



News bites

Santa Letters

Local kids' dreams, wishes
See pages 20 to 22

Water Districts

Fern Valley and Pine Cove
last 2011 meetings
See page 8.

Idyllwild Library

Construction contract goes
to Supervisors
See page 10.

Idyllwild sports

• Palms to Pines golf season
continues
• Adult volleyball begins
See page 11.

Idyllwild Film Fest

Meet Phil Calderone, Festi-
val chair
See page 12.

Scenic highway

Forest Service has draft cor-
ridor plan for scenic byway
from Banning to Desert
See page 19.

POSTMASTER: Dated material, please deliver Dec. 21-23, 2011

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. 51

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IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., DECEMBER 22, 2011



The Idyllwild Master Chorale, led by Artistic Director and Conductor Dwight "Buzz" Holmes, performs carols from around the world at its "Convergence 2011: The Holiday Concert" at Idyllwild School this weekend.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Fire commission faces same budget problems

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

"We'll go broke before five years," Idyllwild Fire Chief Norm Walker told the fire district's commission, while discussing when to hold a workshop on its budget situation.

"You need to come up with a vision and look five years out," Walker urged the commission. While the commission was pondering its responsibility to Firefighter Greg Minor, who earned his paramedic credentials this summer, Walker advised the commission that a new ambulance purchase is on

the horizon.

The commission had already appointed an ad hoc committee, composed of commissioners Jerry Buchanan and Pete Capparelli, to negotiate with the Idyllwild Career Firefighters' Association.

"The Chief has cut as much as he can," said President Jeannine Charles-Stigall as she was the explaining the reason for the committee's formation. "The only thing left is employee contribu-

The Dec. 13 meeting was the first for the commission with new members Larry Donahoo and Buchanan.

See [Commission](#), page 9

Christmas on the Hill

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Living in Southern California at Christmas, unless one is a native Southern Californian, usually feels a little out of sync during the holiday season. Christmas, palm trees and temperatures in the 70s just don't make it. And with songs like "White Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland" filling the airwaves and images of snow, reindeer and warmly wrapped Christmas shoppers blanketing television screens, you want to be somewhere that looks like a Currier and Ives Christmas. And that would be Idyllwild.

At Christmas, Idyllwild turns on its holiday twinkle, with colored lights on the downtown Christmas trees and with shops, restaurants and homes brilliant in their nighttime sparkle. People who live here feel it's a perfect place to spend Christ-

mas. Those from down below come here to experience what all the holiday songs are celebrating. And, in many parts of the village the week before Christmas, there is still snow on the ground from recent snowfalls.

For last minute givers, the Spark of Love Toy Drive hosted by CAL FIRE and Riverside County Fire (RCFD) offers an opportunity to bring happiness to some local kids in need. The Idyllwild Fire Department is participating in the drive, which ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23. "If you give to a local [collection] box, it almost guarantees that toys will go to local children," said RCFD Firefighter Mark Spehar. Toys can be left at RCFD stations 23 (Pine Cove), 53 (Garner Valley) and at Idyllwild Fire. The agencies request donations of new, unwrapped toys, sports equipment and gift cards.

Local restaurants often of-

fer something special during Christmas. The Creek House is hosting a Christmas Eve Wine Tasting with selections from Wiens Family Cellars with live music from 3 to 5 p.m. Contributions from that event will be going to the Desert Friends of the Developmentally Disabled according to owner Lanny Hardy. From 4 to 7 p.m. Lenny Hansell and Anthony Patler provide musical entertainment.

Café Aroma, a local gathering spot, is closed Christmas Eve and reopens for Christmas dinner at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day. Jo'An's Bar and Restaurant closes at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and is closed on Christmas Day. The Gastrognome is open until 7:30 on Christmas Eve and from 1 to 7 p.m. on Christmas Day. Mile High Café is open from 10 to 3 on Christmas Day for a holiday brunch. (See restaurant open/closing box for a more

See [Christmas](#), page 4

County previews Hemet Service Center

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

At a dedicatory ceremony, 3rd District Supervisor Jeff Stone and other county officials lauded the many community needs that would be filled by the new Hemet Service Center at 749 State Street.

The new center will serve many purposes, but foremost will be to provide assistance to local job seekers to improve their chances of

finding employment.

"The number one issue in Riverside County and in the San Jacinto Valley is jobs," Stone said during the dedication.

Formerly a closed Smart and Final Market, construction for the center began in April and finished in November, at a cost of \$1.7 million. The center will house many community services under one roof. "It's exciting to unveil anything," said Stone, "but this is a different

See [Service Center](#), page 13

Inside

A&E	16
CALENDAR	5
CHURCHES	9
CLASSIFIEDS	24
CROSSWORD	26
HOROSCOPE	26
LODGING	9
MASTHEAD	6
ON THE TOWN	16
PUBLIC NOTICES	27
REAL ESTATE	15
SERVICES	28
SUDOKU	26
WEATHER	2

In an
EMERGENCY
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idyllwild
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NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Dec. 12 to Dec. 18, 2011:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

- Dec. 12 — Medical aid, N. Circle Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 13 — Medical aid, Saunders Meadow Road, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 13 — Medical aid, Temecual Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 14 — Smoke detector activation, Tollgate Road, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 14 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Highway 243, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 14 — Electrical wiring problem, Idyllbrook Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 15 — Medical aid, Palomar Road, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 15 — Medical aid, Double View Drive, Idyllwild.

- Dec. 15 — Medical aid, Oak Knoll Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 15 — Medical aid, Idyllbrook Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 17 — Medical aid, North Circle, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 17 — Citizen complaint, North Circle Drive, Idyllwild.
- Dec. 17 — Public service assist.
- Dec. 19 — Medical aid, Valley View Drive, Idyllwild.
- Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove
 - Dec. 14 — Medical aid.
 - Dec. 14 — Traffic collision.
 - Dec. 15 — Medical aid.
- 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 Monday to Monday Dec. 12 to 19. This may not be a complete list of responses:
 - Dec. 12 — at 1 p.m., a solo vehicle, minor injury collision resulting from an unsafe turn on SR-74 at Carrizo Road in Pinyon.
 - Dec. 12 — at 3 p.m., a solo vehicle, non-injury collision resulting from unsafe speed for existing conditions on SR-74 at Morris Ranch Road in Garner Valley.
 - Dec. 15 — at 8:40 a.m. a solo vehicle, non-injury collision resulting from unsafe speed for existing conditions on SR-74, west of Springcrest Road in Pinyon.
 - Dec. 16 — at 11:25 p.m., a solo vehicle, non-injury

collision resulting from an unsafe turn on SR-74 at Keen Camp.

Sheriff's log

- The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Station responded to the following calls from Sunday, Dec. 11 to Monday, Dec. 19. This may not be a complete list of responses:
 - Dec. 11 — An unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary and auto theft in the 54000 block of Bautista Canyon Road in Anza. The case remains open but suspended.
 - Dec. 16 — An unidentified suspect is reported to have committed felony burglary of a residence in the 59000 block of Roger Lane, Anza. The case is closed, with no further action.

Anza man guilty of infanticide

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Dannie Joe Farnum, 30, of Anza was sentenced to 25 years in state prison for murder and assault on a child leading to its death.

The seven-month old child was the son of his girlfriend, Delice Sharon Preston. Farnum was arrested and accused of killing his girlfriend's son in November 2008. After a two-week trial, the jury found him guilty in September.

Farnum was watching the infant while Preston went shopping. During this time, he apparently dropped or beat the child. When Preston returned, Farnum went to the infant's crib and cried out that he was not breathing. They called for emergency help. The baby died at the hospital.

Farnum could never explain to investigators how the infant was injured and his own six-year daughter, who was four when the incident happened, was video tapped discussing how her father had shaken the infant.

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

Strange but true

It was Robert Wright, journalist, scholar and author of best-selling books about science, who made the following sage observation: "Like a lawyer, the human brain wants victory, not truth; and, like a lawyer, it is sometimes more admirable for skill than virtue."

Strange but true

The next time you're upset and thinking about tossing something across the room, try to keep in mind the results of a study conducted in 1999, in which researchers found that venting anger on inanimate objects actually increases aggression rather than decreasing it.

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Idyllwild Weather
From the National Weather Service

Thursday 12/22	Friday 12/23	Saturday 12/24	Sunday 12/25	Monday 12/26
50/29 Mostly sunny.	55/34 Mostly sunny.	61/39 Sunny.	64/39 Sunny.	63/40 Sunny.

Idyllwild this year					Idyllwild last year			
Date	High	Low	M	S	High	Low	M	S
12-12	58	28	.30	2	73	38		
12-13	36	25	.02		75	36		
12-14	42	20			75	35		
12-15	44	20	.01	.1	54	40		
12-16	na	na			54	36		.23
12-17	na	na			54	29		.64
12-18	44	25	.05		52	29		.30

Moisture in inches		Snow in inches	
To date this season (Idy):	9.38	To date this season (Idy):	7.1
To date last season (Idy):	8.5	To date last season (Idy):	3.7
Total last season (Idy):	29.38	Total last season (Idy):	44.9
To date this season (PC):	9.27	To date this season (PC):	22.25
Total last season (PC):	36.11	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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HOLIDAY HOURS: The Pharmacy will be closed on Dec. 25 and open Saturday, Dec. 24, 9am-4pm; Closed on New Year's Day and open Dec. 31, 9am-4pm (store) and 9am-2pm (pharmacy)
For more specials, visit our website: IdyllwildPharmacy.com • (951) 659-2135 • 54391 Village Center Dr.
Store hours: Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm; Sun. 9am-4pm • Pharmacy hours: Mon.-Fri. 9am-6 pm; Sat. 10am-4pm
Offer valid while supplies last. No refunds. All sales final. \$1 per item.

OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

Changing time zones and other stories ... Travel Plans

My off-the-Hill working adventure is almost ended. After one more day of working in the city, I will be happy to return to Idyllwild; but my stay will be short. On Thursday, for the first time in six years, I will be heading out of state for the holidays.

All this traveling makes me want to just stay home for awhile even though I have hardly left the Hill all year. I guess I have become too much of a stick in the mud, as us old-timers used to say.

So on Thursday, I will be flying to Denver, Colo., to visit my mom, sister, brother and various nieces and nephews. Then I will be off to Gillette, Wyo., for a visit with my new best friend, whom I call Miss Wyoming.

Luckily, I have the right clothing to visit both places. First because I live in Idyllwild at 5,300 feet and second because of my years working in the outdoor industry. Speaking of which I visited an REI store, for the first time ever.



An evergreen shrub adds a quiet beauty to the garden all year round, yet adds an extra bonus during fall and winter with colorful leaves and bright red berries. Nandina or heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) is both tough and durable. Originally from China and Japan, it was introduced into the United States in 1804 for use as an ornamental plant. It grows 6 to 10 feet high and spreads 3 to 5 feet. Young foliage is pinkish, and then turns to soft light green. The foliage is tinged red in winter, especially in full sun and with some frost. The flowers appear in May to June and are pinkish white. If plants are grouped, shiny red berries follow the flowers in September and persist into and through the winter until the birds finish them. Single plants seldom fruit heavily.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD VOORHEIS

Shopping for outdoor gear

REI is a giant version of the shop where I used to work. Not only is it much bigger, it carries a more diverse inventory such as skis and snowboards. However when you break it down by categories like rock climbing gear, ultralite thru hiking gear, and mountaineering equipment, the store where I worked actually had a lot more stock in these categories.

Of course, I had to start up a few conversations with the help. After all, it is only in the Town Crier that I get to show off my knowledge of outdoor gear these days. The staff was pretty knowledgeable but I stumped them on a few questions about a product I was looking for.

Like me, they knew everything about the products that

they carried but nothing about outdoor brands that they don't sell.

Local Weather

I have now been caught in two hurricane force wind storms and one major lightning storm in the last three weeks.

First, I was in San Gabriel when wind gusts were blowing at 97 miles per hour. These were strong enough to topple hundreds of trees and knock out the power to several cities.

When you hit Starbucks at 5 a.m. and they are closed, it makes for a very long day. We had a big commercial generator but unfortunately it was in a storage facility

with an electric gate. If that is not a Catch 22, I do not know what is.

Last Thursday, I found myself driving into the teeth of a major downpour with lightning followed by almost instantaneous thunder. I do not know if you had the same storm here, but it was tremendously powerful.

Then on Friday, I ran into a tumbleweed nightmare on the Ramona Expressway in Hemet. The wind was so fierce that it was raising huge dust clouds and blowing my pickup all over the road.

Finally, I came to a road block with a fire engine across both lanes of traffic and an Edison crew working on a downed power line. I was happy to make it home safely to windy but light snow flurries and fresh mountain air.



Homes for the Holidays



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CURB APPEAL

Gated Equestrian Estate offering 4.78 flat, usable acres and mountain views. Living Room includes oak paneling, River Rock hearth, vaulted ceiling and Solarium. Gourmet Kitchen leads to Breakfast Nook. Formal Dining. Family Room. First floor Master plus 2 additional Bedrooms. Two car attached Garage. 2 stall loafing shed, storage barn and 60' round pen. **\$419,000**



LOG HIDEAWAY

Soaring gambrel ceiling with raised River Rock hearth Fireplace in Living Room plus picture window with Valley Views. Gourmet Kitchen adjoins Dining Area. Three Bedrooms plus Master with private Deck. Two luxury baths. Paved driveway and massive parking includes 6 car carport and workshop. Detached dog Kennel and Grooming enclosure. **\$599,000**



NEARLY NEW

Built in 2005 with custom amenities. On half an acre with tree top Mountain Views and sense of privacy. Great Room boasts cathedral ceiling, wall of windows, Oak floors and cabinets. French doors open to wrap around deck. Two Bedrooms, 2 Baths. Under house Workshop. **\$239,000**



ON STRAWBERRY CREEK

Babbling Creekside setting amid Pines and Cedar with Lily Rock views. Inviting Living Room includes River Rock hearth and vaulted ceiling. Formal Dining opens to Kitchen. Three Bedrooms. Partially fenced. Decks front and back. **\$349,000**



RANCH ESTATE

Leaded glass double door entry to formal Living Room with cathedral pine-paneled ceiling, raised hearth Fireplace and stunning views. Formal Dining plus Breakfast area and quality gourmet Kitchen. Five Bedrooms, Office, Workout Room. Extensive deck. Fruit trees, grapes and roses. 4 car Garage. Room for equestrian amenities. **\$619,000**



May the Miracle of Christmas be yours, filled with happiness, family and friends.

