



# THE GOLD COUNTRY TIMES

The Art, Music, and People of the Gold Country

Vol 8. No. 100

SEPTEMBER 2009

FREE

## AMADOR COUNTY KENNEDY MINE EXHIBIT WINS GOLD AT THE 2009 CA STATE FAIR

Amador County was awarded the Gold award and the the best overall design award at this year's California State Fair, Counties Building. The exhibit was put together by a volunteer crew headed up by Kam Merzlak. What a great feeling to beat out Hollywood set designers for best overall design. Good job, crew!

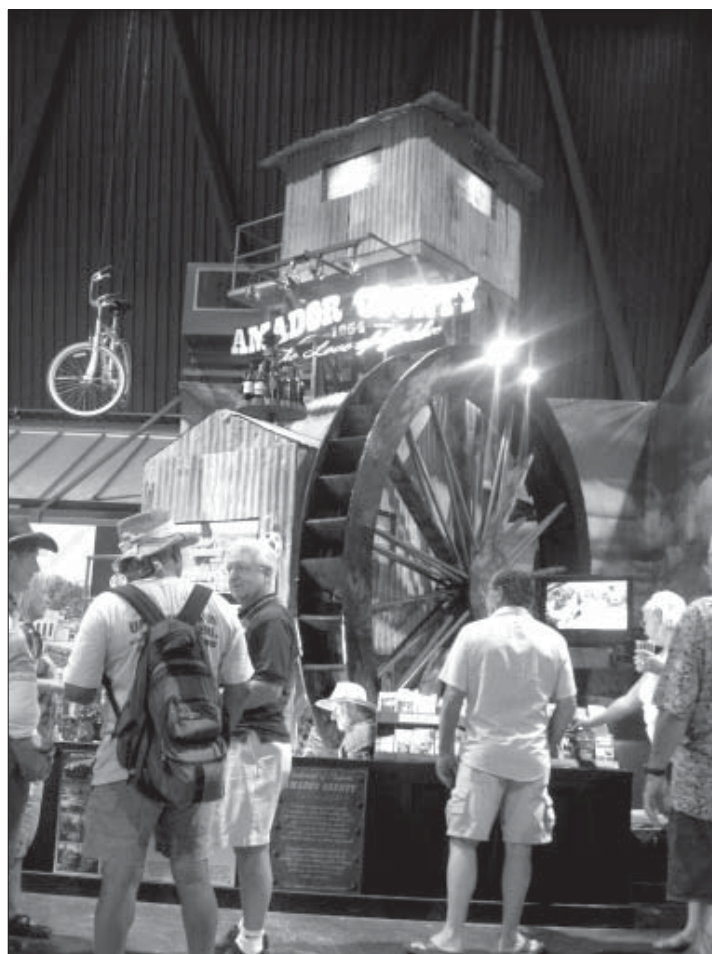
The volunteer crew: Doug Wescott, Kam Merzlak, Kurt Todden, Eleanor Caputo  
Financial contributors: Amador County Board of Supervisors Stan Lukowicz, Sutter Creek Promotions Committee, Susan Underwood, Debbie Dunn, and Sharyn Brown.

Special thanks to: Rick Kreth, Maureen Funk, Sharon Merzlak, Kellee Davenport, Dinah Ricker, Tracey Towner-Yep, Georgia Fox, DJ Gavin Myers, Dennis Coons, Brad Crisp, Michael Merzlak, Home-Town Radio, *Amador Community News.com*, TSPN, *Ledger Dispatch*, Sierra Hearth & Home, Jackson Rancheria, Hawkrods Upholstery, Parkey's Welding, Jim Swift, Rinehart's

Iron, Debbie Oliver, Dan Roush. More Special Thanks: The 108 volunteers who signed up to man the exhibit during the fair. James Roberts, *Gold Country Times* reporter, says, "Amador County was one of my favorite exhibits. It featured a mine with a water wheel, but the thing that made it special for me was the slide show showing the construction and installation of the exhibit, and a photo of the builders in front of their exhibit. Seldom do you get to see the people behind the exhibit, and oftentimes they are all volunteers. This was an interesting, award-winning exhibit".

