

WEEKLY DIGEST

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Division of Boating and Waterways | Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division | Office of Historic Preservation

December 21, 2018

"Live the Parks Life" Photos: Top Five

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Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

Photo Title: *The Other Oceano*

Why is this “Living the Parks Life”: “To show the vastness of our parks and its often unwitnessed, rugged beauty. This also shows the stark contrast from the heavily populated and vehicle-filled off-highway vehicle area here at Oceano Dunes SVRA. This shows State Parks Peace Officer P. Cullen ‘Living the Parks Life’ as he is taking the time to foot patrol into the farthest reaches of our park, areas often left unpatrolled for months of our busiest

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Photo taken: Sept. 28, 2018 with an iPhone 6

Photo by: Taylor Riis, Oceano Dunes District. Riis has been a State Park Peace Officer since 2016 but has been with California State Parks since 2005.



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Photo Title: *The New Face of Firefighting*

Why is this “Living the Parks Life”: “I took this photo to inspire other women and girls that no job or field of study is out of reach for them. That everyone can “Live the Parks Life.” It’s important that we accurately portray the important role of women in outdoor fields, so that we can show the next generation of environmental stewards that Parks and the outdoors are spaces for them, and that they too can have an active impact and voice in preserving and protecting the wild places that we all love. Pictured is Michelle Ly (Fire Management Crew with California State Parks).”

Photo taken: Oct. 23, 2018 with a Canon 5D Mark iii

Photo By: Sarinah Simons, Sierra District. Simons is a human-bear management specialist and media specialist and has been with the department for three years.



Crystal Cove State Park

Photo Title: *Living the Parks Life Underwater*

Why is this “Living the Parks Life”? “In the photo, State Parks Peace Officer Lifeguard and rescue boat operator Todd Shanklin and State Parks Peace Officer Lifeguard Ryan Gates are preparing to conduct a condition survey of a Navy F4U Corsair fighter plane that crashed in 1949 and rests on the bottom in 70 feet of water at Crystal Cove State Park. The work being done by both lifeguards shows how staff is providing stewardship in our parks

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wherever there's a need, either underwater or on land. It shows them living the Parks life underwater as well as above.”

Photo taken: November 2018 with a Canon D12 camera.

Photo By: Kenneth Kramer, Training Section. Kramer is a diving safety officer for Parks and has been a retired annuitant for six years. He previously worked for the department for 40-plus years.



Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

Photo Title: *Boris at the Beach*

Why is this “Living the Parks Life”: “I took this photo because the beach conditions were some of the best I had ever seen, and K-9 Boris and I had just gotten done searching for a suspect. We stopped for a quick second on the beach and the lighting was perfect! These are the type of sunsets you only get to enjoy if you are working at the beach every day. There was not a drop of sand out of place that had been groomed from the winds.”

Photo taken: October 2018 with an iPhone XS Max

Photo By: Mike Dippel, Oceano Dunes District. Dippel is a Supervising State Park Peace Officer and has been with the department for 10 years.

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Photo Title: *Interpretation Fun*

Why is this “Living the Parks Life”: “Working for State Parks gives one an opportunity to explore the creative side of life. Here, State Park Interpreter Carmen Aurrecoechea painted up her face for our Halloween twilight hike as a mule deer. Everyone who saw her got a kick out of her make-up. The kids had the best time trying to guess what Carmen was made up as. Her make-up opened up many conversations with park visitors and made the hike more fun for everyone involved.”

Phot taken: Oct. 27, 2018 with a Canon SX 65.

Photo by: Michele Hernandez, Colorado Desert District. Hernandez is a state park interpreter and has been with the department for four-and-a-half years.



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The *Weekly Digest* will be on hiatus until Friday, January 11 for the holiday break. You can continue to submit articles and photos.

Thank you everyone for your submissions and we wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.



WHAT'S NEW

Show Your Favorite "Hidden Gems" for the Next State Parks Photo Contest

Story from: Jorge Moreno, Communications Office



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The bighorn sheep at Providence Mountains State Recreation Area are a rare gem when seen.

For the “Live the Parks Life” photo contest we asked you to submit photos showing us how you are “living the parks life” whether you worked in an office or out in the field. Your participation again provided a lively discussion in the Communications Office to choose our favorite top five. The top five photos (see above) each told a unique story with a different perspective, showing us a glimpse of the work you do in helping accomplish California State Parks’ mission of inspiring, educating and protecting California’s cultural and natural resources in a variety of ways. Whether you are an interpreter, ranger, environmental scientist, maintenance worker or a volunteer, each of you told a story with the photos submitted.

As part of the “prize,” these photos will be shared next week (December 24 - 31) on California State Parks’ social media accounts ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#)). Make sure to give them a thumb’s up! Thank you to all who participated in the contest. If you want to check out the rest of the photos submitted, we will add them to our [Flickr](#) by Jan. 4, 2019.

For the next photo contest, show us the “Hidden Gems” of your favorite state park you think others should know about. The “Hidden Gem” can be your favorite trail, a historical artifact or object at a museum, a plant or tree, a staff or volunteer member at the park, a serene or beautiful spot you enjoy, an animal, or an activity you like to do at the park. Whatever hidden gem you capture in a photo, please make sure it is accessible to everyone (not in an area off trails).

To be eligible to participate, you must be a State Parks employee or park volunteer and submit your photos to the *Weekly Digest*. Give us a brief description of why this is a “Hidden Gem,” and the name of the state park. The Communications Team will announce the top five photos in late March 2019. The photos will be showcased in the *Weekly Digest* as well as State Parks’ social media channels with their photo credit.

The rules/criteria to submit photos are:

- Submit photos to the [Weekly Digest](#) email address with the subject line “Hidden Gems.”
- Your favorite “Hidden Gem” must be accessible to everyone.
- Photos must be taken between Dec. 21, 2018 through March 11, 2019.
- Photos with images of non-park staff must include a photo [Release Form](#) (DPR 993).
- Photos must be taken at one of California’s 280 state parks.
- Park employees and volunteers can submit photos.
- Photo will be judged on photo quality/uniqueness/moment captured/content.
- Top five photos will be shared on California State Parks’ social media channels and the *Weekly Digest*.
- Photos will be judged by the Communications team (who is not eligible to participate in the contest.)
- Photo images should be a minimum of 1920×2400 ppi.

If you have any questions on the contest, please send an email to the *Weekly Digest*.

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Where is your "hidden gem" in the Avenue of the Giants? (Humboldt Redwoods State Park)

Park Operations' John Fraser Becomes Capital District Superintendent

Story from: Jason De Wall, Northern Division Chief

We are pleased to announce John Fraser as the new Capital District Superintendent. John has served as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of Park Operations since 2015—advising the Deputy Director on all aspects of statewide operations while steering policy development, revenue generation, and working on a variety of key initiatives associated with the Department's transformation effort, such as the Service Based Budgeting effort and the Structural Reorganization Project.

Since 2016, John has also served as the Acting Chief of the Interpretation and Education Division, leading that core program through structural changes, the establishment of new program funds, and the build-out of new and existing district interpretive programs. John helped steer the growth of the Department's underserved access efforts, the further development of digital education platforms, and the integration of new functions such as the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle and Boating and Waterways outreach and education programs.

