

News bites

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How to nurture camellias.
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Winter counting
Annual Bald Eagle count Saturday at Lake Hemet.
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CSA 36
Carol McClintic resigns.
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Sanborn HUSD prez
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Master Chorale to sing selections from Handel's "Messiah" and listen to Hawkins' "Jazz Fusion."
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In an EMERGENCY go to idyllwild towncrier.com



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Idyllwild Town Crier



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

VOL. 66 NO. 50

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IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., DECEMBER 15, 2011



Festive giant candy canes create a meandering snowy path for Christmas shoppers leading from North Circle Drive to Honey Bunnies & Joe Bakery in the rear of the Mile High Plaza.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

2012 film series previews featured selections

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

“Fireflies in the Garden,” will open year three of the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema 2012 (IIFC). The festival of independent films announced its opening films and special screenings on Monday, Dec. 12. Festival Director Stephen Savage said the closing film has not yet been decided.

In keeping with his promise to move the festival selections toward those with wider appeal and greater cinematic quality, Savage noted the opening feature and featurette promise visual and script integrity and the emotional tugs that make for memorable film experiences.

The opening feature, “Fireflies in the Garden,” was originally released in 2008 at

the Berlin Film Festival, but was not released in the U.S. until 2011. The story depicts how three generations of a family handle a tragedy that affects their lives and exacerbates an already-strained father-son relationship. Starring Julia Roberts, Ryan Reynolds, Willem Defoe and Emily Watson, the version of “Fireflies” that will screen at IIFC is newly edited and features a new soundtrack.

Roberts and her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder, are responsible for the new edit and soundtrack. They now own the film and control its distribution. IIFC will be the first festival to screen the new version according to Savage, who hopes to have Moder attend the screening. In addition, they are attempting to include Roberts, who will be on location in Hawaii, in a Skype question

and answer session.

“Buttons in the Ground,” the opening featurette, is a charming story about the innocence of childhood that tells of the closely held dreams and fantasies of a young child who believes she can grow buttons by planting them. Discussing his film, writer and director Andrew Fisher said, “My goal in telling this story is to show how wonderful those few years are when a child still sees the world as it really is — magical. And unfortunately, the most effective way to realize how precious a child’s innocence and faith is, is to see the pain caused by its loss.” The trailer and behind-the-scenes footage are available at the film website www.buttonsintheground.com.

As is becoming common for indie films, the

See [Film](#), page 14

School board still facing tough choices

BY J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Future financial possibilities were the chief topic at last week’s Hemet Unified School District (HUSD) meeting. Financial Services Director Pam Buckhout outlined the prospective changes from the current state budget condition and how they might affect HUSD finances over the next three years.

“The multiyear projections show the district may need to make additional cuts to expenses in the coming years if it is to maintain its five percent reserve through 2013-14,” Vince Christakos, assistant superintendent for

Business Services, said in the “2011-12 — First Interim Report.”

Since the initial 2011-12 budget was adopted, Buckhout told the board that the decline in its end-of-year balances will be \$5.9 million. The revision is a result of revenue decreases, a net change of -\$4.5 million, combined with the restoration of salaries and benefits amounting to \$2.1 million.

The 2011-12 ending balance of \$29.3 million includes \$10.5 million available for the next two fiscal years — 2012-13 and 2013-14.

While HUSD can weather the likely January state

See [School board](#), page 10

Warming center available this winter

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Last year, after extensive inquiries and negotiation, an agreement was concluded between the Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Riverside County and Idyllwild’s American Legion Post 800 to have the Legion facility serve as an Idyllwild warming center during the winter months. Although the agreement was in place last year, the center was never activated.

Legion Post Commander Ron Draper confirmed that the agreement is again in place for this year. He noted that CAP had recently delivered hot chocolate and bottled water to help stock the center. Legion member Danny Richardson cited an impressive warming center inventory including eight cots, 76 blankets and many food items, with some of the contributions having come from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints’

See [Warming](#), page 9

NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Dec. 5 to Dec. 11, 2011:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

Dec. 5 — Smoke removal, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Dec. 5 — Two medical aids, Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild.

Dec. 6 — Medical aid, Coulter Drive, Pine Cove.

Dec. 6 — Medical aid, Foster Lake Road, Pine Cove.

Dec. 6 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Dec. 6 — Medical aid, South Circle Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 7 — Medical aid, Big Pine Road, Idyllwild.

Dec. 8 — Medical aid, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Dec. 10 — Medical aid, Marian View Drive, Idyllwild.

Dec. 11 — Medical aid,

Bahrman Road, Anza.
Dec. 11 — Medical aid, Highway 243, Idyllwild.

Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove
Report unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley
Report unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Pinyon
Report unavailable.

CHP log

The resident post of the California Highway Patrol responded to the following calls from Thursday to Monday, Dec. 8 to 12. This may not be a complete list of responses:

Dec. 8 — At 8:55 a.m. on Highway 243, north of Round Robin Drive, a solo-vehicle, injury collision occurred because of an unsafe turn.

Dec. 8 — At 3:20 p.m. on Mitchell Road, west of

Anza man gets 25 years for arson

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Joseph A. Heredia, 35, of Anza received a 25-year sentence for arson and two counts of criminal threats.

Judge F. Paul Dickerson pronounced the sentence on Dec. 2. The arson conviction resulted in a 16-year state prison sentence. The additional years were attributed to the other two charges as well as Heredia's five prior convictions.

Bohlen Road, a two-vehicle, injury collision occurred because of an unsafe left turn.

Sheriff's log

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Lake Hemet Station responded to the following calls from Sunday, Dec. 4 to Monday Dec. 12. This may not be a complete list of responses:

A jury found Heredia guilty of those charges on Sept. 7. They also acquitted him of burglary and threatening a witness. After a nine-day trial, the jury began deliberating on Sept. 6 and reached its verdicts one day later.

Heredia was arrested in February 2010 and received credit for serving 744 days of his sentence already.

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

Dec. 4 — An unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary and vehicle theft in the 39000 block of Cary Road in Anza. The case remains open but suspended.

Dec. 5 — An unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary and vehicle theft in the 38000 block of Bahrman Road in Anza. The case remains open but suspended.



Monday's snow left about an inch or two of snow on the Hill. Roads were clear and easily passable early Tuesday morning.

PHOTOS BY CID CASTILLO AND J.P. CRUMRINE

CARPORTS
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Strange but true

When city officials in New Orleans are estimating the crowds that turn out for Mardi Gras, they use the sanitation department's figures on how much garbage was removed during the festival.

Trivia test

History: What was the name of the German mercenaries who fought for the British in the Revolutionary War?

Answer: Hessians

Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Thursday 12/15	Friday 12/16	Saturday 12/17	Sunday 12/18	Monday 12/19
52/27 Mostly sunny.	52/30 Partly sunny.	53/27 Slight chance of showers.	54/30 Mostly sunny.	55/30 Sunny.

Date	Idyllwild this year				Idyllwild last year			
	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S
12-5	na	na			60	30		
12-6	53	20			na	na		
12-7	57	19			66	30		
12-8	56	25			65	30		
12-9	60	27			68	35		
12-10	na	na			66	41		
12-11	na	na			69	39		

Moisture in inches

To date this season (Idy): 9
To date last season (Idy): 7.33
Total last season (Idy): 29.38
To date this season (PC): 8.38
Total last season (PC): 36.11

Snow in inches

To date this season (Idy): 5
To date last season (Idy): 3.7
Total last season (Idy): 44.9
To date this season (PC): 12.75
Total last season (PC): 78.5

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

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

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OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

Retirement rules ...

In about 18 days from the time I write this column, I will be officially retired. As of Dec. 29, I am 62 years old and have already applied for Social Security.

Back on that day in 1965, who would have thought when a fifteen year old got his first real job working as a busboy, I would one day be an "old guy" drawing a retirement check.

The best thing about retiring young is that I will still be capable of getting outdoors to go hiking so I can continue to take photos. Since I am still working off the Hill for another week or so, I have not had the time or energy for any fun in my life. All that should change with the New Year.

Like many other hikers, I am making plans to do some hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail in the spring. Instead of a thru hike, I plan to try and hike the section from the Mexican border to Idyllwild. At just under 180 miles, this section should take me about two weeks or less. Since the work I am doing is very physical, I think of it as training for the PCT. At least that is what I tell myself when I am tossing around 90-pound bags of cement mix.

