

News bites

Forest Service settles

To end a lawsuit, FS will reassess roadless areas. See page 4.

DA Pacheco v. county

Leaving office in a huff. See page 10.

One, two, three ...

Preliminary census data released. See page 10.

Conor O'Farrell

Film fest honors local guy. See page 12.

Monty Python's

Want to see "Spamalot"? See page 14.

Lake Hemet

Contracts out recreation management. See page 15.

Idyllwild Town Crier



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

VOL. 65 NO. 52

75¢ (Tax Included)

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., DECEMBER 30, 2010



Last week, after seven days of rain, Strawberry Creek, near the Quiet Creek Inn, flows around chairs for visitors. The chairs had been moved daily farther from the creek bed as the creek level continued to rise. PHOTO BY MIKE AHERN

A very wet December

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The weather has certainly been wet. Through Sunday evening, idyllwild has received more than 17 inches of rain since July 1 and more than 11 inches have come this month. The average rainfall from July 1 (the beginning of the rain year) through Dec. 31 is 9.2 inches. In 2010, Idyllwild has received 87 percent more than this long-term average.

In recent history, the two wettest Decembers have been 1966, when 18.05 inches fell on the Hill, and

1951, when 14.56 inches fell.

Both the Idyllwild Fire Station and Keenwild Ranger Station recorded more than 10 inches during the week of rain between Thursday, Dec. 16 and Wednesday, Dec. 22 and an additional third of inch Sunday Dec. 26. The Vista Grande Ranger Station (north of Idyllwild, south of Poppet Flats) recorded more than 13 inches of rain. The December average rainfall for Idyllwild is 3.75 inches.

Despite early forecasts of a La Niña weather pattern (usually drier than normal), See [Weather, page 2](#)

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In an **EMERGENCY** go to towncrier.com for news!



Salter slides on sled

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Lauren Salter, that nice little girl from Idyllwild, is growing up and spending time with a fast crowd. Having graduated from Northern Arizona University less than a year ago, she's living and working in Northern Virginia while commuting to Lake Placid, N.Y.

Salter's goal is to become a member of the U.S. Olympic skeleton team. And skeleton is neither a Halloween joke nor a Goth hard-rock music group.

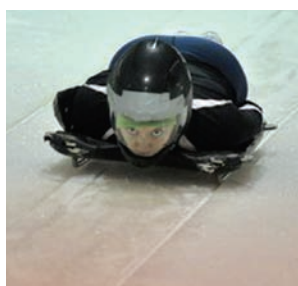
Skeleton athletes hurl themselves down an ice track on a single sled at speeds in excess of freeway limits.

"Metal on ice and wind through the helmet," Salter said describing her first slide. "It didn't feel as fast as it was."

While many people recognize the luge or bobsled in Olympic events, the skeleton team is less well-known. Although there are similarities among the three downhill ice races, such as speeds exceeding 70 to 80 miles per hour, the luge is feet first. Skeleton sliders put their heads and faces in front and actually feel the ice shaving coming off the sled's runners. The bobsled is either a two-person or four-person team race.

Salter's skeleton accomplishments lack substantial skin and weight now. She has only been practicing for several months, but has grasped the technique, which she described as "hold on."

During college and high school, Salter was better known for her track achievements. She ran sprints such as the 60, 100



Lauren Salter speeds downhill on her skeleton sled. PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN SALTER

and 200-meter races. As her collegiate career was ending, she longed to find an event to complement her sprint work, one that would fill the time between fall and spring.

"A friend, actually a [shot] putter, suggested I consider the bobsled since they typically recruit sprinters to get good speed behind the sled," she said.

But after a few adventures See [Salter, page 23](#)

2010's Top stories: Part 1

By MARSHALL SMITH AND BETH NOTTLEY, STAFF REPORTERS AND J.P. CRUMRINE, EDITOR

Editor's note: At the end of each year, the Town Crier looks back at the headlines that made the biggest local news during the year. The summaries of five major stories are presented here in the first of a two-week series. Readers are encouraged to comment on these and other 2010 stories at our online site www.towncrier.com.

Chamber of Commerce

The Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce has had a roller coaster ride during the past 12 months. The thrill

ride has included snubbing a county supervisor, bungling its election, expelling a president and electing a new one. And yet, the Chamber enters 2011 in a much stronger and better position than many imagined in January 2010.

The Chamber began the year refusing to participate in Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone's annual Third District Economic Forum. Ostensibly, the drive to Temecula, where the event was held, was too far for Chamber members, according to former Chamber President Ken Carlson.

As the winter cold succumbed to spring's fresh wind, Carlson tried to exert self-professed presidential authority in the board's annual election. He claimed See [Top 10, page 8](#)

NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Dec. 20 to Dec. 26:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

Dec. 21 — Medical aid, Darryll Road and Hemstreet Place Idyllwild.

Dec. 21 — Service call, Maranatha Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 22 — Medical aid, North Circle Drive and Alderwood Road, Idyllwild.

Dec. 22 — Traffic collision, Pine Crest Avenue and North Circle Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 22 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 24 — Medical aid, Marion Ridge Drive, Pine Cove.

Dec. 24 — False alarm, Middle Ridge Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 24 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 24 — Structure fire, Middle Ridge Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 25 — Traffic collision with injuries, San Jacinto Truck Trail, 4 miles from Pine Cove Road.

Dec. 26 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Oak Glen Drive, Pine Cove.

Dec. 26 — Medical aid, Crestview Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 26 — Medical

aid, North Circle Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 26 — Walk-in medical aid.

Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove

Dec. 22 — Traffic collision, cut and rescue.

Dec. 24 — Medical aid, chest pains.

Dec. 24 — Improvement fire.

Dec. 24 — Residential fire, Woodview Road, Anza.

Dec. 25 — Traffic collision.

Dec. 26 — Medical aid, assault.

Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley

Dec. 20 — Structure fire, 43000 block of Sorenson Road, Garner Valley.

Dec. 21 — Traffic collision, 49000 block of Highway 74, Garner Valley.

Dec. 22 — Medical aid, 41000 block of Terwilliger Road, Anza.

Dec. 24 — Structure fire, 53000 block of Middle Ridge Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 24 — Structure fire, 52000 block of Middle Ridge Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 25 — Medical aid, 26000 block of Tool Box Springs Road, Garner Valley.

Riverside County Fire, Pinyon

Dec. 20 — Medical aid.

Dec. 20 — Medical aid.

Dec. 21 — Medical aid.

Riverside County Fire, Anza

Dec. 20 — Medical aid, Dickson Way and Hill Street, Anza.

Dec. 20 — Residential Structure fire, Sorensen Road and Silver Moon Trail, Aguanaga.

Dec. 21 — Medical aid, Woodview Road, Anza.

Dec. 21 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 22 — Medical aid, Valley Vista Road, Anza.

Dec. 23 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 23 — Medical aid, Owings and Howard roads, Anza.

Dec. 24 — Walk-in medical aid.

Dec. 25 — Medical aid, Woodview Road, Anza.

Dec. 26 — Walk-in medical aid.

CHP log

The resident post of the California Highway Patrol responded to the following call from Monday to Sunday, Dec. 20 to Dec. 26. This may not be a complete list of responses:

Dec. 20 — Single-vehicle, noninjury traffic collision, Pine Crest Avenue west of Jameson Drive, Idyllwild.

Weather

Continued from page 1

water districts have been quite happy with the rain this year. Both Terry Lyons, Idyllwild Water District general manager, and Tom Wagoner, Lake Hemet Municipal Water District general manager, were pleased with their reservoirs' conditions as of Monday morning, Dec. 27.

Lyons said, "Foster Lake is overflowing and has been for several days."

"Lake Hemet [in Garner Valley] has risen almost six feet," Wagoner said. "That's almost 2,700 acre-feet" he added, "We're still about seven feet from full [the top of the dam]."

Twenty-seven hundred acre-feet is equivalent to



Last week, after nine inches of rain, Strawberry Creek, near the Quiet Creek Inn, flowed rapidly and over its banks.

PHOTO BY MIKE AHERN

nearly 880 million gallons of water. In perspective, this volume of water is sufficient to supply all three — Idyllwild, Fern Valley and Pine Cove — water districts' able volume of water for Idyllwild, Wagoner pointed out it was less than 60 percent of his annual need just for agricultural uses.

J.P. Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com. While this is a consider-

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Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Thursday 12/30	Friday 12/31	Saturday 1/1	Sunday 1/2	Monday 1/3
36/21 Mostly sunny with light winds.	38/21 Sunny.	39/24 Partly sunny	42/25 Partly sunny with a slight chance of snow.	48/25 Partly sunny with a slight chance of snow.

Date	Idyllwild this year				Idyllwild last year				
	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S	
12-20	49	43	2.93		57	32			
12-21	49	39	2.10		54	34			
12-22	47	36	2.70		49	30	1		
12-23	44	35	.01	.5	51	20			
12-24	57	32			55	26			
12-25	59	33			52	26			
12-26	51	35	.3		46	24			
Moisture in inches					Snow in inches				
To date this season (Idy): 17.38					To date this season (Idy): 3.7				
To date last season (Idy): 8.61					To date last season (Idy): 17.51				
Total last season (Idy): 23.61					Total last season (Idy): 35.91				
To date this season (PC): 21.46					To date this season (PC): 6.25				
Total last season (PC): 30.92					Total last season (PC): 72.5				

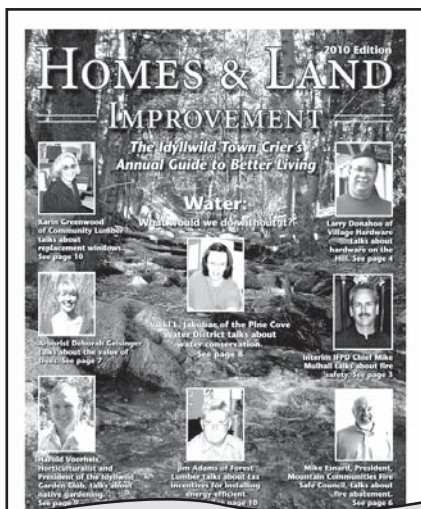
TEMPERATURES AND 24-HOUR moisture and snow totals for Idyllwild are recorded daily at 4 p.m. at the Idyllwild Fire Station. Pine Cove totals are measured by resident George Tate also at 4 p.m. Moisture inches include all precipitation such as rain, melted hail and melted snow.

