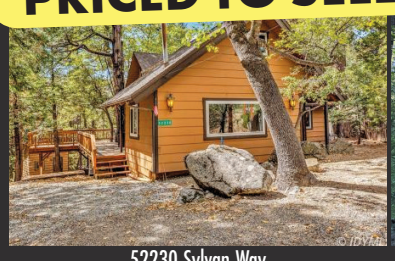
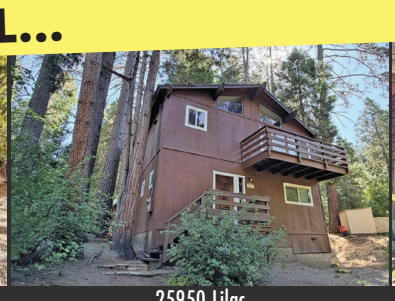
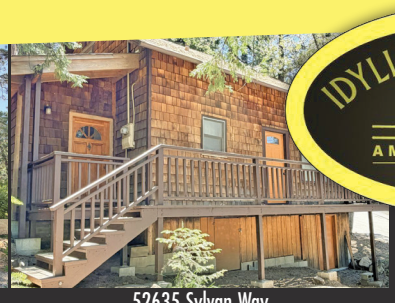
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VOL. 81 NO. 43 IDYLLWILD, CA THURS., OCT 29TH, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate the Town Crier's 80th Birthday!

Thursday,
November 5, 2026
5–8:30 p.m.
Middle Ridge Winery

After Esperanza
Investigation, rebuttal and changes in firefighting.
Page A2

School board race
Cardenas challenges Parson for the HUSD trustee seat.
Page A4

IWD hears concerns
Daycare, apartments and the sewer project.
Page A5

Hawkins honored
Local jazz legend selected for musicians hall of fame.
Page B1

Soccer thrillers
Unbelievable finishes in the youth championships.
Page B2

Meet Gavin Toler
The man, the myth and the listings.
Page B6

Idyllwild School, statewide education scores improve

By JP Crumrine
Correspondent

Earlier this month, the State Department of Education released the results of the 2025-26 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English and mathematics. Students at Idyllwild School performed better overall than the statewide results and the Hemet Unified School District results.

In California, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the proficiency standard – demonstrating proficient or advanced grade-level knowledge and skills – in English language arts, mathematics, and science showed slight increases from last year.

However, overall student scores for both English and mathematics statewide remained below student performance prior to the COVID crisis in 2019. Despite incremental improvement from the year prior, the majority of students are below grade-level standards.

"California has made important strides in expanding student supports and opportunities, but the pace of academic improvement reminds us that our work is far from finished," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in the Department of Education's press release.

Locally, in English, overall, 63.1% of the Idyllwild School students (grades three through eight) met or exceeded the standards. This was an improvement of 6.5 percentage points over the 2024-25 test results. Statewide, 49.3% of students met or exceeded the English standard, an increase of 0.5 percentage points.

In the Hemet Unified School District, the percentage of all students who met or exceeded the English standard was only 36%, which was an increase of 1.6 percentage points.

The proportion of students scoring at the "minimal" level on the test – not yet demonstrating a consistent mastery of grade-level knowledge and skills – decreased in each category to 29% in English and 38.2% in math, according to the Department of Education's press release.

Mathematics results traditionally trail the English language achievement. At Idyllwild School, 41.5% of the students met or exceeded the standard. For the state, only 38.4% of students achieved one of these levels. In the Hemet School District, the overall math results were lower – 20.3% met or exceeded the standard.

At Idyllwild School, in every grade but third and fifth, the number of students who met or exceeded the English language arts standard was greater than 60%, and in grades six and eight more than 70% of students met or exceeded the standard.

For math, the results were similar. For grades six through eight, at least 50% of students achieved at this level. However, in grades seven and eight more than half the students met or exceeded standards, significantly greater than the county or state results.

Overall, both Idyllwild School and the entire HUSD improved in both English and math this year. Idyllwild is above the English proficient level; whereas HUSD overall is below proficient in both English and math, according to Sonia Ramirez, chief communications officer for HUSD.

"This marks the third consecutive year Hemet USD has demonstrated growth across every indicator on the California School Dashboard, a clear testament to the relentless commitment of our educators, staff, and students," HUSD Superintendent Dr. Christi Barrett said in an email to the Town Crier. "By pairing high academic rigor with meaningful student support, we have also driven our graduation rate to 93.3%,"

See Test Results, page A4



A pallid bat is examined by a researcher. Documented in the Idyllwild–May Valley area, these nocturnal hunters often catch their prey on the ground—and their menu includes scorpions. PHOTO BY ANN FROSCHAUER/USFWS

New e-bike laws target dangers for young riders

By JP Crumrine
Correspondent

Last month, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed three bills intended to strengthen safety for riders of e-bikes and pedestrians on sidewalks and trails where e-bikes run.

The rising use of e-bikes has resulted in high-profile collisions and growing safety concerns among parents, healthcare professionals and state legislators.

This year, Orange County prosecutor Todd Spitzer has filed charges of child endangerment against a dozen families for allowing their children to ride electric motorcycles illegally. Separately, the parents of a 13-year-old boy who died in a crash while riding his bike at more than 40 miles per hour have been charged in his death.

One of the new laws, SB 1167, addresses the situation where a two-wheeled vehicle, such as an electric motorcycle, can go faster than an e-bike. Under SB 1167, sellers of faster and/or more powerful vehicles are required to inform consumers that they don't meet the definition of an e-bike and therefore require vehicle registrations and licenses to operate.

The bill will also require every e-bike sold in California to have a label that's easy to see and read, identifying what class of e-bike is being sold and the maximum speed it can go. Also, law enforcement must include the e-bike label information on incident reports.

According to CalMatters, "A 2025 report by San Jose State University's Mineta Transportation Institute found that illegal e-motos are the primary reason behind increased injuries among electric mobility riders, not legal e-bikes."

"I thank the Governor for signing SB 1167, which ensures that consumers know if they are buying an e-bike or something else that goes much faster and carries greater risk," said Sen. Catherine S. Blakespear, the bill's author. "Bicycle safety starts with knowing what your bike can do and following the safety requirements that come with it."

Senate Bill 1167 sailed through the Senate with strong bipartisan support and no opposing votes. Seventy-seven Assembly members supported it and only two opposed it. Four key advocacy groups for bicycling and traffic safety — Cal Bike, People for Bikes, Streets for All, and Streets are for Everyone — also backed the measure.

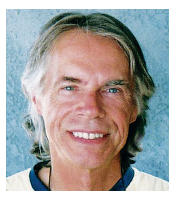
A second bill, AB 2346, imposes new manufacturing and disclosure requirements for e-bikes and sets speed limits for riding on a sidewalk. It will require all Class 2 electric bicycles manufactured, sold, or offered for sale after Jan. 1, 2029, to be equipped with a speedometer. The bill also would require all electric bicycles manufactured, sold, or offered for sale after that date to be equipped with an integrated or detachable front lamp and a rear lamp.

A third bill, AB 2595, only applies to San Mateo County. It authorizes a pilot program allowing local jurisdictions to restrict Class 1 and Class 2 e-bike use by children under 12. Violations can result in a $25 fine, subject to warning provisions and exceptions. Parents or guardians whose children violate the law will be issued a $25 fine.

"E-bikes are great mobility options that are rapidly increasing in popularity," said Assemblymember Diane Papan, who proposed the bill. "But as usage is increasing, so are the rates and severity of injuries, particularly among our youth."

"AB 2595 establishes a pilot program in San Mateo County authorizing local jurisdictions to restrict the use of Class 1 and Class 2 electric bicycles to children 12 years and older," she said in a press release after its passage.

"The measure will give the local communities tools to address growing public safety concerns surrounding young riders operating powerful e-bikes on neighborhood streets, bike paths, and around school campuses."

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After Esperanza: investigation, rebuttal and change

By David Jerome
Editor

In the aftermath of the 2006 Esperanza fire, during which five Forest Service firefighters including Idyllwild resident Mark Loutzenhiser lost their lives, the Forest Service and Cal Fire issued an "Accident Investigation Factual Report" on the incident, an action always taken when firefighters are lost in the line of duty.

Loutzenhiser and his Engine 57 company arrived at the fire along with four other FS engines. The captains of those engines did not agree with the findings of the "Factual Report," and wrote the "Esperanza Factual Report Analysis," which Chief Chris Fogle has said could be called a rebuttal.

The Department of Agriculture issued its own Office of the Inspector General report on the incident, which bears out many of the criticisms in the F.S. captains' analysis.

Esperanza has become shorthand among firefighters not only for tragedy, but for a distrust of the investigatory process, according to the PhD thesis of a Forest Service pilot, Ivan Pupulidy, who went on to head the service's Office of Innovation and Organizational Learning. Esperanza was among the first three investigations following a 2003 mandate, along with Thirtymile in Washington state and Cramer in Idaho. Those other two investigations resulted in criminal prosecutions against firefighters.

The "Esperanza Factual Report Analysis," here called the rebuttal, was the work of the four surviving FS captains: Richard Gearhart Engine 51, Chris Fogle Engine 52, Anna Dinkel Engine 54, and Freddie Espinoza, Engine 56. What follows is a comparison of these two documents.

The rebuttal begins with the characterization in the "Factual Report" of the Octagon House, the residence that the crew of engine 57 were closest to. It says that the house was not an "isolated, vacant residential structure," but one of 20 structures along Gorgonio View and Wonderview roads. The authors state the Cal Fire report "suggests from the outset that there was no sound tactical or logical reason for Engine 57 to be there."

The report states that at the time of the burnover, the fire was "under the influence of Santa Ana winds," while the rebuttal says the winds were 8-10 mph at one house and 2-5 at another, and "winds were calm during this time period."

The report quotes the incident commander's characterization of the fire's behavior as "abnormal" when compared to other fires that had burned in the area. The rebuttal responds that the fire's behavior, burning uphill into steep drainages, was "precisely what wildland firefighters are trained to anticipate and would expect fires to do." The direction of spread, the rebuttal continues, was the same as earlier fires.

The rebuttal authors find fault with the language with which the report "sets the scene," with phrases like "chaotic conditions," "people fleeing" obstructed roads, "numerous horses and livestock," and the statement that the four fire engines became separated because of "traffic congestion."

The rebuttal refers to "normal conditions encountered during Initial Attack incidents." It noted that the four USFS engines were separated by "other emergency equipment," municipal engines repositioning, but adds that this did not prevent the four engines from "meeting up at the staging area, getting briefed…or making sure the FS engines were all on the same page prior to going down to our assignment." The delay grew to 30 minutes or more when the Structure Protection Group Supervisor directed engines 56 and 54 to wait for an additional engine from March Air Force base.

The rebuttal also finds fault with the timeline of the fire's advance, especially as it refers to the "main" or head, the most active part of the fire, and two flanking runs. Engines 52 and 57, according to the rebuttal, were positioned along the south flank, not the head.

When the brush engine from March Air Force Base arrived, it joined engines 51, 56, and 54 and followed Branch II (a Cal Fire supervisory engine) down Gorgonio View to the structure called the Doublewide. Branch II had assured the other captains that the structure was safe, but upon arrival the three FS captains "deemed that this structure was not safe due to inadequate clearance…" Due to the "extended travel time" uphill back up Gorgonio View, they decided that leaving was not safe and made plans to "burn out" around the Doublewide.

The factual report describes the situation that followed, including the loss of communications: "Between approximately 6:45 and 6:50 a.m., Engine 52 Captain informed Engine 56 Captain that the fire is "boiling up at the bottom down below." Then Engine 57 Captain contacted Engine 51 Captain and advised to "begin firing now."

'After unsuccessful attempts using assigned fire radio frequencies to contact Branch II to inform him of the burnout operations, the burnout was performed by Engines 51, 54, 56, and MB-10 around the Doublewide. Following notable holding/suppression actions, all firefighters at the Doublewide took refuge in the fire engines during the peak of ember showers, smoke, and the passage of the main fire front at approximately 7:15 a.m."

