

**News bites**

**Missing funds?**

IFPD searching for withheld compensation money. See page 9.

**New Forest Restrictions**

See page 10.

**Town Crier Award**

See page 10.

**Jazz Fest**

Kenny Washington and Oscar Hernández perform this year.

See page 11.

**The beat on the street**

Summer Concert Series next week.

See page 13.

**Paul Carman**

No sax, now a vocalist.

See page 14.

**Inside**

A&E..... 11  
 CALENDAR ..... 5  
 CHURCHES ..... 8  
 CLASSIFIEDS ..... 23  
 CROSSWORD..... 25  
 FISHING..... 5  
 HOROSCOPE ..... 25  
 LODGING..... 8  
 MASTHEAD ..... 6  
 ON THE TOWN ..... 11  
 PUBLIC NOTICES ..... 26  
 REAL ESTATE ..... 20  
 SERVICES..... 28  
 SPORTS..... 18  
 SUDOKU ..... 25  
 WEATHER..... 2

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**Idyllwild Town Crier**



Covering the Santa Ana and Santa Rosa Mountains from Twin Pines to Anza to Pinyon

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VOL. 65 NO. 29

(Included)

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., JULY 22, 2010



**Bowden Tate**, 7, of Idyllwild shows off the gold nugget he found while panning for gold at last Saturday's Lemon Lily Festival Pioneer Town where children and their family members participated in old-time activities. For more Lemon Lily Festival photos, see pages 15, 20 and 21.

PHOTO BY BETH NOTTLEY

**Lemon Lily Festival strikes gold**

BY BETH NOTTLEY  
 STAFF REPORTER

The numbers aren't totally crunched yet, but the first-annual Lemon Lily Festival appears to have been a resounding success, with an estimated 3,000 attendees. Crowds of locals and visitors participated in a myriad of events designed to educate the public about the effort to repopulate the Idyllwild mountain communities with the native lemon lily and to celebrate the community spirit and volunteerism that made the festival a reality.

At the Idyllwild Nature Center, scores of people walked along Lilly Creek to view the blooming lemon lilies and learn about other native plants. While pointing out foliage, festival organizer and local amateur botanist Dave Stith explained that the creek was named for the native lemon lilies that were once prolific along its banks. U.S. Forest Service botanist Kate Kramer's seminar about the lemon lily propagation effort drew more than 50 people, locals and visitors alike.

Festival organizers reached their goal of educating festival goers. Typical of the

attendees at these educational events were Roger and Susan Wade of Temecula who also have a home in Idyllwild. "We've been staying part-time in Idyllwild for 10 years, but we've never been to the Nature Center and never heard of the lemon lily," said Susan. "We've learned a lot today about native plants," added her husband, Roger.

The Garden Club's tour of a local creekside garden where lemon lilies are blooming also attracted many people, with tours running every half hour Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Attending the tour was Louis Maxcy, 14, of Umatilla, Ore., who got to make the trip to California and the Lemon Lily Festival as a reward from his parents for doing well in school this year. Four generations of his family attended the Garden Club event, including his 92-year-old great grandmother, Adele Norton.

Festival organizers also wanted to turn back time in Idyllwild to the days when lemon lilies were abundant. In town, hundreds of children and their families crowded into the Pioneer Town set up

See Lemon Lily, page 21

**Higher IFPD ambulance fees coming?**

BY J.P. CRUMRINE  
 EDITOR

Finances — future, present and past — took up a considerable portion of the July 13 Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) commission meeting. Future revenues were the subject of Interim Fire Chief Norm Walker's proposal to increase ambulance fees. The current and past fiscal year budgets were also discussed during the session. Discussion of past revenues and the missing funds for firefighter deferred compensation also took place (see story on page 9).

Walker suggested boosting ambulance fees to augment the department's revenues until the public

approves a higher parcel fee. At its June meeting, the commission approved a resolution requesting the county Registrar of Voters put the parcel fee increase on November's ballot. Since the meeting, commission members have indicated they may wait longer before approaching voters for an increased fee levy.

While several commission members favored addressing Walker's proposal as soon as possible, the public convinced commission President Jeannine Charles-Stigall to hold it for the agenda at the commission's next regular meeting on Aug. 10.

