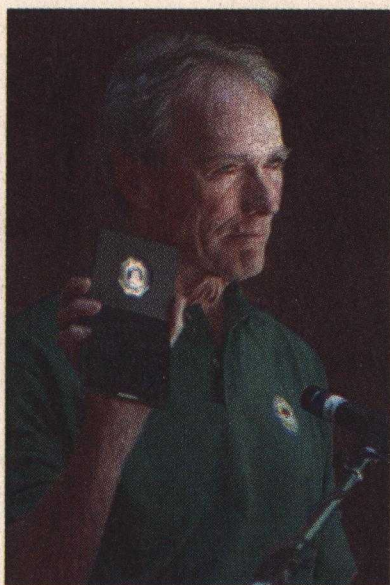


Clint Eastwood joked with the crowd saying, 'You're all under arrest' as he showed his brand new California State Park and Recreation Commission ID after taking the oath of office Saturday at the festivities at Big Basin State Park.



# the Century Park

Big Basin

6-9-02

## Big Basin's 100th birthday celebrated with visit from Clint Eastwood

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

✓ BOULDER CREEK — Big Basin Redwoods State Park kicked off its 100th birthday celebration Saturday with a visit from a big star, who was just named California's newest state parks commissioner.

Beneath a canopy of redwoods in the park's amphitheater, Clint Eastwood briefly revived his role as "Dirty Harry," flipping open his new state parks ID and telling the crowd: "You're all under arrest."

Saturday's swearing-in of Eastwood was the first event in 100 days of special activities planned at Big Basin, California's oldest state park.

The theme of the centennial celebration includes the power of people in the conservation and parks movement. The effort to protect the Santa Cruz Mountains from logging culminated in the creation of Big Basin as a state park in 1902, and eventually led to statewide efforts to preserve old growth redwood forests.

"I have some wonderful childhood memories of this park, so helping celebrate its centennial is special for me," Eastwood said. "It is a fitting way to begin my term with the State Park and Recreation Commission."

Big Basin encompasses more than 18,000 acres of forest, including redwoods, oak, chaparral and riparian habitats. It is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco.

The park has 80 miles of hiking trails, linking Big Basin from the eastern edge of the Santa Cruz Mountain range to the ocean.

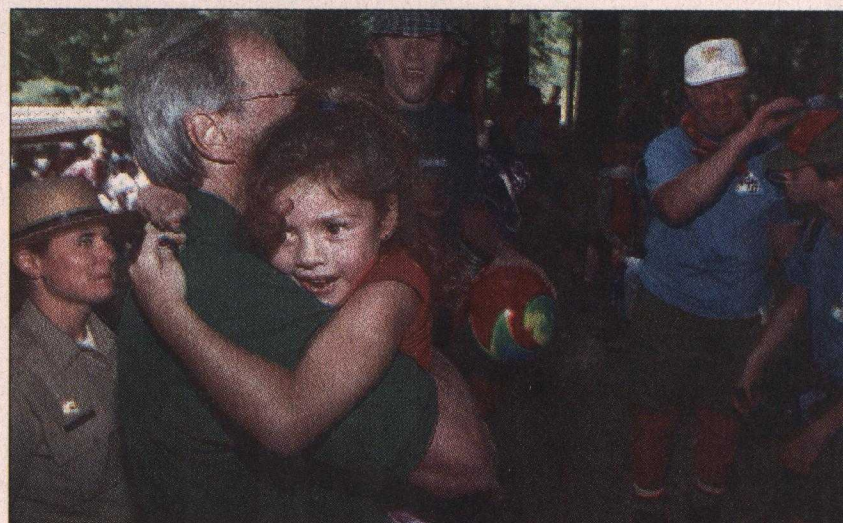
Family and group camping, tent cabins, backpack camps, hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails are available year-round.

For reservations at the park, call (800) 444-7275.



**ABOVE:** Clint Eastwood looks on as Felton resident Marie Kragci dons the clothes and persona of historical figure Josephine Clifford McCrackin, who on March 7, 1900, wrote a letter to the editor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel in a plea to 'save the trees.' Her letter led to the successful effort to create Big Basin State Park, the oldest park in the state system. Park officials and volunteers kicked off a 100-day celebration Saturday to commemorate the park's 100th anniversary.

**RIGHT:** Along with safeguarding state parks, Clint Eastwood keeps his family at the top of his priority list. The actor-director-producer and former mayor of Carmel picks up his daughter, Morgan, immediately after being sworn in as a parks commissioner.



**Photos by SHMUEL THALER**  
*Sentinel photographer*