

# Julian Gold Rush Days Provides Family Fun

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Step back in time to celebrate the 1870 discovery of gold**

**May 1, 2009**— In the winter of 1869 when former slave Fred Coleman discovered gold in a small creek just outside of Julian, it set off a frenzy that became San Diego's Gold Rush. Within a few weeks, there were over 800 prospectors combing over the hills in search of gold with over 40 claims registered. In just two months, what was originally called "Emily's City" and consisted of tents, became the new town of Julian City.

The gold rush lasted about seven years, producing almost \$2 million in gold (about \$150 million in today's market). While other nearby gold mining town such as Banner City, Branson City, Cuyamaca City, and Eastwood disappeared over time, Julian continued to thrive with the production of its newest asset—apples.

Julian Gold Rush Days, which takes place the weekend of June 19-21, celebrates the discovery of gold in this mountain community with three days of events including gold panning, living history demonstrations, gold mine tours, book signings, face painting, old fashioned games, historic skits, and more activities for the entire family.

"Julian Gold Rush Days is a great opportunity to 'turn back the clock' and give visitors an idea of what Julian was like in its early days," according to Tracy Turner, president of Julian's Merchants Association. "It's great entertainment for the entire family!"

Events will be produced throughout the Julian area, including Wynola. For more information, visit [www.julianevents.org](http://www.julianevents.org). Julian Gold Rush Days is sponsored by The Julian Merchants Association, a community group representing more than 90 merchants in the greater Julian area -- Julian, Wynola and Santa Ysabel in San Diego County's eastern mountains.

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Editor's Note: Photos provided upon request.

Contact:  
Gina Petrone  
Julian Walks  
619-889-6222  
[julianwalks@aol.com](mailto:julianwalks@aol.com)