John started with California State Parks as a historian within the Cultural Resources Division, where he oversaw statewide funding programs, information management systems and performed historic building assessments and evaluations.



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John holds a BA (History) and MA (History) from California State University, Sacramento. He lives in Elk Grove, California, with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children, Michael, Grant and Abigail.

California State Parks and Recreation Commission Member Anthea Hartig Named New Director of Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Story from: Communications Office



California State Parks and Recreation Commission Member Anthea Hartig was recently named the director for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Hartig, who has been a commissioner since 2016, will be the first woman to hold the director position in its 54-year history. In her new role, she will open three exhibitions that are part of the [Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative](#), #BecauseOfHerStory.

Commissioner Hartig has been executive director and chief executive of the [California Historical Society](#). She was also chair of the California State Historic Resources Commission from 2001 to 2005.

To read more about Hartig's new role, click [here](#).



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FIELD REPORT

State Parks Rescue Captured on Camera at Carmel-by-the-Sea

Story from: James Northhelfer, Monterey District



Carmel-by-the-Sea resident Calvin Clack captured Lifeguard II David Buckalew rescuing a body surfer on Monday, December 17. Photo from Calvin Clack.

A high-surf advisory was in effect earlier this week from Sonoma County to Monterey County. In Carmel-by-the-Sea, a local resident was taking photos of the big surf when he happened to capture a surf rescue on camera.

While this happened in the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, which is not part of the State Park System, our state park lifeguards respond to all 911 calls for an aquatic rescue within Monterey District. On Monday, Dec. 17, Seasonal Lifeguard II David Buckalew swam through large dangerous surf to rescue a body surfer. David eventually swam the victim out to a U.S. Coast Guard vessel.

There was a National Weather Service high surf warning and the local monitoring buoy was measuring waves 21 feet high every 19 seconds. State Park Ranger Zach Haney helped from shore by guiding David to the victims, using hand signals. State Park Lifeguard Supervisor James Northhelfer was preparing to launch a rescue water craft, also known as a Personal Water Craft (PWC), but it was not needed.

Once David ensured the victim was safely aboard the Coast Guard's 47-foot motor lifeboat, he swam back to shore through the large surf. CAL FIRE, Carmel Fire and Carmel Police

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The Coast Guard boat transported the victim to the nearby Stillwater pier in Pebble Beach. He was evaluated by AMR. The victim was an experienced swimmer and water polo player who had been body surfing at 4th Street without fins when a rip current pulled him away from shore.

Our group worked as a team to safely affect a successful rescue. This is a testament to great training and agencies working together toward a common goal.

Below is the email from the photographer who captured the rescue:

Dear Parks Department,

On Monday, December 17, 2018, my wife and I walked to the local beach, here in Carmel-By-The-Sea, to shoot pictures of the massive ocean swell that hit the California coastline. As we were setting up, we noticed a person running full speed towards the beach break, which was excessively large and ugly looking. Our first thought being it was a belly boarder getting a running start to hit the water, swim out into the takeoff spot and start catching waves.

However, we soon realized it was a rescue operation unfolding right before our camera lenses. After this rescue ended, I told the State Parks employee, who performed the rescue, that I had shot pictures of his rescue and would try and get the them into his possession.

Please forward the following link to him. It was a textbook rescue operation, not only by your employee, but by all those departments involved, and it was his amazing efforts that really moved us. A huge congratulations to him, his training and your department in providing this service.

Note: These photographs were shot with a 300mm telephoto with a 2X converter, so it may look like the people are close to the shore, but in fact were probably 150 yards plus, off the beach.

To view all of the photos, click [here](#).

Thanks in advance.

Regards,

Calvin E. Clack

Carmel-by-the-Sea resident



Top: High-surf advisory from Sonoma County to Monterey County earlier this week. Bottom: U.S. Coast Guard motor lifeboat and helicopter assist in rescue. Photos from Calvin Clack, Carmel-by-the-Sea resident

Special State Parks Peace Officer 40th Anniversary Badge to Commemorate Defensive Tactics Program

Story from: Dan Kraft, Monterey District

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Lead Defensive Tactics Instructor Rod Sanford (center with silver mustache) is pictured with other members of the defensive tactics instructor team at Sanford's Martial Arts in Soquel. Photo from John Anderson, San Diego Coast District.



California State Parks' defensive tactics program turns 40 next year. To highlight this anniversary, a special State Park Peace Officer Anniversary Badge has been authorized to wear from Jan. 1, 2019 until Dec. 31, 2019, in place of the standard department badge.

Back in 1979, a group of rangers began a search for a defensive tactics program to provide rangers and then lifeguards with the tools needed to meet the challenges and legal requirements of serving as peace officers in California. The group explored a variety of different defensive tactics systems and, in 1984, agreed to use the Pacific Institute of

Defensive Tactics (PIDT) model. The PIDT system has been used to train department officers ever since.

California State Parks staff instructors began this 40th anniversary commemoration at last month's defensive tactics staff instructor refresher, when they took a team photo and presented Rod Sanford with a plaque. Rod is the department's lead defensive tactics

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instructor known as *sensei* to the staff. The plaque commemorates his decades-long commitment to the department and this program.

Purchasing the 40th anniversary badge is optional and is at the individual employee's expense. Present and retired state park peace officers (SPPO) can purchase the badge, which is \$95. Those interested can contact SPPO Lifeguard John Anderson at (619) 666-3176 or at John.Anderson@parks.ca.gov.

More than 100 Volunteers Honored for Contributions to California State Parks

Story from: Dennis Weber and Rachel Young, Partnerships Division



Photo 1: Volunteers Sally Mertens and Dan Mertens, Interpreter I Devin Swartwood, and Park Interpretive Specialist Mara Naber from Central Valley District. Photo 2: Monterey Sector Superintendent Sean James, Volunteer Sue Addleman, and Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Gobell from Monterey District. Photo 3: Volunteer Bill Parker, Interpreter II Sally Theriault, and Colorado Desert District Superintendent Gina Moran from Colorado Desert District.

Volunteers are vital to California State Parks. More than 36,000 dedicated volunteers help to make our parks a success.

The first volunteers served more than 100 years ago. Today's volunteers put in more than 1 million hours of service annually. They help in dozens of ways, including interpretation, public contact, public safety, park operations, park equipment maintenance, park administration and natural and cultural resource protection.

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Although all volunteers are valued, some are recognized for exemplary service by the director and the districts in which they serve.

This year, California State Parks honored 111 volunteers for their service through the presentation of Poppy and Medallion Awards.

A total of 24 volunteers were presented with Medallion Awards for Superior Achievement—the highest honor—to individual volunteers or teams of volunteers who made significant contributions recognized by the California State Parks Director toward the mission and goal of the department. Poppy Awards for Exemplary Volunteer Service were presented to 87 volunteers for significant contributions to the betterment of parks.

