



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New business comes to Columbia State Historic Park

Long time business owners of Brown's Coffee & Sweets Saloon, Mike and Cheryl Nelson are embarking on a new venture. In addition to operating Brown's Coffee & Sweets, they have opened Ebler's Leather and Saddle Work Emporium at 22751 Main Street in Columbia State Historic Park. Ebler's will provide visitors with an authentic saddlery and leather goods store that enriches their park experience. Mike Nelson will demonstrate the lost arts of leather work and saddle making. The smell of leather and sounds of the mallet will fill the air as visitors browse leather goods for home and personal use as well as kid-friendly items and personalized souvenirs. Come out and visit the new concession and watch for their Grand Opening.

Upcoming Columbia events include the 53rd Annual Firemen's Muster on May 5th & 6th (209/532-8718 for info); the Memorial Day Salute on May 28th (209/536-1672 for info); and Columbia Diggins 1852 the weekend of May 31st thru June 3rd (209/588-9128 for info).

Gold Rush Days is on the first and second Saturday of each month from 1 to 4pm. Many special exhibits are open and programs and hands-on activities are led by Park docents in period attire throughout the day. Call 209-588-9128 for details.

The park is open daily from 10-5pm and parking is free. Come enjoy the great spring weather and the many businesses and restaurants. For park information, please contact the park office at (209) 588-9128 or www.parks.ca.gov/columbia. For directions go to http://www.parks.ca.gov/Lat_Long_Map/?page_id=552.

Columbia State Historic Park, located in Tuolumne County, is designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and has been preserved to tell the story of the towns which arose during the California Gold Rush to serve the needs of miners. California State Parks has restored and continues to preserve over 30 of the original brick buildings along the town's Main Street.

Columbia State Historic Park annually hosts over 400,000 visitors, presents school programs for over 10,000 4th graders, and is a major tourist destination in Tuolumne County. Its many historic-style stores and restaurants are run by over 20 Concessionaires whose businesses, along with park staff and volunteers, help recreate the experience of the California Gold Rush for visitors from around the world.