I have lots of family in Colorado and a very good friend in Wyoming so I want to take advantage of the hiking, sightseeing and photo ops in those two states. As a big fan of the HBO series "Deadwood," I plan to visit the town on which the series is based sometime this month.

I also want to visit the Devil's Postpile, which is an interesting geological formation that has been photographed quite frequently. In addition it is also a famous site for rock climbers and you can walk around the whole "postpile" in about an hour or so

If I can afford it, I would love to visit Hawaii and hike once again on the trails that I remember from my grade school days. Back when the green tropical world was all enveloping and mysteriously beautiful to an eight-year-old.

When I am there I hope to get wet and go snorkeling and surfing once again; something I have not done since 2004. I spent many days face down looking through my mask at the marine world of fish and reef. It started a life time of interest in all things aquatic.

Mostly I want to have time. Time to do the things I enjoy with no pressing things on my schedule to get in the way of having fun.

I expect being retired will be like being a kid again



Camellias go center stage for winter blooms

By HAROLD VOORHEIS
IDYLLWILD GARDEN CLUB

There is no need to wait for spring to enjoy the beauty of blooms. Even in frigid weather, our San Jacinto Mountains climate offers the joy and color of many early bloomers.

The star of all winter-blooming shrubs is the camellia. These graceful evergreen shrubs clothe themselves with hundreds of blossoms set against a lavish background of dark green leaves. Their ability to flourish in full sun or shade allows for greater freedom of use in the landscape. Native to eastern and southern Asia, there are more than 3,000 listed varieties.

The two most common species of camellia found at our local nurseries are *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*.

C. japonica is hardy to 0 degrees Fahrenheit and the

most recognized of the camellias. It is an upright, spreading shrub or small tree that grows best in dappled shade. The evergreen foliage is glossy and dark green, usually broadly oval to 3 inches in length. The variety of flower color ranges from pure white and numerous shades of pink, to darkest red, usually with yellow stamens.

The *C. sasanqua* is also hardy to 0 degrees Fahrenheit (USDA Zones 7-9), and bears a profusion of lightly scented flowers that can appear as early as September for early bloomers, October for midseason bloomers, and December for late bloomers. The growth habit of these cultivars varies from low and compact, to upright and bushy. They can tolerate a little more sun once established, but the roots must be kept cool.

Some simple guidelines

will assure success in growing camellias. Plant them either on the north side of the house or in dappled shade such as under the canopy of tall trees and cover their roots with a 3 inch layer of bark mulch to keep soil cooler in hot summer months. Camellias prefer an acid, well-drained soil, high in organic matter. The shallow root system lends itself well to transplanting.

When planting, thoroughly mix in amendments like peat moss, camellia-azalea planting mix, and compost; place the plants so water drains away from the trunk. Be sure the area drains water quickly. Camellia roots do not like to be soggy. Established plants (more than 3 years old with full foliage that offers shade to their own roots) can get by with little supplemental water in summer as opposed to copious amounts of water. Fertilize



The "Debutante" pictured here is a midseason bloomer — from January to March.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
HAROLD VOORHEIS

a few times with a commercial acid plant food in the weeks and months following bloom.

Just prune to shape and pinch back to keep bushy. If the shrub gets too bushy so you can't see the flowers, that's the time to thin out a few branches and let a little more light into the center.

when school ended and summer vacation began. A day was something to be enjoyed from morning until bed time. And the summer months were enjoyed forever while September seemed an eternity away.

Most of you baby boomers are thinking this is all pie in the sky. Maybe I am being delusional but I have been thinking about my 62nd birthday for several years now. I can't help but believe that there are better days ahead.

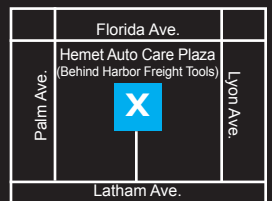
Meanwhile it is back to the grindstone for me on Monday but I can hardly wait for the holidays and my birthday this year.

Editor's note: Let's all wish Bruce a very happy birthday.

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Idyllwild Town Hall

SCHEDULE

PRESCHOOL

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PRE-K

Mon.-Fri., 12:30-3:30 p.m.

KINDERS

Mon.-Fri., 12-4:30 p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL (1st-8th grades)

Mon.-Thurs. 2:45-5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:45-5:30 p.m.

Join Idyllwild Town Hall to see the Festival of Lights at the Mission Inn on Sat., Dec. 17. Leave Town Hall at 2 p.m. Return at 9 p.m. Transportation provided ~ Limited seating Call GeGe to reserve your seat by Dec. 15

659-2638
P.O. Box 1228

Happy Holidays from the Idyllwild Town Hall Team!

TOWN HALL OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, Dec. 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The community is invited to meet our new instructors and sign up for free adult and children's classes.

HOLIDAY TEEN DANCE

Friday, Dec. 16 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Free snacks & refreshments. All teens welcome, grade 7 to 17 years old.

Wii, Music & Ping-Pong

OPEN FOR CHILDCARE

Monday, Dec. 19 through Friday, Dec. 23

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Fun field trips planned!

Obituary

Mary Louise Arnaiz



Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. — Psalm 23:6

Mary Arnaiz passed away peacefully on Dec. 3, 2011, at the age of 83. Mary was born on Sept. 22, 1928, in Oatman, Ariz. She was a long-time resident of

Idyllwild, Calif., where she raised her children and was a dearly loved member of the community. Mary was preceded in death by her son, Tom Adams. She leaves behind her loving children, daughter, Sandra Kasper and husband Jeff of Hemet, and sons, David Arnaiz II of Hailey, Idaho, Ron Arnaiz and wife Makayla of Solana Beach, and Henry Arnaiz and wife Amanda of Vista; her seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; her dog Lily; and many cherished friends.

Mary touched so many lives with her love and compassion for people. She worked for the Idyllwild Post Office for more than 30 years where she brightened the day of everyone she helped until the day she retired in 2006. Mary spent her "golden years" volunteering in her community and with her beloved church, Chapel in the Pines. She helped in her daughter's classroom in Hemet and traveled with family and friends, even making it to Alaska which had been a dream of hers. She loved visiting her sons at their homes near the beach and cherished the visits with her son from Idaho. Walking daily with her dog Lily and spending every Wednesday visiting with her first great-grandchild, Samantha, kept Mary young at heart.

Mary will truly be missed, but her memory will live on in all who knew her. A Celebration of Mary's Life will be held at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012, in the Idyllwild Elementary School cafeteria, 26700 Highway 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549. Mary generously supported many charities; in lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made in Mary's honor to your favorite charity.

Volunteers needed to count eagles

Volunteers are needed to help the Forest Service count bald eagles for the 34th season in the San Bernardino National Forest's annual winter bald eagle counts in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains on Saturdays Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 10.

Concurrent Bald Eagle counts are held at Big Bear Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Silverwood, and Lake Hemet. This year the Forest Service also added Lake Perris State Park Recreation Area. Volunteers will be stationed at vantage points around the lakes, where they map and note any eagle observations during a 1-hour period on the Saturday mornings listed above. Observations will be repeated monthly for simultaneous 1-hour census and mapping efforts from December through March.

"Through this method, the Forest Service has acquired information about areas eagles use and fluctuations in population numbers," said Forest Service wildlife biologist Marc Stamer. "There's no experience needed for volunteers and this is a wonderful opportunity to catch a glimpse of our breath-taking national symbol."

No experience is needed. Volunteers should dress warmly and bring binoculars and a watch.

Lake Hemet volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for instructions. Contact Ann Poopatanapong (apoopatanapong@fs.fed.us or (909) 382-2935) for more information.

Eagles typically begin arriving in the area in late November and continue to stay in the area until early April. Breeding populations of bald eagles in Southern California were extirpated by the late 1950s. Until reintroduction efforts began in the 1980s on Catalina Island, the southern-most nest site known in California was in Lake County, north of the San Francisco bay area. Since 2003, a pair of bald eagles has successfully fledged babies several times at Lake Hemet.

The bald eagle is a success story of the Endangered Species Act. Through protection under that law, the eagles' population has recovered from the brink of extinction. Bald Eagles are no longer considered an endangered or threatened species. They still have full protection under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. Captive breeding programs, reintroduction efforts, the banning of DDT, and public education have all helped in the recovery of this species.



