



News bites

RMRU rescue

Desert tourists encounter winter on mountain.

See page 2.

Business changes

Gather for fitness, martial arts.

See page 4.

Strike!

SEIU County employees left jobs for a day.

See page 8.

Fire Safe Council

Biomass fuel generation.

See pages 7 and 9.

Brendan's fans

A Canadian couple keeps eyes on Steele.

See page 14.

Idyllwild Arts presents

Concert with viola soloist and a recital with violinist and pianist.

See stories on page 14.

Ice rink

The rink that couldn't.

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Idyllwild Town Crier



Covering the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains from Twin Pines to Anza to Pinyon
ALMOST ALL THE NEWS — PART OF THE TIME

VOL. 67 NO. 5

75¢ (Tax Included)

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., FEBRUARY 2, 2012



Friends of the Idyllwild Library and Riverside County representatives attend a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Idyllwild library in the Strawberry Plaza on Friday. Front row: Adele Voell, Bronwyn Jones, Teresa Brouwer, Bob Ferguson; back row: Supervisor Jeff Stone and project manager Natalia Brown. PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

Friends celebrate library GROUNDBREAKING

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

In a day that had been long anticipated, Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone helped the Friends of the Idyllwild Library celebrate a ground-breaking for the new Idyllwild Library in Strawberry Plaza on Friday, Jan. 27. Scheduled for a 180-day construction period, the library should open, barring weather delays, by Labor Day of this year.

"I am still up on cloud nine to think that we are finally going to get that library," said longtime Friends advocate Adele Voell. "I am pinching myself every now and then to make sure that I'm not dreaming and that this is actually happening."

It was a day of satisfaction for the Friends as member Bob Ferguson



An ecstatic Voell, Friends of the Idyllwild Library, and Stone pose for a photo.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

recounted the long history of getting to this point — the stops, the starts and the reverses that after more than 10 years culminated in the county's Economic Development Agency (EDA) securing federal community block development grants (CDBG) to finance the \$2 million addition to the Idyllwild community.

"We're getting exactly what we wanted with this library," Voell said. "All I want to say is 'thank you' to Natalia [Brown, library project manager for EDA] and to EDA."

Stone, who demonstrated a continued commitment to getting this project green-lighted and built, said that for

See [Library](#), page 24

IFPD's future cash flow still low

Summer, fall advance may be needed

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

After listening to several residents oppose, object and question the departure of former Fire Chief Norm Walker, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) commission began the tedious and long process of investigating many options which might contribute to fiscal solvency.

Interim Chief Mike Sherman several times referred

to actions that would "stop the bleeding." The commission is trying to apply triage and stabilize the organization before attempting any major surgery or miracle remedy.

The highlight of the meeting was Sherman's summary of the financial issues, which he has begun to research and evaluate.

First he announced the good news. Riverside County has just sent another tax

See [IFPD](#), page 19

Brown budgets fire fee use

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Although not \$1 of the controversial Fire Prevention fee has been collected, Gov. Jerry Brown has plans for spending \$50 million from that fee this fiscal year and \$84 million in fiscal 2012-13.

This year, \$50 million of funds will supplement the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) regular budget. Collections are estimated to be \$84.4 million. The additional \$34.4 million will be kept in the fund and available for use in future years.

Neither the current year nor next year's (2012-13) requests include funding

for fire prevention grants for local jurisdictions and community groups such as fire-safe councils. While the legislation establishing the fee authorizes the grant program and specifies the uses, no regulations have been developed for its implementation according to Janet Upton, CAL FIRE's deputy director for communications. In absence of approved regulations for the grant process, the state is not planning any funding for this purpose.

Staff for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is drafting permanent fee regulations, including a grant program, according to George Gentry, the board's executive officer.

See [Fire Fee](#), page 11

NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Jan. 23 to Jan. 29, 2012:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

Jan. 22 — False alarm, Ridgeway Drive and Park Lane, Idyllwild.

Jan. 23 — Walk-in medical aid.

Jan. 24 — Medical aid, highways 243 and 74, Mountain Center.

Jan. 25 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Jan. 27 — Medical aid, Sunrise Road, Pine Cove.

Jan. 28 — Medical aid, Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild.

Jan. 29 — Public service assist.

Jan. 29 — Walk-in medical aid.

Jan. 30 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Highway 243 and Franklin Drive, Pine Cove.

Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove

Report unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley

Jan. 27 — Medical aid, Hop Patch Spring Road, Garner Valley.

Riverside County Fire, Pinyon

Report unavailable.

CHP log

The resident post of the California Highway Patrol responded to the following calls from Saturday, Jan. 21 to Monday, Jan. 30. This may not be a complete list of responses:

Jan. 21 — Solo injury collision, Highway 74 east of Pinyon Road, Pinyon.

Jan. 25 — Solo, non-injury collision, Highway 243 south of Alpine Way, Idyllwild.

Jan. 28 — Solo, non-injury traffic collision, Bautista Road north of Holt Road, Anza.

Jan. 28 — Solo, DUI collision, Terwilliger Road south of Coyote Canyon, Anza.

Jan. 30 — Solo, non-injury collision on Highway 243 south of Dead Man's Curve, Pine Cove.

Sheriff's log

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Station responded to the following calls from Sunday, Jan. 8 to Monday, Jan. 30. This may not be a complete list of responses:

Jan. 8 — Unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary in the 38000 block of Tripp Flats Road in Anza. The case remains open but suspended.

Jan. 12 — Unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary of a vehicle in the 58000 block of Red Shank Road in Anza. The case remains open but suspended.



Thursday evening, Jan. 26, the Eddys — Jerry and Debbie — thought they heard an engine from airplane crossing the San Jacinto Mountains land on their house. A nearly 200-year-old oak tree fell, hitting the corner of their roof and sending another tree down on their rear deck. No one was injured, Eddy said.

PHOTO BY J. P. CRUMRINE



Vehicle passengers and the Idyllwild Garage tow truck operator at the site of a solo non-injury collision, just south of Dead Man's Curve, that happened Monday.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

RMRU completes 24-hour rescue

Unprepared hikers lost on Skyline Trail

By Marshall Smith
Staff Reporter

Last week, Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) volunteers rescued two hikers lost at the 6,200-foot level east of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. The hikers from the Vancouver, Canada area, both in their 40s, had set out from the desert floor on the Skyline Trail. Even with snow visible on the mountain's upper reaches, the two were lightly dressed and unprepared for the cold temperatures and snow they encountered at higher elevations.

According to a Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) press release, the two became disoriented and left the trail as nightfall set in on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

RCSD first activated dep-

uties and an aviation unit around 5:45 p.m. according to an RCSD press release then dispatched RMRU around 7 p.m., according to RMRU volunteer Lee Arnson.

The RCSD helicopter unit spotted the couple around 9:50 p.m. but could neither land nor deploy a rescue crew because of the steep terrain and strong winds. The helicopter crew directed the RMRU ground team to the couple. The ground team reached the hikers at midnight, according to Arnson.

He noted the hikers were clothed in shorts and T-shirts, and had only a small daypack with them. RMRU provided the hikers food, water and warm clothing and began hiking them

See *Hikers*, next page

Fifty free tickets to Indio Date Fair

Starting this week, the first 25 people to purchase a 2012 calendar at the Town Crier office will receive a pair of tickets, worth \$16, to the 66th Annual Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio running from Friday, Feb. 17 through Sunday, Feb. 26. Featured entertainment includes American Music Awards Best New Artist, Hot Chelie Rae, and country artist LeAnn Rimes. Sea Lion Splash, the only traveling sea lion show in the U.S. will be sure to please kids of all ages.

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Idyllwild Weather
From the National Weather Service

Thursday 2/2	Friday 2/3	Saturday 2/4	Sunday 2/5	Monday 2/6
 60/34 Sunny.	 60/35 Sunny.	 58/36 Sunny.	 58/37 Sunny.	 59/37 Sunny.

Idyllwild this year					Idyllwild last year			
Date	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S
1-23	44	34	1.73		62	32		
1-24	49	27			64	29		
1-25	66	32			58	32		
1-26	71	35			na	na		
1-27	65	38			61	41		
1-28	na	na			61	31		
1-29	64	29			na	na		

Moisture in inches		Snow in inches	
To date this season (Idy):	11.73	To date this season (Idy):	7.1
To date last season (Idy):	20.23	To date last season (Idy):	11.4
Total last season (Idy):	29.38	Total last season (Idy):	44.9
To date this season (PC):	10.90	To date this season (PC):	22.25
Total last season (PC):	36.11	Total last season (PC):	78.5

TEMPERATURES AND 24-HOUR moisture and snow totals for Idyllwild are recorded daily at 4 p.m. at the Idyllwild Fire Station. Pine Cove totals are measured by resident George Tate, also at 4 p.m. Moisture inches include all precipitation such as rain, melted hail and melted snow.

Weather season is July 1 to June 30. For Hill road conditions and Hill weather, visit the Internet at <http://www.idyllwildtowncrier.com> or call Caltrans road update at 1-800-427-7623.

Editor's note: The "To date this season (Idy)" moisture total has been updated to reflect a missing measurement not earlier provided by Idyllwild Fire Department. It is 0.15 inches on Jan. 16.

OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

The Aguanga-Butterfield Overland Mail Station and other stories ...

On the last Sunday of January, in the 5:20 a.m. darkness, I drove down to my friend Christine's place in Aguanga.



Christine Fogg Horton is both a life-long artist and photographer extraordinaire. I have been seeing many of her beautiful landscapes on Facebook for the last year or so and I could not wait for the opportunity to go shooting with her.

We originally planned to head out to Vail Lake but as we approached the lake we saw a sign that said "Welcome Spartans." We didn't even want to know who the Spartans were or if there were 300 of them, so we turned around and headed toward the rising sun.

With the sun coming over the ridge, it made shooting difficult; but we had spotted a very old-looking building on the way to the lake. Christine informed me this was the old stagecoach station (circa 1861).

We couldn't help but notice that the front gate to the property was open and we could no longer see the "No Trespassing" sign at such an acute angle (at least that was the excuse we would use if we were caught).

The dirt road, which we followed to the station, was in magnificent disrepair. I don't know what attracts photographers to dilapidated buildings; but as long as they remain standing, someone with a camera will make the pilgrimage to take their picture.

We stayed as long as we felt we could without being run off and got some good shots. On the way out, I noticed a plaque and took a photo of it to read later. It turned out that the station was in use from Oct. 8, 1858 until 1861.

Christine did her best to school me on cameras and shooting techniques. But I am both blissfully ignorant and stubborn (a bad combination, I know). So I ignored her advice and said I would look into it later. I was too busy taking pictures to stop and learn what I was doing.

For the rest of the morning we drove up and down the highway and made forays onto dirt roads when we saw something interesting. Drive, stop and shoot photos then drive to the next promising spot.

We finally came to an open grassland with cattle surrounded by foothills and behind them the San Jacinto Mountains in the distance.



Marion, Jean and San Jacinto peaks in the background.



