

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Yuba River State Park 150th Anniversary Celebration of Bridgeport Covered Bridge and Barn

California State Parks and the South Yuba River Park Association are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge and Barn with a public birthday party on Sunday, April 29, 2012. The party, held in conjunction with the annual Spring Festival, will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bridgeport Historic Area on Pleasant Valley Road in Penn Valley.

The bridge and barn were built in 1862 to span the South Yuba River as part of the Henness Pass route to Virginia City, NV, and has been in nearly continuous use since that time. The 229 foot bridge is considered the longest single span covered bridge in the United States, and is a National and State Historic Landmark. "It has survived everything from heavily loaded freight wagons to the great flood of 1997, and is one of the lasting symbols of Nevada County," said Supervising Ranger Don Schmidt.

The 150th Celebration, which is part of a larger 3 day event, will highlight the history of the area with barn tours, gold panning, living history demonstrations, and a special dramatic performance produced for this event. There will also be a number of local vendors selling food and crafts, public agency demonstrations, raffle items, and games for children.

South Yuba River State Park lands provide approximately 18 miles of public access to the river canyon, beginning at the historic crossing of Bridgeport. Although public access to the bridge is currently restricted for an indefinite period

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due to structural issues, the rest of the historic area, including the barn, is open to the public.

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