



Leadership program going strong

By Patrick Ibarra

The best and brightest are gathering to learn valuable lessons in a popular program in the midst of its ninth year. Many experts in their respective fields are being given an opportunity to broaden their horizons and learn something new, whether it be all the products and services El Dorado County offers, or introductions to the people running them.

Leadership El Dorado, a program put on by the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce each year, gathers a group of applicants from around the county in various leadership positions and helps mold them into well-rounded individuals. The program entered its ninth year last September as has churned out graduates spanning various companies throughout El Dorado County. From past Superintendent of Schools Dr. Vicki Barber – and her successor Jeremy Myers – to Dale van Dam, Dean of Instruction of El Dorado Center, Folsom Lake College, the program has helped mold some of the administrative leaders in education in the area. But that's not where it focuses, or ends its attention. Leaders span county government employees and owners of businesses large and small, to even this newspaper's publisher. The over 150 graduates is a who's who list of big whigs in El Dorado County.

The program introduces classmates to El Dorado County's features in once-a-month sessions. Guest speakers, many of them former students of Leadership El Dorado, provide detailed presentations about their respective fields, using on-site tours of facilities to give students a first-hand experience.

"It's a 360 degree view of our county and its services," said El Dorado County Chamber CEO Laurel Brent-Bumb. "It's my proudest effort as Chamber CEO. It's working; we have alumni that are elected officials, serving on non-profit boards, and running for office. They are working to support the community they live



and work in."

When Brent-Bumb took on the challenge of creating the program nine years ago, she wanted to bring leaders together in a group setting while also showcasing all the beauty the county provides.

"When looking for new chamber board members we realized it was time to start grooming new leaders," she said.

Included in the training is lots of self-reflection. Students are forced to share their experiences in life to make them realize their potential. "The monthly question really peels away the layers and bonds the class together," Brent-Bumb said. "And the class projects benefit the community and the graduates. For participants, the program promises a life-changing experience."

"I had some idea about what the class was like, having spoken with one of my colleagues who had recently graduated from the class. She spoke very highly of the class, so I was looking forward to it," said Brian D. Poulsen Jr., deputy general counsel for El Dorado Irrigation District. "I think the two most important things I took away from the class were my relationships with fellow classmates and a much deeper and broader connection to El Dorado County at large."

How each individual entered the class varies. Some, like Poulsen, hear about it and are intrigued. Others, like Logan Lemming, senior Director of IT at the El Dorado County Office of Education are asked – or heavily encouraged – to attend and do so.

"I was asked to participate by my friend and mentor Jeremy Meyers, the superintendent of education, so my initial reaction was to be excited. I have seen a lot of incredible leadership qualities in him, and he had nothing but praise for the program,

so I expected the program to develop those leadership qualities," Lemming said.

"What surprised me about the program was that it hasn't been a motivational program, like many leadership courses are," he added. "There is no hoopla or catchphrases, just nuts and bolts leadership stuff. A leader needs to be informed, so that data is there. A leader needs to be able to speak in front of other, so we are constantly put up in front of the class. It has surprised me by being very practical and effective."

Some participants are even forced to attend as training for work, then end up appreciating it in the end.

"Although I was assigned to attend, I did not mind at all," said Captain Jackie Noren of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Department. "The benefits of the class personally and professionally go hand in hand. Interacting with others from various walks of life, listening and forming an understanding of other points of view always help develop and expand personal viewpoints and knowledge bases, which are always a benefit. There are also many facets of the county – types of industry, developing businesses, resources and programs – that I was unaware of. That is information I have been able to share with colleagues, acquaintances and friends. I think the success of the program is that the topics and interactions are thought-provoking and enjoyable."

Brent-Bumb is happy with the success of the program, but more importantly, with the products the class has created for the county. "Because of the program's success, we have turned out eight, almost nine, complete classes, over 150 people that live and work in El Dorado County and have a working knowledge of our strengths, weaknesses and needs," she said. "They are committed to give back and support the county's future."