The first two of more than a dozen Idyllwild firefighters begin to emerge from a metal container full of smoke during live fire training held Sat., Dec. 10 at the Idyllwild Fire Department facility.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Residents and visitors browse through the artwork of several local artists during the Artspresso Gallery Holiday Gift Show last weekend.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Florist in the Forest

& Gallery

a full-service flowershop among the arts

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Announcement notices

A 250-word announcement plus a photograph costs \$39. Additional words are 10 cents each. For more information and a form, call Shane Fender at (951) 659-2145.



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Wednesday 10 a.m. - noon;
Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday by appointment

PINESPRINGSRANCH
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50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend Community Open House

Sunday, December 18, 2011

10:00am - 3:00pm

Cost: Free

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951-659-4131 www.pinespringsranch.org

Idyllwild's 3rd Annual Lemon Lily Festival

You're Invited!
Come for Lunch,
Stay for Brainstorming!

The Lemon Lily Festival Planning Committee is looking for individuals that would like to participate in launching the 2012 Idyllwild Lemon Lily Festival, July 20-22, 2012.

LUNCH IS THURSDAY, DEC. 15 AT NOON
at the Idyllwild Nature Center

Lunch followed by a roundtable. Contribute your ideas ... cultivate, strategize, create & help promote an extraordinary festival!

Lunch provided by the Nature Center with Chefs Scott Fisher & Shelley Kibby.

RSVP to 659-3850 • Info at: lemonlily.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC 14

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 a.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54968 Upper Pine Crest Ave.; noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.
- Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Jo'An's Restaurant, 25070 Village Center Dr.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- Pine Cove Water District, 10 a.m. PCWD, 24917 Marion Ridge Rd., Pine Cove.
- La Leche League, 10 a.m. Call 659-8321.
- Community Church Guild, noon. Church, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- 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 15

- MEMSCOMM, 9 a.m.

Idyllwild Fire Station, 54160 Maranatha Dr.

- Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m.-noon. Chapel in the Pines Church office, 29430 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Lemon Lily Festival lunch, brainstorming for 3rd Annual Lemon Lily Festival, Idyllwild Nature Center, Hwy 243, call 659-3850 for RSVP.
- Lake Hemet Municipal Water District meeting, 3 p.m. LHM-WD office, 26385 Fairview Ave., Hemet.
- High Valleys Water District, 6 p.m. HVWD office, 47781 Twin Pines Rd., Twin Pines.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

FRIDAY, DEC 16

- Fern Valley Water District board meeting, 9 a.m. FVWD board room, 55790 South Circle Dr.
- Cancer Support Group for women and men, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr., For information, call Deanna (951) 659-8104.
- Idyllwild Play Group, 10:30 a.m. Call Jenny Stepien at (760) 445-6325 or e-mail jennyleeslater@yahoo.com for information and location.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal

Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; Pick-a-stick candlelight, 7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church, Manse Alcove, Fellowship Hall, 54400 North Circle Dr.

- Feeding America, 3 p.m., Chapel in the Pines, Mountain Center, distribution at the former Morning Sky School, on Hwy. 243 • Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step program. BBQ 6-7 p.m.; Open Share meeting 7-9 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Child care available. Call 659-0097 for information.

SATURDAY, DEC 17

- Occupy Idyllwild for Peace, Justice and Nonviolence "teach-in" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Town center at "Harmony" monument. (909) 228-6710
- Idyllwild Gay Potluck, 6 p.m. Email scottandgregg@verizon.net for location.
- 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 18

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- 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 Flat,

across from CAL FIRE Station 6.

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

MONDAY, DEC 19

- Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting (open), 9 a.m. Call (619) 895-0934 for location.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon & 7 p.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Idyllwild Community Meditation, Session I: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Session II: 6:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio. Call Val at 659-5750 for information.
- Chamber of Commerce, "Idyllwild Business Planning for 2012", 6:30 to 8 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.,

TUESDAY, DEC 20

- Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council public board meeting, 9:30 a.m. Mounain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr. Call 659-6208 for information.
- Camp Alandale's Friends 4 Orphans, 10 a.m. 25420 Lodge Rd.
- 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).
- 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 Right to Life, 7 p.m. Call 659-5228 for location.
- Idyllwild Water District board meeting, 7 p.m. IWD board room, 25945 Hwy. 243.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 21

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 a.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54968 Upper Pine Crest Ave.; noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marion View Dr.

• Town Crier News Meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Jo'An's Restaurant, 25070 Village Center Dr.

- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- La Leche League, 10 a.m. Call 659-8321.
- Community Church Guild, noon. Church, 54400 North Circle Dr.
- Awareness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- 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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- Idyllwild Town Crier

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INITIAL THOUGHTS

Christmas wish ...



Many of the following thoughts may be obviated after Tuesday night's Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) commission meeting.

This was the first meeting of the commission with new members — Jerry Buchanan and Larry Donahoo. I wish them the best luck and hope these commissioners can bring the district back from the brink of insolvency.

"Insolvency" sounds harsh, especially when the commission hasn't had an opportunity to bail the water out of the sinking ship, but the financial data continues to deteriorate.

I extend my sincerest holiday wishes to the commission and district. My Christmas list includes a two-year financial plan for IFPD.

It would begin with the preparation of a financial statement. One document with the current year's revenues and costs. IFPD has not distributed a financial statement since September. None was available at or after either the October or November meetings. And none is included in the board package for the December meeting.

Perhaps, by the time you read this column, my concern for a current financial statement will be satisfied. Without a complete financial statement, the public only has a brief glimpse of the district's condition. The district's finances appear to be worsening, not improving, and the past stewards seemed to be oblivious of the disintegrating situation.

Let me put this in perspective. In September, former Commissioner Ben Killingsworth acknowledged that the district was in financially rough waters and recommended a request for help from Riverside County — an advance on its December and January property taxes and assessments.

Despite Killingsworth's perspicacity, he resigned when his colleagues increased the amount of the request from \$350,000 to \$450,000, which was received in October.

During the period, Chief Norm Walker and Commissioner Pete Capparelli, who was commission president at the time, were absent. When they returned, they supported the loan request, but said it was normal operations.

One district official predicted the December cash balance would be about \$250,000 without relying on any loan proceeds.

As of Nov. 30, the IFPD checking account balance was \$425,450.20, including the loan proceeds. If the district, hadn't overreacted and hadn't increased its request, what would the balance be? Negative \$24,000!

The November CalPERS payment of about \$20,000 has to be paid from this balance.

Yet the balance would be worse if the commission hadn't agreed to cash its \$125,000 certificate of deposit, which was for personnel benefits.

Sometime before July 1, 2012, the \$450,000 has to be repaid. If it's from the winter receipts, can IFPD get to May if salary and benefits average about \$100,000 monthly? If repayment is from the May receipts, will they be able to get to next December without another loan?

For Christmas, the commission needs a financial plan for readjusting expenses to match income. They need a plan to address how and when additional revenue might be approved and received.

Hemet Unified School District may provide a model for IFPD. It can budget for the current year and project it out three years. Consequently, the staff alerted the board to potential loss of reserves over the next two years.

Perhaps Buchanan's former school district experience will help IFPD regain ballast. For example, he might explain how budgeting anticipates future costs, such as a promotion following a year of paramedic training.

While I hate to channel Scrooge, IFPD firefighters may be the only ones who don't have to pay their share of retirement.

The IFPD commission is in my prayers and New Year's wishers.

J.P., EDITOR

READERS WRITE

A response to Dawn Miller

EDITOR:

Your letter last week was direct and to the point. "These crazy guys, just whiners sitting on the sideline, complainers, they would probably say ..."

Wow, can we elevate the conversation a bit, and deal with the important issues facing our community? Personal attacks and false assumptions are easy to make, let's discuss the issues.

Is a new community center economically feasible, can a small, full-time population support it? Will it end up a financial drain in the midst of a financial crisis? Is a downtown park and playground enriched by Strawberry Creek and giant trees (about to be torn down), a more valuable asset to our community?

Let's get behind CSA 36 and Town Hall Recreation. After all, they are responsible for administering our tax dollars.

Trust in our fire department and fire commissioners is essential. We had debates, we had lengthy articles and discussions, we had a general election. The people spoke and asked for a change.

All the incumbents that were up for re-election, including Capparelli, were voted out. Now Capparelli is back (by vote of two commission members) for two more years. Is this a proper way to build confidence?