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

Year-end thoughts

Well, another year and decade are rapidly coming to a close. Christmas is past and my 61st birthday is Wednesday, Dec. 29, followed by another new year.



January will mark my 34th year of living in Idyllwild. I still remember my first visit to Idyllwild way back in 1973. I was living in Blue Jay, outside of Lake Arrowhead at the time. I had hitch-hiked to Idyllwild to visit my parents.

A beautiful brunette picked me up at the bottom of the hill. She was driving a blue Edsel station wagon. That is not a ride one is apt to forget.

Coming up from the Hemet side, I remember taking that final hairpin turn and dropping down the forested road into Idyllwild. Even though I lived on the next mountain north of Idyllwild, I remember thinking that I was home. In a matter of a couple of weeks I was living here.

That's ancient history now but I think of it again every time I talk to Idyllwild's newest full-time residents and those making plans to become full-time residents when they retire.

The newbie hillbillies are usually very high on their choice of Idyllwild as the place to be in their golden years. They all seem to be looking forward to spending their days in the forest. The biggest difference between us is I decided to skip the years of working and waiting for retirement to live where I wanted and just moved to Idyllwild when I was 23.

Enough about ancient history because I would like to talk more about this last decade. The past 10 years have been a time when it seems like a lot more people have moved to Idyllwild. I don't have the current census data to prove it but it really does seem like there are a lot less weekender types and many more permanent residents.

This last decade we really turned the corner and started to recognize how lucky we are to have the Pacific Crest Trail running through our mountains. I would like to believe that my columns had something to do with the fact that Idyllwild is now filled with both trail angels and merchants that "realize" the scruffy man or woman is not just some homeless person with a pack.

This past year I have finally started to see a swing back to traditional climbing for a good many younger climbers. The middle of the decade definitely saw a major decline of climbers on Tahquitz and Suicide. Hopefully this is a trend that will continue and we'll see more and more young climbers move out of the gym and tackle some of the bigger rocks in Southern California.

Hiking just seems to be a constant activity in Idyllwild. There are so many nice trails up here to attract a wide range of hikers from all over California and beyond. Winter hiking has come into its own as more and more people want to hike with crampons and snowshoes in the high country.

Finally, I would like to once again thank all my readers for your constant kind words and encouragement. I think Mr. Spock said it best, "May you live long and prosper." *And to you also, Bruce. — JP*



The Indian Plum, Oso Berry (Oemleria cerasiformis) is a deciduous native shrub and one of the first signs of spring. The attractive orchid-like, almond-scented, bell-shaped, 4-inch long drooping clusters of white flowers bloom late winter to early spring. The blooms are followed by clusters of yellow or orange to purple fruit that are much sought after by the birds. Only female plants fruit, so room for a male plant is also necessary. They grow to 15 feet tall and can tolerate full sun to shade. It is quite adaptable to the San Jacinto Mountain gardens if given an amended, humus rich, lightly acidic soil and some modest moisture during the drier, summer months.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD VOORHEIS



In June, the 30th Annual Idyllwild 5K & 10K Run and Fitness Walk took place through the streets of Idyllwild. Dozens of runners and walkers take off from the starting line at 7:15 a.m. PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER



The first Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema was in January 2010. The Rustic Theatre marquee welcomed all who arrived to be a part of the festival. PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

Healthy Lifestyle class offered

Brenda Scherlis, nurse practitioner for the Idyllwild Health Center, will lead a Healthy Lifestyle class, which will meet every Tuesday at the Silver Pines Lodge located at 25955 Cedar Street.

There will be an optional weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., followed by a healthy lifestyle talk by Scherlis at 6 p.m. There is no charge to attend the class, but donations will be accepted.

'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.

Pine Cove Water District
 PO Box 2296,
 24917 Marion Ridge Rd.,
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Stitch says "Conserve Water"

Count bald eagles

Volunteers are needed to help the Forest Service count bald eagles in the San Bernardino National Forest's 32nd annual winter bald eagle counts in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains on Jan. 8, Feb. 12, and March 12.

Lake Hemet volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Market at 8:30 a.m. for instructions. Volunteers will be stationed at vantage points around the lake, where they map and note any eagle observations during a 1-hour period. Contact Ann Poopatanapong at 909-382-2935 for more information.

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Obituary Ella Pauline Loutzenhiser

Ella Pauline "Polly" Loutzenhiser, a longtime resident of Idyllwild, passed away peacefully in the company of her children, at the age of 83 on July 25, 2010, at Eisenhower Hospital in Rancho Mirage.

Born in Fort Myers, Fla., on Oct. 28, 1926 to a minister's family of four brothers and a sister, she was raised in Northern Indiana where she met and married her husband, Russ, of 66 years. After he returned from World War II, they moved west to California and raised four children, eventually landing in Idyllwild. A fantastic cook, Polly worked over 20 years at Jan's Red Kettle restaurant. Everyone adored her soups and pies. Loved by many, she will be missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Russ; and her son, Capt. Mark Loutzenhiser, U.S.F.S. She is survived by her daughters, Cheryl Brown and husband Howard; Beth Pachman and husband Steve;



son Michael Loutzenhiser and wife Susan; Mark's wife Maria; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Obituary Unique Johnston

Unique Johnston, a beloved cat, was born March 12, 1996 and died Dec. 25, 2010. Unique was almost 15 years old when she passed away Christmas evening in the family's rocking chair in front of the fire. She was surrounded by her family. It was a quick and unexpected passing.

Unique was called "Unique Kitten Cat" or "My Little In and Out Kitty" by her mom and "Unique Fluffington Johnston" by her dad. She was loved by both her parents, Shannon and Casey Johnston, and her sisters, Lyliann and Kaelynn.

Unique had the best life any indoor-outdoor cat could have. She spent her days going in and out of the house as much as she wanted, or as much as her mom would let her. She spent spring, summer and fall catching birds and chipmunks. She spent winter mostly inside by the fire or laying in the sunlight coming into the dining room window. She was a spunky cat even though she was getting more frail by the day. She was a lover! She cuddled a lot with her mom and dad and even her



sisters, as long as they were asleep! She loved her family! And she tolerated a lot from her two much younger sisters even though she was getting so old.

Unique will be truly missed. She is loved by her family and known by many other people in town.

Rest in peace our little sweet kitty.

Forest Service redoes plans

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The Forest Service and state Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Jr. have settled a lawsuit over the Forest Service's efforts to include wilderness areas within its national forest planning process.

"With this settlement, the state of California will now play an active role along with the Forest Service in determining which areas of Southern California forests will be preserved as wilderness," Brown said.

The settlement resolves a lawsuit brought by Brown and various state agencies and environmental groups against the U.S. Forest Service for its plans to allow roads to be built through hundreds of thousands of acres of wild lands in the Los Padres, Angeles, Cleveland, and San Bernardino national forests. The challenged plans designated more than 900,000 currently roadless acres for possible road building or other development. In

2009, a federal district court agreed with the groups, ruling that the plans violated the National Environmental Policy Act. The parties agreed to negotiate a settlement.

The suit was brought because the Forest Service issued plans that failed to properly analyze the environmental impact of various non-wilderness uses and failed to consult with California state officials. If approved, these plans would have allowed new roads and trails for off-road vehicles and other uses.

"By working together, we've achieved our goal of helping to guide the forest management plans to ensure that California's national forests remain pristine," said Lester Snow, state Secretary for Natural Resources.

The settlement requires the Forest Service to reconsider designating as many as 37 new wilderness or roadless areas. While the plan is being redone, the Forest Service cannot allow new roads or other activi-

ties that would impair the area's wilderness values; thus limiting its ability to recommend these areas for wilderness designation. The Forest Service must undertake restoration efforts. The state and environmental groups will collaborate with the Forest Service to make sure the forests are protected in the revised management plans.

"Under this agreement, some of the most wild and pristine areas of Southern California's national forests will be better protected

from potential damage," said Ileene Anderson, a Center for Biological Diversity biologist. "These areas provide critically important strongholds for endangered species such as steelhead trout, California condors and arroyo toads; especially during this time of climate change."

The settlement assumes the Forest Service can complete the supplemental review within two years.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For the Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar, see "On the Town," on page 11.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29

- 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.
- 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)

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

- "Forgotten God," Women's Ministry Bible Study, 10 a.m.-noon. Chapel in the Pines Church office, 29430 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center.
- Fit After Fifty, 11 a.m. Mile High Fitness, 54423 Village Center Dr.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- ICRC Book Club, 7 p.m. Creekstone Inn, 54950 Pine Crest Ave.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building)

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

- Peace Prayer gathering, 4 a.m. Spiritual Living Center, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard building)
- 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.
- 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, JAN. 1

- 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, JAN. 2

- Pinyon Pines County Water District, 9 a.m. Pinyon Fire Station, 70080 Hwy. 74, Pinyon.
- 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.

MONDAY, JAN. 3

- Friends of the Idyllwild Library board, 9 a.m. Library, 54185 Pine Crest Ave.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon & 7:30 p.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Schhol Site Council, 4:30 p.m. Idyllwild School, Room 14, Highway 243.
- Idyllwild Community Meditation, Session I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Session II: 6:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio. Call Val at 659-5750 for information.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4

- Low Income Commodity Distribution (all ages, low income) & Senior Food Sharing (anyone over age 60 qualifies), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mormon Church, 53830 Tollgate Rd. Bring box for food.
- Soroptimist board meeting, 2:30 p.m. Higher Grounds Coffee House, 54245 North Circle Dr.
- International Healing Rooms of Idyllwild, 5-7 p.m. Shiloh

Christian Ministries, 54960 Pine Crest Ave.

