

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Pancho Villa State Park Commemorates 16th Annual Camp Furlong Day Saturday, March 9, 2019

Columbus, NM – The public is invited to attend Pancho Villa State Park’s 16th Annual Camp Furlong Day on Saturday, March 9th from 1 – 4 p.m. Situated near the bootheel 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 was established in 1912 as a U.S. Army border camp. On March 9, 1916, the town of Columbus and the camp was attacked by Pancho Villa and nearly 500 of his men.

Pancho Villa State Park will offer three special guest speakers providing historical presentations & slide-shows in the park’s Recreation Hall building.

1 p.m. Glenn Minuth – “Pancho Villa Profile: Guerrilla or Robinhood?” Glenn has been an instructor for 30 plus years at Cochise College, AZ in both credit and non-credit programs and leads field trips and lectures in the areas of: geology, geography, earth science, astronomy, ecology, weather/climate, agriculture, and military history.

2 p.m. Christopher Lance Habermeyer – Author of the book “Gringos’ Curve,” Christopher will give a talk about the attack by Mexican revolutionaries on a train in Mexico transporting American miners in 1916 before Villa’s raid on Columbus.

3 p.m. Robert Bouilly, PhD – “The Army and Mexican Refugees, 1911 to 1929.” Robert will discuss how the U.S. Army handled Mexican refugees from 1912-1929. The refugees that came over the border at Ojinaga in January-February 1914 and from Juarez in April 1929 helped shape American policy when it became clear through court proceedings that the refugees could not legally be handled as prisoners of war.

“Camp Furlong Day honors the strong ties between Mexico and the United States,” said NM State Parks’ Acting Director Christy Tafoya. “Residents of both countries and visitors will join in the sharing of our common heritage.”

The Columbus Historical Society will host their annual Memorial Service at the Depot Museum in Columbus at 10 a.m. in remembrance of the Americans whose lives were lost during the 1916 raid on Columbus.

The Village of Columbus will welcome the annual Cabalgata Binacional as they ride horseback into the Village of Columbus plaza joined with American riders as a gesture of peace and goodwill between the two countries. They are expected to arrive in Columbus between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Enjoy food, Mariachi music, Folklorico dancers, and more in the plaza.

At Pancho Villa State Park, regular day-use and camping fees apply. For more information about Camp Furlong



Historic Reenactment at Pancho Villa State Park Recreation Hall.

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

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