

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

David Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Tony Delfin
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Christy Tafoya, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2016

Contact: **Christina Cordova** 505 476-3363; E-mail: christina.cordova@state.nm.us
Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us

PANCHO VILLA STATE PARK COMMEMORATES 13TH ANNUAL CAMP FURLONG DAY DURING VILLAGE OF COLUMBUS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Columbus, NM - Situated near the boot heel of New Mexico and in the southernmost part of the state, Pancho Villa State Park is located on the former site of Camp Furlong. Camp Furlong is a National Historic Landmark located in the Village of Columbus, NM. The Centennial of Pancho Villa's 1916 raid on the Village of Columbus, will be observed on Saturday, March 12th. Historical presentations and educational activities are scheduled at Pancho Villa State Park, the Village of Columbus Plaza and the Columbus Train Depot Museum on that day.

The public is invited to attend Pancho Villa State Park's 13th Annual Camp Furlong Day. The State Park will offer presentations and slide-shows pertaining to Villa's raid and the subsequent Punitive Expedition into Mexico led by General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing in the park's Recreation Hall building.

"Camp Furlong Day honors the strong ties between Mexico and the United States," said John Read, Pancho Villa State Park Manager. "Residents of both countries and visitors will join in the sharing of our common heritage."

This year's Camp Furlong Day begins at 8:30 a.m. in the park's Exhibit Hall with the unveiling and dedication of a bronze plaque donated by the 16th Infantry Regiment Association. The plaque commemorates the 16th Infantry Regiment's participation in the Punitive Expedition into Mexico in 1916. Light refreshments will be served immediately following the dedication ceremony. The Exhibit Hall will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A treat for history buffs at Pancho Villa State Park will be a U.S. Army encampment with a camp headquarters tent, soldier's tents and a camp commander. The program includes period reenactors performing reveille at 9 a.m., officer's call, formation with unit report, flag raising, parade ground drill of infantry, mounted cavalry and retreat. There will be roughly 40 U.S. soldiers, 15 tents and 8 horses. The encampment will be located between the park's Exhibit Hall and Recreation Hall buildings.

The 17th Annual Cabalgata Binacional will be hosted by the Village of Columbus. Riders from Mexico, many of whom started their long journey from Guerrero, Mexico, will cross into the United States at Palomas, Mexico and join with United States riders as a gesture of peace and goodwill between the two nations as they make the three mile trek from the border to the Village of Columbus. The riders are expected to arrive at 11 a.m. and proceed to the village plaza for festivities, food, craft displays, music, dancers and fun! The event schedule for all three venues can be seen at www.PanchoVillaStateParkFriendsGroup.org.

How to get there: From Deming, head south on Hwy 11 for 30 miles to the intersection of Hwys 9 and 11. From El Paso, take the Artcraft Road exit off I-10 to Hwy 9. Head west on Hwy 9 for 75 miles to Columbus. All events are only a short walking distance from each other. At Pancho Villa State Park, regular day-use and camping fees apply.

For information about: Camp Furlong Day, call 575-531-2711; the Cabalgata Binacional, call 575-343-0147 or Village of Columbus Plaza events, please contact 575-494-1912. Visit nmparks.com for other state park information.

###

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.