



News bites

Snow

More snow photos.

See pages 2 and 3.

HELP gets help

Supervisor Stone gives \$3,000 to HELP Center.

See page 4.

Forest Service budget

President's recommendations presented.

See page 10.

Local burglaries

Crime spree continues.

See page 8.

Three sisters

A family's story of the genetics of breast cancer.

See page 14.

Forest Service planning

Agency issued new plans for forest.

See page 24.

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Idyllwild Town Crier



Covering the Santa Rosa Mountains from Twin Pines to Anza to Pinyon
THE NEWS — PART OF THE TIME

VOL. 67 NO. 8

75¢ (Tax Included)

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., FEBRUARY 23, 2012



Eight inches of snow fell on Idyllwild last Wednesday, Feb. 15. The unexpected amount was a welcome addition to the sparse winter precipitation. Only 11 inches of rainfall has been recorded at Keenwild Ranger Station through Feb. 20. This is less than two-thirds of the long-term average of 18.7 inches falling from July through February.

PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE

IFPD finances continue to erode

Second advance may be needed

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Interim Idyllwild Fire Chief Mike Sherman continued to bring budget warnings to the Idyllwild Fire Protection District's meetings. At Tuesday's meeting, he first alerted the commission that the 2011-12 ambulance revenue estimate of \$335,000 was unlikely to be achieved.

"You've never received more than \$240,000 in [ambulance] revenue," Sher-

man said. "Through December, we've collected about \$127,900, so if that's doubled, we might get \$256,000 to \$260,000."

The current IFPD budget overestimates ambulance revenue by a minimum of \$75,000, according to Sherman.

Commissioner Dr. Charles "Chip" Schelly agreed with Sherman and said it was a very optimistic estimate because the ambulance fee schedule

See IFPD, page 9

Lemon Lily Festival planning begins

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Planning for the third annual Idyllwild Lemon Lily Festival is underway. With its tripartite mission of fostering appreciation for this once abundant local flower, as well as providing public education and restoration, festival planners are in the process of organizing festival events, locations, schedules and monetary allocations to best accomplish festival goals.

They have decided that Town Hall will not be an event site and that most festival activities will take place at the Nature Center, off Highway 243 between Idyllwild and Pine Cove. While this location is consistent with the educational goals of festival planners,

it may limit participation and support from local merchants and vendors, said longtime festival participant and local businessman Bryan Tallent.

Planners discussed whether in-town shuttle pickup locations would be sufficient to attract local merchant support and involvement. Tallent doubted it would.

A suggestion was made to revive a once successful bluegrass music festival and hold it in town in the late afternoon and early evening on one festival night. Similar to the successful Marshall Hawkins' in-town jazz concerts that followed Jazz in the Pines, the music festival could be held in the downtown core, giving local merchants and restaurants more of a link

See Festival, page 14

Robert Hewitt, CSA 38 member

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Editor's note: Robert Hewitt is the newest member of the County Service Area 38 (Pine Cove) Advisory Committee. Third District Supervisor Jeff Stone recommended his appointment, which the full board approved at its Jan. 24 meeting. Hewitt is a Los Angeles County Fire Department Battalion Chief. He and his wife, Janice Murasko, have a home in Pine Cove. This interview occurred on Friday, Feb. 17.

Within two weeks of his graduation from Duarte High School in Los Angeles County, near the San Gabriel Mountains, Hewitt was on the Oak Grove Hot Shots team.

That was the first step in his career goal of becoming a firefighter. From the age of 5 or 6, Hewitt knew that is what he wanted to become.

At 12, he wrote the Los Angeles County Fire Chief and asked why civilians were allowed to "ride along" with Sheriff's deputies, but not permitted to ride in fire engines. By 13, he was a member of the firefighters



Robert Hewitt

PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE

Explorer group.

From the Forest Service, he joined the Los Angeles County flight team, similar

See Hewitt, page 19



The sun shone bright Thursday morning after an afternoon and night of snow. PHOTO BY J.P. CRUMRINE

NEWS OF RECORD

Fire log

Hill fire stations responded to the following calls, Monday to Sunday, Feb. 13 to Feb. 19, 2012:

Idyllwild Fire Department and Ambulance

- Feb. 15 — Public service assist, Pine Crest Avenue and Jameson Drive, Idyllwild.
- Feb. 15 — Dispatched and nothing found, Highway 243 and Marian View Drive, Idyllwild.
- Feb. 15 — Walk-in medical aid.
- Feb. 15 — Medical aid, Tollgate Road, Idyllwild.
- Feb. 16 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Highway 243 near Vista Grande Station.
- Feb. 16 — Dispatched and canceled en route, Syl-

van Way, Pine Cove.

Riverside County Fire, Pine Cove
Report unavailable.

Riverside County Fire, Garner Valley

- Feb. 14 — Traffic collision, 58000 block of Highway 371, Anza.
- Feb. 14 — Traffic collision, 54000 block of Highway 371, Anza.

Riverside County Fire, Pinyon
Report unavailable.

CHP log

Log unavailable.

Sheriff's log

Log unavailable.



RMRU member Lee Arnson (left) and Mark Wagner measure the snow in Saddle Junction. Last week, they trekked to the Junction and Tahquitz Valley, and found the snow depth of 20 inches, but low water content. Tyler Puckett is standing in the background. PHOTO COURTESY OF LEE ARNSON

Strange but true

It was Pulitzer Prize-winning American author John Steinbeck, best known for "The Grapes of Wrath" and "Of Mice and Men," who made the following sage observation: "The writer must believe that what he is doing is the most important thing in the world. And he must hold to this illusion even when he knows it is not true."

RMRU helps rescue lost hikers

By Marshall Smith
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, Feb. 18, Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit responded to a report of two hikers lost near Soboba Hot Springs.






Sheriff's deputies responded at 6:32 p.m. and RMRU volunteer Lou Kingman of Redlands and the Sheriff's aviation unit spot-

ted the hikers around 8 p.m. Kingman was lowered in and both hikers were safely hoisted up around 10 p.m. and airlifted to safety. Neither hiker was injured. Both are Riverside County residents. Costs of rescue are borne by the county if those rescued are county residents. Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.



Strawberry Creek is parted by snowfall. PHOTO BY MIKE VLADIKA

Idyllwild Weather
From the National Weather Service

| Thursday 2/23 | Friday 2/24 | Saturday 2/25 | Sunday 2/26 | Monday 2/27 |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  62/40 Sunny. |  61/38 Sunny. |  57/33 Sunny. |  51/31 Sunny. |  45/31 Sunny. |

| Idyllwild this year | | | | | Idyllwild last year | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|------|---|---------------------|-----|------|---|--|
| Date | High | Low | M | S | High | Low | M | S | |
| 2-13 | 39 | 29 | .10 | | na | na | | | |
| 2-14 | na | na | | | 62 | 28 | | | |
| 2-15 | 38 | 28 | | 8 | 59 | 26 | | | |
| 2-16 | 41 | 26 | 1.16 | 9 | 44 | 24 | 1.37 | | |
| 2-17 | 55 | 21 | | | 43 | 21 | .07 | | |
| 2-18 | 54 | 25 | | | 50 | 29 | .13 | | |
| 2-19 | 49 | 24 | | | 40 | 30 | 1.8 | 1 | |

| Moisture in inches | | | | | Snow in inches | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| To date this season (Idy): 13.00 | | | | | To date this season (Idy): 24.1 | | | | |
| To date last season (Idy): 25.89 | | | | | To date last season (Idy): 13.9 | | | | |
| Total last season (Idy): 29.38 | | | | | Total last season (Idy): 44.9 | | | | |
| To date this season (PC): 12.58 | | | | | To date this season (PC): 37.25 | | | | |
| 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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595 Acquisition Fee

240 1st Mo. Lease Payment

\$3,330 Total due at lease signing (*plus tax & license)

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Subaru Boxer engine

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Vin #: CG410697

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595 Acquisition Fee

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All-Wheel Drive standard

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6 standard airbags

170-hp Subaru Boxer engine

All-weather package

Stock #: 227079

Vin #: C325292

Model #: CDD



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\$215

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\$2,495 Down Payment

0 Security Deposit

595 Acquisition Fee

215 1st Mo. Lease Payment

\$3,520 Total due at lease signing (*plus tax & license)

All-Wheel Drive standard

4-wheel disc brakes w/ABS

Navigation

Stock #: 227059

Vin #: CH204594

Model #: CLD



*Tax, title, license and registration fees not included. Payments based on 10,000 miles/year. Total due at signing includes Customer down payment, 1st lease payment and may include \$595 Acquisition Fee. Available through Feb. 29, 2012.

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OUTSIDE IDYLLWILD

By BRUCE WATTS

Winter returns to Idyllwild ...

Soon it will be spring again, or in our case, one of those glorious April days when you think winter is over. Anyone who has lived in Idyllwild or visited frequently knows what I mean.



The sun shines brightly without a cloud in the sky and warms you over 70 degrees. You're thinking of putting your houseplants on the deck and then it happens. A weather front moves in and the temperature drops below freezing. Your hopes for an early spring are dashed.

Although this seems to happen almost annually, it doesn't usually occur in January and February as it has in 2012. Just when you think the weather couldn't get any nicer, the thought crosses your mind that it is the middle of February and we are really in trouble if we don't get some snow soon.

To most Southern Californians, water is simply a liquid



Panoramic view from Inspiration Point.

PHOTO BY BRUCE WATTS

that comes out of the tap. When you get low, you simply "borrow" some water from our neighbors to the north. If, however, you live in Idyllwild, you know two things: One, winter isn't over until after Mother's Day (and sometimes beyond); and, two, all our water on the mountain comes from the mountain.

When people are telling you how lucky we are to have 70-degree days in the winter, you have to tell them, it is nice now; but when summer comes, we could be in for it. Then you explain about Stage II and Stage III water conservation and the consequences of droughts to the local ecosystem and economy.

For us water comes from wells, springs and stream diversions which are all supplied by rainfall and snowmelt. Many people think our water source is a pipeline coming from Hemet. We can just turn up the pressure and the water problem will be solved.

Strange but true

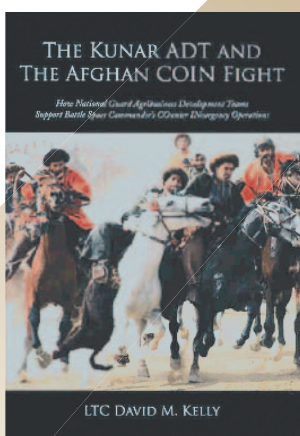
Those of you who need your daily java fix probably won't be surprised to learn that coffee is one of the most popular drinks worldwide and is one of the most traded agricultural commodities. Due to limitations in cultivation, however, Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. that produces the beans.



Tahquitz Creek near the Fern Valley Water District diversion in Humber Park.

PHOTO BY NATANIEL WEST

The Kunar Agribusiness Development team (ADT) was created from volunteers from the California and Virginia National Guards. ADTs are special units in Afghanistan supporting the eBattle Space owner's counter-insurgency (COIN) operations in the Kunar and Pick river valleys in north-eastern Afghanistan. During the Kunar ADT's deployment between September 2009 and August 2010 they saw combat 19 times while working in remote villages.