"I want to present the board with an alternative [to the parcel fee increase],"

See IFPD, page 22

**19 youths have summer jobs**

BY MARSHALL SMITH  
 STAFF REPORTER

With the current Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) placement count at 19, Idyllwild youths are contributing to Hill businesses as summer interns. All salaries and workers' comp insurance are funded with federal stimulus money to the county, which commissions non-profits, such

as the California Family Life Centers (CFLC), to interview, place applicants and administer the program.

Although late in starting (initial estimates were that interns would be in place by July 1) the program seems off to a good start, judging by reports of employers' satisfaction with their interns. Echoing the sentiments of a variety of employers contacted, Pam Allen, owner

See SWEP, page 21



# NEWS OF RECORD

## Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, July 12 to 18:

### Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

**July 12** — Medical aid, Idyllbrook Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 13** — Medical aid, Double View Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 13** — Medical aid, Temecula Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 13** — False alarm, Cedar Glen Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 13** — False alarm, Forest Haven Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Green Craig Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Highway 243, Idyllwild.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Delano Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Sylvan Way, Pine Cove.  
**July 15** — Medical aid, Double View Drive, Idyllwild.  
**July 15** — Walk-in medical aid.  
**July 15** — Mixed brush and grass fire, Domenigoni Parkway south of lake entrance, Hemet.  
**July 15** — Medical aid, Highway 243, Pine Cove.  
**July 16** — Rescue, Look-out Lane, Idyllwild.  
**July 16** — Medical aid,

Eagle's Nest Court, Pine Cove.

**July 16** — Rescue, Toll-gate Road, Idyllwild.

**July 17** — Public service, Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild.

**July 18** — False alarm, Fern Valley Road, Idyllwild.

**July 18** — Walk-in medical aid.

### Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove

**July 12** — Improvement fire.  
**July 13** — False alarm.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, assault.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, full arrest.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Abdominal pain.  
**July 15** — Wildland fire.  
**July 15** — Wildland fire.  
**July 15** — Wildland fire.  
**July 15** — False alarm.  
**July 15** — Fire menace standby, check area.  
**July 15** — Medical aid, difficulty breathing.  
**July 16** — Wildland fire, bites or stings.  
**July 16** — Medical aid, person down.  
**Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley**  
**July 14** — Medical aid, 26000 block of Delano Drive, Idyllwild.

**July 14** — Structure fire, 60000 block of Yucca Valley Road, Anza.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, 58000 block of Burnt Valley Road, Anza.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, 43000 block of Highway 79, Aguanga.

**July 16** — Vegetation fire, 65000 block of Terwilliger Road, Anza.

**July 16** — Medical aid, 59000 block of Morris Ranch Road, Garner Valley.

**July 16** — Structure fire, 41000 block of Lakeshore Drive, Aguanga.

### Riverside County Fire, Pinyon

**July 12** — Medical aid.  
**July 14** — Fire.  
**July 15** — Fire.  
**July 15** — Fire.  
**July 16** — Fire.  
**July 16** — Fire.  
**July 17** — Two public service assists.  
**July 18** — Medical aid.

### Riverside County Fire, Anza

**July 12** — Medical aid, Ramsey Road and Hunter Lane, Anza.  
**July 12** — Walk-in medical aid.  
**July 13** — Walk-in medical aid.  
**July 14** — Medical aid, Highway 371 and Anza Road,

Anza.

**July 14** — Vehicle fire, Lilac and Yucca Valley roads, Anza.

**July 15** — Medical aid, El Toro Road, Anza.

**July 15** — Medical aid, Atlantic and Louise avenues, Anza.

**July 15** — Walk-in medical aid.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, Burnt Valley and Reynolds roads, Anza.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, Rim Rock and Delor roads, Anza.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, Highway 79 and Rainbow Road, Aguanga.

