

Archaeological past on display at Santa Cruz Mission

SANTA CRUZ — The archaeological past will be on display Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. at the site of the Santa Cruz Mission, Holy Cross Church, 126 High Street.

Artifacts discovered by archaeology students last summer will be displayed at the site of the dig.

Cabrillo archaeology teacher Rob Edwards says the public is invited to view the open trenches and such artifacts as Indian beads, tools and some Mexican-style artifacts also found at the site. This summer's archaeological field class will be on hand to show visitors the site.

The dig consists of the remains of a large adobe building, some 280 feet long, which was discovered by last year's summer class. Edwards says it may have been used as the priests' headquarters and later as a workshop, hospital, Indian dormitory or some combination of these.

Edwards thinks the second Mission Chapel may have been located under the front porch of this old building. Historical research, he says, indicates that such a chapel was constructed at the site.

The original mission was at the base of Mission Hill, according to Edwards, but was moved to higher ground after flooding during the 1790s.



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Student Gunnela Verger examines findings.

To view the archaeological dig, the public should park in the Holy Cross Church parking lot and walk east along High Court, following the signs. Anyone interested is welcome.



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Students Barbara Claman, left, and Mark Farris wash off decades of collected dust.