- Hilltop Horsemen, 6 p.m. Call 659-0214

• Anza Valley Citizens Patrol, 6 p.m. Call Brian at (951) 763-5324.

- 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)

- 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 Library computer lab, 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.

• Hemet Unified School District board meeting, 6:30 p.m.

See Calendar, page 7



A unique milestone took place last Friday as the Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce welcomed its 100th member. The Chamber celebrated this event with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Fern Valley Emporium with owners Sue and Don Zeigler holding a member 100 sign, with employee of the year Lou Bacher in background. The Idyllbeast was present, along with board directors Mimi Lamp, left, Mike Lackey and Steve Moulton.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

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GUATEMALA with Tikal 10 day all-inclusive guided vacation. Caravan.com makes it so easy and so affordable to explore your world.	Free 28 Page Brochure. Since 1952 Caravan.com Call 1-800-CARAVAN

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FREE to the public!

Weight Loss & Stop Smoking Hypnotherapy

Health Awareness Clinics is providing therapists to administer weight loss and stop smoking, group hypnotic therapy.

For many people, this therapy reduces 2 to 3 clothing sizes and/or stop smoking.

Funding for this project came from public donations. Anyone who wants treatment will receive professional hypnotherapy free from charge.

An appointment is not necessary. Sign in and immediately receive treatment.

Health Awareness Clinics is a non-profit organization. They rely on donations to make treatment available to those in need. A modest \$5.00 donation from each person when signing in is appreciated.

Only one 2 hour session is needed for desirable results.

Sign in 30 minutes early.

Monday, January 3, 7:30 P.M.
Alpine Woman's Club
2156 Alpine Blvd.
ALPINE

Tuesday, January 4, 7:30 P.M.
Palm Canyon Resort
221 Palm Canyon Dr.
BORREGO SPRINGS

Thursday, January 6, 7:30 P.M.
Caine Learning Center
54385 Pinecrest Ave.
IDYLLWILD

(702)-373-0897

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New 2011 Models Now in Stock!

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 - Power Windows & Locks
 - Multi-Speaker Stereo/CD
 - Automatic Dimming Mirror with Compass
 - Vehicle Dynamics Control
 - Alloy Wheels and More!

SAVE \$2305 OFF M.S.R.P. **\$18,980** One at This Exact Price

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INITIAL THOUGHTS

Redux "Make a resolution ..."



Since I began writing this column, I've been encouraging you to get involved in our community. It's good for you and clearly good for all of us.

Below I've listed several dozen Hill groups which serve the community, but could use some volunteers. Yes, there are more; I've specifically omitted churches and other places of worship because if that's your cause, you'll find it without my help. Others who deserve mention, but are not listed, are simply an unintentional error. My apologies.

Don't forget you can approach some of the local special districts such as water, fire and recreation directly. You don't have to attend meetings to help them.

So c'mon pick a group and try it. Seventy-five percent of all resolutions are abandoned before Valentine's Day. But you might find the camaraderie worth your investment of time.

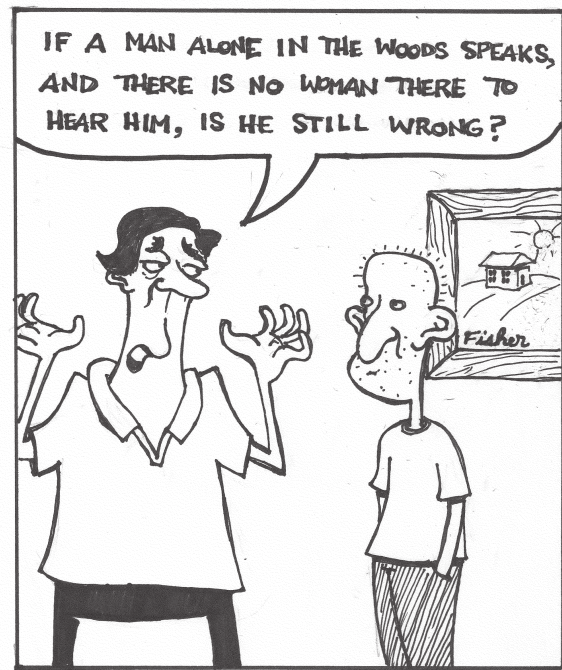
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 659-2409
- Al-Anon, 659-4744
- American Legion Post 800, 659-3517
- Am Leg Post 800 Women's Auxiliary, 659-3517
- ARF 659-1122
- Art Alliance of Idyllwild, 1-877-439-5278
- Associates of Idyllwild Arts Foundation 659-6110
- Mary Austin Scholarships & Grants, 659-3346
- AYSO Soccer, 659-2819
- Boy Scout Troop 508, 659-4663.
- Bridge, 659-4910
- Camp Alandale Friends 4 Orphans, 659-5253
- Cancer Self-help Group, 659-6262
- Community Arts Network, 659-4251
- Earthwitness Foundation, (760) 699-4812
- ESL classes, Idyllwild School, 659-2668
- Forest Service Volunteer Association, 659-4532
- Friends of Idyllwild Library, 659-4069
- Friends of the San Jacinto Mountain County Parks, 659-2764
- Garner Valley Book Club, 659-6049
- Garner Valley Women's Club, 659-5952
- Girl Scouts, 659-8653 or (951) 768-3905
- Hilltop Horsemen, 659-0214
- Idyll Hours Time Bank, 659-4251

- Idyllhounds - Greyhound Rescue, 659-2728
 - Idyllwild Area Historical Society, 659-2717
 - Idyllwild Business Roundtable (IBRT), 659-9617
 - Idyllwild Community Fund, (951) 684-4194
 - Idyllwild Community Meditation, 659-5750
 - Idyllwild Earth Fair, 659-5484
 - Idyllwild Firefighters Association, 659-2153
 - Idyllwild Francophonie, (fluent-French speakers), 659-4146
 - Idyllwild Garden Club, 659-3598
 - Idyllwild HELP Center, 659-2110
 - Idyllwild Master Chorale, 659-2826
 - Idyllwild Parent-Teacher Association, 659-0750
 - Idyllwild Part-timer's Network, idyllwildpartimers@yahoo.com
 - Idyllwild Poets' Society, 659-6140
 - Idyllwild Right to Life, 659-5228
 - Idyllwild Summer Concerts Inc., 659-2229
 - Isis Theatre Company, (951) 692-9553
 - La Leche League, 1-800-LA-LECHE
 - Lemon Lily Festival Steering Committee, 659-3850
 - Living Free, 659-4687
 - Local Color, 659-6312
 - Mile High Radio Club, 659-4765
 - Mountain Community Patrol, 659-5235
 - Mountain Emergency Medical Services Committee (MEMSCOMM), 659-2153
 - Mountain Quilters of Idyllwild, 659-5133
 - Narcotics Anonymous, 1-800-397-2333.
 - Olde English Theatre Players, 659-2250
 - Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), 659-6028
 - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, 659-4366
 - Red Hot Mountain Mamas 659-2003
 - Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit, (951) 537-8223
 - Rotary Club, 659-8286
 - Soroptimist International of Idyllwild, 659-2777
 - Teen Group, Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 659-3464
 - Valley Quilters Guild, (951) 925-9244
 - Women's Guild of the Community Presbyterian Church, 659-9603
- Stretch the fingers, choose a group, make a phone call and have some fun in 2011.
J.P., EDITOR

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



READERS WRITE

Idyllwild Fire revenue

EDITOR:

In an article in the Dec. 23, 2010 issue of the Town Crier, under the headline, "IFPD postpones audit acceptance," J.P. Crumrine wrote, "Through the first five months of the fiscal year, IFPD has had to draw upon its reserves to pay expenses. Through November, the district had used about \$300,000 of its total \$438,000 in reserves."

These words would lead you to believe that: 1) IFPD [Idyllwild Fire Protection District] is running out of money and had to dig into its piggybank in order to pay its bills and 2) IFPD is mismanaging its funds. Neither is the case.

A problem we have to deal with every year is that our income, 60 percent of which comes from property taxes and parcel fees, does not begin to arrive in amounts sufficient to cover our expenses until mid-December, about 5-1/2 months after the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1).

This year, for example, in the first five months of the fiscal year we received about \$359,000 in income, but spent about \$771,700, an average of about \$154,340 a month, including about \$113,250 a month for pay

and benefits.

Each year, in mid-December, we receive our first property tax income, a 30-percent "advance." This year it was about \$249,000, while last year we received about \$272,000, and the year before, \$280,300. The lower amounts received this year and last are due to a decrease in assessed property values.

The balance of our property tax income arrives in January (20 percent), April (10 percent), and May (40 percent).

The problem here is the use of the term "reserves." Our previous bookkeeper made it a practice to list all of the money IFPD had on deposit in the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) as "reserves." LAIF is managed by the California State Treasurer and is not subject to the \$250,000 FDIC insurance limit, which is why most of our money is kept there until it's needed. At this point we don't know why all of the money was labeled as reserves, or whether it was by direction of the previous board, or was just what the previous bookkeeper thought was the correct thing to do and nobody ever questioned it.

In hindsight, only a portion of the money in LAIF should have been listed as
[See Letters, page 22](#)

Holiday closings

Hill businesses and institutions that will be closed Saturday, Jan. 1, to observe New Year's Day:

- Area post offices
- BBVA Compass
- Idyllwild Library
- Idyllwild Pharmacy
- Idyllwild Town Crier (also at noon Thursday, Dec. 30 & all day Friday Dec. 31)

- Idyllwild Transfer Station
- Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- U.S. Forest Service

Note: The Idyllwild, Pine Cove and Fern Valley water districts will be closed Friday, Dec. 31.

