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Hidden Treasures, Local Talent



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Kennedy Park reopens to oohs and aahs

By ROB KLINDT

Word spread quickly around Hayward and San Lorenzo communities when fencing surrounding Kennedy Park came down in late April. After being closed more than three years for construction, the updated and redesigned park on Hesperian Boulevard officially reopened April 22 and the crowds were ready.

Children, families, neighbors and just plain curious folks flocked to the park's new activity lawns, picnic and barbecue areas, children's playground, game areas and pathways. For many old-timers, the

return of the park's narrow-gauge railroad with a revamped and re-polished train station was a welcome sight. Also back is the park's 1950s themed carousel with colorful aluminum horses. Joining them is a brand-new spinning teacup amusement ride that seemed especially popular with early visitors.

The 13.3-acre park on the Hayward-San Lorenzo border has attracted generations of children and families for more than 50 years and is one of the most popular parks operated by Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD).

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Playground tractor

Just keep swimming: ACWD opens fish ladder



Alameda Creek Alliance Executive Director Jeff Miller (left), ACWD Board of Directors President John Weed (center) and Vice President Paul Sethy (right)

By HUGO VERA

An ambitious and environmentally conscious endeavor, 25 years in the making, culminated on Monday, April 25 as Alameda County Water District (ACWD) held the ribbon cutting ceremony for its new fish ladder along Lower Alameda Creek in Fremont. Leaders representing ACWD, Alameda Creek Alliance, California Coastal Conservancy and East Bay Regional Parks District were among those who cut the "blue ribbon" and spoke about the project's inception and importance.

First invented by the French in the 1600s, fish ladders have been designed to allow fish such as trout and salmon to make their way upstream through creeks/rivers. This is vital to their survival as these species need to make the pilgrimage from downstream bodies of freshwater to their spawning grounds where they lay and fertilize eggs just before they die.

"While the concept can sound pretty morbid, it's important that people know that if fish can't make it to their spawning grounds, it will severely hurt their numbers," says Alameda Creek Alliance Executive Director Jeff Miller. "With climate posing all kinds of threats to all species, not just fish but to us humans, it's time to 're-wild' ourselves and reconnect."

In addition to speaking at the ceremony, Miller unveiled a surprise of his own: a plaque dedicated in the memory of his childhood friend and fellow Alameda Creek Alliance leader Gordon Becker who passed away in 2016 following a lifetime of activism and environmental advocacy.

The state-of-the-art fish ladder on Lower Alameda County Creek was described by attendees as an "engineering marvel," featuring a series of concrete steps to help fish ascend upstream, L-shaped walls that create stillwater spots for fish to rest mid-passage, and grates above the main tunnels to protect traveling fish from airborne predators.

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