These award programs are year-round opportunities to recognize the parks' most exemplary volunteers. Thank you to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

The 2018 awardees are as follows:

Medallion Award

- **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park:** Robert Keeley, Sandra Keeley
- **Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve:** Barbara Hoffman
- **Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve and Sonoma Coast State Park:** Joan Bacci
- **Carpinteria State Beach:** Arthur and Jeanine Lewis
- **Division of Boating and Waterways (Dockwalker Program):** Charlie Duncan
- **Empire Mine State Historic Park:** Barbara Jarvis
- **Hearst Castle:** Manya Brett, Vanna Clegg, Anita Judd
- **Humboldt Redwoods State Park:** Cathy Mathena
- **Mount Diablo State Park:** Carol Lane, Conrad Lowry, Jerry Schweickert
- **Mount San Jacinto State Park:** Carl Maple
- **Point Sur State Historic Park:** Todd Bullman, John O'Neil, Douglas Williams
- **Sonoma Coast State Park:** Hollis Bewley
- **Sutter's Fort State Historic Park:** Judy Prey, Geri Royer, Joseph Waltz, Annette Webster

Poppy Award

- **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park:** Jon Gilbert, Terry Hunefeld, Birgit Knorr, Bill Parker, Nancy Parker, Gabriel Vogeli
- **Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve:** Dori Heath
- **Calaveras Big Trees State Park:** Dan Mertens, Sally First, Bob Mergl
- **Carpinteria State Beach:** Mareda Cegielski, Tex Dunlap, Chelle Feldman, Carol and Bill Fetzer, Cheryl and Doug Hammer, Mary Hernandez, Andy Jordan, Forrest Marsh, Mary Marsh, Fran Teutimez
- **Clear Lake State Park:** Pam Harrison, Phil Harrison
- **Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park:** Emmett Harden, Hazel Kennedy
- **Columbia State Historic Park:** Janis Cargill
- **Empire Mine State Historic Park:** Bill Blount, Jim Coe, Frank Hamlin, Troy Hammer, Jay Hansell

Salmon Lake State Recreation Area: Lissa Autry, Joell Hall

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- **Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument (Hearst Castle):** Dave Babcock, Edward Korte, Sophie Korte
- **Henry W. Coe State Park:** Teddy Goodrich
- **MacKerricher State Park:** Hazel Vagle
- **Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park:** Judy Arbuckle, Annamarie Rivera
- **Mendocino Headlands State Park:** Dermot and Marietta O'Kelly
- **Montaña de Oro State Park:** Gordon Kessler
- **Morro Bay State Park:** Steve Raney
- **Mount Diablo State Park:** Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Jennifer Roe, Shima S. Sakata
- **Mount San Jacinto State Park:** Richard Martinez
- **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park:** Sergia Castellanos, Larry Edwards, Nelda Harris, Kahla Oteo, Ginny Pence, Patrick Rogers, Jeana Skinner
- **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve:** Sue Addleman
- **Point Sur State Historic Park:** Marilyn Higbie, Susan Mar, Cathy Seyferth, Connie Masotti, Linda Rath
- **Red Rock Canyon State Park:** Louis Figueroa, Jr.
- **Richardson Grove State Park:** Charles Cooper
- **Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park:** Ray and Ann Vincent
- **Sinkyone Wilderness State Park:** Carla Thomas
- **Sonoma State Historic Park:** Yvonne Bowers, Ron Chapman, Carol Lavaroni
- **Sonoma Coast State Park:** Patricia Ross, Ronald Ross,
- **Sonoma Mendocino Coast District, Russian River Sector:** Duane Nibblett, Ursula Nibblett, Bud Veliquette
- **South Yuba River State Park:** Ardie Obert
- **Sutter's Fort State Historic Park:** Howdy Hoover, Lee Shebloski, David Stare, Carol Toyama
- **Trione-Annadel State Park:** Brian Curtis, Lorie Florence, Mark Florence
- **Wilder Ranch State Park:** Allan B. Allen, Breta Holgers, Ken Sievers

Although volunteers are most often presented with these awards at their park or district volunteer recognition events, volunteers can be nominated at any time by any department employee. To nominate a volunteer, send a completed and signed nomination form ([DPR 208I \[Medallion Award Nomination\]](#) or [DPR 208J \[Poppy Award Nomination\]](#)) to Rachel Young, Volunteers in Park Program Specialist, at rachel.young@parks.ca.gov.

Two Folsom Lake State Recreation Area Volunteers Receive Poppy Award

Story from: Kerrie Launey, Gold Fields District



State Parks Peace Officer Kerrie Launey, Volunteers Joell Hall and Lance Autry, and Folsom Lake Superintendent Richard Preston present the Poppy Award.

Congratulations to Joell Hall and Lance Autry for receiving Poppy Awards for going above and beyond our expectations as camp host volunteers.

Folsom Lake Superintendent Richard Preston presented the awards to Joell and Lance at the Beal's Point Amphitheater. Also present was Camp Host Volunteer Coordinator Ranger Kerrie Launey.

Both Joell and Lance volunteer at the Beal's Point campground during the busy summer months at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. In addition to their regular campground duties, they have tirelessly supported staff by assisting maintenance and Visitor Services with various projects. One project in particular was the restoration of the old Beal's Point Amphitheater. Working on their days off, Joell and Lance restored the amphitheater and gave it a new and nostalgic look, allowing park visitors to benefit from its beauty and intended uses. Their hard work, dedication and compassion make them irreplaceable!

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Volunteers Joell Hall and Lance Autry helped restore the old Beal's Point Amphitheater on their days off giving it a new and nostalgic look.

Annual Christmas Party at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park Brings Park Family Together

Story from: Jerrie Beard, Gold Fields District



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Fields District

We work side by side, eight hours a day and three, four or five days a week. We share triumphs and defeats, smiles and tears. We work together as a team to keep the park running smoothly—from maintaining the grounds and sharing history with thousands of fourth graders, to working with volunteers to host top-notch events and catering to the needs of visitors from all over the county, state, country and world.

Everyone from visitor services to maintenance pitches in, raking leaves, moving bricks, developing interpretive programs, creating signage, greeting visitors ... doing whatever it takes to get the job done.

So, when the holidays roll around, it's only natural that the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park (SHP) staff comes together as a family to share a great meal and a few laughs. This holiday season, park staff celebrated the holidays with a potluck dinner and white elephant gift exchange on Dec. 14.

Park Maintenance Supervisor Pat Metcalf fired up the park's Santa Fe-style barbecue and cooked up a pile of ribs and chicken that was second to none. The staff contributed to the feast with loads of side dishes and desserts. Anyone who walked away without a couple extra pounds under their belt wasn't eating their fair share!

The party featured a white elephant gift exchange that brought out some interesting gifts—from a box of Christmas candles that had obviously seen a few prior parties to tasty treats and adult beverages and a stuffed unicorn. The most appropriate gift for the park this season was snagged by Park Superintendent Barry Smith, who scored the "NO LEAVES" coffee mug custom designed by Senior Park Aide Jill Jones.

Thank you to the entire staff at Marshall Gold Discovery SHP for being an integral part of our park family. And thank you to our district staff for their continued support. Together we can accomplish great things!

From our park family to yours, we wish you all the happiest of holidays and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!



Left: Park Maintenance Supervisor Pat Metcalf fired up his Santa Fe-style barbecue. Photo from Pat Metcalf, Gold Fields District. Right: Park Superintendent Barry Smith scored the "no leaves" coffee mug designed by Senior Park Aide Jill Jones for the white elephant gift exchange. Photo from Cynthia Flewelling, Gold Fields District.