12.22.11

For additional properties, call 888-675-4025 or e-mail larry@hilltoprealty.com

Hill restaurants what will be open for Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25:

Arriba Mexican Restaurant 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days
Idyll Awhile Wine Shoppe 12 to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve

Café Aroma
7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve
5 to 10 p.m. Christmas Day

The Creek House
3 to 7 p.m. Christmas Eve

Gastrognome
11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve
1 to 7 p.m. Christmas Day

Gary's Deli
10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Christmas Day

Goodtimes Pub & Grill
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Christmas Eve

Hidden Village Chinese
11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Both days

Jo An's Restaurant & Bar
7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Christmas Eve

Lumber Mill Bar & Grill
11 to 1 a.m. Christmas Eve
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Christmas Day

Mile High Café
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Christmas Eve
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Christmas Day

Nature's Wisdom
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve

Oma's Restaurant & Bakery
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Christmas Eve

Red Kettle
6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Eve

Christmas church services

Offering an opportunity to pause for reflection and worship during the hustle of the holiday season, most of Idyllwild's churches host special Christmas Eve and Christmas services. Several feature special activities and entertainment, such as candle lighting, spiritual and seasonal music and a children's Christmas play.

Here is a list of the churches and Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, events.

See the Church Directory on page x for the address of the churches.

Chapel in the Pines

Christmas Eve Candle-light Service, 5 p.m. (held at former Morning Sky School campus)
Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

Community Presbyterian

Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day with caroling, 9:30 a.m.

Idyllwild Bible Church

Christmas Eve Candle-light Celebration, 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Christmas Night Service, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Queen of Angels Catholic

Christmas Eve Caroling, and Candle Lighting and Mass, 4 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass, 8 and 10 a.m.

St. Hugh's Episcopal

Christmas Eve Caroling 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day no service

Spiritual Living Center

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service, 6:30 p.m. (holiday music by Phyllis Curington-Brown, Elaine Balkman Latimer, Barbara Rayliss and Bill Sheppard).
Christmas Morning Meditation, 10 a.m.

Peace Prayer gathering (part of a worldwide event), 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 31.



Idyllwild's Christmas tree is covered with snow.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Christmas

Continued from page 1

complete schedule, above.)

The Rustic is screening the second in the Robert Downey Jr.'s and Jude Law's Sherlock Holmes series, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game

of Shadows," and local venues feature entertainment.

But for many, as snow and cold weather blanket Idyllwild, it is a time for family, friends, fireplaces blazing and cozy celebration.

The Town Crier wishes all our readers a singularly wonderful Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Blessings for a strong "core" in 2012!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For the Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar, see "On the Town," on page 16.

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.
- 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 22

- 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.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

FRIDAY, DEC 23

- 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 24

- Occupy Idyllwild for Peace, Justice and Nonviolence "teach-in" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Town center at "Harmony" monument. (909) 228-6710
- 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 25

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Alcoholics Anonymous Marathon meeting, noon to midnight 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 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 26

- Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting (open), 9 a.m. Call (619) 895-0934 for location.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. 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.

TUESDAY, DEC 27

- 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.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

- 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, will be Thursday, Dec. 29 at the home of Nancy Borchers. please call the paper (951) 659-2145 for directions.
- 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).

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (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 & 1-3:30 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, Wednesday & Friday, 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 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.



At its Dec 14 meeting, Idyllwild Rotary President **Chuck Streeter** (right) presents a gift to **Bill Baker** and **Vi Hallacy**, members of the Mile High Radio club, for being the group's guest speakers.

PHOTO BY STEVE ESPINOSA



The Peaceful Mountain Inn is the newest member of the Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon are inn managers **Clay Helgren** and **Robert Bush**. Chamber members holding the ribbon **Kim Mueller**, BBVA Bank, and **Lanny Hardy**, Creek House Restaurant.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

Strange but true

It was March 15, 1952, when the largest amount of rainfall in a single 24-hour period was recorded. It was the island of Reunion, in the Indian Ocean, that had the misfortune to receive a whopping 73.62 inches of rain on that Ides of March. That's more than 6 feet of rain in a single day!

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INITIAL THOUGHTS

Christmas thoughts — past and present ...



As we quickly approach the end of 2011, the Town Crier's 65th year and the centennial of our founder, Emax, Ernie Maxwell, I wish to give you, our faithful readers, the gift of another Emax column. Below are his thoughts from Dec. 22, 1961.

Sometimes the commerce of Christmas time overwhelms the truly important values of the occasion, and it may be that there are among us many who have only a faint notion of what all the celebration is about.

We create an artificial situation which glitters for a moment, then it's on to the next celebration with a different variety of decorations.

Yet, for those of us who dwell in the forest, Christmas holds greater meaning. We share some of the feeling for evergreens of primitive people, who looked upon the fragrant foliage in the dead of winter as a sign of hope. It meant new life with the coming of spring.

We have noted through the years that old timers here tend to observe Christmas here in a quiet fashion. We found one mountaineer near our cabin years ago who spent the day simply strolling through the woods, enjoying the smells, sounds and sights of nature.

Our own Christmas has become less strenuous as we seek the company of congenial friends and neighbors. The number of gifts on the tree is of minor importance, compared to the warmth of fellowship.

However, we are as happy as anyone that the holidays bring forth so much light. It makes no difference to us whether it's electric, gas or candle. We do enjoy the lightness of Christmas.

Lights not only illuminate but shed warmth. The main street of every city or village seems friendlier when decorated with strings of lights. The world could use many more strings, stretching into every dark corner where people live in fear.

Extra light is always appreciated, and it is for this reason that we are particularly fond of snowplows. Operating on wintry nights, these mechanical St. Bernards are a welcome sight with their beams and running lights. They are like mobile Christmas trees.

Therefore, as we wish everyone a warm and enlightened Christmas, we pay particular tribute to the crewmen who not only clear our routes but cheer us with glowing light.

Emax

In closing this holiday column, we wish all our readers, web viewers, friends, neighbors and everyone else a Merry Christmas.

May glad tidings and new hopes fill your thoughts and plans for 2012.

And think about Emax's view of light in this forest, when you read the "County Corner" story about "Light pollution" or as the county fondly describes it, "Light trespass."

From Grace, James, Cid, Halie, Julie, Marshall, Shane and Sandy.

"Peace and grace, today and tomorrow."

J.P., EDITOR

Matter of fact

In the Dec. 15 issue we published three lunar eclipse photographs. Unfortunately, photographers John Drake and Doris Jean Lombard were credited with the one another's photograph.

Drake took the red cast lunar photo and Lombard photographed the lunar photo with the upside down crescent.

Town Crier regrets the error.

READERS WRITE

IFPD needs our help

EDITOR:

As new residents to Idyllwild, my wife and I have been greeted with open arms and we just wanted say how appreciative we are.

Last night [Tuesday, Dec. 13], on a couple of occasions, I found it impossible not to voice my opinion as I attended the December [Idyllwild Fire Protection District commissioners'] meeting. This was my mistake. My intent was simply to sit back, watch and become closer to the new community, which we have joined.

I found the new board of commissioners to be very well educated and clearly well informed. That being said, we all know the old proverb, chose your battles wisely. Stand behind the people and they will stand behind you. Especially when it comes to one of our own firefighters.

Throughout the night there was much talk, by all commissioners, about the budget and any possible cuts that could potentially be made. Only once did I hear anyone mention the smartest thing to end the budget crises. The only option left is when Chief Walker said we need to increase revenue.

This is a very simple concept. The only challenge is, as a community, do we have the creativity and the ambition to figure out a way?

It is abundantly clear how important our fire department is to Idyllwild. I would propose that they accept any and all ideas on how they can raise money.

My only criticism to our board is a more conscientious approach to how the community views their decisions. Unfortunately, there is the potential of new ideas being drug down by old ones.

The [former] president [Pete Capparelli] is still on the new board. My compliments goes out to the new president, as she learns the procedures of the meetings.

She said she would pay for a \$250 class out of her own pocket. However, the old way of thinking raised

Mr. Funny Guy

by Chris Fisher



it's ugly head when our former president said, "You shouldn't have do that, we should have to pay." I was glad his comment was ignored.

It is very clear, after look-

ing at the income and expense statements, something needs to be done soon.

I know I will be doing my part in trying to come up with new streams of revenue

See [Letters](#), page 30

Holiday closings

Hill businesses and institutions that will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, to observe Christmas:

BBVA Compass	Idyllwild Water District
Fern Valley Water District	(also Friday, Dec. 23)
(also Friday, Dec. 23 and Tuesday, Dec. 27)	Pine Cove Water District
Hemet Unified School District	Riverside County offices
Idyllwild Library	Town Crier
	(also Friday afternoon, Dec. 23)

These will be open:

Area post offices	Idyllwild Transfer Station
Country Farms	(closed Sunday, Dec. 25)
Fairway Market	Mountain Harvest Market
(closed Saturday, Dec. 24)	Mountain Top Liquor
Gary's Deli	Pine Cove Market
Idyllwild Health Center	Village Market
Idyllwild Pharmacy	(also open Sunday, Dec. 25 until 9 p.m.)
(closed Sunday, Dec. 25)	

How to get a letter published

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

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY

SHANNON HODGEN JACOBS,
STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR,
IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY

Cooking up a Healthier Planet ...

At Idyllwild Arts Academy, we have begun to implement sustainable practices in many aspects of our campus life.

Some of the greatest successes have occurred in our dining hall. We've become deliberate in sourcing our food locally, seasonally and in pursuit of organic produce. We have moved forward in establishing relationships with local farmers who can provide fresh, humanely raised and chemical free meat, poultry and eggs.

We are moving in the direction of collecting and utilizing our compost and again working with community resources to handle our recycling. We see a greenhouse and garden in the near future. There we can put to good use things that are being taken to the transfer station and later thrown into a mega trash heap.

Most people would agree that the above actions, taking place at Idyllwild Arts, are wonderful and important.

But, I also think the food choices we make as individuals matter. These individual choices bear greater weight on our planet as our life spans become longer, our numbers grow and our choices about what and where to eat become more varied with each passing minute.

I had an interaction a couple months ago that challenged me to think about how I choose what I cook in my home.

It started with me gazing at a small, rather, innocent looking pumpkin I'd purchased a month before with the plan to carve it into a jack-o-lantern. I'd not got-

ten around to carving it, so it had remained on my front patio as Halloween came and went.

Some may classify me as a risk taker because of my next move. I took that pumpkin and I constructed a meal out of it. Actually, I made many meals out of it. They were absolutely delicious. Many others agreed because I shared some with them, too.

Most of us are driven to fix a meal based on what we feel like eating or seeing a recipe we wish to try. We then go to Fairway or Village Market or Mountain Harvest. We may even drive to Stater Brothers or Trader Joes. If we are really food savvy, perhaps we go to Jensen's Market or Bristol Farms to pick up ingredients. This is one way to view the acquisition of food ingredients.

Here is another. What if you let what was in your home right now, in your pantry, your fridge, heck, your yard, direct what will be for dinner?

What if you cooked "ingredient first" rather than "recipe first?" For example, since I already had a Halloween pumpkin, how could I prepare a meal from it?

I also had some kale and cooked quinoa in my fridge, I also had some turkey kielbasa sausage in my freezer. In my garden, I had a hardy plant that many of us have even in winter — sage.

What if we decided on our meal based on the contents of our pantry or refrigerator? Voila! Pumpkin-kale soup with kielbasa and sage brown butter. If it helps, think of it as a game, a puzzle. If you think you may want to try, but need



THAT WAS YUMMY!

By JOANNE SLATER

Turkey leftovers

In my home, turkey is the traditional Christmas dinner. I always enjoy a hot turkey sandwich with the leftovers. When we partake in the leftovers, it seems the tastes are more pronounced.

My creative side allows me to try different dishes with the turkey, and turkey tetrazzini has become a favorite with my family and friends. I hope you enjoy this recipe, and that your holidays are wonderful, happy and peaceful!



Turkey Tetrazzini (Makes about 4 cups or 3 generous servings.)

2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
1 10-3/4-ounce can condensed creamy chicken mushroom soup
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon dry sherry
1 cup cooked cubed turkey
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
2-1/2 cups cooked spaghetti

Melt the butter in a medium sauce pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and mushrooms, then sauté until tender.

Reduce the heat to medium and add soup, water, cheese and sherry, stirring occasionally until cheese melts. Finally, add the remaining ingredients and bring to serving temperature.

You may sprinkle more Parmesan cheese over the Tetrazzini if you like.

TWY requests

Send "That was yummy" requests to joanneslater@towncrier.com. Please include your name, city of residence and phone number.

some help, check out "The Flavor Bible: The essential guide to culinary creativity," by Karen Page and Andrew Dornenburg. It allows you to look up a food, a spice or an herb and find complementary foods that pair well with what you've already got.

When you use items that are already in your home, you don't burn gas to drive to the market. When you use plants growing in your yard, you aren't buying packaging such as plastic bags, clam-shell boxes and styrofoam containers. When you use things like whole produce, you get to use all of it and

you get more of it.

Cooking "ingredient first," otherwise known as cooking "Slow Food," also will allow you to eat more seasonally and locally. Last, we actually get to practice something that we don't tend to do anymore with the advent of fast food and frequent restaurant dining ... critical thinking.

Creating meals this way takes ingenuity; but it doesn't require any more time to cook this way than cooking "recipe first."

This concept of ingredient driven cooking, "Slow Food," is what we are practicing as an aspect of sus-

TOWN TALK

By CID CASTILLO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Do you have anything special planned this Christmas?



Dena Barmore
Village Nail Salon
Pinyon

"Christmas Eve we are having dinner with 18 family members. On Christmas Day, we ride our horses. It's a tradition."



Britta Hollowell
Retired
Pine Cove

"Everything I do I like to think is special! I am spending a beautiful, quiet sober Christmas with a few special, close friends."