How to reach us
 Phone: (951) 659-2145
 or toll-free: 1-888-535-6663
 Fax: (951) 659-2071
 E-mail: itc@towncrier.com
 Web site: www.towncrier.com

When to reach us

OFFICE HOURS
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Monday - Friday
 Closed Saturday & Sunday

DEADLINES MONDAY

News Items - 10 a.m.
 Classified Ads - Noon
 Display Ads - Noon

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TOWN TALK

By CID CASTILLO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

“What are you doing this New Year’s Eve?”



Kent Weishaus
Clinical Therapist
Idyllwild

“My wife plays the mandolin, I play the guitar and we are going to a friend’s house and play some bluegrass and folk music.”



Angela Colson
Mary Kay Cosmetics
Idyllwild

“I’ve had four grandkids, ages 12 to 15, for a few days, so I’m either going to a friend’s house for a quiet dinner or I’m going to be resting at home trying to recover.”



Glenda Bloom Ackley
Idyllwild Eye Care
Idyllwild

“I’m just going to hang out with about a dozen dear friends and listen to music, talk, and welcome the new year.”



Kelly Gates
Postmaster
Idyllwild

“We will be camping at Truckhaven, out by the Salton Sea with friends and our quads, off-road vehicles and the Hemet Jeep Club.”

Calendar

Continued from page 5

HUSD offices, 1791 W. Acacia Ave., Hemet.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5

- 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 Women’s Club, 10:30 a.m. Garner Valley Common, 61600 Devil’s Ladder Rd.
- 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-

ON THE FRINGE

© Gihan Seşen & Steve Hudson
illustrator writer



IDYLLWILD BOTANY

By DAVE STITH

Mistletoe isn’t just for Christmas ...

Most people are familiar with mistletoe, a plant commonly associated with Christmas. But few are aware that several species of mistletoe grow in Idyllwild.

There are many legends associated with mistletoe. Throughout history it was believed to have mystical powers. Perhaps this belief arose because people believed mistletoe magically and spontaneously sprouted from dung.

Mistel is the Anglo-Saxon word for dung and tan means twig so its name means literally “dung on a twig.”

The seeds of many species of mistletoe are favorite avian snacks and eventually disperse in bird dung. The plants also produce sticky berries which aid seed dispersal when birds clean their beaks by rubbing them on a tree. On the Ernie Maxwell Trail, I have seen flocks of small birds feeding on the berries.

The seeds of the pine mistletoes are dispersed by another extraordinary mechanism. They are explosively ejected at speeds of 60 miles per hour by the violently contracting seed casings to distances of up to 30 feet.

Pine mistletoes can also cause strange deformities of the tree’s branches called “witches brooms.”

Most parts of most species of mistletoe are toxic.

Mistletoe is parasite living in trees. Its roots infiltrate the tree’s trunks and limbs and extract nutrients from them. This ultimately results in the death of the tree, costing the timber industry millions of dollars in lost revenues annually and increasing the potential for devastating fires wherever it occurs.

Mistletoe is host specific. The mistletoe that grows on oaks is different than the one that grows on pines, firs or cedars. One can often identify from afar which species it is simply



by recognizing the host tree.

Mistletoe plants range in size from the large oak and fir mistletoes to the small dwarf mistletoes. All belong to the mistletoe family (Viscaceae). The ones that infect pines belong to the genus Arceuthobium while the others are of the genus Phoradendron. White fir trees have the misfortune of being infected by both.

While preparing this column, I was confronted by the inconvenient fact that the mistletoes have very recently been re-classified and renamed. Many photographs and monograms are still referenced under the old names, so I have included both names here in case the reader wishes to search for additional information.

Oak mistletoe (Phoradendron serotinum ssp. tomentosum formerly P. villosum) infects oak trees and is very common on the Ernie Maxwell Trail where many trees have succumbed to its effects. A fortuitous side effect is that much of the oak that has been made available for firewood by the Forest Service in the Idyllwild area is the result of mistletoe infestation. This has helped stem the tide of off-Hill oak imported here at a time when the goldspotted oak borer beetle is of concern.

An outing at Humber Park will reveal oak mistletoe as well as incense cedar mistletoe (Phoradendron juniperinum formerly P. libocedri) and fir mistletoe (Phoradendron bolleanum formerly P. pauciflorum) all within a short distance of each other.

The pine mistletoes were formerly divided into several species depending on which host tree they infected. Under the newest treatment they have been merged into one species. Therefore the former fir dwarf mistletoe (A. abietinum), sugar pine mistletoe (A. californicum), and limber pine dwarf mistletoe (A. cyanocarpum) which we rarely encountered are now all included under pine dwarf mistletoe (Arceuthobium campylopodum). As of this writing, near the top of the Overlook Trail at the Nature Center there is an excellent example of pine dwarf mistletoe on a Coulter pine right next to oak mistletoe on Canyon Live Oak.

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)

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

- California Department of Forestry (bark beetle issues),

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Mountain Resource Center 25380 Franklin Dr., 659-3335.

- Chamber of Commerce, 54325 North Circle Dr., 12-3 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 659-3259.

- Idyllwild HELP Center, 26330 Highway 243, 9 a.m.-noon & 1-3 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. 659-2110.

- Idyllwild Area Historical

Museum, 54470 North Circle Dr., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. Group tours by appointment. 659-2717.

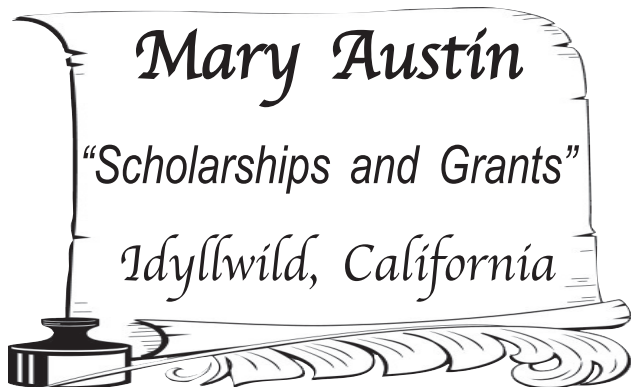
- Idyllwild Library, 54185 Pine Crest Ave., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday & Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 659-2300.

- Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, 9 a.m.-4:30

p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 659-3850.

- Idyllwild Skate Park, Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243, 2:30 p.m.-dusk Wednesday & Thursday; 1:30 p.m.-dusk Friday; noon-dusk weekends.

- Idyllwild Transfer Station, 28100 Saunders Meadow Rd., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday-Monday; Grinding Facility, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Thank you Idyllwild
Last class for
FIT AFTER FIFTY
Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010
— Sandy Weber

Horrible Holiday Health Hardship
After a mid-December emergency airlift & 2 weeks in Eisenhower Hospital, **Karen Hamilton**, our beloved fresh fruit/veg provider (Produce Manager at Fairway) is now recovering from a serious health episode. In the spirit of the holidays, Karen’s friends have established an appreciation, get well & recovery fund for her! Greetings & donations (none too small) can be sent to P.O. Box 692, Idyllwild, CA 92549 or expressed to **Geri Peterson** at Fairway.

Top 10

Continued from page 1

to have authority to conduct the election as the board's acting secretary, but he never documented the appointment.

After a failed attempt to oust the Town Crier from Chamber membership, Carlson found himself on the wrong end of an expulsion notice. At its June meeting, the sitting board voted to expel Carlson.

At its June 28 meeting, the membership elected three new directors, Julie Johnson, Nick Todd and Steve Moulton, in addition to sitting director, Mimi Lamp. At its July 19 meeting, the board chose Lamp as its new president. Her tenure will be short-lived because she and husband, D. Edgar, will depart for a yearlong journey around the world.

In the meantime, Lamp and the board succeeded in moving the Tree Monument from carver David Roy's site to the village center in time for the Tree Lighting Ceremony in November.

Now, Nick Todd becomes the third chamber president in less than a year. But membership has grown quickly under the new board's leadership. It recently passed the 100 level — a number last seen several years ago, and more than twice the membership level six months ago.

Riverside County and Idyllwild

At the end of 2010, county initiatives to promote Idyllwild were coming to fruition. In early spring, the county held its first meeting in Idyllwild to explain the process and benefits for Idyllwild's becoming the county's sole Historic Preservation District. Public

meetings followed throughout the year. At the Jan. 11, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting, revised Ordinance 578 is expected to be adopted and the process of setting up the district will begin.

Also on the horizon for completion in 2011 is an end to the 10-year-long slog toward enlarging the existing county library or building a new one. When the county obtained a federal community block development grant, the Board of Supervisors approved \$1 million initial funding for remodeling the Cornet building in Strawberry Plaza. Up to \$3 million may be used for the project that will create a state-of-the-art 4,000-square-foot green technology-complemented library that should be completed in late 2011.

County Service Area (CSA) Operations Manager Bill Brown brought a program to the Hill in summer 2010 that employed 24 resident young people as summer interns in local businesses. The program targeted youth from low-income families for up to 240 hours of employment from July through October. Funded by federal stimulus money, the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) paid interns \$8 per hour with no deductions.

Last year, the opportunities for Hill youth were in Hemet. Brown's target was to get authorization for 20

positions in Idyllwild so that local youth, 14 through 24 years of age, would not have to leave the Hill for this opportunity.

A sampling of local employers at the conclusion of SWEP revealed widespread satisfaction with the program and the interns who were employed. The county will likely renew the program for Idyllwild in 2011.

And, although stymied by the Nov. 2 ballot initiative Proposition 26, the Idyllwild Business Roundtable's (IBRT) plan to launch an Idyllwild Business Improvement District (BID) received preliminary endorsement from Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone in April, with the caveat that it needed to be a "grass roots" effort. Stone assured IBRT representatives that they would have full access to county resources as the BID proposal proceeded.

