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HILL NEWS

Public hearing

Fern Valley Water directors approve a rate increase. Public hearing possibly in December ... **PAGE A2**

Flower of the forest

Two memorials set for Richard "Red Dog" Miller ... **PAGE A3**

Winter forecast

NOAA and NWS both predict below-average precipitation this winter in Southern California ... **PAGE A3**

Biz changes

Forest View Tea House and new owners of Idyology offer Idyllwild and visitors more food and beverage options ... **PAGE B1**

Bud and Breakfast

Innovative owner of Hicksville Pines readying for OK on recreational marijuana use ... **PAGE B3**

EVENTS

Art Walk wrap-up

Art Alliance of Idyllwild says the 20th-annual event was the best ever ... **PAGE B2**

Art classes

Noted lilac expert and 35-year art teacher Gary Parton to give three free art classes ... **PAGE B3**

Member-supported

TC updates and continues the appeal ... **PAGE A4**

Member Supported

Idyllwild Town Crier

Idyllwild's Only Newspaper

ALMOST ALL THE NEWS — PART OF THE TIME ... ONLINE ALL THE TIME AT IDYLLWILDTOWNCRIER.COM

VOL. 72 NO. 43 **IDYLLWILD, CA** **THURS., OCT. 26, 2017**

A&E Calendar.....B7 Classifieds.....B4 Games.....B5 Opinion.....A4 Service Directory.....B6
Churches.....B8 Community Calendar.....A7 Opal Story.....B7 Public Notices.....A6 Weather.....A2



For Parents Weekend, Idyllwild Arts students produced a cabaret of performances Sunday, Oct. 22. Here are **Geronimo Angel** (in white) and behind him (from left) **Jordon Rucker, Anna Schoenneman, Josephine Marganian, Adina Chis and Josephine Clark**. PHOTO BY PETER SZABADI

County wants input on cannabis businesses

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

The legality, treatment and perception of marijuana or cannabis in California is changing. First medical marijuana became legal and in November 2016 state voters approved Proposition 64, which made recreational marijuana legal after Jan. 1, 2018, subject to county ordinances

Riverside County began a review and evaluation of its cannabis ordinances last spring.

In August, it amended some to bring into compliance with the recent state laws, but a broader and full scale review continues.

An official Riverside County website has been created on the county's Planning Department website. At <http://planning.rctlma.org/Home/Cannabis.aspx>, you can submit your general views about cannabis and its regulation. To be included in a report to the Board of Supervisors, comments should be submitted no later than Jan. 7, 2018.

According to Ray Smith, Riverside Coun-

ty's public information officer, a report will not be ready until early 2018. Any staff level public meetings will be announced so that interested constituents may attend. None are planned yet

You can also provide input through a community input worksheet (<http://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/0/Cannabis/Community%20input%20Worksheet%20Packet.pdf?ver=2017-10-12-205231-290>).

Citizens must keep in mind that the county *See Cannabis, page A8*

Houston helps Irma survivors evacuate Sint Maarten

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

Editor's note: Late August through early October 2017 will be a time period that is never forgotten. While we may not recall details or even trends during September 2015 or September 1995, September and October 2017 saw two major earthquakes in Mexico, several category 4 and 5 hurricanes in the Caribbean, which landed onshore, major wildfires in Northern California and a mass shooting in Las Vegas.

Trinity Houston, executive producer of the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema, experienced and endured Hurricane Irma as it pum-

meled Sint Maarten, the Dutch side of the island. More importantly, not only did she live through it, but thousands of others survived because of her actions before, during and after the Category 5 hurricane passed over the tiny Caribbean island.

This is the third of three parts describing the ordeal Houston encountered, and the actions she took that helped so many. Part 1, which describes the days up to the arrival Hurricane Irma, appeared in the Oct. 12 edition of the Town Crier. Part 2, which describes the events during the hurricane, appeared in the Oct. 19 paper. This final part describes how the *See Irma, page A8*



On Sept. 12, CNN Tonight anchor Don Lemon interviewed Trinity Houston about her ordeal on Sint Maarten during Hurricane Irma, less than a week earlier. PHOTO COURTESY TRINITY HOUSTON

The future of Hemet Unified School District

Striving to be even better

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

State of the Union, State of the State and now State of the District — Hemet Unified School District, to be specific.

On Oct. 12, HUSD Superintendent Christie Barrett and her staff presented to a large group of stakeholders their view of the state of

HUSD. More than 100 people who attended were Hemet residents or business people.

"I thought it was an accurate picture of where HUSD is as a district and the directions that they want to go. I hope that we can make this an annual affair," said HUSD President Vic Scavarda, Idyllwild's representative.

The conception for the session came from Barrett's initial interviews with the board in the spring of 2016. After she assumed the superintendent's position, she devoted time to reaching out to the community and establish-

ing networks.

As a result, she "learned that many people don't know much about the district." Her role expanded beyond leading the educational pursuits of thousands of Hemet youth to include educating the community about its school district, which includes more than 15 elementary schools, eight middle schools and five high schools.

For the current academic year 2017-18, nearly 21,400 students are enrolled in HUSD *See District, page A2*

Idyllwild Town Crier

<p>BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS HOME WITH EXTRA LOT</p> <p>Open layout with large great room/family room, dining and kitchen combination, with cathedral ceilings and expansive view windows. 2 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, laundry, pantry, sauna, deck w/ views, fenced yard, 2-car carport. Furniture and extra lot included. #7856 \$359,000</p> <p>JUST SOLD \$345,000</p> 	<p>ROBIN OATES REAL ESTATE INC.</p> <p>Robin Oates Broker/Owner CalBRE# 00591170</p> <p>(951) 236-7636 robin@robinoates.com</p> <p>Idyllwild MLS's #1 Listing Agent and Idyllwild MLS's #1 Selling Agent for years 2015 & 2016</p>	<p>JUST SOLD \$445,000</p> <p>PRIVATE SETTING ON DOUBLE VIEW DRIVE. Vintage Idyllwild charm with grand open beam great room, kitchen with pine cabinets, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, new dual pane windows and F/A heat. Detached 2-car garage. On .62 acre with stone pathways, granite boulders and views. #7780 \$465,000</p> 
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Fern Valley Water District moving forward to approve rate increase

Public hearing likely in December

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

In an unanimous vote, directors of the Fern Valley Water District authorized staff to proceed with mailing information and scheduling a public hearing later this year on the proposed water rate increase.

At the Oct. 20 board meeting they voted to proceed with preparation of the Proposition 218 material. The details and rationale for the increase were discussed at the Oct. 13 workshop. According to General Manager Victor Jimenez, a public hearing on the rate proposal is likely to be in December, if all the material can be mailed in November.

The new rates (which are billed bi-monthly) will consist of a meter charge and a usage charge. The meter charge will depend upon the size of the meter and can range from \$30 to \$2,400. There are no 8-inch meters in the district, for which the highest rate would be charged.

Water usage would cost \$4 per 100 cubic feet (or 748 gallons) for the first 1,000 cubic feet (7,500 gallons) in the two-month billing period. Usage greater than 1,000 cubic feet would cost \$11.30 per 100 cubic feet. The existing tier three is eliminated.

For a customer with a 5/8-inch meter but no water usage, the water bill would increase from \$32.70 bi-monthly to \$60, nearly 85 percent increase.

For the average customer who uses 5,600 gallons every two months, the water cost would increase \$24.67 (38 percent), from \$65.33 bi-monthly to \$90, according to the district's analysis.

At the Rate And Revenue Committee workshop, Jimenez estimated the new rates would generate about \$800,000 annually, about \$200,000 more than the current water charges yield.

The proposed new rates would be for five years with a potential maximum increase of 5 percent annually, according to Jimenez. If an increase were needed, the Board would have the discretion to raise rates between 1 and 5 percent.

The financial report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2017-18 indicated a net deficit, attributable to the lack of property tax revenue. Receipt of these funds begins in December. Water sales revenue however was \$215,000, more than 40 percent of the full year estimate.

This growth brought some surprise from the Board. "People are using more water," Jimenez said "Maybe because of the rain and snow last year or the dry summer."

He also noted that FVWD had installed two new meters during the quarter and upgraded several existing meters.

In other financial business, the board accepted the 2016-17 audit prepared for it by Teaman, Ramirez and Smith of Riverside. According to the auditing firm, "the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the FVWD as of June 30, 2017..."

In 2017, FVWD's net position increased about \$200,000, from \$7.5 million to \$7.7 million. While revenues increased about \$70,000, the district's expenses fell about \$25,000. The district's long-term debt declined about \$63,000 after retirement of an employee.

The auditor again recommended greater separation of financial duties, but the district's small size, one office employee, does not permit implementing this recommendation, Jimenez told the board. But he will prepare a response to the auditor explaining the district's actions to all of the recommendations.

In water business, Jimenez told the board that production has been up this year. In September, production was about 25 percent more than in 2016, and that trend continued in the first third of October.

Stream flow has decreased this fall and wells are producing a larger share of FVWD's water. Also the groundwater level of the wells fell slightly during September, Jimenez reported.

In other business, the board recommended that Jimenez proceed with the office expansion and formally rejected the request to provide back up staff to Stonewood Canyon Estates.

The private development had inquired and requested whether Fern Valley could provide operational support to the neighborhood, which is north of Pine Cove, in an emergency if Stonewood's engineer could not be available.

Unanimously the board agreed that was beyond the district's scope and ultimately made the district dependent upon Stonewood's engineer.

The board also formally accepted the resignation of Jim Wise as a director. Wise does not want to serve as a director in any capacity.

He had submitted paperwork to be a candidate in the June primary. But only three people, including incumbents — James Rees and Robert Krieger — filed for the three available seats. Consequently, he was elected. But in a Sept. 18 letter to the board, he respectfully declined the opportunity. So FVWD current has one vacant directorship.

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Hemet Police Chief Dave Brown seeks to replace Sniff

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

Editor's note: Three men have announced their candidacy for Riverside County Sheriff in the 2018 election. Challenging incumbent Stan Sniff are Riverside County Lt. Chad Bianco and Hemet City Police Chief Dave Brown.

The Town Crier will interview each candidate before the June primary, when the top two vote getters will move to the November election.

The first interview was with challenger Chad Brown, who is a lieutenant at the Riverside County Hemet Station and appeared in the Oct. 12 edition of the Town Crier. Below is the interview with Hemet Police Chief Dave Brown.

"I love my job," Brown said at the beginning of the interview. "I've spent over half my life working in the city of Hemet." And Dec. 31, 2017, will be his last day as Hemet police chief. He has already submitted his resignation.

Complete retirement from police work is not Brown's intention. While he enjoys traveling and his family, he wants to be the next Riverside County Sheriff. To achieve this post, he has already begun the campaign, limited to evenings and weekends. Full-time campaigning begins in January.

Brown knows the Hill. He grew up in Hemet, attended Little Lake Elementary School, and graduated from Hemet High School in 1984. After college, he started his law enforcement career in Pomona, but "I felt called to come back to Hemet and have served 25 years."

His wife is also from Hemet and they have three children whose ages range from 19 to 25.

When asked why he was willing to leave the comfort of Hemet to be sheriff for the whole county, Brown replied, "It became apparent to us in the cities and communities that we are only as successful as the county sheriff. And the sheriff creates an environment to be successful."