For more information, or how to apply for the tenth Leadership El Dorado class, visit www.eldoradocounty.org

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Wine in the Mine



The June Mixer hosted by Gold Bug Park was promoted as "Wine in the Mine" and according to Charlie Basham, President, Hangtown Gold Bug Development Committee, about 50 people took the mine tour. Attendance was great and everyone enjoyed the food and beverages provided by MORE, Old Hangtown Beerworks, and the Haole Pig. From left to right: Dean Reed, Docent; Melissa Calvert, Vintage Photography; Charlie Basham.

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EL DORADO COUNTY
Voice of Business

Spotlight on a Gold Member

Strike It Rich Adventures provides "hands on history" tours in El Dorado County. From gold panning lessons to underground mine tours, these adventures are educational and exciting for all ages. We also sell gold specimens, gold panning supplies and other interesting minerals and gemstones through our website and at local gem and mineral shows and we supply these items to gift shops and museums in the gold rush area.

Old and young alike get fired up when they spot that first "color" in their gold pan, or travel into the heart of a historic hard rock mine and push an ore cart or try their hand at double jacking. While you're panning or touring the mine you can shoot the breeze with Miner Rich about the natural history of the area, mining history, mining camp life in the early 1850's or geology. Best of all you're guaranteed to take home genuine gold as a souvenir of your day.

Strike It Rich Adventures offers our private underground mine tours at Placerville's historic Gold Bug Park, which is conveniently located 1 mile from Highway 50 in Placerville. Other features at Gold Bug Park are a blacksmith shop, hiking trails, covered picnic area, stamp mill, a museum and a gift shop.

Owner Rich Dvoracek, a.k.a. "Miner Rich" is a geologist and mining historian who has years of experience teaching after school programs in the subjects

of Mining History, Geology, Gemology and Paleontology. Rich is also the featured miner in a Gold Rush educational DVD for school aged children, "Dig Into History with California Jones" and has consulted with programs such as Public Television's "Nova" on the local area history and geology. Rich has also taught adult geology classes and has been a guest speaker for various groups such as northern California Gem and Mineral societies and several colleges.

Recently Strike It Rich Adventures has been part of the planning for the 2016 World Gold Panning Championships which will be held in Placerville in September of 2016. Find out more about this exciting event at: <http://eldorado2016.com/>

Strike It Rich Adventures has been offering tours for families, school field trips, corporate off-sites and senior tour groups for over 13 years. No matter what your age, we guarantee you'll find fun and adventure in the heart of the California gold rush country. So, the next time you have family or friends visiting from out of town, schedule a private tour with Strike It Rich Adventures to showcase our area's rich history and find some GOLD in them thar hills!

www.StrikeItRichAdventures.com, 530-333-2558,
info@StrikeItRichAdventures.com

Chamber Advocacy — Your Chamber working for you

The El Dorado County Chamber and the El Dorado County Joint Chambers have taken positions to strongly oppose two current job killer bills:

AB 357 – The Fair Scheduling Act of 2015. If passed, this bill would mandate one-size fits all two-week notice of employee schedules on food and retail sales establishment. It will dramatically increase the cost of doing business for a "food and general retail establishment" in this state by subjecting them to litigation and statutory penalties for accommodating employee and business

requests for schedule changes, as well as impose a new protected leave of absence and employee protected classification.

SB 3 – Despite the minimum wage increase to \$9 in July 2014, SB 3 seeks to increase the minimum wage even higher to \$13 an hour by 2017 and, thereafter, increase it according to inflation. This mandate will simply overwhelm many businesses that are already struggling with the current minimum wage increase and other cumulative costs imposed in California and will limit job growth and increase job loss in this state.

Tourism Pays

By Jody Franklin, Director of Tourism

The Gold Rush Returns To El Dorado County

The United States Gold Panning Association, headquartered in El Dorado County, California, is proud to announce the 2016 World Gold Panning Championships which will take place in Placerville, California, in 2016. This is the 40th annual event for the Championship. The World Gold Panning Championship is scheduled from September 11 to 18, 2016 and includes a host of over 600 international competitors from over 30 countries all vying for title of "World Champion Gold Panner". The last time the Championships were in El Dorado County was in 1998 when it was hosted in nearby Coloma, California, the discovery site of GOLD back in 1848 which led to the 1849 California Gold Rush. El Dorado County Gold Week kicks off with a Parade of Nations down Main Street Placerville, with opening ceremonies, activities and entertainment, daily Gold panning competitions, live bands, all culminating with an "Oktoberfest" on Placerville's Historic Main Street. Gold Week will include numerous activities for adults, educational and fun activities for the kids and many opportunities for the inquisitive to learn and participate in gold panning.