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Happy 60th Anniversary Mom & Dad



Feb. 26, 1952

Feb. 26, 2012

*By the grace of God you made it another 10 years
& our family is so proud of you.
May you always keep cherishing one another.*

May the LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
May the LORD make HIS face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
May the LORD lift up HIS countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

Your loving children & family.

Pat, Tom, John, Steve, Dave, Lois, Paul, Marc, Elizabeth,
Eric, Caleb, Josh, Sam, Chuck, Ben, Eli, Kevin, Matthew.

MOUNTAIN FOLK

There is no repeat this year of a Hill contestant moving forward to American Idol's final 10 and fame. Neither **Suzanne Tufan**, once an Idyllwild resident, nor **Christina (Christy) Barrett** of Anza survived Hollywood Week, actually held in Pasadena. Both were eliminated.

So for all those who hold fond remembrances of the "Casey" season, there will be no Suzanne or Christy repeat ...

On a brighter note, local author **Joanne Bischof** has landed a three-book deal to extend, as a new series called "Cadence of Grace," the characters from her period Appalachia Christian romance, "Cry of My Heart."

WaterBrook/Multnomah, with more distribution avenues than were available for "Cry of My Heart," publishes the first book in the new trilogy, "Be Still My Soul," in the fall of 2012 ...

Danielle McKnight, Hemet High School 2011 graduate, was named to the Dean's list at the Maine Maritime Academy for outstanding academic achievement in the first semester of the 2011-12 academic year. McKnight, a member of the class of 2015, is majoring in marine engineering technology.

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

To get your birthday listed, e-mail itc@towncrier.com or call (951) 659-2145, with the month and day.



Danielle McKnight of Idyllwild receives an award for being the outstanding 4th class Midshipman (Freshman) at the combined Naval ROTC units of Maine Maritime Academy and University of Maine at Bangor Maine. She received the pictured certificate and a \$1,500 check for her achievements. McKnight was honored at the Maine Chapter of the Military Officers Association banquet on Saturday, Feb. 11, in Bangor, Maine.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES KENT

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HELP Center receives grant

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors, acting on 3rd District Supervisor Jeff Stone's recommendation, approved a \$3,000 grant to the Idyllwild HELP Center. The funds will be used for center clients' children who want to participate in Town Hall Recreation sports. The grant will fund sports shoes,

registration fees for sports activities and any needed childcare, according to center Executive Director Karen Patterson.

"It is a one-time grant per child of \$65, paid to Town Hall Recreation, to enable them to participate in sports activities," said Patterson. Patterson stressed that the checks don't go directly to center clients but to the county recreation pro-

gram, to ensure they are used for clients' children's sports needs. Patterson suggested any interested center clients should come in and fill out the required forms.

Patterson touted the new center website as a way to promote the center's activities and make online donation easier for on and off-Hill donors. See idyllwildhelp-center.com for information on the center's services, pro-

grams, events and monthly newsletter.

Patterson noted that, as the recession continues, center client load continues to grow and grant funding continues to decline. "We currently have a client list of 640 but each day we're getting new ones," she said. The center provides food, medical and utility vouchers.

Email Marshall Smith at marshall@towncrier.com.

CPR and first aid for pets

BY J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Do you know what to do in the event your beloved pet is choking or bleeding, is bitten by a snake, quits breathing, breaks a leg or is a victim of one or more of dozens of other unfortunate medical emergencies?

Animal Rescue Friends of Idyllwild is offering three four-hour classes for pet owners and lovers. Classes are \$59 per person.

Learn how to deal with

restraining and muzzling, rescue breathing, canine and feline CPR, choking, bleeding, shock management snake and insect bites, heat and cold injuries, poisoning and seizures.

Christina Dunlap, a nationally certified Pet Tech CPR and first aid instructor, will teach the classes from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, and then again from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday Feb. 26. The classes are limited to 12 students per class

and are beginning to fill up. For registration information, e-mail Janice Murasko at janicemurasko@yahoo.com or call ARF at (951) 659-1122.

Murasko also recommends registering online at www.pettech.net/index.php.

Once there, click on "Locate a nearby class" in the box to the right of the screen. Then type "Idyllwild CA" in the locator box. Scroll down to find Christina Dunlap in Idyllwild. The Sunday morning class is limited to ARF staff.

Trivia test

Chemistry: What is the symbol for the element tungsten?

Answer: W

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Idyllwild Town Hall

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CLASSES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN: \$10 per class. Space still available.

MONDAY
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Introduction to
Theatre Arts
Kirsten Ingbretsen

TUESDAY
4-5 p.m.
Beginning/
Intermediate Tap
Annika Kay
7-8 p.m.
Adult Dance
Annika Kay

WEDNESDAY
9-10 a.m.
Adult Yoga
Trine
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Senior Stretch/
Exercise
Annika Kay
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Ballet/Tap
(K-4th grade)
Annika Kay

THURSDAY
4:15-5 p.m.
Children's Yoga
Trine
FRIDAY
5-6 p.m.
Adult Yoga
Trine

Mark Your Calendars!

Parents' date night is
Friday, March 9



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For the *Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar*, see "On the Town," on page 10.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- 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. Mile High Cafe, 26600 Hwy. 243.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
- 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.
- Community Dialogue: "Campaign financing," 6 p.m., St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

- 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.
- Forest Folk, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall, 25925 Cedar Street.
- Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group, 5:30 p.m. Restaurant Gastrognome, 54381 Ridgeview Dr.

- ICRC Book Club, 7 p.m. Creekstone Inn, 54950 Pine Crest Ave.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

- IWD Special Meeting of the Personnel Committee, 8:30 a.m. IWD board room, 25945 Hwy. 243.
- Vet Day at ARF, 26890 Hwy. 243. 9 a.m., Call 659-1122 for appointment.
- Idyllwild Play Group, 10:30 a.m. Call Jenny Stepien at (760) 445-6325 or email 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.
- County Supervisor Jeff Stone, noon-3 p.m. Idyllwild Fire Station, 54160 Maranatha Dr. Call 1-866-383-2203 for appointment.
- Celebrate Recovery, Christ-centered 12-Step program. BBQ 6-7 p.m.; Open Share meeting 7-9 p.m. Former Morning Sky School, 29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center. Child care available. Call 659-0097 for information.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

- Occupy Idyllwild for Peace, Justice and Nonviolence "teach-in" 11 a.m.-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, FEB. 26

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 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, FEB. 27

- 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, mediation from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at the Loft in the Courtyard Building, 26120 Ridgeview Drive. Instruction available by appointment. Call Valerie Kyoshin Velez at 659-5750 for information.
- Movie Night: "With One Voice," 6:30-9 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.

TUESDAY, FEB. 28

- Valley Quilters Guild, 9:30 a.m. 305 E. Devonshire, Hemet.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Idyllwild Fire Protection District Commission, 6 p.m. Idyllwild Fire Station, 54160 Maranatha Dr.
- Hemet Unified School District board meeting, 6:30 p.m. Idyllwild School, 26700 Hwy. 243.
- Alcoholics Anonymous men's meeting (open), 6-7 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 29

- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 6 p.m., Spiritual Living Center, women only, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).
- 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. Mile High Cafe, 26600 Highway 243.
- Creekside Writers, 9 a.m.-noon. Call 659-2844.
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- Codependents Anonymous meeting, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Living Center, Church of Religious Science, 26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building).

Zero in on the Zanders

Barry and Monique Zander chose Idyllwild as their base a year ago, but continue the travels that have taken them across most of North America in a travel trailer.

They spent the past 10 days in New Orleans, participating in Mardi Gras, enjoying the city as it deserves to be seen. You can follow their travels by going to Idyllwild-towncrier.com, clicking on "Blogs" at the top right, and choosing "On Top of the World."

Locals interested in contributing to the blog site are welcome to contact Barry at zanderontopoftheworld@gmail.com to find out more about communicating thoughts and stories of interest to friends in Idyllwild and the world beyond.

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.-

Strange but true

I'm sure you've seen photos of those picturesque covered bridges. It seems that they would have provided a welcome haven for people driving buggies caught out in the rain. You may be surprised to learn, though, that the bridges weren't designed with a roof for the comfort of travelers. Being made of wood in an era before protective sealants, the bridges themselves needed to be protected from the elements.

Idyllwild Town Hall

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 Classified Ads — Noon
 Display Ads — Noon

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Halie Johnson
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INITIAL THOUGHTS

Three subjects: first one new, second two repeats ...



Kudos to Idyllwild Fire

A year ago, Idyllwild Fire Commissioner Dr. Charles "Chip" Schelly proposed a resolution in response to the State Controller publishing salary data from special districts such as Idyllwild Fire.

Schelly's resolution, which was adopted unanimously, requires the district to post the salary data on its website (www.idyllwildfire.com) as well as payments greater than \$5,000 to vendors and contractors.

At last week's meeting, the commission approved the list of 2011-12 contracts that interim Chief Mike Sherman recommended for posting.

Here's a brief summary:

- The Emergency Medical Service contract with Riverside County to serve Pine Cove and Zone 3.
- The CBD Management contract — this is for billing for medical services which IFPD provides, such as ambulance transports.
- The cooperative agreement with Riverside County for provision of dispatch service to IFPD.
- The Mobile Data Computer agreement with Riverside County.
- The Kansas State Bank lease and the U.S.D.A. note for acquisition of two fire vehicles in 2008.
- The PNC Equipment finance lease for the Zoll Heart monitors in 2011.
- The Annual operating plan with the Forest Service for mutual aid.
- The recent contract between the commission and interim Chief Sherman.

I think this is very honorable and transparent step to keep the public informed of fire department business. In my opinion, it sets a standard for Hill public agencies.

Special Districts compensation payments

As I promised last week, the publication of local special district salary and wage information continues. This week, you will find the Idyllwild Water District data on page 22.

For those that unfortunately missed last week's edition, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District data appeared then.

In March, when the state controller makes it available, we will publish three more local water districts — Fern Valley, Lake Hemet and Pine Cove.

Letters to the editor

No comments for or opposed to the new criteria for letters to the editor have been received. I wonder why some people who are brave enough to send private email blasts criticizing letters are afraid to share their thoughts and opinions with the whole community.

1. One letter published every four weeks.
2. Please try to keep your submissions to less than 451 words. Sometimes that's difficult, especially when the subject is of broad community appeal. Believe me, I understand the limitations of this criterion.
3. Unsubstantiated personal attacks will not be published. If you need to provide the rationale for the statement, you may append the evidence.
4. Complaints about the operation of local businesses or individuals will be shared with the alleged offending party. This prepares them for its publication. Secondly, they may wish to respond in that issue or the next.

I invite everyone to consider these criteria and evaluate them from many perspectives, such as fairness to the author, to the community and to the paper, feasibility, appropriateness for the Hill, or other criteria of your own derivation.

Please share your thoughts with me. In a few weeks, I'll publish all the letters, if anyone comments, about the policy.

J.P., EDITOR

READERS WRITE

Small communities

EDITOR:

Only in Idyllwild. Take a look at other smaller communities throughout the State (about 5,000). Almost all of them have one fire chief for life, not three in two years.

The local officials love their jobs and the people appreciate their work and support them. They rarely resign for "personal and family reasons," as often happens in Idyllwild. They rarely are voted out of office, as almost always happens in Idyllwild.

