

ENVIRONMENT

Dedication of land for new Palo Corona park on Friday

Entities that acquired former Rancho Cañada Golf Course land to be celebrated also

By James Herrera
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CARMEL » Marking another milestone in the transition from private to public use, the land formerly known as Rancho Cañada Golf Course, but which is now the new Palo Corona Regional Park, will be dedicated, and the partnerships that made it possible celebrated, at an event this week, the land's stewards announced.

On Friday, from 2-6 p.m., the Trust for Public Land, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Santa Lucia Conservancy and Trout Unlimited – the entities that formed a partnership to negotiate the terms of and raise funding for the acquisition of part of the former golf course land – will be dedicating the recently expanded Palo Corona Regional Park and celebrating the successful acquisition and permanent conservation of the former Rancho Cañada Golf Course.

In 2015, one of three properties that made up the twin 18-hole golf course was put up for sale. Conservation stakeholders quickly launched an effort to acquire this parcel and an adjacent property for permanent conservation of the land's ecological, water and recreational assets.

The effort proved successful and led to an agreement with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to convert Rancho Cañada to Palo Corona Regional Park and to dedicate almost all of the water formerly used to irrigate the golf courses to



Looking over Rancho Canada Golf Club from Palo Corona Regional Park. VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD



Christy Fisher, executive director of the Santa Lucia Conservancy looks out over grounds transitioning to a regional park from a sand trap on the former Rancho Canada Golf Course in Carmel Valley. DAVID ROYAL — HERALD CORRESPONDENT

restoring the lower Carmel River and its threatened run of native steelhead trout.

Numerous state and federal elected officials and agencies lent their support to this initiative, which was finalized when The Trust for Public Land conveyed the property to

the Park District in April. On July 28, Palo Corona Regional Park officially opened to the public.

Friday's event will include the dedication ceremony with distinguished speakers at 3 p.m. on the grass near the Discovery Center (the former golf clubhouse). Festivities

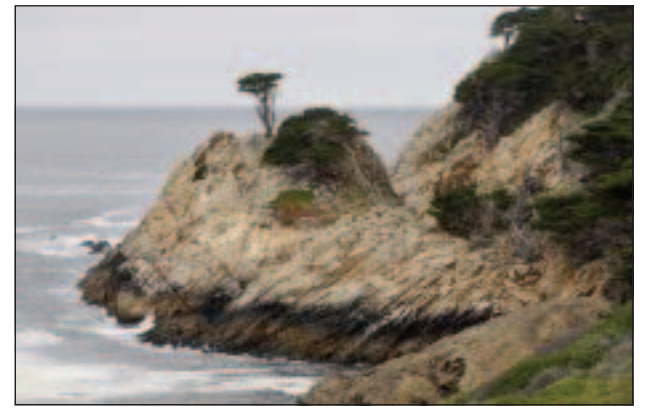
will feature music, guided walks, activities, and food vendors.

Distinguished guests and speakers include Charlton H. Bonham, director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (invited); John Donnelly, Wildlife Conservation Board; Polly Escovedo, Bonds and Grants Unit Manager; California Resources Agency; Trish Chapman, Regional Manager, California Coastal Conservancy; Guillermo Rodriguez, California State Director, Trust for Public Land; Kelly Sorenson, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District board president; and Linda Yamane, Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Historian.

For more information call the Monterey Regional Park District at 831-372-3196.

James Herrera can be reached at 831-726-4344.

POINT LOBOS STATE NATURAL RESERVE



Point Lobos State Reserve. VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD FILE

Park to open late

Required water meter work leads to morning closure

By Tommy Wright
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CARMEL » State Parks will close Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Wednesday morning from 8 a.m. until noon for required water meter maintenance.

According to Sean James, the Monterey Sector superintendent for State Parks, the maintenance is routine. "Every two years we have to have our two 2-inch water meters replaced," he said. "Per Cal Am, they have to be replaced every two years, which requires turning the water off."

When the park reopens, restrooms will be fully accessible, James said.

"If we have a single restroom go out for a pump issue or something, we'll try and put in a (portable toilet) by that single restroom," he said.

The timing of the maintenance comes as the summer season winds down and in the middle of the week.

"Typically our visitation is a little lower (after summer) and that way less people are disrupted," James said.

Visitors can call the Point Lobos kiosk at 831-624-9423 to confirm Wednesday's opening time. The park's normal hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tommy Wright can be reached at 831-726-4375.

Otters

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also concerned that Congress is doing the same regarding the Mammal Protection Act.

"Things are coming back slowly because of the broad protections – it's not due to any specific local protections," explained Shimek. "But let's say that the sea otter becomes delisted, the Marine Mammal Protection Act offers almost the same protections of the Endan-

gered Species Act. The problem is Mr. Trump is trying to weaken everything."

Still, Staedler said, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use the best science available when making any future decisions about delisting.

"The numbers are constantly fluctuating because of the risks to otters, the concerns about prey availability ... there's a process that we would have to go through before the delisting."

Carly Mayberry can be reached at 831-726-4363.

2018 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Luncheon

Friday, October 26, 2018
11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Intercontinental The Clement Monterey, CA

Keynote Speaker:
Jenna McKaye
Advocate and Survivor

Tickets \$75
Tables of 10 \$750
Sponsorships available

Attending this luncheon is one of the best ways to support domestic violence awareness efforts in our community!



Jenna McKaye is an advocate for victims of sex trafficking. She works with Law Enforcement assisting victims and helping them back into society after trauma. She gives lectures and presentations educating communities about human trafficking. Jenna's story is soon to be published and she is presently filming a documentary sharing her own personal experiences. She currently runs her own foundation to help other victims of trafficking, by virtue of her personal testimony, professional connections, and personal experience, she is most effective in meeting the immediate psychosocial needs of those recently rescued and on the path of recovery.



For tickets contact
Jamie Burch jburch@ywcamc.org or call

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