

Financial strife forces Amador County chamber to close its doors

By Matthew Hedger, Ledger Dispatch

The Amador County Chamber of Commerce has laid off all of its office personnel and contract help, including long-time Executive Director Jacqueline Lucido.

The announcement came late Wednesday from Acting Chamber President Mark Borchin, who said the decision to terminate three employees and one contractor was painful, but necessary, given the uncertain status of chamber finances.

A memorandum to the affected staff from the chamber's executive committee and obtained by the Ledger Dispatch reads, "Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have the funds to support our current budget and must reduce staff. Effective Sept. 15, 2010, we shall no longer require your services." The memo is signed by Borchin, Tom Blackman, Diane Gassaway, Sharon Lundgren and Kevin Blasingame.

After informing the staff of the decision, visibly shaken staff members began cleaning out their desks, as a locksmith worked on the front door of the chamber office in Jackson.

Read the whole story