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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Pancho Villa State Park Commemorates 17th Annual Camp Furlong Day

Columbus, NM – Pancho Villa State Park is located on the former site of Camp Furlong which is a National Historic Landmark located in the Village of Columbus, NM. The 17th Annual Camp Furlong Day will be observed on Saturday, March 7th. Historical presentations and educational activities are scheduled at the Village of Columbus Plaza, the Columbus Train Depot Museum and at the State Park for this Saturday. The Friends of Pancho Villa State Park will host a birds of prey presentation by Laura McCann of New Mexico Raptors at 10:30 a.m. under the exhibit hall portal.

The public is invited to attend Pancho Villa State Park's 17th Annual Camp Furlong Day. The State Park will offer three special guest speakers providing historical presentations and slideshows in the park's exhibit hall building as follows:

- 1:00 p.m. – Professor Glenn Minuth will give a talk entitled “Uniforms, Tactics, and Equipment of the Mexican Revolution: 1910 – 1920”. Minuth has been an instructor for 30-plus years at Cochise College in Arizona. He leads field trips and lectures in geology, geography, earth science, astronomy, ecology, weather/climate, agriculture, and military history.
- 2:00 p.m. – President of the 1st Aero Squadron Foundation, Ric Lambart, will give a presentation and slideshow about the use of airplanes in General Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico and the “rebirth” of American civil aviation in 1917.
- 3:00 p.m. – Author Michael Archie Hays will talk about Maud Hawk Wright's harrowing abduction from her home in Mexico by Pancho Villa. Hear her story of being forced to ride with his men for nine days while on the way to raid Columbus, NM, on March 9, 1916.

Regular day-use and camping fees apply. The State Parks Division is housed within the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. For more information about Camp Furlong Day, call 575-531-2711 or visit: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SPD/panchovillastatepark.html>



Pancho Villa State Park is located near the border of Mexico. The park exhibit hall and historic structures capture the history of the Pancho Villa raid and historic Camp Furlong. The large campground offers utility hookups for campers with recreational vehicles (RVs), and a playground for the kids.

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