

CARMEL

STATE WILDLIFE DAY STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION



VERN FISHER — MONTEREY HERALD

Two people walk on Carmel River State Beach in January as gulls and pelicans take flight overhead.

Event to be held March 24 at Garland Ranch

By Nicoletta Lanese
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CARMEL » As belts continue to tighten around conservation efforts nationwide and talk of drilling along the California coast rumbles, local organizations are forging new platforms to advocate for wildlife and the environment.

On March 24, Carmel will host a celebration of California

Wildlife Day, an event geared toward preserving environmentalism in this generation and the next. The celebration aims to create an opportunity to promote environmental awareness and stewardship in California. At its heart, it gives residents a chance to formally appreciate the diverse wildlife found across their state, as well as the unique habitat wildlife relies on.

“California has a lot of diverse

habitats, whether you look at the Mojave Desert, the mountain ranges, the Sierras, the ocean — there are endemic species that are only found in these areas,” said Jackie Nelson, the environmental education director for the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, which is co-hosting the celebration with the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy. “California is proactively saying we should figure out how to protect our habitats and wildlife, and how we can

share that knowledge with the next generation.”

The upcoming celebration is largely geared toward reaching that next generation of environmental stewards and scientists. Student in grades K-12 will have the chance to present artwork, poetry and science posters about local and endangered wildlife. In the meantime, they’ll meet their favorite creatures up close and personal, poke around the exhibition booths manned by

WILDLIFE » PAGE 4

EAST ASIA

NKorea said to be open to nuke talks with US

Kim Jong Un is willing to discuss his arsenal and has expressed a readiness to suspend tests during talks. **PAGE A10**



SALINAS

Final regional soccer complex deal inked

Officials expect the soccer complex to be a regional draw for tournaments, keep kids active and engaged. **PAGE A2**

BUSINESS

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24,884.12 (+9.36)

↗ **S&P 500**
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↗ **Nasdaq**
7372.01 (+41.30)

JOSHUA TREE

Parents who housed kids in shack released

Their three children had been living in the shack without running water or bathrooms for several years. **PAGE A5**

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TODAY IN HISTORY 1530

Pope Clement VIII threatened to excommunicate England's King Henry VIII if he went through with plans to marry Anne Boleyn, who became Henry's second wife after Catherine of Aragon.

1965

A march by civil rights demonstrators was violently broken up at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, by state troopers and a sheriff's posse in what came to be known as "Bloody Sunday."

1975

The U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases. Instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

1994

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a parody that pokes fun at an original work can be considered "fair use."

2008

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Samantha Power, who was acting as an adviser to Barack Obama, resigned after calling rival Hillary Rodham Clinton "a monster."

Birthdays

Entertainment executive Michael Eisner is 76. Rock musician Chris White is 75. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 72. Actor Bryan Cranston is 62. Golfer Tom Lehman is 59. Actress Jenna Fischer is 44. Actress Laura Prepon is 38.

Correction

Central California Alliance for Health provided a \$2.4 million grant for Navidad Medical Center's organization.

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Star report

Baldwin feels 'sad' for accused men

For the premiere of his new ABC late-night TV talk show, Alec Baldwin wasn't necessarily combative in a conversation with comedian Jerry Seinfeld about the #MeToo movement. Still, he managed to express sympathy for some powerful men, notably Kevin Spacey. Baldwin referred to Spacey as one of the "horrible people," Stern reported. Then he said, "It's always so sad to watch people self-destruct."
—Martha Ross, Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon: 3, 1, 2
Daily 3 Evening: 8, 2, 2
Daily 4: 4, 3, 8, 4
Fantasy 5: 9, 22, 23, 26, 31
Daily Derby
1st: 9, Winning Spirit, George.
2nd: 8, Gorgeous
3rd: 6, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.37

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Saturday's drawing: 6, 24, 42, 43, 45
Mega number: 9

Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$15 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Tuesday's drawing: 1, 4, 26, 35, 39
Mega number: 22

Tuesday's estimated jackpot: \$265 million

POWERBALL

Saturday's drawing: 13, 17, 25, 36, 40
Powerball: 5
Wednesday's estimated jackpot: \$348 million

Wildlife

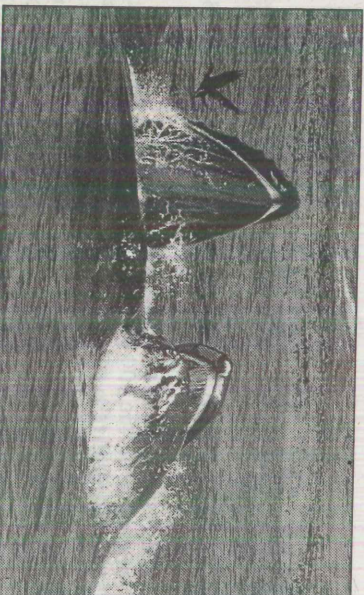
FROM PAGE 1

state and nonprofit environmental organizations, make plaster molds of animal footprints and peer at microscopic invertebrates in the Carmel River.