Bruce's host, the peacock in Aguanga.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE WATTS

This was simply a vista that I could not resist and we took many photos. Across the street was the casino on a small bluff, this afforded an even better view of our local mountains. From that particular angle, you could see the local 10,000 foot peaks — Marion, Jean and San Jacinto — all lined up in a row.

After three hours of shooting, we returned to Christine's and viewed some of the online photography sites about which she had told me.

But one more surprise awaited me. When we arrived at the hacienda, another visitor greeted us on the patio, a grand peacock. What's a fellow to do when he comes upon one of the most colorful and beautiful of all god's creatures?

I took photos of course.

Hikers

Continued from previous page

down to the 2,500-foot level, Arnson said, where they bedded down awaiting helicopter pickup.

By 10:30 a.m., according to RCSD, both hikers were safely airlifted off the mountain. They refused medical treatment.

Les Walker and Helene Lohr, Idyllwild locals, participated in the rescue along with Arnson.

In a separate, but similar, incident in which RMRU assisted, a man and his 9-year-old stepson got disoriented and then lost on the Guadalupe Trail, south of the La Quinta Cove, as night was falling on Sunday, Jan. 30. They also were wearing light clothing and were not equipped for an overnight hike or cold weather conditions. A heli-

copter unit spotted the two at 11:57 p.m. at the 4,200-foot level near the trail. The helicopter was unable to land, so rescuers had to be lowered to the hikers to assist in loading them into the helicopter. They were subsequently airlifted out, declined medical treatment,

and were returned to their vehicle.

RCSD reminds all hikers to be prepared for weather changes in the San Jacinto Mountains and to hike properly equipped.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.



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Hit-and-run vehicle still sought

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Schoenleber's new Toyota Tundra.

California Highway Patrol is seeking information on a hit-and-run collision that occurred in Idyllwild on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Ian Schoenleber, Idyllwild resident and Annual Fund Director at Idyllwild Arts, was westbound on Tollgate Road when a red Dodge Durango that had been stopped at a stop sign on Meadow Glen, pulled out directly in front of him, causing him to hit the passenger side of the vehicle and disabling

According to Schoenleber, the Durango sped away. His vehicle was not driveable. Responding California Highway Patrol officer Ron Esparza took the report. The Dodge Durango would have major right side damage and broken windows. If sighted, the plate number should be reported to the CHP office in Banning, (951) 769-2000, reference report number 9655.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.

Trivia test

Who wrote the novel "The Russia House"?

Answer: John Le Carré

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DATE CHANGE ... February 12: "Milk" (G)
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Due to the Super Bowl, the Feb. 5 screening date has been changed.

All films screen at 4:15 p.m. Sunday at the Rustic.
The Rustic is donating its time and staff for these showings.
Please support concessions at the Rustic.

ICRC

Idyllwild Community Recreation Council

P.O. Box 1770, Idyllwild, CA 92549 • www.idyllwildrecreation.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We wanted to let everyone know that the proposed *Winter Ice Skating Rink* at the ICC Site will not be opening this year. We were looking forward to sharing this type of activity for all the Hill residents, but regretfully, we were told that they (the contractors) were unable to freeze the ice due to mechanical failure. Hopefully, we can try again next year. We have many exciting ideas for future events to come, including; the **Idyllwild Community Playground**, the **Summer Concert Series**, the **Idyllwild Haunted Ghost Town**, the **ICRC Speaker Series**, the **Community Arts Network** at the Apple Blossom Inn, and many more. Also, we are working hard to keep the **Idyllwild Skate Park** open at least 5 days a week. We want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding and look forward to seeing you out and about in our wonderful mountain community.

Yours truly,
ICRC Board Directors:
Dawn Sonnier, Emily White, Scott Redeker,
Cheryl Vladika, Claudia Posey
& CAN coordinator Judy Schonebaum

State park receives award

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The Mount San Jacinto State Park received the Sponsor of the Year award from the California Conservation Corps (CCC) during a ceremony held on Jan. 26.

Sector Superintendent Garratt Aitchison and District Superintendent Ron Krueper accepted the award on behalf of the park staff.

"I was pleased to hear that during the nomination and voting process, our local state park staff were at the top of their list. Each year, the CCC recognizes a sponsoring agency that provides their crews with

project work," Aitchison said explaining the award. "It's quite a feather in our cap."

What began as trading business cards, phone discussions, and emails, during the 75-year CCC celebration a few years ago blossomed into a partnership that has produced some amazing projects.

Current State Wilderness trail repairs along the PCT and Round Valley are two multiyear projects that are among the most physically challenging for their crews. CCC Director David Muraki compared this work to that of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s that built a majority of the



An example of the rock work, which the California Conservation Corps summer workers accomplish, shoring up the trails in the Mt. San Jacinto State Park.

PHOTO BY GARRATT AITCHISON

state park.

"They realize that the improvements they are making are immediate results that contribute to the overall visitor experience, safety, and resource pro-

tection that will last for decades," Aitchison said. Organizing several crews, for months at a time was a challenge.

The CCC work at Mt. San Jacinto State Park is

Obituary — Jane C. Miller

Longtime Idyllwild resident Jane C. Miller passed away peacefully Jan. 23, 2012, at the age of 89. Jane was a creative artist, sculpting in clay, wood and stone. She had a love for kite-flying, astronomy, animals and the beauty of nature.

Jane leaves behind her husband Robert of 61 years, her son Robin and his wife Norma, her daughter Risë, her granddaughter Cassandra and her husband Amir, and her great-granddaughter Lily.

A celebration of life will be held at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 5, 2012, at the Unity Chapel, 140 N. Buena Vista St. in Hemet.



not over. Several more years and additional project phases await completion, according to Aitchison. He praised his staff and the

many volunteer groups who have contributed efforts.

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Five new businesses brighten winter forecast

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

In what is typically a slow time for Idyllwild merchants, five new businesses are opening their doors in a vote of confidence in the Hill's economic recovery.

First, and of particular interest to fitness buffs, Mile-High Fitness (MHF) has been sold to professional boxer, martial arts practitioner and longtime gym owner Willy Latzo. In addition to competing in professional sports, Latzo has owned gyms for more than 20 years. He and wife

Ramona, natives of Berlin, Germany, are taking over not only the MHF space, but also the adjacent former Spiritual Living Center area.

Lazto will call the new expanded gym the Idyllwild Fitness Center (IFC). A fixed price monthly membership will include all classes and personal training. Two of the classes he plans to offer are the Brazilian workout craze Zumba as well as his own trademarked workout program called Funfight. On his website, Lazto describes Funfight as a "synergistic of cardiovascular work-

out and martial arts, at a punching bag, that includes multifaceted entertainment components, accompanied by music and is a unique special workout in a 30 minute session." Latzo also plans to provide self-defense, anti-bullying classes for children. Latzo is buying all-new workout machines to replace the MHF machines, which will be used until the new equipment arrives in about four months.

Lazto is a four-time world champion in Heavyweight Kyokushinkai Full Contact Karate, a European champion in Muay

Thai Boxing and a German boxing champion, Wife Ramona Aygen, partner in the gym, also trained as a bodybuilder, beginning at age 16. A graduate of the Academy of Health and Nutrition in Hamburg, Germany, Aygen is certified in nutritional counseling and therapeutic massage. She will provide these services at IFC as well as personal training, Reiki, and weight loss counseling. "We want to create a family area gym and center," said Latzo.

Lazto and Aygen plan to open by March 1.

See [Changes](#), page 10



Willy Latzo and Ramona Aygen, husband and wife and partners in the new Idyllwild Fitness Center scheduled to open on or before March 1. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Idyllwild Community Center
www.idyllwildcommunitycenter.org

Happy Valentine's Day
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For the Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar, see "On the Town," on page 12.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.
- Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Mile High Cafe, 26600 Highway 243.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- Garner Valley Women's Club, 10:30 a.m. Garner Valley Common, 61600 Devil's Ladder Rd.
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- AWANA for ages 3 to fifth-graders, 5:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Bible Church, 54400 Pine Crest Ave.
- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

- Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m.-noon. Chapel in the Pines Church office, 29430 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center.
- Idyllwild Rotary Anns, 11:30 a.m. Call 852-2306 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Forest Folk, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 25925 Cedar Street.
- Soroptimist International of Idyllwild, 6 p.m., The Creek House, 54905 N. Circle Dr.
- English as second language, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Idyllwild School Library, 26700 Hwy. 243
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

- Cancer Support Group for women and men, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr., For information, call Deanna (951) 659-8104.
- Idyllwild Play Group, 10:30 a.m. Call Jenny Stepien at (760) 445-6325 or e-mail jennyleeslater@yahoo.com for information and location.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; Pick-a-stick candlelight, 7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church, Manse Alcove, Fellowship Hall, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Feeding America, 3 p.m., Chapel in the Pines, Mountain Center, distribution at the former Morning Sky School, on Hwy. 243.
- Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step program. BBQ 6-7 p.m.; Open Share meeting 7-9 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Child care available. Call 659-0097 for information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

- Pine Cove Property Owners Association, 9 a.m. Pine Cove Fire Station, 24919 Marion Ridge Dr., Pine Cove.
- Occupy Idyllwild for Peace, Justice and Nonviolence "teach-in" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Town center at "Harmony" monument. (909) 228-6710
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 7:30 p.m. Community Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 54400 North Circle Dr.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Book Study (closed) meeting, noon, Idyllwild Water District, 25945 Hwy. 243; 5 p.m., Rancho Encino Mountain Club, 45915 Orchard Road, Poppet Flat,

across from CAL FIRE Station 6.

- Teen Group, 1:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Al-Anon "Mixed Nuts" open meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

MONDAY, FEB. 6

- Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting (open), 9 a.m. Call (619) 895-0934 for location.
- Friends of the Idyllwild Library board, 9 a.m. Library, 54185 Pine Crest Ave.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon & 7 p.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Idyllwild Community Meditation, Session I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Session II: 6:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio. Call Val at 659-5750 for information.

TUESDAY, FEB. 7

- Low Income Commodity Distribution (all ages, low income) & Senior Food sharing (anyone over age 60 qualifies), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mormon Church, 53830 Tollgate Rd. Bring box for food.
- Idyllwild Garden Club, noon. Community Presbyterian Church, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; AA Open Meeting & Big Book Study, 6-7 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- International Healing Rooms of Idyllwild, 5-7 p.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54960 Pine Crest Ave.
- Anza Valley Citizens Patrol, 6 p.m. Call Brian, (951) 763-5324.
- Hilltop Horsemen, 6 p.m. Call Chuck Streeter, 659-2167.
- Hemet Unified School Dis-

trict board meeting, 6:30 p.m. Idyllwild School, 26700 Hwy. 243.

- Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step Study meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Call 659-0097 for information.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.
- Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Jo'An's Restaurant, 25070 Village Center Dr.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- Pine Cove Water District, 10 a.m. PCWD, 24917 Marion Ridge Rd., Pine Cove.
- La Leche League, 10 a.m. Call 659-8321.
- Community Church Guild, noon. Church, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- CSA 38, 5:30 p.m. PCWD, 24917 Marion Ridge Rd., Pine Cove.
- AWANA for ages 3 to fifth-graders, 5:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Bible Church, 54400 Pine Crest Ave.
- Mountain Disaster Preparedness board meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. Creekstone Inn, 54950 Pine Crest Ave.
- "Campaign Finance Reform/Local Food," 6 p.m., St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).