"The international competitors are overwhelmingly excited about bringing the Championship back here. El Dorado County is the perfect place to hold this 40th annual World Gold Panning Championships, stated Rich "Uncle Fuzzy" Mason, president of the USGPA. Event organizers are teaming with businesses from all over El Dorado County and will be "rolling out the red carpet" for this World Event.

For more information regarding the World Gold Panning Championships in 2016 visit our website at www.ElDorado2016.com or contact the organizers at eldoradogold2016@gmail.com



Welcome New Members



Left to right: Cathy Zuber, EDC Chamber; Nora Lehman - Urban Yogurt, Inc.; Chamber President, Christa Campbell, Rainbow Orchards; Michelle Beese - Lofty Lou's Yarn Shop; Gary Washburn - EDC Diplomat Chair.

JULY 2015 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Observatory

Folsom Lake College-El Dorado Center, Campus Dr. Free. 530-642-5621 or communityobservatory.com

Men's Chorus in Placerville

Tuesday Evenings 7 p.m. First Christian Church of Placerville, 2687 Andler Rd, Placerville. 530-677-8170 or www.goldrushchorus.org

Apple Jacks & Jills Square Dance Club

Wednesday Evenings, 7 p.m. at the Hangtown Grange, 2020 Smith Flat Road, Placerville. 916-933-2790, 530-344-7447. szymuski@sbcglobal.net

Main Street Strollers Square Dance Club

Thursday Evenings, 6:45 p.m. at I.O.O.F Hall, 467 Main Street, Placerville. 530-647-0852. main.st.strollers@gmail.com

Placerville Speedway

Jul 4 Championships Points Race #10

Jul 11 Point Race #11

Jul 18 King of the West Series

Jul 25 Point Race # 12

www.placervillespeedway.com

UCCE/El Dorado County Master Gardner Classes

Jul 8 Kid's Gardening Class: Raising Worms, 9 a.m.-Noon, Cameron Park Community Center, for details call 530-621-5512 or go online at ucanr.edu/edc-raisingworms

Jul 18 Lawn Removal, 9 a.m.-Noon, location TBD.

ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener/

Farmers Markets

Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon, Placerville – Ivy House

Parking Lot

Sundays 9 a.m.-noon, El Dorado Hills Town Center

Tuesdays 8 a.m.-1 p.m., South Lake Tahoe – American

Legion Hall

Wednesdays 8 a.m.-noon, Cameron Park –

Burke's Junction

Wednesday, Bell Tower, Main Street Placerville

Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, El Dorado Hills CSD, Harvard

Boulevard

Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Placerville Library, Fair Lane

For more information call 530-622-1900 or visit

www.eldoradofarmersmarket.com

Jul 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 Boeger Winery's Sunset Sippin'

6 p.m.-9 p.m. On-site wine sales only. No alcohol other than Boeger wine can be consumed on the grounds. Grounds close at 9 p.m. tara@boegerwinery.com. 530-622-8094 \$10 parking

Old Coloma Theater presents "Roman Romanni's Remarkable Retrospective" or "Heels over Head"

7:30 p.m. For questions or reservations, www.oldcolomatheater.org or

530-626-5282

Jul 1 Fishing on the Farm

6 p.m. A once a month fishing night at the Wakamatsu Colony Farm in Gold Hill. MUST have a valid CA fishing license. Adults only, please.

\$10/members, \$15/non-members. julie@arconservancy.org

Jul 3 Independence Day Fireworks at El Dorado

Town Center

6 p.m.-11 p.m. www.eldoradohillstowncenter.com

Jul 4 4th of July Family Blast

4 pm El Dorado County Fairgrounds. fair@eldoradocountyfair.org

or <http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org>

Jul 4 Pollock Pines 4th of July Parade & Craft Fair

7:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast, with parade starting at noon. 530-

313-0577 or www.pollockpinesca.org

Jul 5 & 19 El Dorado Depot Train Rides

12-4 p.m. weather permitting. El Dorado Train Depot. Pleasant

Valley Road, to Oriental Street, keep left at the Y, to the end of

the road and turn left at the station. \$5 donation for ages 9 & up,

\$3 for ages 3 to 8

Jul 7, 8, 14, 21, 28 Bingo

5 p.m. \$10 for first 14 games. Dinners are available for purchase.