His colleagues, other city chiefs, as well as some within the County Sheriff's Department, have approached Brown and encouraged him to challenge Sheriff Sniff.

Since he has publicly announced his intention to enter the race, two current Riverside County Supervisors — John Tavaglione (2nd District) and Chuck Washington (3rd District) — have endorsed him.

Issues in sheriff's race

Vacancies and morale
Staffing for the Sheriff's Department is in crisis, according to Brown. "It is literally spiraling out of control. They're losing about 30 deputy sheriffs per month and not replacing them," he claimed.



Hemet Police Chief **Dan Brown** is a candidate for Riverside County Sheriff.
PHOTO COURTESY DAN BROWN

The dramatic lose of deputies, caused by the differences between Sniff and the board, has created "... an attitude that it's not a great place to work," he added. For seven years, Brown said he has watched hundreds of positions go unfilled because, in his opinion, "it's a miserable place to work."

In the past few years, Brown said that the Hemet Police Department has been able to hire eight former Riverside County deputies, with 3 to 13 years of experience. "That's unheard of, and we're just one of ten county [police] departments."

Jail beds

Another major concern for Brown is the size of the county jail system. He argues that it is "one half the size it should be. We are severely undersized."

The consequence of insufficient jail beds is that "for the cities, when we make an arrest, suspects are held just a fraction of the sentence."

While he agrees that Sniff has pointed to the inadequacy of the current jail system, The sheriff has stated that since the passage of Assembly Bill 109 in 2012, Riverside County has made more than 40,000 early releases.

"We rarely hear a solution," lamented Brown. "This revolving door has to be fixed."

County crime task forces

Related to the insufficient staffing, Brown expressed regret that the Sniff has "pulled out of many of the countywide task forces, such as the gang task force."

In order to downsize, these task forces were the first areas to see fewer and
See Dave Brown, page A3

District

Continued from A1

schools, according to the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Vince Christakos. More than three-quarters of these kids are eligible for the free and reduced-cost lunch program. One out of seven students are in special education, one in eight are English learners and nearly 1,200 — 5 percent — are homeless youth.

Barrett began with an explanation of educational acronyms and the current trends. For example, the federal emphasis on education has evolved from a more centralized approach when former President George W. Bush's "No Child Left Behind" programs were dominant to a less centralized and greater state autonomy under the current "Every Student Succeeds" programs.

In the past two years, California has made a "very large transition to local-control funding," Barrett said. State funding is shifting to districts with more low-income and English-learner students. "A greater emphasis on equity versus quality," she said. "And equity now means differences."

An integral part of this shift toward local control is greater local accountability, Barrett stressed. Each district prepares an accountability plan with public input and public review.

"It's our responsibility to meet the needs of every child," she said, describing one of HUSD's goals going forward. The new accountability recognizes the variability of student's futures and goal. No longer does the district assume "all have the same plans."

The goal is no longer simply academics, but prepar-

ing students for entry into the world — whether that is a continuation of education or the beginning of a career.

"[The event ... showed us the direction our superintendent wants to take us in as we strive to become the premier school district," said Idyllwild School Principal Matt Kraemer.

Barrett then introduced Tracy Chambers, assistant superintendent of Educational Services, who described the panoply of programs HUSD employs. They range from nutritional to behavior and mental health, and food for foster youth.

"We are doing whatever we can to meet every individual student's needs," she stated. This includes the opening of a Parent Resource Center this year. "For student success, the relationship with parents is critical," she added.

Another program is BARR — Building Assets, Reducing Risks — which is focused on students entering high school. Those who pass the first year are 3.5 times more likely to graduate; so HUSD puts a lot of emphasis on helping high school freshmen overcome the transition to high school.

"What we do now will impact generations," she said proudly. This includes working with teachers to ensure they have tools and materials to help all their students.

Two examples of HUSD's changes are its career Technical Education programs, which supply more than half the auto mechanics in the valley now. Also, the number of students taking the college entrance exams has grown markedly in the past two years.

Concluding the event, Dr. Alex Ballard, director of Assessment and Accountability, got the attendees involved. He had each table discuss three separate ques-



More than 100 people attended "The State of the District," which Hemet Unified School District Superintendent **Christi Barrett** presented for the numerous stakeholders in the district.
PHOTO BY JP CRUMRINE

tions, and then list the top ideas from each one.

He asked, "What does HUSD need to continue doing in the district, what should [HUSD] stop doing as a district, and what should they change in how they serve students?"

After the session, Scavarda spoke to several of the attendees, who learned about the district that morning.

"Being all things to all students is quite a challenge," he said, summarizing the message. "One thing that resonates with me is that we cannot go with a 'One Size Fits All' model that we have, unfortunately, resorted to in the past. Each school is unique, and needs to be treated with that consideration in mind."

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Wednesday 10/25

79/43
Sunny.

Sunday 10/29

74/41
Sunny.

Thursday 10/26

78/43
Sunny.

Monday 10/30

72/46
Sunny.

Friday 10/27

77/43
Sunny.

Tuesday 10/31

68/42
Sunny.

Saturday 10/28

76/42
Sunny.

Find the latest weather information from the National Weather Service at www.weather.gov.

Idyllwild this year

Date	High	Low	M	S
10/17	82	46	0.00	0.0
10/18	75	52	0.00	0.0
10/19	69	46	0.00	0.0
10/20	55	44	0.04	0.0
10/21	68	34	0.00	0.0
10/22	x	x	0.00	0.0
10/23	x	x	0.00	0.0

Idyllwild last year

Date	High	Low	M	S
10/17	62	46	0.00	0.0
10/18	73	42	0.00	0.0
10/19	76	42	0.00	0.0
10/20	80	45	0.00	0.0
10/21	79	45	0.00	0.0
10/22	75	44	0.00	0.0
10/23	69	46	0.00	0.0

Moisture in inches

To date this season (Idy):	0.79
To date last season (Idy):	1.75
Total last season (Idy):	28.61
To date this season (PC):	0.86
Total last season (PC):	37.56

Snow in inches

To date this season (Idy):	0.0
To date last season (Idy):	0.0
Total last season (Idy):	31.3
To date this season (PC):	0.0
Total last season (PC):	63.3

Idyllwild temperatures, moisture and snow totals are recorded daily at 4 p.m. at Idyllwild Fire Station, an official NWS COOP reporter. Pine Cove moisture and snow totals are recorded daily at 4 p.m. by resident George Tate at personal weather station KCAIDYLL1, an official www.wunderground.com reporter. 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 us on the Internet at www.idyllwildtowncrier.com or call Caltrans road update at 1-800-427-7623.



It was a clear and warm day Tuesday, with temperatures in the 80s. This was the view from Jo'An's.
PHOTO BY EDDIE ALCAZAR

Expect La Niña to return

Below normal rainfall?

BY JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

To be sure, Halloween is next week and Thanksgiving is coming quickly. But the National Weather Service's winter 2017-18 forecast is not supposed to be an "April Fool's Joke."

According to the NWS, "La Niña potentially emerging for the second year in a row as the biggest wildcard in how this year's winter will shape up. La Niña has a 55- to 65-percent chance of developing before winter sets in." Historically, a La Niña weather pattern will yield dry and below-normal precipitation in Southern California.

A La Niña was forecast for last winter. However, that is not what happened in Southern California — October 2016 to March 2017 was the wettest winter in Southern California history, according to Alex Tardy, warning coordination meteorologist at NWS's San Diego office. Southern California received as much total rain as it had for the previous three years together.

But the current best



The National Weather Service's early winter 2018 forecast is for below-average precipitation in Southern California. The probability of less rain is 33 percent greater than a normal rainfall this winter. MAP COURTESY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

forecasts — both observations and computer — suggest the probability of a drier-than-normal winter is greater than 60 percent through February and then neutral conditions will return in the early spring of 2018, according to Mike Halpert, deputy director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

"If La Niña conditions develop, we predict it will

be weak and potentially short-lived, but it could still shape the character of the upcoming winter," said Halpert in a video. "With La Niña likely, we favor above-average temperatures across ... the southern two-thirds of the United States ... and below-average precipitation most likely across the entire Southern U.S."

The NWS seasonal outlooks forecast the likelihood of above- or be-

low-average temperatures and precipitation, but do not project seasonal snowfall accumulations. The agency stressed that snow forecasts are generally not predictable more than a week in advance because they depend upon the strength and track of winter storms.

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Obituary

Richard "Dick," "Rembrandt," "Red Dog" Francis Miller 1926-2017

Richard Francis Miller of Palm Desert and Idyllwild, California passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, Oct. 15, 2017, in Palm Desert. Richard was 91 years old.

Richard was born in Elgin, Illinois, Feb. 25, 1926. Richard was the eldest of three boys to parents Arthur and Sophie (Dreyer) Miller.

Richard proudly served our nation during World War II, enlisting in the United States Navy in 1943. Richard was initially a landing craft operator in the Pacific Islands and later volunteered as a Navy Frogman with the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT) (predecessors of the Navy SEALs).

After rigorous training, Richard became a member of UDT-16 where he was nicknamed "Red Dog." Red Dog and his team were key in the Philippine Liberation Campaign and Battle of Okinawa. Richard was honorably discharged in 1946. Richard also served in the Marine Corps Reserves following the war.

Richard was a painting contractor. Rembrandt (as he was known) painted the homes of many desert community residents of the Coachella Valley and later became a furniture refinishing and repairman.

Richard also spent many years off and on in the small mountain community of Idyllwild where he enjoyed the fresh mountain air and friendly people.

Richard's passion was in service to others. Richard volunteered with the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, UDT Seal Museum Association, Fraternal Order of UDT Seals, American Legion, Lions Club, children's reading programs, special education programs and Angel View Crippled Children's Hospital.

Richard attended Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert and St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church in Idyllwild.

Richard leaves behind his beloved wife and best friend Catherine; and his children Gary, Christina, David and Rhonda. Richard also leaves behind grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren.

Richard was preceded in death by his brothers Ronald and Howard.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday Nov. 4, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 47535 Highway 74 in Palm Desert, and at 2:30 p.m. at St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church in Idyllwild.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donating, as your heart leads, to a charity for veterans, children or the homeless.

Finally, as Richard would always say, "Be fantastic!"



Idyllwild Fire Capt. Alan Lott addressed members of Mountain Disaster Preparedness at Thursday's annual Great Shake Out, a worldwide event designed to increase the ability to respond to a major earthquake. A variety of presentations and demonstrations were offered at the fire station, which Core Medical Group leaders Françoise Frigola of MDP (left at front table) and GiGi Kramer (in hat) and Dick Goldberg (behind Lott) organized. PHOTO BY TOM KLUZAK

Dan Brown

Continued from page A2

tually no staffing, he argued. "It's a travesty, some of the best work gets done through collaboration."

Brown says that the sheriffs in San Diego and San Bernardino counties devote far more resources to these countywide task forces than in Riverside County.

Unincorporated areas

Fewer deputies countywide mean fewer deputies in the unincorporated areas, which include Idyllwild and the other Hill communities. Brown, who is familiar with Idyllwild, believes two deputies for this area is a massive problem.

"I will restore the resident deputy program so that communities like Idyllwild can be better served," he said. "It makes perfect sense to assign deputies to work in their own neighborhoods whenever possible. This is the essence of community policing."