Holiday Spirit Alive and Well in Business Management Services

Story and photos from: Denise Ross, Business Management Services

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Left to right: Administrative Assistant I Ann Daigle and Chief of Business Management Services Kristal Simpson.

California State Parks' Outstanding Cyclist of the Year for the Sacramento Region, Ann Daigle of Business Management Services, was shocked this week when her coworkers presented her with her very first brand-new bicycle. Previously recognized during May-is-Bike-Month events, Ann is an avid cyclist who had ridden for over 50 years – on the same bike she received on her 12th birthday!

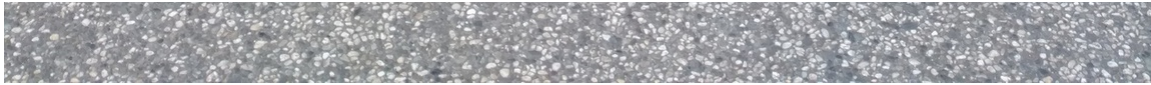
That bike, a 1951 Schwinn Panther, was a regular sight in front of the Resources Building downtown, but unfortunately, it was recently stolen from her apartment complex and has not yet been recovered. In the spirit of the holiday season, her coworkers took up a collection to purchase Ann a new Schwinn, along with a heavy-duty lock and a set of safety lights. Ann was all smiles (and some happy tears) when she was surprised with the gift of a new bike. She said it was a fabulous present and a gorgeous bicycle, and that she's filled with gratitude. For the rest of us, it was wonderful to be able to come together and show Ann how much she means to all of us. Here's to keeping Ann riding for many more years!

(If anyone in downtown Sacramento spots her old bike, let us know – we're still holding out hope that it can be recovered.)

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Ann Daigle with her beloved 1951 Schwinn Panther.

Office of Historic Preservation Represents at the National Trust Historic Preservation Conference

Story from: Diane Barclay, Office Of Historic Preservation



Field study participants touring the grounds and repurposed buildings at Cavallo Point. Photo from Mark Huck.

Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) Senior Restoration Architect Tim Brandt and Restoration Architect Mark Huck were invited to present information about the [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program](#) at the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) annual conference this year in San Francisco.

The [Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program](#) encourages private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and is one of the nation's most successful and cost-

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applications and is the first point of contact for questions and consultation on the use of the tax incentives.

At the NTHP conference, Tim Brandt, along with National Park Service Senior Historical Architect Antonio Aguilar and Port of San Francisco Historic Preservation Coordinator Mark Paez, participated in a field study session, “Historic Tax Credits in Action at the Embarcadero.” The trio outlined their respective roles and responsibilities within the tax program and described the tax credit process during presentations and tours of several historic buildings in the Embarcadero National Register District. Thirty-five conference attendees from across the country participated in the sold-out afternoon walkabout session involving the Ferry Building; Pier One, Piers 1-1/2, 3, and 5; and a special docent-led tour of Pier 15, home of the Exploratorium museum.

Mark Huck participated in the conference’s other tax credit field study, “Reuse and Renewal at Fort Baker,” which looked at a former military fort’s repurposing as Cavallo Point resort and spa. Huck, along with Aguilar, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Project Manager Steve Kasierski, Architectural Resources Group’s Debbie Cooper, and General Manager of Cavallo Point’s Brendan Carlin, discussed the selection of an appropriate private partnership for the fort. They addressed the challenges of meeting the requirements of both [Section 106 review](#) and Federal Tax Credit review. Members of the field study then toured the new spa and resort buildings, the rehabilitated barracks and officers’ quarters, and the unique cultural landscape of the former fort.



Photo 1: Field study co-presenter Ferry Building Property Manager Jane Connors discussing the Ferry

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District. Photo 3: Exterior of Pier 15, rehabilitated to serve as home to the Exploratorium museum. Photo 4: One of the former Fort Baker officer quarters, rehabilitated for use as lodging by the Cavallo Point resort and spa. Photo 5: Two barracks of historic Fort Baker overlooking the former parade ground. The property is now known as Cavallo Point, with the buildings rehabilitated for use as part of the Cavallo Point resort and spa. Photos from Tim Brandt and Mark Huck, Office of Historic Preservation.

Office of Historic Preservation Archaeologist Volunteers in Search for Human Remains for Victims in Paradise

Story from: Diane Barclay, Office Of Historic Preservation



Top: Alex DeGeorgey, Alta Archaeological Consulting (left), and OHP Archaeologist Anmarie Medin locate and isolate human remains. Bottom: Alex DeGeorgey carefully sifting out non-remains debris from the ashes. The remains were transferred into a bag, which was then handed over to family members. Photos from Anmarie Medin, Office of Historic Preservation.

This past weekend, Office of Historic Preservation Archaeologist Anmarie Medin was one of several volunteers who joined a dedicated team of archaeologists and a canine forensics team to search for human remains among the ashes of the burned city of Paradise. In the rush to escape fast-moving flames, families often must leave behind in their homes the urns containing ashes of loved ones. Alta Archaeological Consulting, and the Institute for Canine Forensics, have been working with families to help locate and recover those ashes. It is painstaking work, but rewarding when a family can be reunited with this precious connection to their loved ones. Remains recovery was performed following the Santa Rosa area fires of 2017 and is underway now in the wake of the recent Camp, Hill, and Woolsey fires. There is no charge to the families for this service.

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Read more about the process of cremains recovery, and the moving impact this effort has on both the recovery teams and the families: [Finding Solace: Recovering Human Cremations from the Ashes of a Firestorm](#) (as published in *SCA Proceedings, Volume 32*, of the [Society for California Archaeology](#)). If you, or someone you know, has need of this service a contact form can be filled out at <https://www.altaac.com/cremains-recovery>, or call (408) 981-7831.

Antelope Valley Indian Museum Holds Annual Holidays on the Homestead Event, Draws Large Crowd

Story from: Jean Rhyne, Tehachapi District



Photo 1: Visitors gather for the event outside the museum. Photo 2: State Park Ranger Damion Laughlin from Red Rock Canyon State Park judged the chili at the event. Photo 3: Singer Michael Tcherkassky crooned cowboy poetry under the wintry desert sky. Photo 4: Visitors seen from outside.

A record number of holiday revelers came to the Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park to enjoy chili around the campfire at the eighth annual Holidays on the Homestead. Around 200 visitors and event participants sampled the six chili cook-off entries, and tried real “cowboy coffee” poured from tin kettles while singer Michael Tcherkassky crooned cowboy poetry under the wintry desert sky.

"It is always nice to hear the comments of folks sharing what this means to them, seeing the old ways continued, and sharing with their children and grandchildren the memories of their old family ranches," said Paulette Tcherkassky, who served the cowboy coffee around the

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This year's chili cook-off judge was State Park Ranger Damion Laughlin from Red Rock Canyon State Park. After comprehensive deliberation, first place went to "3rd Alarm Chili," submitted by Los Angeles County Fire Station 114's Jeremy Wright. Homestead cook-off regular Jodi Mulder took second with her "Taco Chili," and Joanna Parker came in third place with her "Mighty Bison Chili." Thanks to our partners, the winners took home a hot sauce set, a \$20 gift certificate for the AVIM gift shop, and a day-use/camping pass for the 11 parks of the Tehachapi District, respectively. Other submissions were State Park Volunteer Alejandra (Ale) Sandoval's vegan chili (which won first place in 2017), a team of her father Juan and sister Lizette with "Thunder Chili," and State Park Ranger Kevin Overduin's "Cattle Wrangler's Trail Chili."