Lots of great prizes. Pollock Pines/Camino Community Center,

2675 Sanders Drive, Pollock Pines

Jul 9, 16, 23, 30 Live on the Boulevard

6:30-8:30 p.m. Free Thursday Evening Concert, Steven Young

Amphitheater El Dorado Hills Town Center.

ElDoradoHillsTownCenter.com

Jul 11 & 12 Cameron Park Community Campout

3 p.m.-10 a.m. Cameron Park Lake. \$35 Per Family up to 4, \$10

each additional member. Fee includes dinner & breakfast. Pre-

Registration required. Call Cameron Park CSD at 530-677-2231 to

register.

Jul 12 Placerville Music Festival

11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville

Dr. \$25/\$35 day of event. Contact@placervillemusicfestival.com,

www.placervillemusicfestival.com, or 530-417-3093.

Jul 12 & Jul 26 Train Rides at Shingle Springs Depot

Noon-4 p.m. Hwy 50 to Ponderosa Rd, exit, Mother Lode Drive

(east) \$5 Donation, \$3 for ages 3 to 8. eldoradowestern.blogspot.com,

530-621-5865

Jul 18 Pollock Pines Community Flea Market

8 a.m.-3 p.m. El Dorado Savings Parking lot. www.pollock-pines-caminorotary.org

Jul 18 2015 Outdoor Projector Movies

8:45 p.m. El Dorado County Library, main lawn, 345 Fair Lane,

Placerville.

Friends of the Library 530-621-3012

Jul 18 Stagecoach Rides on Historic Main Street

Noon, Weather permitting. Davey "Doc" Wiser's crew.

www.placerville-downtown.org

Jul 18 Third Saturday, Placerville Art Walk

5 p.m.-9 p.m. Historic Downtown Placerville. 530-672-3436 or

www.placerville-downtown.org

Jul 19 Family Dollar Store Grand Opening

9 a.m. 6524 Pony Express Trail (In Pony Express Plaza)

Jul 19 Cowboys & Cornbread

11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Hangtown Harmonica Championship. Live

music, Cowboy Poetry, Kiddie Corral, Chili Cook Off, Salsa &

Cornbread Competitions, Chuckwagon BBQ and Margaritaville.

El Dorado County Fairgrounds. info@cowboy-cornbread.com,

www.cowboysandcornbread.com, 800-457-6279.

Jul 22 Jeepers Jamboree Outdoor Expo

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Free to the public. Main Street in Georgetown. Over

80 booths: off road products and accessories, automotive products

and accessories, fishing, hiking, food vendors and more.

Jul 23-26 63rd Annual Jeepers Jamboree

3 or 4 Day Trip, 530-333-4771 or www.jeepersjamboree.com

July 31-August 2 37th Annual Jeep Jamboree

530-333-4771 or www.jeepersjamboree.com

Jul 25 Bayley House Barn Sale

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Bayley House Barn, Cool. 530-887-8848 or

adams2810@sbcglobal.net

Jul 25 National Dance Day Festival

3 p.m.-9 p.m. El Dorado Arts Council, 772 Pacific Street, Placerville

agulate@eldoradoartscouncil.org, www.eldoradoartscouncil.org

Jul 28 El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Chamber Mixer at Carbon Copy

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Carbon Copy, 559 Main Street, Placerville.

530-621-5885. www.eldoradocounty.org.

For more information on these and other events,

visit www.visiteldorado.com

The event date, time, cost and locations are subject to change. Therefore prior to attending an event please contact the event contact person to confirm the information.

MEETINGS:

Jul 2 Board of Directors, 5 p.m., EDCOE

Jul 9 Joint Chambers, 7:30 a.m., EDCOE

Jul 18 Ag Council, 7:30 a.m., Ag Building

Jul 22 Joint Mixer: Carbon Copy, 559 Main Street, Placerville