Daniel Blake Sheppard
Showtime Video
Idyllwild

"I love how Christmas brings people together. This year I'm going to appreciate the things I have and not think so much about things I want."



Patty Bailey
Retired
Pine Cove

"We love staying at home, especially on Christmas. I did a huge turkey dinner for Thanksgiving; for Christmas it's Lasagna!"

tainable living and make the world a slightly better place.

In the preparation of one meal we have eliminated pollutant emissions, we bypassed the landfill, we have supported our local farmers (which in some cases, might be us) and we have re-engaged our ability to think critically and used perhaps our MacGyver-like sense of ingenuity.

We also may have shown our children and our guests a new, thoughtful way of cooking and eating all the while promoting positive human interaction and fun.

In conclusion, food can help make the world a better place if we all think about it. Ingredient driven, thoughtful cooking is yet one of many ways that food really can have a huge impact.

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Fern Valley elects officers and welcomes new director

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Trischa Clark took her seat as the newest director on the Fern Valley Water District (FVWD) board at the Friday, Dec. 16 meeting. "I'd just like to say that I'm happy to be on the board," said Clark.

At the same meeting, the board chose Charlie Wix as the next FVWD president, replacing the retired Ron Korman. Robert Krieger was elected vice president and Jim Rees is the new Secretary.

Korman attended the meeting and was presented a gift, a commemorative plaque, by District Secretary Jessica Priefer, who was also confirmed by the board for another year in her position.

In other business, the

board took several financial actions. The larger was approval of the final invoice from El-Co Contractors for pipeline replacement. The request was for almost \$268,000, about \$17,500 more than the total approved contract of \$463,000. General Manager Steve Erler said the additional amount (for an asphalt patch for a new sewer lateral, removal of several large boulders, removal of soil due to high water table and other sundries) was a reasonable request. That addition brought the amount paid to El-Co to \$480,424, an amount the board approved by vote.

The board also approved an out of court settlement of \$2,553 to district property owner Ray Brown for a driveway repair that Brown alleged the district improperly performed.

The board also received and approved the annual audit, copies of which are available at the district office.

Erler, in his general manager's report, noted that November water production is less than the October's (3.1 million gallons compared to 3.7 million gallons in October) but slightly more than November 2010 production. Average demand in the district is also down slightly from a year ago, and significantly less than the peak production years of 2006 through 2008. Wells remain 1 to 3 feet higher than same time last year. Treated water storage is at 83 percent of capacity and raw water storage is at 98 percent.

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



Trischa Clark is a new director at Fern Valley Water District.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH;



District Secretary Jessica Priefer (right) presents retired Board President Ron Korman a gift to commemorate his many years of service to the district.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

Adequate water; fewer drinking it in Pine Cove

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Pine Cove Water District (PCWD) has solid infrastructure, according to General Manager Jerry Holldber. Unlike some major Midwestern and Eastern cities that are struggling to refurbish or replace dated equipment and lack the funds to do so, PCWD carries out regular maintenance every year and infrastructure replacement when needed. The district continues to proceed with infrastructure investments, while produc-

ing, according to residents, very good water.

But year end totals indicate fewer people are drinking district water according to statistics Holldber reported on Wednesday, Dec. 14. Reports show two years of declining production and some of the lowest production and consumption totals on record. "I'd like to attribute it to conservation efforts," said Holldber, "but it really is fewer users."

Holldber cited a recent Town Crier article about the loss of a major Hill demographic component. Accord-

ing to the 2010 census, a 33.37 percent decline in the 35-49 year age group (from 25.1 to 16.7 percent of the population in zip code 92549) is draining the district's customers. Production in 2010 was 32.3 million gallons, 29.4 accounted for and billed; production through November 2011 has been 30 million gallons (1.4 percent less than

the comparable 2010 period). But unaccounted for water continues to decline.

In other business, Holldber reported he is investigating how a new requirement for sprinklers in new residential construction will impact the district from both an infrastructure and cost standpoint. Board President Tom McCullough pointed

out that activation of automatic sprinklers during a wildfire emergency could impact water district water pressure and ability for professional responders to fight fires.

Holldber also announced the district had completed and received its state health permit. A copy is available

at the district office.

Finally, District Secretary Becky Smith reported the district web site now contains information from board meeting packets, including monthly financials and audits.

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



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Commission

Continued from page 1

While no major actions were taken, the commission took several steps that will have long-lasting ramifications.

Besides creating the ad hoc committee, the commission took a formal vote to continue the paid-call firefighter group. At the November meeting, Chief Walker recommended dismantling the group because membership and interest has waned over the past several years.

At that meeting, speaking as Commissioner-elect, Donahoo asked for a decision to be deferred until this month. Donahoo retired from the program a year ago.

"It's a viable program, but just pushed aside," he said. "If the commission and Chief want it, it can happen and be beneficial. There's absolutely no effort made to get new members."

After Donahoo spoke in favor of the paid-call program, the Commission unanimously approved its continuation. However, no action was assigned to develop a plan for rejuvenating the group.

In June, the District



Jerry Buchanan attending his first IFPD commission meeting, as commissioner.

PHOTO BY J. P. CRUMRINE

did approve the creation of the Idyllwild Volunteer Fire Company. Information about membership and qualifications is on the IFPD website. Information about the paid-call association is not available.

The commission also discussed its expectations and relationship with the Chief and management decisions affecting the Department.

Capparelli stressed, "The Chief should run the day-to-day business of the department." None of his colleagues objected. Commissioner Dr. Charles "Chip" Schelly commented that he expected the Chief to bring the major decisions to the

commission as a recommendation for approval. "I just want it procedurally correct," he replied. "The commission is not here to micromanage. The Chief implements the policies."

This discussion moved to the status of changes to the District's "Rules" policy. The Chief distributed a copy of the proposal and the commission will discuss its approval at its January meeting. This policy has been undergoing revision since spring 2010.

The commission began discussing Minor's pay since he has earned his paramedic certification. The Chief, who said he would prefer to pay

Minor as a firefighter/paramedic, repeated his position that the additional funding is not available within the current budget.

This is the reason the commission decided to hold a budget workshop next month. The commissioners plan to review the entire District budget, looking for a source for the \$18,000 needed for Minor's raise.

Otherwise the new commission did not address the District's financial plight. In response to a public question, Walker said the advance of \$450,000 worth of property taxes and special assessment revenue would be repaid to the Riverside County from the Department's December and January revenues.

In the past two years, IFPD has received an average of \$510,000 from these sources in December and January. If the average collection occurs this year, IFPD will have about \$55,000, along with its current bank balance of \$425,000 for payroll and expenses through April. The next major revenue infusion will be from the May property tax receipts.

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

Future IFPD meetings

6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20

Agenda

- Confirm if CalPERS Retirement November payment is being made in December
- Review bookkeeper position description and candidates
- Complete Chief Walker's annual performance evaluation
- Direction to Ad HOC Committee Negotiating with Career

8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7

Workshop on 2011-12 budget

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Strange but true

It was American journalist, satirist, critic and editor H.L. Mencken who made the following observation:
"For centuries, theologians have been explaining the unknowable in terms of the-not-worth-knowing."

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Library construction bid selected

180-day construction timeline

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The lowest responsive bidder for the Idyllwild Library Project is Hamel Contracting, Inc. of Murrieta. Of 13 contractors that submitted bids, Hamel submitted the lowest bid (\$1,695,600) and also submitted required federal documentation.

Federal documentation was required because a Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) funded the project in whole or in

part. Construction is therefore subject to applicable federal procurement, labor, environmental, equal opportunity and other regulations. McGowan Development Corp. of Lancaster submitted a lower bid but failed to submit the federal documentation and therefore Riverside County Counsel adjudged McGowan's bid to be non-compliant with bid requirements.

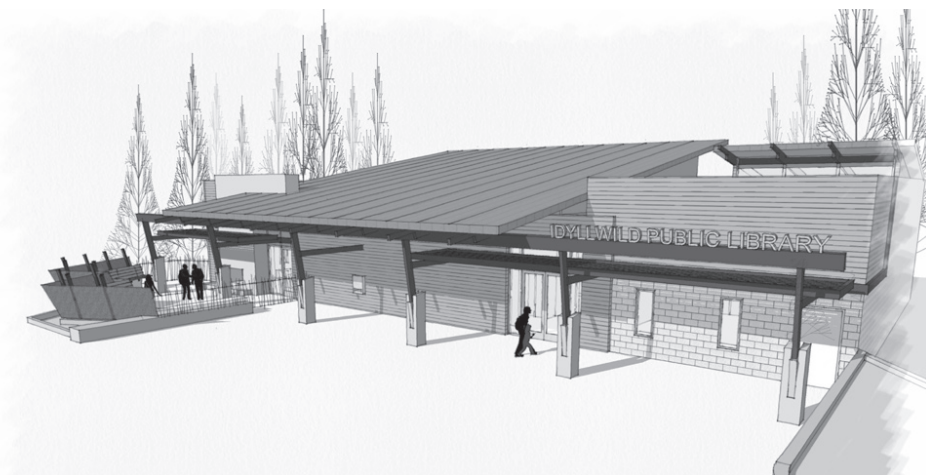
No local contractors submitted bids.

Approval of the contract was on the Board's agenda

for its Tuesday, Dec. 20 meeting. The staff recommendation to accept and award the construction contract including a total project budget of \$2,208,040.

Groundbreaking and construction are slated for January 2012, with a 180-day timeline for completion. Hamel also served as contractor for the recently dedicated Hemet Service Center (see page 10 in this edition).

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



RENDERING OF IDYLLWILD LIBRARY, HMC ARCHITECTS, ONTARIO.

Recreation Council seeks grant for skate park

Ice rink not iced and future uncertain

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

While it reviewed current challenges, the Idyllwild Community Recreation Council (ICRC) board also noted some bright spots at its Monday, Dec. 12 meeting. The successes include the possibility of a sizeable grant to support operations at the Idyllwild Skate Park (ISP) as well as ever-increasing attendance at the

volunteer-helmed park.

New board member Cheryl Vladika submitted a \$15,000 grant proposal to the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Vladika personally presented the fully documented grant request and reported that her presentation was well received. Tribal representatives told Vladika her request would be on their January agenda. The Morongo are one of the most community-involved

tribal governments, with a long history of assisting neighboring communities, Vladika said. That history of assistance includes 26 years of Thanksgiving outreach, with a record of providing Thanksgiving dinner to over 700,000 people in neighboring communities.

One of the challenges facing the ICRC board is the possibility that the Riverside County Building and Safety Department may require engineering certifications for the proposed playground at the Idyllwild Community Center (ICC) site. Were that to occur, said acting chair Dawn Sonnier, it would require significantly more money than has already been raised.

The board also discussed the status of the seasonal ice-skating rink, being built by a private company on the ICC



Despite weeks of preparation, the ice rink is still not ready for skaters as of Tuesday morning, Dec. 20.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

site. Originally scheduled to open the weekend of Nov. 25, the rink has still not opened and looks far from finished, according to the directors. Sonnier expressed

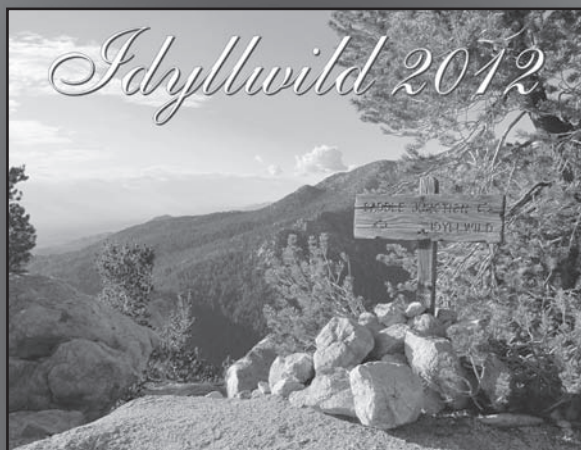
frustration and said she had no idea when it would open.

In other business, Sonnier reported that Kari Arnson, who had previously served

as director, has declined to re-join the board, leaving a director's seat available..

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

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State automatic cuts less than feared

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

While the California budget situation has evinced little improvement since the legislature enacted a budget in June, the Governor's Finance Director announced her end of year projections last week.

These were significantly better than the Legislative Analyst's November estimates. Consequently, the

necessary January budget cuts will be about \$1 billion rather than the worse case scenario of \$2 billion.

The smaller reduction amount will be focused on the state's higher education programs rather than local K through 12 schools.

The June budget estimated revenues for the current fiscal year would be about \$88.5 billion. Last month, the LAO estimated these revenues would be

closer to \$84.8 billion. Last week, Ana Matosantos, Gov. Jerry Brown's director of finance, released her offices estimate of \$86.2 billion.

Consequently, the total current year budget reductions will be about \$981 million. While nearly 25 percent of those reductions will come from school transportation costs, \$300 million will come from state higher education pro-

grams and \$100 million from in-home support services.

The Finance office is estimating that state personal income tax revenue will be \$1.5 billion more than expected, due to wages and salaries, not capital gains. Sales tax revenues are estimated to be slightly lower.

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

No bald eagles seen in December

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The annual bald eagle count began Saturday. Throughout San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains, the U.S. Forest Service reported 9 eagles (5 adults and 4 juveniles) were observed at regional lakes.

At Lake Hemet, three people came to help the count, but no eagles were observed Saturday morning.

"Probably due [the absence] to the steady rain that was falling," wrote the Forest Service public information officer John Miller.

Of the nine eagles seen in Southern California mountains, four eagles (three adults and one juvenile) were observed in the Big Bear and Baldwin Lake area; two juvenile eagles were seen at Lake Arrowhead and Lake Gregory; two eagles (one adult and one juvenile) were at Silverwood Lake; and a solitary

eagle was seen at Lake Peris.

Across the region, about 80 volunteers braved the wet winter conditions to participate in the 1-hour eagle census.

Three remaining eagle counts are scheduled for this winter. They are at 8:30 a.m., on the following Saturday mornings: Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 10.

Lake Hemet volunteers should plan on meeting at the Lake Hemet Grocery Store at 8:30 a.m. for instructions. Contact Ann Poopatanapong at 909-382-2935 for more information.

In 2008 and 2009, the Lake Hemet pair fledged two chicks each year. The Forest Service does not have data for 2010 and 2011, according to San Jacinto Ranger District Wildlife Biologist Anne Poopatanapong.