The rebuttal finds fault with the line about "all firefighters" taking "refuge in the fire engines," saying that the firefighters "were directed back to the engines for accountability of personnel," with only three of seventeen actually getting into the engines.

The report then describes a failure of communications after the burnover: "Attempts by Engine 52 to contact Engine 57 went unanswered at approximately 7:15 a.m. At approximately 7:57 a.m., the heat and smoke had diminished enough for Engine 51 and 52 Captains to work their way into Engine 57's location to discover the burnover. Immediate attempts by Engine 52 Captain to make an emergency call for assistance onthe assigned fire command channel were unsuccessful, so he switched over to a Forest Service radio frequency and made contact with the Federal Interagency Communications Center (FICC). Following some initial confusion at the ICP over what was happening and where, the first agency medevac mission was activated with United States Forest Service Helicopter 535."

The rebuttal discusses the communications failure, saying that "Frequency management was not adequately addressed in the report." The authors state that "From the time that Engine 52 arrived at 16600 Wonderview Road and tried to establish positive communications with Engine 57… transmitting on the assigned radio frequencies was a major issue. Simply put, the assigned command and tactical frequencies were overloaded. This was due to: 1) the amount of equipment assigned and 2) the lack of radio discipline."

The rebuttal notes that the five FS engines and the March Air Base engine were all communicating on a FS channel while monitoring the assigned frequencies, all six captains were "clear on the firing operations" and the tactics were discussed between Captains 51 and 57 and monitored by the others.

The rebuttal goes into detail about the lack of radio discipline, noting that it is always standard operating procedure for "Emergency Traffic" calls to be honored and "answered immediately by those who have direct responsibility over the personnel or area in which the emergency traffic call is issued, Branch II or Twin Pines Structure Group Supervisor in this case."

But Captain 52 radioed Branch II twice over the Command Frequency and once over the Tactical Frequency, "Branch II- Captain 52 'Emergency Traffic'. All three calls went unanswered while other radio traffic continued. It is at this point that Captain 52 switched over to an un-Assigned frequency and raised San Bernardino at FICC for assistance. Valuable time was lost due to the responsible personnel's inability to respond on the Assigned Frequencies. This is in fact how the IC became aware of the Emergency Traffic situation on Wonderview and Gorgonio road. The IC heard it on the Forest Service radio on the loudspeaker at the ICP at Station 24."

After the fatal incident, the report says that a Type III (small) helicopter was unable to "meet the mission" due to high winds," but two Type II (medium lift) helicopters were able to transport two burn victims at 8:22 and 8:35. The bodies of the other three firefighters were removed at 7:09 p.m.

The rebuttal adds that the smaller helicopter was "bumped" from the assignment with the intent to transport Pablo Cerda and Captain Mark Loutzenhiser together in a single larger helicopter, and the smaller copter was helpful in determining that the landing zone was suitable for the larger craft.

The rebuttal takes issue with the positions of the bodies of the fallen firefighters and the location where Cerda was found as shown on the report's map. It takes issue with the Fire Progression Map regarding the direction of the fire's spread and the timeline. It says that the Direct Protection Area Map "…is inaccurate and does not show the Congressional boundary. This led to confusion as to the threat to the Forest early in the fire and jurisdictional issues. It is not discussed anywhere in the report."

See After Esperanza, page B4

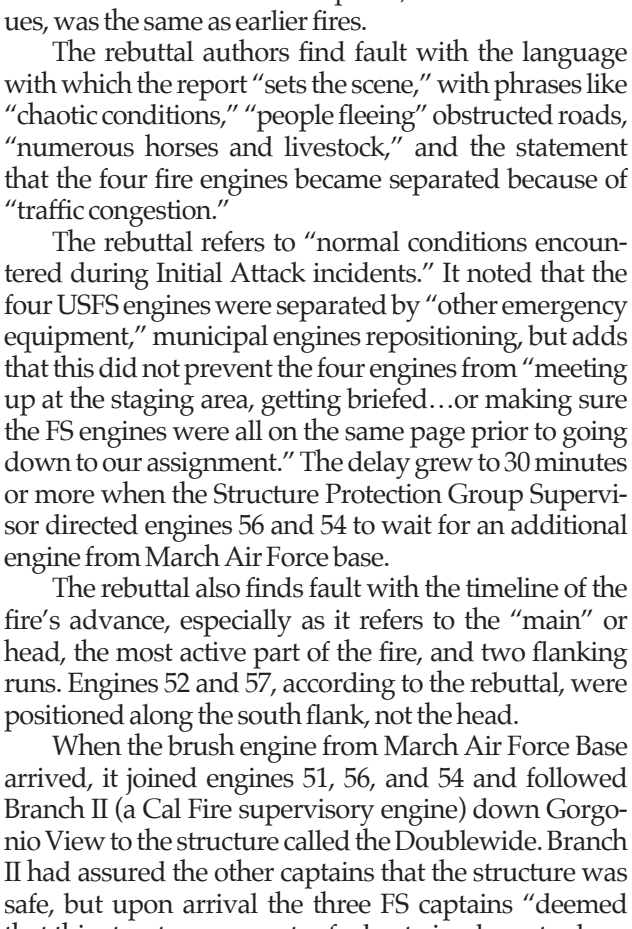


PHOTO BY KAT STOCKS

Service on Esperanza



Dear editor:

Thank you, Jeannine Charles-Stigall, for the fitting and touching tribute to the firefighters killed in the Esperanza Fire.

And thank you, editor David Jerome, for promising to present a more complete picture of the investigations that followed that tragedy.

As I recall, soon after the fire, the Town Crier began asking a lot of questions and was told, "Be patient. All will be forthcoming." Eventually, more than a year later, a preliminary report came out that was sharply critical of decisions made by the fire's command and management team. That was followed by a very long silence, despite constant badgering by the Town Crier, until eventually a final report was issued that found no fault on the part of command or management and offered no explanation of how the initial findings were overridden.

I look forward to your findings.

Richard Service
Rancho Mirage

HELP PRESERVE IDYLLWILD'S HISTORIC CHARACTER!

Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District is seeking volunteers to serve on the Idyllwild Historic Downtown District Local Review Board. Members review proposed property alterations, help preserve the District's historic character, and attend public meetings as needed. Members serve unpaid two-year terms.

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Idyllwild Weather

source: www.accuweather.com

Day	High / Low	Conditions
Wednesday 10/28	63 °F / 41 °F	Partly sunny and cool
Thursday 10/29	60 °F / 43 °F	Increasing clouds; cool
Friday 10/30	57 °F / 41 °F	Clouds and sun; shower possible
Saturday 10/31	54 °F / 40 °F	Mostly cloudy; showers possible
Sunday 11/1	58 °F / 37 °F	Rain tapering to showers
Monday 11/2	60 °F / 35 °F	Mostly sunny
Tuesday 11/3	59 °F / 38 °F	Clouds and sunshine

Coming Up | Community Calendar

OCTOBER 29–NOVEMBER 4, 2026

LIVE MUSIC • See page B3

Thursday, October 29

8:30–9:30 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

10–11 a.m. Fit After 50
Town Hall. Free; donations welcome.

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop-off
Idyllwild Library. Official location for completed ballots.

2–6 p.m. Kids Korner after school
Town Hall. Kids Korner, ages 5–14. Registration required; $25/day.

4–6 p.m. Halloween Chess Party
ICC Community Center. All ages and levels. Costumes, prizes and snacks. Free.

Friday, October 30

8:30–9:30 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

9:45–10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Town Hall. Free; donations welcome.

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop-off
Idyllwild Library. Official location for completed ballots.

10:45–11:45 a.m. Yoga for Seniors
Town Hall. Free. Bring a mat if available.

noon–1 p.m. Chair Exercise Class
Town Hall. Seated exercise. Free; donations welcome.

2–6 p.m. Kids Korner after school
Town Hall. Kids Korner, ages 5–14. Registration required; $25/day.

2–5 p.m. TODEC Food Drive
Idyllwild Indivisible collects canned food, dry goods, corn tortillas and feminine hygiene products for TODEC,an organization that advocates for immigrants in the Inland Empire. In front of Fairway Market.

5–6:50 p.m. Coco community screening
Hosted by Casa Querida. $10 at the door. Rustic Theatre.

5 p.m. Community Worship and Prayer Gathering
Shiloh Christian Ministries. Community worship and prayer.

Saturday, October 31

8:30–9:30 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

9 a.m.–5 p.m. In-person Voting
Idyllwild Library. Official vote center, Library Community Room.

4 p.m. Idyllwild Halloween Parade
Costume parade starts at Fern Valley Corners, at the top of North Circle Drive, at 4 p.m. Carnival festivities follow at Idy Park until 7 p.m.

4:30–7 p.m. Great Pumpkin Carnival
Idy Park. Trick-or-treating, games, face painting, a bouncy house and costume contests for all ages, including pets. Carnival admission is $7.

7–11 p.m. Halloween Spooktacular Party
American Legion Post 800. Bar food and drink specials, and costume contests with cash prizes. 54300 Marian View Dr.

8–10 p.m. Rocky Horror Halloween screening
Rustic Theatre. Special Halloween film screening.

Sunday, November 1

9 a.m.–2 p.m. Idyllwild Farmers Market
Town Hall. Local vendors.

9 a.m.–5 p.m. In-person Voting
Idyllwild Library. Official vote center, Library Community Room.

10 a.m.–2 p.m. Día de los Muertos Celebration and Aerial Show
Crafts, pan de muerto and an aerial show at noon. Casa Querida in Forest Haven, 54425 North Circle #8.

3–5 p.m. Celebration of Día de los Muertos
Create an altar in the Spirit Mountain Main House with photos, flowers, candles and favorite foods, and share memories of loved ones. 25661 Oakwood. Information: (951) 659-2523.

3 p.m. Sunday Snake Feeding
Idyllwild Nature Center. Park admission: $6 adults, $3 children.

Monday, November 2

8:30–9:30 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

9 a.m.–5 p.m. In-person Voting
Idyllwild Library. Official vote center, Library Community Room.

10:30–11:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Town Hall. Free; donations welcome.

noon–1 p.m. Chair Exercise Class
Town Hall. Seated exercise. Free; donations welcome.

2–6 p.m. Kids Korner after school
Town Hall. Kids Korner, ages 5–14. Registration required; $25/day.

5:30–6:30 p.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

6:30–7:30 p.m. Senior Cabaret workshop
Town Hall. Registered workshop; $55 for the series. Contact ICC about joining.

Tuesday, November 3

7 a.m.–8 p.m. Election Day Voting
Idyllwild Library. Official vote center, Library Community Room.

7–8 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

10–11 a.m. Fit After 50
Town Hall. Free; donations welcome.

10:30 a.m.–noon Feeding America Food Box Distribution
Outside Town Hall. Free; name/address required. Rain fallback Nov. 6; call 951-659-2638.

noon–3:30 p.m. Mah Jongg
Idyllwild Library. Community Room. All players welcome.

2–6 p.m. Kids Korner after school
Town Hall. Kids Korner, ages 5–14. Registration required; $25/day.

5:30–6:30 p.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

Wednesday, November 4

8:30–9:30 a.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

10:30–11:30 a.m. Yoga for Seniors
Town Hall. Free. Bring a mat if available.

11 a.m.–noon Storytime: Día de los Muertos
Idyllwild Library. Children's storytime in the Community Room.

noon–1 p.m. Chair Tai Chi
Town Hall. Free; donations welcome.

1–6 p.m. Kids Korner after school
Town Hall. Kids Korner, ages 5–14. Registration required; $25/day.

5:30–6:30 p.m. Jazzercise
Town Hall. Contact ICC for enrollment and pricing.

6:30–7:30 p.m. Senior Cabaret workshop
Town Hall. Registered workshop; $55 for the series. Contact ICC about joining.

MORE LOCAL EVENTS • idyllwildtowncrier.com/events
Times are local. Confirm details with organizers. AA: Open meetings welcome observers; closed meetings are for people with a drinking problem who want to stop.