**July 15** — Vegetation fire, south of Cooper Road, Anza.

**July 16** — Fire menace standby, Coyote Canyon and Terwilliger roads, Anza.

**July 16** — Vegetation fire, Tule Canyon Truck Trail, Anza.

**July 16** — Residential structure fire, Lakeshore and sky Harbor drives, Aguanga.

**July 16** — Walk-in medical aid.

**July 17** — Medical aid, Markle and Howard roads, Anza.

**July 17** — Public service assist, Gassner and Sandy Hills roads.

**July 18** — Walk-in medical aid.

*See Record, page 27*



The pontoon boat that was picked up and flipped over when a squall hit Lake Hemet. PHOTO BY GARY KUSCHNER

## Mountain Community Patrol seeks members

The Mountain Community Patrol is recruiting new members on the Hill. The Patrol provides many services to the community including crowd and parking control at civic events; they patrol town to lower local crime; observe and report suspicious situations to the Sheriff's Department and remove graffiti from the town and surrounding areas. The Patrol provides its members with a complete training course including first aid and CPR. To apply to become a member, call (951) 659-4904.



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## Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Thursday 7/22	Friday 7/23	Saturday 7/24	Sunday 7/25	Monday 7/26
				
<b>92/62</b>	<b>93/62</b>	<b>92/63</b>	<b>92/62</b>	<b>92/61</b>
Mostly sunny, light winds.	Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy.	Mostly sunny, becoming partly cloudy.

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Idyllwild this year					Idyllwild last year				
Date	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S	
7-12	85	57			87	56			
7-13	87	56			88	57			
7-14	92	57			87	56			
7-15	90	63	.10		90	58			
7-16	na	na			92	62			
7-17	91	65			92	62			
7-18	89	57			96	65			

Moisture in inches			Snow in inches		
To date this season (Idy):	.10		To date this season (Idy):	0	
To date last season (Idy):	0		To date last season (Idy):	0	
Total last season (Idy):	23.61		Total last season (Idy):	35.91	
To date this season (PC):	.03		To date this season (PC):	0	
Total last season (PC):	30.92		Total last season (PC):	72.5	

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

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



# OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

## A gift from a flower to a garden

For the past several weeks, I have spent my leisure hours searching for flowers. On Saturday, flowers turned the tables and came searching for me.



My normal routine of helping people try on hiking shoes and answering questions about hiking trails was interrupted by many smiling people with stories to tell about their encounters with Mother Nature and her many wildflowers.

So what brought out all these eager amateur botanists? I can give you a three word answer: Lemon Lily Festival. I did not attend a single event during the festival, as I worked the three-day event. But I most definitely felt the effects on the town's consciousness.

Like the lemon lily itself, the festival was something homegrown. It was an event made in Idyllwild by Idyllwildians and it was about something that almost anyone could get their head around. Of course, there may be some serious flower haters out there but they must have kept a low profile during the festivities.

I had many interesting conversations over the weekend, but here are a few highlights.

As I have mentioned in the past, my friend and USFS volunteer, Joe Bressi, does his patrol of the high country almost every Saturday. On his rounds this past week, he reported finding lemon lilies in three different locations. He also mentioned many other wildflowers that he spotted when searching for lemon lilies.

A couple came into the shop to thank me for mentioning in my column that the wild roses and western azaleas both have fragrant flowers. It seems that both species grow on their property, but they never thought to take a whiff before they read my column.

I am always happy to help someone stop and smell the roses.

Another gentleman came in to tell me that he had found a third species of orchid growing in our mountains. We looked it up in one of my books and it turned out to be the bog orchid, a white-flowered species of the genus *Platanthera*. He went on to describe how the flowers were pollinated by male mosquitoes.

We then talked about plant identification keys and reference books. I didn't catch his name but I invite him to come by the shop any time so we can continue our conversation.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people who worked hard to make the Lemon Lily Festival a reality. A lot of planning and hard work made it all happen. I don't really know how to judge if the festival was a success other than to say that for at least one weekend, I noticed a higher "vibe" around town.

I would also like to thank Mountain Harvest Market for the lemon lily salad, which proved to be so good I went back and bought another one for dinner on Sunday.

Wildflower season is coming to an end in the Idyllwild area, but it is really taking off in the higher elevations. I think after this weekend we are all a little more aware of what's "Outside Idyllwild" and that's a good thing.

Until next week, have fun, be safe.