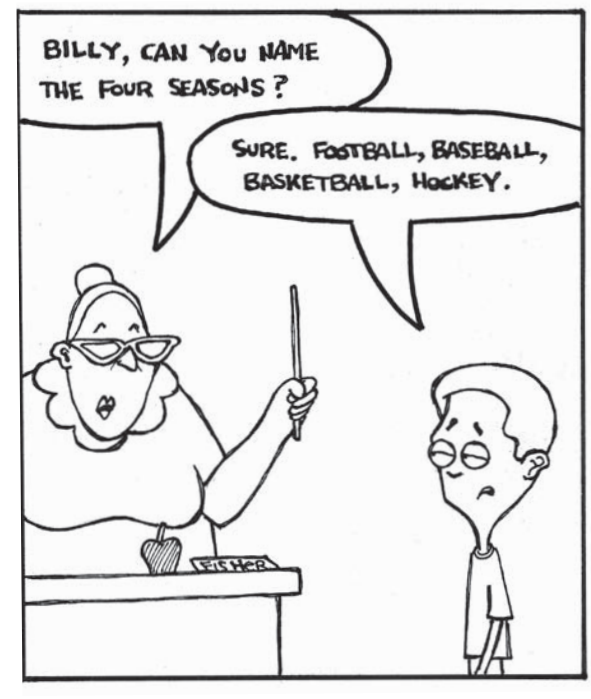
Your cry "Get off the sidelines" is true. But the sidelines are filled with common-sense thinking members of the community, friends and neighbors who agree that these issues need to be faced and discussed. They stay away from meetings, they hesitate to write their opinions, because of personal attacks that are your expertise.

Dawn, we love this community. We are deeply involved in community-building activities. We don't mind personal attacks when we express opinions unpopular to a small group of you.

NORM CASSEN
PINE COVE

Mr. Funny Guy

by Chris Fisher



Public should own and operate community center

EDITOR:

I would second the suggestion by Pete Capparelli that the community center should be owned and operated by the public.

As I have suggested for the past five years, an Idyllwild CSD (Community Services District) should be formed. Recreation and the community center are the perfect places to begin.

I have been very disturbed that a private organization has applied for a park bond money grant to establish a privately owned and run community center.

I am opposed to any public money being used for anything but a publicly owned community center in Idyllwild.

SUE NASH
IDYLLWILD

Tire surgery for snow conditions

EDITOR:

Sometimes it seems that our snow-prone Southern Californian mountain environs are too far removed from other snowed-in areas in more ways than just geography.

I am told by northern tire experts that big lugged mud and snow tires are great in mud and snow but bad on hard pack or ice. And highway rut-causing steel-studded tires (only allowed on the Hill for local driving) don't stop too well on dry pavement.

So what I hear is "tire sipping" is a service provided by northern tire shops that slices the treads that provides a more all around tire for all winter road conditions.

As a tire-chain-a-phobe, I believe walking may be [See letters, page 22](#)

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.

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TOWN TALK

By CID CASTILLO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Did you do anything to prepare for this week's snowstorm?



Kathy Bryson
Retired
Idyllwild

"I put all my garden tools in the woodshed. Put the wheelbarrow away. I bought a 20-inch by 6-foot heated door mat to put in front of my door."



Alan Hidy
Bytes & Pieces
Idyllwild

"Oh yes, first I brought firewood and piled it on the porch right by the door. I brought out the electric blanket and put it on the couch where we watch TV."



Joan Lackey
Jo'An's Restaurant
Idyllwild

"This town comes alive on a weekend when it's covered with snow. I made sure we have a lot of food and plenty of hot chocolate. Right now the kitchen is full."



Chris Bayer
Manager, Higher Grounds
Coffee House
Idyllwild

"First thing I did was go to the desert the day before the storm and spent the day in the warm sun, then I came back and put all the wood I have on the porch."

CHIEF'S CORNER

By IFPD FIRE CHIEF NORM WALKER

Public Service ...

After the Christmas tree lighting ceremonies in Idyllwild, I was thinking how lucky we are to live on this island in the middle of the sea of humanity known as Southern California.

In some ways we have it better than most. If you've lived in a major city (or commute to one now), you know what I mean. After I go to one of the seemingly endless meetings off the Hill, it's great to drive back up here to less people, cleaner air and no traffic lights!

We do pay a price for this privilege however. We pay more for propane than our friends down the Hill pay for natural gas. We buy or cut firewood which helps offset this cost but is hard work.

Snow chains, snow shovels, snow blowers and snow plows are usually not found in garages down the Hill. Off-Hill folks don't have to buy or operate any of that stuff!

Fire abatement and the threat of wildfire? Not a big deal in the urban environment.

They have more government down there too! Economy of scale means more homes and more businesses equal more property tax and more sales tax revenues. Those revenues buy street lights, stop lights, parks and recreation, fire departments and police departments. More population means more hospitals, clinics and ambulance services are available and that's a good thing.

Our mountain has unparalleled natural beauty and the government entities are few. Because of that, people volunteer their time to fill in the gaps of what might be provided in an incorporated city. I have been going to meetings of different Hill organizations since 1996 and I am impressed with the people that commit their time, energy, intelligence and experience to make the mountain communities a better place to live.

I believe we all deserve a piece of the American dream. We have a place to live where our health is protected, we have clean water to drink, and there is good fire protection and law enforcement. We also have good schools with dedicated educators and churches representing most faiths.



"Greed" and its potential consequences ...

Greed: an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one needs or deserves, especially with respect to material wealth.

Greed has gripped our nation and may very well destroy our economy and our democracy.

One doesn't have to research too deeply or look too far to find examples of over inflated salaries and material excesses throughout the corporate and business world or disastrous delusions of wealth by America's middle class. I'm sure that the players, both major and minor, in our recent economic collapse create intricate rationalizations to release themselves from any responsibility for the calamity in which we now find ourselves. Humans are masters of rationalizations.

Here is an excerpt from the film "Judgement at Nuremberg" that speaks to this human capacity to rationalize. The speech is Spencer Tracy's closing warning after the verdict was given.

"But this trial has shown that under a national crisis, ordinary — even able and extraordinary — men can delude themselves into the commission of crimes so vast and heinous that they beggar the imagination. No one who has sat through the trial can ever forget them: men sterilized because of political belief, a mockery made of friendship and faith; the murder of children. How easily it can happen.

"There are those in our own country too that speak of 'protection of country' — of 'survival.' A decision must be made in the life of every nation at the very moment when the grasp of the enemy is at its throat. Then, it seems, that the only way to survive is to use the means of the enemy, to rest survival on what is expedient — to look the other way.

"Well, the answer to that is 'survival at what?' A country isn't a rock. It's not an extension of one's self. It's what it stands for. It's what it stands for when standing for something is most difficult. Before the people of the world, let it be noted that here, in our decision, this is



See Leash, page 22

See Chief, page 22

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MEMSCOMM considers alternate emergency centers

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

In a standing-room-only meeting, the Mountain Emergency Services Committee (MEMSCOMM) considered alternate Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)'s for the Hill. Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) Chief Norm Walker has advocated designating an alternate center given the fire department could be badly damaged in a major earthquake. The EOC serves as the locus for emergency responders if a disaster were to occur on the Hill.

Attendees, including a significant number of professional responders from Riverside County Parks, CAL FIRE, Caltrans, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the Forest Service and local volunteer groups, applied a list of specific needs that each proposed site should have to best serve as an EOC.

Those attributes include backup power, accessible and adequate parking, meeting space, communication lines, cell coverage, kitchen, bathrooms, heat, water and building construction likely to meet current earthquake

building standards. The purpose of the Hill EOC is to house an operations center to direct disaster response and recovery, or as Office of Emergency Services (OES) Deputy Director Peter Lent put it, "a place to make decisions and write checks [for whatever is needed to respond appropriately]" and the location where first responder agencies show up.

Four sites out of nine considered had most of what was needed: the Mountain Resource Center on Franklin, the Pine Cove Water District office, the Forest Service's Keenwild Ranger Station and the County Park's facility at Hurkey Creek.

"We'll need a fact sheet on each facility, a map and will need to apply the criteria," offered Walker. OES will investigate each site prior to the February meeting and apply the above-mentioned criteria before making a final determination. Lent advised that the center would likely be designated an "area command center" since, in any major emergency, there is only one EOC and that is in Riverside, unless it is inoperable.