Later dates

Friday, November 6
Science Night at AstroCamp
Family night with lab demos, a glow wall, Tesla coil, dry ice, vacuum chamber, telescope viewing and stargazing. Free, 6:30–8:30 p.m., AstroCamp, 26800 Saunders Meadow Rd.

Thursday, November 19
ICC Chess League
Junior league (ages 5–14) at 3:30; adult league (ages 15 and up) at 5. $29 annual membership. Idyllwild Community Center, 54201 Ridgeview Dr.

Friday, November 20
Senior Cabaret at Town Hall
ICC presents the fourth annual Senior Fireside Cabaret. Sign-up is open for the 12-week workshop in which participants prepare their story and a song to present to the community.

Saturday, November 28
Tree Lighting Festival
Annual holiday celebration at Idy Park. Food and nonprofit booths begin at 2 p.m.; entertainment starts at 4 p.m. The giant redwoods light up at approximately 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 19
Idyllwild Master Chorale Winter Concert
7:30 p.m., Lowman Concert Hall, IAA.

Sunday, December 20
Idyllwild Master Chorale Winter Concert
1:30 p.m., Lowman Concert Hall.

Recovery meetings

Thursday, October 29
noon–1 p.m. AA — Thursday Noontime Discussion
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

Friday, October 30
7–8 a.m. AA — Friday Morning Open Discussion
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

noon–1 p.m. AA — Friday Noontime Discussion
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

1:30–2:30 p.m. AA — Desire to Stop Drinking (Closed)
Idyllwild Community Church. Closed meeting.

5:30–6:30 p.m. AA — The Ark of Light
The Ark of Light. Open meeting.

Saturday, October 31
noon–1 p.m. AA — Idyllwild Monthly Speaker Meeting
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

5:30–6:30 p.m. AA — Saturday Happy Hour / As Bill Sees It
Idyllwild Water District. Outdoors behind the district office; bring a chair. Open meeting.

Monday, November 2
noon–1 p.m. AA — Idyllwild Nooners' Discussion
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

7–8 p.m. AA — Women's Literature Study (Closed, Women)
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Closed meeting; women only.

Tuesday, November 3
noon–1 p.m. AA — Idyllwild Nooners' 12 x 12 Study
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.

6–7 p.m. AA — Tuesday Book Study
St. Hugh's Episcopal Church. Open meeting.



ILLUSTRATION BY SAM MARKUS

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(s) is (are) doing business as LEMON LILY BY THE CREEK, 26220 PINE DELL RD, IDYLLWILD, CA 92549. COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE. Mailing Address: 8583 IRVINE CENTER DR, #197, IRVINE, CA 92618.

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State of LLC: CA.

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

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000).)

Registrant Signature:
ANGELA PHAM
PRESIDENT

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 09/29/2026
FILE NO.:
R-202614002

NOTICE — IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION OF 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION.

THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF 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).

Publication of notice pursuant to this section shall be once a week for four successive weeks. Four publications in a newspaper regularly published once a week or oftener, with at least 5 days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences with the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the twenty-eighth day, including therein the first day.

CERTIFICATION

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

PETER ALDANA,
County Clerk

Pub. TC: October 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MUD ALCHEMIST, 54425 NORTH CIRCLE DRIVE #5, IDYLLWILD, CA 92549. COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE. Mailing address: PO BOX 1244, IDYLLWILD, CA 92549.

MUD ALCHEMIST, LLC
PO BOX 1244
IDYLLWILD, CA 92549

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

State of LLC: CA

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

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000).)

Registrant Signature:
FREDERICK CAIN
MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 10/09/2026
FILE NO.:
R-202614600

NOTICE — IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION OF 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION.

THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF 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).

Publication of notice pursuant to this section shall be once a week for four successive weeks. Four publications in a newspaper regularly published once a week or oftener, with at least 5 days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences with the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the twenty-eighth day, including therein the first day.

CERTIFICATION

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

PETER ALDANA,
County Clerk

Pub. TC: October 15, 22, 28, November 5, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is/are doing business as BRUCE AND ZUKA LOCKSMITH INC., 23840 ROWE DRIVE, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557. COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE.

BRUCE AND ZUKA LOCKSMITH INC.
23840 ROWE DRIVE
MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

State of Corporation: CA

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

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000).)

Registrant Signature:
ALEXANDER ERIC APODACA
CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 10/09/2026
FILE NO.:
R-202614575

NOTICE — IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION OF 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION.

THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF 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).

Publication of notice pursuant to this section shall be once a week for four successive weeks. Four publications in a newspaper regularly published once a week or oftener, with at least 5 days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences with the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the twenty-eighth day, including therein the first day.

CERTIFICATION

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

PETER ALDANA,
County Clerk

Pub. TC: October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following fictitious business name AA LOCKSMITH, 23840 ROWE DRIVE, MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557, COUNTY: RIVERSIDE, has been abandoned by the following person(s):

AA LOCKSMITH
23840 ROWE DRIVE
MORENO VALLEY, CA 92557

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

State of Corporation: CA.

The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in Riverside County on 03/13/2025.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true, information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)

Signed:
ALEXANDER ERIC APODACA
CEO

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 10/09/2026
FILE NO. R-202503408

Pub. TC: October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2026

CVME 2613158
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 27401 MENIFEE CENTER DRIVE, MENIFEE, CA 92584, Branch name: MENIFEE JUSTICE CENTER.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: KAILA WILSON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. Present name: HALO BRIELLE CUMBERBATCH changed to Proposed name: HALO BRIELLE WILSON.

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: 02/04/2027. Time: 8:00 am.

b. The address of the court is same as noted above Dept. M205.

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: Riverside, Idyllwild Town Crier.

Date: 09/28/2026

BELINDA HANDY
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT **Pub. TC: October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 2026**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BLACK OAK STUDIO, 61380 CEDAR AVE, MOUNTAIN CENTER, CA 92561. COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE. Mailing address: NORTH CANYON VENTURES LLC, PO BOX 23, MOUNTAIN CENTER, CA 92561.

NORTH CANYON VENTURES LLC
61380 CEDAR AVE
MOUNTAIN CENTER, CA 92561

This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company.

State of LLC: CA

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

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000).)

Registrant Signature:
CARL DEWESE
MANAGING MEMBER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on 09/01/2026
FILE NO.:
R-202612637

NOTICE — IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION OF 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION.

THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF 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).

Publication of notice pursuant to this section shall be once a week for four successive weeks. Four publications in a newspaper regularly published once a week or oftener, with at least 5 days intervening between the respective publication dates not counting such publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences with the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the twenty-eighth day, including therein the first day.

CERTIFICATION

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

PETER ALDANA,
County Clerk

Pub. TC: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026

CVME2613157
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 27401 MENIFEE CENTER DRIVE, MENIFEE, CA 92584, Branch name: MENIFEE JUSTICE CENTER.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: ETHAN ANTONIO WHITEHEAD filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. Present name: ETHAN ANTONIO WHITEHEAD changed to Proposed name: ETHAN ANTONIO RODAS.

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: 01/28/2027. Time: 8:00 am.

b. The address of the court is same as noted above Dept. M205.

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: Riverside, Idyllwild Town Crier.

Date: 09/23/2026

BELINDA HANDY
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT **Pub. TC: October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026**

CVME2613368
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, 27401 MENIFEE CENTER DRIVE, MENIFEE, CA 92584, Branch name: MENIFEE JUSTICE CENTER.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: EZEQUEIL JIMENEZ MANCINAS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

a. Present name: EZEQUEIL JIMENEZ MANCINAS changed to Proposed name: EZEQUIEL JIMENEZ MANCINAS.

b. Reason for name change: My name on my birth certificate was written incorrectly. My first name was spelled wrong and should have been "Ezequiel". They also put Jimenez as my middle name and Mancinas as my only last name when my last name is correctly written as Jimenez Mancinas. I have no middle name.

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: 02/11/2027. Time: 8:00 am.

b. The address of the court is same as noted above Dept. M205.

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: Riverside, Idyllwild Town Crier.

Date: 10/21/2026

BELINDA HANDY
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT **Pub. TC: October 29, November 5, 12, 19, 2026**

LIEN SALE

2017 JEEP CHEROKEE VIN# 1C4PJLCS7HD221867 CA LIC# 7ZXU772 LIEN SALE: 11/9/2026 AT: 10:00 AM 494 SCOVELL AVE, SAN JACINTO, CA 92582

Pub. TC: October 29, 2026

LIEN SALE

On 11/09/2026 at 25687 MCLAUGHLIN RD, MENIFEE, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2018 JEEP VIN:3C4NJDCB9JT470717 STATE: CA LIC: 8EWC530 at 10:00 AM.

Pub. TC: October 29, 2026

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Cardenas challenges Parson for HUSD trustee seat

By JP Crumrine
Correspondent

Besides the Hemet Unified School District bond request, Hill voters will see that the HUSD trustee seat for District 7, which includes the Hill and Anza, is on the ballot.

Incumbent Jeremy Parson is seeking re-election, and Robert Cardenas is challenging him. Parson was elected in 2022, when he defeated his predecessor, Megan Haley.

Parson is running on his record and does not have a campaign website; but Cardenas does. He has extensive experience in local government beginning with Orange County in 1994 and including the cities of Fontana, Temecula, Menifee and Moreno Valley. Much of his work was in the human resources sector. He has a doctorate in public administration from the University of La Verne.

He has three children, all educated locally. Both his wife and daughter work for HUSD.

"I am running for the school board because I believe our students, parents, teachers, and taxpayers deserve strong leadership, transparent decision-making, and responsible stewardship of public resources" he said, replying to Ballotpedia's questions. "My focus is ensuring every student has access to a safe learning environment, high-quality educational opportunities, and the support needed to succeed, regardless of whether they live in our mountain, rural, suburban, or desert communities."

Safety and transportation are two of his campaign issues. For this he states, "The massive geographic footprint of Trustee Area 7 requires a highly resilient, modern transit network."

To address this topic, he proposes to establish a collaborative panel composed of equal numbers of CSEA Chapter 104 transportation personnel and district managers, guided by neutral public safety experts.

This panel would analyze the distinct physical stress metrics of our mountain roads —including winter weather variables, high-altitude exposure, seasonal road closures, and split-shift demands— to establish balanced routing schedules, he wrote on his website.

Regarding budget issues, he says: "I will advocate for proportionate infrastructure updates specifically for Area 7 sites, prioritizing funding for crucial winter heating subsidies, modern playground layouts, off-grid utility resilience, and mountain campus technology upgrades."

Cardenas' website is www.votedrcardenas.com.

Test Results

continued from A1

"While we celebrate this sustained progress, we remain focused on building upon this success in service to our students. Through targeted, academic initiatives in English Language Arts and Mathematics, we will continue pushing the envelope to ensure every student achieves long-term success."

Besides the academic scores, the state demonstrated improvement in other areas of education. The CDE specifically noted that this year, California students achieved:

- A 10-year high graduation rate. Further, suspension rates were at their lowest levels since 2019.
- Continued decline in chronic absenteeism across all grade levels. It was 18.3%, down from a peak of 30% in 2021–22. Before the pandemic, it was about 12%.
- Gains across all three subjects for socioeconomically disadvantaged students, including larger-than-average improvements in ELA and mathematics, according to the state's press release.

"At a time when California continues to focus on accelerating learning and closing opportunity gaps, these results provide important evidence that our sustained investments are making a difference," Governor Gavin Newsom said in his press release.

"From universal transitional kindergarten and expanded learning to literacy and math supports, community schools, universal school meals, and other investments, California is working to ensure students have the resources they need to thrive. The continued progress we are seeing is a testament to the hard work of students, families, and educators across the state—and we will continue working to build on these gains."

"Today's results tell a story of continued progress, but also of the work that remains ahead," said Linda Darling-Hammond, president of the California State Board of Education. "We are encouraged to see students making gains across all three major assessments. . . Our responsibility now is to build on this momentum and ensure that progress reaches every student and every community."