There are a number of tasks that don't require sworn deputies or investigating traffic accidents. Reassigning work to other staff will allow deputies to be reassigned to unincorporated areas or task forces, Brown believes.

"We can put deputies back out in the street. Put people back in Idyllwild," he argued.

Brown's solutions

Without a new culture, retraining employees so that they enjoy coming to work and feel empowered, these problems will not change, Brown opined. He's speaking for those sheriff's employees who are concerned and told him they fear speaking out.

"It's difficult to work in an organization, where you don't feel trusted or empowered," he argued. "This is a staffing crisis affecting the whole county. And there's no plan to fix it."

Brown believes he can add staff without a bigger budget, but it will require retraining employees. He does not believe deputies are leaving over pay and benefit issues. "That's what the sheriff tells you."

"People who enjoy their work will stay," he said. "it will take time to fix. We don't need more money. There are almost 2,200 deputies. There's no reason each station can't be adequately staffed."

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Annual Health Fair offers free flu shots

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

The Idyllwild Help Center, in conjunction with Dr. Ken Browning of Fern Creek Medical Center, presents its annual health fair on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A popular aspect of the fair is the availability of free flu shots, offered each year in advance of the flu season. Dr. Dick Goldberg coordinates obtaining the flu shots from the county and noted there would be around 100 available, first-come, first served.

In addition to the flu shots, screenings for blood sugar and visual acuity will be offered. Body fat analysis, nutritional counseling and Medicare counseling also will be provided for attendees.

All health services at the fair are free. The fair is held at the Fern Creek Medical Center, 54910 Pine Crest Ave. Those attending the health fair may bring donations of food, clothing or money that will be taken to the Help Center to assist the center in its mission to care for those in need within the community.

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

High wind + low moisture = Red Flag Warning

BY JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

While the National Weather Service is forecasting the development of a La Niña weather pattern for this winter, below-normal precipitation has already begun.

While spring saw an abundance of precipitation, the fall season has been abnormally dry. Although a few sprinkles occurred early Friday morning, Oct. 20, total rainfall since July 1 has barely exceeded an inch. The historic average rainfall through the end of September has been 2.35 inches with another inch falling in October.

The minimal moisture in combination with a Santa Ana wind event raised the fire threat to very high in recent days. The Santa Ana winds began Monday and continued through Tuesday.

Combined with very low humidity, a Red Flag Warning extended from Monday until 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25. NWS says the Red Flag Warning "... means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will shortly. A combination of strong winds ... low relative humidity ... and warm temperatures can contribute to extreme fire behavior."

The forecast for the end of the week was "Weaker winds ... for Thursday and Friday with slow cooling spreading inland and with a gradual recovery of humidity."

Local fire units were on high alert throughout Southern California.



FERN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

HELP WANTED

Field Operator

The Fern Valley Water District is seeking a qualified Field Operator. The Field Operator performs a wide variety of duties, including, but not limited to, water treatment, water distribution, operation and maintenance of District facilities, meter reading, and vehicle and equipment maintenance. Field Operators must participate on a rotating stand-by schedule and must arrive within one hour of being called out. This position requires a high school diploma or GED and candidates must pass a drug screen and criminal background check before appointment. This position requires Treatment I and Distribution I Certifications issued by the State of California and successful candidates must possess the ability to acquire Treatment II and Distribution II certificates within one year of hire. Mechanical skills, welding experience and heavy equipment operation experience is highly desirable.

The Fern Valley Water District is an equal opportunity employer with an excellent salary and benefits package. Salary range commensurate with candidate's qualifications and experience.

Applications are available at the District office — 55790 South Circle Drive, Idyllwild, CA 92549. For additional information, please contact the District at 951-659-2200.

Applications will be accepted until position is filled by a qualified applicant.



RAIN WATER solutions

Idyllwild Water District Rain Barrel Program

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Town Crier Memberships include businesses and nonprofits

BY BECKY AND JACK CLARK
CO-PUBLISHERS

So far, seven businesses have acquired Town Crier Memberships: Baily Winery; The Family Business (book-keeping); Fern Valley Inn; Idyllwild Backhoe; Middle Ridge Inc. (winery and art gallery); Sandlin & Son Refrigeration; and Sub Rosa Apothecary.

Also, three nonprofit organizations have joined as Members: Idyllwild Arts Academy; Friends of San Jacinto Mountain County Parks; and St. Hugh's Episcopal Church.

And The Red Kettle is the first business making special discount offers to all Town Crier Members.

Town Crier business advertising has begun to pick up somewhat, too. We very much appreciate the contributions all these businesses and nonprofits are making toward keeping a real newspaper on our Hill. Please remember to support these businesses and organizations that are supporting your community newspaper.

Meanwhile, readers of the Town Crier on and off the Hill are converting their old subscriptions into new Memberships. This can be done at any time; no need to wait until your old subscription runs out. Becky is adept at tacking on remaining subscription weeks onto new Membership dates, so you will lose nothing.

You will gain uninterrupted, continued subscriptions to both printed and online issues of the Town Crier, our "Idyllwild Town Crier Member" car-window decal, designed to be displayed on the "inside" of the window to encourage others to join us, in-print recognition of your Membership in the Town Crier (unless you request anonymity, which we kind of hope you don't since your Membership will encourage your friends and associates to join, too), occasional offers from local businesses (see the current offer by the Red Kettle in the following paragraph), invitations to what we hope will be an annual Town Crier Membership Party, and — most important of all — the satisfaction of knowing you are doing your part to save and support a real newspaper on our Hill.

If you're on The Red Kettle's Town Crier Membership list or you have received a Red Kettle card from us in the mail, you are eligible for special discounts at that restaurant.

If you wish your business to participate in the Town Crier Membership special offers program, as The Red Kettle is doing, please contact Jack or Becky at the Town Crier office.

The Town Crier now is a Member-supported newspaper that can serve our community into the future just as long as the Members want it. That is the objective.

Many thanks to all you Charter Members. Your responses are encouraging other community-minded readers to join with you. Also, the "Town Crier Member" decals have arrived and many have gone out in thank-you cards. We hope you will display these decals on the "inside" of your vehicles' windows so as to encourage others to join us.

Idyllwild Town Crier Charter Members

Saving and Supporting the Town Crier for our Community
(235 Charter Members as of Oct. 23, 2017)

Angels (4) — Other amount, unlimited above \$1,000 annually: Nancy Borchers \$2,000; Kathy & Tom Kluzak \$1,250; Sub Rosa Apothecary (Julia Meadows & Marc PETERMAN) \$1,200; (1) Anonymous \$2,500.

Heroes (4) — \$1,000 annually: Anne & Barnaby Finch; Charles "Chic" Fojtik; Janice Lyle; (1) Anonymous \$1,000.

Patrons (9) — \$500+ annually: Scott Bump & Cynthia Grady; Morgan Cannon; Kitty Kieley Hayes; Pamela Jordan & Christopher Scott; Ron Luebbert; The Mills Family; Dave & Shanna Robb; (2) Anonymous \$500.

Sponsors (48) — \$250+ annually: Sharon & Thomas Apostle; Austin Tile (Chris & Julee Austin); Anne Bleaden; Blair Cenicerros; Diann Coate; Laurel & Redmond Corbett; Isabelle Dubois; Marcia Edwards \$300; The Family Busi-

See Readers, page A5

How to get a letter published

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

The Town Crier will not publish "thank-you" letters, consumer complaints, form letters, clippings from other publications or poetry. Political letters during election season cost 10 cents per word but are not accepted the week before an election.

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 (becky@towncrier.com).
Deadline is 10 a.m. Monday.

Evolution & entropy

EDITOR:

I think Dr Tom's decision to end debate on evolution vs. creation to be unfortunate, but wise. It has been my experience that once a belief system has been established it is difficult to overcome, and continued debate usually ends in argument and division.

I use the word "belief" because both creationists and evolutionists require it.

Evolutionists accurately claim scientific evidence for their theory, but they have not been able to demonstrate the theory by the scientific method. This would require test and verification and, to my knowledge, no scientist has been able to create life from inorganic matter — a very necessary part of the theory. Nor has any biologist ever been able to breed across species, another necessary step in the evolutionary process.

To say evolution does not exist also is silly for we see clear evidence of it through natural selection and the adaptations of life to varying conditions. It is the limits of evolutionary theory wherein the true debate lies.

To say all scientists accept the theory of evolution also is not accurate.

Microbiologist Behe is one who wrote dispassionately about problems with Darwin's theory in his book "Darwin's Black Box." In this book, he brings up the problem of irreducible complexity, which greatly complicates



Darwin's beloved theory.

Another problem I too often see ignored is that of entropy. Everywhere in nature we see systems degrade in complexity, constantly moving to lower, unrecoverable energy levels. The only way systems increase in complexity is with the addition of intelligent energy. From where might this come?

Creationists believe in a Supreme Being and Creator. With this simple statement, anything becomes possible. This

must seem too easy and lazy, but I do not think it is either.

I heard a college chemistry professor once say it is the job of scientists to discover "how"; it is left to philosophers and theologians to discover "why." The how is the great and noble pursuit of science.

It cannot be easy to accept this idea of a Supreme Being to whom we are accountable, for if true, it must impact our entire world view and behavior.

It is truly the great challenge of life and does not allow one to be lazy.

TOM EVANS
IDYLLWILD

(Editor's note: As always, the views of our columnists and letter writers are not necessarily the views of the Town Crier editors. The Town Crier welcomes views from all writers, including those in letters to the editor.)

FIRE & FOREST

BY NORM WALKER,
MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

THE FIRES OF OCTOBER ...

For the wildland fire agencies, the month of October is statistically the deadliest month for firefighters, and now for the public as well.

Live fuel moisture in vegetation declines slowly all summer and usually bottoms in late August. After falling below 60 percent, chaparral burns as if it were dead.

Trees pick up and give up moisture in slow motion compared to chaparral. Some estimates suggest that three wet winters may be needed by large-diameter trees to take on a healthy amount of moisture after a sustained drought. As everyone knows, it's been a long time since Southern California has seen three wet winters in a row.

In October, with the fuel moistures at a summer low, nature adds the final element — wind — that creates rapid rates of fire spread and maximum resistance to control. Santa Ana, Sundowners, Mono or Chinook, it doesn't matter what label you assign to the wind, the effect is the same. Humidity is reduced to single digits, which means everything that can burn will burn.

Wildland firefighters are used to spot fires that start in grass, pine needles and rotten logs. But wind-driven fires can spot onto patio furniture, wood piles, cardboard boxes, cedar fencing, palm trees and, of course, wood-shake shingle roofs.

With all this in mind, it becomes easier to understand what recently happened in Northern California. Wildland fire with a high rate of spread is not unusual. However, when a wildland fire transitions through the Wildland Urban Interface and into suburban neighborhoods without slowing down, that's a true emergency. In this scenario, firefighters must join with the Sheriff's Department to evacuate people as fast as possible. There is no time for them to fight fire.

It also is important to remember that given these conditions, staying behind and trying to save your house with a garden hose will almost certainly get you killed. The media loves to do stories on those who defied law enforcement and saved their houses. But the media also covered 42 deaths of people in Northern California who did not have enough time to evacuate or were overtaken as they attempted to evacuate. In the presence of these conditions, in the "Ready, Set, Go!" program, when you're told to "Go," it's time to go!