Also available for tasting was Rose Edwards' original 1940's "Texas Style Chili" recipe, made with real suet and lard! In the Museum's early days, Rose's chili was popular at the local community Christmas gatherings. State Park Interpreter Jean Rhyne and District Administrative Chief Patty Plumlee recreated the recipe, which involved special requests for the obscure ingredients at the local Mexican market, and interpreting Rose's sometimes-ambiguous recipe notes.

Harking back to the creativity and artistry of museum founder H. A. Edwards, the event's craft boutique featured handmade jewelry, whimsical housewares, miniatures, needlework and more from Art Resurrected, Todeloo Studios, Dark Wolf Jewelry Design, Accent Illusions and Kittyloaf Designs.

Outdoor heat lamps were a new addition at the seating areas this year, and greatly appreciated by the visitors on the particularly chilly night.

Destination Lancaster, one of the biggest promoters of our local State Parks, organized a visit to the event for a group of 20 local and worldwide travel bloggers and tour companies. Interpreter Jean Rhyne hosted a private tour of the historic grounds for the group, in addition to a public tour, which included a rare opportunity to view the inside of historic Lizard Cottage temporarily furnished with the original 1940's Monterey Furniture.

The museum grounds were festively decorated with live greenery and ribbons in the original holiday style of Mr. Edwards. Over the previous week, Interpreter Jean had diligently scavenged four Christmas tree lots on a nightly basis for discarded tree branches, so volunteers could make the fresh-smelling garland, swags and wreaths. The volunteer decorators were often excited to discover they had a new talent!

Just as in the 1940's, the local community still comes together today to support each other in the spirit of the holiday season. To accompany the chili, The Lemon Leaf Café in Lancaster donated trays of delicious cornbread. Karen Freeman from The Feed Store loaned straw bales for seating around the fire, and Moses Medina donated firewood to keep everyone toasty and the kettles hot!

The annual event benefitting the Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum is made possible by the support of our staff and volunteers. Museum Curator Peggy Ronning staffed the museum entrance and Rangers Kevin and Damion assisted with the event (when they weren't on chili duty). FAVIM Board Members Don Borchers, Betsy Matheny, John and Susan Martin, Darrell Walters and Cvdnee Ashmore and her daughter Kaelene, along with

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event. Poppy Reserve Volunteers John and Connie Scott, Marti Lindsey and Laurie Mohning ventured across the valley along with 15 other members of the public to assist with decorating the grounds with fresh greenery. A big thank you for your help with making Holidays on the Homestead a treasured community activity!

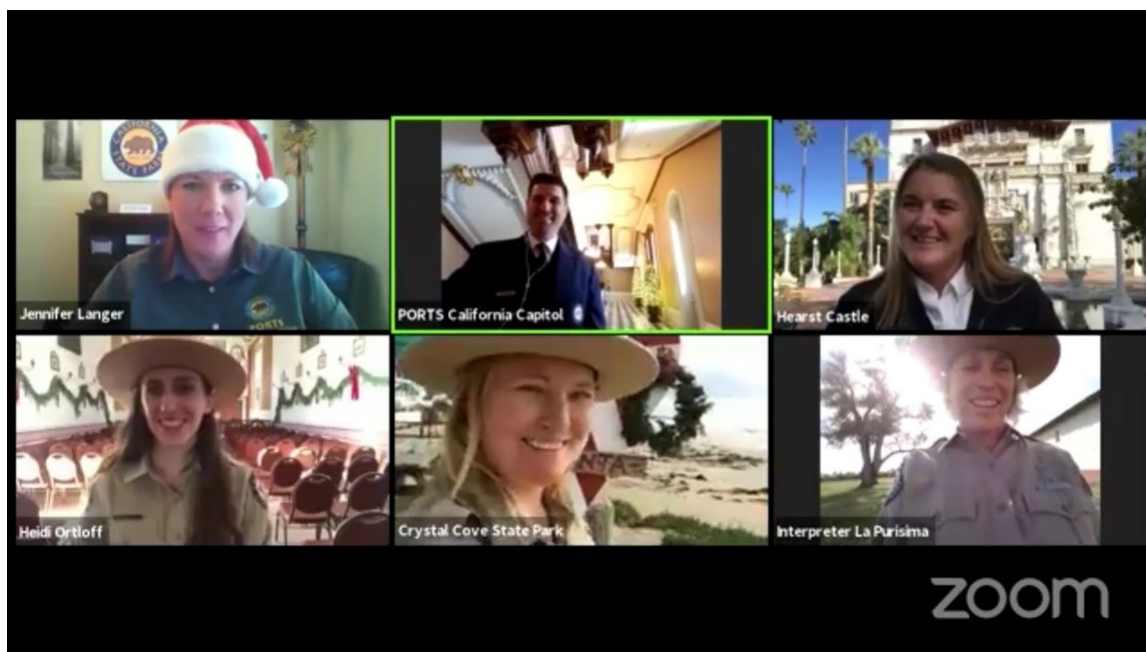


Photo 1: Chili cook-off winners with singer Michael Tcherkassky and State Park interpreter Jean Rhyne. Photos 2-4: State Parks staff and volunteers prepare for the big event. Photos 5-6: Visitors enjoy the arts and crafts and chili.

State Parks Gives Virtual Tour of Holiday Decor at Five Parks

Story and photo from: Erin Gates, San Luis Obispo Coast District

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With so many wonderful places to be, and decorations to see, too bad you cannot be in more than one place at the same time over the holidays. Or can you?

For the first time ever, California State Parks was able to showcase holiday decor at five different locations, using Facebook Live and Zoom's webinar feature.

Viewers began their virtual holiday tour at the State Capitol, and learned about the history of showcasing a Christmas Tree in a government building. Next up, visitors traveled back in time to the 1930s and discovered what a holiday meal was like in the festively decorated Refectory of Hearst Castle. La Purísima Mission and El Presidio de Santa Barbara state historic parks shared a bit of California's Spanish heritage by showcasing the decorated Chapels at both sites. Crystal Cove State Park's Historic Cottage District, and perhaps one of the only decorated Christmas trees on the beach, concluded our holiday livestream adventure!

All five of these sites not only were decorated for the holidays, but they also offer distance learning programs (via virtual field trips) through Skype in the Classroom & State Parks PORTS Program. This new webinar feature and ability to live stream will be a fantastic digital interpretation and marketing tool. State Parks can use this tool to provide a cohesive story of multiple parks at one time. Who knows what story we will tell next! To view this live broadcast, click [here](#). Stay tuned until the end for an off-key surprise.

