

Idyllwild Town Crier



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

News bites

Identity theft

Sheriff's investigation proceeds.

See page 11.

Propane

The local market.

See page 13.

Animal Services

County budget affects cats and dogs.

See page 14.

Independent RCFD

Cost too much?

See page 14.

\$20,000

ICRC and County spat over 15-year advance.

See page 19.

Pertussis

Whooping cough growing.

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VOL. 65 NO. 49

75¢ (Tax Included)

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., DECEMBER 9, 2010



The Christmas spirit is spreading through Idyllwild. From top left, Santa listens to **Abraham Martinez**, from Temecula, then **Brynn Elliott**, also from Temecula. **Greg Twombly**, of Fern Valley, props up a smiley Grinch above B's Mountain of Books. For those purchasing their own gifts, Compassion International, a Christian child advocacy organization, has a very special desk where volunteers such as **Susan Gray**, left, and **Shirley Kribs** gift-wrap presents. Outside, downtown businesses donned their Christmas decorations. PHOTOS BY CID CASTILLO

County closing fire stations

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

As part of a proposed \$4.4 million budget savings, Riverside County Fire Chief John Hawkins has recommended closing three fire stations. While Pine Cove and Garner Valley are not affected, several nearby stations will likely see changes, including Poppet Flat (Station 63) to the north and Lake Riverside (Station 77) to the southwest.

The career firefighter staff at these two stations and at El Cariso (Station 51) will be withdrawn and the stations will be staffed solely with Reserve Volunteer firefighters. In addition, the two

At press time, the Town Crier was informed that the vote has been postponed.

pages of proposals include the closing of a two-person paramedic squad in Anza (Station 29) and adding a single paramedic firefighter to the CAL FIRE engine crew at the station.

While the three stations proposed for closure are outside his district, Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone is opposed to the idea. "I'll do everything I can to preserve and keep fire stations open," he vowed.

Poppet Flat residents were
See Closings, page 22

The history of Idyllwild Fire

By CAREY POWERS
NEWS INTERN

Editor's note: A complete history of the Idyllwild Fire Department does not exist. The Idyllwild Area Historical Society has obtained only donated photographs. The Town Crier's archives of previous issues contain the history; however, they have not yet been compiled and organized. Most of the volunteer firemen and chiefs present in the district's earliest days have retired. The following consists of remembered stories, gleaned facts, and scattered details making up a small history of the department.

At the turn of the 20th century, as major logging dwindled and owners of luxury mountain homes began to desire the scenic beauty of dense forestation, Idyllwild became more prone to wild-fire. Several fires raised local landmarks such as the Sanatorium in 1902 and the Idyllwild Inn 40 years later.

Often it has been said that Idyllwild is "ripe for disaster," as a Press-Enterprise article dated approximately 1980 declared. As part of an ongoing pre-planning program created in 1955, the
See IFPD, page 15

CHP helps Santa

By BETH NOTTLEY
STAFF REPORTER

The San Geronio Pass Area California Highway Patrol (CHP) will once again give toys to local children from low-income families as part of its 12th-annual CHiPs for Kids Toy Drive, according to CHP Public Information Officer Scott Beauchene.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, Beauchene,

along with Santa and Mrs. Claus, will be at Idyllwild Pines Camp with toys and treats. Each child will receive a gift and hot chocolate will be served.

Last year, the CHP distributed about 250 toys to local children. With holiday music playing in the background, each child got a turn to sit on Santa's lap and pick out a toy.

Beauchene said that Soboba Casino is donating

toys to the effort. Also, a collection box has been set up at the Red Kettle so that residents can donate new, unwrapped toys.

Parents who would like to bring their children to the event must register with Colleen Manchee at the HELP Center so the CHP can have an estimate of the number of children who will be present.

E-mail Beth Nottley at beth@towncrier.com.

NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Nov. 29 to Dec. 5:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

Nov. 29 — Rescue, Maranatha Drive, Idyllwild.

Nov. 30 — Arcing or shorted electrical equipment, Rockdale and Fernleaf drives, Idyllwild.

Nov. 30 — Medical aid, Westridge Drive, Idyllwild.

Nov. 30 — Two walk-in medical aids.

Dec. 1 — Three walk-in medical aids.

Dec. 1 — Medical aid, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Dec. 4 — Unintentional smoke detector activation, Temecula Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 5 — Walk-in medical aid.

Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove

Dec. 3 — Medical aid, chest pains.

Dec. 4 — Fire, false alarm.

Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley

Log unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Pinyon

Log unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Anza

Nov. 29 — Medical aid, Grandon and Terwilliger roads, Anza.

Nov. 29 — Medical aid, Rimrock and Delor roads, Anza.

Nov. 29 — Walk-in medical aid.

Nov. 30 — Ringing alarm, Contreras Road and Highway 371, Anza.

Nov. 30 — Walk-in medical aid.

Nov. 30 — Traffic collision, Ramsey Road and Grapp Lane, Anza.

Dec. 1 — Medical aid, Mitchell and Bohlen roads, Anza.

Dec. 1 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 2 — Fire menace standby, Terwilliger and Ramsey roads, Anza.

Dec. 2 — Medical aid, Mitchell and Bohlen roads, Anza.

Dec. 3 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 3 — Refuse fire, Pioneer Road, Anza.

Dec. 4 — Unknown type of fire, Terwilliger Road, Anza.

Dec. 4 — Medical aid, Mitchell and Bohlen roads, Anza.

Dec. 4 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 4 — Medical aid, Aurora Lane, Anza.

Dec. 5 — Medical aid, Cave Rock and Fisher roads, Anza.

Dec. 5 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 5 — Traffic collision, Highway 371 and Barham Road, Anza.

CHP log

Log unavailable.

Sheriff's log

The Lake Hemet Sub-division of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department responded to the following calls from Saturday Nov. 20 to Tuesday Dec. 7. This may not be a complete list of responses:

Nov. 20 — Man identified as Ty Edward Ellington, 42, of Anza arrested on suspicion of felony domestic violence on Old Cary Road in Anza. The Sheriff's Department has closed its case and now arraignment is scheduled before the District Attorney.

Nov. 21 — Woman identi-

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) Investigator Brian Robertson, lead investigator on the recent proliferation of graffiti and hate crime vandalism in Idyllwild, reported another local incident of vandalism.

The recent incident occurred between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. on the night of Thursday, Nov. 25 or the morning of Nov. 26.

fied as Mara Melissa Saenz, 40, of Idyllwild arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon in the 25800 block of Scenic Drive in Idyllwild. The Sheriff's Department has closed its case and now arraignment is scheduled before the District Attorney.

All people identified here are presumed innocent of these preliminary charges pending court actions. Only the names of suspects charged with felonies will be printed.

Fire area restrictions lifted

CAL FIRE has rescinded the closure restricting public access of seven hazardous fire areas that are now open to the public: Avery Canyon, North Mountain and Indian Canyon, Whitewater Canyon, Nuevo/Lakeview and Minto, Reinhardt Canyon, and Ramona Bowl and Bautista Canyon. The Proclamation suspending burning permits and other uses of open fire has also been terminated.

Another vandalism attack

Three homes were hit by what Robertson described as vandalism, not hate crime messages. Robertson said he had not seen all the photographs taken by the reporting deputy, but that, with the information he had at hand from the incident report, it did not seem to him that this was another hate crime.

This newest incident continues a wave of vandalism that began with a hate crime attack at Idyllwild School on March 1, followed by numerous graffiti incidents throughout the intervening months and another hate crime incident in early September. The November victims along with one other were those hit in the September incident.

Anyone with information on this incident should contact RCSD at (951) 776-1099 and tell the person taking the report that Robertson should get a copy. *Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.*

Big Green Egg BBQs on SALE for Christmas!

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659-HEAT
54730 North Circle Drive

Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Thursday 12/9	Friday 12/10	Saturday 12/11	Sunday 12/12	Monday 12/13
62/40 Sunny and breezy.	56/38 Sunny.	63/39 Sunny.	65/42 Sunny.	67/39 Sunny.

Idyllwild this year					Idyllwild last year			
Date	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S
11-29	na	na	na	na	42	28	.24	2
11-30	na	na	na	na	57	27	na	na
12-1	66	30	na	na	na	na	na	na
12-2	67	33	na	na	59	28	na	na
12-3	64	33	na	na	59	28	na	na
12-4	na	na	na	na	60	29	na	na
12-5	60	30	na	na	56	25	na	na

Moisture in inches				Snow in inches			
To date this season (Idy): 7.33				To date this season (Idy): 3.7			
To date last season (Idy): 2.81				To date last season (Idy): 7			
Total last season (Idy): 23.61				Total last season (Idy): 35.91			
To date this season (PC): 7.65				To date this season (PC): 4.25			
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.

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OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

Interview with Bob Romano

Bob Romano, in his mid-fifties, grew up in Southern California and has been a part-time Idyllwild resident for five years and full-time for one year. He went to school in Riverside.



Bob works with the USFS volunteers and that is why I asked him for an interview.

Bruce Watts: How long have you been working with the USFS volunteers?

Bob Romano: I started as a regular volunteer in 1998, going out into the wilderness and patrolling. Back then, we had yellow post sites.

One of my big duties and one of the hardest things to do was to clean out those yellow post sites because people would have fires and they would get full of ashes. The ashes would be overflowing, so we would go in there, dig up all the ashes, bury them and get the site ready for the next person coming in.

That was pretty hard and after about two years, I was asked to be the wilderness coordinator. That's a job where you get an automatic position with the Forest Service Volunteer Association (FSVA). I started running all the volunteers in the wilderness. This last election, I became a vice president of the organization.

Watts: In or about 2000, you became the head honcho?

Romano: Yes, in 2000 or 2001, I became the wilderness coordinator. My job is to schedule and be in charge of training and pretty much organize everything that happens in the wilderness and the regular forest. Out there, we patrol everything from Snow Creek to Agua Alta.

Watts: All of this is an unpaid position?

Romano: I get paid but not with money. I get paid with a lot of great benefits, and with being a part of the Forest Service, the San Jacinto wilderness and this mountain.

Watts: Give us an idea of exactly what volunteers do and don't do. What are the jobs for the average person who patrols?

Romano: OK, I just want to read our mission statement real quick because it is very short and it says:

"To provide the Forest Service with supplemental manpower. To develop and expand National Forest projects. To furnish quality public service and ... generate fundraising capabilities. It is the responsibility of the FSVA to serve as the ambassadors of the forest."

So we have two functions. Firstly, we are a manpower function out there to serve the Forest Service. Secondly, we are a fundraising organization for the USFS.