I have written many times that hardening of homes and constant fire abatement practices will tilt the odds in your favor during a fire. Looking at your property

See Fire & Forest, page A5

For the record ...

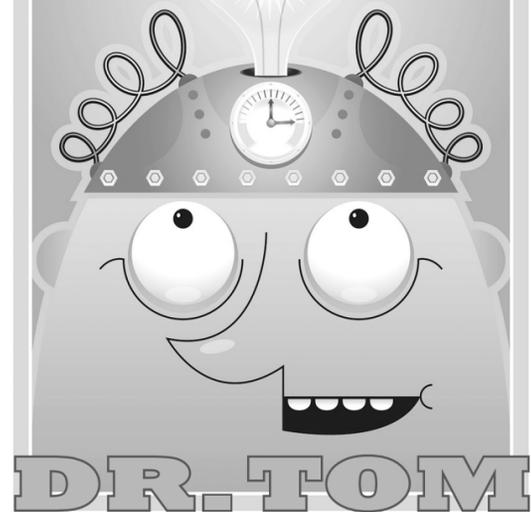
Neither the Town Crier nor Idyllwild House Publishing Co. Ltd. has ever published Idyllwild Living magazine or Destination Idyllwild. Neither IHP nor the Town Crier bears any responsibility whatsoever for anything having to do with those publications. Jay Pentrack and Dolores Sizer have not been employed by IHP for more than a year. Please do not confront Town Crier employees with any concerns you may have regarding Pentrack's publications.

This month, IHP and the Town Crier published our annual **Fall-Winter Explore Idyllwild Directory** and **Explore Idyllwild Map**. Thousands have been printed and distribution on and off the Hill.

Please contact Lisa Streeter at 951-659-2145 to place an ad for your business in our two Explore Idyllwild publications coming next spring.

Health Care, Politics & Other Stuff

BY DR. TOM KLUZAK



Lessons from history...

I never liked studying history in school, which, at the time, seemed to be confined to memorizing dates and names and places. I think schools do better than that now and so do I, having developed more of an appreciation of the past and how it affects us now.

Two books I have read recently pointed that out. The first is "Deadly Times. The 1910 Bombing of the Los Angeles Times and America's Forgotten Decade of Terror" by Lew Irwin. It is interesting that many of my friends had never heard of the event at the center of the story: a time bomb set in 1910 in an alley next to the LA Times building, killing at least 20 and severely damaging the building. It is a piece of Southern California history that has faded from our collective memory, but, as the author notes, it contains the important lesson that violence is rarely productive. Our most important victories, throughout history, have been brought about by "the slow march of rational men."

Open warfare was pretty much the state of affairs between capital and labor in 1910. Unions were active across the country and adamantly, often violently, opposed to manufacturers who refused to allow their workers to unionize.

Ortie McManigal spent a long time setting bombs at non-union construction sites, but managed to avoid killing anyone. At the time, his methods proved to have some affect, with many construction companies signing union contracts after bombings.

His protégé, JB McNamara, bombed the Times without help, under the orders of his brother, JJ, secretary-treasurer of the Iron Workers Union. Other union officials were involved; 35 were later convicted of various crimes, in numerous trials from Indiana to the West Coast.

Los Angeles seemed like a natural place to carry out a big attack on capitalists, as it was as staunch an anti-union town as existed at the time, while San Francisco was just the opposite, controlled by unions.

The owner of the Times, General Harrison Otis, and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Los Angeles, ran a successful campaign to keep unions out

See Dr. Tom, page A5

MATTER OF FACT

In last week's story on page B1 about the Idy Talks speaker, the event was incorrectly reported as Oct. 19. Ashley Leung actually speaks at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Town Gallery.

Town Crier regrets the error.



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WHEN TO REACH US

OFFICE HOURS
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

DEADLINES MONDAY

News Items — 10 a.m.

Classified Ads — Noon

Display Ads — Noon

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

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The IDYLLWILD TOWN CRIER (USPS 635260) is published weekly by IDYLLWILD HOUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., P.O. Box 157, 54405 N. Circle Dr., Idyllwild, CA 92549. Standard postage paid at Idyllwild, CA. Send subscription and change of address requests to the above address. Please allow up to two weeks for requests to take effect.

WOMBANIA™

by PETER MARINACCI



Dr. Tom

Continued from page A4

of Southern California. Even so, there was considerable public sympathy for the bomber, JB, who was caught after diligent detective and forensic work.

Public sympathy for unions, as opposed to the rich, ran high and the bombing brothers became celebrities until it became obvious that they were guilty. Even Clarence Darrow could not save them; a plea bargain avoided the death penalty for JB and got a limited sentence for JJ. Not that Darrow didn't make the effort, as he was tried twice for jury tampering and acquitted only after long and fiery closing remarks.

It was a crazy time; I guess they all are when we look close enough. It makes an interesting story, full of famous names, subterfuge, violence, courtroom drama and unanswered questions. The cause for unionization wouldn't recover from the negative publicity for 30 years.

It was reported recently that members of the newsroom at the Los Angeles Times, very unhappy with the newest owner of the paper, were considering joining a union, a move adamantly opposed by the owner. Not sure how it will turn out but hopefully, bombs will not be part of the negotiations.

Dr. Kluzak, an Idyllwild resident, is board certified in Anatomic Pathology, Obstetrics and Gynecology. He also is a freelance photographer for the Town Crier.



An original Ernie Maxwell front page from the TC, Oct. 26, 1956, in honor of the Town Crier's 70th anniversary this year.

Fire & Forest

Continued from page A4

with a critical eye toward pine needles on the roof and on the ground should direct your efforts every week and the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council will still help out with major abatement issues.

However, during Santa Ana wind-driven fires, it is very important to have a plan ("Ready, Set, Go!") and execute it when law enforcement or firefighters order an evacuation. The higher the wind velocity is, the harder it is for firefighters to stop a fire moving through a neighborhood. It also makes you, if you don't evacuate, part of the problem, not the solution.

Remember, when gone, your house can be rebuilt by insurance, but your life cannot.



Riverside County 3rd District Supervisor Chuck Washington (center) had an open house Monday evening at his new office in Valle Vista, sharing the building with the Sheriff's Department. Here, joining the supervisor at his desk are Claudia Maunz-McLellan, legislative assistant, and Jeff Comerchero, chief of staff.

PHOTO BY JP CRUMRINE

Readers

Continued from page A4

ness (Craig & Janice Coopersmith); Dave & Laurie Fraser; Marsha & Susan Freed; Friends of San Jacinto Mountain County Parks; Dick & Karen Hadik; Paula & Robert Hetzler; David Hunt & Kris Kirschbaum; Idyllwild Backhoe (Carol & David Jones, Denise & Justin Jones); Christine Iger; Ben & Nanci Killingsworth; Anne & Jon King; John Larue \$350; Jason Laurence & Alexandra Napier; Martha Ludlum & Steven Morris; Chuck & Martha Lumia; Nancy Wallace Lungren for Don & Elizabeth Wallace Family Trust; Linda McCaughin & Phil Strong; Charles & Margaret Mooney; Sue Nash & Tom Paulek; Thomas Noce; Betty & Walter Parks; Ben & Rue Pine; Raphael Plunkett; Andy Ridgwell; Fran & Steve Robb; Martha & Scott Schroeder; Gary Schwandner; Paul Shnable; Adele & Bob Smith; Karen Smith; Anne Stone; Greg Trigeiro; Alex & Valerie Virtue; Barry & Jolene Wallace; Kay Wanner & Charles Wix; Brian Weiss; (4) Anonymous \$250.

Sustaining Readers (170) — \$100+ annually: Patricia Altman; D.M. Ankenbrandt; Baily Winery (Carol & Phil Baily) \$150; Robert Ballard; Cheryl & Lon Barr; Albert Bates; Jeanne Bauer; Nancy Beddingfield & Paul Leverenz; Kerry Berman; Rick Bernardin; Douglas & Maureen Boren; Ron Boustead & Ruth Riven Boustead; Bernard & Jorgine Brause \$200; Paul Browne; Charles Buchanan; Kenneth Camoirano; Bruce Campbell; Garrett & Harmeet Capune; Steve Chadwick; Duane & Ermylee Chamlee; Reg Cohen; Nancy Collins; Roberta Corbin & Lawrence Kueneman; Virginia Criste; Joe Curtis; Barbara & David Cutter; Margaret & Michael D'Ambra; Jayne

Davis; Mark Davis & Eduardo Santiago; Iris & Peter Davison; John & Linda Denver; Mizzi Diamond & Tim Doyle; Sherryn Digby; Ruthe Donlon; Carol & Dennis Dunbar; Greg & Nancy Dunlap; John Dunne; Jennie & Steven Espinosa; Fern Valley Inn (Gary & Marcie Erb); Farah Fisher; Amy Fogerson & Kent Weishaus; Chris Fox; Michael Franich; Françoise Frigola; Roland Gaebert; Bruce & Carolyn Ganoe; Merle & Rosemarie Gardner; Don & Louise Giger; Cathy & Gil Gillogly; Dick & Jan Goldberg; Christine & Jan Goldsmith; Eleanor Gorth; Mary Gosney & Rebecca Gunn; Bob & Corrine Greenamyler; Karin & Richard Greenwood; Mark Gumprecht & Christine Rheaume; Carolyn Hall; Linda Hanson; Marcia Harlan & Charles Phelan; Emily Heebner & Eric Young; Carole Herman & Sandi Mathers; Wayne Hester; Douglas Hopper; Idyllwild Arts Academy; David Israelsky & Janice Zahn; Don "Jac" & Mimi Jacaruso; Josh & Lea Johnson; Barbara Jones; Donna & Sam Kelly; Marilyn Kemple; Donna Kennedy & William Linehan; Ted & Beverly Kilman; Barbara & Ted Kinoshita; Helen Knauer; Marcia & Ron Krull; Diana & Terry Kurr; Elaine Latimer; Erin Latimer; Trudy Levy; Bob Lippert; Elaine Lockhart; Barbara & Michael Longbrook; Cathy & Dave Lopez; Marsha Lytle; Michèle Marsh & Peter Szabadi; Brian Marshall; Barbara Mathahs; Bret McCaughin-Strong; Ralph McClurg; Joan McCullough; Maureen McElligott; Michael McKenzie & Robert Thorson; Jane Meier; Carol Mendoza; George & Sheila Meyer; Leslea Meyerhoff; Maurice Meysenburg; Middle Ridge, Inc. (Chris & Melody Johnston); Marcia & Richard Montañó; Melissa Montgomery-Lynch; Maria & Mark Morgan; Wayne Myers & Aaron Twombly; Christen Ng; Dawn & Jim O'Keefe; Steve Olson & Stephanie Yost; Neil Pasage; Gerald Pauley; Anthony Pearson; Barbara & Dave

Pelham; Cecil & Shirley Peters; Robert Peterson; John Petty; Marlene & Thomas Pierce; Jim Pomeroy \$150; Ed & Sandy Reed; George & Kathryn Reeves; Margaret & Ned Roberts; Debbi Roeder; Maureen & Steve Rose; Sandlin & Son Refrigeration (David Sandlin); Vic Scavarda; Charles Schelly; Richard Schnetzer; Steve Shaw; Judith & Ronald Shenkman; Doug & Lois Sheppard; Carol Simonek; Bill & Linda Smith; Jeannie Sprenger; Patricia and Will Sprule; St. Hugh's Episcopal Church; Jean Stein & Pamela Williams; Kirk & Yvonne Stephenson; Richard Stinson; Stephen Sutton; Mary Talley; Jacob & Theresa Teel; James & Joanne Tenney; John Thomford; Arthur Tobias; Deidre & Joe Vail; David Verplank; Anne & Douglas Walker; Barb & Thom Wallace; Pamela Walton; Bill Waring; Sallie Warwick; Annette Wasell c/o Aria Board & Care; Charles & Susan Weisbart; Sheila Weldon; Sharon & Stephen White; Richard Wilkerson; Barbara & Steve Wilkes; Joanne Williams; Elizabeth & Thomas Wirt; Jim Wise; Catherine Wood; James Wymer; Fredricka & Paul Young; Alexander and Lorna Zukas; (1) Anonymous \$200; (9) Anonymous \$100.