See MEMSCOMM, next page

CSA 36 loses several resources

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

County Service Area (CSA) 36 is losing several valuable resources, including current chair Carol McClintic. McClintic, who has served as chair for less than a year, tendered her resignation, effective immediately, citing conflicts with increasing work demands. That leaves three members and two open seats on the committee whose duty it is to oversee operation of the county recreation contract and area streetlights. McClintic announced her decision at the Thursday, Dec. 8 meeting of the Advisory Committee. With McClintic's departure, Vice Chair Bob Schraff will head the committee. With only three out of five directors, all three remaining must attend in order to have a quorum.

In addition to the loss of McClintic, the Idyllwild District Recreation program, now managed locally as part of the County Economic Development Agency, has lost use of the playground at Town Hall because of documented safety violations. Once the county became responsible for recreation, it was obliged to conduct inspections of both the playground and Town Hall itself. Town Hall will be inspected within the next few weeks,

said EDA Idyllwild representative Mike Franklin.

Franklin reported that, after county inspection, the Town Hall playground is closed until such time as it can be modified or replaced. Discovered safety violations included inadequate footings on some of the equipment, bolts with exposed edges (county requires either inset or rounded, so as not to cut or scratch equipment users), exposed electrical wiring on an adjacent tree, inadequate chains for swing sets, and no impact surfacing to reduce potential for injury from falling. Franklin advised that full replacement or major modification of the playground would likely trigger, through county planning and building and safety, the need for ADA compliance.

Nick Todd, president of the Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce, said that the Chamber would investigate steps to replace or modify the playground. "We might have some avenues to go with," said Todd. "Replacement could take the scope of the project beyond just the playground," advised Franklin. The Chamber is titular owner of Town Hall and adjacent grounds, including the playground. Todd requested tabling further discussion of playground replacement until the January CSA 36 meeting.

Franklin reported that the Idyllwild Recreation District is currently using an existing county van for Idyllwild Recreation purposes until such time as the CSA and the county examine whether to purchase a vehicle for exclusive district use. Franklin said that would be discussed once the county has reviewed how the budget has progressed

over a sufficient number of months of county management to make budget projections. McClintic asked Franklin to explain why a van purchase is being considered now and not while the Idyllwild Community Recreation Council (ICRC) had managed recreation. Franklin explained that only county employees could

See CSA 36, next page

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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.
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Warming

Continued from page 1

monthly food distribution and the balance from CAP.

Draper also confirmed that four members of the post have keys and are on standby, once they receive an activation notice, to open the the post on a 24/7-notice basis. Richardson said a Legion member has pledged to donate a cord of wood for heating during a cold emergency but that another cord is needed, and donations would be gladly accepted. Wood would be set aside for warming center use.

Mountain Disaster Preparedness has signed a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MOU) with the Legion to use its email, radio and phone system to alert residents of the availability of the center once it is opened.

A separate committee has drafted an activation protocol based on cold temperature and power outage data. Committee members are located in a variety of greater Idyllwild neighborhoods and climate zones and are tasked with monitoring temperatures and power outages that, based on protocol standards, would be sufficient to warrant opening the warming center. As part of the protocol, there is a list of questions to be asked anyone calling in for cold weather emergency assistance, designed

MEMSCOMM

Continued from previous page

In other business, Anthony Richardson of OES spoke about the Citizen Disaster Corps inaugurated by former Governor Schwarzenegger and that nominations for local CERT and/or cross-trained volunteers from Hill communities are being sought to fill a 200-member Riverside County contingent. Contact IFPD Chief

to distinguish whether the emergency is neighborhood or community wide, and if not, whether the caller can be individually assisted.

Both Danny Richardson and Rick Foster are primary Legion contacts tasked with opening the

Walker at (951) 659-2153 or Richardson at (951) 955-4700 if interested in serving. Serving would require being sworn in and attending six required trainings. Lent estimated that eight volunteers would be needed from mountain communities.

The next MEMSCOMM meeting is at 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9 at the IFPD meeting room.

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

center. Richardson can be reached at 659-8286 and (951) 205-1627 and Foster at 659-3522 and (951) 249-4702. Both are on the activation committee.

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

CSA 36

Continued from previous page

drive vehicles purchased through the CSA. Although the CSA is funded through local assessments, the county manages and is responsible for CSA expenditures, and holds title to capital purchases funded by CSA funds. Now that Idyllwild Recreation is county-managed and employees are county employees, purchase of a dedicated Idyllwild vehicle is legally possible, according to Franklin.

He also commented on the budget for the four months of county control, starting in August. "The level of service has not gone down but it's safe to say we've controlled the budget better and will have some more [money]

left over for new programs," he said.

Recreation Manager GeGe Beagle reported that Idyllwild Recreation at Town Hall will be hosting an open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15 for residents to meet new program instructors, part of the district's pilot program to provide classes of interest to the community. The first month of classes are free to the community. After that, if interest is sufficient, classes would continue and cost \$10 per session. Classes include theatre, cooking and dancing. The recreation district is interested in expanding its menu of classes. Contact Beagle or Amy Righetti if interested in becoming a paid instructor. Classes are offered in monthly increments.

See Recreation, page 14

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Idyllwild Water District Board & Staff



Back row: Bill Rojas, Eddy Wasmer, Nick Iliev, Marc Klingaman, Steve Kunkle and Ed Copelin.

Front row: Terry Lyons, Kelly Clark and Jim Ludy.

Not pictured: Board members Allan Morphett, Warren Monroe, Jim Billman, John Cook and Mike Freitas

School board

Continued from page 1

school funding reductions, as a result of lowered revenue collections, the following years may require additional adjustments at the local level, according to Christakos.

Projected changes in state funding are expected to reduce revenues an additional \$8.5 million in the future. To maintain the necessary reserves, the board may have to find future reductions equivalent to \$4.5 million.

HUSD entered into agreements with its bargaining unit members in late 2009-10 to reduce salary and benefit costs by 6.5 percent through a combination of work year reductions, staff reductions, increased class sizes and salary roll-backs. The agreements expire on June 30, 2012.

If the board were to restore all of the past staff reductions and state fund-

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Bill Sanborn was elected the new president of the Hemet Unified School District (HUSD). This will be Sanborn's fifth term as president.

Presiding at his first meeting as president, Sanborn heard a budget pre-

ing did not improve, the projected 2013-14 balance is a \$18.1 million deficit which would eliminate district reserves.

But Christakos emphasized that the loss of funding is only one aspect of the fiscal problems at the state level. In addition, the funding that will be delivered is likely to come at a slower pace imposing, cash flow problems on most school districts. "Nearly \$33 million

sentation that hinted at further reductions in the future unless the state's educational funding is changed. HUSD has the capability to handle the potential January reductions. The next two years, 2012-13 and 2013-14, will present the board with difficult choices.

In addition, rather than

state aid for 2011-12 won't be received until July or August," Buckhout told the board.

Hemet has already borrowed \$23 million to get through the fall cash problem. This will be repaid in March. But the district is likely to need to temporarily borrow another \$14 million between now and June to get to next fall, he said.

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

the pro forma reappointment of members to the same committee assignments, Sanborn asked his colleagues to review the board's committee structure and offer him, or Superintendent Dr. Stephen Lowder, suggestions on streamlining the committees.

Consequently, these appointments were deferred until the first meeting of 2012, on Jan. 3.

This was Sanborn's twentieth year on the HUSD board. He was initially appointed in 1991 and has been re-elected five times.

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



Bill Sanborn



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Led by Recreation Manager **Gege Beagle**, left, children sang Christmas carols at Town Hall's Children's Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, Dec. 9 at The Fort. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



In addition to free hot cider provided by Town Hall, a visit from **Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus** made the Children's Tree Lighting ceremony a memorable occasion for the youngsters. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Idyllwild firefighters **Robert DeWitt** and **Greg Minor** and Engineer **Mike Yount** serve Idyllwild School students a barbecue lunch on Friday. PHOTO BY BETHANY SWANSON

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Idyllwild School Principal **Matt Kraemer's** students of the week are fourth-graders **David Cohen** and **Pierce Pramuka** (not shown). Music Director **Buzz Holmes** selected these two beginning saxophone players for doing an exceptional job and exceeding expectations.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

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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. 14

"New Year's Eve," 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Dec. 15

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.
 Open House, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Town Hall.
 Rebecca Connelley, 5:30-8:00 p.m. The Creek House.
 "New Year's Eve," 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.