Oceano Dunes' Dena Bateman Wins Prestigious On-Location Film Award

Story from: Kevin Pearce, Oceano Dunes District

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Oceano Dunes District's Dena Bateman accepts California On-Location Award at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on December 16. Photos by Robyn Mackey, Oceano Dunes District, Eve Honthamer, Deputy Director of California Film Commission, and Kevin Pearce, Oceano Dunes District.

The California On-Location Awards (COLA) is the premier awards ceremony saluting location professionals, production companies and public employees for professional excellence while working on location in the State of California. COLA is an event of Film Liaisons in California, Statewide (FLICS), a professional organization of film offices that promote and facilitate in-state filming.

COLA salutes location managers and location teams of the year as well as city, county, state and federal public employees for their efforts in local filming. On Sunday, December 16, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel—home of the Golden Globe Awards—Oceano Dunes District's own Dena Bellman was the state recipient of this prestigious award for 2018.

Dena manages our Special Events and Film program here at Oceano Dunes District and through her guidance, efforts and relationships she has established Oceano Dunes as a destination location known and sought by many in the film industry. Dena's award is shared with Robyn Mackey and all of Oceano Dunes District staff, recognizing the shared efforts—which cross all of our core programs—and the roles they play in this success and honor.

Oceano Dunes District is proud of and excited by this honor from the film industry through Dena's efforts. Congratulations, Dena!

Enjoying the Sunsets...State Parks K-9 Boris Retiring

Story from Kevin Pearce, Oceano Dunes District

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K-9 Boris retiring after four years with State Parks.

Thorres Rokop Bohemia, better known to his partners as Boris, has retired. Boris and his K-9 handler partner, Supervising Ranger Mike Dippel, have been a team at Oceano Dunes since September 2016. Boris and Mike have been a team since 2015, working at Ocotillo Wells SVRA and Lake Perris SRA. Together, they have been a regular in our local schools entertaining and educating children, sharing the State Parks story and building those community relationships.

Boris has had a remarkable career on the street and has made a lasting impression and impact on our staff and our community here at Oceano Dunes. It's time for some lazy days on the beach for Boris, as Mike and his family have adopted him and will keep Boris as part of the State Parks family. We will miss Boris, but we're just as happy for him in his well-deserved retirement.



NOW HIRING

To view current job openings within California State Parks, please visit our jobs webpage at www.LiveTheParksLife.com.

Current Opportunities include:

- Environmental Scientist in San Luis Obispo County
- Maintenance Aide positions statewide
- Office Technician (Typing) positions in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

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POSTCARDS



Bolsa Chica State Beach

Happy Holidays from the North Sector team in the Orange Coast District!

Photo from Megan Gierhart, Orange Coast District

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Merry Christmas!



Wishing you smiles, laughter & a whole lot of fun this holiday season.
Love, Angel Island State Park

Angel Island State Park

Happy Holidays from the staff at Angel Island State Park!

Photo from Carolina Flores, Bay Area District



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Capital District

Capital District administration staff celebrating the holidays at their annual Christmas Party featuring tons of goodies and a Secret Santa gift exchange! Top row (Left to Right): Jill Danel, Peter Larsen, Acting District Superintendent Matt Bellah, Mike Miller, Andrea Kelly, Allie Russell, Roy Marquez. Bottom row (Left to Right): Fam Saechao, Lorin Leverenz, and Jackie Michaud.

Photo from Allie Russell, Capital District



Border Field State Park

Left to right: State Park Peace Officer Rangers Sasha Wessitsh with K-9 Ben, Brett King and K-9 Artos, Angelica Rios with K-9 Halo, Brian Lane with K-9 Chase. The team was on site to assist with security for an event on December 15.

Photo from Jon Irwin, San Diego Coast District



Border Field State Park

Left: State Park Peace Officer (SPPO) Ranger Sasha Wessitsh with K-9 Ben (Folsom Lake State Recreation Area). Right (left to right): SPPO Rangers Eduardo Escamilla (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park), Brian Lane (San Diego Coast District) and Angelia Rios (San Clemente State Beach).

Photo from Adeline Yee, Communications Office

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Border Field State Park

State Park Peace Officer Lifeguard John Anderson (left) shows Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Scott Elliott how to do the "shaka." Scott says he's from Tahoe and never learned how to do the "shaka" until now.

Photo from Adeline Yee, Communications Office

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Border Field State Park

State Park Peace Officer Lifeguard Sgt. Dan Hovorka with Lifeguards Ben Outlaw, Jesús "Chuy" Mena and Daniel Goodrich, who work at Silver Strand State Beach.

Photo from Adeline Yee, Communications Office

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Border Field State Park

Lifeguard I Jesús "Chuy" Mena has been a lifeguard with State Parks since 1996. He tells us he's performed thousands of rescues and has even rescued other lifeguards. In August 2017, the Silver Strand Lifeguard Association honored Chuy with a Lifetime Achievement Award, calling him the "greatest lifeguard ever." You can spot the award at Silver Strand State Beach's lifeguard headquarters.

Photo from Adeline Yee, Communications Office

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Border Field State Park

Senior Environmental Scientist Chris Peregrin manages Border Field State Park and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve Reserve.

Photo from Adeline Yee, Communications Office

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Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Natural Resources Division botanist Leah Gardner inspects some early blooms on this ocotillo in Palm Canyon.

Photo from Leah Gardner, Natural Resources Division

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Carpinteria State Beach

From Left to right: Debra Barringer, Environmental Scientist Alexis Frangis, Ava Molnar, Tim Molnar and Park Interpretive Specialist Leanne Roth (not pictured) counted birds on Carpinteria State Beach's 64 acres for the Audubon's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Most notable event was on the beach, counting four sanderlings, oops - now three - as a merlin swooped in and took one in its talons as we watched. Other raptors seen were two red-tailed hawks, one Cooper's hawk, and one osprey. By the end of the day, 156 species of birds were counted in Carpinteria.

Photo from Leanne Roth, Channel Coast District

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McClellan Warehouse

Graphic Designer III Francisca Santana, Graphic Designer II John Underwood, and Business Services Assistant Specialist Art Polite make up the Sign Program team. The team makes signs, decals and banners for the department. The photo shows just a portion of the stock sign inventory stored at the department's warehouse.

Photo from Gloria Sandoval, Communications Office

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Sonoma State Historic Park

Bill Randall has been with Sonoma SHP for about 11 years. Bill left Jackson, Florida and headed west to California in 1984. He was a Control Engineer before retiring and came to the park when looking for a part-time job to keep him busy. Bill can be found at the Vallejo Home three days a week where he enjoys meeting and talking to visitors. This year Bill turned a proud 85 years young. He would like to know who else in Parks enjoys working at his age.

Photo from Emily Walski, Bay Area District

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Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park

Sierra District Administrative Staff (left to right): Dasha Taraban, Tony Dobbs, Ryan Marino, and Liz McMillan.

Photo from Matt Schooling, Sierra District

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Carpinteria State Beach

Carpinteria State Beach recently hosted students from Inspire Charter School for an excitement filled tide pool adventure.

Photo from Leanne Roth, Channel Coast District



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Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area

State Parks Peace Officer (Lifeguard) Arlen Diepenbrock spreads the holiday cheer while transporting a mean one.

Photo from Mallory Claassen, Oceano Dunes District



Providence Mountains State Recreation Area

Sunset through the Foshay Pass.