This summer, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring July 2010 Idyllwild Lemon Lily Month, a show of support for Idyllwild's newest festival — the Lemon Lily Festival. In presenting the proclamation to festival representatives, Stone said, "The festival will be the start to bring the Lemon Lily back to prominence."

Credit Card Theft

In October, a local resident notified the Town Crier that her debit card had been

See Top 10, next page



During 2010, Idyllwild's Guaranty Bank became BBVA Compass Bank. PHOTO BY J P CRUMRINE



A small section of the public listens patiently to one of several speakers at an April County Service Area 36 Advisory Committee meeting. More than 75 people attended Monday morning session to hear and discuss management of recreation in Idyllwild. PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE

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

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church

54525 N. Circle Dr., P.O. Box 1106, Idyllwild, CA
Father Charles E. Miller
Winter Mass Schedule: Tues.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.;
Sat. 4 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. + 10 a.m.;
Confession: Sat. 3:30 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

~ FULL GOSPEL ~
54968 Upper Pine Crest
Pastor Kristeen Bandelin 659-2416
Sunday Worship 10 am - Wed. Bible Study 7 pm
International Healing Rooms of Idyllwild
First three Tuesdays., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 659-5255

Yokoji Zen Mountain Center

58900 Apple Canyon Rd., Mtn. Center, CA 92561
Zen Buddhist Retreat Center & Monastery
Under the direction of Charles Tenshin Fletcher, Roshi.
SUNDAY PROGRAM 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Including silent meditation, Buddhist service, lecture & lunch. Meditation instruction available. Call 659-5272 or 3275 for info. www.zmc.org

Lodging Directory of Idyllwild

Quiet Creek

Top Rated • Views • Creek • Pets • Spas • Fireplaces • Clean!
26345 Delano Dr. • www.quietcreekinn.com • 800-450-6110

Alhatti Private Christian Resort

A private Christian setting • Lodging, Weddings, Conferences
23551 Hwy. 243 • (951) 659-2066 • www.alhatti.com

The Bluebird Cottage Inn

on 3 ac. • www.thebluebirdcottageinn.com • Dogs welcome
26905 Hwy. 243 • (951) 659-2696

Edelweiss Lodge • www.1cabin4u.com

Romantic cabins • Kitchens • Fireplaces
25055 Marion Ridge Dr., P.O. Box 1747, 659-2787

Fern Valley Vacation Rentals

Private Vacation Cabins • (951) 663-0527
www.fernvalleyvacationcabins.com • vacationcabins@live.com

The Fireside Inn & Cabins • Fireplaces,

TV/DVD players, pets welcome • 1-877-797-3473
54540 North Circle Dr. • www.thefireside-inn.com

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

Top 10

Continued from previous page

fraudulently used at several San Diego retailers. Her bank eventually returned the funds to her account.

It was the beginning of a spate of similar cases. In the ensuing weeks, 15 additional Idyllwild-area victims have come forward to the Town Crier. Each reports some variation of their debit or credit cards having been fraudulently used at a variety of retail establishments.

In some cases, the charge was denied at the stores. In many cases however, hundreds of dollars in charges were processed, leaving the victims to have to sort the matter out with the bank while their accounts were frozen.

In the reported cases, the cards were never out of the owners' possession. Thus, law enforcement officials believe criminals skimmed the card's digital embedded information here and then downloaded it to create cloned cards.

Investigators from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD), and



Not only did 2010 end with a weeklong rain storm, but a week of rain and snow in January painted Tahquitz Rock white.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK BILEY

the San Diego and Long Beach Police departments fraud units are investigating the commonalities among the Idyllwild victims. RCSD Investigator Brian Robertson visited Idyllwild early this month to interview employees at both Fairway Market and the Shell Station, locations that a number of local credit card fraud victims used shortly

before their cards were used fraudulently. At this time, no determination has been made as to where and how the skimming occurred.

Investigators are examining still photos and surveillance camera at locations at which fraudulent charges posted and information from the San Diego Police Department indicates that a possible suspect has been

identified in at least several of the fraudulent charges made at Nordstrom's in San Diego, a location common to five of the local victims' cases.

Festivals

In 2010, the Hill witnessed a growth of festivals — the evolution of a traditional Idyllwild event into a holiday season festival, two new festivals and embryonic plans for another.

The 50th Tree Lighting Ceremony, held the Saturday after Thanksgiving, evolved into the 2010 Winterfest. Led by local resident Marge Muir's efforts, the Christmas tree was dressed in new strings of lights this year.

The Chamber of Commerce used this event to launch Winterfest, a collection of events highlighting the alpine holiday spirit on the Hill. These continued through Christmas week.

But 2010 also saw the birth of two new festivals. The Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema debuted in January. A week of independent films were shown at the Rustic and several other venues throughout town.

Local film director, writer and producer Stephen Sav-

age dreamed of the event and with the aid of many local residents created the festival, which also premiered his film, "Legacy." Within weeks, he announced plans for the second festival, called "Idyllwild 2011: Independent Festival of Cinema," which begins Jan. 10, 2011.

January 2010 also saw the birth of a second new festival — the Lemon Lily Festival that took place in July. This effort celebrates the lemon lily, a striking native plant that can grow to over 5 feet tall with up to 30 flowers on each stalk and emitting a heady



Idyllwild Firefighter Scott Carlson, who passed away in September, attended the annual Idyllwild Fire Protection District spaghetti dinner. Carlson attended the event, in his kilt and with his girlfriend, Amanda Anderson.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER



In April, the Mountain Yellow-legged frog was reintroduced to its natural home in the San Jacinto Mountains

FILE PHOTO

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST BABY BORN IN 2011? THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR WILL WIN THESE PRIZES!

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Downstairs in the Fort
Slippers for the Baby

Wooley's
54274 N. Circle Dr.
A Gift Certificate for the Baby

The Spruce Moose
54225 N. Circle Dr.
at "The Fort"
A Blanket for the Baby

Idyllwild Beauty Salon
54240 N. Circle Dr.
Gift Certificate for Mom

Fairway Market
Strawberry Creek Plaza
\$25 Gift Certificate for the Family

Town Crier
54295 Village Center Dr.
An 8"x10" Glossy Photo of the Baby

Idyllwild Right To Life
A Special Gift for the Baby

Wildwood IGO7 Gallery
The Village Centre
A \$50 Gift Certificate

Idyllwild Beauty Salon
54240 N. Circle Dr.
Gift Certificate for Mom

Café Aroma
54750 N. Circle Dr.
Gift Certificate

~ Contest Rules ~

1. The parents must reside full-time in Idyllwild, Pine Cove, Stone Creek, Mountain Center or Garner Valley (proof of residency must be shown).
2. Exact time of birth must be certified by the attending physician.
3. Notification of birth must be received at the Town Crier office no later than 10 a.m. on the next business day.

Pacheco v. Riverside County: A short-lived soap

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The ongoing dispute between the Riverside County Board of Supervisors (BOS), the County Executive, Bill Luna, and county District Attorney Rod Pacheco will end next week when Pacheco's term ends and Judge Paul Zellerbach is sworn in as the next District Attorney.

Last week's events produced a surprising conclusion to Pacheco's term and the drama expanded Monday afternoon. Meanwhile, both sides are willing to terminate a lawsuit, while claiming they have prevailed.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, county officials released a sworn declaration from Pacheco's budget officer. He stated that he was directed to manipulate the District Attorney's budget in order to convince the BOS to permit the hiring of 10 additional attorneys and the shift of two "at-will" attorneys to career positions.

In his statement, Eric Woolery, deputy director of administration for the Office of District Attorney, said, "I believed then [October] and now the Office of the District Attorney was in fact running a deficit of

over \$4 million in Q1 of fiscal year 2010-11."

This week, Pacheco and his team released their own statements claiming Woolery recants his sworn statements. While Woolery has not produced a new statement, Pacheco and two staff members swear Woolery felt coerced into signing his statement when prospective boss Zellerbach appeared and ordered him to sign.

"At this critical juncture in Mr. Woolery's future, and that of his wife and two small children, he capitulated to the implicit threat of termination from his new boss," Pacheco declared. "Though Mr. Woolery is a civil servant, this does not protect him from being terminated by layoff procedures."

In his sworn statement, Woolery claimed former Assistant District Attorney Kelly Keenan ordered him to produce three additional versions of an office budget, each depicting a positive balance rather than the actual negative projection.

According to Woolery, Keenan said, "I need it in the black." In the middle of October, Keenan forwarded a positive budget outlook to the county executive's office for the first quarter review.

This week, Keenan re-

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Last week, the U.S. Census Bureau released preliminary population figures and for the first time since it became a state, California is not scheduled to add an additional member to its congressional delegation. Census Bureau tallies show that state population has grown 10 percent since 2000, reaching 37.3 million residents, the largest state population in the nation.

Nevertheless, the state's Department of Finance (DOF) estimated popula-

tion to be 38.8 million. That figure is drawn from state records of births, deaths, school enrollment, driver's license address changes, tax returns, and Medicare enrollment which H.D. Palmer, a department spokesman, said represented a more refined and accurate count than that provided by door-to-door and mail-in surveys which the Census Bureau employs.

If the DOF estimate is accurate, the Census figure represents a 1.5 million undercount, which could cost California billions of dollars in federal aid over the next

decade as well as additional congressional representation of at least one seat. A 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision ruled that any reapportionment must be based on the official Census figures, which moots the possibility of an additional congressional seat. But the decision left open state challenges to adjust the count based on additional information for the purpose of receiving federal dollars. Riverside County has experienced significant growth during the decade and this means adjustments to locally elected officials dis-

tricts. According to a 2010 California State Association of Counties estimate, Riverside is the fourth largest county in the state, with 2,139,535 residents. Los Angeles County is the largest, followed by San Diego and Orange. Riverside County added about 600,000 people this decade.

