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Great time to Head for the Hills ...

EL DORADO GOLD WEEK OFFERS MUCH MORE THAN A "FLASH IN THE PAN"

Placerville, CA June 30, 2016 – The most exciting international event in 167 years is coming to El Dorado County September 10-19. Meet people from all over the world during the 2016 World Gold Panning Championship, which is loaded with fun and fascinating activities.

"If you plan to visit El Dorado County, this is the time to do it. You don't have to be a gold panner to enjoy the myriad of events that are packed into this week," says co-event planner, Kara Adema. "There is something exciting happening every day for nine straight days, historic, cultural, foodie, downtown, adventures, music... the list goes on and on."

Competitors as well as spectators will travel from the world over to participate in the 40th annual World Gold Panning Championship at this unusual sporting competition held at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Also referred to as "*The Olympics of Gold Panning*," this international event will take place in Placerville, just minutes from where the California Gold Rush began, during a county-wide, week-long celebration to be held September 11-18, 2016.

Georgetown Divide Gold Rush Days kicks-off the celebration on September 10-11, followed by car shows, chili cook-offs, even a vintage airplane show in Cameron Park. Tuesday is highlighted on Main Street, Placerville with a colorful Parade of Nations, complete with the Wells Fargo Stage Coach and a street dance offering authentic miners stew.

Learn what life was like in an 1850's tent town brought back to life at the original gold discovery site in Coloma, Thursday – Sunday, packed with history and frolicking fun. Nearby, lively characters based on historical figures who actually lived during the Gold Rush will engage the audience in knee-slapping melodrama at the Olde Coloma Theatre.

Experience rare access to mines at Gold Bug Park. Hop on guided bus excursions to Apple Hill, wineries, or Lake Tahoe through www.cagoldadventures.com. Explore the Mokelumne Wilderness on a guided hike, leading to the land traversed by the brave pioneers during the 1800's. Witness another unusual competition during Oktoberfest and Wiener Dog race in downtown Placerville, where the fastest "hot" dog is awarded the champion title.

In addition to the gold panning competitions, the fairground site is jammed with activities for all ages to enjoy. "Liquid Gold" will host a competitive grape stomp and brewfest highlighting local wines, craft beer and hard cider. Visit the El Dorado County Historical Museum; listen to live music daily from rock and roll, jazz and country, barbershop chorus and even ukuleles.

Friday night is a "Rockin' Gold" big night of entertainment with three bands. 120 West and Garrett Wilkin & the Parrotheads open for California Surf, Incorporated, which features musicians who have toured and recorded with the Beach Boys, playing the "California Dreamin'" tunes of the 60's and 70's.

Strike even more gold at the fairgrounds Friday-Sunday. The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show & Convention will be bringing in world class dealers, demonstrations, children's activities, exhibits, geode cutting, guest speakers and more.

"With unique events and activities spanning across the county and at the fairgrounds all week long, we felt it necessary to have two schedules so visitors can better plan their stay and maximize the fun," Adema explained. For a direct link to the events section, visit eldorado2016.com/gold-week or call 530.344.6531.

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