At its Jan. 25 meeting, Idyllwild Rotary President **Chuck Streeter** (right) presents a gift to **Robert Garcia**, owner of La Casita Restaurant, for being the group's guest speaker.

PHOTO BY STEVE ESPINOSA

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INITIAL THOUGHTS

"Anonymous" questions ...



Several people have chosen to post questions online at the end of some stories and letters to the editor regarding the Idyllwild Fire Department and former Chief Norm Walker's departure.

Rather than respond directly online, I choose to respond here, so that all Town Crier's readers can benefit from the questions. Of course this column will be posted and the "anonymous" family can still read it online.

• Posted Jan. 18, 6:07 p.m.: "So, \$65 hr x 30 hrs = \$1,950.00 per week x 52 weeks = \$101,400.00 dollars. WOW! This "interim chief" that IFPD hired is making more than Chief Walker who I suspect averaged 50+ hours per week and earned \$92k (give or take) per year."

Response: On an hourly basis, Sherman is probably making more than Walker did. But Walker received an effective \$7,000 raise last year, when the commission agreed to pay his full CALPERS retirement.

In the contract, which he signed in August 2010, IFPD was paying two percent of his share of retirement.

Besides salary and retirement benefits, Chief Walker also earned vacation and sick leave; perhaps other benefits, such as health insurance, which Sherman doesn't.

Walker's departure was not intended to produce a budget savings and therefore balance the books.

• Posted Jan. 18, 6:17 p.m.: "The truth of Crest Forest Fire Department is not 'just the opposite'. JP needs to do a bit more digging. ... They are about to be taken over by CAL FIRE or San Bernardino County."

Response: It's not the Idyllwild Town Crier's responsibility to cover the Crest Forest Fire Department (CFFD). According to articles in the Mountain News, the CFFD board will ask their community to vote for a paramedic tax as part of the solution to their financial problems. If

the community rejects the tax increase, later this spring the board will consider proposals from both CAL FIRE and San Bernardino County Fire.

See the following stories:
 "Fire union urges county takeover," March 17, 2011

"Fire board searches for answers," Nov. 17, 2011; and

"Paramedic tax question closer," Jan. 19, 2012.

The Mountain News can be found at <http://www.mountain-news.com/>. There are more stories about CFFD and Sherman, I encourage you to search and read.

• Posted Jan. 26, 6 p.m.: "So, the Brown Act which is California's Open government legislation LIMITS board responses to the public? Sounds like the Brown Act is an oxymoron that protects government from being completely transparent. A lot of good it does the public to have legislation meant to be open that is actually limited. Thanks for the insight."

Response: The Brown Act is intended to let citizens know what actions their legislators, e.g., county supervisors, special districts, and more, are considering. That's why taking an action which is not on the agenda is illegal. Someone who may want to speak to that subject wouldn't know to attend the meeting.

Section 54954.3 specifically provides for citizens to have the right to address the commission. However, section 54954.2 limits the commission's action or discussion to any item not on the posted agenda.

This is the language in 54954.2 (2) "Members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its

Mr. Funny Guy

by Chris Fisher



staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda."

No matter how worthwhile the questions may be, someone else might want to hear the answers, too.

One solution is to ask the commission to put the subject on a future agenda. Then everyone who is interested can decide to attend or to skip the meeting.

The law's intent is to be fair to all, not just the active citizens.

J.P., EDITOR

READERS WRITE

Hill MAC history

EDITOR:

I was on Hill MAC, for a number of years with meetings every month and the same thing happened every month. Board members would show up and we would be lucky to have one or two people from the public show.

Every month, the president would be the one to bring up a subject to talk about and that would be the meeting. I could count on one hand the meetings we had for things the Hill MAC was intended for. When we did, people would get upset because they thought we were there to be able to fix the problem.

Someone wrote that Jeff Stone stopped the meeting and that is incorrect. At

the first or second meeting after I became president of Hill MAC, I said we should not have any more meetings unless it's a meeting about a concern for the board to meet, and from that meeting on there was never another meeting.

Every year, I still get a form from the county to fill out saying I have no conflict of interest being on that board.

If that board was still going and they brought up the CSD [Community Service District] idea I would vote "No" within a second.

It was brought up in a past meeting and I did some investigation on that subject. That was around seven years ago. I found it to be a bad idea where other communities did and wished they never would

have done it.

Last year at a LAFCO [Local Area Formation Commission, every California county has one] meeting, I sat next to someone who voted it in where he was on that board. I asked him many questions and over all it was a bad choice for them.

Everything was costing a ton of money and that money comes from taxes everyone has to pay. The other problem is it has to go to a two-thirds vote and I cannot believe Idyllwild could have a two-thirds vote on anything.

And to top it off, a five-member board; who would you want on that board?

I have been an advisory committee member for CSA 36 for many years. My personal opinion, now that the

county has taken over recreation, three, maybe four, meetings a year are enough unless a special need comes up.

Otherwise it's the same kind of meeting as occurred for Hill MAC.

MIKE FREITAS
 IDYLLWILD

How to get a letter published

The Town Crier welcomes letters reflecting all opinions. Letters should be concise and to the point. They should be no longer than 400 words. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and in upper/lower case (not in all caps). Letters must be signed (unless e-mailed) and must be identified with the writer's name, address and weekday phone number.

Exceptions: Anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters of thanks are not accepted. A special advertising rate is available for thank-you letters. Political letters cost 10 cents per word.

We reserve the right to reject or edit letters for length, taste, clarity or frequency of submission. Only one letter per author within a 28-day period. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Town Crier staff. Letters may be submitted in person, by mail, by fax (659-2071) or by e-mail (itc@towncrier.com).

BEFORE OUR TIME

By ROBERT B. SMITH

Homes evolve, too ...

One of the charms of living here on the Hill is the welcome absence of typical Southern California tract housing. As soon as I settled here and began walking about the neighborhoods, I was struck by the endless variety of our residences. Just try to find any two exactly alike!

That shouldn't be surprising, given the challenge of fitting a house to a site in our valley's extraordinarily variable terrain. But I also quickly noticed how often new owners remodel their acquisitions. Repeated overhauls have given many local homes and cabins fascinating histories. I'll describe two examples with which I'm most familiar.

It took nearly 15 years for me to unravel the evolution of the cabin in the forest ten miles from Idyllwild. Yet it had served my family for 75 years before its demolition at age 122.

Originally an unplumbed one-room cube with a stove chimney, built in 1878 to house a sawmill foreman, it grew at the hands of successive homesteaders and vacationers to three rooms, plus kitchen with hot and cold water, pantry, bathroom, and — my favorite feature — a sleeping deck under the trees.

Adele and I got the "build-your-dream-house" urge out of our systems early in our marriage, and for the past 30 years we've instead appropriated 25- to 70-year-old homes, modifying them to suit our needs and taste.

The Idyllwild land, where we now live, has seen such owners as a "black sheep" of the Bissell carpet sweeper family and a chairman of U.S. Steel.

Our house, originally a mansard-roofed, dark chocolate-brown box trimmed with adobe brick, contained a roomy two-bedroom apartment atop a couple of garages, built in 1972 as servants' quarters for a maid and chauffeur. A trail of railroad-tie steps still leads over a rise and down a steep hill to the mansion house next door, where a footbridge passes directly to its second-story master bedroom. This was designed to facilitate delivery of the owner's breakfast in bed.

As time passed, our house accommodated caretakers of the 3.5-acre estate, who converted the garages to a spacious family room and tiny master bedroom and bath. A two-story remodel added an airy dining space to the kitchen upstairs.

In 1994, the estate was subdivided and the servants' quarters sold to a couple who brought artistic, musical, and woodworking skills to its further evolution. Downstairs, the large family room became an artist's studio; the bedroom was split into a laundry room and a rehearsal studio carpeted to the ceiling; and a woodshop was added in the rear. A deck outside the kitchen became a screen porch. Accents of local manzanita and pine appeared throughout the house.

When Adele and I first laid eyes on the house, it was

See Before, page 22



FIRE AND FOREST

By MIKE ESNARD,
MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

A System that lasts ...

We at the council are looking for a fire safe future that endures. In more popular terms, we seek a sustainable future, one that involves successful community action that can easily continue for generations, providing both fire safety and a healthy forest. We think this is possible.

Perhaps our biggest problem is how fire prevention funding is driven by fires. When we go years without a big fire in Southern California, fire falls off most people's radar. Consequently, elected officials consider it a low funding priority.

Besides, regular fuel reduction and regular exercise share two similarities — both are very effective and very boring.

Without fuels work, vegetation builds and is followed eventually by drought, and followed inevitably by catastrophic fire. Everyone is alarmed, money is allocated, fuels work is done, and the memories fade and the cycle repeats.

How do we get out of this cycle? Public education is one way — the more people in high fire areas know about fire and what they can do to prevent it, the better. I hope that someday everyone in the mountains will know as much about fire as they do about the dangers of smoking. We also need good memories. We must not forget past fires, nor what caused them.

An aware and active public is essential, no matter what other policies we are likely to develop. But an additional way we can go is to set up a self-financing system that continually reduces the fire threat and is outside the government funding cycle.

Part of our success at the council has been our ability to get large grants to help homeowners abate their properties. As you would expect in these times, funds are shrinking. This year we will receive a third of what we received last year in our main grant.

It's nothing personal to us, it's just the way things are going for the federal budget as a whole. Forest Service fuels funds are also dramatically reduced. What if the community here could self-fund all the work that is needed to stay fire safe?

A solution may lie in using what we now consider forest waste to produce valuable energy. This is sometimes referred to as cogeneration, but is more aptly called biomass utilization. All our excess biomass — needles, leaves, dead shrubs and trees — has potential energy content.

Over the years people have talked about using it locally but the economics and technology just didn't work. Now we think they might. The economics improve every time there is an increase in the price of oil, driving up the cost of electricity and transportation. On the technology side,

See Fire, page 22



TOWN TALK

By CID CASTILLO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

How would you solve the IFPD's budget problems?



Jorge Ray
Retired
Idyllwild

"Look at your expenses, all your operating costs. Everything from utility bills, to salaries, to fuel, etc. See if you can make cuts without compromising safety."



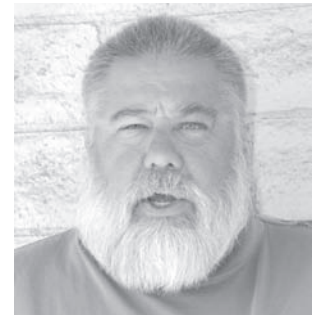
Danny Richardson
Retired USMC
Idyllwild

"Put somebody in charge of just fixing the budget and nothing else. Definitely no overtime. Cutting personnel only creates overtime. OT is a big drain in an operation."