The Forest Service doesn't actually sell things themselves. They do sell Adventure Passes, but they don't sell books and things. We have that bookstore in there (USFS office) and it's our bookstore. We order the books. The money is used to order more books and for other projects on the forest. We're raising money and we are also providing



Western Wakerobin (*Trillium ovatum*) is a beautiful spring native with distinctive clumps of diamond-shaped, green whorled leaves and three petals. It has large white flowers fading to pink. The flowers are often described as musk-scented. Each plant will reach approximately 18 inches high and 1 inch wide and eventually will form large colonies in partial to full shade with humus-rich soil. The trillium can also be propagated by seed, a much slower process. This plant adapts well to our dry summers; it goes dormant for the season after flourishing from a moist winter and springtime. As a Western woodland native, it is hardy to -20 degrees.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD VOORHEIS

Stone moves on oak borer threat

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Fulfilling promises made at a recent community meeting, Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone continues to move forward with multi-agency meetings designed to prevent movement of the goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) into Riverside County.

Serious infestation in parts of San Diego County has caused 100 percent oak mortality in affected areas and could do the same in Riverside County. Analysis of

manpower and leadership on projects that are happening with the forest.

Watts: What are the qualifications to join the volunteers? I would assume you have to be in pretty good condition?

Romano: The organization has a lot of different things you can do. Some of them don't involve being in good shape.

To be continued.

More information about the volunteers can be found at www.fsva.org

the borer causing damage in San Diego County indicates it comes from eastern Arizona and was likely transported to California in firewood.

Although scientists have been studying the GSOB threat since 2004, focusing on developing effective topical insecticides and importation of a natural predator, Stone is concentrating on firewood interdiction to stop the beetle's northward spread. Verne Lauritzen, Stone's chief of staff, confirmed that Stone has met with county counsel, the agricultural commis-

sioner, and code enforcement and representatives from other agencies to discuss the ramifications of a county quarantine.

"The interest level of those involved was very high," said Lauritzen. Stone is interested in securing interagency agreements, including CAL FIRE and the Forest Service, to prevent firewood importation without proof that it is free of infestation. He is also looking at restricting sale of wood by roadside and other vendors who have no proof that the wood was harvested in areas free of infestation — in effect, a certification process for wood sold in the county's unincorporated

areas. The roadside vendor problem is an issue brought to Stone's attention by Hill residents who attended the recent GSOB community meeting sponsored by the University of California Riverside (UCR).

"We want to get the mechanisms in place to get this solved," said Lauritzen. Stone has asked scientists at UCR to provide wording for a mass mailing to county residents about the GSOB threat, perils of importing firewood, and how to identify if wood is infected. Stone has already set aside funds to pay for the mailing.

"It's about educating the public," said Lauritzen.

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Obituary Betty Elaine Cole

Betty Elaine Cole passed away Dec. 3, at the age of 86, in her home in Idyllwild.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Donald M. Cole Jr., in 2005. She is survived by her children, Sheryl (Chuck) Luker of Palmdale; Denise (John) Edmiston of Idyllwild; Diane (Ron) Hayes of Idyllwild; Michael (Judy) Cole of La Jolla; and Amanda (Randy) Gall of Huntington Beach. She also leaves 13 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

Betty was born in Troy Mills, Iowa. She moved to California as a young child with her parents, Ryal and Myrtie Michael.

She lived in Idyllwild for the past five years. She previously lived in La Habra for almost 50 years.

Services will be held at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.



Golden Anniversary Daniel & Sharla Carpenter

Daniel and Sharla Carpenter were united in marriage on Dec. 11, 1960 in San Diego, Calif. They originally met in middle school and haven't looked back. They have known each other for over 60 years. Their family honors their dedication and is thankful for the years spent together.

Dan was employed by the San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and retired in 2000. Sharla worked even harder and more diligently while raising two tiresome boys, being an extraordinary housewife, and being involved in community service.

After residing in San Diego most of their lives, Dan and Sharla settled in to their custom dream home in Idyllwild, Calif. They feel blessed to live in the wonderful community of Idyllwild and for the many friends they have made.

Their ties to Idyllwild date back to Dan's childhood years when his father, Archie Carpenter, was instrumental in the building of the original Idyllwild School.

They stay busy by volunteering as docents at the Idyllwild Area Historical Society, beautifying the local highway as part of the Adopt a Highway Campaign, and donating time to help the animals at Living Free Animal Sanctuary. In the past, they volunteered at Idyllwild HELP Center, and Dan was the past president of the Idyllwild Lions Club.

Their children, David and Greg, daughter-in-law Janet, and grandchildren Amanda and Danny, rejoice with them on this extraordinary occasion. You both are truly an inspiration. We love you very much, Mom and Dad!



At the Dec. 1 Rotary meeting, Idyllwild Rotary President **Danny Richardson** (left) and **Karen Patterson** (right) welcome new member, **Steve Carlson** (center). PHOTO BY DAN SLATTERY

The Greater Idyllwild Tree Lighting Committee would like to thank all the Volunteers, Businesses, Organizations who helped make the 50th Tree Lighting Ceremony a huge success.

Thank you all very much.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ARF | Jody Sakaria |
| Art Alliance of Idyllwild | John and Mary Schaffer |
| Barbara Rayliss | Justin Sheppard |
| BBVA Compass Bank | Kathy and Kasie |
| Bill Shepard | Kenny and Andrew |
| Blue Tiger Creative Media | McKnight |
| Breanna, Dorian and | Kyra Espinoza |
| Maclaren | Laurie and her husband |
| Buzz Holmes and The | Lemon Lily Festival |
| Idyllwild Master | Living Free |
| Choral and Children's | Lou and Annamarie |
| Choir | Padula |
| Carol and Mike Wiesen | Marshall Smith |
| Deanna Collins | Mary McDonnell |
| Deb Gmeiner | Matt Lilio |
| Diane D'amico | Mountain Community |
| Diane Rabe | Patrol |
| Don and Karen Doshier | Mt. Fire Abatement |
| Doug Austin and the | Mt. Quilters of Idyllwild |
| Olde English Theatre | Muir Family |
| Troupe | Omar Solorio |
| Early Act Club | Pat Smith |
| Ellen Anderson | Paul Riggi |
| Forest Lumber | Pearson Family |
| Fritz Coleman and the | Pearson Tree Service |
| KNBC news team | Pine Cove Property |
| Gege Beagle | Owners Association |
| Gracie Lehman | Red Kettle |
| Higher Grounds Coffee | Rich Polk |
| House | Rick Foster |
| Hugo Solorio | Right to Life |
| Idyllwild Association of | Rightway Portable Toilets |
| Realtors | Sandii Castleberry and |
| Idyllwild Business Round | Paul Carman |
| Table | Sonja Simmons |
| Idyllwild Cabin Rentals | Soroptimist International |
| Idyllwild Chamber of | of Idyllwild |
| Commerce | Sound Connection—Ken |
| Idyllwild Community | Dahleen |
| Recreation Council | Spruce Moose |
| Idyllwild Fire Department | Sue Mrsny |
| Idyllwild Garage | Supervisor Jeff Stone |
| Idyllwild HELP Center | Suzanne Avalon |
| Idyllwild Nature Center | The Caroling Company |
| Idyllwild Pharmacy | The Coopersmiths |
| Idyllwild Property Owners | The Fort |
| Association | The Town Crier |
| Idyllwild Rotary | Town Hall Kids |
| Idyllwild School PTA | Trudy Twardowsky |
| Idyllwild Tea Company | Village Centre Plaza |
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| Interact Club | |
| Isis Theatre Company | |
| Jan Jaspers Feyer | |
| Javier | |
| Jay Johnson | |
| Jo'An's | |

All the elves, donors, and honorees who silently were there to help make this year's Christmas Tree Lighting a great success.

ONLY IN IDYLLWILD

My husband and I decide one day to have some "honey buns" and coffee for breakfast at the new bakery in town. We get in the car and start out onto Fern Valley Road — a major thoroughfare — toward the bakery. Our neighbors see us and wave. We stop the car on the road to ask if they would like some buns, too. Of course they do. No other car approaches as we discuss and decide on the bakery items for maybe five minutes. Then, we continue to the bakery and buy some tasty pastries. When we return and deliver the pastries, we join them for coffee. What a nice way to start the day!

Mary and Jon Spalsbury
Idyllwild

"Only in Idyllwild" may be sent one of four ways: e-mail to beth@towncrier.com, call 659-2145, Ext. 17, fax to 659-2071 or drop off at the office, 54295 Village Center Drive.

MOUNTAIN FOLK

Caitlin Burns, daughter of Idyllwild resident **Maureen Burns Jones**, has won the Miss Teen San Diego County International 2011 pageant after ending her reign as Junior Miss San Diego County International 2010.

In addition, Burns won the Outstanding Service to Community Award, a cash scholarship from the Miss California Pageant 2011. She was appointed Youth Ambassador for her platform, "A New Path, Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing."

To get a listing in "Mountain folk," visit www.towncrier.com, click on "News" in the menu at the top and click on "Submit a news item," or stop by and fill out a news form.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For the Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar, see "On the Town," on page 9.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.
- Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Café Aroma, 54750 North Circle Dr.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- Pine Cove Water District, 10 a.m. PCWD, 24917 Marion Ridge Rd., Pine Cove.
- La Leche League, 10 a.m. Call 659-8321.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard building)
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- County Service Area 38 Advisory Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr.
- AWANA for ages 3 to fifth-graders, 5:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Bible Church, 54400 Pine Crest Ave.
- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

- "Forgotten God," Women's Ministry Bible Study, 10 a.m.-noon. Chapel in the Pines Church office, 29430 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center.
- Living Through Transition and Loss, 10 a.m.-noon. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.
- Fit After Fifty, 11 a.m. Mile-High Fitness, 54423 Village Center Dr.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Idyllwild Francophonie (fluent French speakers) "crepes dinner," 6:30 p.m. At a private residence. Contact Francoise Frigola for more information: (951) 659-4146.

- Lemon Lily Festival Steering Committee, 1 p.m. Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Hwy. 243.
- ICRC meeting, 5:30 p.m. IWD board room, 25945 Hwy. 243.
- ESL classes, 6-8 p.m. Idyllwild School Library, 26700 Hwy. 243.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

- Baby Play Group, 10:30 a.m. Call Debbi Geisinger, 659-8710 or (951) 966-1094.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; Pick-a-stick candlelight, 7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church, Manse Alcove, Fellowship Hall, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- County Supervisor Jeff Stone, 12:30-3 p.m. Idyllwild Fire Station, 54160 Maranatha Dr. Call 1-866-383-2203 for appointment.
- Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step program. BBQ 6-7 p.m.; Open Share meeting 7-9 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Child care available. Call 659-0097 for information.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

- Stand in Silent Vigil for Peace, Justice and Nonviolence, noon. Town center. Call 659-2718.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 7:30 p.m. Community Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 54400 North Circle Dr.