Thank you, all!!

Please remember that the Town Crier's weekly News Meeting is open to the entire public. That's where we decide on the stories we will cover in the next issue of the paper. Some readers have regularly attended and contributed for years. The meetings currently are at the Town Crier office at 54405 North Circle Drive, Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m., unless Monday is a Town Crier holiday — then the meeting is at 8:30 a.m. the following day, Thursday. The next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 8:30 a.m.

Town Crier Membership Application:

NAME(S): _____
 MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I (We) want to keep the Town Crier as a real newspaper for the benefit of our community, as follows:

- Angels:** Other amount unlimited above \$1,000 annually – \$ _____
- Heroes:** \$1,000+ annually – \$ _____
- Patrons:** \$500+ annually – \$ _____
- Sponsors:** \$250+ annually – \$ _____
- Sustaining Readers:** \$100+ annually – \$ _____

All Memberships may be paid for by the month, if you wish, by using a pre-submitted credit card, debit card, or PayPal account with the addition of a 3% fee. Contact Becky at the Town Crier office to make arrangements. 951-659-2145.

PLEASE NOTE: The Town Crier is NOT an official "nonprofit organization." (For practical reasons involving the likelihood of local factional efforts to dominate a nonprofit's board so as to gain editorial control of the paper, it could not be.) Therefore, your Membership contributions are NOT tax deductible.

And we know our Members appreciate that we cannot allow the fact of their Memberships to control the paper's ongoing editorial policies and decisions.

If you previously had an uncompleted subscription before we went "free on the Hill," or if you have an off-Hill subscription now, you may contact Becky for credit against or an extension of your new Membership. But she currently is extending Memberships for subscription holders without being asked.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ▶ Subscriptions to both printed and online issues of the Town Crier.
- ▶ Nice-looking "Idyllwild Town Crier Member" car-window decals, which we very much hope you will display so as to encourage others to join us.
- ▶ Recognition of your Membership in the Town Crier, unless you request anonymity.
- ▶ Occasional offers, special to our Members, from local businesses.
- ▶ Invitations to what we hope will be the annual Town Crier Membership Party.
- ▶ And most important and valuable of all: You will receive the satisfaction and pleasure of knowing that you are doing your part to support a real newspaper on our Hill for the benefit of our entire community.

Send completed form to Idyllwild Town Crier, P.O. Box 157, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

Checks may be made payable to "Town Crier."

You may contact Becky at 951-659-2145 or Becky@towncrier.com.



For the Idyllwild Arts & Entertainment Calendar, see "On the Town," on page B7. Submit listings and changes to becky@towncrier.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marian View Dr.
- Town Crier news meeting, public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Town Crier office, 54405 N. Circle Dr.
- Qigong, 9-10 a.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Cancer support group, 4:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library, 54401 Village Center Dr.
- From Shame to Grace (SAA) 12 Step Group, 5-6 p.m.; Co-dependents Anonymous, 7:30-9 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.
- Idyllwild Water District, 6 p.m. IWD office, 25945 Hwy. 243.

Thursday, Oct. 26

- Alcoholics Anonymous women, (open), 9 a.m. Spiritual Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.; meeting, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; "We Don't Know" Agnostic & Atheist, 6-7 p.m. Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.

- Bridge, 12:30 p.m. Creekstone Inn, 54950 Pine Crest Ave. If interested, show up or phone 951-659-4910.
- Book Club, 7 p.m. Creekstone Inn, 54950 Pine Crest Ave.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 7:30-9 p.m. Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.

Friday, Oct. 27

- Free community Mat Pilates classes, 9 a.m. Call 760-200-5757 for information & directions.
- AA, Daily Reflections, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; Pick-a-stick candlelight, 7:30 p.m. Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.
- Feeding America, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; GriefShare Support Group, 6:30 p.m. Cross Road 243 Christian Fellowship, 29430 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center.
- Celebrate Recovery (hang-ups, hurts & habits safe talk place), 7 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.

Saturday, Oct. 28

- Healing Rooms, 10 a.m.-noon & 2-4 p.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54295 Village Center Dr.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; 5:30 p.m. Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.

Sunday, Oct. 29

- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Book Study meeting (closed), noon. Idyllwild Water District, 25945 Hwy. 243; 5 p.m. Rancho Encino Mountain Club, 45915 Orchard Rd., Poppet Flats, across from Cal Fire Station 6.
- Al-Anon "Mixed Nuts" open meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.

Monday, Oct. 30

- Alcoholics Anonymous women, (open), 9 a.m. & Womens Alanon Step Study, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Spiritual Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.; AA, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Chronic Pain/Illness Community Support Group, 4-5:30 p.m. Hill House, Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.; AA Grapevine, 5:30 p.m. Spiritual Oneness Center, 151 Cedar St.
- Lovingkindness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m.; Self-Realization Fellowship Meditation, 6-7 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 659-2523.
- Meditation & dharma study, 6 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio, 54445 N. Circle Dr. Call Valerie Kyoshin Velez at 951-659-5750 for info.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- Idyllwild Rotary Club, 7:30-9 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marian View Dr.
- Town Crier news meeting,

- public welcome, 8:30 a.m. Town Crier office, 54405 N. Circle Dr.
- Soroptimist International of Idyllwild, 9 a.m. Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr.
- Qigong, 9-10 a.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.
- Garner Valley Women's Group, 10:30 a.m. Garner Valley Common, 61600 Devil's Ladder Rd.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Cancer support group, 4:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library, 54401 Village Center Dr.
- From Shame to Grace (SAA) 12 Step Group, 5-6 p.m.; Co-dependents Anonymous, 7:30-9 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.

Community service hours

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (bark beetle issues), 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Mountain Resource Center, 25380 Franklin Dr., 659-3335.
- Idyllwild Area Historical Museum, 54470 N. Circle Dr., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. & Sun. (Mon. holidays.) Group tours by appt. 659-2717.
- Idyllwild Help Center, 26330 Hwy. 243, 10 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. 659-2110.
- Idyllwild Library, 54401 Village Center Dr., Strawberry Creek Plaza, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon., Wed.; noon-8 p.m. Tues.; noon-5 p.m. Thurs. & Fri.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., 659-2300.
- Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Hwy. 243, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wed.-Sun. 659-3850.
- Idyllwild Transfer Station, 28100 Saunders Meadow Rd., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thurs.-Mon.; Grinding Facility, 8 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Mon., Wed. & Fri.
- Idyllwild Ranger Station, 54270 Pine Crest Ave., 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fri.-Tues. 909-382-2921.

NEWS OF RECORD

Sheriff's log

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Station responded to the following calls Sunday to Saturday, Oct. 15 to 21.

Idyllwild

- Oct. 16 — Alarm call, 12:16 p.m., Meadow Glen Dr. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 16 — Check the welfare, 4:53 p.m., Pine Crest Ave. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 17 — Area check, 6:15 p.m., Village Center Dr. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 17 — Alarm call, 8:44 p.m., Pine Crest Ave. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 18 — Alarm call, 8:32 a.m., Delano Dr. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 18 — Alarm call, 11:16 a.m., Meadow Glen Dr. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 18 — Trespassing, 4:59 p.m., 21000 block of Hwy. 243. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 20 — Alarm call, 5:19 a.m., North Circle Dr. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 20 — Alarm call, 5:22 a.m., address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 20 — Area check, 6:55 p.m., Cedar St. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 20 — Assault w/deadly weapon, 7:41 p.m., 26000 block of Saunders Meadow Rd. Report taken.
- Oct. 20 — Public disturbance, 8:56 p.m., 53000 block of Tollgate Rd. Handled by deputy.

- Oct. 21 — Unattended death, 3:46 p.m., address withheld. Report taken.

Pine Cove

- Oct. 15 — Burglary, 9:29 a.m., 24000 block of Hwy. 243. Report taken.
- Oct. 15 — Public assist, 6:03 p.m., address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 15 — 911 call, 6:47 p.m., Acorn Ln. Handled by deputy.

Pine Meadows

- Oct. 16 — Assist other department, 6:52 p.m., Morris Ranch Rd. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 18 — Suspicious circumstance, 3:20 p.m., address undefined. Handled by deputy.

Poppet Flats

- Oct. 15 — Shots fired, 2:48 p.m., Keyes Rd. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 16 — Vehicle burglary, 11:10 a.m., address undefined. Report taken.

San Bernardino National Forest

- Oct. 16 — Suspicious person, 5:08 a.m., 28000 block of Saunders Meadow Rd. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 19 — Assist other department, 3:14 p.m., address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 20 — Trespassing, 6:18 p.m., 56000 block of E. Hwy. 74. Handled by deputy.
- Oct. 21 — 911 call from business, 8:47 p.m., 56000 block of E. Hwy. 74. Handled by deputy.

Cooper skips hearing; warrant issued

By JP CRUMRINE
NEWS EDITOR

Neil Cooper, 42, of Idyllwild, failed to appear for his Trial Readiness Conference on Oct. 17. Consequently, Judge Kelly Hansen issued a bench warrant for Cooper and set bail at \$350,000.

He was arrested in January for threatening great bodily harm on an individual and attempting to prevent or dissuade this person who might be a witness from reporting or testifying, both felonies. Enhancements to these charges include use of a weapon, and willfully resisting or obstructing arrest.

He also has prior strikes according to the District Attorney's Office filings.

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

Steele plays next in QBE Shootout

Baby daughter due this week

By JACK CLARK
PRO GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Brendan Steele is sitting out this week's World Golf Championships — HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai for a very good reason: He and wife Anastasia are expecting their first baby, a girl, on Thursday, Oct. 26, the first day of that tournament.

The Idyllwild native will play next in Naples, Florida, on Dec. 8 in the QBE Shootout, a two-man unofficial PGA Tour event that Brendan and Keegan Bradley teamed up to win in 2011 when it was named the Franklin Templeton Shootout. Brendan is expected to play next in an official PGA Tour event in the \$6.3 million Sentry Tournament of Champions in Kapalua, Maui, Hawaii, on Jan. 4, into which he gained entry by virtue of his win in the Safeway Open at Napa last month.

Brendan currently stands second on the FedExCup points list for the new 2017-18 season and has moved up to 46th place on the Official World Golf Ranking.

Jack can be reached at jack@towncrier.com.

'Love Letters' tickets on sale

Ticket sales for the Associates of Idyllwild Arts Foundation's fundraiser "Love Letters" are available online at www.associatesofiaf.org. VIP tickets are sold out.