Ann Castillo
Retired
Idyllwild

"There is always room for cuts. Look at every item and start cutting. If they can't make cuts, then go to County fire."



Jerry Holldber
General Manager
Pine Cove

"The commissioners need to take a hard look at County Fire and together come up with an enhanced ambulance district."

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By Appointment Only

Court order stops health care worker strike

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

On Monday, Jan. 30, a Riverside County Superior Court judge issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) prohibiting 248 nurses and other essential health care workers, members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721, from joining a scheduled one-day strike on Tuesday, Jan. 31. A spokesperson at the union office in Riverside said on Monday only these workers are enjoined from striking, not 911 dispatchers or other SEIU county employees. The union representative

said the health care workers had been served with the order.

SEIU represents 5,800 county workers. The union called the one-day strike to protest the board of supervisor's action imposing mandatory contract terms and conditions, including a requirement that union members pay three percent of their pension costs this fiscal year, an additional three percent next year and two percent more in fiscal 2013-14. The county determined that talks with the union had reached an impasse following a November union vote to authorize actions including a strike.

Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone, in Idyllwild on Friday, said that the county had filed a complaint with the California Public Employment Relations Board seeking a TRO to prohibit 274 workers from joining the strike because they were essential to maintaining the safety and welfare of the public. Included in the 274 were registered nurses, lab scientists and surgical scrub technicians employed at Riverside County Regional Medical Center and other county facilities. The judge, in his order, enjoined 248, allowing some scrub techs and others to join the strike if they wished. Other employees expected to strike

on Tuesday included social workers, 911 dispatchers and other clerical employees.

Stone said he found it "puzzling" that nurses, who had recently been given step raises to bring them to pay parity, would seek to strike. He acknowledged that county nurses had previously been paid "under market" but that the county had made a decision and investment to correct that. Stone said the side contract with the nurses would bring them to full parity within two years. "They were thrilled," he said of the negotiations conducted last year.

"There's a \$20 million hole in the budget and for the first time the county will have to face making significant layoffs," Stone said, expressing frustration with SEIU's failure to negotiate further given current emergent financial conditions facing the county. "The unions know that in good times, the county has been very generous," he said.

Spokespersons for SEIU stated that this one-day strike of county employees, the first in over 20 years, may not be the last action the union takes and that more work stoppages are possible unless the county returns to negotiation talks.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.



These three World War II savings bonds were found in a chest of drawers abandoned in a warehouse. Steve Moulton and Peter Buhl researched the names on the bonds and found the owner, Craig Denison, still living in Hemet. Denison (left) upon receiving his three lost U.S. Savings Bonds, thanks Buhl (right), owner of the Funky Bazaar. PHOTO BY STEVE MOULTON

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Idyllwild School Principal Matt Kraemer's students of the week are first-graders Anna Lucia LoPresto and Michael Stroud. First-grade teacher Mrs. Longbrook chose these students because of their fabulous academics, love for learning and excellent behavior.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



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On Hwy 243 at Morning Sky School in Mountain Center.

Christian Science Church
25970 Cedar St. at River Drive, 659-2511. Sunday school,
10 a.m.; Service 10 a.m.; Wednesday meeting, 7 p.m.
Christian Science Reading Room, in church building, open to
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Fuel plant may be in the Hill's future

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

On the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council's list of 2012 goals and objectives is the construction of a biomass fuel facility that would enable the Hill to use its waste wood for energy.

While the completion of this project is overly ambitious in the next 12 months, Michael Esnard, FSC President, believes its investigation and research is a very important component of the council's mission to protect the Hill from catastrophic fire.

"I've seen some small scale stuff," Esnard said. "A feasibility study this year is the first step. Good numbers will tell whether it's feasible or if the economics don't work."

One of the FSC's first steps was to visit the Colmac Energy plant in Mecca, Calif., just south of Indio. Six directors and Executive Director Edwina Scott toured the facility on Jan. 18. Several directors are researching the issue and options for a biomass plant appropriately sized for the Hill and the process for selling the electricity.

Biomass energy is the use of forest products — trees, brush and slash — and waste wood products — pallets and construction waste — burned to produce steam to turn turbines to produce electricity. If the wood waste

were not burned, it would likely be shipped to landfills or burned in the open, such as on farms.

The Colmac Energy facility produces about 47 megawatts of electricity annually. All of its electricity is sold to Southern California Edison for distribution. About 12 percent of total electrical production is retained to operate the plant.

"I would be happy producing enough energy for [Idyllwild School] instead of shipping the wood off the Hill," Scott said. "Let's use it."

The plant in Mecca has been operating since 1992 and burns about 325,000 tons to generate that much energy. Last year, Greenleaf Power of Sacramento purchased the facility from its original owners. Greenleaf has two other California biomass-fueled plants, a 30-megawatt plant in Wendel and a 28-megawatt plant in Scotia.

While this plant cost \$150 million to build, the potential Idyllwild facility would be much smaller. Esnard and Scott have identified several state and federal sources of grant money to encourage biomass utilization.

Idyllwild, Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead provide biomass for only about 15 percent of the plant's fuel. The rest is construction waste from other Southern



Fire Safe Council Directors **Norm Walker, Ray Barmore and Ron Perry** discuss the biomass fuel project.

Above left, the Colmac Energy plant in Mecca. The burners are in the center and right.

Right, Unloading fuel from a truck. The wood waste is then ground and stored in piles seen in the foreground.

PHOTOS BY J.P. CRUMRINE

California localities, according to Danny Skelton, the plant's senior shift supervisor.

Colmac has its own truck fleet to fetch and bring wood to the plant. Skelton said they can use whole logs or chips. Nearly 95 percent of the wood is converted to energy. The remainder is wood ash, collected and disposed, and used even for road construction.

"These plants are extremely expensive to oper-

ate and very labor intensive," Skelton told the FSC team. "Fuel is actually the largest operating expense. It's waste. They [the waste owners] would have to pay to get rid of it but we'd have to buy it."

Skelton proudly shared that Colmac Energy has yet to receive an air quality violation in its 20 years of operation.

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.



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Supervisors want three-person fire crews

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Last week, after significant debate, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors narrowly approved a policy of three-person teams, composed of a captain, apparatus engineer and firefighter for all county engine companies.

Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone proposed the

policy. He strongly defended it, even in anticipation of limited budget resources again next fiscal year.

"We've got to make this a budget priority even at the expense of other agencies," Stone said. "We're not talking about a lot of money, only a few stations."

While supervisors Bob Buster and John Benoit expressed support and administration for firefighters, both

argued that the county's budget crisis prevented the approval of this policy now.

Benoit felt the issue should be part of overall budget discussions in May and June rather than be approved now, independent of knowledge of the county's financial prospects.

"I think we set a policy in 2000 and should adhere to that in future budget discussion," Benoit said.

"[It] doesn't mean I won't support it then."

Buster questioned the application of the standard to all fire stations for two reasons: First, he noted that the great majority of calls are medical, not fire-related. Second, if budget resources are limited, he posited that more stations could be kept open, even with two-person crews, than would occur if all crews must be staffed

with three people.

Riverside County Fire Chief John Hawkins said he strongly supported the three-person staffing and felt it provided policy direction to the department.

Although Hawkins said the implementation schedule was flexible, he told the board that 15 of the county's 39 fire stations do not have this staffing profile.

Voting with Stone were Board President John Tavaiglione and Supervisor Marion Ashley, who provided the necessary majority for the policy's approval.

Speaking against the idea was Barry Talbot, Canyon Lake City Council member. He requested that the board defer its decision until a comprehensive study of the structure of the fire department could be completed.

"Fire protection seems to be outdated. It's the system, not the people," Talbot argued. "Arbitrary requirements should not be established. They cannot be justified in terms of service and safety to firefighters."

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Changes

Continued from page 4

In other business changes, Harold Voorheis, horticulturalist and past president of the Idyllwild Garden Club, is offering garden advice with a new enterprise called Idyllwild Garden Coach.

Voorheis' website, www.idyllwildgardencoach.com, advises he can provide consulting, garden design, expert knowledge of area planting zones, garden project management and coaching on a package or per hour basis. In addition to being a lifelong gardener, Voorheis holds a B.A. in Biology with a botany major from Albion College in Michigan and memberships in the American Society for



Tony White and Kilo Reynosa give a karate demonstration, just one of the many activities that took place at the grand opening of The Gathering Place, a new community center for self-expression.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Horticultural Science, California Native Plant Society and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Contact him on his website or at (951) 659-3598.

Partners Virginia Lumb, Celeste Mann and John King are creating a community center for self-expression called The Gathering Place, to be used for classes,

See New business, page 22

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The Kunar Agribusiness Development team (ADT) was created from volunteers from the California and Virginia National Guards. ADTs are special units in Afghanistan supporting the Battle Space owner's counter-insurgency (COIN) operations in the Kunar and Paktia river valleys in north-eastern Afghanistan. During the Kunar ADT's deployment between September 2009 and August 2010 they saw combat 19 times while working in remote villages.



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TUESDAY
4-5 p.m.
Beginning/Intermediate Tap
Annika Kay
7-8 p.m.
Adult Dance
Annika Kay

WEDNESDAY
9-10 a.m.
Adult Yoga
Trine
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Senior Stretch/Exercise
Annika Kay
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Ballet/Tap (K-4th grade)
Annika Kay

THURSDAY
4:15-5 p.m.
Children's Yoga
Trine

FRIDAY
5-6 p.m.
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Fire Fee

Continued from page 1

"Promulgation of the permanent regulations is still three to four months in the future," Gentry said. The public can still provide the board with comments on how the grant program should be implemented.

For example, Gentry said he has heard arguments for funding good plans and also for funding projects on the ground

for fuel reduction. Comments may be submitted via email to board.public.comments@fire.ca.gov.

In fiscal year 2012-13 the governor proposes to use fee collections for a variety of fire prevention and suppression purposes. For example, nearly \$6.6 million is allocated to the Board of Equalization to collect the fees. The cost to prepare maps delineating the State Regulatory Areas (SRA), where the fee is to be applied, for the board is

included here.

State officials expect many appeals from SRA residents who believe their property might be exempt or for other reasons, according to Upton.

The two largest allocations — more than \$28 million each — are for fire prevention and emergency fire suppression. In total, nearly \$76.3 million is allocated to CAL FIRE's 2012-13 budget.

"Fire protection work includes both suppression and prevention," said Upton. "They are inextricably

interwoven."

CAL FIRE engine crews devote time to teaching fire prevention, fire dangers and protection to school children. The use of the crew and engine is assigned to a "Fire Control" account, Upton explained. Fuel and brush reduction are other activities that qualify as fire prevention, she added. "The resource management [account] is for fuel reduction and qualifies as prevention."

Upton stressed CAL FIRE's responsibility is ultimately to protect the SRAs

and residents. Public safety is paramount. "The budget bill language provides for use of funds in extraordinary efforts to prevent the expansion of wildland fires," she stated.

While Gentry said the fee would likely be on the board's agenda for many months, the governor's budget proposal suggests his administration is considering expanding the fee to include a per-acre charge.

