

Grant helps Escondido museum

Renovations to archaeology center means more space and more collections

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ESCONDIDO — Ongoing renovations will give the San Diego Archaeological Center a new look — and plenty of space for new exhibits.

The California Cultural and Historic Endowment recently voted to grant \$493,088 to the center for installation of its latest improvement: compactible shelving.

“It will make it easier to quickly retrieve artifacts for research, educational and exhibit purposes,” said Margie Burton, research director at the San Diego Archaeological Center. “Also, it will allow us to accept more collections.”

The center has approximately 4,500 cubic feet of collections. After the compactible shelving is installed, the center will be able to hold its current collection in 2,000 cubic feet of space.

“The reason we exist is because most museums are out of space, so they are very discriminatory about the collections they take,” said Melinda Newsome, director of development at the San Diego Archaeological Center. “We take all archeological collections.”

Renovations should allow the center enough space for the next 10 to 15 years, according to Newsome.

The center has plans to make cross-referencing easier, and photographic records will be included with the artifacts. In addition to installing the shelving, new improvements in the center will include renovation of the building, entryway, exhibit space and a new classroom.

“The archaeological center is going to be a major destination adjacent to the Wild Animal Park,” said Newsome. “I really think that it will fulfill (San Diego City councilman) Brian Maienschein’s vision for the area.”

Funding for the improvements is provided through Proposition 40, the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. The