According to California Highway Patrol Officer Mike Murawski, Kimberly Ann Young, 56, of Idyllwild, was traveling westbound on Highway 74 near McCall Park Road Sunday about 4 p.m. She lost control of her black Kia Forte, hitting a boulder and careening into a ravine. Young was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of either drugs or alcohol, and was not injured. The U.S. Forest Service helped with traffic control while CHP and Idyllwild Garage cleared the scene.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

Washington's quarterly meeting

Riverside County 3rd District Supervisor Chuck Washington's quarterly meeting with Idyllwild-area constituents is from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the Idyllwild Library.

Washington will be available to the public for individual or group meetings by appointment. Call 951-955-1030 to make an appointment.

Free/reduced-price school lunches

Hemet Unified School District is distributing application forms to all households for free and reduced-price meals for enrolled children. Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school.

To apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits, complete an application and return it to the school. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year.

The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Requirements for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: For households receiving Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or FDPIR benefits, applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP or FDPIR case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

For households who do not list a Food Stamp, CalWORKs, Kin-GAP or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the signature and corresponding Social Security number of an adult household member.

Bird stamp art contest

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is holding an art contest to select the design for the state's 2017-18 upland game bird stamp.

The California Upland Game Bird Stamp Art Contest is open to all U.S. residents ages 18 and up. Entries will be accepted from Monday, Oct. 30, to Wednesday, Nov. 15.

This year's stamp features the Wilson's snipe (Gallinago delicata), a charismatic, diminutive migratory game bird. The Wilson's snipe relies on its long, straight beak to forage for invertebrates in muddy wetlands from the coast to the high Sierra Nevada.

Entries must include at least one Wilson's snipe, preferably in a setting representative of its natural habitat in California. Entries will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and suitability for reproduction as a stamp and a print.

For contest information and entry forms, visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/upland-game-bird-stamp.

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Irma

Continued from A1

survivors got off the island and returned to the United States.

As Hurricane Irma moved west and while the rains continued, Trinity Houston was able to contact her friend Tami in Hemet. While Houston was glad the worst of the storm had passed, she knew efforts to find safety and recovery were about to begin.

She explained to her friend the magnitude of the humanitarian relief efforts that would be needed just to restore the island. But before that began, there were hundreds of Americans and others who needed to get off the island and begin their trips home.

"There's at least 350 people in our resort, and between 350 and 6,000 on the island. I don't know how many," she told her friend. "We need planes." From Thursday through Saturday, time just slowed down. Unlike the ticking clock while they prepared for the storm, time seemed to be taking forever to secure help.

"My Hemet friend Tami is an amazing woman," Houston pronounced. Tami called another friend, Lori, and together they began calling — Congressional offices and news desks. "They were trying to let them know about these isolated U.S. citizens. They needed to send planes." Of course, the runway was damaged and repairs began immediately Thursday.

After the hurricane, the island's electricity was gone; consequently, there was no Internet access from the resort. So, resourceful Houston placed a different telephone chip in her phone. Now she was able to get sporadic service from Verizon.

The living conditions had deteriorated substantially. Even her fifth-floor room was flooded. The winds' strength had forced rain and water through the concrete walls and along the window joints.

While the fear of the natural disaster was abating and efforts to evacuate accelerated, looting and more aggressive robbing began to occur. Now she and her team had to try to collect all of the guests together and reduce the chance that an isolated or single family might become a victim of another event.

Then her friend back home told her that the White House news conference reported that planes were being sent to St. Martins and Sint Maarten to help "350 to 6,000 U.S. citizens." She knew her comments had made their way to Washington's top levels. "[That] confirmed that my message got through."

But the urgency began to grow when news of Hurricane José was heard and its path would cross the island sometime over the weekend.

Since Simpson Bay Resort is directly across the bay from the airport, on Friday, she saw the first plane arriving. However, one problem was that the Netherlands government controls the airport and Dutch is its language. The government wanted to close the airport at 6 p.m., for the night.

But they needed transportation to the airport. Also, luggage and bags had to be limited. These were not commercial customer airplanes.

By 6 p.m., the message was only that a couple of planes would land and depart Friday evening. Now the urgency was collecting and organizing all the guests for leaving. Families with small children, elderly and injuries were given priority.

Finally, confusion and miscommunication took place. Some messages were stating that the aircraft would continue the evacuation until 7 or 8 p.m., but others said it would stop and resume Saturday morning.

"One bus at the airport was turned around," she said. "It was miscommunication between their government and ours — very disheartening." The fear and stress magnified when it was learned that Hurricane José would arrive Saturday morning.

Then the word was that evacuation would resume at 8 a.m. The people had to be to the airport by 6 a.m. So, she and her team "tried to be orderly and let people sleep until 4:30 a.m." In the dark, she had to waken them and collect them in the lobby.

With only two buses that could transport 24 people at a time, they began sending them to the airport. The team arranged to get the full complement to the airport, but the planes were late. "Around 11, we're seeing huge black clouds surround us," she said. "And told there were no more planes. We're sitting ducks," she feared.

Quietly, she slipped away from the crowd and tried to determine how they would return to the resort for safety during the next hurricane. But first, she called her friend. "The next and last flight was 35 to 40 minutes away." But she couldn't rely on that promise.

Houston had to be sure the remaining guests would survive José, so she returned to the resort to get the buses back to the airport. And then, there it was — a C130 was landing. Two C130s landed, each with a capacity to carry 88 passengers. The planes were part of New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing.

Now her phone died. She couldn't call anyone, because she relied on the stored phone numbers in her

phone. "It was just insane," she said.

Houston was the last to board, and the plane took off. "That's when I realized I was not doing well," she admitted. "But we were in a C130. That's kind of cool, in a weird way."

The Air Force interviewed some of the U.S. citizens whom they flew off of Sint Maarten. One was Kathleen McFarland of Wolcott, Connecticut. Among her comments of those scary and dangerous days was, "Trinity Houston, I love you! I love you! She was amazing. Trinity the constant communicator. ... [it was] like her job [was with] the U.S. government. ... there as a consultant ... [she] took charge [and] she got in touch with the U.S. government as soon as she could [and] she organized all of us."

They landed in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to a "Welcome to the U.S." sign. "The people there were so amazing and wonderful," said Houston.

Everyone got home. Medical needs, including Houston's, were provided. As she got off the plane, the staff kept asking if she needed a wheelchair. In the terminal, she fainted and blacked out. Later, she awoke in the hospital's Red Cross infirmary. She suffered an infection, high blood pressure, absence of her allergy medicine and more.

But on Monday, with the long-distance help of her Hemet friend, she was on another plane to the mainland. She got to Southern California Tuesday and the next day was doing an interview on CNN.

Steve Savage, IIFC founder, met Houston in the fall of 2011. They've worked together since then. When he learned about the Sint Maarten adventure, he said, "I wasn't surprised in the least, about all she did. That's Trinity!"

"She forgets to take care of herself," he added. "It always about everyone else. Yet, she still gets things done. The film festival wouldn't be going without her."

After her ordeal weeks later, Houston commented, "Now I'm more sympathetic to people who suffer PTSD. It's still so emotional."

"We can make a difference," was her summary of the week with Hurricane Irma in Sint Maarten.

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.



Members of American Legion Post 800 are replacing the roof over their building. Second Vice Commander Tom Pierce said, "The American Legion roof [replacement] is progressing. Work [is being] done by Jesse Wilkerson [and] crew of Ridgeline Roofing. We're expecting Riverside County Inspection [soon]." PHOTO BY TOM PIERCE

Cannabis

Continued from A1

regulates only the use and marketing of cannabis in the unincorporated areas, which would include Idyllwild and other Hill communities. Cities, such as Hemet, Palm Desert and Temecula set their own rules for use and distribution of cannabis.

The county staff is seeking opinions and comments on the following five topics:

- Where cannabis businesses should locate
- Cannabis taxation and revenue
- Youth access and exposure to cannabis
- Personal cannabis cultivation
- Equity and economic development

At this point, the staff is not planning any organized public meetings as they review and development recommendations for new or revised ordinances. When the Board of Supervisors places these on its

agenda, the public will have an opportunity to speak.

The county stressed that responses to the worksheet will remain private. "People's names will not be associated with any particular written comment," is on the worksheet background.

When considering where cannabis businesses should or may locate, the worksheet indicates that the state will issue licenses for the following types of cannabis businesses: cultivators, manufacturers, distributors, micro-businesses, nursery, testing laboratories and retailers.

State law already sets some restrictions on locations, such as 600 feet from schools, day cares and youth centers. But the county is seeking comments and thoughts on whether further restrictions should be applied in Riverside County such as residential areas. Also what zones would be most appropriate for testing labs or manufacturers or distributors?

On taxation, the county is asking whether to impose taxes to raise revenue or discourage consumptions. In addition, there are questions about how to use this revenue from cannabis sources and whether medical and recreational cannabis should be treated differently.

Regarding personal consumption, the county asks about outdoor personal cultivation and proximity to public areas such as schools, parks and libraries.

The final questions address the role of the county to provide economic help to develop the cannabis business.

Besides the worksheet, the county's website hosts a variety of information about cannabis, its use and legality.

There is a page of frequently asked questions, among these is one about the current legality of cannabis businesses in the unincorporated areas. The response states, "cannabis businesses are banned in all unincorporated areas of Riverside

County. This includes cultivating, manufacturing, processing, storing, testing, labeling, distributing, delivering, or selling medical or adult-use cannabis and cannabis products. This ban will remain in place until the county adopts a comprehensive regulatory framework for cannabis businesses and cannabis activities. Each of the county's 28 incorporated cities will set its own rules for cannabis businesses."

Until the county approves any ordinance changes, concerned residents may "report cannabis businesses operating illegally in the county's unincorporated areas" to the Riverside County Code Enforcement Department at 951-955-2004 or email to code@rivco.org.

The final page provides access to documents and reports such as the county ordinances regulating cannabis and board agenda items on this matter.

JP Crumrine can be reached at jp@towncrier.com.

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On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment

B SECTION IDYLLWILD, CA THURS., OCT. 26, 2017

Tea house opens and Idyology changes hands

By MARSHALL SMITH
 STAFF REPORTER

Anna Allen, native of Poland and 20-year resident of Durbin, South Africa, has recently opened Forest View Tea House in Idyllwild's Village Centre complex. The tea house is immaculate, charming and has a distinct international flavor that reflects Allen's own background.

After South Africa, where Allen owned and operated Anna's Tea Garden, she lived in the United Kingdom and in Vienna. She also worked on a farm in Zambia as personal assistant to the farm manager.

Her Idyllwild tea house features menu items from varied international sources, including a special brandy pudding that hails from South Africa and high tea items that one would experience in a proper English tea house.

"You can have beautiful food that is also healthy for you," said Allen. "My menu changes daily because everything on the menu is freshly made. I love experimenting."

Options with no refined sugar and those that are gluten-free are available.

On Allen's counter were many baked items that begged to be eaten, especially an apple pudding/pie. "Our light meals [sandwiches and soups] are always made from scratch with the freshest ingredients. We are proud of our extensive choice of teas. Try something new or order an old favorite. Our coffee is freshly brewed and sourced locally."

What is most impressive about the tea house is its tranquility. It feels restful. Allen has only been open two weeks but her business is building and her food is visually appealing and tasty.