Duffy Hudson, Broadway and film actor, begins his portrayal of 46 characters in a program titled "A Christmas Carol - revised!" at the Rainbow Inn on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Friday, Dec. 16

Don Reed & Joey Latimer, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 Change Required, 6-9 p.m. The Lumber Mill.
 Holiday Teen Dance, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Town Hall.
 "New Year's Eve," 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Saturday, Dec. 17

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 Rocky Zharp, 1-4 p.m. Goodtimes Pub & Grill.
 Mission Inn Festival of Lights Trip, 2-9 p.m. Buses Leave Town Hall.
 "New Year's Eve," 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Sandii Castleberry, Paul Carman & Kevin Hamby, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.
 "Christmas Snapshots," Isis Theatre Production 7:30 p.m. The Caine Learning Center

Sunday, Dec. 18

Pine Spring Ranch's 50th Anniversary Celebration, 58000 Apple Canyon Rd., Mountain Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 "Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 "New Year's Eve," 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Monday, Dec. 19

Childrens Story Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
 "New Year's Eve," 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m. Town Hall.
 Beer Tasting, 6:30 p.m. Idyllwild Awhile.
 "New Year's Eve," 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Wednesday Dec. 21

"Charles Dickens: A Reading by Doug Austin," 5 p.m. Silver Pines Lodge.
 "A Christmas Carol," 5 p.m. Rainbow Inn.
 Celtic Music Session, 5:30- 8:00 p.m. The Creek House.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of

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

Thursday, Dec. 22

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.
 Acoustic Groove, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
 Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Friday, Dec. 23

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
 Don Reed & Tom McNeary, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. The Lumber Mill.

Saturday, Dec. 24

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Wine Tasting, Weins Winery & Live Entertainment, 3-5 p.m. The Creek House.
 Live Music, 6-10 p.m. Lumber Mill.
 Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Sunday, Dec. 25

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 2:00, 4:30 & 7:00 p.m. Rustic Theatre.



Guitar, harmonica and the voice of **Rocky Zharp** bring blues music to the Goodtimes Pub & Grill Saturday.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

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Master Chorale presents holiday concert

By Marshall Smith
Staff Reporter

The Idyllwild Master Chorale, continuing a long tradition of offering holiday concerts, presents "Convergence 2011," a musical celebration blending traditional international carols, American spirituals, classical masterworks including sections from "The Messiah," and a pop-jazz potpourri. Under the direction of Dwight A. "Buzz" Holmes, the Chorale has long been moving to expand its musical menu.

Drawing from a rich diversity of local artists, including Local Color, the all-female singing ensemble under the direction of Anna Pechanec Ancheta, the Se-

hawk Jazz Quintet led by Marshall Hawkins and featuring familiar tenor soloist John Fleming and jazz stylist Sherry Williams, the holiday confection will have something to please everyone's palette. A chamber orchestra, also under Holmes' direction will accompany the Master Works section, which features two selections from George Frederic Handel's "The Messiah," "And the Glory of the Lord" and "For Unto Us a Child is Born."

The concert concludes with heartwarming and familiar Christmas carols including "Winter Wonderland" and "White Christmas."

Tickets are \$15 for



FILE PHOTO

adults and \$7.50 for students and children. "Convergence 2011" begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17 at Idyllwild School Auditorium and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.

Tickets are available at www.idyllwildmasterchorale.com or by calling (951) 659-2650.

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

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An artist's reception featuring the work of nine local artists was held at Honey Bunsns & Joe Bakery on Sunday, Dec. 11. Against a background of artwork whose theme was "Boxes," are artists **Teresa Brouwer, Elizabeth Harlow, Roberta Callahan-Melendez and Cher Townsend.** The exhibit is available for viewing until Jan. 3, 2012. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

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Coming Soon Dec. 21 - Jan.3
"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"

New pricing beginning Dec. 21, 2011: Regular Admission: \$8
Senior (60*), Child (12) & *Matinée: \$6

Film

Continued from page 1

film's \$30,000 budget was raised online through www.kickstarter.com, the world's largest funding platform for creative projects. Each week projects with fixed funding deadlines are available at kickstarter for potential funders, after examining pitches for and descriptions of projects in music, film, art, design, publishing and other creative fields. Creators retain full control and ownership of their project, rewarding subscribers for their "involvement grants" with products and experiences relating to the project. As an example, for a \$500 grant, the grantor's name is printed as a credit at the end of the film. A project must reach its full funding goal during the allotted period before the money pledged actually vests. "Buttons" made its budget and

then some on Oct. 18, 2010, providing funding from pre-production to final print.

The opening night short films are "Fish," from the United Kingdom and "Moving Day" from Australia. Both "Fish" star Francesca Brown and director Damian Samuels will attend the Idyllwild screening.

"Moving Day," according to Festival Chairman Phil Calderone, is "a brilliant short film, beautifully shot, witty and cute."

"The film is about a young girl adjusting to her new backyard in an unexpected way," Calderone noted. Jason Wingrove, born in England and now residing in Australia, is the director.

IIFC 2012 opens Thursday, Jan. 12 and runs through Sunday, Jan. 15. Local all access passes are available for \$20 at www.iifoc.com.

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

Recreation

Continued from page 9

Any local residents who live within the jurisdiction of CSA 36 who would be interested in filling the two

vacant CSA 36 Advisory Committee seats should contact Opal Hellweg, Stone's legislative assistant, at (951) 698-7326. Committee members are appointed by the Supervisor and serve without compensation.



Locals danced the night away as a live DJ provided music from the 1960s and 1970s during Town Hall's Family Dance & Potluck held Friday, Dec. 10. PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Whitman in top 10 again

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Local triathlete Bill Whitman ran two races recently and finished strongly in both.

On Dec. 3 and 4, he entered the HITS Triathlon in Palm Springs. This inaugural event featured five distances, including a 100-

meter swim, a 3-mile bike and 1-mile run. Whitman finished second in his age group (45-49) and sixth overall in the sprint triathlon.

On Sunday, Whitman participated in Hemet's Tinsel Triathlon. With 980 participants, he finished seventh overall and first in his age group.



Beer Tasting

Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

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PHOTO BY BARRY ZANDER

Steele-Bradley win Shark Shootout

BY JACK CLARK
PROFESSIONAL GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Idyllwild native Brendan Steele teamed with Keegan Bradley, his close friend from Nationwide Tour days, to win the PGA Tour's 2011 Franklin Templeton "Shark" Shootout at the Tiburón Golf Club in Naples, Fla., last week.

The two PGA Tour rookies posted a 32-under-par score over the three days of competition on the par 72 course that consisted of a first round of modified alternate shot, a second round of better ball, and a third round of scramble play, winning themselves \$375,000 each in the process.

Steele and Bradley both contributed solidly to the win. In the first round, the Idyllwild native blasted in from the greenside bunker on hole 14 for an eagle, then made a 30-foot putt from off the green at number 16 for a birdie. The pair combined for a nine-under par opening round that included a 28 on the back nine.

A second-round highlight included Steele's second shot on the 374-yard, par-4 10th hole, which left him only a five-footer for birdie, and the two rookies finished the day with the tournament lead at 19 under par.

In their press interview after the second round, Steele, whose previous win this year was the Valero Texas Open in April, said that playing good golf in this tournament with a good friend as his partner had been "the most fun I've had all year, for sure."

Bradley, who had two prior wins this year, including the PGA Championship in August, stated that this had been the most enjoyable tournament of the year for him also, pointing out that it was a real team effort because they were both playing so well.

"It's easy to have fun when you shoot 19-under in two days," he said.

In the final scramble round, Steele knocked in a 14-footer at the par-3 12th hole for birdie, then followed with the PGATour.com Shot of the Day, a 35-foot putt from 15 feet off the green for another eagle on number 14. He virtually sealed the victory with his second shot on the 435-yard par-4 15th hole to within three feet of the pin for another birdie.

The Franklin Templeton "Shark" Shootout, long hosted by tour great Greg Norman, was the last PGA Tour event



Idyllwild local, **Dawn Miller** (with moustache and beard) and six family members pose after participating in Las Vegas Great Santa Run. Miller and her family (#8348 is her daughter) pushed the number of running Santas to 8,123, helping the Las Vegas charity break the world record for the most "Santas" in a 5K race.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN MILLER

of the year, but as a post-season tournament it did not count toward the players' official money list winnings.