A Dec. 8 press release from Claremont McKenna College's Rose Institute of State and Local Government estimated the Inland Empire would increase its elected representation. The Institute concludes that Riverside

See *Census*, page 15

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See *Census*, page 15

Last week, in a closed session, the board rejected a settlement and released Woolery's statement. On Monday, the District Attorney's office released a statement from Pacheco and sworn statements from Keenan, William Mitchell, the chief assistant district attorney and a reply to the judge presiding over the intra-county suit.

If the county proceeds with filling the positions, as

it said it would last week (although not for the reasons Pacheco stated), Pacheco is willing to drop the suit. But he insists his office finances do not exceed the allocated budget; rather county officials were illegally interfering with his right as an independent officer of the county, to manage his staff.

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

See *Census*, page 15

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Large 17" x 21.5" full-color cartoon map of Idyllwild businesses and attractions, printed on high-quality gloss stock and folded to 3-1/2" x 8-1/2" for easy rack display. Back of map features list of businesses and services with addresses, phone numbers, Web sites, e-mail addresses and up to 30 words describing the business. 25,000 maps distributed FREE throughout Idyllwild. Participating businesses will be given maps to hand out in their stores.

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On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment



Arts & Entertainment Calendar

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29
"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Dec. 30
Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. Creekstone Inn. For information, call 659-4910.
"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Friday, Dec. 31
Willy B. 5:30 p.m. Arriba Mexican Restaurant.

New Year's Eve End of Year Smackdown Party, 6 p.m. Café Aroma.

New Year's Eve Party with live music by Jeff Barker & "Fired," 6 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Change Required band, 7-10 p.m. Lumber Mill Bar & Grill.
Studio 54 Disco Fever New Year's Eve Party, 8-10 p.m. poker games; 10 p.m. dance music. Rainbow Inn.

New Year's Eve Celebration with live band, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. American Legion Post 800.

Faultline Folk Music, 9 p.m. The Creek House.

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

Saturday, Jan. 1
David Jerome, 9 a.m. Café Aroma.

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

"Little Fockers," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

The GirlZ, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

Live Entertainment, 9 p.m.-close. Bone Daddy's.

Sunday, Jan. 2
Ernesto Ale, 9 a.m.; Skeleton Crew, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

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

"Little Fockers," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Monday, Jan. 3
Children's Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.

Straight Jackets, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Jazz Night, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.
"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Wednesday, Jan. 5
"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Jan. 6
Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. Creekstone Inn. For information, call 659-4910.

Opening reception of "ODA" Digital Art Exhibition, 5:30-7 p.m. Earth 'N Fire.

"Little Fockers," 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Friday, Jan. 7
Karaoke, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Bone Daddy's.

Saturday, Jan. 8
David Jerome, 9 a.m.-noon; Straight Jackets, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

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

Sunday, Jan. 9
Ernesto Ale, 9 a.m.-noon; Skeleton Crew, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

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

Monday, Jan. 10
Idyllwild 2011: Independent Festival of Cinema, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. See program inserted in next week's Town Crier.

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

Françoise Frigola & Earth 'N Fire invite you to the opening reception of **"ODA"** An Original Digital Art Exhibition
Thursday January 6, 5:30-7PM
Earth 'N Fire (Upstairs in The Fort)



The winners for the Idyllwild Pharmacy holiday hockey ticket giveaway were Cheryl Vladika, left, and Deborah White, right, seen here getting their prizes from Barry Shapiro, center. Tickets are for next month's Ontario Reign hockey game at the Ontario Citizens Business Bank Arena.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRY SHAPIRO

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

Festival of Cinema, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. See program in next week's Town Crier.

Tuesday, Jan. 11
Idyllwild 2011: Independent

Jazz Night, 6-9 p.m. Café Aroma.

New Year's Eve Party with Change Required Band Bar & Appetizer Specials

Come Join the Fun 7 p.m.-10 p.m.



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Second Spruce Moose cookbook

Due to the success of their first cookbook, The Spruce Moose has decided to continue the fun. You may submit a limit of three favorite recipes to the shop, to PO Box 1820, or to SpruceMooseGifts@msn.com. Based on total response, Spruce Moose will try to use as many as possible. For each book sold, \$2 will be donated to the ICRC/Idyllwild Community Playground Project. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2011, with a print goal of mid to late spring.

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Have you noticed that there is something about Christmas and the last week ending the year that makes you feel better about everything? This year, 2010, was a good example for me. I was grinding along through November and December worrying about little health problems, a couple of bills, a visit I needed to make to my daughter in San Jose, then Penny got after me about a Christmas bill. Can you believe my whole attitude and outlook was turned around by an item in Smithsonian Magazine that came the day before Christmas telling — with pictures — how in 1970, Elvis Presley's wife, Priscilla, jumped on the famous singer for his Christmas bill of \$500,000 for buying 32 Colt Pistols and 10 Mercedes-Benzes convertibles to give to friends in Hollywood — Mostly girls. If you want to read about my favorite gift of a horse to my Indian buddy, Li'l Bear Sundown — we were both nine. Drop by B's MOUNTAIN of BOOKS, try WESTWIND WHISPERS.



Conor O'Farrell: Idyllwild, his family

By Marshall Smith
Staff Reporter

Idyllwild 2011: Independent Festival of Cinema each year gives an award to an Idyllwild resident who provides exemplary community service to local arts and artists — the Joni Award. It is named after Joni Faulkner who, prior to her death, quietly made financial contributions to Idyllwild's artists.

Conor O'Farrell, recipient of this year's award, is being honored for many years of service to the community of Idyllwild. As a busy working actor in television and movies, O'Farrell still finds time to share his talent with Idyllwild artists, young and old. "I have a sense of propriety about Idyllwild," he said. "It's like family."

"There's this sense in Idyllwild of ownership of what goes on here. It's because we all know each other. It does my heart good to see people I know here, and I know them well," O'Farrell said.

His acting career began on stage and quoting Shakespeare is a natural habit for stage actors. Referring to the line, "All the world's a

stage" from Shakespeare's "As You Like It," O'Farrell mused, "People in Idyllwild are a part of my life. They're all in my play and I'm in theirs."

But Shakespeare continued with, "And one man in his time plays many parts." O'Farrell has played many parts, both in movies and television, including his turn as Dr. Sledge in the recent HBO hit "The Pacific." But it is for the many parts he plays in the life of this community that he is being honored. For the 17 years he has lived here, O'Farrell has given Idyllwild his time, talent and heart. Many successful entertainment professionals might not choose to do that. O'Farrell has raised his family here, commuted to Hollywood for acting jobs, spent months on location in places like Australia while filming "The Pacific," but has still found time for Idyllwild — and not just in a token way.

Beginning in 1998, O'Farrell helped introduce Idyllwild Middle School students to the craft of stage acting by directing over 10 productions including the musicals "Oliver," "Once Upon a Mattress," and "Fid-

ler on the Roof." He said, of the experience, "With kids you have to go back to theatre 101, because they don't know the language [of theatre]. It's challenging, but every so often you come across naturally gifted kids."

This year he directed a production of "The Odd Couple" in which he worked with local residents, non-actors for the most part, to raise money for the Idyllwild HELP Center. All performances sold out. "The thing about Idyllwild is that you can do something here, for others, and it matters," he said.

For years he has read stories to children at the Idyllwild Library. "I also play the Easter Bunny," he smiled. "A lot of this I started with my kids." But even as an empty nester, O'Farrell continues to give to his town, including playing a major role in the life of his church, St. Hugh's Episcopal.

With it all, O'Farrell maintains a sense of humor and humility about working in "the business." "I was 32 or 33 before I started making any money acting," he said. "I worked in restaurants and cleaned apartments. I was never on Broadway and I'm not a movie star. The whole thing with success in this business is that it's fleeting. Everybody's got to play the game. The key is to know it's a game and not get caught up in the whole celebrity thing."

O'Farrell credits Idyllwild as providing part of his grounding and balance. "It works fabulously for me," he said. "It makes my world very manageable."

Festival director Stephen Savage said, "Conor never misses an opportunity to promote the arts in Idyllwild and give of his time and talent to help others."

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



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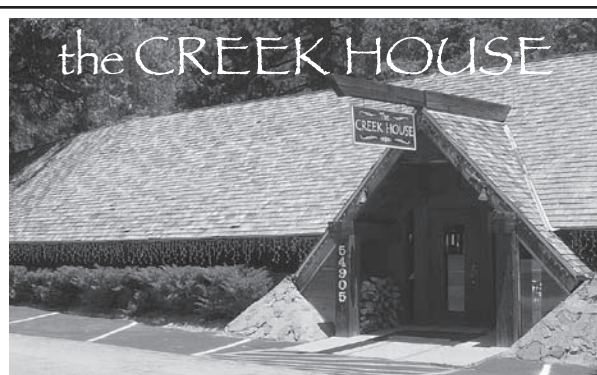
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New Year's Peace Prayer

The Spiritual Living Center, Idyllwild Religious Science, invites the community to a Peace Prayer on New Year's Eve morning, Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 4 a.m. The prayer happens in conjunction with the prayers of billions of people around the world. Call 659-2464 for information.