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Teen Group, 10-11:30 a.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 12x12 Book Study closed meeting, noon. Idyllwild Water District, 25945 Hwy. 243; 5 p.m., Rancho Encino Mountain Club,

- 45915 Orchard Road, Poppet Flats, across from CalFire Station 6.
- Idyllwild Writer's Guild, 3 p.m. 25685 Big Pine St., Cedar Glen. Call 659-0130.

MONDAY, DEC. 13

- Associates of Idyllwild Arts, 10 a.m. Wilson classroom, 52500 Temecula Dr.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon & 7:30 p.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Idyllwild Community Meditation, Session I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Session II: 6:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio. Call Val at 659-5750 for information.
- Pinyon Communities Council, 7 p.m. Pinyon Fire Station, 70080 Hwy. 74, Pinyon.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

- Mountain Quilters of Idyllwild, 9:30 a.m. Community Presbyterian Church, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council public board meeting, 9:30 a.m. Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr. Call 659-5208 for information.
- Fit After Fifty, 11 a.m. Mile-High Fitness, 54423 Village Center Dr., Strawberry Creek Square.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; AA Open Meeting & Big Book Study, 6-7 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)
- La Leche League, 1 p.m. Call 659-8321.
- International Healing Rooms of Idyllwild, 5-7 p.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54960 Pine Crest Ave.

- Idyllwild Fire Protection District Commission, 5:30 p.m. Idyllwild Fire Station, 54160 Maranatha Dr.
- Healthy Lifestyle Class, 5:30 p.m. optional weigh-in; health talk by Brenda Scherlis, 6 p.m. Silver Pines, 25955 Cedar St.
- ESL classes, 6-8 p.m. Idyllwild School, 26700 Hwy. 243.
- Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step Study meeting, 6:30-8 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Call 659-0097 for information.
- Idyllwild Water District board meeting, 7 p.m. IWD board room, 25945 Hwy. 243.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.
- Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Café Aroma, 54750 North Circle Dr.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- Garner Valley Book Club, 10:30 a.m. Call 659-6049.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard building)
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- AWANA for ages 3 to fifth-graders, 5:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Bible Church, 54400 Pine Crest Ave.
- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)

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◆
Please read your ad.
 We assume no responsibility for errors after first insertion.

The IDYLLWILD TOWN CRIER (USPS 635260) is published weekly for \$29 per year in county and \$33 per year out of county by the IDYLLWILD TOWN CRIER, P.O. Box 157, 54295 Village Center Dr., Idyllwild, CA 92549. Periodical postage paid at Idyllwild, CA. Send subscription and change of address requests to the above address. Please allow up to two weeks for requests to take effect.

POSTMASTER:
 Send address changes to IDYLLWILD TOWN CRIER, P.O. Box 157, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

All contents of the Idyllwild Town Crier are copyrighted by the Idyllwild Town Crier. Per copy, 75 cents (tax included). Single mailing of newspaper, \$2.50.

This newspaper is printed on recycled paper.



Idyllwild, now is a good time to play your cards. You have a place and a voice in the county political sphere.

While we can't point to many local incumbents, Bill Sanborn is a member of the

Hemet Unified School District board of trustees. The two local County Service Area Advisory Committees — 36 and 38 — do get the attention of Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone.

Make no mistake about Stone: he pays attention to life on the Hill and he cares about the community and what resources the county can offer. Yesterday, the board approved a proposal to move the library from its present location to the former Cornet store in front of Fairway market.

The total cost for purchase, remodeling and move will approach \$3 million.

But we, collectively, have votes, which is what he and all other good politicians seek and need. While we don't have the quantity of voters that other locales have, the Hill has quality unchallenged throughout the county.

Next week, you will get more details from a story Marshall is preparing, but as a teaser, let me note that the local turnout in last month's election exceeded 77 percent in both Idyllwild and Pine Cove.

That's almost 20 percent higher than either the statewide or the countywide turnout. This demonstrates the quality of voters and neighbors who reside on the Hill. You care, you care about your neighbors — note the tremendous response to the story about the HELP Center's Thanksgiving needs — and you care about your community and the people who make decisions affecting both.

Regardless of your opinions, the next few months will offer you caring and involved types of opportunities seldom granted ordinary citizens. While elected officials in far-off halls and bars of Sacramento and Washington, D.C. try to balance budgets, here at the county level, you will have unprecedented chances to influence decisions affecting your home and friends.

Consider the possibility of closing fire stations in or near a national forest that has incurred major fires nearly every decade. Your friends in Poppet Flat have to face the possibility that the full-time career staff will be replaced with volunteers.

Besides swift response to the possibility of a fire, what about swift responses to medical emergencies? John Wilson, president of the Rancho Encino Mountain club, says the availability of a local paramedic prevented him from making an emergency drive down the mountain in search of an emergency room for a cardiac event that didn't exist.

In the next month, the board will also be addressing issues such as an Idyllwild Historic District and medical marijuana dispensaries. The former has been discussed many times on these pages, but you will still have an opportunity to share your views with the entire board shortly.

The marijuana dispensaries have not seen frequent print, but Supervisors Stone and John Benoit, Fourth District, are drafting a proposal, which will come to the full board, likely next month.

At last week's session, Benoit asked his colleagues for some comments on the option of banning these shops. Whether you agree or want them, you should accept the opportunity and responsibility to let the supervisors know your views on all issues affecting the Hill.

J.P., EDITOR

READERS WRITE

An apology

EDITOR:

Well, despite the best of intentions, and lots of proofing, an error slipped through on our Mountain Disaster Preparedness (MDP) advertisement and community outreach that was published in the Dec. 2 Town Crier.

The error was all mine. While the wonderful people at the Idyllwild Garden Club certainly support MDP, attend our functions and work with us for our community, it was the Pine Cove Property Owners Association that has provided us, not only this year, but in years past, with generous donations for which we are indeed grateful.

Please accept my personal apology for the misinformation. I thank all of Idyllwild for your support

of MDP and the work we do.

VERONICA ALT
 MDP PRESIDENT
 IDYLLWILD

Happy holidays, Idyllwild

EDITOR:

What a grand Christmas gift to see what David Roy has given us. What village could have a great artist such as David carve a monument like this? We should all count our blessings and have harmony together. That's what life is all about.

Also, remember we are guests in this wonderful land here. Let's take care of all our wildlife. After all, this is their home.

Let's all keep our domestic animals safe. Keep cats inside and dogs on a leash or in a fenced yard. That will protect our animals

while keeping the wildlife that lives here safe.

We can all make a difference.

Have a happy holiday and a safe New Year!

DON AND SALLY VARGAS
 IDYLLWILD

Us vs. them corrections

EDITOR:

I mentioned various friends and family in "Us vs. them" (see the Idyllwild Town Crier Dec. 2 issue) whom I may have offended by not being sufficiently circumspect in my writing.

To them I apologize and beg forgiveness. My only excuse is that in my eagerness to promote a dialogue about recent events in Idyllwild, my judgment became clouded.

KENT WEISHAUS
 IDYLLWILD

Editorials, letters to the editor, guest editorials and cartoons reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily the Town Crier or Tindle Publications.

Mr. Funny Guy

by Chris Fisher



Santa's Mail Box is now at the Idyllwild Post Office ready to receive letters from local children. Santa's helper elf and postal clerk **John Aussenhofer** holds out the box for postal clerk **Christina Edwards** to deposit the first letter to Santa. Accompanying Edwards are postal clerk **Sherry Kaufman**, Postmaster **Kelly Gates**, and postal clerk **Cathrine Meyer**. Children may mail their letters to Santa up until noon Monday, Dec. 23, in order to reach the North Pole in time for Christmas. And every year, Santa gives the Town Crier permission to print some of the letters he receives from Idyllwild boys and girls in the newspaper. PHOTO BY JAMES LARKIN

How to get a letter published

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

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

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

TOWN TALK

By CID CASTILLO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

How do you feel about the closing of the Poppet Flat Fire Station and would you pay more taxes to keep it open?



Jim Palmer
Realtor
Idyllwild

"It's a mistake. It's our first line of defense. Our taxes are already paying for it; where's that money?"



Steve DeRoss
Carpenter
Idyllwild

"I believe that area is prone to fires and the fire danger is not going to decrease. It's wrong to take the firemen out of that area."



Colleen Mulhall
Wife of IFPD Captain
Mike Mulhall
Idyllwild

"It's a big, big mistake. Everybody is stretched thin as it is, so now other stations will have to fill in. In an emergency, this could be disastrous."



Chuck Prifogle
Caretaker - Lia Hona
Lodge
Pine Cove

"It's a shame to lose that protection; it's just politics."

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ON THE FRINGE

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illustrator writer



OFF THE MAIN ROADS

By LES WALKER, RMRU MEMBER

Hiking tips apply to all...

I have made quite a few appearances in the Town Crier. I can't credit my incredible writing skills or my hillbilly good looks for my latest. Instead, I had to be rescued off of Tahquitz Rock by my own Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU) teammates.

Embarrassing to say the least, but it got me thinking, while lying here in bed with my newly metal-infused tibia and fibula, that accidents do happen to experienced hikers. What are some of the things you can do to avoid these accidents?

If you have one, what is in your first aid kit and what is with you should make you as comfortable as possible while your rescuers are on their way.

Plan ahead and know your environment

Know your hike and your terrain. Plan for the journey by researching the area on the web. Simply type the park's name into a search engine and see what you find.

In my case, Tahquitz Rock has many listings as far as climbing and approach routes go. Be sure to talk to your local gear shop prior to the hike and ask for trail condition information. They tend to have the most current knowledge from hikers coming in and out.

It is also important to be very aware of weather. Research the weather patterns before your hike. This way you can avoid the camping nightmare of waking up in a flooded tent. This mountain range can have a 50-degree temperature swing from one side to the other. Which leads me to proper clothing.

The three layering system is best — base layer, insula-



tion layer and shell. I had all these with me during my accident. Without them, I would have been in a state of hypothermia in a very short time. My teammates even shared their extra clothing to keep me warm and off the snow.

Learn first aid and carry a kit

The best medicine for adventurers is prevention. By avoiding injury in the wild, everyone has fun and no one ends up in the hospital. But hikers can't plan for every instance, and sometimes there are accidents. Know what to do in case of an emergency.

Using first aid, a quick-thinking friend can save your life. First aid training teaches ways to overcome stress in an emergency and react with the courage of a hero. It also provides knowledge on how to deal with specific types of injuries.

During my accident, I was incredibly lucky to be surrounded by a team of men who are well-prepared in wilderness first aid. Before I knew it, they stabilized my right leg, placed it in a SAM splint and braced it with two hiking poles.