Go to a few meetings in other towns. Strangers are always welcome (especially if they think you have some money to spend). There's no timers, no paranoid board afraid of being sued.

Everyone is respected and their opinions are welcomed. Not necessarily an open forum, but a little give and take. After all, we're all neighbors and need to face one another at the post office.

Recreation is a fun thing that brings the community together. In Idyllwild there are three sets of boards of directors (30 directors) that don't work together, in addition to county management.

Idyllwild is a gem. It's close to Palm Springs, close to Santa Monica, and close to San Diego. The locals are friendly, mostly well-educated, and culturally sophisticated.

Yet there's crisis after crisis, the board members bicker, the voices from the community are not heard, the town is angry.

Small community. I've lived in them most of my life. People are scarce, and people are treated as persons.

I've never heard of a chamber of commerce in turmoil. And recreation would still be united and not under county management if our seniors were being listened to by ICRC. Dawn and crew need help from the successful people in the community, they should be welcomed at their meetings. ICRC didn't even check the guy's references (ice rink) and for months

Mr. Funny Guy

by Chris Fisher



we're stuck with an ugly downtown eyesore. And the skate park, the pros at the EDA took one look and said it was a loser.

Our fire department's latest crisis is a joke. A small one station and three sets of books.

We can change things. Our newspaper can help, and so can our local officials. After all, we're all neighbors.

More about Idyllwild recreation: Dawn, for years, has said she doesn't have the money, the County is wrong. She just found it, ICRC is giving back our missing tax dollars.

From one side of his mouth, Capparelli says our

fire department is broke, we must fire Chief Walker. From the other side of his mouth, he says Idyllwild can easily afford a multi-million dollar new community center with pool and world-class gym. Bill Sanborn promised in July and in September, the numbers.

"First of all, he would put a sharp pencil to it, tell us the costs and figure a way to afford it." No more hype, no more promotions, just the numbers, and whether we can afford a new community center. Months and months ago, and we're still waiting to hear how we're supposed to pay for it.

NORM CASSEN
 PINE COVE

Trivia test

Geography: In which U.S. state is the top-secret military facility known as Area 51 located?

Answer: Nevada

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 450 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. Only one letter per author within a 28-day period. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Town Crier staff. Letters may be submitted in person, by mail, by fax (659-2071) or by e-mail (itc@towncrier.com).

TOWN TALK

By ISAAC DWYER AND RUTH RUIZ, INTERNS

Do you believe that Shepard Fairey's, "Obama: Hope," poster should be considered plagiarism? Why or why not?



Corwin Zekley
Music student
Idyllwild Arts

"No. It was altered and he is not making money off the posters. If you are not making money off of it then, legally, it is not plagiarism. It's like if I take someone's picture and post it around school. I'm not making money off of it and it's not plagiarism."



Branford Walker
Creative Writing student
Idyllwild Arts

"No, he has changed the picture completely. The picture, by itself, would have gone unnoticed anyway. It's not any more plagiarism then reading Shakespeare and deciding that you want to write a story about two star-crossed lovers."



Nick Cooper
ESL Instructor
Idyllwild Arts

"Not at all. Pop Art mimics the world around us. Would it be plagiarism if I drew a picture of someone else? It is his style and he is re-creating another person's photo. Also, didn't someone say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery?"



C.D. Duncan
Theater student
Idyllwild Arts

"It's technical plagiarism because everything that defines plagiarism fits this argument."

SUSTAINABILITY

SHANNON HODGEN JACOBS
STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR
IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY

Lighting the way to sustainability and savings ...

Next week, three sophomores and one junior from Idyllwild Arts Academy will join me in flying to Denver, Colo., for the Second Annual Green Schools International Conference, Feb. 27 to 29.

It's safe to say that these students are just a tad excited, having proved their readiness and willingness to assist in bringing green changes to our school through written essays.

In these essays, they explain what their specific "area of interest" is and how they plan to begin making changes within our school. In fact, one of these students will be writing the next Town Crier "Sustainability" column. In addition, each student will "report" to the student body regarding their experience incorporating their chosen artistic medium.

One of the students expressed her interest in "making our school more ecofriendly while saving the school



money," which weaves in beautifully with how the savings could someday fund a partial or full scholarship for a student in need.

Another student recognizes that she will need skills to advocate the need for sustainable practices to her fellow students. It is indeed true that some cultures represented in our student body have not yet had the experience of scraping their plates into a compost bin or harvesting a vegetable whose seed they had a hand in planting.

This student wishes to learn to articulate this need to those from other cultures. Another student plans to specialize in interior design and seeks to learn more about incorporating ecofriendly and recycled materials into his work. On student, who is a junior, desperately wants a working compost that will someday supplement a school garden.

These students have also joined and committed to membership in one of our six sustainability subcommittees at school. These students are bright, excited artists who, alongside being very thoughtful individuals, are perfect to begin the job of uniting a new culture into some long-standing ones which have existed within the Idyllwild Arts community.

While these four student-artists and myself are in Denver, we will participate in various breakout sessions, learning all there is to know about what it takes to become a "Green School."

See [Sustainability, page 22](#)

Audit Triggers

TAX TIPS

By STEPHEN T. PEPPLER, EA, CFP

The Internal Revenue Service has stepped up its audits over the past few years. In addition to traditional face-to-face audits, it is also conducting an increasing number of correspondence audits where taxpayers are requested to verify various expenses by mail.

Increasing scrutiny is being given to tax preparers who prepare fraudulent returns. Once a "bad" preparer is discovered, the IRS criminal division, which sports a greater than 95 percent conviction rate, goes after him or her. The audit division then begins auditing all the preparer's returns looking for repetitive errors.

A favorite area for fraud is the Earned Income Credit, which can be worth thousands of dollars to taxpayers

with young children and income under a certain level.

Sometimes couples pretend to be unmarried and have the wife claim the kids while subtracting the husband's high income from the return in order to qualify for the credit. What most taxpayers don't realize is that if their preparer is cheating on their return, he is cheating on most of his returns, ensuring that eventually he will be caught.

Those tax preparers receiving a 1099-C for cancellation of debt are be-



ing aggressively audited. Many taxpayers neglect to report the income at all. It is possible in some cases to exclude a portion or all of the debt relief due to the Qualified Principal Residence Exclusion, the Qualified Real Property Business Indebtedness Exclusion or Insolvency. The rules are extremely complex and one should submit a paper return with the supporting documentation to confirm you are entitled to the exclusion(s).

If you are claiming mileage, you are required to keep

a log showing the business miles and business purpose of the trip. Commute mileage doesn't count. This is a favorite area of scrutiny for the IRS and it is a stickler for detailed written logs.

Office in the home deductions are questioned most often when someone works as an employee. The office needs to be for the employer's convenience, not the taxpayer's. A common question is "would you be fired if you did not have the office in your home?" Written corroboration from the employer is often required.

Many people when they prepare their own returns don't bother to include sales of stocks or mutual funds. Since the IRS doesn't know the cost basis, it assumes zero and sends out a letter with a large amount of tax due.

See [Tax tips, page 22](#)

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By Appointment Only

Sheriff clarifies response policy as burglaries increase

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

An apparent surge in burglaries is occurring throughout the Idyllwild area. A review of incident reports received from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Hemet Station, shows that crimes to property (burglary, attempted burglary, vehicle theft, grand theft and felony vandalism) increased substantially in recent weeks compared to 2010 and 2011.

Property crimes grew marginally in 2011 over 2010 (23 and 20 respective reported incidents) and markedly (about 40 percent increase) over 2009 levels (13 incidents). These preliminary tallies may not represent all incidents.

However, eight incidents have already been reported since January 2012. Another two occurred in the last two weeks of 2011.

Sheriff's deputy responses are categorized, with Priority One (in-progress) criminal incidents receiving highest priority because the imminence of danger requires an immediate response.

A crime victim can spe-

Request for reports of break-ins

The Sheriff's Department routinely requests that all crime incidents be reported in order to track spikes in criminal activity in particular areas.

Even if you feel the crime may have occurred days before its discovery, the Town Crier would also appreciate hearing about it. We will collect the data, prepare a map and report on the Sheriff's progress in combatting this local crime spree.

You can either send an email to itc@towncrier.com or call (951) 659-2146 and ask for Marshall Smith.

cifically request a deputy take an in-person report, even if the crime is not then in-progress. Some crime reports are taken by telephone, without a deputy present at the crime scene.

What was not noted in previous Town Crier reports of recent burglaries was the Sheriff's Department's stated policy of responding

See [Sheriff, page 22](#)

Drier winter impacts district wells

District prepares for new water standards

By MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Well levels are lower at Fern Valley Water District owing to a drier than normal winter. Prior to the storm that dropped eight inches of snow in Idyllwild and 13-1/2 inches in Pine Cover and upper Fern Valley, precipitation was about half of what it had been last year at this time. Now it approaches two-thirds of the long-term average precipitation through February.

According to District General Manager Steve Erler's report at the Friday, Feb. 17, board meeting, average decline in well levels is one to 10 feet compared to same time last year.

Tank 11, which had been temporarily withdrawn from service, has been brought back on line, according to Erler. The tank's water levels are being kept at lower levels to facilitate more frequent circulation to promote freshness.

Erler told the board that Tank 5 has been temporarily removed from service to cut down on time water remains held ("detained"), during times of minimal monthly demand. Since Tank 5 sits in series between 7 and 6, engineers

had recommended this action to cut down on buildup of disinfectant byproduct levels in the first and second quarters of 2012. By taking Tank 5 out of action, less system water stands, and proportionally more water circulates. Erler stressed that the district has never been out of compliance with California Department of Public Health Stage One byproduct standards, but this latest action was taken as a remediating step in preparation for Stage Two standards that go into effect on Oct. 1, 2013.

In a letter to the district dated June 6, 2011, the health department directed a review of the district's distribution system. The review would consider seasonal differences in water source usage and demand, water quality, storage tank operations and storage capacity that could contribute to system spikes in trihalomethane and haloacetic acid. Those levels have spiked in the past in district water. The district, according to Erler, has completed engineering recommendations on how to best meet the new standards.

Erler reported the conclusion to a standoff over

See [Fern Valley, page 19](#)



Grace Nubuko and Shelley Kibby played with snowshoes and cross-country skis after last week's snow storm.

PHOTO BY
SHELLEY KIBBY

Churches and Spiritual Centers Directory of Idyllwild

Chapel in the Pines Christian Fellowship

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

Christian Science Church

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

Community Presbyterian Church

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

2 Services

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Father Charles E. Miller
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Confession: Sat. 3:30 p.m. or by appt. 659-2708

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Rev. Gordon Scheible • Sunday Service, 10:00 am
25525 Tahquitz Dr. (in Fern Valley off South Circle Dr.)
Phone (951) 659-4471

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26120 Ridgeview Dr. (the Courtyard Building) 659-3464.
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IFPD

Continued from page 1

was increased in 2010 and 2011.

Nevertheless, Sherman said, "The second half [of the year] revenues should be a little higher, but fees aren't high enough to meet this goal."

Later, Sherman advised the commission that even if they are able to adopt a balanced budget for fiscal year 2012-13, which begins July 1, the district is likely to need another advance from the county this fall.