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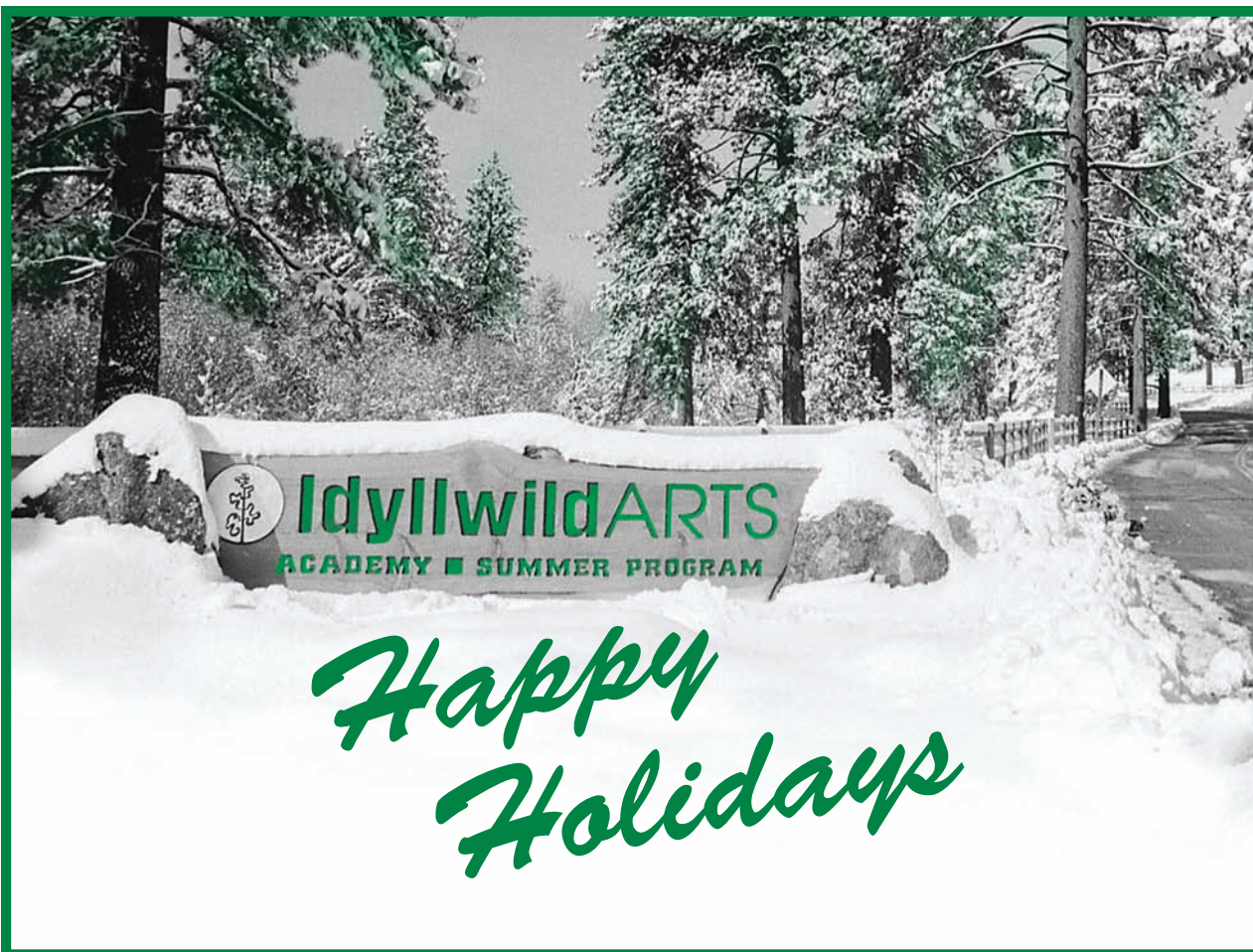
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Saturday, Jan. 1, 6-9 p.m.:
The GirlZ



Festival panel talks acting

By Beth Nottley
Staff Reporter

In addition to screening many cutting-edge films, the Idyllwild 2011: Independent Festival of Cinema (IIFC) has lined up an impressive panel of television and film stars who will share advice and tips with new and aspiring actors. "The Working Actor in Hollywood," the second of two 2011 festival seminars, takes place at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13 at The Rustic Theatre.

The panel includes nine industry professionals, many with local connections. One the better known panelists is Joe Spano, who has appeared in "Apollo 13," "Hill Street Blues" and "NYPD Blue."

Festival producer Stephen Savage has also included a married couple on the panel: Chuti Tiu, who's wowed daytime TV audiences for over 10 years

("Days of our Lives," "Miami Medical") and her husband, Oscar Torre ("Cold Case," "NCIS," "CSI: Miami"). Jamison Reeves, an actor, writer and director who has appeared in dozens of national commercials will also speak.

A panel of actors with credits and opinions would not be complete without local Conor O'Farrell, who has starred in television shows and movies since the 1980s. Two Canadians join the panel too: Josh Emerson, an actor, and Julia Voth, an actor and top model with television commercial credits

Wolfgang Bodison, a film and television star who played Lance Corporal Harold Dawson in "A Few Good Men," and this year's festival chairman, actor, director and producer Will Wallace ("I Am Sam," "The Thin Red Line"), will also be participating. Wallace will moderate.

At the workshop, Savage's independent thriller "Legacy," named "Best of Festival" at last year's IIFC, will be the reference film for panelists' points about actors and acting. Several of the panelists have significant connections to this film — Wallace produced it and Bodison, Torre and O'Farrell acted in it.

Torre, who played a lead role in the film, hinted about what he planned to discuss with aspiring film actors. "I plan to talk about the importance of working on your craft daily ... doing at least one thing a day, to move them toward their goal of consistently working." Torre also said that it was important that actors take care of the business side of their careers, a subject that dovetails with IIFC's other workshop,

"Screenplay to Screen: Producing and Selling an Independent Film" which will also take place on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Veteran actor Spano said he looks forward to talking with new actors and discussing whatever they want to know about. He advises them to "be intent on learning your craft, keep working and do what you love to do."

Local luminary O'Farrell said of acting, "Tenacity and preparedness win out in the long run." At the seminar, he will stress the importance of maintaining professional relationships. "Being professional may get you hired again in the future but will always win you fans amongst your peers."

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



On a recent South Pacific cruise, Dave and Mary Carroll visited the Hawaiian Islands, Tabuaeran (Fanning Island), Cook Islands, Society Islands, Bora Bora, French Polynesia and Tahiti while celebrating their birthdays and reading the Town Crier. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CARROLLS

Hardball players sought

The Riverside Rays of the Southern California Hardball Association are looking for players 28 years of age and older to participate in their upcoming season that begins in March. For more information or to sign up, call Mike at (858) 583-4956 or e-mail riversiderays@socalhardball.com. For information about the league, visit its website at www.socalhardball.com.

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County offers off-Hill 'Spamalot' outing

By Marshall Smith
Staff Reporter

Center orchestra seats for a Jan. 29 matinee of the Broadway musical comedy hit "Spamalot" are available to Hill residents. The Riverside County Economic Development Agency has arranged for

the seats and transportation to Riverside's Fox Performing Arts Center to test whether Hill residents might like to attend off-Hill outings. If response is sufficient, this could be the first of many such outings to theater, casinos, museums and shopping destinations like Victoria

Gardens.

"Spamalot," based on the inspired humor of Monty Python's movie "The Holy Grail," played on Broadway for three years and is now on tour. Mike Nichols directed and it won the 2005 Tony award for best musical.

It opens in Riverside on Friday, Jan. 28 with five performances in three days. Original Python member Eric Idle wrote the book

and lyrics which feature Grail characters King Arthur and his Roundtable knights, a bevy of beautiful show girls, killer rabbits, cows and French people. Because it is Pythonesque, the musical is advertised for adults only because of "immature strong language and certain gestures" (explanation not needed.)

The New York Times theater critic gave it a rave review and called it

a "resplendently silly new musical" in which "Python songs were sung with the giggly glee of naughty Boy Scouts around a campfire." He recommended it for "those who value the virtues of shrewd idiocy, artful tackiness and wide-eyed impiety."

If you are one of those who like Monty Python's particular pastiche of silliness, and would like to travel and hang out with

your (adults only) Idyllwild friends and cronies, call Katie Gers, 951-696-0100 to reserve your ride, show ticket, liability waiver (for county van transportation) and make payment. The \$61 per person cost includes free transport from Idyllwild to Riverside and back and group-discounted center orchestra seats.

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

Website for recreation

California State Parks and GreenInfo Network have created a web portal that makes it easier for the public to find any kind of open-space and recreational lands in the Golden State. The FindRecreation website contains data on everything from federal wilderness areas to neighborhood tot lots, with interactive maps and searching.

Go to www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov. Enter a home address, city or zip code and the site will display a detailed street map or aerial image of every recreational opportunity in the area. By clicking on a particular site, the user can learn more, and get transit or driving directions directly to it. View any site in an interactive 3D map, using Google Earth technology and high-resolution imagery from Microsoft Bing maps. For many areas, the site will show available trails (a forthcoming version will also show parking sites, restrooms and viewpoint outlooks). After that, it is all up to the user to get packed and get going.

Monthly raw food potluck

A raw food potluck is held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the first Saturday of each month at Nature's Wisdom, 54235 Ridgeview Drive. On holiday weekends, the potluck will be scheduled for the second Saturday. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. Just bring a raw food dish to share. For more information, e-mail Lori Alexander at music@greencafe.com.



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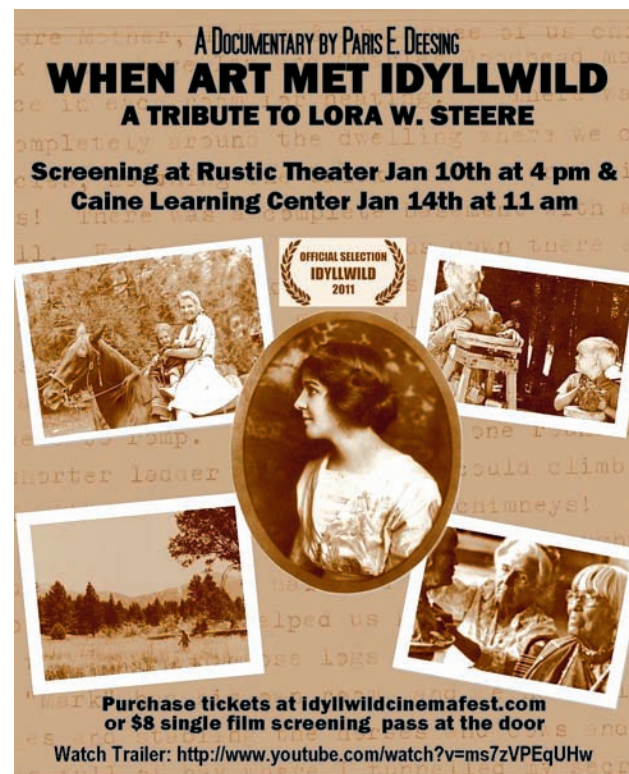
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LHMWD recreation plans

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the Lake Hemet Municipal Water District (LHMWD) directors listened to a presentation from Marshall Pike, vice president, Communications and Business Development for The California Parks Company.