A SAM splint is a must in everyone's first aid kit. It is a foam-padded aluminum splint that is adaptable for use in almost any situation on almost any part of the body. The SAM splint kept my leg from bending and suffering any more damage. The team then added a set of hiking poles to each side of my leg as part of the splint to make it safer and easier to move my leg as one piece when loading me in the litter.

See Off the roads, page 22

Jennifer McEwen
Ludra
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Mary Austin
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Posing in front of the Idyllwild Arts logo, this student shows off her grace and luxurious attire at the Fashion Show Friday night.

PHOTO BY CAREY POWERS



This Idyllwild Arts student gazes into the video camera at the end of the Fashion Show catwalk Friday night.

PHOTO BY CAREY POWERS



Artist **Mari Eastman** speaks about her painting to the small crowd who attended the "Visiting Artist Lecture" last Friday at Idyllwild Arts Academy.

PHOTO BY CAREY POWERS

Donna Wyrill, of San Diego and Idyllwild (right), takes a break to catch up on the "Idy" news at the Cascade Fountain in Barcelona, Spain. Other stops on this birthday gift from her daughter, **Susie**, included Portugal, Gibraltar and Morocco.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA WYRILL



In a generous gift to the Idyllwild Arts Foundation, U.S. Bank awarded \$2,500 to the Idyllwild Arts Foundation to support scholarships for low-income children, so that they can attend the "Idyllwild Arts Day" in Los Angeles. U.S. Bank Vice President and District Manager **Keith Howard** (left) presented the check to **Kathy Harmon-Luber**, acting director of Advancement and director of Development and Capital Campaign. **Leonard Macias** (right), U.S. Bank branch manager, accompanied Howard to the presentation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN SCHILLING, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING FOR IDYLLWILD ARTS



Elaine Hoggan of Pine Cove shows off the Town Crier while waiting to board a carriage to Prague's Christmas Market.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELAINE HOGGAN

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Idyllwild School Principal **Matt Kraemer's** students of the week are seventh-graders **Kyle Loutzenhiser**, shown here, and **Lily Stedman**, not shown. Middle school math teacher **Danielle Baraty** chose these students for their positive and helpful attitudes and their willingness to work hard in math class.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Churches and Spiritual Centers Directory of Idyllwild

Chapel in the Pines Christian Fellowship

Interdenominational, Pastor Wally Boer.
Sunday Worship Service & Sunday School, 10am
plus Weekly Studies. Call for info, 659-0097, 659-2038.
On Hwy 243 at Morning Sky School in Mountain Center.

Christian Science Church

25970 Cedar St. at River Drive, 659-2511. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Service 10 a.m.; Wednesday meeting, 7 p.m.
Christian Science Reading Room, in church building, open to the public, Wednesday through Friday, 2 - 5 p.m.

Community Presbyterian Church

54400 N. Circle Dr. 659-2935 • Rev. Richard Olson
Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Celebration: 5th grade & under during worship -
Child care available • Wednesday: Men's Breakfast - 6:15 a.m.

Idyllwild Bible Church

25860 Highway 243, Pastor Tim Westcott.
A Family Friendly Bible Based Fellowship.
Sunday Worship & Nursery Care, 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship, Nursery Care & Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies & Youth Groups.
Hymn Singing 6:30 p.m. 2nd Sunday
Call Church Office for Information. 659-4775

2 Services

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church

54525 N. Circle Dr., P.O. Box 1106, Idyllwild, CA
Father Charles E. Miller
Mass Schedule: Tues.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.;
Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. + 10 a.m.;
Confession: Sat. 4:30 p.m. or by appt. 659-2708

St. Hugh's Episcopal Church

An Anglican House of Prayer for all people
Rev. Gordon Scheible • Sunday Service, 10:00 am
25525 Tahquitz Dr. (in Fern Valley off South Circle Dr.)
Phone (951) 659-4471

Spiritual Living Center

Idyllwild Religious Science
26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building) 659-3464.
Dr. Betty Jandl. Classes available - contact Church;
Sunday service, 10:00 a.m. Sunday school, 10:00 a.m.;
Teen group, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Sundays.

Shiloh Christian Ministries

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First three Tuesdays., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 659-5255

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Check out our Lodging Directory Web site at www.towncrier.com

On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment



Arts & Entertainment Calendar

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

Wednesday, Dec. 8

Tucker, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," Part I, 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Creative Writing/Theatre Lab-Work, 7:30 p.m. Rush Hall, Idyllwild Arts.

Thursday, Dec. 9

Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. Creekstone Inn. For information, call 659-4910.
 "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," Part I, 2 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Sandii Castleberry, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Creative Writing/Theatre Lab-Work, 7:30 p.m. Rush Hall, Idyllwild Arts.

Friday, Dec. 10

Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Centre Shopping Plaza.
 Visual Art Sale, noon-1 p.m. Ataloe Studio, Idyllwild Arts.
 The Reed Brothers: Dennis & Don Reed, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 "Unstoppable," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Karaoke, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Bone Daddy's.

Saturday, Dec. 11

David Jerome, 9 a.m.-noon; Greg Jones Band, 1-3 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Centre Shopping Plaza.
 Paws for the Cause, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. ARF.
 "Unstoppable," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. IAF Theatre, Idyllwild Arts.
 Live Entertainment, 9 p.m.-close. Bone Daddy's.

Sunday, Dec. 12

Ernesto Alé, 9 a.m.-noon; Skelton Crew, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Centre Shopping Plaza.
 "Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert, 2 p.m. IAF Theatre, Idyllwild Arts.
 "Unstoppable," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Monday, Dec. 13

Children's Storytime, 10:30 a.m.

Idyllwild Library.

Mutts of the Planet, 6-9 p.m., Café Aroma.

"Unstoppable," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Inns of Idyllwild Holiday Open House & Tour, 5-7 p.m. Local inns.
 Jazz Night, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 "Unstoppable," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Fall Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m. Stephens Recital Hall, Idyllwild Arts.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

"Unstoppable," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Dec. 16

Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. Creekstone Inn. For information, call 659-4910.
 Idyllwild Arts Jazz Trio featuring Caleb Hensinger, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Community Social Dance, 6-9 p.m. Town Hall.
 "Unstoppable," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.-close. Bone Daddy's.

Friday, Dec. 17

Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vil-

lage Centre Shopping Plaza.
 Dorjo, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

Karaoke, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Bone Daddy's.

Saturday, Dec. 18

David Jerome, 9 a.m.; Bellydancing, 7 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Seniors' Christmas Party, 10 a.m.-noon. American Legion Post 800.
 Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Centre Shopping Plaza.
 "Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 Idyllwild Master Chorale's 2010 Holiday Concert: Fusion II, 7:30 p.m. Idyllwild School Auditorium.

Sunday, Dec. 19

Ernesto Alé, 9 a.m.; Skeleton Crew, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
 Santa's Village, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Village Centre Shopping Plaza.
 "Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 Kids' Christmas Party, 1-3 p.m. American Legion Post 800.
 Idyllwild Master Chorale's 2010 Holiday Concert: Fu-



Diners at Café Aroma last Thursday were treated to jazz music at its best, played by the Caleb Hensinger Trio of Four from Idyllwild Arts Academy. From left to right, are Jacob Scesney, 17, on sax, Caleb Hensinger, 17, trumpet, Casey Abrams, 19, bass, and Lake Jiroudek, 17, guitar.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



The lucky winners of Idyllwild School PTA's wood stove raffle are Annika Kay and Jevon Browning, seen here taking a close look at the Avalon "Spokane" Idyllwild Heating donated. Idyllwild resident Browning bought a raffle ticket with the sole intent of winning it for Annika, from Pine Cove, who works at Town Hall DanceWorks. The event raised \$1,195 for the benefit of students and teachers at Idyllwild School.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

sion II, 1:30 p.m. Idyllwild School Auditorium. Sandii Castleberry & Don Reed, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

Monday, Dec. 20

Children's Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.

Tuesday, Dec. 21

Jazz Night, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

IdyllwildARTS EVENTS

Continuing

Visiting Artist Exhibition: Mari Eastman, Caitlin Lonagan, Anna Sew Hoy. Parks Exhibition Center. Open 10 AM to 5 PM, Monday - Friday. Show runs through December 17.

Wednesday & Thursday, December 8 & 9

Creative Writing/Theatre LabWork. 7:30 PM, Rush Hall.

Friday, December 10

Visual Art Sale. Noon-5 PM, Ataloe Studio.

Saturday & Sunday, December 11 & 12

Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra Concert.

Sat., 7:30 PM & Sun., 2 PM, IAF Theatre.

Program:

- Rameau: Suite of Dances from Platée
- Schubert: Symphony No. 4 in c minor, (Tragic)
- Ravel: Mother Goose Suite
- Kodály: Dances of Marosszék

Tuesday, December 14

Fall Jazz Concert. 7:30 PM, Stephens Recital Hall.



Listed events are open to the public and admission is FREE • 951-659-2171 x2200 • www.idyllwildarts.org

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Business changes fill storefronts

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Similar to the regularity of seasonal change, businesses in Idyllwild germinate, flower and often fall from the branches of local commerce. They come, go, and change locations.

New businesses include the bakery and eatery Honey Bunns and Joe, owned by Laura Slattery. With an indoor dining area and an expansive outdoor deck, and the bakery serves up coffee and dessert items.

"Each morning we'll have hot homemade cereals made from scratch," said Slattery's mom and shop manager Nancy Layton. "And soon we'll be serving a daily soup plus a chili or stew." The bakery is located next door to ARF and is open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

New in Village Centre adjacent to Higher Grounds, is Creativity for Kids, owned by Julie Fourroux, co-owner with husband Chris of Higher Grounds. "It's a place for kids to do projects," said Fourroux, "something for kids of all ages."

Creativity has a yarn room with an instructor who introduces kids to the many uses of yarn. The sign



The magic tree, designed by local artist Darwin Thomas, is the signature element in Julie Fourroux's Creativity for Kids emporium in the Village Centre. PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

over the door advertises, "Explore, imagine, create and pretend." Certain to delight kids as well as adults is the shop's signature element, a magic tree, designed by local artist Darwin Thomas. One would not be surprised to see Merlin materialize from the tree's interior.

Another new commercial resident joining the Village Centre community is the Wildwood Gallery, with, as the name suggests, a collection of fine art for sale. But, in a nod to the needs of the town for niche businesses, owner Isaac Outland advertises 40 years experience as a full-service jeweler who can create custom jewelry, size rings and repair watches. Outland will also sell estate jewelry. Wildwood is open 7 days a week.

New in Village Lane is Forest Furniture, owned by Martin Jones, at which handcrafted, unique furniture, "made from mountain trees" will be for sale.