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

Golf

Jim Crandall, Palms to Pines handicap chair, gave this report on last week's golf tournament:

Palms to Pines Golf Association held its regular monthly tournament at The Legends Golf Club (formerly Temeku Hills) on Friday, Dec. 16.

Chuck Alkire (course handicap 10) came in first with a net 72. **Pete Capparelli** (20) and **Les Widerynski** (16) shared second with net 75s. **John LoGiudice** (22) and **Robert Priefer** (23) tied for fourth with net 77s.

There were four closest-to-the-pin contests: **John Brower** won on hole 3; **Dale Calderon** won on hole 6; Priefer won on hole 11; and Widerynski won on hole 15.

The club welcomes new member **Wayne Sleme**.

Here are the year-to-date point standings for the 2011-2012 season:

Place	Golfer	Points
1	Alkire	16
2	Gary Leong	14
3	Capparelli	11.5
4	John McAndrews	10.5
5	Priefer	8.5
tied for	Bob Stearns	7.5
6	Widerynski	7.5
8	Brower	6
9	LoGiudice	5
10	Dan Slattery	4
tied for	Gary Minor	3.5
11	Bill Sanborn	3.5
13	Jim Crandall	2
14	Gary Brown	1.5
tied for	Calderon	.5
	Greg Piersol	.5
15	Wayne Sleme	.5

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

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

Town Hall Adult Volleyball

Jeremy Teeguarden reported on Town Hall Adult Volleyball for the week of Dec. 5.

The adult volleyball league kicked off Monday, Dec. 5 with a match between the two teams who were in last year's championship.

Idyllwild Garage and Idyllwild Inn looked sharp in their first games since last winter. Idyllwild Inn won the first game, but it wasn't easy 28-26. **Paula Shirley** set great for the Inn all match long. **Janey Espinoza** played well for the Garage; but Idyllwild Inn won the match in three games to avenge their loss in the championship last year.

On Tuesday, Silver Pines took on team Boss. In a back and forth match, both teams again looked very sharp. **Caleb Anderson** for Silver Pines and **Ryan Henninger** hit great in a back and forth match, which came down to the fifth and deciding game. It began close; but Silver Pines went on a run to win the game 15-7 and the won the match 3-2.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, two newly formed teams went toe-to-toe in their first match. Idyllwild Chevron played Forest Lumber in close match.

The teams went back and forth as **Brennen Priefer** was all over the place for Chevron. **Michelle Bower** played great for Forest Lumber. Similar to the previous night, the match went to a fifth and deciding game. Forest Lumber started well and had the lead midway through the game. Then Chevron comeback and won the game 15-10 and their first match 3-2.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011

Hello all customers of Red Kettle, Rustic Theatre, Pine Cove Market & Pine Cove Spirit Gas,

As of today, we have awarded \$1,812.79 in rewards to our customers at Red Kettle, 448 free Rustic Theatre movie tickets and \$15,491.32 in discounts at Pine Cove Market and Pine Cove Spirit Gas as a reward for our loyal customers.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE REWARDS PROGRAM IS COMING TO AN END.

January 15, 2012, will be the last day you will receive punches per the program.

January 31, 2012, will be the last day you will be able to redeem the cards at one of the named businesses.

The decision is due to the extreme verbal abuse and threats to our employees, their families, as well as myself from several locals who apparently don't appreciate the rewards that were offered.

Again, we want to thank you for your business and support. We strive to bring the very best quality and prices to our local market share. For those who assume we do nothing other than collect your money for goods and services, remember we are employing 52 locals and giving back here in our community. Stewart Family companies have donated more than \$20,500 in 2011 so far to various local organizations and families here on the Hill.

Thank you,
Shane Stewart



Idyllwild 2012 locks in festival selections and schedules

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Festival Chairman Phil Calderone announced the selections and schedules for Idyllwild 2012 International Festival of Cinema (IIFC) on Monday, Dec. 19. He noted the still-nascent festival is hosting six world premieres, one U.S. premiere, two West Coast premieres and two Southern California premieres. The list of films, based on online festival synopses, seems to reflect Festival Director Stephen Savage's promise to feature story-centric quality films. The broad mix of dramas, comedies and documentaries listed on the festival website appears diverse and interesting. Synopses of festival selections are available, by category, at www.iifoc.com.

The Festival's closing film will be "Life at the Resort," directed by Jeff Sable and Zander Villayne, according to Calderone. It's billed as both a comedy and intrigue that

uncovers, through a roller coaster of ups and downs, that there is considerably more than hospitality being offered up at a famous Five Star resort.

While Festival Director Stephen Savage has been occupied shooting a feature film, Calderone has largely taken the day-to-day reins of orchestrating this year's festival. Calderone's handy work shows in the well-provisioned and user-friendly festival website and in festival selections, all of which Calderone has seen and approved, and many of which he personally brought in.

Calderone is both a filmmaker and a film buff. It's clear in talking with him, that he love movies and has a particular soft spot for independent movies.

"I want to see an audience for these films. There is such a depth of emotion that goes into making these films," he said, noting the raw passion and enthusiasm



Festival Chairman Phil Calderone.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALDERONE.

young filmmakers bring to their first films. "You can see a full spectrum of work at this festival, hits, near misses, and everything in between. And then there are films like [festival selection] 'Buttons in the Ground' that are perfect — beautifully written, acted and filmed."

Calderone and Savage cited several films as personal favorites that show the quality they believe is representative of this year's selections.

They discussed several of the feature films.

"Greencastle" is a quirky off-beat drama about a single father's search for meaning. "Paradise Recovered" is about a woman evangelical who questions her faith. "It's balanced and provocative, with nuanced subject matter," said Calderone.

"The Selling," features a too-honest-for-his-own-good real estate agent who has to sell a haunted house.

"It's funny," said Calderone, "and made by a group of actors who had worked together as a theater troupe."

Calderone also liked the short "Get Off My Porch," as much for the one-line synopsis as for the very funny film itself. "How could you not like a film with such a great premise?" Calderone laughed. The synopsis reads, "A man is terrorized by Girl Scouts selling 'delicious' cookies." Savage tipped his hat to the feature comedy, "Walk a Mile in My Pradas," as being both provocative and funny. The brief online synopsis should be enough to pique interest.

The films are, with a few exceptions, scheduled in two-hour blocks in consideration of patrons' time, said Festival Director Savage. Since most feature and full-length documentary running times are about 90 minutes, post-screening question and answer sessions are being limited this year to 10 minutes. That leaves about 20

minutes between films for attendees to eat, shop or get to the other two venues — the Rainbow Inn and the Caine Learning Center.

For anyone wanting to prescreen their choices, one of the strong features of this year's festival website is the ability to view trailers for festival features and documentaries.

A new feature this year is the availability of the Quiet Creek Living Room Gallery, just north of the Rustic, as a post-screening gathering place for patrons to meet and greet filmmakers. The gallery, according to Savage, will be open during festival hours.

All access passes for locals at a \$20 price are also a new feature this year. Passes, screening schedules, trailers, synopses and seminar descriptions are available for patron perusal at www.iifoc.com.

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

Merchants absent at Chamber festival open house

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) held its meeting at Town Hall in order to accommodate speakers from next year's festivals and a hoped-for large audience of local merchants. The Chamber offered this networking opportunity to all local merchants, not just its members, hoping to afford them information about 2012 local festivals. Attendees would learn from festival presenters how they could use the festivals, and the many off-Hill tourists they bring, to increase their sales.

Unfortunately, other than the Chamber board, no local merchants attended the Monday, Dec. 19 open house.

"We may try again in February," said Chamber President Nick Todd expressing his disappointment about the lack of attendance. But that will not help the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema (IIFC). Its mid-January event is the first of many festivals during 2012.

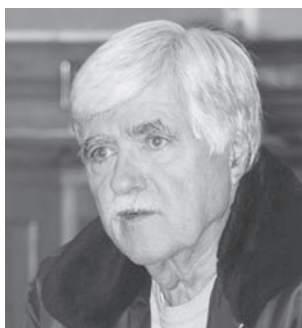
IIFC Director Stephen Savage and Chairman Phil

Calderone were philosophical about absent merchants. "We weren't asking anything from you [the Chamber board] or local merchants," he said. "It's about how we can help you."

Having attended film festivals all over the world, Savage recounted there is not a festival where local merchants don't have people passing out flyers to patrons waiting in line to get into films.

"Twenty percent off breakfast, 50 percent off clothing; you're loaded down," he noted. But with no merchants there to hear him, he offered, "I'm willing to go door to door to find out how we can help them."

"I want to find a way to get businesses more involved," said Calderone. "We'll have a merchant table at the Quiet Creek Living Room Gallery for them to display material. We have people coming from all over who did not know that Idyllwild existed, and it's such an opportunity for merchants and restaurants to increase their business. I really am open to new ideas [of how to involve the town, merchants and restaurants.]"



Ted Cummings speaks at a Chamber Open House about Jazz in the Pines networking opportunities.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

Other speakers echoed similar comments. Gary Kusher, speaking for the Art Alliance of Idyllwild, Ted Cummings for Jazz in the

Pines, and Scott Fisher for the Lemon Lily Festival all expressed interest in integrating local commerce with the special events that occur every year.

Cummings cited a survey he did several years ago of online patrons at Jazz in the Pines, which yearly draws about 2,000 people over its two days. "Fifty percent had never seen [or frequented] the town and over 25 percent thought that Idyllwild ended at Highway 243 and Saunders Meadow Road." Cummings noted that, given last year's successful in-town post festival jazz concert, Jazz in the Pines would discontinue its Saturday night Jazz and Jambalaya event. "We're doing

that so that the jazz fest in town can replace the event at Nelson Hall [dining hall on Idyllwild Arts campus]," he said.

Cummings understood the possibilities offered local merchants by the many Idyllwild festivals. "We'll bring them up from off the Hill and into town, but it is up to the merchants to figure out how to get them to spend their money."

Each speaker discussed their festival, its timing, opportunities for networking

and cross-marketing and, in the case of Jazz in the Pines, even providing transportation from the festival site to town, after festival closing hours, for festival patrons to enjoy Idyllwild's businesses and ambiance. But there were no merchants there to hear.

In other business, Susie Burkle, Idyllwild Vacation Rentals, was appointed as a new director to fill the recent vacancy.

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

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Service Center

Continued from page 1

kind of ribbon cutting. This [center] will touch the lives of many people. I'm happy to be Supervisor to help give a hand up, not a hand out, to those who need help."

At a blustery Thursday, Dec. 15 outdoor ceremony, Stone and others spoke about services available at this multi-function facility. Stone listed state-of-the-art computer labs and other forms of assistance available for job seekers, as well as offices and staff to address issues of aging, elder abuse, veterans, children and support for grandparents raising grandchildren.

"You walk in the door and [staff at the center

will help] match your skills to available jobs and provide help with creating resumes and honing interview skills," he explained. During the tour that followed, the center's computer labs were already in heavy use by jobseekers. With two labs, each equipped with 20 computers, conference and interview rooms replete with high definition video monitors, the facility is cutting edge. "We have the fastest Internet in the county," said staffer and tour guide Kevin Caldwell. "It's better than the stuff I have at home. This is where I'd come [to research]."

Caldwell explained how center staff assists jobseekers in crafting individual employment plans and use of online and video resources



Exterior of the Riverside County Hemet Service Center on State Street.

PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE.

available at the Hemet facility. The center also offers a weeklong boot camp that includes intensives in resume preparation and interview skills.

Among services the center provides to seniors are "caravan" transportation to essential services; cell phones for emergency "911" use for those who live alone;

surplus food distribution; and, under the umbrella of Adult Protective Services, advocacy for elders who have suffered abuse in the form of fraud. Stone noted that Curtailing Abuse Relating to the Elderly (CARE) has recovered \$12 million this year alone for those defrauded, and \$88 million in the years CARE has been functioning.

A staff member of State Senator Bill Emmerson (R-37) presented Stone with a Certificate of Recognition on the dedication of the Hemet Service Center. "Please tell Senator Emmerson we appreciate and honor his support," said Stone.

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



3rd District Supervisor Jeff Stone speaks during the Thursday, Dec. 15 dedication of the Hemet Service Center.

PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE

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HELP Center and Thrift Store Newsletter

Helping Idyllwild with success

While it's hard to believe that a New Year is right around the corner, the HELP Center is a happy beehive of activity at this holiday time. Children's gifts, food and holiday meal vouchers, wood and utility vouchers as well as our usual services, are all being dispersed to our clients at a busy pace.

Many of our previous funding sources have decreased, so we continue to seek new and alternative grants and funds. Thankfully, due to our experience and persistence, we meet with a measure of success. Our greatest resources, however, continue to be the wonderful and generous people, businesses and organizations of Idyllwild. There are so many to thank for their help this past year that it's hard to get them all in.

Where do we begin: This past weekend Anne and Barnaby Finch completely underwrote a sold out HELP Center Benefit Concert at the Quiet Creek Gallery and Vacation Rental location. Thank you to all the musicians who donated their time, Catering By Lorna, The Quiet Creek guys Jim and Mike, John Simpson and Vic Sirkin and everyone else that helped. Also the generous Board of Realtors that continually fill our food pantry, the Idyllwild Bible Church and the Community Church, for their food, toys, gift certificates and more. Thanks to Shane Stewart for his donation of theater tickets for our clients. Thank you to CDF for their tree donations and the fab Woodies who cut them to size, The Quilter's, the Soroptimists, Community Fund, Jazzercise, Soboba, Spark of Love, for money, food, toys and support. Thanks to our friend who stands outside of Fairway in all kinds of weather, collecting food for us. And "Mrs. Claus" for her donations that help us reach

more people. Add to these and others, the wonderful love and support we receive from so many Idyllwild citizens. Thank you to our supporters for their monthly checks and we respect your desire of anonymity. The list goes on and on, so pardon us if anyone was left off. We do sincerely thank you.

We thank everyone for their understanding and sensitivity regarding the mission and goals of the HELP Center. We thank you all for your trust in our caring and professionalism regarding knowing what is best for the HELP Center and our clients. There's a lot of thanks in here and it is all sincere and heart felt. We thank our hard working staff and volunteers. We could not function without them.