She is open Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. She is closed Wednesday.

New Idyology owners Kelli Cooper and Agatha Frank are moving the dial and adding imaginative new touches to their recent acquisition.

Friends for more 20 years, long-time South Bay residents and currently residing in Huntington Beach, the duo is brimming with enthusiasm and plans to upscale the historic bar and restaurant while maintaining its reputation for friendliness and late-night hours. In 1969, the location was one of six original Chart House restaurants. The first opened in Aspen in 1961, with other locations in Waikiki, Newport Beach, Shelter Island, San Diego and Coronado.

Cooper and family have catering and food-truck backgrounds. "Restaurants are hard but food trucks are really rough," said Cooper of her previous dessert food-truck business. "You're in constant marketing mode and flexibility is so necessary." That marketing background and ability to make fast changes will serve well as Cooper and Frank roll out their plans.

Already in place is an organic menu with free-range sources. They recently hired chef and kitchen manager Jason Ramos to refine and expand what they have begun. "We'll be providing catering, and increasing our vegan and vegetarian restaurant options," said Cooper.

"Our food is American food and high end — bison burgers, fried chicken and salmon. We're adding steaks and more appetizers, with weekly and local specials. Each week we'll be doing something different. Last weekend, we did an Oktoberfest menu and it sold out."

Also, Cooper wanted patrons to know that Idyology is now full-table service. "Customers don't have to stand in line to order and they love that," she noted.

Next in the rollout is Saturday and Sunday breakfast, beginning at 8 a.m. with, as Cooper describes the menu, "everything off the beaten track," including varieties of grits.

The kitchen will stay open until midnight Wednesday through Sunday, giving Idyllwild residents a true, late-night food option. Hours are from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

"We have live music every night and are so excited to be featuring the musicians that we are discovering, from both on and off the Hill," said Cooper.

"The possibilities are endless, and one of us is always there to greet our guests."

Idyology is located in Fern Valley Corners. Marshall Smith can be reached at marshall@towncrier.com.



Poland native **Anna Allen**, longtime resident of Durbin South Africa, has opened the Forest View Tea House, with an international flavor, in the Village Centre shopping center. Here, her colleague **Dennie Ohrazda** hosts the front counter in Allen's immaculate shop.

Above left: new co-owners of Idyology, **Kelli Cooper** (right) and **Agatha Frank** have plans to make the late-night bar and eatery a major Idyllwild destination.



Saffron the pooch (front, center) was a welcome visitor to the Oct. 18 Idyllwild Rotary meeting. Accompanying her were her new mom and Living Free volunteer, **Sheila Zacker**, Living Free President **Randall Harris** (left) and Kennel Manager **Edgar Santiago** (right). Saffron was the star of a video played to the audience, documenting her recovery from extreme shyness due to abuse when she arrived at Living Free with her puppy, **Panda**.

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Art Walk and Wine Tasting draws more than 1,100 visitors

The Art Alliance of Idyllwild's 20th-annual Art Walk and Wine Tasting on Saturday Oct. 14, came alive with laughter and music. The day attracted more than 1,100 art and wine lovers.

The AAI staged 12 galleries and art hot spots with more than 40 artists, 17 Southern California wineries showcasing their signature selections and more than 100 volunteers.

New features this year included musicians who played at locations all along North Circle Drive and a well-attended open mic Poetry Reading at the Idyllwild Area Historical Society.

Art Alliance President Donna Elliot, said: "Many shops, inns and restaurants thanked the AAI for the increased business the event brought to town."

This year's event broke previous fundraising records, raising more than \$30,000, said Elliot. "AAI will continue to promote local art scholarships, events, artist workshops and community art projects to enhance and expand Idyllwild's reputation as a thriving art community, thus fulfilling one of AAI's key goals," she wrote.

AAI's major sponsors include: Shane Stewart of Idyllwild Realty; Frank and Lori Ferro of Ferro and Idyllwild Brew Pub; Luis and Michelle Solis of Fratello's Italian Ristorante, The Lumber Mill Bar & Grill and Tacos Los Gorditos; Harold Hochberg of The Cigar Box; Ed Carol of P&R Paper Supply Company; and Chris and Melody Johnston of Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery.



Ticket holders line up at the Idyllwild Area Historical Museum for wine tastings at the Art Alliance of Idyllwild's 20th-annual Art Walk and Wine Tasting on Saturday, Oct. 14. PHOTO BY JASON CLEGHORN



Diane Mitchell played the ballet scene from "Bacchante" by Camille Saint-Saëns and performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra to begin the fifth of her popular six-part series at the Idyllwild Library about exotic music, "Cleopatra's Rhumba: Exotic Accents in Music." Next Thursday at 3 p.m. she will wrap it up with "The New World," presenting recent music influenced by other cultures. PHOTO BY TOM KLUZAK



Jacque Carnahan presented her one-woman show (with piano accompaniment from Jeff Marder) at Idyllwild Arts Academy on Saturday, Oct. 21. Carnahan, a graduate of Idyllwild Arts and the Boston Conservatory, has appeared in many musicals on and off Broadway, and conceived of "From Main Street to 42nd Street" to tell her story to aspiring artists. PHOTO BY TOM KLUZAK



Graduates of Idyllwild Arts Academy formed the Alumni Panel at Family Weekend on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the academy. Members were (from left) Daniel Donovan, Visual Arts faculty and head of Sculpture; Tara Kintz, class of '94; Matt Stroud, class of '93; Andy Fraga, class of '97; and Mara Lund, class of '05 and Humanities and Creative Writing faculty. In addition to their presentations, the variety of the life experiences of the panelists eloquently expressed the wonderful education they received at Idyllwild Arts. PHOTO BY TOM KLUZAK



The French Film Festival opened Friday night, Oct. 20 at Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery. Here, Sandrine Faucher Cassidy, director of Festivals and Distribution at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts, addresses the audience about what they will view on Saturday. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN DRAKE



Debra Varnado Tobias, director of the French Film Festival, discusses the recently viewed films with audience members Jefferey Hartsough and Morgan Cannon. PHOTO BY JOHN DRAKE



From left, Sandi Mathers, Carole Herman, Joan Bechtel and Jon Bechtel in Alaska with the Town Crier recently. PHOTO COURTESY CAROLE HERMAN

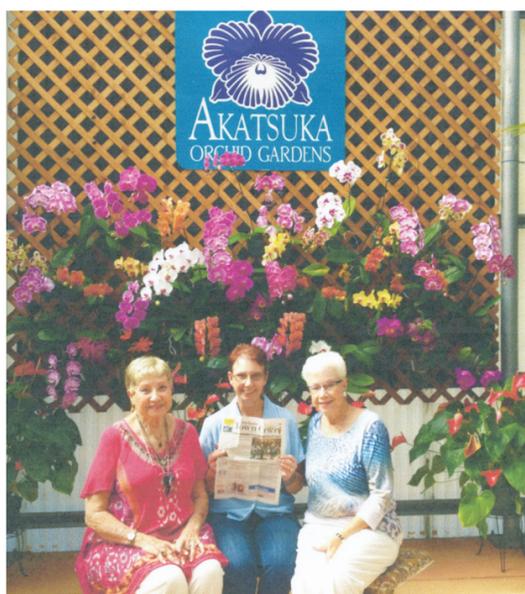
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From left, Carole Herman, Shannon Mathers and Sandi Mathers with the Town Crier in Hawaii recently. PHOTO COURTESY CAROLE HERMAN

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Morgan Night builds imaginative community

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

"Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination" (From Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley)

Like a real-life Willy Wonka, Hollywood writer, actor, producer, DJ, movie and music video director Morgan Night has created a life that is built around the elements of color and fun that have influenced his childhood and young-adult years.

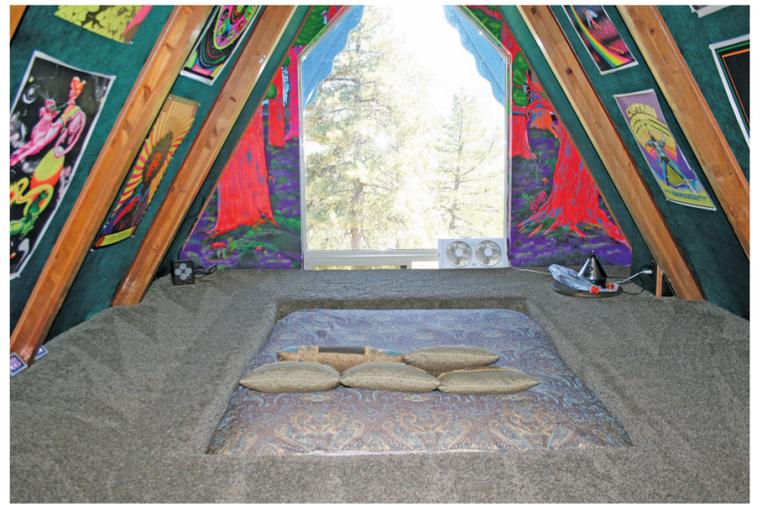
From Disneyland to John Waters to Dolly Parton to burlesque to Cheech and Chong, there are larger-than-life influences and cultural icons that Night continues to celebrate.

In whatever business venture draws his attention, there is a core of pure imagination and fun. His career has been colorful. He started his career at 19 as a DJ. At 27, he wrote, produced, directed and acted in his first feature film "Matters of Consequence" in 1999 and won the Movie Magazine Breakthrough Award. At 29, he owned a night club in New Orleans in the heart of the French Quarter, the Shim Sham Club, that produced and hosted one of the first burlesque revival troupes, with a live house band.

Born and still resident in Los Angeles, he first came to Idyllwild for the film festival to support a friend's film being screened. Like many, he immediately was drawn to the culture and ambience of the town. "Probably like most, I picked up a real estate magazine," he remembered. "I no-



Morgan Night, owner and designer of Hicksville Pines Bud and Breakfast. "Age is only a number," said Night, who is proud to have built a career that allows him to still be a kid. Above right: The bedroom of the 420 Room with vintage blacklight posters on the ceiling, a sunken bed one could literally fall into and a view across the valley to Tahquitz. PHOTOS BY MARSHALL SMITH



ticed a couple of motels for sale." Night already had created the Hicksville Trailer Palace in Joshua Tree, the second trailer motel in the country. Night designed each trailer, not by restoring it to its original pristine identity, but by recreating each around an imaginative theme. "It was originally designed as an artists' retreat with a recording studio and film-editing facility for musicians and artists to get work done while they were away from their regular work environment," said Night.

"And for fun, we added in summer-camp activities — BB gun range, pool, archery, video games. We opened it to the general public in 2010. After we opened Hicksville Trailer Palace, dozens of other trailer motels opened around the country. But after visiting Idyllwild, I began to think, 'What if I had a different Hicksville in a different climate?'"

So with a real estate brochure in hand, Night looked at several locations, including what has now become Hicksville Pines Bud and Breakfast. "It was run down, no one had been taking care of it, but it had so much potential," he recalled. "I wanted to share my love of Idyllwild with my guests from Joshua Tree."

And that is what has occurred. "I created this job where I get to be a full-time kid, playing with themes built around some of my cultural icons, around anything I want," he said. "Age is nothing but a number."

At his Joshua Tree motel, what has happened over time is that guests keep returning, not to retreat to their trailers in seclusion but to commune and hang out with like-minded people who appreciate the kitsch and the vibe.