"The Administration is continuing to evaluate the long term structure of the fee, including supplement-

ing the fee with a per acre charge," according to the CAL FIRE section of the governor's 2012-13 budget.

Until the state actually bills SRA property owners, no fee revenue will exist. But once the collection notices are mailed, legal objections from throughout the state are likely to land in several courts, which will delay collections further, until the legality of the fire prevention fee is resolved.

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Use	Fiscal year (\$ in thousands)	
	2011-12	2012-13
Fire Prevention St. Operations	0	28,525
Fire Control St. Operations	50,000	6,781
Cooperative Fire Protection	0	4,009
Conservation Camps	0	3,249
Emergency Fire suppression	0	28,237
Total, St. Operations Fire Protection	50,000	70,801
Resource Protect & Improvement	0	2,264
Forest Practice Regulations	0	381
Forest Resource Inventory & Assess	0	1,114
Total, Resource Mgmt	0	3,759
Board Forestry	0	452
Dept. Justice legal services	0	500
Administration	0	791
	50,000	76,303
St.. Controller	0	476
St. Board of Equalization	0	6,597
Cal Conservation Corps	0	1,500
Total other departments	0	8,573
Total Fire Prevention fee expense	50,000	84,876
Fees Collected	84,400	84,400
Balance, for carry over	34,400	(476)
Prior year carryover		34,400
Carry over for next fiscal year	34,400	33,924

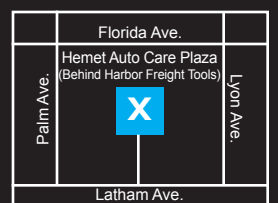
Strange but true

The first U.S. president to ride in an automobile was William McKinley, and the ride was in an ambulance after he was shot in 1901. Another interesting McKinley tidbit: He was the last Civil War veteran to be elected to the presidency.

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On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment



Arts & Entertainment Calendar

Arts & Entertainment Calendar listings are at the discretion of the editor. Submittal forms can be picked up at the Town Crier.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 9-10 a.m.; Senior Stretch/Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Ballet & Tap Dancing K-4th grade with Annika Kay, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.
Bondo featuring Paul Carman & Marshall Hawkins, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.
Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Thursday, Feb. 2

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.
Children's Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m.; Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.
Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.
"Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Friday, Feb. 3

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m. Town Hall.
Prime Rib Dinner, 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post 800
Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.
Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
"Dear Liar," Presented by Isis Theatre Company, 7:30 p.m. Quiet Creek Gallery.

Saturday, Feb. 4

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
The Earth Witness Foundation Art Show: Sustain Idyllwild, 3-5 p.m. Quiet Creek Gallery.
Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.

Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.
Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert with Howard Cheng, 7:30 p.m. IAF Theatre, Idyllwild Arts.

Sunday, Feb. 5

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
David Jerome, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert: Howard Cheng, 2 p.m. IAF Theatre, Idyllwild Arts.

Monday, Feb. 6

Children's Story Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
Introduction to Theatre Arts with Kirsten Ingbreten, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly

Close," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m.; Beginning/Intermediate Tap with Annika Kay, 4-5 p.m.; Adult Dance with Annika Kay, 7-8 p.m. Town Hall.
Wine Tasting, 6:30 p.m. Idyllwild Awhile Wine Shoppe Bistro.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
Faculty Recital with Todor Pelev & Douglas Ashcraft, 7:30 p.m. Stephens Recital Hall, Idyllwild Arts Campus.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 9-10 a.m.; Senior Stretch/Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Ballet & Tap Dancing K-4th grade with Annika Kay, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.
Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

See A&E, next page



Thunder, the Lake Elsinore Storm mascot, and Robert Gillett, Director of Game Operations, visited Idyllwild School last week to promote the school's reading program.

PHOTO BY J. P. CRUMRINE

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Saturday, 7-11 p.m. Karaoke with Kathy

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A&E

Continued from previous page

"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Feb. 9

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.

Children's Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m.; Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m.

MSJC fundraiser gala on Feb. 11

The Mount San Jacinto College Foundation will host its fourth annual gala "An Evening With Our Stars" 6 p.m. on Feb. 11 at Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula.

This year's event features the artwork of MSJC students, spanning from digital photography to sculpture. The evening is a fundraiser to provide student scholarships, faculty grants and other MSJC philanthropic endeavors that benefit the college and its students.

The evening includes a gourmet buffet, silent auction and art contest. The MSCJ Jazz Band, under Dr. Jeremy Brown, will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$150 per person. They are available to purchase at www.msjc.edu.

Jo'An's Restaurant.
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Friday, Feb 10

Guest Artist Lecture with Shepard Fairey, 3:30 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center; Visual Art Alumni Show Opening Reception, 6 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center. Idyllwild Arts, Show Runs Through March 3.

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m. Town Hall.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.

Saturday, Feb. 11

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.

"An Evening With Our Stars," 6 p.m. Pechanga Resort.

Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.

Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m.

Jo'An's Restaurant.

Sunday, Feb 12

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.

David Jerome, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aribba Mexican Restaurant.

"Milk," Presented by A Community Together, 4:15 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Monday, Feb. 13

Childrens Story Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.

Introduction to Theatre Arts with Kirsten Ingbreetsen, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m.; Beginning/ Intermediate Tap with Annika Kay, 4-5 p.m.; Adult Dance with Annika Kay, 7-8 p.m. Town Hall.

Music in the Meadow, 7:30 p.m. Stephens Recital Hall, Idyllwild Arts.



Many residents attended a Chinese New Year celebration held by Idyllwild Community Acupuncture on Friday, Jan. 27. Free 20-minute acupuncture treatments, massages and Jin Shin Jytsu sessions were offered. Proceeds of donations are to benefit Breanna Lewis, 12, who will participate in the 2012 Irish Dance World Competition in Ireland. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



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IdyllwildARTS EVENTS

Saturday, February 4

Sustain Idyllwild. 3-5 PM, Quiet Creek Gallery. Artists' Reception to benefit Idyllwild Arts Academy Sustainability Program. Participating Artists: Brian Cohen, Roger Dutton, Joann Tomsche, Cate, Don Reed, George Companiott and selected Idyllwild Arts students. Suggested donation \$10.

Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert: Howard Cheng, *viola*. 7:30 PM, IAF Theatre.

Sunday, February 5

Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert: Howard Cheng, *viola*. 2 PM, IAF Theatre.

Tuesday, February 7

Faculty Recital: Todor Pelev, *violin*, Douglas Ashcraft, *piano*. 7:30 PM, Stephens Recital Hall.

Friday, February 10

Guest Artist Lecture: Shepard Fairey. 3:30 PM, Parks Exhibition Center.

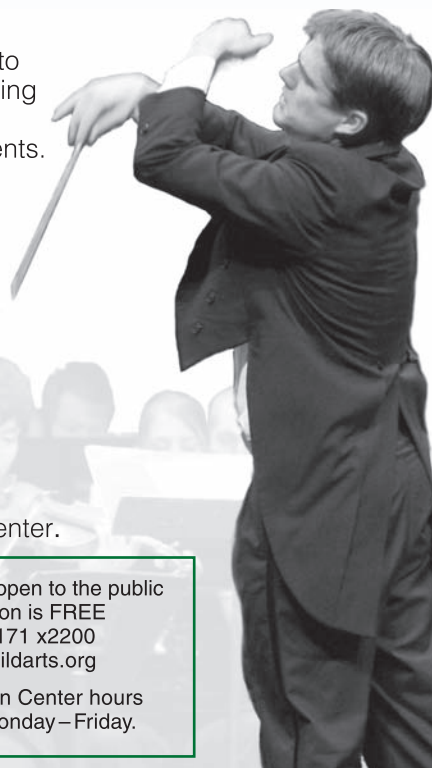
Visual Art Alumni Show. Opening reception, 6 PM, Parks Exhibition Center. Show runs through March 3.

Monday, February 13

Music in the Meadow. 7:30 PM, Stephens Recital Hall.

Listed events are open to the public and admission is FREE
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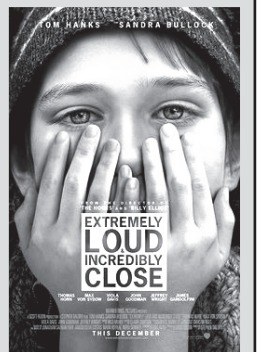
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"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"

Oskar, who lost his father in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, is convinced that his dad left a final message for him somewhere in the city. Upon finding a mysterious key in his father's closet, Oskar sets out in search of the lock it fits. Feeling disconnected from his grieving mother and driven by a tirelessly active mind, Oskar's journey of discovery takes him beyond his loss.

Starring: Tom Hanks, Thomas Horn, Sandra Bullock, Zoe Caldwell, Dennis Hearn, Paul Klementowicz, Julian Tepper, Caleb Reynolds, John Goodman, Max von Sydow, Stephen McKinley Henderson, Lorna Pruce, Viola Davis, Jeffrey Wright, Hazelle Goodman, Bernadette Drayton, David Latham, Marty Krzywonos, Jim Norton, Carmen M. Herlihy
Director: Stephen Daldry
Genre: Drama; **Run time:** 2 hr. 9 min.; **Rated:** PG-13



Showtimes: Nightly: 7:00 pm

Sat. & Sun.: 2:00*, 4:30 & 7:00 pm

Regular Admission: \$8

Senior (60*), Child (12*) & *Matinée: \$6

951.659.2747

Academy Orchestra concert features student soloist

This weekend, Idyllwild Arts student violist Howard Cheng will make his first concerto appearance. Cheng will perform William Walton's Concerto for Viola and Orchestra with the Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra and Music Director Peter Askim. During his first year, Cheng won the 2011 Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concerto Competition.

Each year, Idyllwild Arts holds the prestigious Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concerto Competition. This extremely competitive event has all of the finest young Idyllwild Arts Academy musicians vying for the coveted top prize — a solo performance with the orchestra.

This past year, there were three winners chosen from the field: Manjie Yang (violin), Shen Liu (clarinet) and Cheng. In October the orchestra's opening concert featured Shen's and Manjie's performances.

In the competition, each student contestant plays a major solo work from memory. The concerts featuring the winners of the competition are highly anticipated by members of both the Idyllwild Arts community and the Idyllwild community in general.



Haw Yuan "Howard" Cheng featured Violist.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
IDYLLWILD ARTS

Haw Yuan "Howard" Cheng began playing the violin at age 7 but switched to the viola when he was 11. In 2005, Howard enrolled at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. After completing their program, Howard was accepted to Idyllwild Arts Academy as a freshman in 2010 to study with Don McInnes. Last summer Cheng studied at the prestigious Perlman Music Program in New York and has also attended the Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina.

The concert will also feature Carl Maria von Weber's

Brendan Steele's super fans

BY JACK CLARK
PROFESSIONAL GOLF
CORRESPONDENT

Last year, Idyllwild native, Brendan Steele made a favorable impression on Parisians during his 7th-place finish at the French Open golf tournament — so much so that tournament officials extracted his promise to return this year.

