt also wanted to reassure landowners that in the event evidence of the past are found, they will not lose rights to the land.

"Use of the land would still remain at the discretion of the owner," she said.

"The information from any site would be recorded at the Kansas State Historical Society and this

information would only be available to professionals and not the general public."

As for Kansas' prehistoric past, not a lot has been surveyed and recorded, she said, and through archaeology people learn the correct way to investigate and study those times.

Arendt said she has attended field schools which provide hands-on digging with professionals.

"I have found tools, pottery, arrowheads and other artifacts from the past," she said.

As for the special month set aside in raising awareness, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation celebrating archaeology month with the theme of "trails."

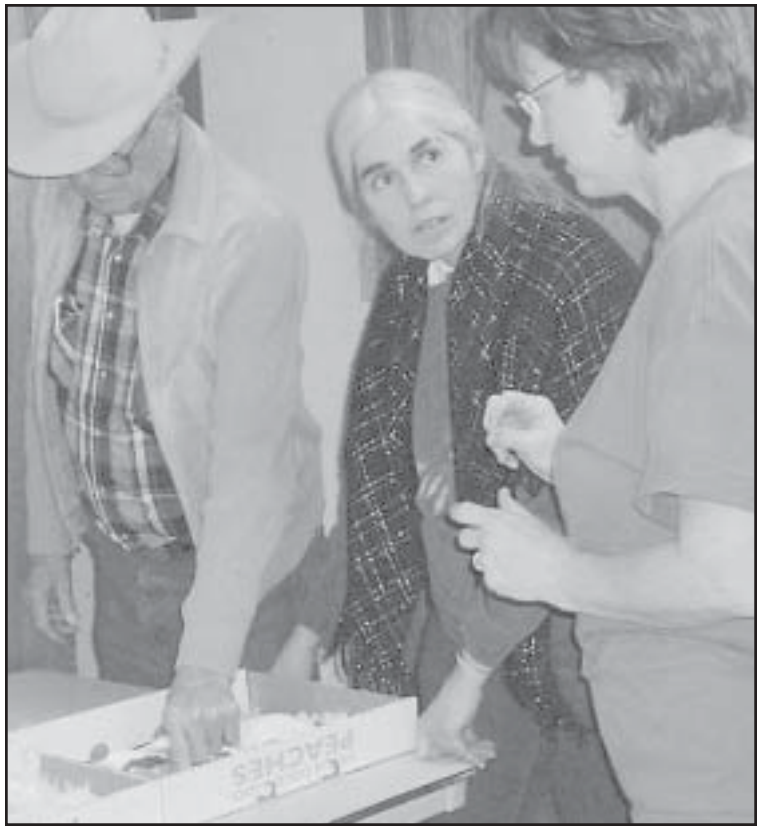
Archaeology offers a way to learn about the prehistory of the state,

Arendt said, and the resources from digs are irreplaceable and rapidly diminishing. "If someone disturbs a burial site," she said, "it is against the law and if a burial site is found, then local law enforcement officers need to be contacted and those finding the site cannot disturb it."

It's a fascinating field to explore, she said, and by organizing a chapter here meetings can be held, planning discussed and information collected.

She said she is looking forward to sharing the correct methods of investigating the past or answering other related questions about her experiences in archaeology.

Anyone interested in more information or in helping to start an archaeological chapter in Colby can call Arendt at 460-6653.



Nancy Arendt, Colby, (right) showed Linda Davis-Stephens and Tim Adrian some of the artifacts she is recording for the Kansas State Historical Society.

High School cheerleaders, students honored

Colby High School was awarded the 2004 Class 4A Girls Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. The student body was presented with the plaque and the cheerleaders received their medals April 16 during a student assembly at the high school.

The varsity basketball cheerleaders for the past season were Brandy Bussen, Amber Dempewolf, Crys-

tal Herschberger, Sarah Karlin, Katie Wahlmeier and Hope Schmid. Coaches were Lynn Carpenter and Amanda Kidder.

They would like to thank the community of Colby, the basketball fans that supported the Lady Eagles and the Lady Eagles basketball team and coaches for working together to achieve the award.

The award was given through the

Kansas State High School Activities Association. All 96 high school teams that participated in the state tournament qualified for the Outstanding Sportsmanship Awards at the event.

Schools whose teams didn't advance to the semifinal rounds were eligible to receive a certificate if they met the qualifying standards of sportsmanship.

Schools participating all three days of the tournament were eligible to receive a plaque for their school and medals for cheerleaders. A committee evaluated and rated

the cheerleaders, school cheering section, adult and non-high school followers, team and coach of each school.

Those people were evaluated on their behavior that was characterized by a generosity and genuine concern for others and an awareness for their behavior and impact on other individuals that attended the games.

They were also judged on how well they were able to follow the Citizen/Sportsmanship Rule 52 that states "Win with character and lose with dignity."

Free kindergarten screenings set

A free screening for preschool children will be held Thursday, April 29 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Golden Plains Elementary School in Selden. To make an appointment or for more information about the screening, call (785) 386-4560.

Kindergarten enrollment and screening for next year's kindergarten students will be held on the same day from 1-3 p.m.

Parents of children who will be 5-years-old on or before Aug. 31 should call for an appointment.

Hoxie Sentinel changes hands

Bill and Pam Gasper, owners of the *Hoxie Sentinel*, recently announced the sale of their newspaper to Jerry, Kirk and Mark Anderson, Cimarron, who own eight other Kansas newspapers. The paper will change hands at the end of April.

The Gaspers intend to return to Ellis in late May or early June to

operate the *Ellis Review*, which they have owned since 1983.

"It was a tough decision to leave our many friends in the Hoxie area, but we have a desire to return to our roots in Ellis County," said Bill Gasper.

"The move will allow me to return to school and enable Pam to spend more time with family."

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