



Native relics found in Azusa

Library to host artifacts display

BY MARIANNE LOVE
STAFF WRITER

AZUSA — Hundreds of pieces of prehistoric artifacts found at an ancient village during the grading of a new-home development go on display Saturday.

About 50 manos, or hand tools, nutcrackers and other grinding-tool relics used by the Tongva/Gabrielino Indians in the village known as Ashuukshanga will be on public view at the Azusa Public Library, 729 N. Dalton Ave.

Ashuukshanga, where Azusa derived its name, was one of the larger villages where the aboriginal people lived in thatched concave enclosures and circular huts.

The artifacts were unearthed in December by an archaeology firm hired by the city to monitor the grading of Rosedale, a 1,250-home neighborhood on the former Monrovia Nursery property below the Angeles National Forest.

Sam Dunlop, an archaeologist and member of one of three Los Angeles County Gabrielino tribes, was at the site below the Angeles National Forest when artifacts from the prehistoric village were uncovered again.

The village was first unearthed in 1962 by the UCLA Archaeological Survey, so the area was known to be sensitive.

Monitoring by Native Americans began at Rosedale once grading reached the area found by UCLA, Dunlop said.

"The archaeologist and paleontologist were on-site from the beginning," Dunlop said.

Dunlop said it was necessary to have three Native-American monitors because different areas were being graded at the same time.

Once the camp was uncovered, construction was diverted



GREG ANDERSEN / STAFF

ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY: Archeologist Sherri Gust of Cogstone Resource Management Inc. shows a display of Tongva Indian tools unearthed at the Monrovia Nursery construction site in Azusa last December. The display will make its debut at Azusa Public Library on Saturday and will be on display through the summer.

and the six-week excavation was done to a depth of more than 6 feet.

A draft analysis determining the age of the artifacts will be done through carbon samples taken from a hearth made of manos that was found along

with residue from the food-preparation tools.

The report is expected to reach the Azusa City Council by mid-July.

The camp, measuring 120 feet

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IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** A blessing of a prehistoric artifacts display from the Tongva/Gabrielino Indian tribe
- **WHEN:** 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday
- **WHERE:** Azusa Public Library, 729 N. Dalton Ave.
- **PHONE:** (626) 812-5232