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IWD hears concerns over daycare, apartments

By David Jerome
Editor

A half-dozen members of the public attended the October meeting of the directors of Idyllwild Water District. They were not there to participate in the conversation over the district's sewer plant project, but to weigh in on two other matters: a home daycare business' request for exemption from additional sewer fees and a development project that will go before the county Planning Commission on Nov. 4.

Directors Stephen Olson and John Stamper were absent, but President Charles Schelly, Vice President Jessica Priefer and director Mitch Davis made a quorum.

David Hunt had come to express concern over a proposal by local developer Shane Stewart to add 10 units of housing to a former motel on Highway 243 just past town. The property currently has 19 apartment units. Hunt said he was concerned about IWD granting "will serve" letters to new sewer customers when the fate of the sewer plant is still uncertain.

Hunt also noted that the increased sewer use might be too much for the line down Oakwood, and might require crossing the highway. He added that the application for the project will go before the county Planning Commission at its Nov. 4 meeting.

General Manager Bill Rojas said that he knew of Stewart's intention to develop the property, but added there had been no discussion about the project yet. The planning commission must approve the project before the developer begins to submit requests for water and sewer service.

Gino Schneider expressed concern about access to the property for firefighters, and Rojas said the Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) "will have something to say about that." Some property owners have had their plans rejected because of IFPD's requirements that engines be able to turn around and leave a property without backing out.

A second project of Stewart's is also on the agenda for the planning commission's Nov. 4 meeting: a public hearing on a new conditional use permit (CUP) for the Tahquitz Pines Resort. The applicant is asking for a new CUP without a California Environmental Act review on the grounds that the business utilizes existing facilities, and should receive a "Common Sense Exemption."

A reader shared correspondence with a senior planner regarding the application which includes this explanation: "Staff became aware that the property owner was utilizing the site more as a lodging or guest ranch facility rather than for traditional campground activities. As a result, the applicant was required to submit a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to formally propose the modified use for review and consideration."

Tahquitz Pines began as a church camp in the 1930s and was later owned by California Baptist University. It changed hands in 2022, and its restaurant, The Peak, opened to the public in May 2024.

The issue of the family daycare also came up during public comments. The request for exemption from the assessment of an additional Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) was brought up at a special meeting earlier this month. Harold Carey, the operator of a family daycare business at his residence on lower Pine Crest, challenged the additional EDU, citing state law he says requires local governmental agencies, including special districts, to treat family daycare businesses as residences.

IWD sewer customers are presently charged $72.07 per EDU monthly.

A letter from IWD's legal counsel, Best Best & Krieger (BB&K), clarified that the decision to increase Carey's bill dated to Aug. 18. The letter included a catalog of the district's response to his public records requests.

State law treats small and large family daycare homes as residential uses and limits local regulation. Whether those protections bar the additional sewer charge is disputed by Carey and the district.

Health and Safety Code section 1597.45(b) states that "A local jurisdiction shall not impose a business license, fee, or tax for the privilege of operating a small or large family daycare home." The law protects family daycare homes from specified local restrictions; it does not exempt them from all local regulation.

The board packet included a letter from Carey noting that IWD's sewer rules provide a schedule for various businesses, including two EDUs for "Day Nurseries," with a note that additional units may also be assessed for each six children after the first ten.

Carey argues that IWD's sewer rules were passed November 15, 2017, after the state had passed 1597.45. "At minimum, this creates a substantial interpretive reason not to read the undefined term 'Day Nurseries' as automatically encompassing every state-licensed Family Day Care Home."

The letter from IWD's legal counsel contends that the charge is based on the district's current sewer rates, adopted in 2023 under resolution No. 792, and not the result of a determination by the general manager, and so not subject to appeal to the board. Instead, counsel argues, an appeal to the board is available only after "adverse termination" by the GM, something he has not yet done.

The counsel's letter goes on to say that IWD is not reclassifying the property "in a way that would preclude family daycare services from operating…" The distinction is that the property remains residential with a commercial type of connection for day nurseries. The letter continues, "Additionally, the District is not imposing any 'business license, fee or tax,' as referenced in Health and Safety Code section 1597.45(b). Rather, the District is exercising its authority under Water Code…. To appropriately charge customers for their corresponding use of sewer services."

One of Carey's neighbors, John Jacobs, characterized the effort to avoid paying increased sewer fees as part of a "pattern of behavior," referencing his successful effort, in 2021, to avoid complying with IFPD's requirement that he install fire sprinklers in the house.

A memo in the board packet from Ryan Guiboa, IWD's general counsel with BB&K, set out the timeline of the complaint, and noted that in answer to Carey's argument that there had been no on-site inspection, the district had taken action to assess the appropriate number of EDUs. Guiboa states that "Mr. Carey identified a second connection to the sewer line behind his property. The District does not have any records that indicate a written permit was issued to Mr. Carey nor connection fees paid by Mr. Carey despite District policy mandating such steps be taken."

The board did not discuss the matter further that night.

GM Rojas reported production during September of 9,080,924 gallons, 21% more than September 2025, with 5% loss.

In other business, Rojas also said he continued to meet with representatives of Dudek, the engineering firm preparing plans for the sewer plant renovation, in an effort to reduce the cost. Last month, the board learned the projected cost had ballooned from $10 million to $14 million. The effort, he said, will include possible "downsizing."

Rojas also noted a meeting with a company, Cloacina, that fabricates and assembles wastewater treatment plants. He said he is passing along their estimates to Dudek to see if their equipment could save the district money. Rojas has brought up this idea before, that a prefabricated system could save money, but the first firm he spoke with said the district's needs were too large.

Cloacina's website describes projects with capacities up to 500,000 gallons per day. IWD's plant has a capacity of 250,000 gallons per day, with normal flow less than half that, but wet weather influx can raise the inflow to near capacity.

The district's median household income survey, done to support the application for grant funding for the sewer plant, made the district eligible for a reduction in the fees paid to the state's Water Resources Control Board. These fees are now $40,000 per year. Rojas said he did not yet know how much they would be reduced.

The GM reported the district's electronic meters are providing remote readings for about 99% of accounts, with only 17 out of 1,663 requiring manual reads. The batteries, installed in 2022, are failing at a rate of 25 to 30 per month, but are being replaced under warranty.

The GM also reported he continues to work on a Foster Dam emergency action plan in collaboration with the state and county Offices of Emergency Management. A map showing the areas that could be affected by a breach in each of the state's dams is available at fmds.water.ca.gov/maps/damim/.

The next meeting of IWD's board is scheduled for Nov. 18.



Proposition 40: The billionaires' tax

By JP Crumrine
Correspondent

Proposition 40 is a controversial measure on the November ballot referred to as the "Billionaires' Tax," and nearly $350 million has been spent to support and oppose the measure, which has drawn national attention. Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has visited California to campaign for it. The New York Times and the Washington Post have both published multiple stories about it.

What would it do?

Prop. 40 would impose a one-time tax equal to 5% of the net worth of billionaires who were California residents on Jan. 1, 2026. Assets subject to the wealth tax include businesses, securities, art, collectibles, and certain pensions and retirement accounts.

With respect to retirement accounts, the measure specifically exempts pensions and most individual retirement accounts from the tax, with the exception of the Roth IRA and other Roth-type accounts worth $10 million or more.

The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation found that the richest 208 taxpayers held a total of more than $85 billion in those types of accounts. That is equivalent to an average balance of $409 million each.

Funding effect

The number of individuals subject to the tax is estimated to be between 200 and 250. The estimated proceeds vary, but supporters estimate the revenue will come close to $100 billion.

The opposition argues that it will be less and will generate long-term negative revenue results. This would occur if people subject to the tax move out of California.

The immediate gain could be $40 billion, but opponents say the long-term loss could approach $25 billion. They argue that the State would lose about $6 billion annually in income tax revenue from fleeing billionaires in the future.

To assess the tax on nonfinancial assets, Prop. 40 would require the state to create a way to assess the value of a wide range of holdings, such as art collections, wine vaults, cars and anything else that stores wealth.

This would require the state to hire more people for appraisals and audits to address the possibility of underreporting the value of these types of assets.

Use of these funds

Whatever revenue is raised from Prop. 40, 90% of these proceeds would be earmarked for health care. The remaining 10% would go to either food assistance or education-related programs.

The measure specifically prohibits using these revenues to replace existing funding for those purposes.

Consequences

Opponents argue that those subject to this tax levy will leave California, which would cost the state future income tax revenue.

Opponents also argue that the tax on the value of retirement accounts could be expanded to include those of lesser value. This is one reason supporters give for Prop. 42, which would prohibit new state taxes on personal property, including business interests, intellectual property, and financial assets (including assets in retirement and investment accounts).

If Prop. 42 receives more "yes" votes than Prop. 40, the latter could be prevented, after court action, from taking effect, according to the language of Prop 42 and the Secretary of State's notification on the explanation for Propositions 40, 41, and 42.

Supporters

The primary supporter and initiator of Proposition 40 is the SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West. The statement supporting the measure states:

"The funds will go to life-saving medical care for seniors, veterans, and families. It will allow millions of Californians to keep their health insurance and not see their premiums skyrocket. It will prevent mass teacher layoffs in our public schools and keep children fed through food assistance programs. . .

"You pay your taxes out of every paycheck, but billionaires pay much lower rates than working families. . . Prop. 40 enacts a one-time tax paid ONLY by Californians worth more than $1 billion, a small group of people who together hold $2 trillion in wealth—most of which will never be taxed due to loopholes that favor the ultra-wealthy."

Opponents

Gov. Gavin Newsom has opposed the initiative for a long time. The two major gubernatorial candidates, Democrat Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton, also oppose it. Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California have donated funds to oppose it. The California Teachers Association, firefighters, the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Taxpayers Association are also among the opponents.

In June, after Prop. 40 was placed on the November ballot, Newsom wrote: "Last night, it became certain that a wealth tax would be placed on the November ballot in California. I'm voting no. . . I understand the anxiety driving the wealth tax proposal in California. But I'm voting no because this measure dedicates almost all of the revenue it raises to a single category of state spending. It ignores our public schools, as the California Teachers Association has rightly pointed out, by failing to provide sustainable funding that our communities, parents and children deserve. It turns a blind eye to safety-net clinics and reproductive healthcare providers that Planned Parenthood has fought for decades to protect."

In the state's voters' guide, opponents state, "Prop. 40 is a poorly designed tax scheme that will damage our economy and cost our state budget billions of dollars—without doing anything to lower healthcare costs for Californians. This measure is a one-time tax that only provides temporary funds. When the money runs out, the politicians will be back with yet another tax."

Polls

In its September poll, the Public Policy Institute of California found that 52% of likely voters would cast a "Yes" vote on Prop. 40 and 46% would vote "No." Three-quarters of Democrats support it and three-quarters of Republicans oppose it.

In an October poll Politico found support to have dropped to 46% and opposition was 43%, while 10% of voters were still undecided.

Future tax measures

Even if a majority of voters ultimately rejects Prop. 40, many still favor taxing the very wealthy. Citrin-POLITICO polling shows that 48% of voters believe that California's billionaires have "accumulated enough wealth that they should pay more in taxes to support public services." Just 33% indicated the state should "avoid policies that could drive them away," a key argument from opponents of Prop. 40. About 11% of voters said they agreed with "neither statement" and 8% were unsure.

Asked whether it was more important to tax billionaires to fund public services or keep the ultrawealthy in the state, 45% of voters chose taxing billionaires, while 35% of voters believed the opposite was true.

In anticipation of these attitudes, opponents point to Prop. 3 on the ballot. It would permanently extend an income tax on the wealthy to fund schools, healthcare and other state services. Voters first approved the tax in 2012, when it was first touted as a temporary measure, and then renewed it again in 2016. Now, supporters are asking voters to make it permanent before it expires in 2031.

Secretary of State's notification

The California Secretary of State has placed the following notification on the Voter Information Guide for both Propositions 41 and 42.