During last week's Humana Challenge in partnership with the Clinton Foundation tournament,

more international fans were discovered. Steele has super-fans among our friends north of the border. André Pilon and his wife Pierrette Filon, residents of Montreal, Canada, discovered Steele in 2010 during a tournament in Athens, Ga., on the Nationwide Tour.

Pilon and Filon had traveled to Georgia to follow a young Montreal golfer, Julien Trudeau, around the course. It happened that Trudeau and

See Fans, page 22

Steele optimistic despite disappointing start

BY JACK CLARK
PROFESSIONAL GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Brendan Steele told the Town Crier last week that he had had mental troubles with his game since the Tournament of Champions in Maui, but that he felt that turning around at the Humana Challenge in La Quinta. While he missed the cut at the Farmers Insurance Open in La Jolla last week, he continued to feel optimistic about his game.

As he stated following the Humana, Steele said that he felt good about his game after playing at Torrey Pines, but he just didn't get good scoring, out of his play. He shot an even par 71-73 — 144 during his two days of play.

Steele hit 71 percent of the fairways with drives averaging 291 yards and he hit 69 percent of the greens in regulation, but he was leaving himself many long putts for the needed birdie. He averaged nearly two putts per green on Thursday and Friday.

See Steele, page 22

Chamber music recital Tuesday

Idyllwild Arts welcomes Todor Pelev, violinist, and Douglas Ashcraft, pianist, for an evening of chamber music 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7. They will perform Stravinsky's Suite Italienne, Bela Bartok's First Rhapsody and the Sonata for Violin and Piano by Cesar Franck.

Ashcraft has performed to acclaim in recitals and con-

"Overture to Oberon" and Beethoven's Symphony #5 In C Minor, Op. 67.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 5. The concert performance

certs throughout the United States, South America and Europe. A winner of prizes in many competitions, in addition to his solo work, Ashcraft is in demand as a chamber musician. His debut at Carnegie Hall with Welsh cellist Kathryn Price received lavish praise from the New York Times. Some of the venue highlights of their performances include

is free, open to the public and will be held at The Idyllwild Arts Foundation Theatre in Bowman Hall on the Idyllwild Arts campus, 52500 Temecula Rd. in Idyllwild.

Lincoln Center, London's Wigmore Hall and Jacqueline Du Pre Hall at Oxford University in England. Ashcraft currently serves as Dean of the Arts and a member of the artist faculty at Idyllwild Arts Academy.

Pelev first attracted international attention when he captured the silver medal in the Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poland and first prize in Bulgaria's National Violin Competition. After graduating from the Sofia Conservatory, Pelev continued his studies at the Juilliard

School in New York City and at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Pelev has been a concertmaster of the Baltimore Opera, Riverside, South Bay and Redlands Symphony orchestras, and is presently serving as a concertmaster of the San Bernardino Symphony and the Redlands Bowl Orchestra.

This recital performance is free, open to the public and will be held at Stephens Recital Hall on the Idyllwild Arts campus, 52500 Temecula Rd. in Idyllwild.

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SPORTS

Town Hall Adult Volleyball

Town Hall Sports Coordinator **Jeremy Teeguarden** reported on Town Hall Adult volleyball for the week of Jan. 23.

Monday, Jan. 23, volleyball game was between Forest Lumber and Pacific Slope. Pacific Slope played well all night and won the match in three games 25-17, 25-10, 25-22. **Kylie Kenyon** and **Noah Whitney** played great for their teams.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the Idyllwild Garage faced Silver Pines Lodge, who got off to a quick start winning the first two games. **Caleb Anderson** hit the ball well for Silver Pines. The Garage didn't quit. **Maria Loutzenhiser** played terrific for the Garage. They won the next two games tying the match, which forced a fifth game. In another tight game, the Garage prevailed and won the match 10-25, 18-25, 25-23, 25-20, 15-12.

Wednesday night's volleyball game was between Idyllwild Chevron and Idyllwild Garage. All the games were really close as **Tyla Friemoth** for Chevron and **Kirsten Torrez** for the Garage were awesome all match. The Garage was a little to strong and went on to win their second match of the week in four games 25-22, 23-25, 25-23, 25-20.

The week's final volleyball game matched Forest Lumber and Idyllwild Inn. Idyllwild Inn started off hot and played well the whole match. **Brian McWilliams** and **Dawn Sonnier** played great all night. Idyllwild Inn won in three games 25-18, 25-14, 25-16.

Volleyball Standings (as of Jan. 27)

Team	Wins	Losses
Idyllwild Garage	7	1
Idyllwild Inn	5	2
Idyllwild Chevron	4	3
Silver Pines Lodge	4	3
Pacific Slope	2	5
Forest Lumber	0	8



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Town Hall Youth Basketball

Town Hall Sports Coordinator **Jeremy Teeguarden** reported on youth basketball for both the College League (kindergarten through third-grade) and the Pro League (third- through sixth-grade) for the week of Jan. 23.

College League (Kindergarten through third-grade)

On Friday, Jan. 27, the College League Games started with a match between the Idyllwild Vacation Rentals Wolverines and the Village Hardware Blue Devils. The game was close the whole way. **Brody Posey** and **Brian Mabery** played terrific for their teams. The Blue Devils made a late basket to take the lead and went on to win 17-16.

In the second game, the Gastrognome Gators faced the Rotary Wildcats. The Gators jumped to an early lead thanks in part to **Lila Whitney's** great playing. Despite **Ellie Reyes's** tough defense for the Wildcats, the Gators won 25-20.

Team	Wins	Losses
Rotary Wildcats	4	1
Gastrognome Gators	4	1
Village Hardware Blue Devils	2	3
Idyllwild Vacation Wolverines	0	5

Pro League (Third- through sixth-grade)

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the basketball games got started with the Pro's Pino Tree Service Heat taking on the Idyllwild Automotive Grizzlies. Throughout the game, both teams played great defense, particularly noteworthy was the defensive play of **Kilo Reynosa** and **Adam Smith**. In the third quarter, the Heat took the lead and won 12-9.

The second game pitted the Fairway Market Lakers against the Town Crier Clippers. The Clippers fell behind early but made a nice comeback in the third quarter to get to within a couple baskets. **Lainie Wilke** and **Rylan Hardy** had great games for their teams. In the fourth quarter the Lakers regained control and went on to win 19-12.

The Pro League's Friday games began the Town Crier Clippers and the Roby Gray Construction Cavs. The Clippers



The Gators, wearing orange, cross into Wildcat territory, led by **Preston Pino** with the ball. Other gators include, from left, **Lila Whitney** (No. 4), **Katelyn Sonnier** (No.11) and **Cole Sonnier** (No. 5). Wildcats, giving case, from left, **Grace McKimson** (No.12), **Ellie Reyes** (No. 2) and **Cody Fogle** (far right). The Gators won 25-20.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

were hot early as **Joseph Tiso** played great for the Clippers. **Carmen Pratt** played hard all game for the Cavs scoring 6 points but in the end the Clippers won 20-16.

The final game was for first place between the Fairway Market Lakers and the Pino Tree Service Heat. Both teams played hard throughout in a spirited game. **Toby Posey** for the Heat and **Seth Clowers** for the Lakers each scored four points for their teams. With less than a minute to go, the Lakers took the lead. The Heat had a couple shots to tie the game but came up just short as the Lakers won 22-20.

Team	Wins	Losses
Fairway Market Lakers	6	1
Pino Tree Service Heat	5	2
Town Crier Clippers	3	3
Gray Construction Cavs	1	5
Idyllwild Auto Grizzlies	1	5

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6	5	7	3	9	1	2	4	8
1	4	3	2	5	8	9	7	6
9	8	2	6	4	7	3	1	5
5	1	4	7	6	3	8	9	2
2	6	9	5	8	4	7	3	1
3	7	8	1	2	9	6	5	4
4	9	6	8	3	5	1	2	7
7	2	5	9	1	6	4	8	3
8	3	1	4	7	2	5	6	9

Answers to Sudoku
(Puzzle on next page)

A	B	S	W	H	A	T	S	L	I	M
D	O	T	H	U	G	E	C	O	D	A
S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T	L	I	E
O	W	N	A	R	S	E	N	A	L	
V	A	L	L	E	Y	A	I	R		
A	I	L	S	A	W	P	A	S	T	E
I	D	E	S	M	I	D	S	T	O	P
N	E	R	V	Y	G	A	T	R	U	E
E	E	L	D	E	M	U	R	E		
M	I	S	L	A	Y	S	R	A	G	
A	B	E	T	S	T	R	E	N	G	T
S	I	R	E	O	O	P	S	L	E	O
T	S	A	R	L	A	M	A	E	N	D

Answers to Crossword
(Puzzle on next page)

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54055 #6 Pine Crest
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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You don't like rejection. But instead of trying to "ram" your ideas through to an unreceptive audience, stand back and wait for a more favorable environment later this month.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Job commitments call for the tidy Taurean to charge into those problem-plagued projects and get them into shape. Then go ahead and enjoy the fun and friendships of your expanding social life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The pressures of the workplace are beginning to ease. While you still need to stay connected to your ongoing commitments, you'll be able to take more time to relax with family and friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might feel that you need to prove how much you can do. But be careful not to take on more than you can handle, or you risk being bogged down. An Aries has a message for you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Financially it could be a little tight for a while. So resist the urge to splurge on things you don't really need. There will be time enough to indulge yourself when the money squeeze eases later this month.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You demand trust from others. But someone is creating a situation that could put your own trustworthiness in question. Be sure to keep all lines of communication open.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A problem delays

the recognition that you hoped to receive for your hard work. But all will soon be resolved. Remember to make patience your watchword this week.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Those wonderful ideas could expand your workplace prospects and ultimately lead you on a new career path. Your personal life also opens up new vistas.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) So much seems to be swirling around you these days that you might find it hard to focus on priorities. Best advice: Take things one at a time, and you'll get through them all.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Work out situations with what you have, and avoid the temptation to create complications where they don't exist. This applies both at home and in the workplace.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Keep your keen senses open to possible changes in personal and/or professional situations. Knowing what might lie ahead gives you an edge on how to handle it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Personal pressures at work could create a problem with your performance. Best advice: Focus on the job ahead of you. If necessary, you can deal with the other issue later.

BORN THIS WEEK: Like your fellow Aquarian Abraham Lincoln, you have a way of handling the most difficult situations with grace and conviction.

CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous page)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
			18			19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
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46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Six-pack muscles
 - 4 "Huh?"
 - 8 Slender
 - 12 Speck
 - 13 Ginormous
 - 14 Last few notes
 - 15 Good poker hand
 - 17 Stead
 - 18 Possess
 - 19 Weapon collection
 - 21 San Fernando, for one
 - 24 Melody
 - 25 Have a bug
 - 26 Witnessed
 - 28 Stickum
 - 32 March 15, e.g.
 - 34 Central
 - 36 Bring to a halt
 - 37 Bold
 - 39 Roscoe
 - 41 Regret
 - 42 Conger, e.g.
 - 44 Coy
 - 46 Puts in the wrong place
 - 50 Tatter
 - 51 Help slyly
 - 52 Vigor
 - 56 Paddock papa
 - 57 "My bad"
 - 58 Writer Buscaglia
 - 59 Despot
 - 60 Dalai -
 - 61 Tackle's teammate

- DOWN**
- 1 Billboards
 - 2 Automaton, for short
 - 3 Modern-day pram
 - 4 Complains feebly
 - 5 Embrace
 - 6 Ottoman bigwig
 - 7 Aquarium fish
 - 8 Eyeball coats
 - 9 Pork cut
 - 10 Concept
 - 11 Manhandle
 - 16 Piercing tool
 - 20 Taste
 - 21 Futile
 - 22 Staffer
 - 23 Sweet potato kin
 - 27 Puke
 - 29 Fight
 - 30 Go sightseeing
 - 31 Duel tool
 - 33 Less corpulent
 - 35 Old man
 - 38 Verily
 - 40 Singer Brewer
 - 43 Disinfectant brand
 - 45 Chap
 - 46 Spar
 - 47 Wading bird
 - 48 Antitoxins
 - 49 Old portico
 - 53 Spinning stat
 - 54 Coffee break hour
 - 55 Scuttle

SUDOKU

(Answers on previous page)

	5				1	2		8
		3	2				7	
9				4		3		
		4		6	3			2
	6			8		7		
3			1				5	
4					5	1		
	2		9					3
		1		7			6	

Buy a classified and sell your stuff! Call Sandy at the Town Crier: 659-2145

IFPD

Continued from page 1

receipt check for \$119,000. IFPD still owes the county \$38,000 from the fall revenue advance, but Sherman believes the current balance (about \$380,000) augmented with ambulance and mutual aid revenue will cover the District's expenses through July.

"We should make it easily to July 1, which is when the longest period of no revenue begins," Sherman said. "We should have enough cash flow to July, but not a lot past July." He warned the board that another advance immediately after the new fiscal year begins may be necessary until the whole budget and finance situation can be fixed.

He did identify several

projects that could eventually improve IFPD's cash flow over the next few months. But getting a completed 2010-11 audit is a necessary first step. Commissioner Jerry Buchanan has been working with Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott, the San Bernardino accounting firm, to get the audit finished as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile Sherman has contacted several organizations, such as Kansas State Bank, which has the loan on the two engines, and the Department of Agriculture about the possibility of refinancing three loans into one. He is thinking of combing the vehicle loans with the medical equipment loan.

"Its possible we could reduce the annual loan payments from \$84,000 to \$45,000," he told the com-

mission. Depending upon the new interest rate, total costs may also be less or not significantly more, he added. The photocopier contract, the emergency medical services contract for Pine Cove and the dispatch contract with Riverside County are all being reviewed. If potential savings exist, Sherman and the commission will try to renegotiate these contracts, although the ambulance contract with the county expires this June.

Sherman also said he would be reducing the hours of Administrative Assistant Rhonda Andrewson to contribute to the overall savings and demonstrate that everybody is part of the solution.

He and Buchanan are working hard to find a replacement for current bookkeeper, Leigh Humphrey,

who began as a volunteer, and wants to leave. Sherman is hoping to find the help to create a single set of financial records, "Currently I have three different books and am trying to squeeze the right numbers out of them," he lamented. Buchanan said that Humphrey now receives about \$3,000 monthly.

In the near future, the Commission's ad hoc negotiation subcommittee will begin meeting with the Idyllwild Career Firefighters' Association. Sherman reported that the committee had just sent the Association a letter requesting the meetings.

The commissioners agreed to acquire a set of general special district policies to review for application and implementation to the Idyllwild District.

"I've looked at the exist-

ing policies and many are 14 to 16 years old," said Commissioner Jerry Buchanan. "Some have new resolutions, but the policy remains unchanged. Our policies don't have the new legal requirements, such as posting the agenda on our website."

The policy package will cost about \$325 and has already been reviewed by legal experts, Buchanan added.

The public comment period ended about 7 p.m., an hour after the meeting started. Several speakers expressed their desire to engage the commission

in a question and answer forum, or as one said "give and take." But State law, the Brown Act, which is California's Open government legislation, limits board responses to public questions.

Some of the public comments questioned the commission's real commitment to saving the district. For example, rejecting former Chief Norm Walker's recommendation to eliminate paid call firefighters was a potential savings the commission ignored.

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Trivia test

Geography: Where is the Isle of Wight in relation to England?

Answer: It lies off England's southern coast

Public Notices

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Every day throughout the United States, newspapers publish thousands of public notices about events, conditions or actions that affect countless individuals, families, neighborhoods and businesses. Public notices cover many topics, including business matters, liquor licensing, public auctions and sales, estates, zoning, public meetings, bids to sell goods and services to the government, local government finances and state and local elections. Public notice is a fundamental component of our system of representative democracy, which depends upon the participation of educated, responsible citizens.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as PHOTOS BY CJT, 25612 Troy Lane, Sun City, CA 92585, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2199, Sun City, CA 92586. COLLIN JOSEPH THURSTON, 41593 Laurel Valley Circle, Temecula, CA 92591.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above on October 2011.

Signed: MAHER MASLOUB
Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Dec. 30, 2011.

FILE NO.: R-2011-13669

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON DEC. 30, 2016. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO DEC. 30, 2016. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as 30 DOLLAR VODKA, 10810 Inland Avenue, Mira Loma, CA 91752, Riverside County. LEVECKE CORPORATION, 10810 Inland Avenue, Mira Loma, CA 91752, a California corporation (A 27762).

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: J. NEIL LEVECKE

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 5, 2012.

FILE NO.: I-2012-00049

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 5, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 5, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: D. Perez, Deputy

Pub. TC: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 2012.

RIC1200252
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 4050 Main Street,
Riverside, CA 92501.
PETITION OF LORENA RODRIGUEZ FOR
CHANGE OF NAME.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: LORENA RODRIGUEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows:

a. Present name: JAZMINE MONIQUE GARCIA changed to Proposed name: JAZZMINE MONIQUE DELOS REYES.

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

a. Date: 2-27-2012 Time: 8:30 a.m. Dept. 04.

b. The address of the court is same as noted above.

3. a. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Idyllwild Town Crier.

Date: Jan. 9, 2012

PAMELA A. THATCHER
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
Pub. TC: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as FERN CREEK MEDICAL CENTER, 54910 Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: 4315 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501. KENNETH C. BROWNING, D.O. A PROFESSIONAL CORP., 4315 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501, a California corporation.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: KENNETH C. BROWNING, D.O.
President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 13, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-00530

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 13, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 13, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as APPLE DUMPLING LIVERY, 25431 Nestwa Trail, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3057, Idyllwild, CA 92549-3057. JANICE NOREEN DUQUETTE, 25431 Nestwa Trail, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: JANICE N. DUQUETTE
Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 17, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-00607

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 17, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 17, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: R. Anderson, Deputy
Pub. TC: Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as IDYLLWILD FITNESS CENTER, 54-223 Village Cener, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. SEDAT — AYGEN and RAUONA — AYGEN, 2700 Peterson Place #11G, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

This business is conducted by an Husband & Wife.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: SEDAT AYGEN

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 18, 2012.

FILE NO.: I-2012-00167

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 18, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 18, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: M. Duenas, Deputy

Pub. TC: Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 2012.

LIEN SALE CIVIL CODE 3071 & 3072

On 2/14/2012 at 41990 Whittier Ave., Hemet, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 1986 SEA SWIRL, HULL: BRCW044D1586, CA CF: N/A at 10:00 a.m.

Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as PRECISION ULTRASOUND, 67710 Quijo Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 4260, Palm Springs, CA 92263. HEALTH SCREENING UNLIMITED, INC., 67710 Quijo Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234, a California corporation.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above on Feb. 28, 2006.

Signed: GARY MICHAEL SCULLY
Owner /President
Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 26, 2012.

FILE NO.: I-2012-00243

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 26, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 26, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: T. Jensen, Deputy
Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as MEANT TO BE FIT, 54445 North Circle Drive, Ste. F, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3575, Idyllwild, CA 92549. VICTOR IVES SIRKIN, 52543 Double View Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: VICTOR I. SIRKIN

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 24, 2012.

FILE NO.:

R-2012-00857
NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 24, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 24, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: R. Anderson, Deputy
Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as T.J.'S WHOLESALE IMPORT AND EXPORT, 1420 Genoa Lane, San Jacinto, CA 92583, Riverside County. TAREK ESSA JOULANI, 1420 Genoa Lane, San Jacinto, CA 92583.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above.

Signed: TAREK ESSA JOULANI
Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 30, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01121

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 30, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 30, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: B. Villegas, Deputy
Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

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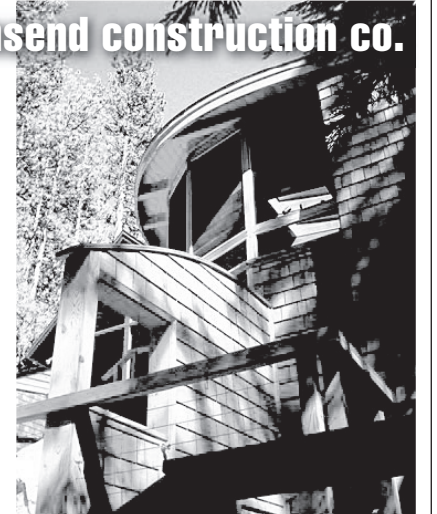
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Fans

Continued from page 14

Steele were paired together during the first two rounds of the tournament, but Trudeau did not make the cut while Steele did. So when the couple returned for the final two days of the tournament, they continued following Steele.

He made such a favorable impression on these Canadian golf fans that they have traveled to watch him play in Nationwide and PGA tournaments in Ontario, North Carolina, Connecticut and California.

“When Brendan sank that putt to win the Valero Texas Open last year, Pierrette was jumping around in front of our TV set in Montreal,” Pilon said.

Last week the Canadian couple flew from Montreal to follow Steele in the Humana Challenge at La Quinta, and they intend to travel to watch him later this

year at the Canadian Open in Ontario and the Travelers Classic in Connecticut, if he plays in those tournaments.

These Canadians are truly a pair of dedicated Brendan Steele fans. They not only followed him last week during his four tournament rounds, but also during his practice rounds on Monday and Tuesday and the pre-tournament Pro-Am on Wednesday — seven days.

“We’re his parents, and we didn’t even do that,” remarked Brendan’s father Kent Steele.

Even more amazing is the fact that Pilon and Filon are not retired folks with time on their hands. Pilon is an accountant-tax auditor for the government of Quebec, and Filon is a secretary for a large accounting firm. They use their vacation days to follow Steele. As the Canadians left the La Quinta tournament, they enthused about their intention to



Super-fans **Pierrette Filon** and husband **André Pilon** at the Humana Challenge golf tournament in La Quinta last week.

PHOTO BY JACK CLARK

return next year.

When asked about their attraction to Steele, André, whose first language is French, responded, “The reasons we are following Brendan are very simple. The first time my wife seen him, she noticed that Brendan is very sociable (friendly) and he has a lot of charisma. He is a fighter, he never give up, he got nerves of ‘Steel.’ Finally, my wife loves his new golf outfits

(pants, golf shirts).