Photo from Andrew Fitzpatrick, Tehachapi District



Mount San Jacinto State Park

Snow flurries amid the beautiful sunrise.

Photo from Allison Barnes, Inland Empire District



Red Rock Canyon State Park

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Photo from Lou Figueroa, Tehachapi District



Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve

The beautiful views from various points at Torrey Pines.

Photo from Paige Rogowski, Partnerships Division



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Año Nuevo State Park

Elephant seals are beginning to arrive at Año Nuevo State Park this time of year. This big guy, weighing in around 4,000 pounds, is here to stake out some territory in hopes that arriving females will choose the same location. Judging by the wounds on his neck, it looks like he had to fight for the real estate.

Photo from Mike Merritt, Santa Cruz District



Calaveras Big Trees State Park

A little chickaree in a giant sequoia tree.

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

A mule deer buck: "Who you looking at?"

Photo from Michele Hernandez, Colorado Desert District



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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

A coyote camouflaged by grass.

Photo from Michele Hernandez, Colorado Desert District



Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park

Now that Thanksgiving has passed, this visitor showed up at the mansion.

Photo from Megan Harvey, Capital District



Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area

A fuzzy cannonball bug takes a stroll in the desert.

Photo from Edward Aurea, Ocotillo Wells District

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Providence Mountains State Recreation Area

Despite its tiny size, we were able to get some incredible photos of the Mitchell Caverns Pseudo scorpion (*Archeolarca aalbui*). This endemic arachnid is only found in one part of California State Park's only limestone cave.

Photo from Andrew Fitzpatrick, Tehachapi District



Lake Perris State Recreation Area

Fred the pheasant reappeared at the lake.

Photo from Sam Cordaro, Inland Empire District

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Frost on a black oak leaf.

Photo from Michele Hernandez, Colorado Desert District



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Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Some early-blooming wildflowers are making an appearance after the recent rains including the chinchweed.

Photo from Leah Gardner, Natural Resources Division



Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

The desert sand verbena is also making an early appearance.

Photo from Leah Gardner, Natural Resources Division

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North Redwoods Coast District

Surf's up! Twenty-foot waves at 16-second intervals makes for some very large swells.

Photo from Keven Harder, North Coast Redwoods District



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A view of the rainbow over Lake Tahoe.

Photo from Matt Schooling, Sierra District



Butte College Range, Butte County

Basic Visitor Services Training (BVST) 42 completing their first week of firearms training.

Photo from Jackie Olavarria, Capital District



Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Sunset after the storm.

Photo from Suzie Matin, Gold Fields District

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Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Another view of the sunset outside park headquarters.

Photo from Suzie Matin, Gold Fields District

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Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

The old jail creates a haunting silhouette in the morning fog on a chilly December day.

Photo from Jerrie Beard, Gold Fields District

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Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

After a long day at Christmas in Coloma, Park Superintendent Barry Smith took a wrong turn and ended up stuck in the pile of snow that had been enjoyed all day by park visitors.

Photo from Barry Smith, Gold Fields District



State Capitol

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The Christmas tree lit for the holidays.

Photo from Megan Harvey, Capital District



State Capitol

A view of the Christmas tree and Capital Mall from the Capitol Building's west side at the close of the day.

Photo from Aimee Hayes, Capital District

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Old Sacramento State Historic Park Capitol

Nighttime glow of the Passenger Station at the historic park.

Photo from Allie Russell, Capital District



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank You Email from Down Under to Hearst Castle Guide Terry Sheppard

Hello. We are holidaying from Australia and visited Hearst Castle today - our 2nd visit in a few years.

I would simply like to give some positive feedback on the service; personality; knowledge and representation of CA and the Parks organisation that our guide Terry and his trusty side-kick, Rusty provided today.

Terry and Rusty are a credit to your organisation and the whole experience was made so much better for their participation. Terry's knowledge and obvious passion for the subject matter provided us with insight and a holistic educational experience.

Thank you for having the fortitude to employ Terry and to allow Rusty (his assistance dog) to become a clear asset to the parks organisation.

Kind regards, Janie and Amanda

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Thank You letters to Will Rogers State Historic Park Docents and Staff

Story from: Maria Garcia, Angeles District

As the end of the year approaches, Will Rogers State Historic Park (SHP) has successfully finished its visiting Schools Program for the winter session. With the support of the Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) program, Will Rogers SHP was able to host 447 fourth graders this year. From the many thanks we received from schools throughout Los Angeles and Ventura County, we share a few thank-you notes from Frank del Olmo Elementary School students and their teacher.

Museum and visitor's services staff here at the park also send a big THANK YOU to our program docents for providing our 4th-graders with new learning experiences and special memories.

Dear Will Roger's State Park Docents,

Our class was thrilled to be able to participate in the field trip touring Will Roger's ranch. It was a cold, overcast day, but the weather held long enough to tour the ranch and outbuildings before the downpour began. Students were engaged and inquisitive, and your docents were well prepared. The activities and rotations were suited for their attention span and age appropriate. Thank you for this opportunity, I hope to be back again next year. The provision of bussing for our title 1 school made this adventure possible for us. Some of my students have never been to this part of our community before. Thank you for making this happen for my students!

Warm regards,

Diana Sieradski
4th grade teacher
Frank del Olmo Elementary

Eli Boradilat 12-5-18

Dear Decent,

I like how your ranch is in memory of Will Rogers. The horses were so thrilling, and that was actually the first time I saw a horse. The way you kept all those artifacts and things that Will Roger owned. One thing I wonder about the ranch is, where are all the horses? The horses smell was kind of weird. The corral where all the horses run around is cool. The blacksmith's shop was amazing! So many cool tools and various inventions. The way that the Decents showed us around the ranch fun but informational. The Carpenter's shop was filled with tools, machines, and my favorite part, the beginning stage of the house. The giant polo field is huge and looks like a fun place to ride. The Ranch house was amazing. It had so many interesting things.

Sincerely,
Eli Boradilat

Madison Oregon 12-5-18

Dear Decent,

I saw many old tractors and saw them up close! I also saw many deer which were very adorable to me. I also saw many antiques which belonged to Will Rogers's home. I smelt alot of hay and horse poop. The poop may have smelt sort of bad but the horses were adorable. The smell of the plants there were strong. The blacksmith shop was old and dusty because it contains antiques but I enjoyed and liked it. I wonder how long it took them to find all of Will Rogers ropes. I also wonder if Will's radio jolies still air. I appreciate that you guys paid for our field trip and care for our safety because of the weather. I learned that there is more history than we have seen. There is obviously more but I have learned so much. Thank you!

Much Love,
Madison Oregon



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Holidays!

California State Parks will host numerous events in its parks—from Old Town San Diego State Historic Park to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park—throughout the month of December.

Check out the [holiday event listings](#) on our website. We will update it as new events are announced.