Under new ownership and adjacent to Goodtimes Pub and Grill is the Idyllwild Design Center. New owners Jennifer and Greg Simard have a showroom of flooring and window coverings and are open from 10 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and Sunday and



Wildwood Gallery, one of a number of new businesses filling vacant storefronts in the Village Centre.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

Monday by appointment. The Koffee Nut, owned by Dave and Megan Kenyon, is moving from Mountain Harvest Market to Bone Daddy's in the Fort. Megan said she'd be open every morning at 7 a.m. beginning Dec. 10. Also moving

is Nancy's Jewelry and Gifts from Village Lane to Village Center. Closings include the Chakra Shack and the Tahquitz Inn.

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

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Friday, Dec. 10, 6-9 p.m.
**"The Reed Brothers:
Dennis & Don Reed"**

Sheriff investigates local credit card fraud victims

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) Investigator Brian Robertson visited Idyllwild last week. He interviewed employees at both Fairway Market and the Shell Station, locations that a number of local credit card fraud victims have used.

The spate of fraudulent charges began for Idyllwild victims on Oct. 11 and continued through Nov. 16. RCSD and the San Diego and Long Beach Police departments fraud units are

investigating the commonalities among the Idyllwild victims.

In the reported cases, the cards were never out of owners' possession. Thus, law enforcement officials believe the cards were skimmed and information was downloaded to a computer that could facilitate creation of a cloned card. Eventually, many fraudulent charges posted at the same or similar high-end retailers.

Of the 16 Idyllwild victims that have come forward to the Town Crier, only six have filed police reports with RCSD. Every report

filed can help investigators narrow down the commonalities and assist in finding the perpetrators. Investigator Robertson requests that those who have not filed a report do so, and that anyone who experiences new fraud charges with the same basic scenarios contact the Hemet station.

Already, two fraud rings have been identified in the desert and four people have been arrested. Early information from the San Diego Police Department identified a possible suspect involved in at least several of the fraudulent charges post-

ed at Nordstrom's in San Diego, a common location for five Idyllwild victims. Investigators are examining still photos and surveillance cameras at locations at which fraudulent charges posted. There are some suspects, but community

assistance in reporting these crimes is critical in keeping the case from getting cold, according to Robertson. He said that culprits could be local or part of rings that travel, installing then removing sophisticated skimming devices.

Call the dispatch number (951) 791-3412 to file a report and tell whoever takes the report to make certain Robertson gets a copy.

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

Come join the birds

Migrating birds from all over North America have found their winter home in the Lake Hemet area. From 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, bird lovers will help with National Audubon Society's 111th Christmas bird count. The area to scout includes a 15-mile circle encompassing Lake Hemet, home to the magnificent bald eagle. Groups will split up to cover the count area. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars and a bird book to the Lake Hemet Store, where all the groups will meet. Call Steve Adkison for details at (951) 652-2907.

Local craft and art display

From now until Dec. 31, the Idyllwild Library is displaying the work of local artists and crafters to showcase Idyllwild talent. Items range from pottery to button art to knitted clothes. Also on display are a collection of rare and unusual buttons.



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Seniors' Christmas Party, Dec. 18, 10 a.m.-Noon
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COLONEL BO'S GIFT SUGGESTIONS



Last year, I took a box of my CD Stories to the Wounded Warriors detachment at Camp Pendleton. I had dropped off a set a year before on trial. The Marine library has a bunch of unread books but no audios — stuff the guys could just sit and listen to. I remembered when I came home from Vietnam as a wounded warrior I was in a group of what we then called 'Combat Fatigue' — We were so mentally snarled-up we couldn't read and could barely talk. We would sit around in groups and recount our toughest moments — cry like babies — hug each other trying to help. No one was getting better until a Chaplain brought us some tapes of music mixed with Bible Readings and the Great Virtues Series. We began listening to and discussing these. Improvement was almost immediate. I'm told my CD Stories — each has a moral message — are healers also. And not just warrior healers. They work for everyone — especially teens with an attitude. Great Christmas presents. Buy a few at the B's Mountain of Books or check out my Web site: colonelbowarstories.com.



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SPORTS

Golf

Idyllwild's Palms to Pines Golf Association played its regular monthly tournament at the Country Club at Soboba Springs on Friday, Nov. 19.

Bill Ragland, who has been out with an injury for a few months, appears to have healed. Ragland (course handicap 13) shot a 79 gross, 66 net to win the tournament.

Hot on his heels was **Tony Viola** (course handicap 20), who shot a net 67 to take second place. **John LoGiudice** (20) took third with a net 70; **Robert Priefer** (21) took fourth with a net 74; and **Chuck Alkire** (11) rounded out the top five with a net 77.

Dan Slattery won for closest to the pin on the front nine. Sad to say, out of 14 golfers, none managed to land a ball on the closest-to-the-pin hole on the back nine. LoGiudice won for longest drive.

The current point standings for the top eight golfers for the 2010-11 season are as follows:

Place	Individual	Points
1.	Greg Piersol	15
2.	Gary Leong	11.5
3.	Les Widerynski	9.5
4t	Priefer	7.5
5	Ragland	7
6	Alkire	6.5
7	Gary Brown	5
	Herk McClellan	5
	Viola	5

In August, the top eight point finishers for the season will compete for the Club Champion title in a series of match-play playoffs. The Club Champ will then play in the Southern California Tournament of Club Champions (T of CCs).

On Dec. 13, Widerynski, the current Club champ, is slated to play in the T of CCs at the Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage.

Points are awarded at each tournament as follows: first place, 6 points; second place, 4 points; third place, 3 points; fourth place, 2 points; fifth place, 1 point. In addition, 1/2 point is awarded to everyone who participates.

Palms to Pines Golf Association plays a tournament off the Hill once a month at a different golf course. The games are usually played on the third Friday of the month, but may be adjusted for holidays and such. Tournament fees range from about \$45 to usually no

more than \$60, and the fees include green fees, tournament entry fees, golf cart and range balls. Guests usually pay \$10 less, since they don't compete in the tournament.

This month's tourney is slated for Dec. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the Palm Desert Resort Country Club. Fees are \$60, which includes green fees, entry fee, golf cart, range balls, a breakfast sandwich and coffee.

The club is a member of the Southern California Golf Association and is sanctioned to establish SCGA handicaps for members.

Anyone interested in joining the club or playing as a guest, should contact Jim Crandall at jim@towncrier.com (951) 415-5790 or Pete Capparelli at pete@capparelli.com (951) 452-5552.

Town Hall sports

Bob Lewis gave this report on Town Hall Youth Coed Flag Football League for Thursday, Dec. 2.

Youth Coed Flag Football League

Last week, the Rotary Saints hosted the American Legion Chargers. The Chargers had a strong first half in which they built a 21-0 lead. **Kyle Loutzenhiser** demonstrated some impressive moves, running the ball and scoring a touchdown for the Chargers. In the third period, the Saints came roaring back with **Justin Nunn's** and **Zach Fogle's** touchdown catches. But the comeback faltered in the fourth quarter. The Saints were driving for a touchdown that would give them the lead. But the Chargers' **Justice Payton** intercepted the ball and raced 90 yards for a touchdown. This score put the game out of reach and the Chargers beat the Saints 30-16.

Standings:	Wins	Losses
American Legion Chargers	2	0
Rotary Saints	0	2

Send sports reports about locals to itc@towncrier.com or drop them off at the Town Crier by 10 a.m. Mondays. Photos also are welcome. If sending by e-mail, resolution must be at least 300 dpi.



Charger **Justice Payton** catches the football in the Saints' end zone for a touchdown. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Chargers' **Justice Payton** intercepts a Saints' pass and runs it back for a touchdown with a Saint in close pursuit. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

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Man Goes "TOAD-AL" at High School Reunion

BEXAR COUNTY - After using Thera-Gesic® on aching joints, Tom W. attended last Friday's reunion where, according to 5 amused and concerned classmates, he went TOAD-AL. He squatted, extended both arms to the ground, arched his back and did his best to hop numerous times while croaking.

When asked to explain his behavior, he painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

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New propane player: compare prices

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Hill propane customers have new options with the arrival of Amerigas, a national propane company with over 600 distribution centers in 46 states. The Amerigas office in Temecula is beginning to service Idyllwild customers and has a menu of options, including written contracts and pre-buy plans that lock in rates for a year, a season or a number of months.

The company is offering plans other Hill companies generally don't offer, including a pre-buy where customers can pre-purchase 100 percent, 75 percent or 50 percent of their estimated annual propane gallon usage in advance at a guaranteed and locked-in price per gallon. The company has a variety of other lock-in plans, all of which come with a written contract.

For Hill customers concerned about winter deliveries, since the Amerigas

distribution center is in Temecula, Manager Eric Rath explained that the company has a satellite center in Anza and is looking to obtain land for a facility near Idyllwild. Rath sought to assure Hill customers about delivery reliability, "If the roads are open, we'll be there. We're already servicing a fair number of Idyllwild customers."

Rath answered questions about rates, use of customer-owned tanks and change-out fees. Current "first fill" introductory rate is \$1.89 a gallon and regular price per gallon at this time is \$2.89. Groups such as property owner associations, inn associations or neighborhood aggregates can lock in lower price per gallon rates because of larger anticipated volume. Association locks also come with written contracts.

In another area of concern to locals, Rath said Amerigas would gladly fill customer-owned tanks. "We'll perform a safety

check on the customer tank to make certain everything is working properly. If a customer uses an Amerigas tank, there is no change-out fee from a previous tank. First-year tank rent is \$40 and \$75 in subsequent years.

Mike Johnson at Ballard Gas stated his company stresses safety and service. "We are gas-certified as far as gas safety checks," said Johnson. "We do far more than other companies, such as CO2 checks. We service you as if you are family."

Also, if Ballard fills customer-owned tanks, Johnson stressed that they will run more safety checks to insure that the gas is properly odorized and safe to use. "If to you it's only about price, I'd rather you go elsewhere," said Johnson.

Ballard would not do rate locks because of a California fair trade law that prohibits selling below cost. "If I lock in a rate and my cost goes above that, I can't honor that by law," Johnson said.

He predicts a difficult year for propane prices and notes that diesel fuel is currently running 54 cents more a gallon than same time last year. Diesel price escalation is a reliable indicator for where the propane market will go, according to Johnson.

Ballard's first fill rate is currently \$1.99 a gallon and then \$2.93 a gallon after that. "The highest ever price per gallon we've charged is \$3.45," said Johnson noting that this winter's rates may go beyond that.