“For myself, I loved person who has to battle all the time (I identify myself when I see him),” Pilon added. “Finally, we will follow his career every time we will be able to do so.”

So how many people do you know who fly from Montreal to Southern California to watch their favorite San Diego Charger? Pro football, eat your heart out.

New Business

Continued from page 10

including King’s cardio kickboxing and martial arts kung fu, restorative yoga, dance, movement, meditation, events and workshops. Located on Saunders Meadow Road, across from Idyllwild School, contact any of the organizers for class and event schedules and other general information at (951) 468-7300. Organizers plan events such as movement and dance nights, spiritual cinema, art and craft fairs, psychic fairs and healing festivals.

Claudine’s Ice Cream is now Cookie-Doe’s, with

new owners Ronald and Celena Stewart, who plan to maintain the ice cream, popcorn, fresh cotton candy, chili and snack menu similar to that featured by the previous owner. Hours are 11-5 most days and 12 to 5 on Sunday.

And finally, opening in Oakwood Village is “Chotchkes,” with an emphasis on women’s attire. According to owner Jill Golden’s Palm Springs website, the shop will feature “from subdued and spiritual to sparky and sassy” with an emphasis on pretty things.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.

Before

Continued from page 7

partway into a major remodel, abruptly stalled by the owners’ divorce. We were attracted mainly by the site’s inspiring scenery and the unfinished shell of a separate building, meant to become a studio and gallery linked through an upstairs deck to an expanded living room. But the main structure’s alien exterior begged for transformation to something more like a mountain cabin.

Within a year the downstairs studios became functional office spaces for the two of us, separated by a small library. The studio/gallery building became a guest house. Designer David Lilieholm cleverly mated the two buildings with a ground-level deck, an added portico and entry, a new roof and knotty-pine siding, and a carport nestled beneath oak and pine.

Our house validates Stewart Brand’s observation, in his book “How Buildings Learn,” that on English estates the servants’ quarters are the easiest feature to adapt to new uses. Today, photos of our home’s original appearance are unrecognizable, and it now serves perfectly the apartment-scale needs of a busy retired couple.

Steele

Continued from page 14

This week, Steele travels to Arizona for the Waste Management Phoenix Open. Last year he scored a hole in one at number 12 in that tournament on the way to posing a six under par score for the four days of play.

Next week, he will play in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am and the following week will take him to Pacific Palisades for the Northern Trust Open on the Riviera Country Club course.

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Fire

Continued from page 7

companies have continued to develop and improve small scale units to turn biomass into electricity.

Of course, environmental questions need to be answered, but protective solutions are already in practice elsewhere so I don’t see those as insurmountable.

The council will spend this year studying the possibility of setting up such a unit on the hill. The numbers may or may not work out to allow us to move forward immediately, but I am sure that at some point they will.

The sale of the electricity generated by our own biomass could pay for some or all of needed fuel reduction work in and around our communities. And most importantly, along with the right agency and public support, it would be mainly self-sustaining. We would have a fire prevention system built to last.

CREATURE CORNER

By MIMI AND HOOTCH

Boo! Now you see me; now you don't. What a week it's been with **Boo**, the Chiweenie and his tricks. He's safe and at home now. **Kona**, and **Titan** have been reunited once again with their human. Looks like **Amadeus**, the German shepherd wagged his tail right into the hearts of his new family. Paws up to you.



Bentley is a young, male American Staffordshire. He is a fan of playtime, belly rubs and treats, too, of course. Good with other dogs and humans. Bentley has learned basic commands.

And **Lulu** is back! A young lab/shep mix, she is good on the leash, learns commands quickly, and likes the canine crowd. Lulu

prefers not to share her kingdom with felines. She was abandoned by her owner and is certain that another energetic, Frisbee throwing family will walk thru our doors and say "Let's go home, Lulu."

Reily's bags are packed, bones included, and she is ready to go.

A true hikers

dream, Reily has great energy on the trail, and on a leash. Hide and seek is her favorite game whether it's a rock or her favorite toy. Reily's focus comes naturally, and everything else she learns is just gravy. In the bowl, that is.

Mrs. Magu is a beautiful 3-year old. She loves kids and is okay with other cats and dogs. Her family moved and could not take her with them, leaving her wondering why she was left behind. She so misses having a home and being part of someone's life. It would be her distinct pleasure

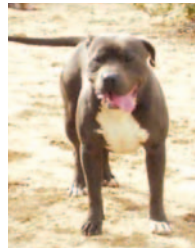


to be part of yours. She doesn't think that's asking too much in return for all the love she has to give.

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Creature corner is sponsored this week by Brent Skean. To sponsor the column, call Shane Fender at the Town Crier, 659-2145.



65 years ago - 1947

The highlight of the week was Mike and Dorothy Michelsen opening their long awaited Fern Valley Market. The opening took place after 12 months of all sorts of delays and problems, according to the couple. "Alpine" is the market's name.

60 years ago - 1952

Two couples from Los Angeles started a weekend ski tow operation at Hidden Lodge. Because the tow was at the 6,500-foot level, snow lasted longer than in the center of Idyllwild.

55 years ago - 1957

A buyer was found for the Pine Cove Water District's \$110,000 bond issue.

50 years ago - 1962

New owners Bob and Jan Oates announced plans to extensively remodel the Fern Valley Market building with an Alpine theme. Oates said a pharmacy would occupy the north end of the building.

45 years ago - 1967

Sgt. Gary Dykes phoned from Singapore where he was resting after taking part in Operation Cedar Falls in Vietnam. Gary said most of his squad was wiped out in combat during a push northwest of Saigon.

40 years ago - 1972

Kay Cenicerros was named to fill a vacancy on the County Planning Commission. She was the first woman ever to serve on the commission.

35 years ago - 1977

Idyllwild Fire Chief Bud Hunt said ground might be broken as early as July on the new Idyllwild Fire Station — thanks largely to a successful effort to grab a federal block grant and a low-interest federal loan. Hunt was behind both.

30 years ago - 1982

A public hearing on Mile High Recovery's request for a halfway house in Idyllwild was set for March 2. The hearing was requested by Kay Cenicerros, Riverside

County supervisor, for the 3rd District. Cenicerros told the Town Crier that several concerns prompted her to call for the hearing.

25 years ago - 1987

The State Water Resources Control Board was holding up approval of another \$8 million in grant funds to cover increased costs under a \$15 million Idyllwild sewer project.

20 years ago - 1992

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints received county approval to build a 3,232-square-foot church on 2 acres of property at Tollgate Road and Highway 243. The structure was expected to take eight to nine months to build and would be in a Swiss Alps design.

15 years ago - 1997

For the first winter in a long time, Josh Bischof, then 19 years old, was on the sidelines. He had been working toward a spot on the U.S. Olympic team since age 12, and was finally living

the life of a back-country teen.

10 years ago - 2002

South Coast Air Quality Management — the agency that enforces air quality rules in much of Southern California — issued a notice of violation to the Hemet Unified School District for breaking regional and federal rules during the removal of some asbestos roofing tiles found buried behind Idyllwild School in July 2000.

5 years ago - 2007

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) told local business owners at a Chamber of Commerce meeting about an opportunity for low-interest loans if they suffered economic injury from the Esperanza Fire that began Oct. 26, 2006.

1 year ago - 2011

Nineteen-year-old Casey Abrams, Idyllwild School and Idyllwild Arts (IA) graduate, made his debut as a 2011 "American Idol" contestant.

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Ice rink being dismantled

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Idyllwild Community Recreation Council (ICRC) stated in an undated announcement (see ICRC ad on page 3) that there would be no Idyllwild ice rink this season. While the rink operators seem to be in the process of dismantling the rink infrastructure, the site is unsecured with some potential hazards left unprotected.

Gary Steven, a private operator whom ICRC had approved to open a rink on the Idyllwild Community Center property, began dismantling his never-opened rink during the week of Jan. 23. By Monday afternoon Jan. 30, work was left still undone and the site remained unsecured.

Not fenced and open to anyone were two sealed drums of red dyed diesel fuel #2 marked on the drum lids as "moderate" fire hazards. ICRC director Emily White said they would be removed Wednesday. On Monday, an unsecured open drum



Ice-making coils at the Idyllwild Community Center site on Sunday are folded, wrapped and ready to transport.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

labeled "ethylene glycol" containing liquid with siphoning hoses protruding from it was removed from the site. An apparently empty glycol drum was also removed. Other unsecured equipment includes a Zamboni with a flat tire, a chiller, compressor, coils, hockey sticks, electric drill, gas cans and miscellaneous items.

Steven, who could not be contacted for this ar-

ticle, had hoped to call his Idyllwild rink "Ice Dreams." It had been scheduled to open Thanksgiving weekend. The ice for the rink never completely froze because of equipment problems, Steven told ICRC.

Steven operated a rink, Ice Gardens, in La Quinta prior to 2009. He relocated for the 2009-2010 season to Big Bear Lake. Both operations are now closed. Dan

McKernan, director of marketing and public relations for the Big Bear Lake Resort Association, reported to the Town Crier that Steven's season at Big Bear was not completely successful. His hours of operation were "more off than on for the winter," McKernan said. He also said Steven had difficulty keeping the ice frozen at the rink site and had to close his operation several months early.

ICRC was contacted by phone by Steven, saying he wanted to open a rink in Idyllwild, according to ICRC Vice President Dawn Sonnier.

Sonnier reported that ICRC is currently owed substantially more than the \$150 that was reported at their last board meeting for water and electricity used by Steven's operation. Since that meeting, ICRC has received its January utility bills. White reported that Steven had agreed to pay the bill within the next several weeks.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.



Friends of the Idyllwild Library spokesperson **Bob Ferguson** recalls the long road that led to this occasion.

PHOTO BY
MARSHALL SMITH

Library

Continued from page 1

Idyllwild with its very educated population, this library would be a "very essential piece of infrastructure."

"I want to thank the Friends for bringing a lot of wisdom and [suggesting] good features to this project," he said. "This will not only be a library, it will be a community center." Stone said he would hold his monthly meetings in the library's new community room. "We'll discuss the next project we'll be building in this beautiful community of Idyllwild," he enthused.

He noted the long advocacy and hard work the Friends brought to this project,

saying, "It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. I think it's remarkable that we're spending \$2 million to build this structure during this great recession. For all of you who are here today, this is a dream. Our EDA was wise enough to get some CBDG money [for this project] that is protected and cannot be stolen by state agencies."

Project Manager Brown said she does not anticipate anything that would significantly delay the projected Labor Day opening.

And with that, pictures were taken, congratulations were shared, and a dream that began many years ago began to take physical shape.

Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.

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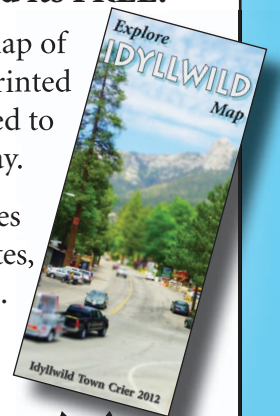
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