The victorious pair will be adversaries in the first tournament of the new 2012 season. The Hyundai Tournament of Champions in Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii, for which both Steele and Bradley are eligible, will be held the first week of January.

Editor's note: For those readers unfamiliar with the team golf terms, Jack Clark has provided the following explanations:

In "modified alternate shot" play, both players hit tee shots and select which one to play. Then they alternate playing shots on that one ball until they hole out. The second shot belongs to the player whose tee shot was not selected.

In "better ball," each player plays his own ball. The better of the two players scores on the hole counts as the team score for the hole.

In "scramble," both players hit tee shots and select which is better. They then each play a ball from that spot, and again select the better shot. Play continues in like manner for every shot played until one of them holes out.



The Hemet High School Junior Varsity soccer team poses after finishing third in Banning tournament this weekend. Idyllwild members (all in the back row) are **Kyra Espinosa** (4), **Allie Hitchcock** (7) and **Mallory Marcus** (12). Hemet won the final game when Allie made the winning penalty kick.

PHOTO BY JOE NEU

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DRE#00635295

Classifieds

Continued from previous page

For Rent or Lease

Garner Valley estate, 3 BR, 3 BA, living room w/rock FP, large dining room, indoor Jacuzzi, barn w/gated pasture & much more. All on 5 beautiful acres. \$2,000/mo. Yearly lease. Available February. (760) 310-3174.

\$750/mo., 1 BR, 1 BA cabin on nice lot in good area. Near Idy Arts on Strawberry Creek. Plowed road. Home includes DW, fridge, W/D & propane heaters. Furnished or unfurnished. 53270 Meadow Dr. off Lake Ln. Owner/Agent (760) 414-1441.

Desperate for a rental? Place your classified ad in the best read "bulletin board" in town, the Town Crier. Call Sandy 659-2145.

Sunny 1 BR apartment, spacious, private setting adjacent to National Forest and hiking trails. No pets. \$700/mo., includes satellite TV and all utilities. First months rent & security deposit required with a 6-month lease. (951) 659-7785.

When you place your classified line ad in the **Town Crier**, it also appears on our website at no additional charge. Call (951) 659-2145 to get your ad in front of thousands of people! www.idyllwildtowncrier.com

\$725/mo., 1 BR, 1 BA. Large enclosed yard, walk to town, plowed road, nice setting. No smoking. Will consider pets. One year lease, shown by appointment. Avail. Jan. 1. Call (310) 663-1905.

For Rent or Lease

ROOMS FOR RENT Idyllwild near Hwy. 243. \$400/mo. room with separate bath/shwr. \$550/mo., master with private bath/shwr. No smoking. Nice family home with ample parking. Call (951) 659-8616.

1 BR, 1 BA newly remodeled, unfurnished. \$695/mo., plus utilities. Call Emily at (951) 206-9671.

Fully furnished 2 BR, 2 BA house. Large patio, garage w/auto opener. In town. No smoking/pets. \$895/mo. Short-term \$129/night. Call (760) 831-7447.

3 BR, 1 BA, FP insert, deck, laundry hookup on Jameson Dr. Plowed road. **REDUCED**, \$800/mo. + deposit. Call (760) 877-4377 or (707) 998-8100.

Sleep to the sound of Strawberry Creek. 2 BR+ small loft, 1 BA house. Woodburning stove on Indian rock, W/D hookups & deck. Walk to Idyllwild Arts. \$975/mo. (310) 821-8232.

2 BR, 1 BA, Idyllwild/Pine Cove house on hilly acre, 1200 sq. ft., built in 2004, Jacuzzi tub, W/D, airtight stone FP, deck and plowed road. \$825/mo., Nov.-Mar., \$925/mo., Apr.-Oct. Pet on approval. Call (951) 751-1901 or (951) 699-5837.

2 BR, 1 BA duplex, W/D hookups, appliances, deck. No pets. 53810 Country Club Dr., #A. \$700/mo. Call Yolanda at (619) 276-9800, junopm.com.

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26865 Dome Lane 2 BR, 1 BA, new carpet, FP, eat-in kitchen. Workshop or artist studio. \$975/mo. **53075 Tollgate** 2 BR, 2 BA, lg. living room w/FP, lg. kitchen w/eating area, garage. Close to Idy Arts. \$1,000/mo.

54095 So. Circle 2 BR, 2 BA beautiful old Idy cabin with upgrades, lg. FP, forced air furnace, W/D. \$1,000/mo.

54055 #2 Pine Crest 2 BR, 1-1/2 BA, lg. FP, living rm., eat-in kitchen, duplex. \$650/mo.

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With the new year's opportunities almost within reach, the Arian's courageous aspects are raring to go. And don't be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac's most trusted leader.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Change lies ahead for the brave Bovine who is ready to shuck off the tried and true to try something new. But appearances can be deceptive. Check it all out before you charge into anything.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This week promises a peek into what the new year holds for the Gemini Twins, both in love and careers. Family matters continue to be a factor in decisions you're going to be facing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you'd expected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they'll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven't seen in a long time. You also might want to pick up that project you put off a while back.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) As you contem-

plate the new year's potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can start the new year on a high note.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that's always a good thing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you've always wanted to take up. And don't be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2012.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

BORN THIS WEEK: Although you sometimes tend to be a bit judgmental, nevertheless, you are generous and caring and very much beloved.

CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous page)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20	21			
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26	27	28			29			30		
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37			38			39				
			40			41		42	43	44
45	46			47	48			49		
50				51				52		
53				54				55		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Winged
 - 5 Turn blue?
 - 8 Frog's cousin
 - 12 Rickey flavor
 - 13 Mardi Gras VIP
 - 14 Shake in the grass?
 - 15 Poetic foot
 - 16 Shriill bark
 - 17 Detail
 - 18 Company of actors
 - 20 Parliamentarian
 - 22 From stem to stern
 - 26 Elevator passage
 - 29 Golf position
 - 30 Confucians' "way"
 - 31 Swine
 - 32 Artist Vermeer
 - 33 "West Side Story" gang
 - 34 Mimic
 - 35 Play on words
 - 36 Makes weary
 - 37 Everywhere
 - 40 Pealed
 - 41 Costello's partner
 - 45 Bloodhound's clue
 - 47 Back talk
 - 49 Sandwich cookie
 - 50 Gloomy
 - 51 Actress Mendes
 - 52 - a soul (no-body)
 - 53 Catch sight of
 - 54 "Oh, yeah? - who?"
 - 55 Shade providers
- DOWN**
- 1 Came to earth
 - 2 Taleteller
 - 3 Bullets and such
 - 4 Snubs
 - 5 Laundromat machine
 - 6 Verily
 - 7 Tell how
 - 8 Bronze winner's place
 - 9 Passe
 - 10 Hearty brew
 - 11 Beavers' construction
 - 19 Cauldron
 - 21 Inseparable
 - 23 African antelope
 - 24 Destiny
 - 25 Throw
 - 26 Persian bigwig
 - 27 Kachina worshipper
 - 28 Demographic division
 - 32 Impenetrable thickets
 - 33 Samson's weapon, courtesy of an ass
 - 35 Skillet
 - 36 Occupation
 - 38 Wizard Potter
 - 39 Bolivian capital
 - 42 Verbal
 - 43 Contract clause
 - 44 Santa's sackful
 - 45 Rhyming tribute
 - 46 Two, in Tijuana "- been had!"

SUDOKU

(Answers on previous page)

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

Idyllwild Service Directory

- New ads placed at beginning of month only
- Deadline for new ads: 5 p.m. last Thursday of month
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- Minimum insertion: 1 month
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Chief

Continued from page 7

As a career civil servant and now a local government employee, I can tell you it's an honor to serve. We all complain about our jobs now and again; but in these tough economic times, it's good just to have a job and we should remember to support those who are in need all year and not just during the holidays.

So, as we celebrate the holidays according to our individual beliefs, let's take a few minutes to remember our teachers, clergy, sheriffs, firefighters, and water district employees.

But most of all, let's remember to thank those volunteers in all of our organizations and committees that give freely of their time to protect and serve the greatest number of people on the Hill.

On behalf of Idyllwild Fire Protection District, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leash

Continued from page 7

what we stand for: justice, truth, and the value of a single human being."