Needless to say, we will continue with our fun filled and exciting fundraisers in 2012. Yes, Conor O'Farrell will be Directing another comedy play with only the finest acting talent in Idyllwild. We will also hold our World Famous Fashion Show in the late spring and Our UnEvent Fundraiser Invites were dropped in the mail last week.

Thank you all again for you support and please remember that the Thrift Store is open 7 days per week and we need and love donations. Our Boutique space at the Fern Valley Emporium is doing fine with active sales. Thanks again Don and Sue.

The Board of Directors of the HELP Center want to wish you all a happy and heathy holiday season as well as a great head start into the new year.

Lou Bacher
President



HELP Center Hours:

Monday Closed
(available for emergencies only)

Tuesday–Friday

9 a.m.–Noon
& 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

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An \$80,000 check representing the proceeds from the 2011 Idyllwild Jazz in The Pines Festival was presented to the Idyllwild Arts Foundation at a reception held at the Quiet Creek Inn offices on North Circle Drive this weekend. Celebrating the occasion, from left, **Marsha Lytle**, Chair of Jazz in the Pines 2011 and **Jim Newcomb**, President of the Associates of Idyllwild Arts, present a check to **Linda Twitchell**, Idyllwild Arts chief advancement officer and **Theresa Teel**, Idyllwild Arts director of special events.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Middle school Idyllwild School students (grades six through eight) had plenty of holiday fun at the Associated Student Body's Christmas Dance on the last day before winter recess, Friday, Dec. 16.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Snow and bitter cold did not stop local teens from partying at Town Hall's Christmas Teen Dance, Friday Dec. 16.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Katie Bazoian, left, and **Kristi Miglin** help students at Idyllwild School as they bought Christmas presents at the school's Holiday Boutique held the last week.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



Idyllwild School teacher **Connie Chavez's** second grade class made gingerbread houses last Friday, before the Christmas holiday.

PHOTO BY BETHANY SWANSON

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Idyllwild Town Crier
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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. 21
 "Charles Dickens: A Reading by Doug Austin," 6 p.m. Silver Pines Lodge.
 Celtic Music Session, 5:30-8 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.

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.
 Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Arriba Mexican Restaurant.

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, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Wine Tasting, Weins Winery & Live Entertainment, 3-5 p.m. The Creek House.
 Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Arriba Mexican Restaurant.
 Live Music, 6-10 p.m. The Lumber Mill.
 Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. JoAn's Restaurant.

Sunday, Dec. 25
 David Jerome, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The Creek House.

Arriba Mexican Restaurant.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. Rustic Theatre.

Monday, Dec. 26
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Dec. 27
 Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m. Town Hall.
 Wine Tasting, Middle Ridge Winery, 6:30 p.m. Idyllwild Wine Shoppe & Bistro
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Wednesday, Dec. 28
 Lenny Hansell, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.

Creek House.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Thursday, Dec. 29
 1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.
 Tom McNeary, 5:30-8 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. 30
 Don Reed & Tom McNeary, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.
 Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. The Lumber Mill.
 Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

Arriba Mexican Restaurant.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Saturday, Dec. 31
 "Climbing Tahquitz Rock," Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.
 "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 2 p.m. Rustic Theatre.
 Cabaret Pre-Fixe Dinner, 4-7 p.m. The Red Kettle.

New Year's Eve Party, 5:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. JoAn's Restaurant.
 Swift Pony, 6-8 p.m. The Creek House.
 Cabaret Pre-Show, 7-8:15 p.m.; Cabaret Show Extravaganza, 8:15-10:15 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.
 New Year's Eve Party, 8 p.m.-midnight, Idyllwild Wine Shoppe & Bistro.
 Tree Fingers, 9 p.m.-12 a.m. The Creek House.

See A&E, next page

New Year's Eve Starving...
 Pinkie Meringue Shimmer
 Bella da Ball ... and more!
 7 pm on **Sat., Dec. 31** at the Rustic Theatre
 Tickets at rustictheatre.com (seating limited)

Mexican Food Plus Old Favorites
 Bar & Grill
 The Lumber Mill
 Idyllwild, California
 Open Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m. Live Music Fri. & Sat. Open until 1 a.m.
 25985 Hwy 243 • 951-659-0315

Idyllwild Wine Shoppe Bistro
Christmas Eve
 Open from 12-5 pm
 Pick up your holiday wine and a gift basket!
New Year's Eve
 Join us for the evening 8pm-12am
 \$25 included buffet & champagne toast (seating limited).
 Filet Mignon mini sandwich & cold shrimp cocktail, potato salad, vegetable tray, cheese & fruit plus dessert.
 54245 N. Circle Drive ~ C8 • 951-659-0686 (9463)
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 Family Owned & Operated
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JoAn's
 The Train is Running!
 Breakfast Served 7am - 2pm Daily
 \$3.99 Breakfast Special served Monday-Friday, 7am - 11am only
 Lunch and Dinner Specials Monday through Friday
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
 9:30 pm - 1:30 am With the band "FIRED"
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER
 5:30 - 9:30 pm
 Your choice of Prime Rib or Salmon with Artichoke Sauce & Crab
 Each dinner includes complimentary Champagne at Midnight & Party Favors
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Make Reservations Now for our NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
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 Professional Catering Available

The CREEK HOUSE
 IDYLLWILD, CA
 STEAKS * SEAFOOD * PASTA * SALAD BAR
 JOIN US IN CELEBRATING NEW YEAR'S EVE
 LIVE MUSIC 6 PM - 12 AM
 Swift Pony & Tree Fingers
 YOUR DINNER CHOICE
 Bacon Wrapped Filet, Blackened Salmon, or Supreme Chicken
 \$79.95/couple
 Complimentary Bottle of Champagne, Snacks & Desserts, Party Favors & Cover Charge
 Limited Space - Reservations Required
 Open Wednesday - Sunday at 11 AM
 Closed Christmas Day
 Live Music Every Night Thru the Holidays!
 951-659-0686 For Reservations
 54905 N. Circle Drive | thecreekhouse.com
 Great Food * Great Drinks * Great Music * GREAT TIMES!



David Owthwaite representing the Wiens Family Cellars from Temecula details the nuances of the various wines attendees sampled at the first Private Wine Tasting held at Idyll Awhile Wine Shoppe and Bistro.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

A&E

Continued from previous page

Sunday, Jan. 1

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

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 2 4:30 & 7 p.m.

Rustic Theatre.

Skeleton Crew, 5:30-8:00 p.m. The Creek House.

Live Entertainment, 6-9 p.m. Arriba Mexican Restaurant.

Monday, Jan. 2

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m. Town Hall.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.



The Idyllwild Master Chorale, led by Artistic Director and Conductor Dwight "Buzz" Holmes, performs carols from around the world at its "Convergence 2011: The Holiday Concert" at Idyllwild School this weekend.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO



BREAKFAST served *all* DAY! *Every* DAY!
Breakfast Special 2 for the price of 1! (M-F 7-10 am)

Lunch Special (M-F) Starting at \$4.50
Dinner Specials Buy 1 dinner, get 2nd half off!
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(M-F 2-5 pm)

Monday Night - Taco Night
Wednesday Night - Tostada Night
Thursday Night - 1/2 Priced Reg.
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Friday: Live Entertainment ~ 6-9 p.m.
Saturday: Live Entertainment ~ 6-9 p.m.
Sunday: David Jerome ~ 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

25980 HWY. 243 659-4960 **OPEN M-SAT 7AM - 9PM**
SUN 8AM - 9PM

PRIME RIB DINNER

Friday,
January 6

Prime Rib or Butterfly Shrimp
salad • baked potato • veggie • roll

5-7pm

prime rib - \$13.00
butterfly shrimp - \$9.00

American Legion Post 800
54360 Marian View Drive
659-3517



Chris Johnston
of Middle Ridge Winery in Idyllwild
Will host a private wine tasting.
Tuesday, Dec. 27, 6:30pm-?

Thirty-two seats are available for \$25 in advance.
(\$30 at the door if available.)

Are you stumped when someone asks what aromas you are smelling in a glass of wine? Help - and fun - are here! Join Johnston at his signature aroma table to learn to identify aromas in wine.

You will taste six wines and learn about each.
Cheese, fruit and meat trays will also be provided.

54245 N. Circle Drive ~ C8 • 951-659~WINE (9463)
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"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"

When Austria's crown prince is found dead, evidence seems to point to suicide. However, detective Sherlock Holmes deduces that the prince was murdered and that the crime is but a piece of a puzzle designed by an evil genius named Moriarty. Holmes, his friend Dr. Watson, and a Gypsy chase Moriarty across Europe in the hope that they can thwart his plot before it can come to fruition.

Starring: Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Rachel McAdams, Jared Harris
Director: Guy Ritchie
Genre: Action, Mystery
Rated: PG-13
Runtime: 2 hr. 9 min.

OPEN
Christmas
Eve & Day
All Showings
2, 4:30 & 7 pm!

Showtimes: Nightly: 7:00 pm
Sat. & Sun.: 2:00*, 4:30 & 7:00 pm
Regular Admission: \$8
Senior (60+), Child (12-) & *Matinée: \$6
951.659.2747

Strange sweater day

On Friday, Dec. 16, Idyllwild School Principal Matt Kraemer held a unique sweater contest and the competitors were the school's staff. Among the many participants, these were the highlights of a very close competition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH SWANSON



Sweater day participants **Beth Swanson**, left, **Diane D'Arcy**, above, **Sonya Davenstatt**, right, and **Holly Guntermann**, far right.

PHOTOS BY J.P. CRUMRINE



Idyllwild Inn Tour

Robert Bush and **Clay Helgren** right, enjoy Idyllwild's Christmas Inn Tour, which included a stop at the Peaceful Mountain Inn.

PHOTO BY ANNAMARIE PADULA
Below right, At the Creekstone Bunkhouse, **Holly Owen** shares a pitcher of punch with **Nancy Borchers**.

PHOTO BY ANNAMARIE PADULA
Like all the inns featured in the Idyllwild Inn Tour, the Strawberry Inn, far right, wore its festive colors for the event held on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO





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www.idyllwildcommunitycenter.org

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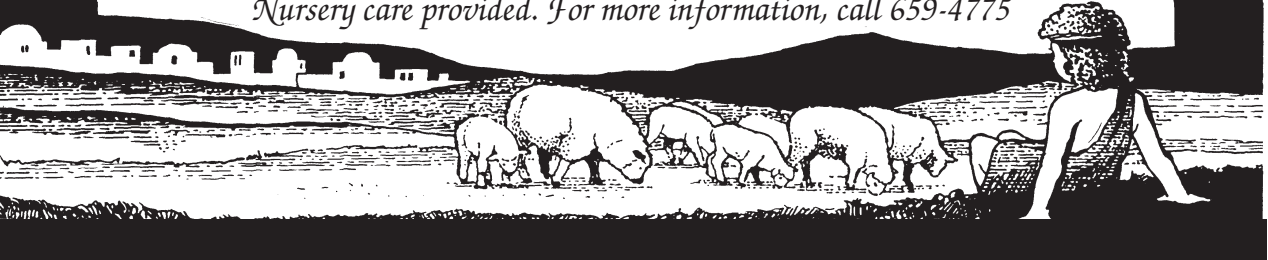
IDYLLWILD BIBLE CHURCH

You are warmly invited to join us on Saturday at
 4:30 or 6:00 pm for an extra special

Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration

Join us again **Christmas Night** for a
 special one-hour service 6:30-7:30 pm

On upper Pine Crest, a short distance north of the Forest Service building.
 Nursery care provided. For more information, call 659-4775



Draft plan for scenic byway available

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

The draft Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway is available for public comment. The CMP is the result of five workshops over the past year. The last of the workshop series was completed on Nov. 17.

"The workshops went great," said Timory Peel, natural resource specialist for the U.S. Forest Service's Recreation Solutions Enterprise Team. "We had about 16 folks from the communities, State Parks, the Santa Rosa Tribe and Caltrans attend across the three nights. We presented copies of the draft plan, discussed potential 'next steps' and current funding opportunities through the [Federal Highway Administration] discretionary program." Scenic byways provide an opportunity for travelers to enjoy the unique features of an area, while providing local communities an opportunity to increase tourist revenue.

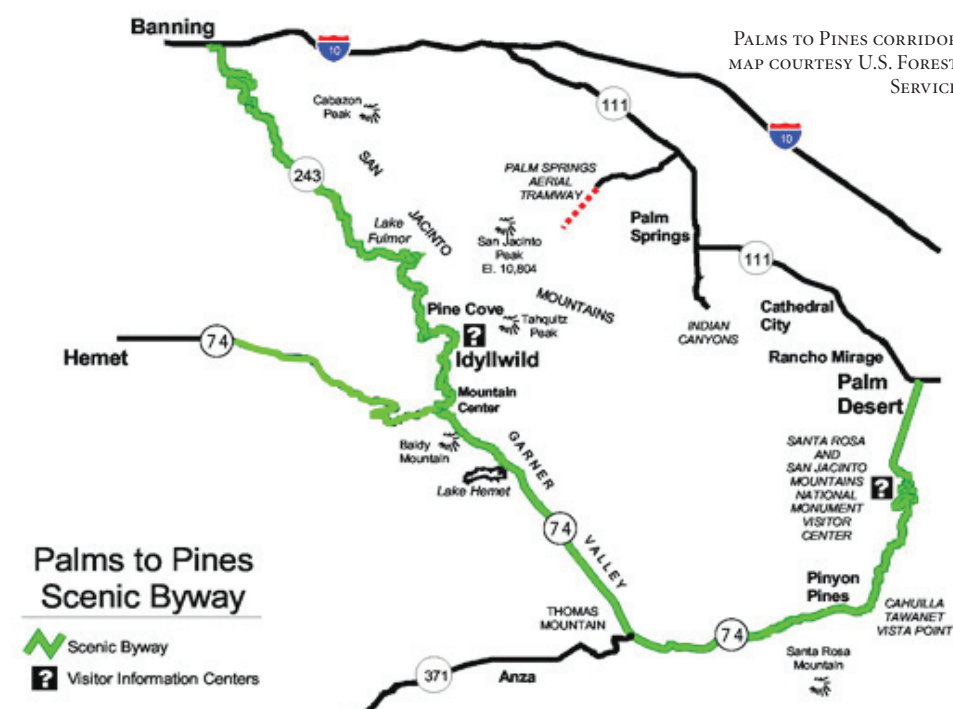
To receive the official designation as a National Scenic Byway, a route must be a state-designated scenic route, possess multiple intrinsic qualities that are nationally significant and have a completed corridor management plan.