The board is considering contracting with California Parks to manage its Lake Hemet and Little Lake (in Hemet) recreation facilities.

"These have been up and down profit margins with us," said LHMWD General Manager Tom Wagoner. The agency has considered contracting out this work before but this time it may happen. Wagoner is reviewing a draft of the contract, which he plans to ask LHMWD's legal

council to review prior to a board session to discuss the proposal.

The initial contract period would be two years in order to determine whether private management is a successful tactic at both facilities. LHMWD has expressed its frustration over management issues at the sites over the past several years and is ready to test a new procedure.

If the district decides to proceed, California Parks would pay a fee for the right to operate the facilities, Wagoner said. They would also assume responsibility for maintaining them in the future. Current full-time employees would be transferred to the private company and seasonal help could be added.

California Parks operates the water recreation at

Pine Cove site 'clean'

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The vapor extraction effort at the Pine Cove Market was relatively successful according to Sawyer Jones, environmental engineer at FREY Environmental. "Fluctuating ground water levels affected it," he said.

FREY, conducting the clean up for owner Howard Friedman, characterized the site as "clean."

However, the elevated contaminant levels from one monitoring well (no. 2) resulted in the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) requesting FREY to conduct a groundwater pumping exercise later this year.

The vapor extraction process uses a vacuum to pull as much volatile hydrocarbons from the subsoil as possible, which is why high ground water levels can in-

terfere with the operation. But the pumping process withdraws liquids, not just gases, from the ground.

In a Dec. 7 letter, from DEH to Friedman, Sharon Boltinghouse, associate public health professional, requested and recommended FREY remediate the site through the groundwater pumping operation.

"We encourage you to explore cost-effective remedial alternatives such

as a one-day ground water pumping event using MW-2," Boltinghouse said. "A minimum of two quarterly groundwater sampling events following remediation will be necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the efforts." She requested a groundwater contaminant reduction plan by Feb. 10, 2011.

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

Census

Continued from page 10

County will benefit from the largest growth in the state over the last decade.

Riverside County, which currently has only two con-

gressional districts, may receive a third. CA 45, Mary Bono Mack's district, has seen the largest population increase in the state in the last decade and will probably need to be re-balanced, with shifts of population centers into

adjoining districts. CA 45 grew by 323,096 residents (50.6 percent) and is 36 percent larger than the statewide average for congressional districts. Similarly Bill Emmerson's Senate District 37 grew 48.1 percent and is 34 percent larger than

the average senate district. Barry Nestande's Assembly District 64 grew 41.6 percent and is 28 percent larger than others. Even Riverside County's Third District is too large and may need to peel certain population centers over to other areas.

Diamond Valley Lake and Angel Island and Big Basin Redwoods Park for the California State Parks Department. Other clients include

the U.S. Forest Service and the National Parks Service.

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

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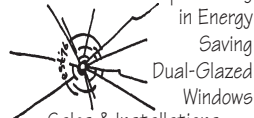
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Letters

Continued from page 6

reserves. The only reserve fund we are required to maintain is one that contains enough money to cover the cost of paying our firefighters for their accumulated vacation and sick leave if they all left at once — an unlikely event, but we still have to cover it, just in case.

According to our previous bookkeeper the amount in that reserve fund was supposed to be over \$300,000, but it has now been determined that it need only be about \$125,000. On the other hand, we desperately need to put money into a capital reserve account to use for future equipment purchases. Hopefully, we can begin to accumulate enough money in that account to cover at least a portion of our future needs.

BEN KILLINGSWORTH
TREASURER
IFPD COMMISSION

Editor's note: Commissioner Killingsworth is correct about the timing of IFPD's property tax revenue and that was noted in the article that he references. However, the agency's net assets have fallen from \$1.9 million as of June 30, 2004 to less than \$800,000 as of June 30, 2009. Furthermore, Mr. Killingsworth does not mention that IFPD's audits recognize both a capital outlay and accrued benefits funds.

Private property rental owners beware

EDITOR:

We had to get the Sheriff's Department's help kicking out a guest two weeks ago on Friday, Dec. 10.

I found out that day that he had scammed one other property owner for three months of free summer rent; then yesterday, I just found out that he also scammed a property owner on Rim Rock

for several month's free rent as well.

I thought the general public should be aware of this unsavory character. The Rim Rock property owner decided to convert their property to a vacation rental following the experience, which is how I know.

The man and his daughter sign leases or rent vacation rentals. But they make no further payments and use the system to get several month's of free rent.

I was able to get them out immediately because vacation rentals fall under innkeeping statutes rather than landlord-tenant law — he was surprised to find out that there was a difference.

While I was trying to boot him out, he was on the phone with his attorney who didn't seem to know the difference.

I was very glad to find that our local Sheriff's deputy knew the law in this regard and I was very happy with their service and professionalism. I'm sure they had planned to get more time out of us than they did. They scammed two property owners in Idyllwild for several months of free rent while the owners worked through the system to get him evicted.

Once I discovered his MO, I alerted the other innkeepers and the Realtors but I don't have a way to alert private property owners.

If one Googles him one will find that he markets an online product and then doesn't deliver. The debit card I have on file continues to be declined so I assume he opens a new account after each scam. The Sherriff said he has a \$25,000 warrant in San Bernardino County.

JIM NEWCOMB
IDYLLWILD
CO-OWNER
QUIET CREEK INN

Editor's note: Anyone wanting more information about this incident can contact Jim Newcomb directly at 659-6110.

Top 10

Continued from page 19

standoff with tree carver Roy. Even the possibility of LaBenne creating another monument was entertained.

On Aug. 16, the Chamber board and Roy reached a tentative agreement. Up through mid-October there were still conversations be-

tween Roy, the board, and other property owners about an alternate site that might better protect the carving from sun damage.

On Oct. 18, the board announced that the monument would move in the next month to the site on Village Center Drive. Today, Roy's carving rests where LaBenne's original monument sat.

CREATURE CORNER

BY MIMI AND HOOTCH

Happy New Year Idyllwild from the ARF staff, volunteers, cats and dogs! Good news — Hi Way was adopted. Won't you make the dream of one of ARF's pets come true? Give a pet a home for the new year.



Kumar, Cali, & Beth Ann are all females around 2 years old and litter box trained. Their motors are running and they are ready to go to a forever home this winter. These gals are better than warm slippers.



Charlie and Polly, are also around 2 years old, and each has a story. Charlie, a male,



was abandoned on the ARF porch, and Polly, a female, is a polydactyl who prefers to be the only lap warmer in the home.



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Lady Nellie, a young female pit bull, is good with dogs and cats, loves to play fetch and walk on leash.

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ARF is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment all other days. Phone is (951) 659-1122. We are located a half block off North Circle Drive at Cedar St., P.O.Box 719, Idyllwild, CA 92549. E-mail us at arf@greencafe.com or info@idyllwildarf.org.

Creature corner is sponsored this week by Pinyon & Jazz, livin' the good life now. To sponsor the column, call Shane Fender at the Town Crier, 659-2145.

Salter

Continued from page 1

tures down the icy slope on a bobsled, the skeleton coach asked Salter to consider his sport. She quickly agreed and is now a member of the U.S. Development Squad.

Becoming a full-fledged member of the team requires more than fast footwork and Salter understands the necessity for athletes to practice and practice. She plans to leave her job in Virginia and move to Lake Placid.

Attending the Olympics as a competitor, not simply a spectator, has been a lifetime dream for Salter. "I always wanted to go to the Olympics," she said. "At 12-years-old, it didn't matter what sport."

To get to Krasnaya Polyana, Russia in the western Caucasus near the Black Sea, the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics, Salter must become a full-time athlete, competing for that rare opportunity. When asked if four years wasn't a brief time to move from novice to Olympic athlete,

she assured me that the 2018 Winter Olympics would be her next goal.

"It will take a lot of hard work and training," she replied. "And maybe four to eight years." But living and training in Lake Placid among a population of world-class athletes appeals to Salter's sense of adventure and challenge.

The venue for the 2018 Winter Olympics has not yet been determined, but three cities are bidding to host the events — Annecy, France in the French Alps, Munich, Germany (host of the 1972 Summer Olympics), and Pyeongchang, South Korea, a two-time previous bidder. The decision will be announced on July 6, 2011.

Meanwhile, Salter plans to train seven days a week. When asked how fast she has ridden the sled, she replied, "Sixty-eight miles per hour, but that's slow. A top caliber athlete tends to go 75-plus."

Without a job, she's hoping for help from the U.S. Olympic Committee because it is costly to train and become a world class athlete. A used skeleton sled costs \$5,000, a new one is \$10,000.



Lauren Salter (right) with skeleton teammate, Savannah Graybill.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN SALTER

A pair of runners is \$750, a helmet costs \$250 and even protective pads and food cost money. Idyllwild can help its prospective Olympic athlete directly.

A potential sponsor can send funds made payable to the "USBSF - Athletic Training Fund" (United States Bobsled & Skeleton Federation Athletic Training Fund) care of Lisa Carlock, U.S. Bobsled & Skeleton Federation, 1631 Mesa Av-

enue, Copper Building, Suite A, Colorado Springs, CO 80906. The sponsor must also note for which athlete the funds are designated. Credit card (Visa and Mastercard) donations can also be accepted online via the USBSF web site (www.bobsled.teamusa.org). Under the "Resources" tab select "Athlete Training Fund."

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

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