Jennifer Whitney at Ferrellgas stressed that her company is also committed to safety and that they too will fill customer-owned tanks after conducting appropriate leak and safety checks. Ferrellgas will not give a price lock for the same reason as Ballard's Mike Johnson stated. They will give a contract, written if the customer asks for it, for a certain fixed margin above the company's cost. Whitney stated that Ferrellgas' first fill price today

is \$2.05 a gallon and then \$3.00 after that. Association price per gallon is currently \$2.80.

As Ballard's Johnson noted, the most frequent topic of conversation at the Idyllwild Transfer Station is propane cost, company

service practices and reliability. Hill customers are advised to ask any propane companies they intend to deal with direct questions and evaluate the response.

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

Above average rainfall since September

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Despite weather forecasts that the current La Niña weather pattern will produce a dry winter, actual precipitation seems to contradict the prognosticators' predictions. Since Oct. 1, Idyllwild Fire Department

has recorded nearly 7.1 inches of rain. The long-term average for October and November has been 3.5 inches — almost half of the past two months' rainfall.

Through Nov. 1, the 7.33 inches were almost 25 percent greater than the 60-year average of 5.83 inches.

See Rainfall, page 19

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County Animal Services cuts affect Idyllwild area

BY BETH NOTTLEY
STAFF REPORTER

Recent cuts to the Riverside County Animal Services Department, including the layoff of seven field service employees, are expected to have a significant impact on animal control enforcement services in unincorporated areas, including the Hill communities.

Last month, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved a new business plan for Animal Services, prepared by Director of Animal Services Robert P. Miller, designed to help the department overcome an almost \$1.5 million budget deficit. To meet that goal, 15 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions were eliminated, including seven of the 21 field officer positions serving unincorporated areas of the county. Also eliminated were three FTE veterinary and five FTE management and administrative positions.

The staffing cuts leave the department with a ratio of one field officer per 25,000 residents. This is significantly below the Humane Society of the United States' recommendations. The population of Riverside County's unincorporated areas is currently estimated to be 617,000, which would support the need for almost 25 field officers, as opposed the eight FTE staff who

survived the latest cuts.

"It's been brutal for us. Over the last couple of years, we've lost 42 percent of our personnel," said Animal Services Public Information Officer John Welsh. Of the latest cutbacks, he went on to say, "The public is going to be disappointed in our level of service."

Indeed, in his business plan presented to the Supervisors, Deputy Miller wrote, "The impact of reductions in unincorporated officers will be significant ... responses may not receive service or service may be delayed for an extended period of time until an officer is available."

According to Miller's report, the types of service that the department would not have the manpower to respond to includes capturing nonaggressive strays. Maria Lehman, President of Idyllwild's Animal Rescue Friends responded to this news with dismay. "It's hard enough to get someone to respond to our calls." She explained that it is not unusual for ARF to be contacted by locals about stray dogs. The local organization often depends on Animal Services to capture them.

Miller's report also said that the loss of three veterinary FTE staff "... will decrease DAS's ability to respond to the public's current spay and neuter demands." This, the report went on



Once a month the Mobile Animal Hospital team from Murrieta sets up shop at the ARF offices in Idyllwild to provide services, such as neutering, to local pets. The team is headed by **Susan Eyer-Anderson, DVM**, standing, with medical assistants **Nikki Holler**, left, and **Jacqueline DesLauriers**, right. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

to state, is in spite of the fact that a spay and neuter program is key in reducing the number of animals impounded.

Welsh said one of the results of the recent cuts is delaying the opening of the new animal shelter, just recently built, in San Jacinto.

The staffing cuts were the subject of a recent protest by animal welfare activists at the county's Coachella Valley Animal Campus shelter in Thousand Palms. The shelter's adoption coordinator, Priscilla Dewing, was one of the staff laid off. Protesters said that Dewing is directly responsible for over a thousand animals' lives being saved because

of her efforts to place them with foster families and shelters like Living Free Animal Sanctuary in Mountain Center. Protesters fear more animals will be euthanized because of Dewing's layoff.

Miller said that efforts to place animals with other facilities would still be performed by other shelter staff, in addition to their regular duties. Currently, one out of every two animals that enters one of the department's shelter facilities ends up being euthanized.

"We're not saving as many animals as we'd like," he said.

Beth Nottley can be reached at bet@towncrier.com.

\$46 million to replace CAL FIRE

BY J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

At its Nov. 30 meeting, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors learned that separating its fire department from CAL FIRE would cost more than \$46 million annually. At a time when the Board and Riverside County Fire Department are considering a \$4.8 million reduction in the current fire department budget, the study was quickly filed for future consideration.

Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone recommended the county conduct a similar study every three to five years, preferably about a year in advance of the expiration of the state contract.

Nearly half of the annual costs would be for pension liabilities, according to Robert Tremaine, principal management analyst in the Executive Office, the study's author. In addition,

the county would have an \$11.9 million cost to buy or replace state fire stations in the unincorporated areas of the county.

The study compared the Orange and San Bernardino county fire departments. Tremaine explained that these two neighboring counties would be the principal competition for staff.

While he did not object to the choice of these counties, Stone pointed out that using their salary structure, which is higher than CAL FIRE's, may have produced a higher estimate than using the existing payroll costs.

Tremaine replied that if the prospective salaries were too low, Riverside County would become a turnstile as fireman joined, were trained at the county's expense and left for higher pay in adjoining counties.

If the county assumed full responsibility, the fire department staffing (county

See RCFD, next page

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IFPD

Continued from page 1

department has endeavored to make the woods less threatening.

Before the district began in 1946, Idyllwild had an all-volunteer force, loosely organized, which began near the turn of the century. "It wasn't uncommon in earlier years to find townsfolk on the firelines," said a former district ranger. First Fire Chief Bill Price cautioned that all volunteers responding to a fire should report to him so that they would be authorized and protected by insurance.

Up until 1960, the department remained an all-volunteer company. When the department became primarily paid-call staff, three dispatchers were hired to cover the station at all times because of a growing need for 24-hour service, said Bud Hunt, fire chief from 1972 to 1985. In 1965, the staffing was comprised of a chief and four full-time firefighters. As the department acquired a bigger budget, they could afford to hire.

Volunteers, now known as paid-call volunteers, were there primarily to augment career firefighting staff, volunteer Capt. Larry Donahoo explained. They also served as the bond between the department and the com-



Printed in the July 31, 1964 issue of the Town Crier, this picture shows Idyllwild firefighters demonstrating the water pressure that can be applied to a blaze. FILE PHOTO

munity; many were, in fact, property and business owners. Their worth was unmistakable and "kept a relationship between the fire department and the community," said Don Gildea, fire chief from 1990 to 1998.

More so than today, the department used to be the information center for the town. It was more than just a fire station; community service and public relations were its additional concerns. Much of the same attitude exists today, though to a lesser degree. People would call the station to ask for directions and about weather conditions.

"It was very informal back then," said Hunt.

Across the street from the old location of the fire de-

partment, now the site of a thrift shop on Highway 243, was a place called Burley's Beer Bar. Laughingly, he explained how the intoxicated or those wounded from fistfights would only have to cross the street to receive aid.

The informality of the department lessened as budget grew. When Hunt became engineer in 1963, the district's budget was \$120,000; in 1985, it was approaching \$500,000. "The public was more inclined to depend upon an organized fire department," said a 1985 Town Crier article.

"The community was behind us 100 percent," Hunt opined. "My time as chief was a healthy building to a more paid and efficient department."

When Hunt was a paid-call volunteer, it became clear that an ambulance service was needed. An in-

cident near Idyllwild Pines Camp helped form the decision. A man had broken his arm and the Hemet ambulance took more than an hour to reach him. In the meantime, volunteers prepared a splint with a Life magazine. "Hey, we're going to have to get ourselves an ambulance," they all agreed. The department hired its first paramedic-firefighter in 1974.

A new paramedic program began in 1985 and used off-duty paramedics from other departments to fill in at the station when regular Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) paramedics were not available. This type of thinking has always been part of the mutual aid program, originating around 1950, which allowed out-of-district response, according to Paul Riggi. At one time, paramedics answered from home and it took more time for them to get to the station for medical aids. It was around this time that paramedics were also required to be firefighters.

"The terrain is too radical and the fuel buildup too much" was the statement made by California Department of Forestry Battalion Chief Fletcher Jackson in 1980, regarding the difficulties of Pine Cove abatement. Fire prevention has always been a high priority, but since Riggi became a fire commissioner three years ago, it seems to have increased in importance. Jackson said only 1.5 per-

cent of the more than 900 residents in Pine Cove were not in compliance with fire regulations, an impressive percentage probably unmatched today. Further back in history, flicking away burning cigarettes used to be a major fire prevention issue, along with abatement.

But the major difference between now and then was the number of volunteer firefighters versus career firefighters. However, it was

not a switch but rather a supplementation or an addition of staff. Many of the department's career firefighters now live off the Hill, when once the community was rich with volunteers. Still, the department has strived to preserve a relationship with the town and its commitment to duty, community relations, and high morale.

E-mail Carey Powers at carey@towncrier.com.



Printed in the Nov. 6, 1964 issue of the Town Crier, this picture shows Idyllwild firemen inspecting a new pumper that was added to the department's inventory. The rig was capable of pumping 1,000 gallons per minute. FILE PHOTO

RCFD

Continued from previous page

and contract cities) would have 993 positions, 39 more than the current level. Nearly 50 percent would be in the upper ranks and the rest within the support staff ranks. Emergency services and administration would not change.

If the 20 cities in Riverside County continued to contract with RCFD for fire support, the net increase would probably be reduced approximately 45 percent or \$21.4 million.

Although the board unanimously accepted the study, no action was taken to make any changes in the CAL FIRE contract. However, Stone made two other

suggestions.

He advised Bill Luna, the county executive officer, to prepare a transition plan from state management to county, in case it was ever needed. Secondly, he urged the staff to think creatively about possible cost savings and efficient delivery of service.

Specifically, he requested a pilot project that uses motorcycles for paramedic transport. "Not necessarily for the third district but in downtown neighborhoods where traffic congestion can impede the movement of ambulance and other large emergency vehicles," he recommended. "I'd like to see if we can reduce costs and get to incidents sooner."

E-mail J.P. Crumrine at jp@towncrier.com

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Soroptimist art contest begins

The Soroptimist International of Idyllwild is starting its 3rd Annual Live Your Dream Art Contest for ages 4-18. Girls and boys are invited to draw a fictional woman from literature who inspires them and write a 50 word or less description of why they picked that particular woman.

Entries may be delivered to Idyllwild School by Wednesday, Dec. 15, and will be sent to the Soroptimist International of America for judging. Home-schoolers and high-schoolers are also encouraged to participate. The winner will be announced on March 8, 2011, International Women's Day. Contact Melody Blaschko, president of the Soroptimist International of Idyllwild, at 659-0750 x203.