"Potential Interactions With Other Propositions

If Prop. 41 receives more 'yes' votes than Proposition 40 on this same ballot, then Proposition 40 could be stopped from becoming law even if it gets yes votes from a majority of voters. This is because the courts could find that Proposition 41 conflicts with Proposition 40."

County 9-1-1 service restored after outage

On Thursday, Oct. 22, Riverside County's 9-1-1 system went down for a brief time. It was subsequently restored within hours.

The Sheriff's Department posted a notice shortly after it occurred and acknowledged the problem. For those seeking assistance, the notice stated, "9-1-1 OUTAGE ALERT If you have an emergency and cannot get through to 9-1-1, please call 951-776-1078."

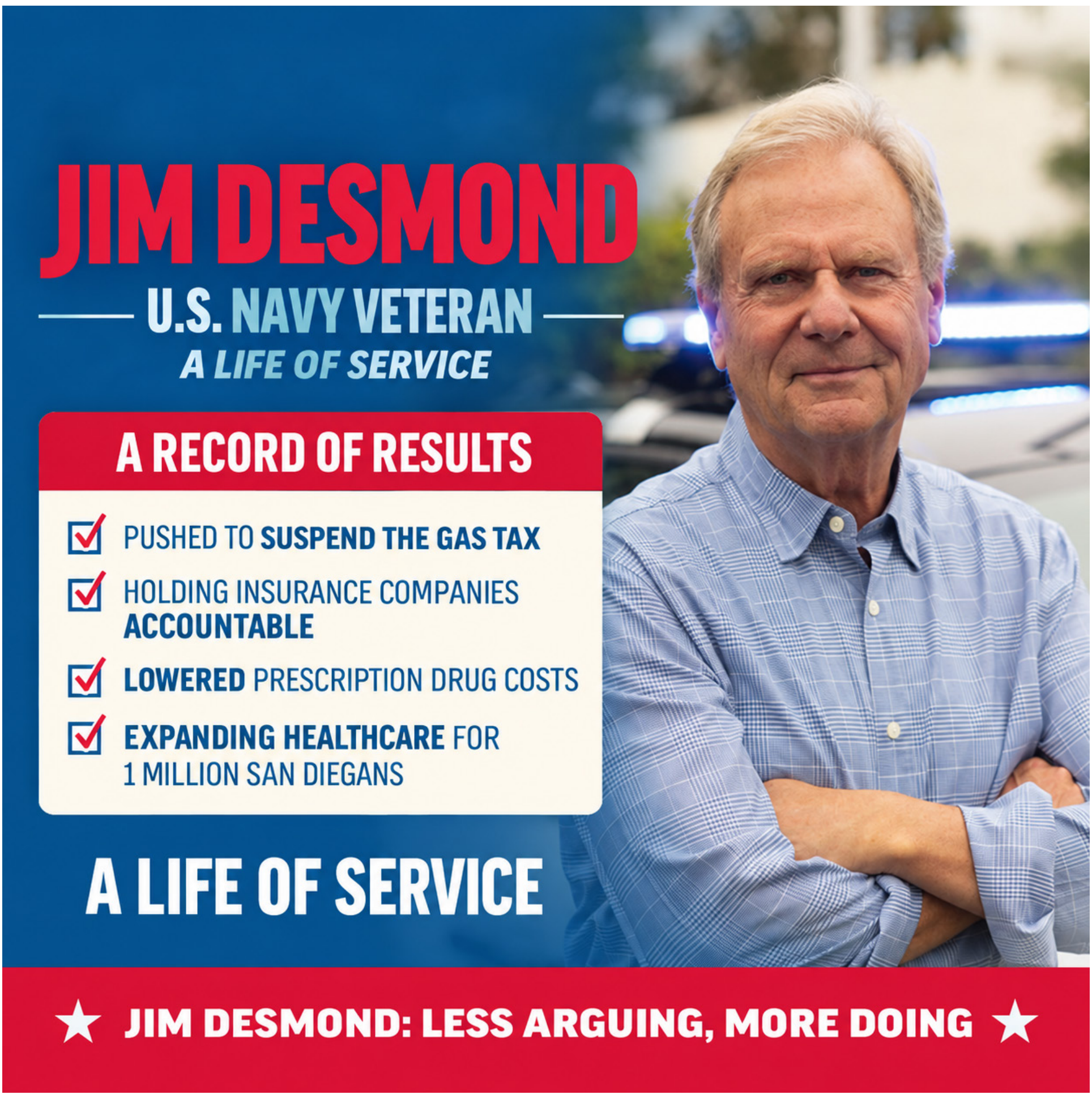
At 5 p.m. that afternoon, the county issued a restoration notice: "10/22/26 5:00pm

Alert RivCo: 9-1-1 services have been FULLY RESTORED in Riverside County. Thank you for your patience. Please continue to monitor official sources for information."

Cities in two other California counties, Alameda and Santa Barbara, experienced similar outages. Oakland, in Alameda County, lost service Wednesday and regained it Friday. The police chief there attributed the loss of service to cut lines, and said the department was investigating the damage as a criminal act, according to CBS News.

In Santa Barbara, police said the service was restored Thursday, and impacted T-Mobile and AT&T customers.

Residents should keep emergency numbers on or near their phones. In addition to 911 and the RSO number above, Idyllwild Fire Protection District: (951) 659-2143.



On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment

B SECTION | IDYLLWILD, CA | THURS., OCT. 29TH, 2026

80 YEARS
1946–2026

Idyllwild Town Crier Celebrates 80 Years with One Great Party!

By Corey Pickett
Correspondent

The Idyllwild Town Crier is celebrating 80 years of local journalism, and the whole community is invited to join the festivities! The anniversary celebration will take place Thursday, November 5, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Middle Ridge Winery, with free admission and an evening of food, music, entertainment, and community fun.

Guests can enjoy live music by Vincent's Choice and a delicious $10 buffet featuring ceviche by Celestino, pizza by Ferro, and an assortment of charcuterie and dips. A raffle will run throughout the evening, along with a silent auction, prizes, and an opportunity to browse the Town Crier's new merchandise.

As part of the celebration, Stephen Sutton will present a special slideshow honoring Town Crier founder Ernie Maxwell, sharing photographs and a glimpse into the newspaper's early history. The evening will also feature a special appearance by the beloved Idyll-beast, who will even deliver a short speech! The Town Crier's editor, David Jerome, will share remarks throughout the evening about the newspaper and its continued role in the community.

Founded in 1946, the Idyllwild Town Crier has been a part of the mountain community for eight decades, documenting its history, sharing its stories, and keeping residents connected.

Come raise a glass, celebrate 80 years of hometown news, and help toast the next chapter of the Idyllwild Town Crier!



The Halloween Independence Day Parade

Dear editor:

Inflatable dinosaurs are on the march! Late afternoon on Oct. 31, Idyllwild holds its annual Great Pumpkin Carnival. It's a fun event, held downtown, with games and food and costume contests and the local businesses handing out candy to trick-or-treaters. Be sure to attend, and be sure to come early, because the fun really starts with the Halloween "parade" down North Circle Drive.

"Parade" in quotes because that word implies a certain amount of planning and order, and this raucous rabble clearly has neither. Five, six, seven hundred costumed merrymakers hike, saunter, wander, trot, and amble along; they surge forward, turn back, lose their ways and zigzag about with all the regimentation of a swarm of ladybugs. The "parade" starts more or less at Fern Valley Corners and moves more or less downhill towards the center of town. The first tyrannosaurs, robocops, werewolves, and Dolly Partons appear at the top of the street at roughly 4 p.m.; the last caterpillar and headless knight may straggle in an hour or more later.

The kaleidoscope of costuming dazzles the eye and short-circuits the imagination. The Idyll-beast is there. So's the lady dressed head to foot in an array of silver mirrors. A plethora of superheroes drop by, as do multiple supervillains, Mayor Max and his entourage, and at least one Red Queen. Little Mermaids mingle fearlessly with witches and vampires. There are kids and teens and dogs and adults and babes in arms who are decked out as jack-o-lanterns or as little Freddy Kruegers, depending on their parents' drift of humor. A few wet blankets like myself favor jeans and a hoodie. By contrast, some costumes are so elaborate that they require two or three revelers to carry them along.

Idyllwild has a yearly Fourth of July parade, which is always a bit ad hoc and short on discipline, and yet it is a model of military precision compared with this meandering Halloween throng. And that's what I love about it. The thing is so American I almost can't stand it. What a display of liberty! None of fascism's mania for order here, and none of the well-meaning fussiness of socialism. The parade is hardly even democratic, since democracy implies majority rule, and nobody seems to rule this buoyant mob at all. It is anarchy, really — but a sweet-natured anarchy, not the setting-fires-and-looting kind. No one is in charge, yet we behave ourselves just the same.

It's a day without rules because we don't need any rules, because the great majority of Americans already follow the central rule, which we have known since age five: "Play nice." Respect one another, smile and be friendly, say please and thank you … do unto others. It's the only law that the civilized need, and year after year I've seen it fully in effect at the color-filled, swirling, twirling, gloriously chaotic Halloween parade.

Anyhow, it's a swell event, and all true Idyllwilders should witness or take part in it at least once. Come join the madding crowd! Try not to get trampled by an inflatable dinosaur.

Christopher Morse
Idyllwild

Marshall Hawkins selected for musicians hall of fame

By David Jerome
Editor

The Idyllwild Arts Academy has reached out to tell us that Dr. Marshall Hawkins has been selected for induction into the Inland Empire Musicians Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is coming up on Nov. 14. He will be among the first ten artists so honored.

Originally from Washington, D.C., Hawkins is the founder of the Idyllwild Arts Academy's jazz program and the Jazz in the Pines Festival. Before coming to Idyllwild, he toured with Miles Davis and recorded with Shirley Horn, Roberta Flack, Richie Cole, and many others. He continues to perform and record with his Seahawk Modern Jazz Orchestra.

The IEMHOF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the mission to "recognize and honor legendary musicians, educate our youth in music and film, support emerging artists, and celebrate the Inland Empire's rich musical heritage," according to their website.

IEMHOF Chair Arlene Griffin explained in an email that the group, started in 2006, was re-founded by current president Julian Morgan in 2020 at the request of a founder, Craig Eckler, who passed away in 2024.

Griffin also noted that this is the Hall of Fame's first induction ceremony, and board members hope to make it an annual event. She added that there were 67 nominees.

This year's inductees will be, in addition to Hawkins, Steve Tavaglione, the Rockaholix band, Ella Faulk, Billy Gonzalez, Dr. Gregory McWhorter, Jerry "Jazz" Harrison, Trey Stone, Orlando Sims, and the Cock Robin Band.

The event is from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Orange Terrace Community Center, inside Orange Terrace Community Park at 20010 Orange Terrace Pkwy, Riverside. Tickets are $55 per person, with tables of eight available starting at $550.

The organization's website is iemhof.org. More information about upcoming events and bits of local music history will be found at: facebook.com/groups/iemhof/





Youth Soccer Championships: Unbelievable Finishes in the 10U and 14U Divisions

By Johnny Wilson
Director of Programs and Recreation, ICC



Championship game of the 10U division: Shadow Hawks (grey jerseys) vs Grizzlies (green jerseys).
PHOTO BY HALIE WILSON

6U Division (ages 4-6)

Wednesday, Oct. 21, marked the end of the season for the 6U division (ages 4-6) and the 14U division (ages 11-14) of ICC Youth Soccer, which is also AYSO Region 8027.

The weather was relatively nice at 3 p.m. Wednesday as the Mini Halos (sponsored by Pharos Athletic Club) took on the Lightning Hawks (sponsored by Silver Pines Lodge & Village) on Field A in their final game of the season.

Meanwhile, on Field B, it was the Howling Coyotes (sponsored by Idyllwild Electric) squaring off against the Axolotls (sponsored by the Rich Nolan Group) to cap off their seasons.