"You'll need an immediate advance from Riverside County, even if you pass a balanced budget," Sherman warned. "Do what you did last year, only earlier [in the year]."

The current IFPD bank balance is about \$280,000. The next major revenue collection will be in May following April property tax payments. In 2009, IFPD received about \$250,000 during March and April, but in 2011, the district's total revenue for those two months was \$126,000.

Since expenses are between \$100,000 and \$140,000 monthly, the fire district's financial situation remains precarious.

"It will be close. I am watching the balances closely as we need about \$120,000 per month. You

can see from the balances that we would have less than three months of cash, but we get between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per month in ambulance revenue; a quarterly payment from [Riverside Emergency Medical Services] of \$24,700; some small tax payments; and several outstanding fire payments, so we should make it without any disasters," he said cautiously later in the week.

The negotiating subcommittee, commissioners Pete Capparelli and Jerry Buchanan, have held some meetings with the Idyllwild Career Firefighters. They also requested a closed session at the end of Tuesday's meeting to confer with their commission colleagues on strategy and issues.

The accounting firm of Rogers, Anderson, Malody and Scott of San Bernardino is still working on the 2010-11 audit. Both Sherman and Buchanan indicated this would be necessary in order to refinance the district's debt.

While Sherman has been discussing refinancing and consolidation of the vehicle and medical equipment loans with several institutions, he did not have a specific proposal for the commission at this meeting. He is attempting to obtain lower interest rates and a longer payback period in

order to reduce IFPD's annual cash flow.

He did get agreement from Kansas State Bank, holder of one of the engine loans, to defer the principal payment, due Feb. 1, for three months until May 1 and has been discussing terms with the California Special District Association.

On Sunday, Sherman talked about his progress since the meeting.

"The refinance is in progress with CSDA," he wrote in an email. "They will need to review the audit and other financials before they would commit. The refinancing must be complete and the other loans paid off before May 1. I sent them the preliminary commitment dated and signed on the 16th [of February, Friday]."

Sherman reported that

he had met with Nancy Layton about the bookkeeping position. Leigh Humphries, the former bookkeeper has resigned, Sherman said. She had told the board of her intention to leave in late 2010. Sherman had Layton do some financial work and recommended that the commission approve hiring her. She will work 10 hours per week at \$25 per hour.

Sherman and Commissioner Buchanan were going to negotiate her specific duties and functions this week, but she will help Sherman prepare the budget and take on payroll responsibilities, although Rapid Data, which currently produces the checks will also issue payments to CalPERS now.

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

Candidate filing opens

Anyone interested in running for office in the June 5, 2012, Presidential Primary Election may take out candidate filing papers beginning Feb. 13, 2012. Papers must be filed by 5 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2012. If an incumbent fails to file, the deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2012, for everyone except the incumbent.

Registrar of voters staff are available to assist with completing the necessary

paperwork and answering any questions candidates may have. Candidates who are unsure of the local district offices they are eligible for, based on residency, should contact the registrar of voters office for help. Candidates will receive informational handbooks at the time they obtain their papers.

Further information about this election may be obtained from the registrar of voters at (951) 486-7200 or (800) 773-8683.

Trivia test

Movies: What 1997 movie starred actors Helen Hunt and Jack Nicholson?

Answer: "As Good as It Gets"

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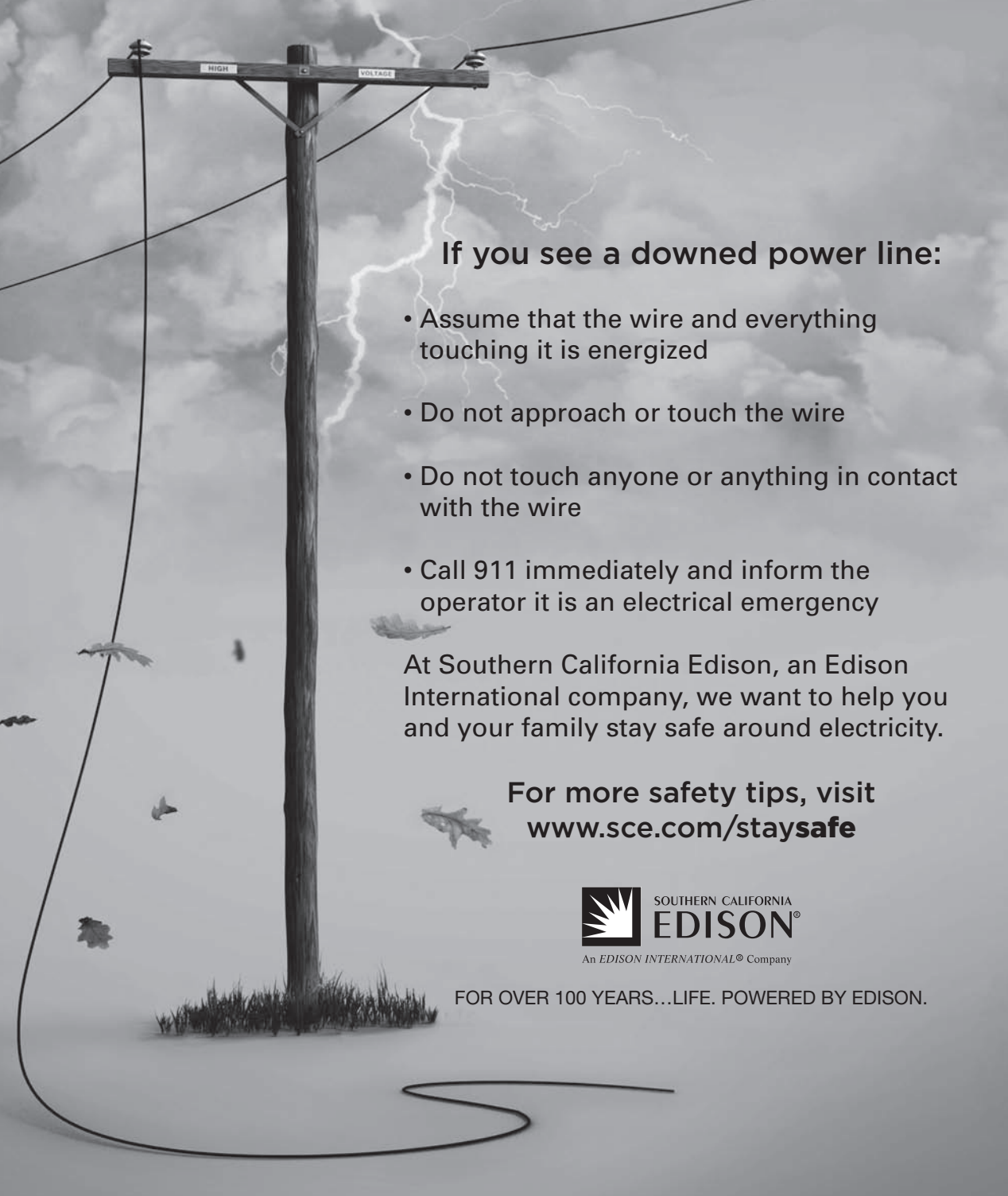


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- Do not touch anyone or anything in contact with the wire
- Call 911 immediately and inform the operator it is an electrical emergency

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Forest 2013 budget request stable

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

President Barack Obama released his proposed 2012-13 budget on Feb. 13. If Congress approves the President's recommendation, the budget would have a \$900 billion deficit, about two-thirds of the projected 2011-12 \$1.3 trillion deficit.

Part of federal spending includes \$4.861 billion for the U.S. Forest Service, a \$15.5 million increase from the enacted 2012 budget of \$4.845 billion.

In testimony last week before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell discussed the three themes — restoration, communities, and fire — of the agency's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget request.

"To make the strategic investments to grow the economy and tackle the deficit, this budget makes difficult cuts to programs — but our priorities are designed to respond to the needs of the American public," Tidwell said.

"The budget request will engage communities and help Americans reconnect to the outdoors, expand on recreation benefits and create a wide range of opportunities for economic expansion to retain and create jobs. It also fosters partnering with communities and cooperating agen-

cies to reduce the threat of wildland fires to people, property and watersheds."

Except for the National Forest System and land acquisition accounts, all other Forest Service programs were cut, including the Wildland Fire Management programs (-\$3.1 million).

The fire management reduction is misleading because nearly \$90 million for hazardous fuels and forest health management of federal lands was transferred to funding for Integrated Resource Restoration, which combines funding from several formerly separate activities into a newly organized program. In Fiscal year 2012, the Forest Service conducted a pilot effort in three different regions.

The intent is to combine separate activities that all affect the forest landscape in order to assess and implement the most appropriate actions for whole forest ecosystem management.

"By making targeted investments in the landscapes most at risk, we can restore healthy, resilient forests and grasslands, provide recreational and hunting access, and provide forest products for the benefit of all Americans," Tidwell said. "Our fiscal year 2013 budget request is designed to do just that by working with partners across borders and boundaries at a landscape level.

"Based on our current efforts, we know that increasing collaboration with

local communities can move conservation efforts from a scale of thousands of acres to hundreds of thousands of acres. The President's fiscal year 2013 budget strategically allocates resources to support exemplary local stewardship and collaboration models and to catalyze new partnerships and innovations."

As the hearing began, Subcommittee Chair Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, advised Tidwell that the Integrated Resource Restoration program is only beginning its pilot stage this fiscal year. "Before we can allow IRR to be employed nation-wide we need proof of concept and robust performance measures to know that it works. The fiscal year 2012 bill was just completed, so I realize you haven't had sufficient time to implement the pilot," Simpson said to Tidwell. "Nonetheless, we look forward to seeing real, tangible accomplishments in the near future."

There is a planned \$100 million reduction in general costs over the course of fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014. Tidwell estimated that his agency's workforce will be reduced by nearly 1,500 full-time equivalents between fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2013, a reduction within its average annual attrition rate. He also identified reduced spending levels in travel, information technology, printing, vehicles and promotional items.

The suppression activity within fire management is increased \$78 million and the recommendation for state fire assistance funding is \$17 million greater than the 2012 appropriation. Consequently the entire Wild Fire Management program is only \$3 million less than this year.

The Forest Service is not planning on any staffing changes or reduction of major equipment available for fire fighting. Just last month, the agency released a request for proposals for the next generation of fire fighting aircraft.

The strategy is to replace the fleet of aging air tankers used to battle wildfires with a next generation of newer,

faster, more cost-effective large air tankers. Simpson supported the Forest Service's strategy to replace the aging fleet, but asked the agency head to work closely with the subcommittee on funding issues.

"We need a core fleet of the next generation large air tankers to supplement our boots-on-the-ground firefighters for what we know will be longer and more severe wildfire seasons in years to come," said Tidwell. "The effectiveness of air tankers on a wildfire is directly proportional to [their] speed and load capacity. A larger load capacity also allows larger air tankers to split their retardant loads to support different parts

of a fire without delay of returning to base."

Although no large air tanker has been built specifically for firefighting, several aircraft were designed to handle similar stresses. Recommendations for the next generation of air tankers include capacity to carry 1,800 to 3,000 gallons of mixed retardant; a minimum cruise speed of 345 mph; powered by turbine engines, which are more reliable, more fuel efficient, and require less maintenance than older aircraft piston engines; able to operate from most federal air tanker bases.