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Guitars, Epiphone J160E HSC, \$300. Ibanez small acoustic gig bag, \$150. First Act small electric, \$75. These guitars are in xnt. cond. and play well. The small ones are great Xmas gifts for small people. 659-9743.

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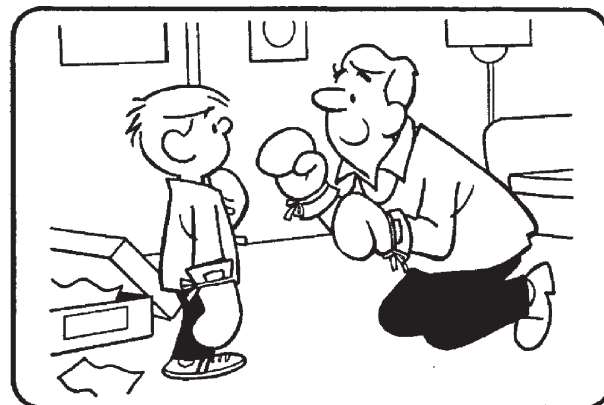
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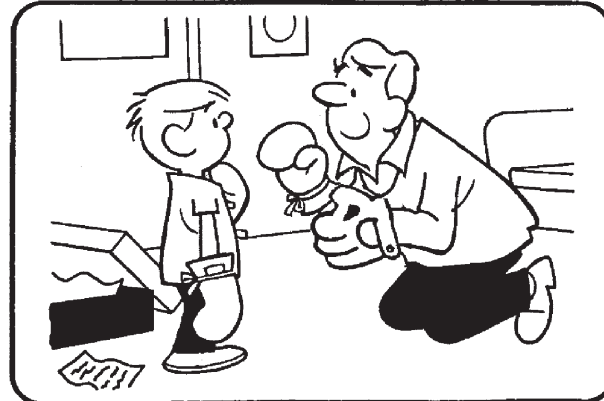
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man has a baseball glove. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Box is black. 4. Paper has writing on it. 5. Boy has short sleeves. 6. Boy's shoes are plain.

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

Answers to Sudoku
(Puzzle on next page)

ORE		OTT		CALF				
DELI		FEE		OREO				
DISC		FAX		EMIR				
SNEER		KAHN						
		CAB		SUBTLE				
CARRYON		GROAN						
ALOE		WEB		OUZO				
ISAAC		WASTREL						
NORMAL		DOH						
		CRAB		NERVE				
JUDO		DEN		RUES				
AKIN		LEO		SNIP				
GENE		ERR		ELY				

Answers to Crossword
(Puzzle on next page)

EDA asks for return of \$20,000 Town Hall advance

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

In a letter dated Nov. 30, the county Economic Development Agency (EDA) asked for the return of a 1995 \$20,000 advance made to the Town Hall Recreation program. The advance began with \$5,000, which was followed by an additional \$15,000 advance at some later point in time.

Jim Ludy, Town Hall Recreation auditor, confirmed that the advances were made in order to cover cash shortfalls in the recreation budget. Frequently, payments needed to be made before the appropriate voucher could be reviewed, payment approved, and the cash transferred from the CSA 36 account with the county to the local recreation entity.

At the time the advances were made, the Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce held the county recreation contract. When the Idyllwild

Community Recreation Council (ICRC) took over from the Chamber, there was no formal transfer of that \$20,000 liability between the Chamber and ICRC.

Since then, ICRC has carried the \$20,000 on its balance sheet as a liability, according to Ludy. County regulations currently prohibit an advance of this kind to county contract holders. Before signing contracts, those who accept them represent that they have the capability to perform, including lasting through periods between submission of bills (vouchers) and payment by the county.

"It would have been up to the county to have approved the [advances]. It seems to have been done legally, so I see no legal issue," Ludy opined.

Recently, Bill Brown, County Service Area 36 Operations Manager, instituted a "next day" turnaround for

vouchers submitted by Town Hall Recreation. Brown said that this is the only rapid turnaround currently in place with any county contract holder. A normal reimbursement turnaround by the county to any contract holder is 14 to 21 days. Brown instituted the rapid turnaround in order to ensure that Town Hall could promptly meet payroll.

For this reason, Brown argues that the \$20,000 advance, in addition to being against current county regulations, is also no longer needed by the recreation program. The \$20,000 was a "float" designed to help the local recreation program pay bills such as payroll. "It is money being carried on their books, for which the county auditor will have significant questions, since there is no current authorization. And since this was never a gift or a loan, simply an advance, the county can require its return at any

time," Brown said.

ICRC President John Simpson referenced the original 1995 agreement to provide an advance approved by former CSA Administrator Mel Bohlken, and supported by an auditor evaluation from Thomas, Bigbie and Smith of Riverside. The evaluation, while noting problems with Town Hall internal financial controls, recommended an advance of up to \$15,000, that, with monthly accounting properly reported to the CSA 36 Advisory Board, would prevent late payment of Town Hall bills, and would preserve a balance in the Town Hall checking account that would never fall below the amount of the advance.

Simpson, in an e-mail dated Dec. 6, stated that the delays in reimbursement from the county after requests are submitted are often "substantial." He said that Recreation Direc-

tor Bob Lewis reported on Friday, Dec. 3, that October reimbursements were only recently received. Referencing the next day turnaround, Simpson wrote, "Although EDA submits requests for

reimbursement "next day," the Office of the Auditor is not operating under any such commitment."

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

Rainfall

Continued from page 13

The last year, in which the 5-month total exceeded the long-term average, was 2004 — an El Niño year.

Recorded rainfall at the Keenwild Ranger Station has been 6.05 inches. But Sunday night's rain was only .06 of an inch, not a confident start towards December's long-term average of 3.4

inches of rain.

If the pattern holds, 2010-11 may be the first above average rain year since 2004.

But almost all of the intermediate weather forecasts the La Niña pattern to strengthen as winter arrives and passes. The average annual rainfall since 1948 has been 25.7 inches.

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

'Only in Idyllwild' stories sought

The Town Crier's well of Only in Idyllwild stories has run dry. Readers are invited to submit stories about things that could have only happened here. E-mail them to beth@towncrier.com or drop them by the Town Crier office.

Public Notices

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For questions about Public Notices call Sandy at the Town Crier (951) 659-2145 or E-mail: sandy@towncrier.com

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as WILDWOOD - IG07 GALLERY, 54245 North Circle Dr., C-1, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 613, Idyllwild, CA 92549. ISAAC GERALD OUTLAND, 25465 Tahquitz Rd., Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above on Oct. 27, 2010.

Signed:

ISAAC G. OUTLAND

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Oct. 27, 2010.

FILE NO.: R-2010-11607

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON OCT. 27, 2015. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO OCT. 27, 2015. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: L. Siu, Deputy

Pub. TC: Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as PALMS 2 PINES REALTY, PALMS TWO PINES REALTY, PALMS TO PINES REALTY, 53411

Signed:

DONNA LEE VAN LEUVEN

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Nov. 15, 2010.

FILE NO.: R-2010-12134

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON NOV. 15, 2015. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO NOV. 15, 2015. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as THE GLASS LASS, 54425 North Circle Drive, #4, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 81, Idyllwild, CA 92549. DONNA JOYCE HICKMAN, 3737 Cedar Vale Way, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

Signed:

DONNA JOYCE HICKMAN

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Nov. 17, 2010.

FILE NO.: R-2010-12285

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy

of the original statement on file in my office.

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as BROWN & RITNER, 1345 University Avenue, Suite G, Riverside, CA 92507, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2008, Riverside, CA 92516. DEANNA MARIE BROWN, 5719 Old Ranch Road, Riverside, CA 92504.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

Signed:

DEANNA M. BROWN

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Nov. 17, 2010.

FILE NO.: R-2010-12277

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON NOV. 17, 2015. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO NOV. 17, 2015. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2010.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described personal property will be held at the hour of 2:30 PM, Dec. 21, 2010 at Lockaway Storage, 1181 N. State St. in the city of Hemet, County of Riverside, State of California. The items to be sold are generally described as follows: household items, misc. furniture, misc. tools and equipment.

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 et. seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California.

Manager/Dominic Davidson
RE: Notice of Public Sale
Misc. Household Items and Furniture, Tools and Equip.

Lockaway Storage
1181 N. State St.
Hemet, Ca. 92543

(951) 929-2053

Unit # D122

Name: JASON STEWART

Unit # H4

Name: ROBERT SIMPSON

Unit # B310

Name: GLADYS RUIZ

Unit # G19

Name: ANNA GONZALEZ

Unit # F103

Name: VICKEY BARTA

Unit # A105

Name: TIMOTHY LEEPER

Unit # B302

Name: CHRISTY PORTOR

Auction to be held on Dec. 21, 2010 at 2:30 PM.

Lockaway/Hemet
Dominic Davidson - Manager
American Auction Service
Bond # FS8632014

Pub. TC: Dec. 9, 16, 2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

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

Signed:

J. NEIL LEVECKE

President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Nov. 19, 2010.

FILE NO.: I-2010-03065

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON NOV. 19, 2015. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO NOV. 19, 2015. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: B. Villegas, Deputy

Pub. TC: Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2010.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described

personal property will be held at the hour of 3 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2010 at San Jacinto Self Storage, 1137 S. San Jacinto Ave. in the City of San Jacinto, County of Riverside, State of California. The items to be sold are generally described as follows: household items, misc. furniture, misc. tools and equipment.

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 et. seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California.

Manager: Ricky Marin
RE: Notice of Public Sale
Misc. Household Items and Furniture, Tools & Equip.

San Jacinto Self Storage
1137 S. San Jacinto Ave.
San Jacinto, CA 92583
(951) 487-6112
Unit # 312

Name: Jose Huerta — Special information on this unit! Three rollaway toolbox sets, brand names. One is SNAPON and two are CRAFTSMAN. Other tools to include jacks, air compressor, hoses, jackstands and two mini motorcycles. Plus mechanic shop items. Speakers two tool carts, misc. handtools.

Unit # 128

Name: Isabel Anzures

Unit # 604

Name: Athienna Stafford

Auction to be held on Dec. 21, 2010, at 3 p.m.

San Jacinto Self Storage/San Jacinto
Ricky Marin - Manager
American Auction Service
Bond # FS8632014

Pub. TC: Dec. 9, 16, 2010.

Classifieds

Continued from previous page

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Closings

Continued from page 1

prepared for the recommendation, according to Rancho Encino Club President John Wilson. Nevertheless, they are not pleased and worry about the vulnerability of their neighborhood to fire threats.