What a fabulous speech. OK, no one in our present crisis is sending children to gas chambers. It is not my intention to trivialize the Holocaust by "literally" comparing it to the fraud perpetrated by corporate America.

However, could this be a form of "economic genocide"? Does poverty slowly, but inevitably, eradicate whole classes of people? Greed is a cancer, feed it and it grows.

It can marginalize and destabilize whole civilizations. History is full of examples of the civil unrest wealth disparity has created. There are many ways to kill a people, some more overt than others, but the outcome is the same.

I'm not calling for socialism, as some would contend. I'm advocating a humane capitalism that values fair play and equanimity more than conspicuous consumption. It is a matter of proportion. In a world of dwindling resources, it is a matter of assuring that there is plenty of pie left for future generations.

Letters

Continued from page 6

better than tire chains. If siping is safer and more realistic, then why not have tire siping offered here too?

Then again, we may have little or no snow to contend with anyway.

**MIKE RENO
PINE COVE**

**Changes IFPD
should consider**

EDITOR:

The single largest expense for the Idyllwild Fire Protection District (IFPD) is the salary account. These newly increased salaries are inconsistent with a declining revenue base.

Aside from dangerous and poor IFPD decision making moving the district to insolvency by February, revenue must align with expenses.

Pay and staffing ratios are frozen by union contract and an intransigent association. That leaves three options, increase transports and revenue, a grave practice raising the question of mal-practice already under way, raise property taxes

without fiscal cleanup of the district, or play the doomsday card.

IFPD should initiate a request for proposals of replacement fire and ambulance services. CalFire, Hemet Fire, AMR, and a number of other agencies will submit bids. I guarantee you this nine-person association (union) will see the writing on the wall.

Many professional and financial problems exist with this district and its employees jeopardizing the health and safety of members of this community.

I believe that various career members here are unemployable elsewhere because of past and current conduct. They will see the writing on the wall and will agree to cited contract modifications. I'm just not sure it's worth saving.

However, a 10 percent salary reduction, mandated employee contributions to retirement, a two-tier pay and retirement system — one tier for existing and one for new employees — and professional training and certifications implemented by certified training facilities would be a start.

**JEFF SMITH
PINE COVE**

Is sharing just a lesson fit for Kindergartners? I hope not. I hope we can stand together and say "No" to Greed.

This is my Holiday wish.



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CREATURE CORNER

BY MIMI AND HOOTCH

There is only one thing we love more than welcoming all the furry four leggeds that come in the door, and that is to watch them go out the door to their forever home. Four paws up to **Polly**, our orange polydactyl resident who purred her way right into the purrfect home. We'll miss you, window kitty.



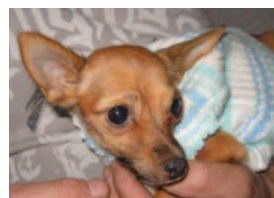
Four paws to the three canines who were reunited with their worried humans. Please remember to chip your pet or keep current info on their tag or collar. And a sad goodbye to **Coco**, the cat, who lived a long and loving life.

Cole is a young male border collie that was abandoned by his people in Idyllwild, to fend for himself. He is friendly with other canines, and felines and of course all two-leggeds. He knows a few basic commands, and is good on the leash.

Lola was saved from an irresponsible human. She is a one-year-old



Chihuahua weighing only 4 pounds. With her tiny squeak, and pleading brown eyes, she knows now that she has hands of love around her.



Twiggy is a female declawed domestic sweetheart. She prefers to be the only feline in

the house, is litter box trained, and welcomes your warm touch. Twiggy lost her human, and is ready to move on.

And our furry "girl scout" kitties will bring giggles and warmth to your heart. Under mama **Sky's** watchful eye, of course, they are



learning proper manners, along with important skills. All kitties will be available for adoption next week.



ARF has many cats and dogs available for adoption or fostering. Go to www.idyllwildarf.org and click

on Petfinder. All pets are spayed, neutered, and current on shots. ARF is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call for appointment on any other day at (951)659-1122. Email and donation opportunities are at www.idyllwildarf.org or e-mail arf@greencafe.com.

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

PAST TENSE

55 years ago - 1956

Former California Attorney General Robert Kenny was in town paying a visit to his former business associate, Hazel Cress.

50 years ago - 1961

Emax saw the painting of yellow lines on the highways as "a trend toward the police state."

45 years ago - 1966

A series of storms soaked the mountain, bringing 17.85 inches of rain. Parts of the Banning-Idyllwild Highway suffered washouts, and Alpine Market and Alpine Pantry were flooded.

40 years ago - 1971

After nearly 40 years of service with the Forest Service, veteran fire boss Howard Evans prepared for a January retirement.

35 years ago - 1976

County supervisors finally passed a tree-felling ordinance that would control the cutting of native trees in locations above the 5,000-foot elevation. Previously,



In this Dec. 14, 1989 photo, **Halie Johnson** (current production manager at the Town Crier) gets help from postal worker **Mary Arnaiz**, as she sends off a letter to Santa Claus. The Letter Box is the same box now at the post office ready to receive every kid's Christmas wishes. Arnaiz, a long-time resident, recently passed away; her obituary is on page 4.

FILE PHOTO

the ordinance was proposed to cover tree-cutting down to 4,000 feet, which would have included Anza, Garner Valley and Mountain Center.

oppose Mile High Recovery, a halfway house for teenage alcoholics and drug addicts.

20 years ago - 1991

Sean Benton of Pine Cove was arrested for the stabbing murder of Terence Alberni of Fern Valley.

30 years ago - 1981

Local property owners were banding together to

15 years ago - 1996

President Clinton met with Riverside County Supervisor Kay Cenicerros, of Idyllwild, in the Oval Office of the White House. He congratulated her and other county officials for the GAIN program's success in putting welfare recipients back to work.

10 years ago - 2001

The South Coast Air Quality Management District was investigating the removal of a large amount of asbestos roofing tiles found buried behind Idyllwild School.

5 years ago - 2006

Long-time Idyllwild resident and the community's doctor from 1976 to 1996, Dr. David Reid passed away. He was 90 years old.

1 year ago - 2010

The Idyllwild Arts Foundation announced the selection of Brian Cohen as the new president of Idyllwild Arts Academy, replacing retiring headmaster Bill Lowman.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Locals observe lunar eclipse from a mile high



During the very early hours before and during sunrise on Saturday, Dec. 10, the year's second lunar eclipse occurred. This happens when the Earth passes between the Sun and the moon, thus blocking the Sun's rays from landing on the lunar surface. Several readers contributed their photographs of the event, including this montage of the phases of the eclipse.

PHOTOS BY LES WALKER



PHOTO BY JOHN DRAKE



PHOTO BY DORIS JEAN LOMBARD

Pam Pierce, Casey Abrams' mother, stood outside his dressing tent reading the Town Crier. She and Casey were at the Zappos.com Rock 'n' Roll Las Vegas Marathon Dec. 4 to help raise funds and awareness for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. "Casey had a blast — brought out the rock side of him ... and then sang "God Bless America" at the starting block of the marathon for the 44,000 runners," Pierce wrote after running the half marathon.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM PIERCE



Bill and Gillien "Wright" Gianakos went to Costa Rica for their recent honeymoon. Here they stand before the Arenal Volcano in La Fortuna. "The Town Crier is in hand as it was in all of our travels," Gianakos wrote.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BILL GIANAKOS

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In Print: Jan. 6, 2011

Call Grace or Shane:
659-2145



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For just \$27, your name will appear with the name of your gift in the annual FULL PAGE contest appearing in the Dec. 22, 2011 issue of the Idyllwild Town Crier. Call Shane before noon, Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011 to advertise in this annual contest.

659-2145



All ads are in full color at no extra charge.

- Full Page (10" w x 12-1/4" h) \$378
- Half Page (10" w x 6" h) \$189
- Quarter Page Horizontal (6-5/8" w x 5" h) \$105
- Quarter Page Vertical (4-7/8" w x 6" h) \$94
- Eighth Page (4-7/8" w x 3" h) \$48
- Business Card (3-1/4" w x 2" h) \$21

Contact your local Real Estate professional and tell them you want to see your listing in the Town Crier paper, website and on the Big Screen at the Rustic Theatre.

DEADLINE: DEC. 15
PRINT DATE: DEC. 22

Call Shane or Grace for more information: 659-2145