A lemon lily blooms in the garden of local resident **Erin O'Neill**. Her garden was featured on the Garden Club's Lemon Lily Tour held over the festival weekend. PHOTO BY JEREMY NORTON



Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) a woody berry related to the rose family that grows in forests where there is shade and moisture. It looks quite similar to the Pink Flowered Currant (*Ribes sanguineum glutinosum*) and often grows near it. Mature plants can reach 3- to 5-feet tall and wide. It is in late bloom now in Fern Valley along Strawberry Creek. The bright red edible berries that ripen in mid to late summer are somewhat tart. The fruit is a valuable food for songbirds, game birds, and large and small mammals but seldom cultivated for commercial purposes. In some areas, Thimbleberry jam is sold as a local delicacy. PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD VOORHEIS



**Huell Howser** poses with **Diane Riggi**, one of the Lemon Lily singers. PHOTO BY DON REED



A doe with her fawn in Mountain Center. PHOTO BY BETHANY PULLIAM



**Huell Howser** was in Idyllwild Sunday filming the Lemon Lily Festival for his television production and got a copy of the *Town Crier* from publisher **Grace Reed**. PHOTO BY DON REED.

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# Jo'An is back

BY MARSHALL SMITH  
STAFF REPORTER

Jo'An is back at Jo'An's Restaurant with family members in managerial positions. After a long legal battle with previous owners Andrew Panbehchi and Parvin Naderi, Betty Joan Lackey, aka Jo'An assumed ownership of her eponymous establishment and reopened on July 9. Jo'An's son, Mike Lackey, will manage the restaurant and his son, Chad, who has been in the business since age 14, will serve as assistant manager. Jo'An will be onsite, providing a familiar face of continuity — familiar since 1996 when she first purchased the property.

Adding to the family and personal nature of the new Jo'An's are granddaughters Lindsey and Bethany, helping out for the summer. "Nine of my 13 grandchildren have worked for me," said Lackey. "Chad knows this is the business he wants to be in. He plans to go to culinary school."

Lackey has a succession plan in place. After two years, son Mike will buy and continue running the restaurant. "I'm happy to get the restaurant back and adding things I need to add," she said. "We have a lot of rebuilding to do, with a menu still in development. All of my kitchen staff are back, and I'm happy with that."

Lackey plans to try some



It takes a family to put a welcoming face on a business — in this case the Lackey family at Jo'An's Restaurant and Bar — Mike at left, Jo'An, Chad and Bethany. PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

new things — serving dinner outside in the summer months, steaks on the grill, acoustic music. "We'll make it look nice, with candles." Menu additions feature prime rib on weekends, rib eye and other steaks, salmon and swordfish.

Sensitive to long-running concerns over bands and their volume, Lackey said she is always after them to keep the sound levels down. "You won't play again if you don't turn it down," she said she advises bands. "I don't like it too loud," she noted with a nod to her neighboring businesses. "I'm also thinking of asking a local artist to paint and sign the band enclosure," she said. "It's so ugly as it is."

Jo'An's will be open seven days a week, 7 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. on weeknights, 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7 a.m. to

9 p.m. on Sunday.

"We just need people to know we're back," said Lackey.

## Obituary Carole Lynn Jones

Carole Lynn Jones passed away from complications resulting from heart disease on July 13 in Hemet. She was 67 years old.

Born in Bakersfield, Calif. and raised in Illinois and Southern California, she attended Western High School in Anaheim, Fullerton Junior College and California State University, Fullerton.

Married in 1966, she moved with her family from Orange County to Idyllwild in 1981 and lived in this town until 1994 when she moved to Hemet. She was widely known in the community for her work at Idyllwild Arts, The Rustic Theatre and the Idyllwild



Pharmacy, where she was employed from 1991 until months before her death.

A gifted writer, she was the recipient of numerous awards for her web fiction and attracted a fan base of thousands from around the world.

She is survived by a sister, Barbara Jones; four grandchildren, Zoe Crawford and Zack Zambrana of Idyllwild and Ava and Emma Hudson of Chapel Hill, N.C.; daughters Emily Hudson and Skye Zambrana and son-in-law Michael Zambrana of Idyllwild; and son Devlin and daughter-in-law Ashley Hudson of Chapel Hill, N.C.

*The Idyllwild Town Crier: "Almost All the News — Part of the Time"*

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