After working together for more than a year, workshop participants seemed to agree that the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway has the intrinsic features and visitor services required for designation as a National Scenic Byway through the Federal Highway Administration.

Formal recognition as a National Scenic Byway would provide additional benefits to area visitors, nearby residents and businesses, and bring opportunities to surrounding communities.

The draft CMP identifies this action as a valuable opportunity to use the route's designation as part of a larger strategy to protect the intrinsic features of the surrounding ecosystems. The goals for the CMP reflect the consensus among workshop participants (e.g., community residents and agency personnel) about their vision for the route.

While there is consensus that the area is special and



needs to be protected in perpetuity, there is less agreement about the best approach to protecting the corridor and the surrounding ecosystems.

"The draft plan was well-received, and although there is not full support for seeking National Scenic Byway designation at this time, participants have expressed a desire to continue to work together into the next year on some of the implementation items," Peel wrote after the fifth workshop.

Some folks felt that another national designation

will simply draw more visitors to the area. Others feel that a national designation will make it easier to secure resources to preserve the intrinsic features of the scenic corridor, to encourage stewardship of these natural and cultural resources and to create a better driving experience for all (e.g., visitors, commuters and residents).

The plan identifies several benefits beginning with national recognition. National Scenic Byway recognition identifies the premier scenic routes in the U.S., and brings

recognition to the agencies, organizations and communities that sought designation. Identification of the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway on state and federal maps and on auto club brochures can lead to more tourism opportunities for the area.

Secondly, the designation can lead to increased local pride and provide residents

an opportunity to showcase the beauty of their region. The CMP gives stakeholders a forum to discuss what they value and want to feature in their communities. It also identifies how to preserve these qualities while encouraging thoughtful economic growth.

Finally, recognition can be a path to securing federal funding to accomplish many projects associated with Byway designation.

If the Palms to Pines Scenic Byway were to be designated a National Scenic Byway, the route would be eligible for federal funding through the National Scenic Byways Program. These funds could be used to develop interpretive facilities, information kiosks, restrooms and other needed road improvements.

Approximately half of the byway traverses the San Jacinto Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest. The Palms to Pines Scenic Byway is a residential route as well as a visitor destination.

The Palms to Pines Scenic Byway was designated

as a California State Scenic Highway in two sections and times (October 1971 and March 1972) and as a National Forest Scenic Byway in July 1993.

Riverside County road crews, assisted by prison labor, finished the Hemet to Idyllwild route in 1929. By 1932, Riverside County prison labor crews and the Federal Bureau of Public Roads had constructed the remainder of SR 74 from Mountain Center to Palm Desert. The original Palms to Pines highway fulfilled the utilitarian purpose of providing easier automobile access to Mount San Jacinto State Park from Hemet, Banning and the desert side of the mountains. Today's drivers essentially still follow the original engineered route.

Comments and edits are invited and may be sent to: Timory Peel, USDA FS Recreation Solutions, 12858 US Hwy 2, Troy, MT 59935, via email to tpeel@fs.fed.us or by telephone to (406) 295-7467. To be most helpful, please provide feedback by Jan. 15, 2012.

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Candlelighting Service

Saturday, December 24th, 6:30 p.m.

We celebrate together this wonderful season of Love with joy and in peace

SPECIAL MUSIC

Performers include:

Phyllis Curington-Brown * Barbara Rayliss
Elaine Balkman Latimer * Bill Sheppard

CHRISTMAS MORNING MEDITATION

with Music Presented by Bill Sheppard, R. Sc. P.,
10:00 a.m.

PEACE PRAYER

Saturday Morning, December 31, 2011, 4 a.m.
Join hands, share hearts around the world

Spiritual Living Center

The Courtyard Building — 26120 Ridgeview Drive
951-659-3464

www.spirituallivingcenter.net info@spirituallivingcenter.net

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A pack of letters that Kris Kringle himself let the Town Crier borrow.

Instead of bringing you the usual news stories that fill these pages each week, we like to take a breather each

year and let you look at the season through the eyes of the children in our community.

These letters are from the special Santa mailbox at the Idyllwild Post Office. The spellings (and misspellings) are the

original work of the youngsters. We have not changed anything, and we sincerely hope we read all the names correctly.

Our thanks to the businesses that made these pages possible for you to enjoy.



Dear Santa, for Christmas I would like a Riomovie, Woodchuck, Alvin Simam Theodore stuffed animal SiBa Sketball Os Games Wwe Cra Shd Wn aRena
Aiden

DEAR SANTA I WANT A BARBIE WITH YELLOW CLOTHES A KITTY.THAT.LIGHTS. UP.IN THE.DARK.AND.MAKES. NOISES

LOVE.NAYAH

Dear Santa,

For Chistmas I want a remote control monster truck. I love you.

Love, Griffin

Dear Santa, for chRistmas I would like a Riomovie, Woodchuck, Alvin Simam theodore

stuFFeD animal SiBa SketDall Os Games WWe CRA SHd Wn aRena

Aiden

Dear Santa,

I would like a transformer please. I would also like stompeez slippers please.

Thank you, Joshua (4 yrs old)

PS. My little sister, Chelsea, would like candy canes and a baby doll. Even I think she would want a barbie set.

See Santa Letters, next page



Paul Ecke Poinsettias
at Florist in the Forest & Gallery
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SANTA LETTERS

DEAR SANTA,
ME and HaNNah Have
BeeN VERY GOOD
GIRLS WE We ARE
VERY EXCITED TO
HAVE GRANDMA and

GRANDPA
and GRANDPA GROVE
TO COME to OUR
CHRISTMAS.
WE WANT A CIN-
DERELLA and ARIEL
DOLL and MORE BAR-
BIE CLOTHES and A
NEW VIDEOGAME

LOVE
Natalie and HaNNah

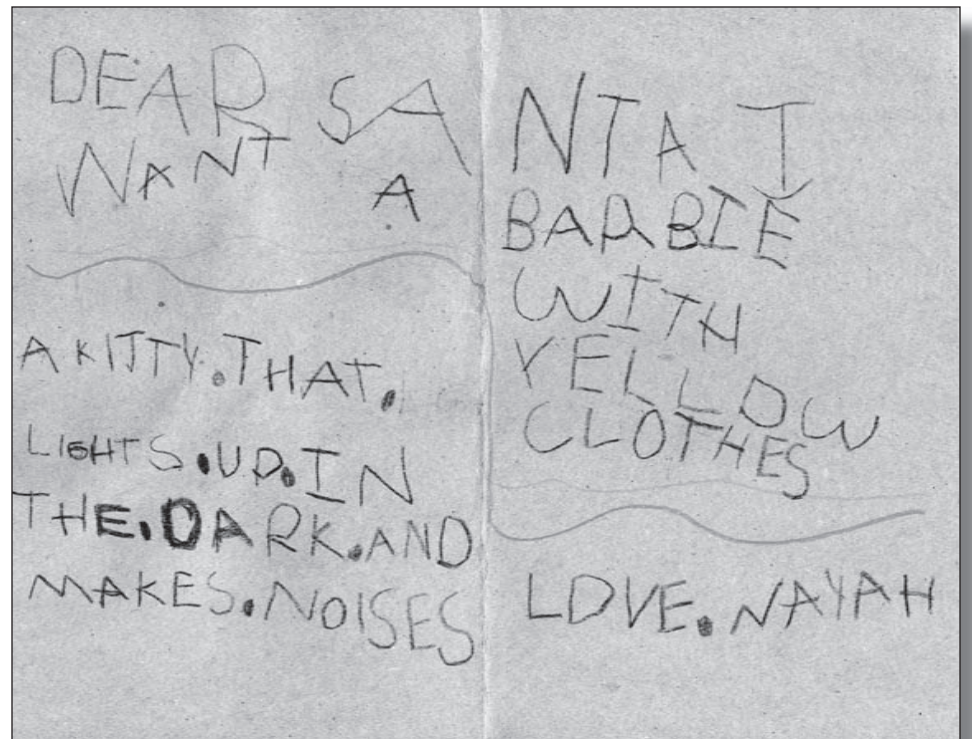
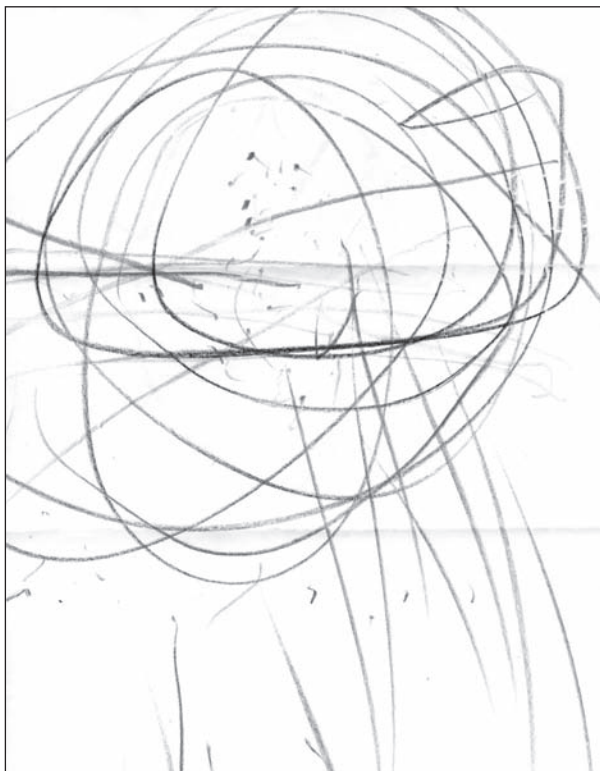
Santa,
I will leave you milk
and cookies. I want a
bike, please.

Kaelynn

Dear Santa,
HOW arE You, Mrs.
ClaUS, the elVeS and
ReinDeer?
I hope You bring me
Legos.
I hoPe you bring KaE-
LYnn a BiKE TOO.
I LOVE yoU.

LoVe,
Lyliaann

Se Santa Letters, next page



The Idyllwild
WEEKENDER
Bulletin

The Hill's
new guide to art & culture.

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WHO WILL BE THE FIRST BABY BORN IN 2012?
THE FIRST ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR WILL WIN THESE PRIZES!

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

Mountain Footwear
Downstairs in the Fort
Slippers for the Baby

Café Aroma
54750 N. Circle Dr.
Gift Certificate

Wooley's
54275 N. Circle Dr.
\$24 Gift Certificate for the Baby

~ 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.

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

Shane Fender -
Town Crier Notary
54295 Village Center Dr.
Free Notary for Birth Certificate

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

Idyllwild Right To Life
A Special Gift for the Baby

SANTA LETTERS

Dear Santa

I have Been a GooD
GiRL. I WOULD Like
WUGGLE PeTs
DanCe With me BaBy
10 teDDyA BeAR Easy
Bake

DeAR SANTa

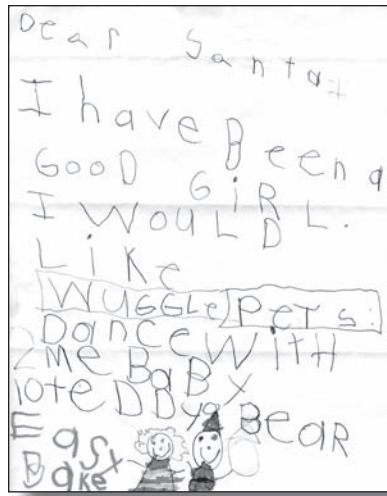
I have BeeN a GooD
GiRL. I Would Like
I WUGGLE PeTs

2 easy BaKe
3 Dance With Me
BaBy
THanks Bailey

From Town Hall's For-
est Friends Program,
preschoolers through
6th graders:

To visit the North
Lily Pole and visit San-
ta — Samantha
D S v i d e o game — Emma
XBox 360 — Rylan
Play Station — John

XBox 360 — Austin
Big Buzz Light-
year — Finn
IPod, rings and dress-up
stuff — Mikayla
New teeth, a cat and
a pony — Alexandra
Woody & Buzz Light-
year — Elijah
Stuff for my
doll — Emma
S t a r W a r s
Legos — Zane
Dress-up Stuff — Chloe
Transformer — Joshua
Happy as she is — Ruby
Wii — Fiona



Selected drawings and written letters came from letters to Santa Claus from:

Bailey, Aiden, Lyliaann
(page 20)

Kaelynn, Nayah
(page 21)

Lily
(page 22)



The Town Hall kids and staff wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

PHOTO BY GRACE REED

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

This year marks the 114th anniversary of probably the most famous Christmas newspaper editorial of all time. It was written by Francis P. Church in response to a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon. It was published on Sept. 21, 1897, in the New York Sun.

We reprint it here for the enjoyment of our readers:

Is there a Santa Claus? We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends

say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in the Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West 95th Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith, then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable their existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside the curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Happy Holidays

From the Town Crier Staff

Grace, Rusty, Juli, Jake, Jan, Cid, James, Marshall, Shane, Sandy, Halie, J.P. & Monk. (Not pictured Wayne)

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COUNTY CORNER

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

County executive

The search for a replacement for former County Executive Bill Luna is ongoing. Luna's predecessor, Larry Parrish, has been the interim executive since Sept. 27. He had agreed to serve for three months without salary.

Since no permanent choice has been made, the board has asked Parrish to continue to serve as interim executive. He agreed to extend his stay, but he will begin receiving a monthly salary of \$15,000.

No interviews for the position have occurred yet, according to Ray Smith, County Public Information Officer.

This recommendation was part of the Board of Supervisors' agenda Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Marijuana Dispensaries

In a closed session during its Dec. 13 meeting, the Board unanimously authorized its attorneys to sue any marijuana dispensary in the unincorporated county area, or the owner of any property where a dispensary conducts business, unless the operator or property owner voluntarily and immediately ceases operation.