A fun time was had by all as all four teams played their hardest and were rewarded with team snacks at the end of the games (the true prize). We do not keep scores in this non-competitive division, but if we did, first place would have gone to coaches Rich Nolan and Beth Iyaman as their Axolotls had a tremendous season and had the most goals of any of the teams in this division. Great job to all coaches, and congratulations to all players for a wonderful season.

14U Division (ages 11-14)

As we wrapped up the 6U division on Wednesday, the referees were getting the field ready for "the big match," which was coming up at 5:15 p.m. The closer we got to game time, the more the clouds rolled in and the darker the skies got. There was a chance of rain in the forecast that day. (Note: Rain or snow does not automatically stop play, but the referee must assess field safety. Play must stop if thunder is heard or lightning is seen.)

A quick recap of the 14U regular season: #3 seed AFC Richmond (sponsored by Adams Electric) played the #2 seed Purple Panthers (sponsored by SoCal Renovations) on Monday, Oct. 19, in the lone semifinal game of this division, while the undefeated #1 seed Midnight Storm (sponsored by Speakeasy Books) were waiting to see who they would face in the championships.

The Purple Panthers were victorious against AFC Richmond 3-0 and would go on to play in the final championship match against Midnight Storm (in the regular season, Midnight Storm had previously defeated Purple Panthers by scores of 7-0 and 2-1).

When the opening whistle blew at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, the skies were dark and the temperatures were in the 50s – it looked like it could start raining at any second.

The Purple Panthers struck first as their star forward Ángel "Benny" Gil wove his way around the defenders and found himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper and lasered one in the lower right corner in the back of the net. 1-0 Purple Panthers.

For the rest of the game, Purple Panthers coaches Jacob Teel and Carlos Reynosa seemed to have had a plan, and that plan was working – anytime Midnight Storm's main offensive weapon (and league leader in goals scored) Kayson Adams had possession of the ball, defenders like sisters Annika and Makayla Smith, Gavin Gray, or Poppy Reynosa would swarm around him and cut off his passing lanes or any attempt to get a clear shot on goal.

Midnight Storm striker Fenn Ameur had a beautiful shot that only missed by inches. Purple Panthers goalkeepers Fletcher Gillot, Mark Peña Chavez, and Caleb Marich did a tremendous job at keeping the ball from crossing into their goal.

And when the final whistle blew, to everyone's surprise, the Purple Panthers had done it – they had defeated the undefeated and won the 2026 14U division championship!

Final Score: Purple Panthers 1, Midnight Storm 0.

10U Division (ages 7-10)

It is hard to write about the final two games that took place on Thursday, Oct. 22, both at 5:15 p.m.: the 3rd-place match on Field B, and the championship match on Field A.

These were two of those "you had to have been there" games, full of energy, excitement and intensity — among the most incredible of the 2026 youth soccer season. We could write an entire book about these two final games.

The weather: raining off and on, wind chill at 46 degrees, the clouds rolling in and out, dancing in a menacing way above the two soccer fields. It was gray, wet, and electric — a true medieval battlefield atmosphere… and the teams were ready for war.

On Field A it was the undefeated #1 seed Shadow Hawks (sponsored by Mountain Heating & Air) who were entering the championship game with confidence.

Also entering the battle on the championship field was the #2 seed Grizzlies (sponsored by El Sereno) who also had all the confidence they needed as they had been on a hot streak to finish off the regular season.

About a month ago the Grizzlies were dead-last in the standings. Last week they entered the playoff tournament at #2 seed and had just narrowly defeated the #3 seed Legends (sponsored by Jessica McAnallen Real Estate) in the semifinals by a score of 2-1.

The Legends were to face #4 seed Idyllwild Arsenal (sponsored by Pure Bean) for the 3rd-Place match on Field B – these two teams were equally fired up by the weather as they had one last opportunity for a victory to end the season.

Both games were similar in many ways: hard-fought goals, several lead changes, spectacular defensive stops, incredible saves by the goalkeepers, loud roaring fans and supporters. And when the final whistles blew, here were the scores.

On Field A (championship game): Shadow Hawks 2, Grizzlies 2.

On Field B (3rd-Place match): Legends 2, Idyllwild Arsenal 2.

Overtime for both games!

And now we had the real challenge: the sun had set about 20 minutes ago and we were losing daylight fast. The moon had risen during the second half of overtime.

On Field A, the crowd went wild as Epifanio Davila of the Shadow Hawks put one in the back of the net, and when the final overtime whistle blew, the Shadow Hawks emerged victorious 3-2! The Shadow Hawks, led by coaches Felipe Davila and Charity Whittamore, are the 2026 10U division champions!

As the teams and spectators were celebrating on Field A, they noticed two rows of cell phone lights illuminating one of the goals on Field B… the 3rd-Place match had gone into double-overtime and was now being settled by penalty kicks!

It was now completely dark, with an evil-looking moon lurking in and out behind the fast-moving clouds. The spectators made two lines of cell phone lights toward the goalkeeper and shooter – just enough to see the ball.

In the end, it was Blithe Kenyon of the Legends who made the game-winning score and goalkeeper Matthew Mejía who made all the goalie stops needed to earn the Legends a hard-fought 3rd-place finish.

Final Score: Legends 2, Idyllwild Arsenal 2 (2-1 on penalty kicks).

What a way to cap off the season. Great job to all the coaches, players, and especially the spectators who made it out on that cold, wet, and unforgettable day. That was surely one for the books!

2026 ICC YOUTH SOCCER: FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

10U Division
1st Place: Shadow Hawks
2nd Place: Grizzlies
3rd Place: Legends
4th Place: Idyllwild Arsenal

14U Division
1st Place: Purple Panthers
2nd Place: Midnight Storm
3rd Place: AFC Richmond

Supporting local students and their passion for art

Contributed by the Art Alliance of Idyllwild

The Art Alliance of Idyllwild (AAI), in partnership with the Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation, offers visual arts scholarships to local teens to attend the Idyllwild Arts (IA) Summer Program. Since 2019, the AAI has awarded more than 25 fully funded summer scholarships, giving local students the opportunity to create, connect, learn, explore, grow, and nurture their artistic talents and passions.

For the 2027 Idyllwild Arts Summer Program, students entering grades 9–12 (up to age 17) can choose from the following visual arts classes:

Art Exploration: Find Your Passion (June 27–July 3)

Drawing & Painting Intensive — Session I (June 27–July 10)

Printmaking (July 4–July 10)

The Magic of Watercolor (July 11–July 24)

Drawing & Painting Intensive — Session II (July 11–July 24)

Scholarships cover day-student tuition and all associated fees for one- or two-week visual arts programs. With many of these classes costing more than $2,000, the generosity of the AAI and the Reed Foundation makes an extraordinary difference, opening doors for young artists who might otherwise be unable to participate in these enriching programs at Idyllwild Arts.

Idyllwild Arts believes that "Art is the greatest teacher of humanity, and we embrace its power to develop empathetic citizens of the world." These scholarships help bring that belief to life by giving local students the chance to discover new skills, build confidence, express themselves creatively, and share their passion for art with others.

The impact of this opportunity is best expressed by the families and students who have experienced it firsthand. One scholarship recipient's parent shared: "VR is a budding artist, full of creativity and wonder. This summer course would be a wonderful opportunity for her to explore her artistry more deeply."

Another young recipient expressed their enthusiasm in a simple but heartfelt list of wishes:

"I want to have fun
I want to eat lunch
I want to play
I want to learn
I want to try new things
I want to do cool art
I want to perform in a show with my friends."

These words capture the spirit of the Summer Program: a chance not only to develop artistic skills, but also to make friends, try new things, discover possibilities, and create lasting memories.

Classes fill quickly, so parents are encouraged to apply for a scholarship as soon as possible. Visit the AAI website at https://aai.clubexpress.com/ for more information and an application form.

The Art Alliance of Idyllwild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a vision of promoting *"Community through Art."* Its dedicated volunteers are passionate about bringing people together through creativity and a wide variety of arts events and activities. You don't have to be an artist to be part of the AAI community! Come join the fun, support local creativity, and help keep the arts thriving in Idyllwild.

High Country 4-H members shine at the fair

By Haddie Magana, age 8, High Country 4-H Club Reporter, (with help from her mother and other 4-H members.)

What an amazing week at the Southern California Fair! From Oct. 2 through 11, our High Country 4-H members worked hard, had lots of fun, and made some wonderful memories showing our animals. Our club participated in dairy goats, poultry, rabbits, cavies (guinea pigs), and the Junior Livestock Auction. We even brought home some pretty exciting awards!

In the **dairy goat show**, Adalissa Gasco, Demi Lehner, Haddie Magana, and Viera Lehner all participated. Demi Lehner did an amazing job and won **1st Place in Dairy Goat Showmanship**, earning her a spot in Large Animal Master Showmanship! My Nigerian Dwarf goat, Missy, also made me very proud by winning **Reserve Grand Champion Nigerian Dwarf Goat!**

Our **rabbit and cavy exhibitors** were Aleks Doran, Annalyse Rivera-Sandlin, Carter Doran, Demi Lehner, Haddie Magana, and Viera Lehner. Annalyse had an incredible fair! Her cavy, Princessa, won **Best in Show**, and she also earned **Grand Champion 4-H Single Fryer Rabbit** and **1st Place in Cavy Showmanship!** Aleks Doran earned **1st Place in Rabbit Showmanship!** Both Annalyse and Aleks did such an amazing job that they advanced to **Small Animal Master Showmanship!** Viera Lehner also had a great fair, earning **Reserve Champion 4-H Single Fryer Rabbit!**

In the **poultry barn**, Aleks Doran, Annalyse Rivera-Sandlin, Carter Doran, Dominic Rivera-Sandlin, and Nash Magana represented our club. Carter Doran's bantam rooster earned **Reserve Best in Show!** We are so proud of all our poultry exhibitors!

Several of our members also participated in the Junior Livestock Auction. Raising animals for the fair takes a lot of responsibility, and we are so thankful for all the buyers and supporters who encourage us to keep learning and growing.

Even though winning ribbons is exciting, my favorite part of 4-H is spending time with my friends, learning new things, and cheering each other on. We all worked really hard to get our animals ready for the fair, and I think everyone should be proud of what they accomplished!

Thank you to our parents, leaders, fair volunteers, judges, and everyone who helped make this fair such a wonderful experience for our club.

We can't wait for our next adventure at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival in Indio this February!

Until next time, keep learning, keep showing, and keep having fun!

Classifieds

For Rent

House/Cabin for rent in Fern Valley off of Scenic Dr. in Idyllwild. Recently Restored, sleeps 8, Fully furnished, plus bunk house that could be used for storage. Lots of parking on 1/3 of an acre, air conditioning and heaters, long term renter wanted with minimum of 60 days. Utilities to be paid by renter. No smoking, no pets. First and last plus deposit. Monthly Rent $2,750.00 Call 760-801-9301 or 760-598-8855 (leave message)

Beautiful apartment for lease located behind La Casita Restaurant. Large 2 Bedroom,1 bath free shared washer and dryer. Water, trash, and snow plowing included. Private parking, close to town, no dogs. $1,700 per month + security deposit. Call Jennie or Steve (951) 492-1116

Charming 2-bdrm, 2-bath cottage! Charming two-bedroom, two-bath cottage available in Pine Cove with a recently updated kitchen and laundry, along with plenty of closets, storage, and parking. The second bedroom (upstairs) has a separate entrance and could be a delightful office, or a guest or exercise room. Includes AC and a whole-house backup generator in case of an outage. $2,500; utilities separate. For more information, call 408.605.1870

Room for Rent

Studio room, private entrance, private ¾ bath, mini fridge and microwave, quiet Fern Valley neighborhood, no dogs, references required, 950. Call (760) 831-6232

For Rent Office/Retail

Office space/Retail, Downtown location, call Jackie: (951) 306-9769

Firewood

Pine $350, Hard and Soft Mixed $395, Black Oak $595, Citrus $600, Mesquite $625, Delivery Included. (909) 800-1352

Property MGMT

If you need boots on the ground to manage your property or STR, call us for house cleaning, handiwork, yard abatements, and STR platform and guest management. Our clients get 5-star reviews! Contact David (951) 288-4612 or Kristin (213)-840-6978

Handyman Services

Home Remodeling and Handyman Work. Jack of all trades. Local references. Chuck Badger (951) 306-4295

"A community's story is written every day by the people who show up for one another."
— Original Town Crier filler quote



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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LIVE MUSIC

Wed, October 28–Tuesday, November 3, 2026

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

Idyllwild Arts Students — Jazz Voice
5:30–8:30 p.m. • Café Aroma

No Name Band
6–9 p.m. • The Peak Restaurant

THURSDAY, OCT. 29

Seahawk
5:30–8:30 p.m. • Café Aroma

J*Ezra
7–10 p.m. • Taryn's Place

Pentagrams & Daisies
7–9 p.m. • Lily's
Halloween party: happy hour 4–6 p.m.; horror movie trivia at 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 30

TJ & Friends
4 p.m. • Middle Ridge Winery
Country, pop & rock.