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

Forest Service Budget Summary

| | Fiscal year 2012 Enacted | Program Changes | Fiscal year 2013 President's Budget |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Annual Appropriations (dollars in thousands) | | | |
| Discretionary Funds | | | |
| Forest & Rangeland Research | \$295,300 | -\$2,504 | \$292,796 |
| State & Private Forestry | \$252,926 | -\$2,196 | \$250,730 |
| National Forest System | \$1,554,137 | \$69,454 | \$1,623,591 |
| Capital Improvement | | | |
| & Maintenance | \$394,089 | -\$47,710 | \$346,379 |
| Land Acquisition | \$53,701 | \$5,415 | \$59,116 |
| Other Appropriations | \$5,875 | -\$3,469 | \$2,406 |
| Wildland Fire Management | \$1,974,467 | -\$3,073 | \$1,971,394 |
| FLAME Wildfire Suppression | | | |
| Reserve | \$315,381 | -\$381 | \$315,000 |
| Discretionary Funds Total | \$4,845,876 | \$15,536 | \$4,861,412 |
| Mandatory Appropriations | \$738,710 | -\$61,680 | \$677,030 |
| Grand Total, Forest Service | \$5,584,586 | (\$46,144) | \$5,538,442 |

Strange but true

Most frogs lay their eggs in the water; that way, when the tadpoles hatch they are already in their element. The red-eyed tree frog, however, protects its eggs from aquatic predators by attaching its eggs to the underside of leaves that hang out over a body of water. Once the eggs hatch, the tadpoles fall into the water.

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HELP Center and Thrift Store Newsletter

HELP Center now on the Web!

The Idyllwild HELP Center is happy to announce that we now have our own website which went live this past weekend. It can be accessed through:

<http://www.idyllwildhelpcenter.com>

It is user friendly, navigates easily, has lots of helpful information about us and we'd love to hear your feedback about it. This has been in the works for a while and thanks to the efforts of Executive Director, **Karen Patterson**, and Graphic Designer/Webmaster, **Jim Crandall**, it has now become a reality.

Besides being a great source of information for our clients, supporters and friends, websites are becoming an essential tool when applying for Grants and Funds from different organizations and agencies. As available, grant funds continue to shrink, the field becomes more competitive. Including our website access information with all grant and funding requests, allows the financial sources to view our physical site (pictures), read about all of our services and gain us valuable extra credits in the point system involved in determining who gets the available funds. We are very excited about our website and have plans to expand it's exposure through additional multimedia sources. The Idyllwild HELP Center has clearly entered the 21st Century.

The HELP Center continues to thrive. New clients fill in for those who move on, no longer needing assistance at the present time. This, of course, is one of our important goals. That is, to help people bridge the gap from unemployment or underemployment to full time employment. Our client service

numbers are still well over 600, but there is always change within our client population.

The Thrift Store is a busy and active part of our operation. Donations have been consistent and thanks to the citizens of Idyllwild, our furniture, clothing, kitchen and all other areas, have been of a very good quality. Often merchandise gets sold the same day it comes in. Wise shoppers drop in as often as they can as we have new items on display several times a day. To keep up with demand, we always need more donations, so please keep dropping your unneeded items off. As you are aware, the Thrift Store is open 7 days per week.

Now that winter has arrived, there is more demand for warm clothing, especially for children. Please keep us in mind as your kids outgrow clothing and shoes. These items are always in demand. The same applies to canned soups and meals that can be heated up for hot meals. Our Utility fund can always use donations as well, especially for the next couple of months.

It's always a juggling act, just as our personal home budgets and expenses are; and thanks to all of you, the balls remain in the air and all of our systems are go. It's truly a town effort along with our staff and volunteers, to keep the HELP Center functioning as well as it does.

Thank you all again. Stay warm and take care.

Lou Bacher

President of the Board of Directors



HELP Center Hours:

Monday Closed
(available for emergencies only)

Tuesday–Friday
9 a.m.–Noon
& 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday Closed

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Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.


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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, Feb. 22

Visual Art Alumni Show, Parks Exhibition Center; Idyllwild Arts Campus. Show Runs Through March 2.

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 9-10 a.m.; Senior Stretch/Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Ballet & Tap Dancing K-grade 4 with Annika Kay, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fantasy Springs Casino. Festival runs through Feb. 26.

Thursday, Feb. 23

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.

Children's Yoga with Trine Bietz, 4:15-5 p.m.; Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Tom McNeary, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

"Iron Lady," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m. Stephens Recital Hall, Idyllwild Arts.

Friday, Feb. 24

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m. Town Hall.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Hojo & Friends, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

"Safe House," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Saturday, Feb. 25

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

"Safe House," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

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

Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Sunday, Feb. 26

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

"Safe House," 2, 4:30 & 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Lenny Hansell & Anthony Patler, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.

Monday, Feb. 27

Children's Story Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.

Introduction to Theatre Arts

with Kirsten Ingbreetsen, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.

"Safe House," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Tuesday, Feb. 28

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m.; Beginning/Intermediate Tap with Annika Kay, 4-5 p.m.; Adult Dance with Annika Kay, 7-8 p.m. Town Hall.

Change Required, 6-8 p.m. Jo'An's.

"Safe House," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Wednesday, Feb. 29

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 9-10 a.m.; Senior Stretch/Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Ballet & Tap Dancing K-grade 4

See A&E, next page



On Thursday, Feb. 16, owners **Dr. Kenneth Browning** and his wife, **Sandy Browning**, celebrate the grand opening of Fern Creek Medical Center.

PHOTO BY SHANE FENDER

The Idyllwild WEEKENDER Bulletin

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- FEB. 29: "Idyllwild: Past & Present" with Bob Smith, Silver Pines Lodge (co-sponsored by the Idyllwild Area Historical Society) - **Rescheduled from Feb. 15**
- MARCH 21: "Degas" with Ken Young, Rainbow Inn (co-sponsored by Friends of the Idyllwild Library)
- APRIL 18: "What's New? The Latest, Greatest, Up-To-Date-est in Contemporary Classical Music" with Peter Askim, Creekstone Inn (co-sponsored by the Associates of the Idyllwild Arts Foundation)
- MAY 16: "Astro Mythbuster" with Larry Kawano, Creekstone Inn (co-sponsored by Astro Camp)
- JUNE 20: [Pending], Quiet Creek Inn (co-sponsored by Art Alliance of Idyllwild)

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Town Hall Recreation sponsored a trip to the Bowers Museum in Orange County this past weekend. Here the group visited the "Spirits and Headhunters: Art of the Pacific Islands" exhibit.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK AND CAROLYN PAIRIS

A&E

Continued from previous page

with Annika Kay, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.

ICRC Speaker Series, "Idyllwild: Past & Present," with Bob Smith, 5:30 p.m. Silver Pines Lodge.

Searl Brothers, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.

"Safe House," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Theatre LabWork, 7:30 p.m. Rush Hall, Idyllwild Arts Campus.

Thursday, March 1

1/2 Price Bottles of Wine, The Creek House.

Children's Yoga with Trine Bietz, 4:15-5 p.m.; Wii games for all ages, 7-8:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Sandii Castleberry, 5:30-8 p.m. The Creek House.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's

Restaurant.

Seven-Course Wine & Food

Pairing Dinner, 6 p.m. The Creek House.

"Safe House," 7 p.m. The Rustic Theatre.

Theatre LabWork, 7:30 p.m. Rush Hall, Idyllwild Arts Campus.

Friday, March 2

Adult Yoga with Trine Bietz, 5-6 p.m. Town Hall.

Skeleton Crew, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

Change Required, 6-9 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Saturday, March 3

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

Don Reed & Friends, 6-9 p.m. The Creek House.

Karaoke with Kathy, 7-11 p.m. Jo'An's Restaurant.

Sunday, March 4

"Climbing Tahquitz Rock,"

Historical Exhibit, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Idyllwild Area Historical Museum.

Monday, March 5

Children's Story Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.

Introduction to Theatre Arts with Kirsten Ingbreten, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Songwriting Recital, 7:30 p.m. Stephens Recital Hall, Idyllwild Arts.

Tuesday, March 6

Seniors' Wii activities, 10-11 a.m.; Beginning/Intermediate Tap with Annika Kay, 4-5 p.m.; Adult Dance with Annika Kay, 7-8 p.m. Town Hall.

Musical Theatre Recital, 7:30 p.m. Rush Hall, Idyllwild Arts Campus.

Three sisters, three breast cancer diagnoses

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Beginning in 2005, Idyllwild part-time resident and desert real estate agent Kathleen Sunshine O'Brien helped first one, then in 2011 another sister through breast cancer surgeries and post-operative treatments. By October, 2011, her savings, schedule and stamina had been exhausted when she learned that she had stage three breast cancer. Only a month ago, on Jan. 29, Kathleen underwent her own double mastectomy surgery.

In retrospect, the writing had been clearly on the wall, said O'Brien. Her mother, great-grandmother, and other relatives in Michigan and Minnesota all had developed breast cancer. Her mother was diagnosed at age 38, her great-grandmother at 52. A Minnesota relative had a double mastectomy while in her 80's.

From the age of 29, Kathleen religiously had mammograms. Then in 2005, she had a cancer genetics test, which returned a positive result for the BRCA



Kathleen after her January 29 surgery.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
KATHLEEN SUNSHINE O'BRIEN.

gene. O'Brien recommends all women with genetic predisposition and family breast cancer history have this non-invasive test.

She was told at the time of her positive test that she had an 87 percent chance of developing breast cancer. A cancer-fighting medication was prescribed, but when Kathleen read the side effects associated with the medication, she decided not to take it. And as first her sister Brenda, then sister Angel developed cancer, Kathleen thought it increasingly

unlikely she would develop the same disease. "I mean, how possible could it be that all three of us would develop the same cancer?" she thought. Also, with each sister's successive diagnosis, surgeries and post-operative treatments, Kathleen became more and more involved in assisting them and had little time to think about herself.

The O'Brien sisters are beautiful women. Each has achieved distinction in their own fields. Kathleen is herself a champion track and field athlete. She said she had always believed she and her sisters could face anything. "I was on the U.S. Track Team," she said. "I know about teams." But then Brenda's cancer, then Angel's, and finally her own severely tested Team O'Brien's spirit.

The O'Brien sisters are determined to use their unlikely story to help other women — to alert them to the need to research and understand family histories, and especially to demand to be shown their mammogram images and have a radiologist explain them

See Sisters, next page

IdyllwildARTS EVENTS



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

Continuing

Visual Art Alumni Show. Show runs through March 2.

Thursday, February 23

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

Wednesday, February 29 & Thursday, March 1

Theatre LabWork. 7:30 PM, Rush Hall.

Monday, March 5

Songwriting Recital. 7:30 PM, Stephens Recital Hall.

Tuesday, March 6

Musical Theatre Recital. 7:30 PM, Rush Hall.

Thursday, March 8

IAM: New Media Salon. 7:30 PM, Weston Room, Krone Library.

Friday, March 9

Visual Art smARTS Bi-Annual Show. Opening reception, 6 PM, Parks Exhibition Center. Show runs through March 16.

Monday, March 12

Music in the Meadow. 7:30 PM, Stephens Recital Hall.

*Parks Exhibition Center hours 10 AM to 5 PM Monday-Friday.