In 2006, Riverside County amended its zoning ordinance when it adopted a ban on marijuana dispensaries in the unincorporated county area. For the past several years, Riverside County officials have investigated suspected dispensaries and collected information about operations. The county has issued notices of violations when businesses were found to be operating illegally and has defended lawsuits by dispensary operators who challenged the ordinance.

With the authorization from the Board, county officials will use code-enforcement powers and lawsuits to pursue dozens of illegal dispensaries within the county's unincorporated area. County officials also will seek to recover all administrative and legal costs unless dispensary operators or property owners immediately and voluntarily cease dispensary operations.

If federal law-enforcement officials become involved, it is possible that businesses' assets could be seized. If businesses are operating out of leased buildings, federal officials also might be able to seize the property, including buildings.

County officials are aware of at least 36 dispensaries operating illegally within unincorporated areas of Riverside County. More than a dozen have closed in the past year.

A state appellate court ruling last month that upheld

the City of Riverside's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries encouraged the board's action. The court ruled that nothing in the state Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (Prop. 215) or other state law precludes local governments from banning dispensaries. The ruling was issued by the California Fourth District Court of Appeals in Riverside. The court has jurisdiction over matters in Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties.

Light pollution

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors planned a public hearing for 9 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20 on its draft ordinance to control light trespass.

"Light trespass occurs when light fixtures on one property [projects light that] falls across a property line onto another lot or parcel of land or onto a public right-of-way," Supervisor John Tavaglione (2nd District), author of the draft ordinance, wrote in his memorandum to his colleagues. "Light trespass results in a waste of natural resources and at certain levels may jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of Riverside County residents."

The specific proposed standard reads, "All outdoor [lights] shall be located, adequately shielded, and directed such that no direct light falls outside the parcel of origin, or onto the public right-of-way."

Specific exemptions, such as required by law enforcement or emergency personnel, authorized by state or federal law, or holidays, will be permitted. Security lighting will be permitted provided it meets the other provisions of the ordinance.

Violators will be fined. First offenses could cost \$100. Further violations will go to \$500.

County ordinance 655 already regulates some outdoor lighting within 45 miles of Palomar Observatory, but Tavaglione's proposal would apply throughout the county's unincorporated areas, including Idyllwild.

The board scheduled a public hearing at its Oct. 15 session, but Tavaglione, the ordinance's sponsor, was absent. Another hearing had been scheduled for the Nov. 22 meeting.

District Attorney's agreement

The county and the its District Attorneys Association reached a compensation agreement covering the four years from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015.

The attorneys agreed to pay four percent of their pension costs beginning in January and another four percent in January 2013. In addition, new employees will receive a retirement benefit equal to two percent of their three-year average salary at age 60.

In exchange, the county agreed to three across-the-board wage increases beginning with a 1.5 percent raise in September 2012, followed by 2.5 percent in July 2013 and a three percent increase in August 2014.

The association also agreed to limit annual leave buy-backs to 40 hours per calendar year.

Habitat acquisition

The board of supervisors has authorized the use of funds for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority to acquire property consistent with the county's multiple species habitat conservation plan.

The acquisitions are needed to protect various species which might be threatened or whose habitat might be damaged by county projects, such as road construction.

At its Dec. 13, meeting the board approved a \$5 million loan to the Authority, which will be repaid over 10 years. In addition, another \$4 million was provided for the Clinton Keith right-of-way and other future transportation projects.

A second agreement for \$2.9 million of future credits was also approved.

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

HELP Center fundraiser



Guests gather during the HELP Center's benefit concert Saturday, Dec. 17 at the Quiet Creek Inn in the Village. Barnaby Finch and Friends treated concert-goers to live music.

PHOTO BY JOHN DRAKE

International rescue dog visits ARF

CONTRIBUTED BY JANICE MURASKO
EDITOR OF RUFF TIMES,
THE ARF NEWSLETTER

Pearl, a black Labrador, was surrendered to the Humane Society by her owners because she just couldn't stay put. Fortunately for Pearl, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation discovered her. Since then, Pearl has shown her appreciation by saving lives all over the world.

Captain Ron Horetski of the Los Angeles County Fire Department is Pearl's handler. Together they have traveled the world, including to Haiti and Japan,

to save lives in the midst of natural disasters. Their next stop will be right here in Idyllwild, to share their story with the Hill community.

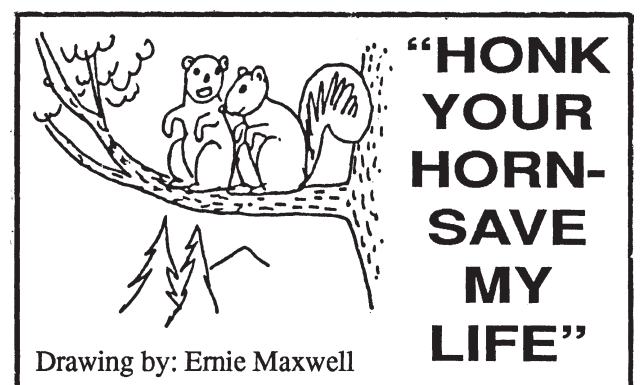
Please join ARF, Pearl, and Captain Horetski, at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 14. They will both be at the Nature Center. You will have an opportunity to meet Pearl and hear her story and the stories of their adventures saving lives.

The presentation is free and open to all. Bring your camera and your tissues. This is one event you won't want to miss! If you have questions, call ARF at (951) 659-1122.



Los Angeles County rescue dogs. Pearl is the 3rd from left.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JANICE MURASKO



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**Espinoza
Firewood
Orange
Eucalyptus
Avocado**

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Idyllwild's only 24 hour service. Honor system, pay at my door.
\$10 bundles and
\$35 barrels of avocado.
MountainMikeCustom
leather.com
54360-1/2 North Circle Dr.

FIREWOOD! Lots of local oak. Call (951) 303-7887 or 659-6439.

Baseboard heater by Far-heat, 5 ft. long with thermostat. \$50. (951) 659-4820.

Large black executive desk with return and riser. Good condition. \$50. (951) 659-2908.

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Brown leather sleeper sofa & matching loveseat, \$350 for both. Large, comfortable brown leather chair, \$75. Nice oak glider chair with ottoman, cabin motif, \$150. King bed, \$125. All great condition. (951) 659-6132 or (714) 290-1553.

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For Sale**FREE CLASSIFIED**

Place a Marketplace ad for item(s) totaling \$50 or less. 5 lines, 3 consecutive weeks, private party, for sale items. One ad per household at a time. Town Crier, 659-2145..

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Save up to 50 percent off your next heating bill. Advanced Portable Infrared iHeater® Heat 1000 sq. ft. for about 5 cents an hour! Free Shipping! Call 1-888-807-5741. (Cal-SCAN)

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Attention SLEEP APNEA SUFFERERS with Medicare. Get FREE CPAP Replacement Supplies at No Cost, plus FREE home delivery! Best of all, prevent red skin sores and bacterial infection! Call 888-699-7660. (Cal-SCAN)

Automotive

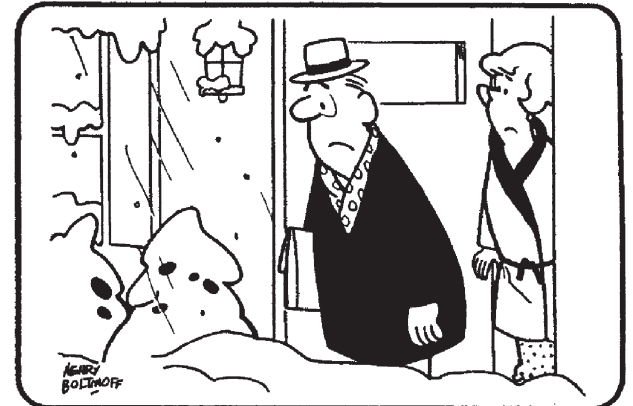
2003 Subaru Outback Wagon, AWD, AC, AM/FM/CD, ABS, H6/3.0 liter engine, 90,000 miles. Power steering, windows, driver's seat, door locks. Dual air bags, roof rack. Minor paint scrapes on one side. \$8,500. (951) 659-5587.

2004 Subaru Outback Wagon, AWD, 4-speed auto trans., green/tan, AC, stereo/CD, heated seats, 116,000 miles. Well maintained, runs perfect. \$7,800. (951) 659-6132 or (714) 290-1553.

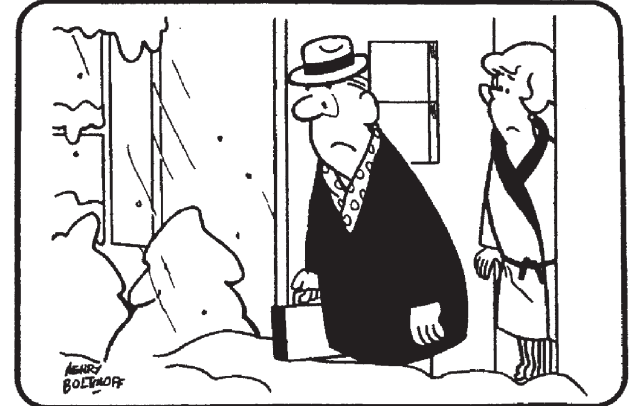
Autos Wanted

DONATE A VEHICLE = 2011 TAX DEDUCTION! Help struggling families. Cars, trucks, boats & RV's wanted running or not. Free towing/Tax deductible. 877-493-GIVE (4483). www.MakeADifferenceDonations.org (Cal-SCAN)

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It's DIFFERENT

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Nightgown is striped. 2. Hat is different. 3. Spots on bushes are gone. 4. Light is missing. 5. Window is different. 6. Briefcase is different.

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DONATE YOUR CAR, truck or boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

For Rent or Lease

Winter Special, 1/2 month, FREE! Stunning, oversized 1+ BR w/big loft & all new interior! View, steps to town & W/D! Bright, pristine, high ceilings w/fans, private deck & yard! **REDUCED**, \$850/mo. (818) 880-1628.

2 BR, 1 BA house, W/D hook-ups, deck, FP. No pets. \$700/mo. 52715 Middle Ridge. Call Yolanda at (619) 276-9800, junopm.com

2 BR, 1 BA in Pine Cove. Spa, private setting, large yard, off street parking, woodstove, patios, decks. Updated appliances, DW, W/D included. Fully furnished is a possibility. Will consider 3-6 month lease. Avail. now. \$950/mo. Call (858) 525-1896.

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Idyllwild Property
Management**

54585 North Circle Dr. #B
Office: (951) 659-4200
Check out our website
www.myipmoffice.com
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 #3 Pine Crest

1 BR, 1 BA upstairs apt. Wall heater. \$550/mo.

54465 Pine Crest

1 BR, 1 BA, carport, fenced yard, W/D, FP. \$650/mo.

Continued →

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Answers to Sudoku
(Puzzle on next page)

A	M	P	S		D	O	C		F	R	E	D
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Answers to Crossword
(Puzzle on next page)

Classifieds

Continued from previous page

For Rent or Lease

\$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.

Winter special, 1/2 OFF 1st month. 1 BR, 1 BA newly remodeled, unfurnished. \$695/mo. + sec., plus utilities. Call Emily at (951) 206-9671.

Clean & comfy 2 BR+ large loft, 1 BA, Pine Cove. Large sunny deck, new carpet, W/D hookup, FP. Pets possible w/deposit. \$880/mo. (818) 970-1955.

COMPLETELY REMODELED. Large 1,300 sq. ft. apartment in Mountain Center. Two large master suites, both with walk-in closets. Newer kitchen with microwave and dishwasher, W/D in laundry area. Air conditioning. Fenced. \$850/mo. Call Shane @ (951) 659-9505.

Large 3 BR, 2-1/2 BA retreat on Strawberry Creek in town center. 2 FP's, 2 kitchens, new appliances, tile, & carpeting. Furn. option. Able to be divided into 2 separate units. Beautiful rustic setting in upscale area. High ceilings w/skylights, lots of closet space, 2 car garage. \$1,800. Call (323) 383-6540.

For Rent or Lease

3 BR, 2 BA furnished or unfurnished, W/D, all appliances, FP, forced air & air conditioning, 3 decks with views. Pets on approval with pet deposit. Discount on rent if paid by the 1st of the month. \$1,500/mo. Call (760) 567-5499.

Lower level furnished 1 BR, 1 BA, Jacuzzi tub, utilities paid, cable avail., \$850/mo. plus first and last mo. rent. Compare over \$50 per night at local Inns. Call (951) 659-5404.

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No Screening Fee. \$480/mo., 2/1 mobile home in the mountains. 1-yr. lease. \$420/mo., long-term RV space. (951) 282-8951 www.Rent.FocusMan.Biz

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.

2 BR, 1 BA, \$690/mo., W/D hookups, 3-car parking space. Exclusive Cedar Glen location. 25462 Cedar Glen, Unit B. Call Yolanda at (619) 276-9800, junopm.com.

For Rent or Lease

FOR LEASE Large, bright, 1 BR, 1 BA house next to Cafe Aroma. New appliances. **LIVE & WORK SPACE.** \$850/mo. 54790 N. Circle Drive. (951) 663-0527, Martha (310) 963-4506, Margaret

Fully furnished or unfurnished spacious 2-story, 2 BR, 1-1/2 BA, W/D, fridge, woodstove, paved cul-de-sac off Franklin. Great home! \$875/mo. Call Dan at (760) 458-6509.

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.

\$700/mo. Very nice 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

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.

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.

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.

Commercial Rentals

FOR LEASE RETAIL / GALLERY 54750 A North Circle Dr. \$900/mo. Next to Café Aroma, 1200 sq. ft. (951) 663-0527, Martha (310) 963-4506, Margaret

Retail or office space, Oakwood Village, 54425 No. Circle, Unit 6, \$310/mo. 1-year lease required. Call Brendan for details, (951) 659-4070.

Commercial Rentals

Strawberry Creek Square space for rent. Lower level, 1148 square ft. Available immediately. Call (951) 659-9775

Real Estate

Nature Lovers Dream Home. Asking \$319,000. Beautiful, 4 BR, 2 BA home w/spacious great rm. Redwood decks, views, near Ernie Maxwell trailhead. Very private on 1/2 ac., sitting rm., huge attic, new appls. See virtual tours of home, town & surrounding nature at IdyllwildParadise.com. Shown by appt. Call (760) 861-2133.