Vincent's Choice with Luca Jacaruso
7–10 p.m. • Taryn's Place

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

Spare Change
3 p.m. • Middle Ridge Winery
Rock & pop.

Dan Destiny & Vincent's Choice
4 p.m. • The Collective
Halloween Parade After Party, with special guest performances.

In the Pocket
7–10 p.m. • Taryn's Place

SUNDAY, NOV. 1

Americana, jazz & folk
2 p.m. • Middle Ridge Winery

FireBug
7–10 p.m. • Taryn's Place

MONDAY, NOV. 2

Spare Change
7–10 p.m. • Taryn's Place

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

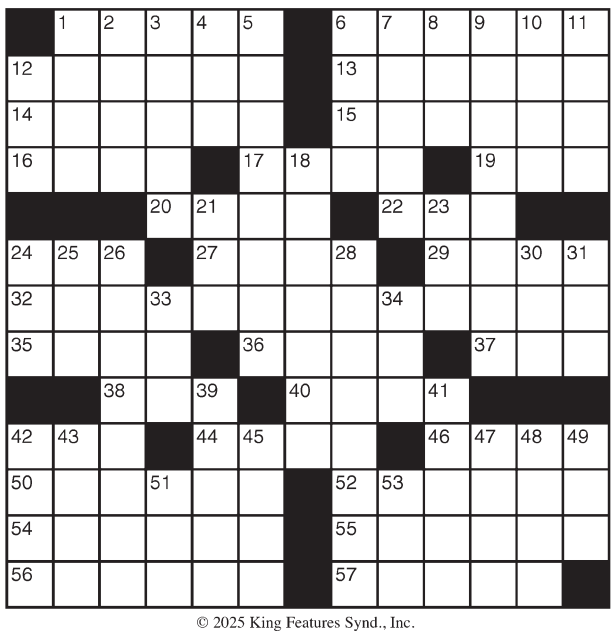
No listings received by press time.

Schedules may change. Check with the venue for the latest details.

King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Novelist Carr
6 Posture
12 Criminal's "why"
13 Tribulation
14 Small beard
15 Japanese automaker
16 Queue after Q
17 500 sheets
19 Pot brew
20 Elite alternative
22 Standard
24 Non-Rx
27 Yoga class pads
29 Modern "carpe diem"
32 No. 1 hit by Men at Work
35 Wife of Jacob
36 Rebuff
37 Sean, to Yoko
38 Ultra-modernist
40 Recipe meas.
42 Paper Mate rival
44 Amorphous mass
46 "House" actor Omar
50 Surround with light
52 Woodwind player
54 Radio components
55 Tourist's vehicle
56 Fancy fiddles
57 Birds' homes

DOWN
1 Dove calls
2 Rat- —
3 Illuminated
4 Prior night
5 Six-pack units
6 Slugger Sammy
7 Surpass
8 Wood-shaping tool
9 Uncharged particles
10 Birthday cut-up?
11 Director Kazan
12 Store boss (Abbr.)
18 Corrode
21 "— Believer"
23 Sailor's assent
24 Barn bird
25 Commonest English word
26 One of a news show pair
28 Unwilling to budge
30 Privy
31 Have
33 "Evita" narrator
34 Small ammo
39 Gawked at
41 Drudges
42 Hotel furniture
43 Monogram pt.
45 Privation
47 Brad of Hollywood
48 Unpaid TV ads
49 Cardinal cap letters
51 Nabokov novel
53 Spelldown



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HOROSCOPES

October 29–November 4, 2026



March 21 – April 19

Aries, choose one unfinished task and give it your full attention. A calm conversation can clear up more than a rushed decision this week.



April 20 – May 20

Taurus, leave room for a pleasant change of plans. A simple invitation or shared meal could help you reconnect with someone you have missed.



May 21 – June 21

Gemini, your curiosity can turn an ordinary outing into an adventure. Ask questions, listen closely, and write down the idea you want to revisit.



June 22 – July 22

Cancer, make your space feel like a refuge. Clear a little clutter, set aside a quiet evening, and let someone else take care of the details.



July 23 – August 22

Leo, bring your playful side to the gathering. You do not need to lead every conversation; giving others room to shine can be just as rewarding.



August 23 – September 22

Virgo, progress does not require a perfect plan. Handle the practical details, then allow yourself to enjoy a project before every loose end is tied.



September 23 – October 22

Libra, say what you mean with warmth and clarity. An honest answer now can spare you an obligation that would crowd out something you truly enjoy.



October 23 – November 21

Scorpio, let your birthday season include something just for you. Revisit a favorite place, try a creative pursuit, or make time for an old friend.



November 22 – December 21

Sagittarius, a slower start may help you notice a better route. Finish a lingering commitment before promising your time to another exciting possibility.



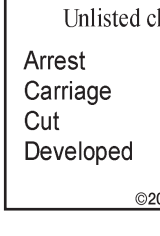
December 22 – January 19

Capricorn, share the work and the credit. Someone with a different approach may offer the missing piece, especially if you leave room for their ideas.



January 20 – February 18

Aquarius, turn a broad ambition into one manageable step. A useful introduction or thoughtful question could help you see where to put your energy next.



February 19 – March 20

Pisces, give your imagination somewhere to land. Music, drawing, or a walk can refresh your outlook and help you return to everyday tasks with patience.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

MAGIC MAZE ● UNDER —

Q N K H D A X U R P S M J G D
A X V S Q G R A D U A T E N K
I F D A X V D E S O P X E T Q
O D M D J H P P G T F C M A Y
W T E U E O I R P A A N R L J
H F S Z L C D B Z X I F O V T
R E G E I S N Q O M K R F S I
H F V O R L D A B Z Y W R E Y
V E N T D R I R N Q O N E A D
D E K O O C A T L I K I P H C
F D C A Z X W T U C F V U S R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: THE MEAT WAS UNDER —

Arrest	Dog	Pay	Staffed
Carriage	Exposed	Perform	Suspicion
Cut	Financed	Sea	Utilized
Developed	Graduate	Siege	

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Answers to puzzles found on B6

Fatal motorcycle crash on 74 near 371

CHP Press Release

The California Highway Patrol (CHP), Beaumont Area is investigating a traffic crash resulting in a fatality. On October 25, 2026, at approximately 9:06 a.m., the CHP responded to a solo vehicle traffic crash on State Route 74, east of Diamico Trail.

The crash involved a 71-year-old male from Hemet riding a 2022 Harley Davidson trike motorcycle on State Route 74. Preliminary investigation suggests the male was riding the Harley Davidson on State Route 74 eastbound, when a deer ran from south to north across the roadway, in front of the Harley Davidson. The rider attempted to swerve to the left, into the westbound lane in attempt to avoid the deer. The Harley Davidson struck the deer causing the motorcycle to leave the north dirt shoulder.

The Harley Davidson overturned and subsequently ejected the rider and 72-year-old female passenger from Hemet. The female passenger suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased at the scene. The male rider suffered major injuries and was transported to Desert Regional Medical Center.

It is currently unknown if alcohol or drugs contributed to the crash. The crash remains under investigation. Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to contact the CHP Beaumont Area office. Please contact the Riverside County Sheriff's Office Coroner's Bureau for the identity of the deceased party. The crash is still under investigation and anyone with information regarding the crash is encouraged to call Officer J. Alvarado, at (951) 846-5300.

NEWS OF RECORD

SHERIFF'S LOG

October 21–27, 2026

IDYLLWILD

Monday, October 26

11:30 p.m. — Noise complaint; 5500 *** BLOCK DARYLL RD; Pending dispo.

4:49 p.m. — Public assist; 2600 *** BLOCK DELANO DR; Pending dispo.

11:59 a.m. — Found military ordnance; 5300 *** BLOCK MARIAN VIEW DR; Pending dispo.

10:54 a.m. — Follow-up; ADDRESS WITHHELD; Pending dispo.

Saturday, October 24

10:20 a.m. — Check the welfare; 5400 *** BLOCK RIDGEVIEW DR; Pending dispo.

Friday, October 23

4:00 p.m. — Assist other department; 2500 *** BLOCK SCENIC DR; Pending dispo.

3:38 p.m. — Check the welfare; 5500 *** BLOCK SOUTH CIRCLE DR; Pending dispo.

Thursday, October 22

11:50 p.m. — Alarm call; 5400 *** BLOCK NORTH CIRCLE DR; Pending dispo.

9:10 p.m. — Alarm call; 5400 *** BLOCK NORTH CIRCLE DR; Pending dispo.

6:20 a.m. — Alarm call; 2500 *** BLOCK GLEN RD; Pending dispo.

3:59 a.m. — Alarm call; 5400 *** BLOCK NORTH CIRCLE DR; Pending dispo.

PINE COVE

Friday, October 23

10:41 p.m. — Noise complaint; ADDRESS UNDEFINED; Pending dispo.

10:34 p.m. — Noise complaint; 5200 *** BLOCK PINE COVE RD; Pending dispo.

POPPET FLATS

Saturday, October 24

4:55 p.m. — Unattended death; ADDRESS WITHHELD; Report taken.

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

Sunday, October 25

12:00 p.m. — Public disturbance; 2200 *** BLOCK ST HWY 243; Pending dispo.

Saturday, October 24

9:21 p.m. — Noise complaint; 5600 *** BLOCK E ST HWY 74; Pending dispo.

Master Chorale calls for singers

The Idyllwild Master Chorale has started rehearsals for its 51st annual winter concert. Musical Director Buzz Holmes is encouraging singers to join the group. Rehearsals take place Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of Idyllwild Arts Academy.

Performances will be: Saturday, December 19, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 20, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, email idymasterchorale1975@gmail.com

Summer concerts seek donations for generator

By David Jerome

Ken Dahleen, founder and producer of Idyllwild's free Summer Concert series, has a separate but related fundraising project: raising money for a generator for the Butterfield Amphitheater. He tells us that several Summer Concert donors have already made contributions towards the purchase.

In past years, concerts have been canceled due to power outages. The summer of 2025 appearance by ABBA LA was cancelled when the power went out just as the music began. Dahleen tells us some of the audience stayed until 8:45pm before giving up and going home.

This summer several concerts were threatened by planned power outages that ended up not affecting the schedule. Dahleen rented a generator to be prepared, he said, adding this was an expense not budgeted for. In past years the total budget for the series has been over $40,000, all in donations from local businesses and individuals.

Dahleen has in mind a three-phase, 70-kilowatt diesel generator that would power all of the facilities at the amphitheater. He says he has found several lightly used units for between $15,000 and $20,000. The type of generator he has in mind is called "crystal sink" or "whisper quiet," not because the diesel engine is quieter, but because the power produced is clean enough to power audio equipment.

Dahleen noted that although the generator will belong to the Summer Concert Series, it might be made available to Idyllwild Community Center and the broader community for other events at the Butterfield Amphitheater or for emergency use once some ground rules have been established.