The free event will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Garland Ranch Regional Park. Attendees will be provided complimentary food, drink and souvenir tote bags. State Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel) and Assemblyman Mark Stone (D-Scotts Valley) were instrumental in establishing the celebration last year and are expected to attend, along a number of other guests including a falcon, bats, a resident acorn woodpecker and a barn owl, to name a few. The celebration will proceed rain or shine, and parents and students are particularly encouraged to attend.

Garland Ranch is an extremely appropriate venue, as it showcases a variety of wildlife and habitats, said Nelson. "Sometimes we call Garland a 'vertical park,' because you start at the river and floodplain and you go straight up into different habitats," she said. "It's a special place for a lot of different wildlife to roam."

Next year, the event's organizers hope to host at Palo Corona Park, where property from the former Rancho Cañada Golf Course has nearly been re-



Two humpback whales lunge feed off Monastery Beach south of Carmel in 2015.

stored. The venue would highlight the "interplay between wildlife and environment," giving attendees the chance to learn about California red-legged frogs and steelhead trout by the river, and foxes, bobcats and deer as they moved toward Jacks Peak Park.

This time last year, California Wildlife Day did not exist. It took the teamwork of a woman named Beverly Eyre and Carmel River Watershed Conservancy executive director Lorin Letendre, along with Monning and Stone to make this aspiration a reality. Nelson noted Letendre has had a heavy hand in orchestrating the event at Garland Ranch and aims to nurture the new celebration until it grows into a truly statewide celebration.

"He's the man that dreamt it up and we're just all lucky enough to be able to share in that dream," Nelson said.

and a lease agreement was poised for approval in 2014 before the county backed off and asked for more details. A lawsuit involving environmental impact issues was also resolved.

Soccer

FROM PAGE 2

"With the gun violence that continues taking the lives of our local youth and with these new soccer fields, we can soon proclaim that nothing stops a bullet like a game of soccer."

Gunter called the complex a "huge asset for the community" and praised the completion of the long-delayed agreement. "Finally, we're headed in the right direction," he said. "This is a great time."

The complex is expected to be a regional draw and be able to host soccer tournaments for participants from across the state and even the Western U.S., providing an economic boost to the area.

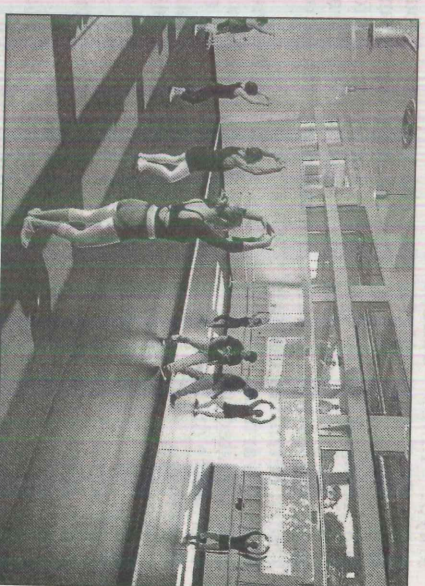
Proposed in 2008, the complex project was the subject of a five-year agreement between the county and city in 2010,

once in awhile," Letendre said. And now, a year out, "we're just really excited about this being the first real celebration of California Wildlife Day in our area — and it will build from here."

Letendre, the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and about 15 partners, including the Audubon Society and National Wildlife Federation, are pushing to make California Wildlife Day a big deal within the next two years. For the conservancy, the celebration is an extension of its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative, aimed at getting the next generation involved in conservation and "hired up about science." The California Science Teachers Association has expressed interest in partnering to work toward these shared goals. Many organizations are hosting their own Wildlife Day celebrations around March 20 and plan to participate annually.

"California has a really rich and diverse wildlife population, and we have more than our share of threatened and endangered species," said Letendre. "We're hoping we'll save some species as a result of this but also educate and inform the public and legislators about the need to do more to protect and preserve wildlife."

Learn more about California Wildlife Day and how to get involved at californiawildlife.net.



DAVID ROYAL - MONTEREY HERALD

Master ballet teacher Charles Torres teaches an adult intermediate floor ballet class at Move Studio in 2016.

Move

FROM PAGE 2

sion a reality after searching for the right space for over a year.

Her classes at the dance and movement center ranged from ballet and modern jazz to belly and flamenco dancing. She has also held an artists' event that featured 71 perform-



COURTESY RIVER NAVILLE

The Seaside High Dramatic Arts program gets together for a class meeting.

said she's trying to create an atmosphere for students who really aren't interested in after-school sports or Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"Theater tends to attract a lot of the students who aren't interested in sports or Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps."

ing out to partnerships of nonprofit arts in Monterey

Seaside

FROM PAGE 2

will use the funds should they win. They also submitted a letter of recommendation from a school principal or administrator endorsing the application.

Seaside High Principal Carlos Moran said the students are the ones who will take advantage of the funds.

"It just goes to show you the hard work that River (Naville) has put into the program and at the end of the day it's the kids who are going to benefit from it," he said.

The \$10,000 probably won't help build an amph-

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