Find timely Idyllwild news at the new idyllwild towncrier.com

Lots for Sale

Buildable lot, 1.10 acre, perk for 3 BR home. Beautiful view. \$100,000. Will take offer. Owner will carry with reasonable down. (951) 659-5404.

Vacation Properties

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The New Year brings challenges that can change many things in your life. You need to be prepared not only to confront them, but also to deal with what happens afterward.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have what it takes to set your goals quite a bit higher this year. Learn what you need to know and put what you learn into your efforts. A partner offers loving support.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) In true Gemini Twin fashion, you're conflicted about a decision you know you'll have to make in this New Year. Best advice: Get the facts before you make any commitment.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend offers you an exciting opportunity for the New Year. Although your positive aspects are strong in most respects, caution is advised. Investigate before you invest.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You can make this New Year a roaring success. Start by readjusting your goals to reflect the changes in the economy. Your den-mate offers both wise and loving support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The New Year brings new opportunities for change. But you need to be ready to move from the comfortable status quo to the challenging unknown. It's up to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your most important New Year's resolution should be to work out prob-

lems with a family member in order to avoid continued misunderstandings. Do it soon, for both of your sakes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The New Year has much to offer the intensely determined Scorpion, who isn't afraid to take on challenges and stay with them until they surrender their rewards.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You'll have many fine opportunities in this New Year. But be warned: Reject offers of “help.” You work best when you're free to be your own creative self.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The New Year offers changes that you might feel you're not quite ready for. Best advice: Deal with them one step at a time, until you've built up your self-confidence.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel is a dominant aspect of the New Year. This could mean relocating to another city (or even another country) in connection with your education or your career.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) This New Year brings news about a change you've been anticipating. You might have a problem persuading a loved one about your new plans, but he or she will soon go along with them.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for making people feel safe and protected. You would make an excellent youth counselor.

CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous page)

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- ACROSS**
 1 Rock band's equipment
 5 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 8 Mr. Astaire
 12 Ladyfingers dessert
 14 Of planes and such
 15 Huge
 16 Bowling alley
 17 Roman X
 18 Aide
 20 Extinct birds
 23 Faction
 24 Culture medium
 25 Articulate
 28 Morning moisture
- 29 Mel who voiced Bugs Bunny
 30 Shock and -
 32 Study of wine (Var.)
 34 Distort
 35 Website info, for short
 36 Cubic meter
 37 Fujiyama's island
 40 Gentleman's address
 41 Jai -
 42 Famed World War II bomber
 47 Describe
 48 Manicurist's need
 49 Enemies
 50 - Aviv
- 51 Protection (Var.)
DOWN
 1 Consumed
 2 60 sec.
 3 Expert
 4 Tailor, old-style
 5 Singer Celine
 6 Buckeyes' sch.
 7 Comfortably soft
 8 "I've -, and I ..."
 9 Harvest
 10 Sea eagle
 11 Active one
 13 Sras., across the Pyrenees
 19 Sch. goings-on
 20 Old man
- 21 Curved molding
 22 Sunrise
 23 Hosiery woes
 25 Speaking well
 26 Birthday treat
 27 Basin accessory
 29 Mediocre
 31 Ram's mate
 33 Cover a multitude -
 34 Fly low and attack
 36 Ledge
 37 50 percent
 38 Hodgepodge
 39 Appellation
 40 Dirt
 43 Scot's denial
 44 Showbiz job
 45 "The Greatest" Affirmative

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Idyllwild Service Directory

- New ads placed at beginning of month only
- Deadline for new ads: 5 p.m. last Thursday of month
- Unless the heading is currently running, your ad must be 2 col. x 2" or larger.
- Minimum insertion: 1 month
- One copy change permitted monthly
- Deadline for copy change: noon Friday

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- 2 COL. x 2-1/2" = \$34.50 PER WEEK
- 2 COL. x 3" = \$41.40 PER WEEK
- 2 COL. x 3-1/2" = \$48.30 PER WEEK

Questions? Call Shane at (951) 659-2145 or Email: shane@towncrier.com

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Cell: **951-326-5796**

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IDYLLWILD APPLIANCE & Repair Co.

- Sales on new & used appliances
- Quality service on appliances & heating systems

Chris & June Rockwell
659-9845
idyllwild.appliances@verizon.net
Lic#A42153

Chimney Sweep

Top Hat Chimney Sweeping

Serving Idyllwild and surrounding areas

GUARANTEED NO MESS!

An Idyllwild Tradition

***Santa doesn't like
a dirty chimney***

Evening/Weekend Appts.

Free inspections
951-659-4800



Cleaning Services

Green Dream Cleaning Services



- General Cleaning
- Commercial, Residential
- Vacation Homes, Homes for Sale
- Window Cleaning

MARIA AYALA, OWNER

951-294-8888 (cell) ☎ 951-659-9729 (home)

PO Box 2094 Idyllwild, CA 92549

FREE ESTIMATES ☎ License#032658

Auto Repair



AUTO REPAIR

25015 HWY. 243 • ARB # AB 130423

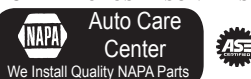
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Letters

Continued from page 6

for the fire department. And I can only hope you will all do the same.

**JEFF FEHR
IDYLLWILD**

Editor's note: During the week, Mr. Fehr and Chief Walker had further discussions. The result was the creation of an email address to which citizens can send suggestions to IFPD. the address is suggestions@idyllwildfire.com.

Don't blame the Federal Reserve

EDITOR:

Some folks, including Mr. Pietsch (whose "Another point of view" appeared in the Dec. 8 issue of the Town Crier), encourage support of H.R. 2990, which would eliminate the Federal Reserve System and fractional reserves for banks.

Those parts of H.R. 2990 are bad ideas.

Those who want to cure the ills of our present system by abolishing the Federal Reserve and fractional reserve banking should review the history of money and banking in the United States prior to the Federal Reserve Act.

It is not a pretty story.

Do we really want to go back to the old scheme with Congress directly controlling the monetary system?

I am not fond of banks, but I would certainly rather have my money in the hands of a well-regulated banking system, insulated from politics, than in the hands of the politicians that inhabit the U.S. Congress.

If we abolish fractional reserve banking, what mechanism do we put in its place to allow the money supply growth to match growth of the economy?

HR 2990 (NEED Act) lets Congress determine the amount of money in circulation. (This has to be a joke ... what is the real plan?)

If you are thinking about eliminating the Federal Reserve, be careful what you wish.

Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) has many good ideas, some of which we support, but an economist he is not.

Congress sets the rules for the Federal Reserve System. Banks with "national" in their name and state charted

banks that meet the requirements own the Federal Reserve. Each has a percent ownership as prescribed by law.

The president, with the approval of the Senate, appoints the majority, seven, of the twelve member Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Member banks select the rest. Their fourteen-year terms are staggered.

I do not generally support private ownership of public institutions, but the Fed is an exception.

It has worked well for nearly 100 years.

**TOM MCCULLOUGH
PINE COVE**

Volunteers have reasons

EDITOR:

The assertion by [Idyllwild Fire Chief] Norm Walker that volunteers deserve the highest level of respect is misguided. [See "Chief's Corner, in the Dec. 15 issue of the Town Crier.] [In my opinion,] most serve for selfish self-aggrandizing purposes as a means to validate and self-purpose, whether it be financial or for some manipulated position of authority, respect or power within our community — a sad state of affairs.

Few selflessly serve only for the greater good. Unfortunately no name comes to mind, not that there isn't such a person.

For instance, when I see someone nominated for the Essence of Idyllwild award, I see a business owner with a profit motive selling hospitality, not exactly selfless. When I see a water board member, who sells real estate, referring to his service as volunteerism, I can't help but think of the benefits his business gains. From his special interest stem policy decisions, which may be, perhaps, inconsistent with the greater interest of residents.

Maybe it's an innkeeper who volunteers on the local recreation board. They might push for a convention center and argue it's a community park benefiting the entire community.

Some would say its a symbiotic volunteer relationship. I call it a selfish exploitation of trust against property taxpayers unworthy of community recognition.

As for public servants, they serve daily for the



Kids and parents listen in rapt attention as actor and local resident **Conor O'Farrell** reads Christmas stories during the Idyllwild Library's annual Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 19.

PHOTO BY CID CASTILLO

public good. Their reward is both their service and their very good guaranteed pay at property taxpayer expense. Their service is expected to be professional and certainly not self-aggrandizing.

Most important their praise should not serve as a relief valve or replacement for our own failings to selflessly volunteer within our community.

So Norm, volunteer recognition is a must but not administered as a blind umbrella or for selfish or self serving purposes.

**JEFF SMITH
PINE COVE**

Winter safety — siping or studs

EDITOR:

I can commiserate with Mr. Reno on the subject of chains. I hate to use them.

However, studs are an excellent alternative and they are legal on all California highways between Nov. 1 and April 30 (see www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/vctires.htm). See Vehicle Code Section 27454(e)). The contact area of the studs is limited to three percent, in order to minimize road damage and sliding.

Siping adds closely spaced razor cuts which increase traction on bare ice, but do little on packed snow, where tire blocks are more important.

The downside to siping is that it can affect dry road handling and increase tire wear. Siping is typically found on winter tires, such as Blizzaks, where extra wear is accepted as a compromise for better traction.

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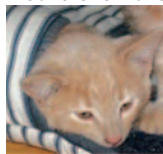
By MIMI AND HOOTCH

Merry Christmas to all the four-legged creatures from the ARF orphans. A special paws up to **Lola**, our Chihuahua, who gave a wink and a squeak, and won the hearts of two angels.

Bazell, Grog, and Charlie were all reunited this week after going on adventures. And **Bud-dha/Bubba** the cat, finally came home to a much worried human.

We tearfully say goodbye to **Chloe**, as her memory will always be in our heart.

Sugar and Spice are everything nice! Brothers of the Girl Scout litter, these little furballs will bring years of laughter. Come to ARF and scoop up some kitty love of your own.



Rudi, Spit and Fire are the sisters and brother of Sugar and Spice, Spit being the male. All siblings are healthy, adventurous, soft and purring, and so ready for their Christmas home.

Sky, the brave mama of these babies, gave a lick and a purr goodbye, and was on her way to rest and relaxation in her new humans lap. Good job Sky.



Chevy, the young male purrs just like a Chevy engine. Ready for play, this teen has his motor running at the break of dawn. Orange eyes aglow, he still likes his naps too.



Missy, the young Aussie mix has been busy learning new commands. Her focus is superb, her memory is sharp, and her energy is high. Missy loves the leash, the car, and any exercise that involves a toy or treats, of course. Abandoned in her home, alone, and unsure of her future, Missy has forgotten all that and moved on. Good with four-leggeds and two-leggeds, she will capture the hearts of many.

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. ARF will be closed Sunday Christmas Day. 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 in loving memory of Mort & Harry. To sponsor the column, call Shane Fender at the Town Crier, 659-2145.

PAST TENSE

65 years ago - 1946

Harold Sanborn, chair of the Chamber building committee, announced that every Friday was to be Labor Day. Lenny Poates was to have a crew on hand to add to the community building.

60 years ago - 1951

The Lions Club viewed Korean War combat films at Fern Valley Lodge. The movies showed U.S. Marines withdrawing from Chosin.

50 years ago - 1961

In anticipation of completing the new Idyllwild Library, the county library director announced the appointment of Dorothy Bear as librarian. Hope Bell, retiring, had been Idyllwild's librarian previously.

45 years ago - 1966

Town Hall was ablaze with lights for the Christmas season. One hundred people attended a Christmas program there in which a cantata featured Louis Sauter directing with Dolores Bergman singing the solo part.



Published Dec. 15, 1961, this Town Crier photo shows volunteers making choir gowns at Community Church for Christmas events. FILE PHOTO

40 years ago - 1971

Over the weekend, somebody painted the house Ben Jones was building in Pine Cove. The painter must have picked the wrong structure by mistake. Fortunately, the owner approved the color chosen.

35 years ago - 1976

Shopping in Anchorage, Alaska, Grace Beckwith sat down in a mall to rest. Pretty soon, Santa Claus sat down next to her. Learning that Grace was from

Idyllwild, Santa revealed that he had spent much of his younger days here on the Hill.

25 years ago - 1986

For the first time in its 40-year history, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District hired a woman call-firefighter. Lori Opilger of Idyllwild was one of three new firefighters to join the Idyllwild Firefighters Association. The other two new call-firefighters were Randy Nugent and Dave Sandlin.

20 years ago - 1991

While attempting to investigate the stabbing murder of Terence Alberni, two Riverside County Sheriff's officers were shot at by two men on Sugar Pine Drive in Pine Cove.

15 years ago - 1996

Phyllis Petri was elected president of the Hemet Unified School District governing board.

10 years ago - 2001

The Christmas Bird Count at Lake Hemet logged 90 species.

5 years ago - 2006

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to rename Highway 243 the "Esperanza Firefighters' Memorial Highway." A similar proposal was to go before the state legislature in January.

1 year ago - 2010

Idyllwild Community Recreation Council refused the Chamber of Commerce's offer to come under its umbrella of control.

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Mimi and Don Lamp enjoy the Town Crier while walking along the Great Wall of China. They were staying in Beijing, China. "We also visited a jade factory, a silk factory and a tea house. China was a wonderful surprise. The country is booming!" wrote Mimi. "Give my Holiday Greetings to all."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIMI LAMP




A raft of hippos (in background) jealously eye **Jon, Elaine, Pine Cove,** and **Janet Hoggan** as they show off their Town Crier at the Linkwasha Safari Camp in Zimbabwe. While they were surprised to palm trees similar to the ones in Southern California, they were expecting to find "FrouFrou," the pink world traveler.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VITALIS C.



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Lisa and Marc Bodrie of Fern Valley enjoyed a little Maui Grown Coffee while sharing the Town Crier with the locals in the town of Lahaina, Maui.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA BODRIE



Robert Peek and Judi Way celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary with a cruise to Hawaii. Sneaking away from the ship (in the background), they were able to read the Town Crier without interruptions. "Mele Kalekemaka or Merry Christmas," wrote Judi.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDI WAY

IDYLLWILD'S Old English Theatre Players



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