"We have a large number of retirees living in our area who benefit from our paramedic staff. Our current full-time staff ... have been responsible for responding to various serious health needs," wrote Ernest Wright, Poppet Flat resident and former Club president. "They have been actively involved in developing a Disaster Plan for the area. They have maintained control of our brush deposit behind the fire station. ... While we do not have a large population, the presence of a full-time staff at Fire Station 63 gives an element of safety for our community."

These men and other residents have expressed concern about the extended response times, which will occur since Banning and Pine Cove will be the closest responders. Vista Grande and Alandale Forest Service stations are closer, but they are not staffed 24 hours each day.

Hawkins' recommendations, which included several other shifts and reductions, were forwarded to County Executive Officer Bill Luna just before Thanksgiving. Luna placed them on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for the Tuesday, Dec. 9 meeting. [He has asked for more

information before making a decision.]

The ramifications of falling dominos will affect local stations such as 23 in Pine Cove and possibly Idyllwild Fire Protection District.

"This will affect the Hill," said Bruce Connole, volunteer firefighter at Station 53 in Garner Valley. In addition, he believes the closure of Lake Riverside will pull resources from Anza, placing more backup on his station and Idyllwild.

Since Poppet Flat Station 63 will be manned with volunteers, it will need reliable backup fire assistance. And Station 23 may be the source. If it has more calls to the north, Idyllwild will have to provide more backup to Pine Cove, according to IFPD Chief Norm Walker.

As the county modifies the volunteer firefighter program, Connole expressed concerns. "Where will the reserves come from?" he asks. "Volunteer companies have a better chance of recruiting locals."

Hawkins anticipates the changes will begin on Jan. 1, 2011 and will continue through the next fiscal year. In a message to his department, Hawkins said, "I know these reductions are difficult ... I do know the Board of Supervisors all dearly respect our work and what we do."

While nearly 80 positions might be eliminated, current vacancies through Riverside County Fire Department may limit the actual number of firefighters who are released to between 20 and 30.

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

Off the roads

Continued from page 7

Think before you step

Complete common sense is sometimes lost in the excitement of the adventure. A mesmerized hiker may be staring at local wildlife and trip over a tree root, causing serious injury. This doesn't mean adventure walkers should stare only at the trail while hiking, but they should be constantly aware of their surroundings.

Keep an eye on the trail well in front of where you are walking, and always consider the path before bounding forward or you might end up the way I did. I made the mistake of not knowing how deep the snow was or what was under it when I fell. In my case, what was under the snow was an ice hole that allowed my foot and

leg to slip in and get stuck as I fell backwards, resulting in my injury.

Last but not least, never hike alone

Never, under any circumstances, venture into the woods by yourself. Outdoor adventures are fun for the family, but hiking is only a group sport.

The chances of becoming lost, sustaining injury or losing supplies is much higher when alone, which makes the sport extremely dangerous. With my hike, RMRU team members were accompanying me. All are highly trained and experienced mountaineers, but not everyone can be that lucky. I wish to thank all my team members, Idyllwild Fire Department and CAL FIRE who saw to my rescue. I am truly grateful.

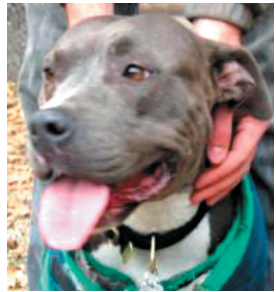
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CREATURE CORNER

BY MIMI AND HOOTCH

Like unwanted trash, **Sally** was abandoned and discarded on the streets. Starving, cold and weak, she also showed definite signs of being a fairly new mom. Her human was done with her, but an angel of mercy appeared and brought Sally to ARF to find a



home. Her heart is warm, her love is unconditional, and her eyes beg for love. Please, let's make Sally smile again.

Our **Rosi** would tell Sally that in the hands of ARF, she will be sure to smile again. And dance! Rosi's surgery and recovery have made it possible for her to have a good quality

of life without pain. Rosi is good with cats, dogs and humans. And she loves to dance.

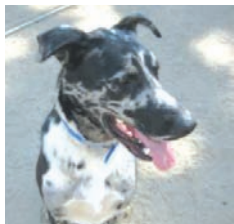
Duke gives four paws of approval for ARF, too. But he still wishes for his own home with a forever companion who would just like to go for



a walk. Not asking for much, Duke is an 8-year-old male chow, good with all dogs. He simply loves the human hand with a leash.



And then there is **Marmaduke/Dante**. Is there a hiker out there to match this guy's stamina? Energetic and yearning for the trails, he is a young Great Dane mix, who was abandoned and confused. Great stature along with compassion.



Great meows! Adopted this week were **Tux**, one of the five cats abandoned on Memorial Day, and **Penelope**, found wandering in Idyllwild.

Bow wows for **Georgia**, the small Lab mix, who found her forever home this week, too.

ARF has several cats and dogs available for adoption or fostering. Go to www.idyllwildarf.org and click on petfinders. All pets are current on shots and are spayed or neutered.

ARF is open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (951) 659-1122 for appointment on any other day. E-mail and donation opportunities are at www.idyllwildarf.org or email arf@greencafe.com. Thank you, Idyllwild.

Creature corner is sponsored this week by all God's creatures in memory of Charlotte's sweet Rhoda. To sponsor the column, call Shane Fender at the Town Crier, 659-2145.

PAST TENSE

60 years ago - 1950

Plans were set for a reforestation project along the highway near the dump. Idyllwild School children would assist in planting.

55 years ago - 1955

Throughout the holidays, carolers were traveling around the Hill in a horse-drawn wagon with tinkling sleigh bells.

50 years ago - 1960

Clearing and excavation started for the elaborate tourist and vacation spot of the Tahquitz Lake Motor Lodge and Golf Club, adjacent to the 9-hole course northwest of Idyllwild.

45 years ago - 1965

The Tahquettes girls' club scheduled a meeting with the Idyllers car club to discuss future policy for teen dances held at the community building.

35 years ago - 1975

The California Highway Patrol was considering taking legal action against the Hemet Unified School District because of inci-



In this December 1981 photo, the question asked is "How does Santa keep warm at the North Pole?" Ask **Steve Holldber**, left, **Ray Van Doorn** and **Jan McCaghren** at Idyllwild Heating. Idyllwild Heating is still very active in the community and recently donated a wood-burning stove as a fundraiser for Idyllwild School's PTA.

FILE PHOTO

dents of alleged school bus overcrowding on mountain children in their homes.

25 years ago - 1985

The body of a hiker lost for over a month was found in the San Jacinto wilder-

30 years ago - 1980

The Pine Cove Volunteer Department arranged for

ness. He apparently froze to death.

15 years ago - 1995

Funding for the purchase of a Gordon Plaza building as the new location for the library was approved by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

10 years ago - 2000


The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains were dedicated as a national monument.

5 years ago - 2005

Riverside County Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone awarded the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council \$12,000 to construct a storage building.

1 year ago - 2009

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Agriculture prepared a new report on the Esperanza Fire, but the conclusions remained the same as the previous report: that the crew perished while protecting homes instead of retreating to safety.



Heber G. Dunn, D.D.S.


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Most pertussis cases since 1947

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Since January, California health officials have confirmed 7,297 cases of pertussis, the official name for whooping cough. That's an increase of nearly 2,000 cases since the beginning of October.

It may not seem like a large number of cases, but only 972 were reported in 2009 and 513 in 2008. This is the largest outbreak in 63 years since 9,394 cases were reported in 1947, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Pertussis is cyclical and the last peak occurred in 2005.

As of Nov. 30, almost 5 percent (354 cases) of the active cases have occurred in Riverside County. In 2009, only 39 cases occurred in the county. While the number of confirmed cases in Riverside County is the sixth highest in California, the incidence rate (16.25 cases per 100,000 people) is significantly lower than many counties with

fewer total cases. Through Thursday, Nov. 18, no pertussis deaths have been recorded here.

Barbara Coleman, Riverside County director of disease control, urges parents and adults to get shots for pertussis. Current incident rates are highest for infants and children between seven and nine years of age.

CDPH recommends that all Californians older than 10 receive a booster shot against pertussis. Beginning next year, all students entering seventh through twelfth grades will need proof of a TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) booster shot before starting school. The following year (2012-12), only incoming seventh graders will need proof of the vaccine.

The best way to prevent pertussis is with a vaccination. In the U.S., the recommended pertussis vaccine for children is called TDAP. This is a safe and effective combination vaccine that protects children against three diseases. For maxi-

mum protection against pertussis, children need five TDAP shots. The first three shots are given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The fourth shot is given between 15 and 18 months of age, and a fifth shot is given when a child enters school, at 4-6 years of age. Parents can also help protect infants by keeping them away as much as possible from anyone who has cold symptoms or

is coughing.

Vaccine protection can fade with time. Boosters are available for adolescents and adults. Preteens going to the doctor for their regular checkup at age 11 or 12 years should get a dose of TDAP. Adults who didn't get TDAP as a youngster should get one dose of TDAP.

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

Riverside County Family Care Centers nearest Idyllwild

Banning Family Care Center
3055 W. Ramsey St.
Banning, CA 92220

Hemet Family Care Center
880 N. State St.
Hemet, CA 92543

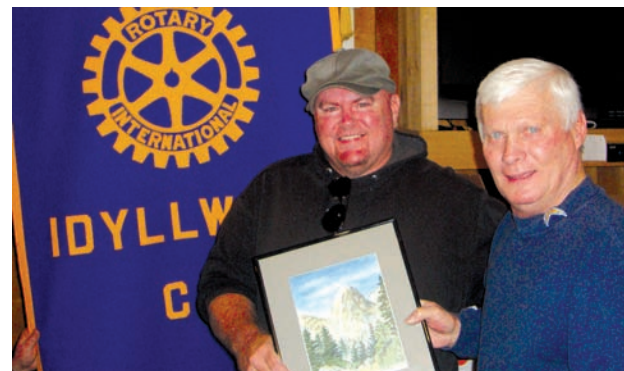
Indio Family Care Center
47923 Oasis St.
Indio, CA 92201

Palm Springs Family Care Center
1515 N. Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262



At the Dec. 2 Soroptimist International of Idyllwild meeting (left), **Melody Blaschko**, president, welcomes new member **Angela Colson** and congratulates returning member **Marge Muir**.

At a Soroptimist International of Idyllwild meeting, President **Melody Blaschko** presents a cash donation to **Eliza Daniely-Woolfolk**, executive director of Alternatives to Domestic Violence, for Christmas presents for mothers and children in the shelter. Daniely-Woolfolk was also a guest speaker at the meeting.



At the Dec. 1 Rotary meeting, Idyllwild Rotary President **Danny Richardson** (right) presents a gift to **Steve Savage**, director of Idyllwild 2011, for his talk about the Idyllwild Independent Film Festival.

PHOTO BY DAN SLATTERY

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