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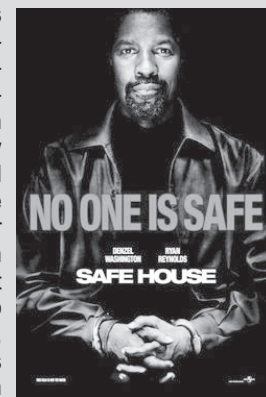
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"Safe House"

For the past year, Matt Weston has been frustrated by his inactive, backwater post in Cape Town. A "house-keeper" who aspires to be a full-fledged agent, the loyal company man has been waiting for an opportunity to prove himself. When the first and only occupant he's had proves to be the most dangerous man he's ever met, Weston readies for duty. Tobin Frost has eluded capture for almost a decade. From trading secrets to North Korea to aiding splinter cells, the damage he's done to the U.S. is immeasurable. And he's now back on the reservation with a secret.

Starring: Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds, Vera Farmiga, Brendan Gleeson, Sam Shepard; Director: Daniel Espinosa; Genre: Action Thriller; Run time: 1 hr. 55 min. Rated: R



Showtimes: Nightly: 7:00 pm

Sat. & Sun.: 2:00*, 4:30 & 7:00 pm

Regular Admission: \$8

Senior (60+), Child (12+) & *Matinée: \$6

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Chamber seeks to regroup

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

In its first meeting since December, the Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors discussed a need to rebuild its board and create a long-term plan for promoting local commerce and increasing the chamber's overall health. Since quorum was not met, the board could take no action.

As previously reported in the Town Crier, Nick Todd has resigned as president.

First Vice President Richmond Blake acceded to the presidency as stipulated in the chamber bylaws. Kim Mueller, previous director treasurer, has also resigned.

No action could be taken on filling officer positions but Blake assured colleagues that Joanne Slater had agreed to become first vice president and Lanny Hardy was willing to assume the treasurer post.

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

Festival

Continued from page 1

with the festival itself.

A VIP fundraiser was also discussed. It could be held in Alpen Woods, site of one of the most successful festival venues, a streamside viewing of lilies in their natural habitat. Erin O'Neill proffered her home and grounds for this event and the committee decided to research the possibility further.

Already confirmed events are A Taste-of-Idyllwild, with food prepared by par-

ticipating town restaurants, art exhibitions, interpretive nature walks, silent auctions, educational programs and talks, and live musical entertainment at the Nature Center festival site.

The festival will take place Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22. The festival planning committee is still seeking volunteers. Contact the Nature Center at (951) 659-3850 with questions about the event or if interested in joining its production.

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

Trivia test

Math: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals DXC?

Answer: 590

Sisters

Continued from previous page

while both patient and doctor are looking at the same pictures.

"All women should have the right to see their radiologist, and their mammogram films, not just a written report," said O'Brien. She had mammograms in 2010 and in 2011. At the time, she was told she had nothing to worry about, only that she had some "calcification."

But Kathleen had read that calcification, when it occurs in clusters and is visible in a mammogram image, is a strong indicator of cancer. She asked the doctor to put the 2010 and 2011 images on the screen and told him about her sisters and her family's breast cancer history.

After hearing the family history and reexamining the clustered calcification, the doctor said, "That changes everything," Kathleen recounted. "They did a biopsy and the next day I had full-blown invasive breast cancer," she said.

Even now, while in the beginning stages of post

operative treatment, Kathleen is making the rounds of talk shows and media interviews to spread awareness to women about the need to be demanding in matters of their own health, to be clear with doctors that they have rights to all tests and information regarding their health, and not be

passive recipients of doctor's words.


She is also raising money for her and her sisters' ongoing treatment and to pay past medical bills. "We're selling for \$20 the t-shirts we are wearing in the picture I sent you," she said. "People can also go to our Facebook page, 'Three Sis-

ters Survival,' to get the bank information where they can make donations. They can also call me at (760) 423-9652 or e-mail me at kathleensunshineobrien@yahoo.com." Kathleen said that all Wells Fargo bank branches can now index Three Sisters Survival *See Diagnoses, page 19*



Kathleen, Brenda and Angel O'Brien

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN SUNSHINE O'BRIEN.



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March 3
Journey to Love Retreat
9:30am - 4:30pm

March 17
Men's Retreat with Fu-Ding Cheng
9:30am - 4:30 pm

March 19 & April 9
Day of Mindfulness
9:30 - 3pm

March 25
Autumn Equinox
4 - 5pm

March 26
Movie Night: The King of Masks
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1 - 4pm

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Garden Club's March Soup-er Kickoff

The Idyllwild Garden Club starts the 2012 season with their popular March Soup-er on Tuesday, March 6. Members and visitors are invited to enjoy hot soups and bread, as well as Edith Brix' fun and informative presentation.

Brix will demonstrate how to use commonly available materials and a minimum amount of fresh flowers to create a number of unique and colorful arrangements in your home. Anyone who has had the pleasure of attending one of Edith's presentations will say they are a "must-see."

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Garden Club, enter a raffle, get a list of upcoming events and learn some fascinating tricks for flower arranging.

The meeting and food service will begin at noon at the Community Presbyterian Church (lower level), 54400 N. Circle Dr. Come early to ensure getting a good seat.

For more information, call, (951) 659-2907, or email sanuytwin@yahoo.com.

Strange but true

England's King Richard I, known popularly as the Lionheart, didn't actually live in England; his residence was in Aquitaine, in the southwestern part of France. He didn't speak English, either.

Steele starts strong, but falters at Riviera

By JACK CLARK
PROFESSIONAL GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Brendan Steele had a strong start in the Northern Trust Open at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades last week. His three-under-par opening round 69 on Thursday had him tied for seventh place by the end of the day.

He opened his second round Friday with an eagle on the 503-yard, par-5 1st hole, but then things went in reverse for him.

He eventually posted 69-74-74-78 — 295, 18 strokes behind the leaders. Still his 69th-place earned \$13,200.

For the tournament, Steele hit only about half the fairways and half of the greens in regulation. After outstanding putting during his opening round, his putter appeared to go cold and he finished with a negative "strokes gained putting" stat.

This was Steele's fifth tournament in as many weeks, and he has reported feeling tired when he has played that many consecutive tournaments in the past. This week he will rest as the PGA Tour goes to Mexico.

After the tour returns to the U.S., he'll return to the tournament trail in preparation for the Masters at Augusta National in April — the first of the four major tournaments of the year. Steele qualified for the Masters when he won the Valero Texas Open in San Antonio last year.

SPORTS

Town Hall Adult Volleyball

No report about Town Hall Adult Volleyball or Youth Basketball games played the week of Feb. 13 was received.

Hemet High Girls Soccer

The Hemet High School Girls Varsity Soccer team will play its first 2012 California Interscholastic Federation — Southern Section Tournament game at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The Bulldogs, in their first tourney game, will host Garden Grove High School which beat Duarte High School 5-0 on Friday.

Hemet is the no. 1 seed in the Division 6 Tournament. If they defeat Garden Grove, they will host the winner of the La Cañada and Ocean View game on Friday, Feb. 24.

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.

Real Estate



Emily Pearson, Agent
DRE#01309375
951-206-9671 cell
951-659-3425 office
951-659-0180 fax
emily@lovethehill.com

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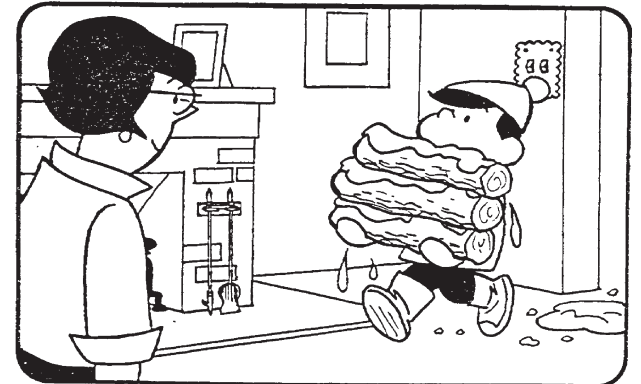
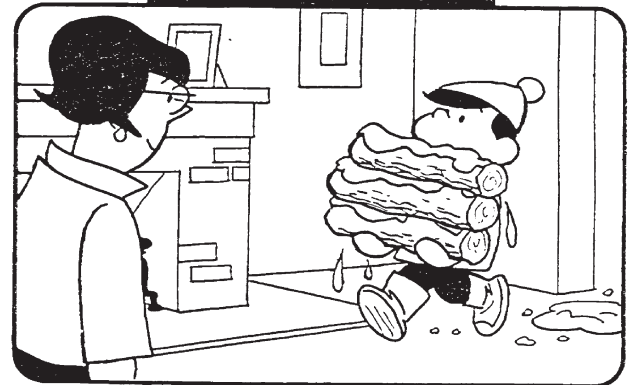
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ences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How
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Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Switch is missing.
Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Cuff is missing. 3. Andirons are missing. 4.

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

Answers to Sudoku
(Puzzle on next page)

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| S | O | L | O | P | E | R | A | L | L | Y |

Answers to Crossword
(Puzzle on next page)

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Classifieds

Continued from previous page

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CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous page)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 49 | | | | | | 50 | | | 51 | | | |
| 52 | | | | | 53 | | | | 54 | | | |
| 55 | | | | | 56 | | | | 57 | | | |

ACROSS

- 1 BForum garb
- 5 Life story, for short
- 8 Snake's tooth
- 12 Grand tale
- 13 Conclusion
- 14 Operatic rendition
- 15 Painter Chagall
- 16 Being philanthropic
- 18 Dull indifference
- 20 Soda-shop treat
- 21 Dire prophecy
- 23 Two fives
- 24 Try
- 28 Antelope's playmate
- 31 Meadow
- 32 Weary
- 34 Firmament
- 35 Departed
- 37 Check beneficiary
- 39 Dandy
- 41 Garbage barge
- 42 Anchored
- 45 It gets the lead out
- 49 Ingratiated
- 51 Staff member?
- 52 Use a teaspoon
- 53 Eggs
- 54 Two-way
- 55 14-Across, e.g.
- 56 Apiece
- 57 Partner in wartime

DOWN

- 1 Office part-

- 2 Colorful fish
- 3 Child without a Y chromo-some
- 4 Give consent
- 5 2007 film featuring Seinfeld's voice
- 6 Hostel
- 7 Probability
- 8 Was obsequious
- 9 Sahara-like quality
- 10 1492 ship
- 11 "Eleni" author
- 17 See 29-Down
- 19 Capricorn
- 22 Early periods
- 24 Right angle

- 25 Born
- 26 Jonquil's cousin
- 27 Fragrant wood
- 29 With 17-Down, supplement
- 30 Deli bread
- 33 Entrance
- 36 Matador
- 38 African nation
- 40 Carrot companion?
- 42 Disarray
- 43 Aware of
- 44 Let fall
- 46 "Heart and -"
- 47 List-ending abbr.
- 48 Depend (on)
- 50 First lady

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as PRECISION ULTRASOUND, 67710 Quijo Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 4260, Palm Springs, CA 92263. HEALTHSCREENINGUNLIMITED, INC., 67710 Quijo Rd., Cathedral City, CA 92234, a California corporation.