Dahleen also said he hoped that locals will consider this project as they plan their end-of-year gift giving. The Summer Concert Series is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Gifts may be sent to: Summer Concert Series, Attn: Generator Fund, PO Box 1542, Idyllwild, CA 92549. You may also contact Dahleen directly at (760) 413-4638.

After Esperanza

continued from A2

Another thing the rebuttal notes as not discussed in the "Factual Report" was the process by which Unified Command was established. The report says that "Unified command between CAL FIRE and the USFS, was announced over the Command Net at 3:10hrs" but "does not confirm that this was authorized, by whom it was authorized or most importantly who is filling the role as Incident Commander for the USFS anywhere in the report."

This touches on the question of jurisdiction, which would determine the command structure. The rebuttal reports a discussion of Unified Command between "FS Chief 1 and CDF RRU/RVC Deputy Chief between 5:00 and 5:15 a.m. The fire was then on California Department of Forestry State Responsibility Area within the Forest Service Congressional Boundary, but private, not Forest Service land. "There was still 5 miles of distance between the fire and the Forest Service" Direct Protection Area."

"Chief Hutchinson stated to Chief 1 that the Unified Command was between the RVC/RRU and the Riverside Sheriff. He confirmed the fire was on CDF DPA and would likely stay on CDF DPA based on the projected fire movement. They also discussed that trigger point for Unified Command would be if the fire crossed Hwy 243 and Twin Pines Road. This would also be the trigger point for ordering a CDF incident management team."

The rebuttal goes on to detail the lack of Unified Command at the time of the loss of life. "The ranking Chief Officers for both agencies agreed that the Fire was not in Unified Command at 0515 with the Forest Service. This was based on jurisdiction. The broadcast over the Perris radio was in error. It is not mentioned on the Forest Service radio log. Mere presence of the BC 54 at the fire does not constitute a Unified Command. S-400 training states '…simply having a multitude of agencies present does not make a Unified Command. An agency cannot ignore its jurisdiction nor can it assume jurisdiction where it has none'".

At 0516, Forest Supervisor Jeanne Wade Evans was notified by Chief 1 of the CDF single jurisdiction fire and the Forest Service role as agency representative. Unified Command occurred shortly after the accident between 0900 and 0910. FS Division 3 became the unified IC with CDF.

But the Factual Report includes as Finding 7 that "Unified command between CAL FIRE and the USFS, was announced over the Command Net at 03:10hrs."

The rebuttal also takes issue with Finding 11, that the Octagon house was identified as non-defensible, saying that such a determination was made in 2002, but the structure had not been re-evaluated, and was built of fire-resistant materials "cement block siding, dual pane windows with aluminum jambs instead of wood, tile roof," and had adequate clearance from native vegetation.

Finding 12 noted the absence of a "strike team or task force/group leader" among the five FS and one March Air Force Base engines. The rebuttal says that during initial attack incidents it is "extremely uncommon to have a strike team leader assigned, nor is it part of either the Fire Management Plan or identified in the Standard Operating Procedures…" Furthermore, all the FS captains were "Strike Team leader qualified or higher…"

Each one of the rebutted points bears on the conclusions in the report and is addressed in the analysis each time it is brought up.

In its concluding paragraph the analysis spotlights an underlying problem with the Cal Fire/USFS report; "The firsthand accounts given by the four San Jacinto Engine Captains and assigned firefighters, who were the only eyewitnesses to both the entrapment as well as the events immediately preceding the accident do not appear to be taken into account…" To the contrary, the analysis states, "witness statements made by those outside the area of the accident site are more heavily weighted… and thus inaccurately portray" these events.

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MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

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Checks may be made payable to "Idyllwild Town Crier."

Contact us at 951-659-2145 or membership@towncrier.com.



70 years ago - 1956
The Town Crier threw a 10th-anniversary potluck celebration at Town Hall. Everyone was invited to come and "talk over old times and swap yarns about our beginnings on the Hill."

65 years ago - 1961
The Town Crier reported it had been, "the driest year on record" and as a result there was a serious outbreak of bark beetles on the Hill.

60 years ago - 1966
More than 130 people, including many off-Hill political leaders, gathered at a Chef in the Forest to welcome and honor Congressman John Tunney.

55 years ago - 1971
The Banning-Idyllwild Highway became Highway 243, as the state assumed responsibility for the roadway from the county.

50 years ago - 1976
In what would become an annual tradition, the Town Crier published its first calendar featuring seasonal photos of Idyllwild.

45 years ago - 1981
A Southern California Edison crew installed a bell tower and cross at St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, a 30-foot-tall structure made of cedar. A church member donated the funds and local residents designed and built the tower.

40 years ago - 1986
Joe McGaugh died at the age of 76. An Idyllwild founding father, he owned and operated the Idyllwild Dairy. His delivery truck read, "Joe McGaugh, the Udder-Man."

35 years ago - 1991
The Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement to build the Lake Hemet Sheriff's Station.

30 years ago - 1996
History came alive in Idyllwild with the first area historical reenactment camp, which local resident Steve Woods organized.

25 years ago - 2001
Construction was underway on a sound stage for the new Idyllwild Arts Moving Pictures Department.

20 years ago - 2006
The community was deeply mourning the deaths of five firefighters, members of Alandale Guard Station Crew 57, whose lives were lost while fighting the Esperanza Fire.

15 years ago - 2011
On Tahquitz Peak, a 21-year-old climber had fallen 60 feet and suffered an ankle injury.

11 years ago - 2015
Jerry Holldber of Pine Cove was appointed to represent Riverside County Supervisorial District 3 on the county's Emergency Medical Care Committee.

10 years ago - 2016
Riverside County scheduled a Planning Commission hearing on the proposed Idyllwild Community Center, with staff recommending approval of its conditional use permit.

5 years ago - 2021
The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority was developing a cloud-seeding pilot program targeting the San Jacinto Mountains and other ranges to increase rain and snowfall.

1 year ago - 2025
Riverside County announced a Town Hall meeting on proposed short-term-rental rules, including a requirement that Idyllwild certificate holders rent their properties at least four times a year.

Students of the Week



NOAH BLYSTONE



BLISS ORTIZ

Mr. Darren McKay, our Physical Education teacher, has chosen the following students as students of the week.

Caleb Marich: Caleb has a strong work ethic and tries hard at everything he does in PE class. He has also demonstrated strong leadership qualities that have had a positive effect on all the other students in class.

Bliss Ortiz: Bliss is extremely self motivated and has shown that she really cares about her health and fitness. She also has shown excellent sportsmanship and has fun in all the activities / games she participates in.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IDYLLWILD SCHOOL

Creature Corner

Last week in Days of Our Nine Lives, the ARF cats met new dog, Olive.

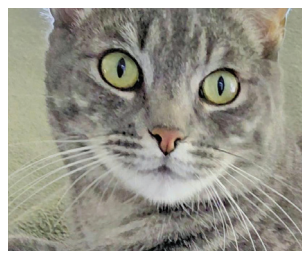
Paris: Hey! Three bits of good news.
Tasha: I hope it involves adoptions.
Georgie: Yes, it does.
Olive: First of all, beautiful Cardi was adopted.
Georgie: And both Olive and I were with ARF at Living Free's Hoedown last Saturday, and both of us have pending adoptions!
Pepper: Woohoo! That is great.
Georgie: Of course ARF will still take any back up applications, you know, just in case.
Sequoia: I always enjoy hearing such good news. I just wish it was my name in those announcements.
Georgie: I'm sorry, Sequoia. You are such a sweetheart.
Olive: Is anyone doing anything specific for Halloween?
Tasha: Heck no! I'm staying indoors where it is safe.
Olive: Understood! Many dogs are dressed in costumes. Hopefully they will all like it.
Paris: I guess not all dogs like to dress up.
Olive: That's true, Paris. Responsible pet guardians will closely monitor their costumed dogs to see if the dogs really are happy.
Georgie: Yeah. Some dogs are dressed up to make their guardians happy, but they aren't.
Paris: Each dog has an individual personality, so one cannot make blanket assumptions. The fact remains that not all dogs like to dress up.
Tasha: And I know it goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway. Keep the candy out of reach of dogs and cats. We know that candy is not considered a health food for humans, and it certainly isn't for dogs or cats!



LUKA



PARIS



SEQUOIA



TASHA



TIGER

This week's Creature Corner is sponsored by Janey Mason. Would you like to be a sponsor? Please let us know! Be sure to keep up with the animal antics of Days of our Nine Lives each week. And please stop in to say hello to the entire adoptable cast at the ARF House, 26890 Hwy 243. ARF is open Saturdays 10-3, Sundays 10-2, and during the week by appointment. Please call 951-659-1122.





The Man, The Myth, The Listings

By Sam Markus
illustrative essayist



He arrives in a vintage 1976 yellow Chevy, the kind of vehicle that suggests a different relationship to time.

"That's ol' Hoss," he says, as if introducing a trusted companion.

If you know Gavin Toler at all, it's likely through his music — songs that drift somewhere between the intimate and absurd, full of strange turns and quiet personal myth. You might assume he spends most of his time somewhere off the grid — writing songs, following strange internal threads, disappearing into the hills — which makes it slightly disorienting to learn he's also one of the more active realtors on the mountain.

But as it turns out, the gap between art and real estate may not be as wide as it seems.

"There's a lot of emotion and high stakes involved," Gavin says. "It's kind of like being in a relationship. It has its ups and downs, its highs and lows."

Real estate, at least the way Gavin describes it, involves trust, timing, taste, nerves, intuition, and the ability to keep people from unraveling at inopportune moments — all things that begin to sound less like sales and more like another form of creative work.

Toler moved to Idyllwild in 2011 with his wife and newborn son after years in Los Angeles, where he was immersed in the live music scene. Real estate was not an obvious next chapter. But after landing on the mountain, he crossed paths with longtime local realtor Jonny Milhouse, who encouraged him to get licensed.

At first, the fit wasn't obvious. Gavin has a quiet, inward quality that does not immediately suggest hard-closing, high-volume salesmanship. But he had something more useful: trust.

Over time, people began finding him through the same worlds he'd long moved through — artists, creatives, musicians, and thoughtful transplants from Los Angeles, San Diego, Palm Springs, and beyond. Now with Compass Realty, his sensitivity and discernment are part of what he's known for.

"I've gotten to work for some great people," Gavin says, "and sell some really cool, beautiful houses."

He tends to speak about his properties less like inventory and more like artworks — places he responds to by feel. One of his current listings is called the Chapel of St. John, a soulful 1950s modern structure on seven acres with panoramic views.

"If I walk into some cookie-cutter remodeled house with fake wood floors," he says, laughing, "I'm not excited."

That seems to be part of the appeal. Gavin is not trying to convince anyone that every house is special. He actually appears to have standards.

"I still have dreams about houses from the past," he says. "And fictional structures that I keep revisiting in my dreams."

His father was a building contractor in the Pacific Northwest, and his mother was a restless creative who moved the family often. That may explain why he speaks about homes with the strange specificity of someone who doesn't merely sell them, but continues to inhabit them internally.

Now nine years into the profession, Gavin has moved past uncertainty and into a kind of fluency.

"I've learned to see around corners," he says. "See what's coming, and protect the people I work for."

That may be the clearest description of the job as he sees it.

Because in Gavin's version of real estate, the work is not simply to move property. It's to guide people through one of the more emotionally and financially charged decisions of their lives, ideally with taste, clarity, and care.

In a profession often defined by performance, Gavin operates more like a musician — listening closely, then responding by feel.

And he's good at it, not despite his artistic nature, but because of it.

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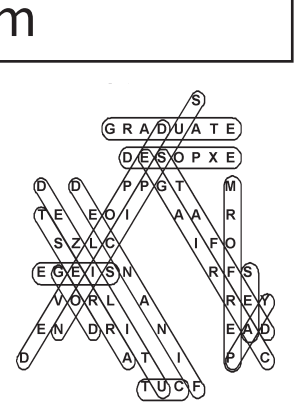
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Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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



Puzzles on B3

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