Saturday, December 22

- **Junior Rangers – Silver Strand State Beach:** Kids can earn the California State Parks Junior Ranger badge! We invite kids age 7-to-12 to these outdoor activities, which may include walks, presentations, games, investigations, art, and more. [More Information](#)

Sunday, December 23

- **Guided Walk - Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park:** Journey back in time to discover the lives of early pioneers on this two-mile stroll along Mills Creek at Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park. [More Information](#)

Saturday, December 29

- **We Bring the Sandhills to You - Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park:** Discover the Santa Cruz Sandhills formation—its fossils, its unique plants and animals, and how fire plays a role in preserving this special habitat—at our Sandhills Mobile Visitor Center in the parking lot next to the Nature Store. [More Information](#)

Tuesday, January 1

- **First Day Hikes, Rides, Paddles, Swims, and Surfs:** California State Parks invites the public to start 2019 in a healthy way by connecting to nature. [More Information](#)



NEWS RELEASES

Friday, December 21

- [Division of Boating and Waterways Now Accepting Applications for Shoreline Erosion Control and Public Beach Restoration Grants](#)



NEWS CLIPS

The Weekly Digest includes a collection of news articles related to the

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always reflect that of the department.

Small plane makes emergency landing on California beach: A small-engine plane made an emergency landing on a Southern California beach, but no one aboard or on the ground was hurt. [Lompoc Record](#), [Fresno Bee](#), [NBC LA](#), [Miami Herald](#), and [Merced Sun-Star](#), 12-15-18

Hearst Castle suddenly loses bus service provider: Hearst Castle is looking for a new bus provider after Silverado Bus Company filed for bankruptcy and abruptly stopped its service. [KSBY 6](#), 12-18-18

State Parks warns Oceano, Pismo beaches could close due to high surf: California State Parks officials are warning beachgoers that because of the high surf this week, they may have to close Oceano Dunes SVRA and Pismo State Beach for safety reasons. [KSBY 6](#), 12-18-18

Big waves, but little damage on Monterey coast: Its roar was worse than its bite. *James Herrera*, [Monterey Herald](#), 12-17-18

Annual count finds 11 bald eagles living in San Bernardino National Forest: A canvassing of San Bernardino National Forest this month turned up nearly a dozen bald eagles there, officials said Monday. *Erika Martin*, [KTLA 5](#) and [USDA Forest Service](#), 12-17-18

Capitol Holiday Music Program brings sweet sounds of Christmas to the rotunda: Mike and Nancy Mills, a retired physician and nurse, respectively, relocated to Northern California from Lexington, Virginia, three years ago. *Michelle Tompkins*, [Sac Bee](#), 12-19-18

Coast Line: Sunset stroll on tap at California state parks: California State Parks and the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks will take people on a sunset stroll along New Brighton State Beach from 2-4 p.m. on Jan. 1 starting at 1500 Park Ave. [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#), 12-17-18

Rain puts no damper on Pioneer Christmas party: In true pioneer fashion, rain did not keep volunteers and attendees from celebrating Christmas Saturday at the annual Pioneer Christmas Party at Ide Adobe park. *Julie Zeeb*, [Red Bluff Daily News](#), 12-17-18

Columbia State Historic Park seeking volunteers: Calling all prospective volunteers: Columbia State Historic Park is looking for you. [Oakdale Leader](#), 12-18-18

Top 10 Bay Area state park hikes on New Year's Day: No plans for January 1? *Jessica Yadegaran*, [Mercury News](#); 12-19-18

First Day Hike 2019 at Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park: This New Year's Day 2019, California State Parks will participate in the 8th Annual First Day Hikes at parks across the state. [YubaNet](#), 12-20-18

One in 10 California homes sits in a high-risk fire zone: Report: A chilling new report shows just how many Californians are at risk when it comes to wildfires. *Sam Brock*, [NBC LA](#), 12-20-18

Leo Carrillo, MCSP Campgrounds Remain Closed Into the New Year: An unprecedented

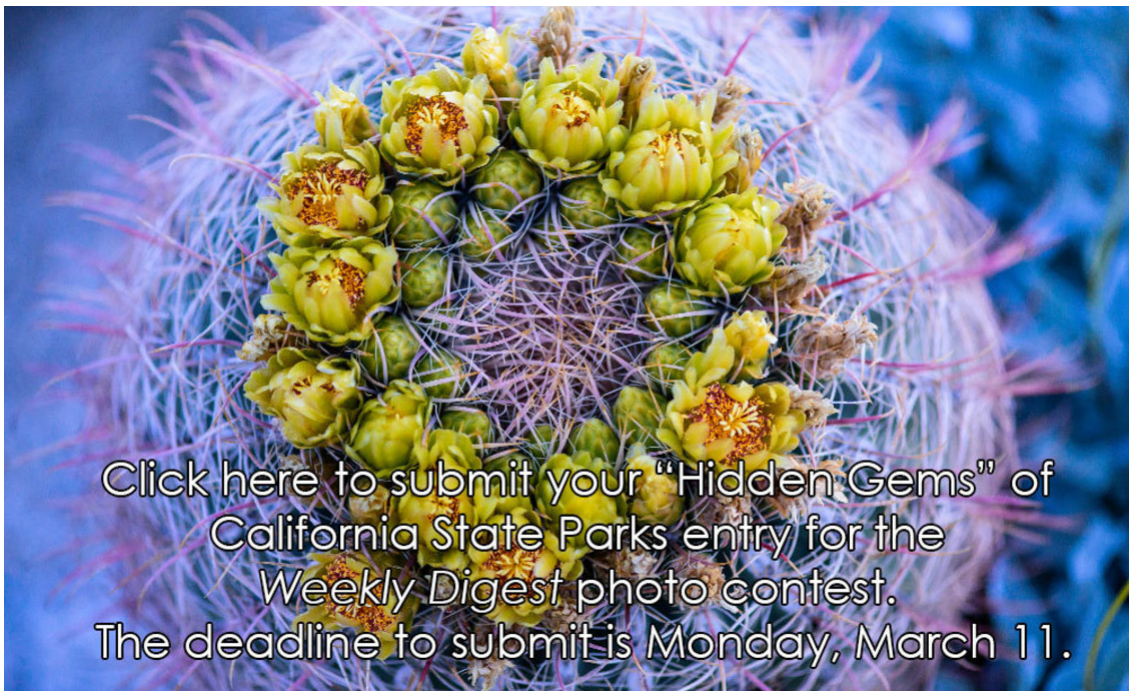
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Woolsey Fire. *Shivani Patel*, [Malibu Times](#), 12-20-18

Protecting the Titans: Perhaps one of the few things looming larger than the ancient redwoods known as the Grove of Titans is the legend that sprung up around them following the trees' "discovery" two decades ago. *Kimberly Wear*, [North Coast Journal](#)

Mount Diablo Events Included in State Parks' First Day Hike: California State Parks invites Californians and visitors from around the world to usher in 2019 in a fun and healthy way with a First Day Hike on January 1. [Independent News](#), 12-20-18

Get more holiday spirit at these events through year's end: If you are still looking for an event or two before or after Christmas to celebrate the holiday season — or entertain your children during their school break — many options remain. *Elizabeth Marie Himchak*, [San Diego Union Tribune](#), 12-20-18



Communications Requests

If you have items you would like to profile in the *Weekly Digest*, or in any other department communication

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Communications Office. The deadline for *Weekly Digest* submissions is close of business Thursday.

Photography

Unless otherwise noted, all photos included in the *Weekly Digest* are courtesy of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.



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Our Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

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