This business is conducted by a corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above on Feb. 28, 2006.

Signed:
GARY MICHAEL SCULLY
Owner /President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 26, 2012.

FILE NO.:
I-2012-00243

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 26, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 26, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk
By: T. Jensen, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as MEANT TO BE FIT, 54445 North Circle Drive, Ste. F, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3575, Idyllwild, CA 92549. VICTOR IVES SIRKIN, 52543 Double View Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an individual.

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

Signed:
VICTOR I. SIRKIN

See [Public Notices, next page](#)

HOROSCOPE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're correct to want to help someone who seems to need assistance. But be careful that he or she isn't pulling the wool over those gorgeous Sheep's eyes. You need more facts.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine optimism will soon dispel the gloom cast by those naysayers and pessimists who still hover close by. Also, that good news you recently received is part of a fuller message to come.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Feeling jealous over a colleague's success drains the energy you need to meet your own challenges. Wish him or her well, and focus on what you need to do. Results start to show in mid-March.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're likely to feel somewhat Crabby these days, so watch what you say, or you could find yourself making lots of apologies. Your mood starts to brighten by the weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your pride might still be hurting from those unflattering remarks someone made about you. But cheer up, you're about to prove once again why you're the Top Cat in whatever you do.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A misunderstanding with a co-worker could become a real problem unless it's resolved soon. Allow a third party to come in and assess the situation without pressure or prejudice.

LIBRA (September 23 to Oc-

tober 22) Call a family meeting to discuss the care of a loved one at this difficult time. Be careful not to let yourself be pushed into shouldering the full burden on your own.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An upcoming decision could open the way to an exciting venture. However, there are some risks you should know about. Ask more questions before making a commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Personal matters need your attention during the earlier part of the week. You can start to shift your focus to your workaday world by midweek. Friday brings news.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You've been going at a hectic pace for quite a while. It's time now for some much-needed rest and recreation to recharge those hardworking batteries.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time to upgrade your current skills or consider getting into an entirely different training program so that you can be prepared for new career opportunities.

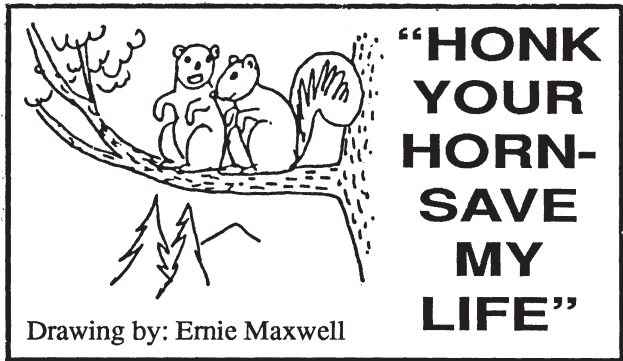
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Keep a low profile in order to avoid being lured away from the job at hand. Focus on what has to be done, and do it. There'll be time later to enjoy fun with family and friends.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can be a dreamer and a realist. You dream of what you would like to do, and then you face the reality of how to do it.

SUDOKU

(Answers on previous page)

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Fern Valley

Continued from page 8

a shared sewer connection issue raised at the last board meeting. He noted that Idyllwild Water and Fern Valley Water districts are sharing the installation costs for a

Diagnoses

Continued from page 14

and the account information for making donations will come up.

The National Cancer Institute reports that the overall incidence of breast cancer is 124 per 100,000 women. From 2004-2008, the median age at diagnosis for cancer of the breast was 61 years of age.

new connection. Fern Valley customer, Gary Weber has agreed to pay for preparation of the sewer line easement and will present it to the Board for approval, according to Erler.

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

Approximately 0.0 percent were diagnosed under age 20; 1.9 percent between 20 and 34; 10.2 percent between 35 and 44; 22.6 percent between 45 and 54; 24.4 percent between 55 and 64; 19.7 percent between 65 and 74; 15.5 percent between 75 and 84; and 5.6 percent 85+ years of age.

Even with these statistics, what the O'Brien sisters experienced strains believability.

Trivia test

Language: What does the Russian term “perestroika” mean?

Answer: Restructuring

Hewitt

Continued from page 1

to a Forest Service helitack unit. In the past 30 years he has risen through the ranks to become Battalion Chief in the San Gabriel Valley.

He and his wife Janice, met in Temple City after she called inquiring about finding community service for local high school students. Hewitt recommended the Explorer program, one that had served him well years before.

Why serve on CSA 38?

Hiking, camping and mountaineering have been important parts of the Hewitt's life. When a coastal road trip had to be canceled because of fires, Hewitt said Janice found Idyllwild from an online search for alternative trips.

After several more trips

to the Hill, they decided to purchase a house for their eventual retirement.

“We live in Pine Cove now,” Hewitt said. “I’ve always been part of and involved in my community.” He is anticipating working on local issues and making a contribution based on his experience.

Goals

Hewitt made the point that when one has made hundreds of critical decisions that affect human lives, then decisions which afford time to analyze don't have to be made emotionally.

Hewitt wants to be sure that the CSA Advisory Committee and the community have the appropriate information to guide themselves today and in the future. His professional experience negotiating contracts and involvement in many community and multi-agency projects will

be an asset for the committee.

Medical service & cost

Hewitt began by emphasizing that he does not know the best way to go yet. “I want to learn more about the options,” he said. “But it's good to be competitive in any provision of public service.”

He is looking forward to his initial assignment to work with CSA 38 colleague Marge Muir on upcoming negotiations with Riverside County and Idyllwild Fire Protection District on renewal of the emergency medical service contract. Hewitt said he had a lot of questions about the service and contract. The answers will help him make a recommendation to the community.

Boundary & taxes

The Feb. 8 Advisory meeting was Hewitt's introduction to this issue.

He anticipates the CSA committee will pursue the investigation and find a satisfactory solution. He then added that the committee needs to be comfortable with the data.

Station 23 equipment

Increasing the number of personnel or volunteers at Station 23 is a goal Hewitt would like to see achieved. He feels his experience gives him a unique opportunity to evaluate the quality of equipment for volunteers and their needs.

He's willing to support buying a fire engine if it's sufficiently studied.

“The reserve program is very positive for Pine Cove,” he opined. “Maybe more people can be available with less time to report will be better for the public and local firefighters.”

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

Public Notices

Continued from previous page

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 24, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-00857

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 24, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 24, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: R. Anderson, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as T.J.'S WHOLESALE IMPORT AND EXPORT, 1420 Genoa Lane, San Jacinto, CA 92583, Riverside County. TAREK ESSA JOULANI, 1420 Genoa Lane, San Jacinto, CA 92583.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

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

Signed:

TAREK ESSA JOULANI

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 30, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01121

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 30, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 30, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: B. Villegas, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as STONE WOOD GRANITE AND CABINETS,

658 Kerilyn Ln., Hemet, CA 92544, Riverside County. BENJAMIN LEE BLOOM, 658 Kerilyn Ln., Hemet, CA 92544.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

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

Signed:

BENJAMIN LEE BLOOM

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 31, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01223

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 31, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 31, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: B. Villegas, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following persons are doing business as ERIC TOWNSEND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, 54240 Strawberry Valley Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1085, Idyllwild, CA 92549. ERIC OWEN TOWNSEND, CHER — TOWNSEND, 54240 Strawberry Valley Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, and SEAN MICHAEL TOWNSEND, 26060 Wallace Way, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by a General Partnership.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above in 1978.

Signed:

CHER TOWNSEND

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 27, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01066

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 27, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 27, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: N. Medina, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as EARTH 'N FIRE, 54225 N. Circle Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 252, Idyllwild, CA 92549. EARTH & FIRE CORPORATION, 53050 Double View Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549, A California corporation.

This business is conducted by a Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above in July 6, 1996.

Signed:

SUMMER BROWN
President

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Jan. 27, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01065

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON JAN. 27, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO JAN. 27, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: A. Ribac, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (PROB. CODE § 10300)

CASE NO. PSP 1100552,

In the Matter of the Estate of JACK BRYSON, Deceased.

Please take notice that the Riverside County Public Administrator, acting as Administrator of the Estate of Jack Bryson, deceased, will sell at private sale, under the terms and conditions specified below, on or after the 12th day of January, 2012, at the office of TONI EGGBRAATEN, 77-564A Country Club Drive, Suite 191, Palm Desert, California, to the highest and best net bidder, all the right, title, and interest of said deceased at the time of death, and all the right, title, and interest that the estate of said deceased has acquired by operation of law or otherwise, other than or in addition to that of said deceased at the time of death, in and to the REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF IDYLLWILD, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Lot 12 of Tract 2507 as shown by map on file in book 46 pages 79 and 80 of maps, records of Riverside County, California, APN 565-192-014-5; more commonly known as 24471 Village View Drive, Idyllwild, California.

Terms of sale are all cash in lawful money of the United States with a deposit of \$1,000.00 to accompany the offer and the balance to be paid on close of escrow. The personal representative reserves the right to reject any bids that are less than 90% of the appraised value as determined by the Probate Referee. The property to be sold is on an "as is" basis, except for title.

All sales are subject to confirmation by the Superior Court, and no sale may be consummated and no deed may be recorded and delivered to a purchaser until court confirmation has been acquired by the personal representative.

Bids or offers are to be in writing and will be received at the aforesaid office of TONI EGGBRAATEN at any time after the first publication hereof and before date of sale.

Dated: 2/7/12
Toni Eggebraaten, Esq., 77-564A Country Club Drive, #191, Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760) 772-4292

Attorney for Riverside County Public Administrator
Pub. TC: Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as HERITAGE HOUSE INN AND VACATION RENTALS, 25870 Cedar Street, Idyllwild, CA 92549. Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3059, Idyllwild, CA, 92549. PATRICIA LOUISE TOMPKINS, 25880 Cedar Street, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

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

Signed:

PATRICIA LOUISE TOMPKINS

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Feb. 7, 2012.

FILE NO.: R-2012-01505

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON FEB. 7, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO FEB. 7, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: L. Sibley, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as BUTCH BAKER CONSTRUCTION, 50-900 Jackson St., Coachella, CA 92236, Riverside County. Mailing address: P.O. Box, 6479, La Quinta, CA 92248. WILLIAM ROBERT BAKER, 50-900 Jackson St., Coachella, CA 92236.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious name listed above on April, 15, 1995.

Signed:

WILLIAM R. BAKER

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on Feb. 14, 2012.

FILE NO.: I-2012-00445

NOTICE — THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON FEB. 14, 2017. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO FEB. 14, 2017. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE, OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

CERTIFICATION

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

LARRY W. WARD,
County Clerk

By: S. Romero, Deputy

Pub. TC: Feb. 23, March 1, 8, 15, 2012.