Calaveras County was also awarded Gold for their booth at the 2009 California State Fair. In addition, Calaveras County also received the Best Experience Award which is awarded to the booth that best engages fairgoers to experience the county.

"This is a huge win for Calaveras and gives all those fairgoers very real reasons to take the short drive to visit Calaveras County," said Lisa Mayo, Executive Director of the Calaveras Visitors Bureau.



The Amador County Kennedy Mine Exhibit at the 2009 California State Fair wins Gold for its depiction of the famous Kennedy Mine headframe and a turning tailing wheel, running stream and animatronic gold miner panning for gold. Especially notable was the slide show narrated by Georgia Fox and Frank Blauvelt, Kennedy Mine Foundation Manager. This exhibit also won Best Overall Design. Tim Dunn (center), *Gold Country Times*, admires the exhibit. Photo by Eva Dunn

## Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival

By Sandy Carriger

Saturday, August 16, 2009, was a great day to be in Historic Sutter Creek. With temperatures in the mid 80's and a nominal crowd of mostly mature adults, we attended the Sutter Creek Ragtime Festival presented by the Mother Lode Ragtime Society. Sutter Creek is a lovely old town established in the 1850's as part of the California Gold Rush era.

I always enjoy strolling the streets, stopping into the quaint little shops, having a bite to eat and then discovering new and different photo ops of the community. The festival was presented at five small venues; The Ice Cream Emporium, American Exchange, Sutter Creek Theater, Foxes Bed and Breakfast and the Ragtime Garden.

Each offered exceptional views and within earshot of the performers. We opted to partake in a variety of musicians, from professional to amateur, old to young. We started at the Sutter Creek Theater where we caught the tail end of a piano performance by Frederick Hodges

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## Brete Harte youth work with Tobacco Prevention Program

How easy is it for youth to buy cigarettes in Calaveras County? Ask some of the Bret Harte High School students working with the Tobacco Prevention Program of the Calaveras County Public Health Department. They will tell you that it is too easy. Recent observational survey findings showed 33.3% [39] of stores surveyed county-wide appeared willing to complete a sale to underage youth. That is nearly three times the sales rate to minors for the state of California. When clerks asked for an ID, the students showed their personal identification cards, clearly confirming they were under 18 years of age. Still, 13 of the 39 stores surveyed rang up the attempted purchase. Results from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health showed that a majority of smokers began smoking before age 18. Eliminating tobacco access through local retailers is one important step towards protecting youth from a deadly

addiction. The Tobacco Prevention Program has conducted attempted youth purchases of tobacco for the past four years. The Program follow-up emphasized education of store owners and managers about state laws regulating sales to minors. Program staff provided simple no-cost training tools for store employees. The new survey indicates that education alone has been insufficient in sustaining a measurable decrease in sales to minors.

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The Child Passenger Safety Program assists residents with car seat fittings and getting replacement seats. For a car seat appointment in a location near you or for more info, call the Child Passenger Safety Program, 1-800-754-8889 or visit online at [www.calaveraspublichealth.com](http://www.calaveraspublichealth.com).

## Galena Group Wows at the State Fair

By Jennifer Benton

Galena Street East is a non-profit organization established in 1972 to develop young artists by giving them the opportunity to perform and use their talents to enrich their lives and those of the community. Galena's professionally-trained artists perform for conventions, schools, and social organizations. This year the talented group performed on the Promenade Stage at the California State Fair on Mon, August 31. The performance was mesmerizing and the talent of the young artists was most impressive. They performed skillfully choreographed numbers to a myriad of musical selections, from *Hairspray* to a

hip hop dance routine, to the International Children's Chorus performing a song of hope, these young talents have bright futures ahead of them! Jeri and Richard Clinger, Artistic Directors along with Ron Cisnersos, dedicate themselves to bringing opportunities to young performers to showcase their talents both here and abroad. The Clingers are the original creators, directors and driving force of Galena Street East (GSE). Entering into their thirty-third year of involvement with GSE, they have created many of the artistic concepts for this highly energetic and talented group of young people.

Fondly referred to by many as the "heart" of children's musical theatre for the Sacramento Area, Ron Cisnersos provides the creative vision for Galena Street East's annual

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