**ATTENTION
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- Deadline for new ads: 5 p.m. last Thursday of month
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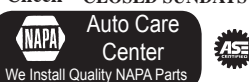
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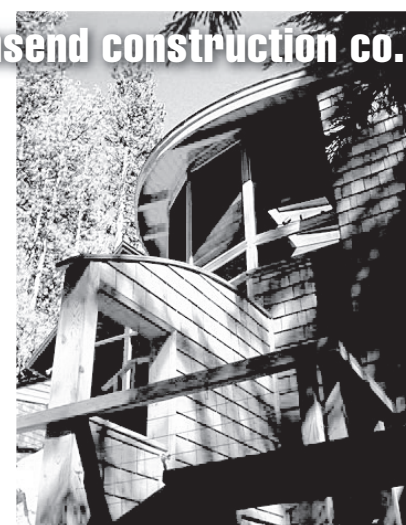
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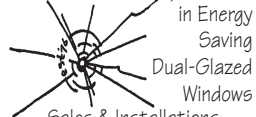
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Sustainability

Continued from page 7

We will take away lessons about how to “Expand our Awareness in the Green Schoolyard.” (Fortunately, our “schoolyard” is over 200 acres of forests, meadows and creeks.) We’ll also learn how we can “Green our Purchasing Program” at school. Of course my personal favorite is “Learn How to Connect Kids to Real Food Through the Use of Gardens in Schools.”

All in all, there are over 100 breakout sessions taking place over the day and a half we’ll be at the conference. I feel unbelievably fortunate to have four co-attendees who will voraciously devour information alongside myself.

As one would guess, the real challenge for us is choosing which sessions to attend. They all look wonderful, applicable and worthwhile. We will most definitely have to split up individually to experience the maximum number of sessions.

Yet another grouping of activities that piques our interest are the “Solution Summits” which are being offered during the conference: “The Solutions Summits will bring key players to the table — literally around a table — for 3 or 4 hours in a facilitated discussion format to define and set goals for future action. The Solutions Summits are a major departure from the typical one-way information sharing that occurs at most conferences.”

Tax tips

Continued from page 7

Some taxpayers will fail to report sales because it’s a loss, so the IRS shouldn’t care. However, the IRS doesn’t know it’s a loss. You

are also missing out on a tax benefit that could carry over far into the future.

Charitable contributions are now being closely scrutinized and require written backup. Taxpayers with a high level of contributions for their income are

Idyllwild Water District (IWD) employee expenses reported to the State Controller

| Classification | Annual Salary Minimum | Annual Salary Maximum | Total 2010 wages subject Medicare | 2010 IWD Contributions Applicable Defined Benefit Pension Formula |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Administration</u> | | | | |
| General Manager | \$91,869 | \$117,229 | \$112,616 | 16.125 percent |
| Auditor-Controller | \$67,494 | \$ 86,070 | \$ 89,050 | 16.125 percent |
| Administrative Assistant/ Board Secretary | \$39,912 | \$ 50,918 | \$ 54,355 | 16.125 percent |
| <u>Sewer Department</u> | | | | |
| Chief Operator | \$49,452 | \$ 63,066 | \$ 66,237 | 16.125 percent |
| Maintenance Technician II | \$33,696 | \$ 43,030 | \$ 42,896 | 16.125 percent |
| <u>Water Department</u> | | | | |
| Chief Operator | \$45,312 | \$ 57,782 | \$ 58,173 | 16.125 percent |
| Maintenance Technician I | \$34,733 | \$ 44,304 | \$ 48,302 | 16.125 percent |
| Maintenance Technician II | \$37,013 | \$ 47,261 | \$ 44,440 | 16.125 percent |
| Maintenance Worker | \$24,960 | \$ 24,960 | \$ 5,484 | |
| <u>Board members</u> | | | | |
| President | | | \$ 1,750 | |
| Vice-President | | | \$ 1,200 | |
| Director | | | \$ 950 | |
| Director | | | \$ 1,150 | |
| Director | | | \$ 1,600 | |

I noticed that some of those key players are government officials both from federal and state governments. What attending these summits will mean is that our students will get to sit down at a table with someone such as Dr. Janey Thornton, USDA deputy under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, and discuss how we can get good, local, nutritious food into our schools. We will also have the opportunity to have breakfast on two mornings with members of the Environmental Protection Agency.

We at Idyllwild Arts are underway with the task of greening the campus. We have already made changes in our kitchen, on our grounds and within our plans to build new buildings and update existing buildings.

We continue to seek and explore the incorporation of environmental conservation and preservation into both our arts and academic curriculum.

Until now, we have made and carried out these plans with nominal student involvement. These four students are the beginnings of a new tradition of student directed projects and initiatives which will change our school.

It is not an accident that four students who are underclassmen were chosen to attend. We seek continuity through subsequent years. We wish to have our current culture change and build through the years.

To create lasting change takes time and teaching by example. What it will take is one of these four students simply saying next year to a new freshman, “We do it this way now.”

sometimes subject to correspondence audits.

Businesses that deal in cash including construction continue to be profitable targets for the audit division. Comparing known and estimated expenses with stated income on the

tax return provides the IRS with prospective audit targets.

Your tax preparer should be able to inform you of what records are required and the sensitive areas of your own particular returns.

unincorporated areas, if it is the desire of the citizen caller to make the report by phone. Only a small amount of calls meet our criteria to be handled by telephone; about 4 percent of Hemet Station’s calls were handled by the Telephone Report Unit over the past two months.”

progress, just occurred, or in the past.

“To be clear, the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department responds with a department member personally to all calls, regardless of priority. The department also has a Telephone Report Unit, which takes reports for citizens who live in our

CREATURE CORNER

By MIMI AND HOOTCH

Found: Male dog in Hurkey Creek area. Call ARF to identify, (951) 659-1122.

Look what the wind blew in! Weighing about five pounds, you'll never even know she's on your lap. Introducing **Miss Feather** who was found wandering on



Highway 243. Quite the agile girl, she is young, energetic, loving and full of tricks. We believe she is a powder puff Chinese crested mix. We know she is just a sweetheart.

Boo is looking for you! This 1-1/2-year-old Chiweenie is pure love on the end of your leash. Another good lap dog,



Boo will need a secure yard to play in. Friendly with dogs, cats and kids. He will be a great lifetime friend.

Nellie is our senior resident. Abandoned in the ARF yard, she is a 7-year-old papillon mix. Good with dogs, cats and people, she prefers to look pretty on her special pillow. She'll sing for her supper, and give a bark when its time to go outside. Great on the leash, too.



Reily's bags are packed, bones included, and she is ready to go. A true hikers dream, Reily has great energy on the trail, and on a leash. Hide and seek is her favorite game whether it's a rock or her favorite toy. Reily's focus comes naturally, and everything else she learns is just gravy — in the bowl, that is.



Spit and **Fire**, the Girl Scout kitties are still available as is **Blackjack**, the male tux, and **Polly**, the polydactyl.

We are desperately in need of foster homes for our four-leggeds while they wait for their forever homes.

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

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

PAST TENSE

60 years ago - 1952

Townfolk were invited to a premiere showing of "Ballad of Idyllwild," a movie made on the campus of ISOMATA (now the Idyllwild Arts Academy). Marais and Miranda were the authors, and Meredith Willson contributed to the theme song.

55 years ago - 1957

The search was abandoned for a nude hiker missing since Jan. 29 in Tahquitz Canyon.

40 years ago - 1972

Assigned to write an article about Idyllwild's "charming" squirrels, reporter Gary Squier complied but put the facts in line: "I don't think the little beasts are charming at all, but only noisy and stupid."

...

Town Crier found there were more than 25 formally organized groups in the community, justifying Idyllwild's nickname "the meeting town."



Charlie Clayton enjoys a bowl of chili on a cold February day at Town Hall during the "Chili Feed" sponsored by the Idyllwild Church of Religious Science. This photo was published Feb. 24, 1994.

FILE PHOTO

35 years ago - 1977

Clarence Bischof, a pioneer lumberman in Idyllwild, passed away in San Diego.

25 years ago - 1987

Lloyd Wood, Idyllwild's postmaster for 22 years, officially retired. His replacement was Jim Cretes, postmaster for three-and-a-half years in Temecula and a 28-year veteran of the United States Postal Service.

15 years ago - 1997

Idyllwild was among the many areas in California where stargazers could look in awe at Hale-Bopp. The comet was expected to outshine Hyakutake Comet of 1996 and Halley's Comet of 1985.

10 years ago - 2002

George Covington — the founder of WNKI 1610 AM, Idyllwild's emergency information radio station — died after battling a number of illnesses.

5 years ago - 2007

Jeff Smith of Pine Cove filed a complaint with the State Water Resources Control Board over whether Idyllwild Water District has the right to use water from Strawberry Creek.

1 year ago - 2011

Without drilling new wells, Idyllwild Water District began to improve its water supply production with efforts to rehabilitate older wells.

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Forest Service develops new rules for forest planning

By J.P. CRUMRINE
EDITOR

Last month, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack signaled his department's intent to issue a new planning rule for America's 193-million-acre National Forest System. The new rule, which has been years in the making, seeks to deliver stronger protections for forests, water and wildlife while supporting the economic vitality of rural communities.

On Jan. 26, the Forest Service posted online a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule) for the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule.

Almost 300,000 com-

ments were received and reviewed on the proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement issued last February.

A notice of availability for the environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register on Feb. 3. Secretary Vilsack plans to issue a record of decision selecting a final plan in March.

"Our preferred alternative will safeguard our natural resources and provide a roadmap for getting work done on the ground that will restore our forests while providing job opportunities for local communities," Vilsack said in a press release.

The preferred alternative emphasizes collaboration throughout the planning

process and strengthens the role of public involvement and dialogue. It also would require the use of the best available scientific information to inform decisions.

Highlights of the preferred alternative are below.

"This approach requires plans to conserve and restore watersheds and habitats while strengthening community collaboration during the development and implementation of individual plans," said Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "Under our preferred alternative, plan revisions would take less time, cost less money, and provide stronger protections for our lands and water."

The planning rule was also a topic at a recent For-

est Service Appropriations hearing. House subcommittee chair Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, addressed the subject in his opening remarks.

"I must mention the planning rule. Chief, I know you've been working hard on this, but I'm hearing a lot of concern about the new rule," Simpson told Tidwell. "It was my hope that this rule would be practical and shorten the time and resources needed to complete a forest plan. If the rule ends up in court, which seems to be the pattern with every planning rule, we're back to the drawing board and have wasted a great deal of time and money."

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

The planning process framework outlined in the preferred alternative consists of a three-part cycle — assessment, plan revision or amendment and monitoring.

Highlights of new Forest Service planning regulations:

- Plans must include components that seek to restore and maintain forests and grasslands.
- Plans would include requirements to maintain or restore watersheds, water resources, water quality including clean drinking water, and the ecological integrity of riparian areas.
- Plans would be required to provide habitat for plant and animal diversity and species conservation. These requirements are intended to keep common native species common, contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and protect species of conservation concern.
- Plans would provide for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish.
- Plans would be required to provide opportunities for sustainable recreation and to address opportunities to connect people with nature.
- Opportunities for public involvement and collaboration would be required throughout all stages of the planning process. The preferred alternative would provide opportunities for tribal consultation and coordination with state and local governments and other federal agencies and include requirements for outreach to traditionally underrepresented communities.
- Plans require the use of the best available scientific information to inform the planning process and documentation of how science was used in the plan.

Strange but true

Hunters, take note: The largest deer that ever lived was the Irish elk, which became extinct more than 7,000 years ago. Though it stood a remarkable 7 feet tall at the shoulders, the creature's most amazing characteristic was its antlers, which could stretch 12 feet from tip to tip and weigh up to 90 pounds. Imagine that rack hanging on your living-room wall!

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