Hicksville Pines Bud and Breakfast began as Hicksville Pines Chalets with 10 themed rooms: the Haunted Chalet, the Dolly (Dolly Parton), Mondo Trashed (John Waters trib-

ute), the Honeymoon Suite (just as in the Poconos), Christmas Town, the Great Northern (Twin Peaks tribute), Nerds (to all things nerdy and geeky), two collaborations — Third Man Records (Nashville record store and studio) and Dita Von Teese (burlesque) — and the 420 Room (blacklight posters, vending machine and weed friendly). "Way before Prop 64, I wanted to have a room to let people know we were not your average motel," he said. "With marijuana now legal, having a marijuana-friendly room was no different than allowing guests to bring a bottle of wine into their room."

"In my view, marijuana is far less harmful than alcohol. By making the Idyllwild motel marijuana-friendly, it creates an opportunity for like-minded people who are into kitschy things to be together."

"There is an amazing community aspect to this place. We don't allow unregistered guests to be on the property and you meet awesome and interesting people. I feel so grateful that Hicksville has become a place of community rather than just a place for people to stay."

On the tour for this article, Night pointed out the Hicksville Pines Wall of Fame — a place where the names of guests who have stayed in all 10 rooms will be listed. "We have one couple who are up to six rooms at this point," said Night.

"Why make the whole place marijuana friendly?" he asked. "For me, marijuana is now legal in the state [as of Jan. 1, 2018]. People need a place where they don't feel judged for smoking [marijuana] and can experience a sense of community."

So Hicksville Pines Chalet has become Hicksville Pines Bud and Breakfast. "A project tells you what it wants to be," said Night.

CREATURE CORNER

BY JANICE MURASKO

Last week in "Days of Our Nine Lives," the ARF cats said goodbye to Cheerio and two puppies, then hello to Sassy.

Little Girl: Well, that was a quiet weekend!

Sassy: Maybe for you, but I got to take another walk in town on Sunday. It was so much fun!

Anabel: I heard that you are quite the friendly dog. You're very happy. from what I see.

Sassy: I am very, very happy. I just love to get into a loving human's lap, too. I will be such

Batman: a wonderful member of a forever family. I hope I'm adopted soon.

Batman: Me, too! You guys are great, but being here in the cattery just isn't the same as being with a forever family.

Indigo: You know Batman, you and I are just kittens. I cannot believe someone hasn't snapped us up already.

Trenton: The same with Augusta and me. What the heck? We're awfully adorable little kittens! And I hear if two kittens are adopted together, we are at a discounted adoption fee. Win-win!

Sassy: You really are adorable.

Indigo: OK, so kittens are adorable, but we adult cats are confident and loving. That's pretty darned good, too.

George: Take me, for instance. I'm low energy and very relaxed. And Little Girl, you would be the perfect companion for a single person or a quiet couple.

Little Girl: As long as there is someone to give me lots of attention (and no dogs or other cats), I'll be in heaven.

Sassy: You cats are cool. I hope people get in here this weekend to meet you.

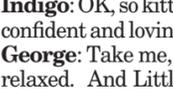
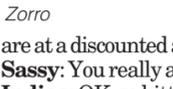
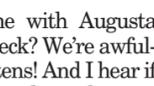
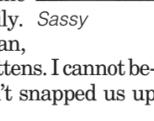
Augusta: And you, too, Sassy.

Sassy: I'll be here at the ARF House Saturday and Sunday if I don't have a volunteer walking me in town. I'll do my best to impress.

Augusta: All Trenton and I have to do is be ourselves, and that's pretty darned impressive, or at least it's cute.

Be sure to keep up with the animal antics of "Days of Our Nine Lives" each week. And please stop in to say hello to the entire adoptable cast at the ARF House, 26890 Hwy. 243 on Saturdays 10-4 and Sundays 10-2, or by appointment M-F by calling 951-659-1122.

Creature Corner is a sponsored column. If you would like to sponsor this column, contact Lisa Streeter at 951-659-2145 or lisa@towncrier.com.



Parton, artist of garden and page, teaches class

BY MARSHALL SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Many know Gary Parton as the lilac guru of Alpenglow Gardens on Fern Valley Road. His cultivation of lilac varieties and his meticulous planning and attention to detail in his 1-acre lilac experience are, in themselves, works of art.

Many do not know that Parton taught art in the South Bay city of Torrance for 35 years. He has a master's in art education from Cal State Long Beach. Those who know him know that he is jovial, patient, knowledgeable, and devoted to whatever project or group he addresses —

the ideal teacher.

Ask any question about lilacs and their history, and Parton will happily share his extraordinary compendium of knowledge, with humor and zest.

Parton will bring that same zest, patience and knowledge to a series of three classes in art he will present at the Idyllwild Library from 3 to 5 p.m. on consecutive Thursdays starting Nov. 2. He calls his series "Renewing Your Artistic License." In the classes, Parton will explain the foundations of seeing and using your imagination to guide and grow your creative side, and to nurture and keep the creative spirit in your work. "Find the joy in deciding

what rules to break and what rules to keep," advises Parton.

The classes address light on Nov. 2, drawing systems on Nov. 9 and composition on Nov. 16. "Classes will cover philosophy, history and creative application, and are open to all who want to expand the way they see and produce their art," notes Parton. The classes are free but there is a single \$15 charge for materials for the three-class series. Pre-registration and fee payment is required at the library in order to hold space at the series. Checks should be made out to the Friends of the Idyllwild Library.

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

So You Think You Know the Hill?

BY JACK CLARK
CONTEST JUDGE

Four entries that I know of regarding last week's photo: **Rochelle Ainsworth, Dave Hunt, Kris Kirschbaum and Grace Manues.** All four Usual Suspects spotted the ceiling lamp on the front deck of **Ferro Restaurant** on Cedar Street. So, again, four names went into the hat, and **Mandy Johnson** pulled out (drrrrrrrrrr-boom!) Grace! So Grace gets this week's \$25 Visa gift card provided through the courtesy and generosity of **June Rockwell.**

Again, June, we thank so very much for sponsoring this column for as long a stretch as you did. We all very much appreciate the support.

So, what business would like to pick up the sponsorship of this column? Your business will get a nice thank you in this column every week, so ...!

We still have one more of June's Visa gift cards left. So, here we go again. What is this and where is it?

One entry per household. This and deadline: **Monday noon.** Not a race — correct entries go into a hat for a drawing. Full contest rules and guidelines available at the Town Crier office.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Arts & Entertainment Calendar listings are at the discretion of the editor. Email becky@towncrier.com. Event charges may apply.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Knit Wits, 1-3 p.m.; Presidents Book Club, James K. Polk, 2-3 p.m.; Hispanic Heritage Craft, Alter Box, 3:30-5 p.m.; Idyllwild Photographers, 5-6 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Ping Pong, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Thursday, Oct. 26

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Cleopatra's Rumba, 3-5 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Ping Pong, 6:30-8 p.m. Town Hall.

Friday, Oct. 27

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Chess Club, 2-5 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Don Reed, Jac Jacaruso & Mikele Kreitner, (guitar-driven classic & original music), 5:30-8:30 p.m. Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery.
- Gibson Toler Band, 8-11 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Saturday, Oct. 28

- 10,000 Women's Voices Writing Workshop, Carol McClintic, 1-4 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Jac Jacaruso, (pop & soft rock guitar), 4-7 p.m. Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery.
- Meet Barbara Eden, 7 p.m. Soboba Casino, San Jacinto.
- Karaoke, 7-11 p.m. American Legion Post 800.
- Halloween Costume Ball, Whiskey Dick Rebellion, 8-11 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Monday, Oct. 30

- Forest Folk Cribbage Group, 10 a.m.-noon.; Children's Storytime, "Halloween," 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Small orchestra rehearsal group, 1-3 p.m., Idyllwild Center for Spiritual Living.
- Mahjong, 1-4 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Great Pumpkin Parade & Carnival, 4:15 p.m.-7 p.m. Parade line-up Fern Valley Corners to carnival on Park Lane.
- Halloween Post-Parade

Party with Sandii Castleberry, Lenny Hansell & La-ree Gibson, (upbeat classic rock with a country flair, and spooky music), 5-8 p.m. Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery

- Pool Tournament, 6 p.m. American Legion Post 800.
- Pentagrams & Daisies, 7-11 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- Dia de los Meurtos Mask workshop, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Holistic healing circle, 2-4 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat.
- Ping Pong, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Town Hall.

Thursday, Nov. 2

- Renewing Your Artistic License, "Light" — philosophy, history, creative application, Gary Parton, 3:30-5 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Ping Pong, 6:30-8 p.m. Town Hall.

Friday, Nov. 3

- Chess Club, 2-5 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Jac Jacaruso, (pop & soft rock guitar), 5:30-8:30 p.m. Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery.
- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," noon-4 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Kristen Lynn Band, 8-11 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Saturday, Nov. 4

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," noon-4 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- "Afternoon with the Artists" reception, "The Idyllwild Collection: Peace, Love & Whatever," 2-5 p.m.; Lenny Hansell & Gilbert Hansen, (blues, pop, R&B and jazz guitar), 2-6:30 p.m. Middle Ridge Winery Tasting Gallery.
- Karaoke, 7-11 p.m. American Legion Post 800.
- Greg Jones Band, 8-11 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Monday, Nov. 6

- Forest Folk Cribbage Group, 10 a.m.-noon.; Children's Storytime, "Down on the Farm," 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center, Idyllwild Arts.
- Straight Jackets, 7-10:30 p.m. Idyllwild Brewpub.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

- Visiting Artist Show: "Ex-perigiscimini - Waking Up," 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Parks Exhibition Center; Jazz Combos, 7:30-9 p.m. Bowman Theatre, Idyllwild Arts.
- Small orchestra rehearsal group, 1-3 p.m., Idyllwild Center for Spiritual Living.
- Mahjong, 1-4 p.m.; Napkin Folding for the Holidays, 6-8 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Pool Tournament, 6 p.m. American Legion Post 800.

Halloween event in San Jacinto

Riverside County 3rd District Supervisor Chuck Washington and several others are sponsoring a free Candy Corner from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at The Farmer's Corner, 2525 S. San Jacinto St., in San Jacinto.

All families are invited to the community awareness event that includes trick or treating, face painting, entertainment, a DJ, food, games and more. A free bicycle raffle is included, as well as a haunted house.

Veterans Recognition Program

Congressman Mark Takano, Sen. Richard Roth, and assemblymembers Jose Medina and Sabrina Cervantes will host a free Veterans Recognition Program. The event is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 28, at March Field Air Museum, 22550 Van Buren Blvd., in Riverside.



70 years ago - 1947
Town Crier wound up its first year of publication, written, mimeographed and mailed from the Maxwell home. News was brought right to the front door as the Maxwells did not have a telephone.

65 years ago - 1952
Disaster struck an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. James Bowlin, when their Thomas Mountain cabin burned to the ground. But friends and neighbors quickly rallied to donate shelter, furnishings and clothing. Volunteers turned out to rebuild the couple's home.

60 years ago - 1957
Town Crier real estate ads offered "View Lots, \$200," "Large Wooded Estates, \$1,995," and a "Partly furnished cabin on Strawberry Creek, \$4,500."

55 years ago - 1962
Hill folk were urged to come to the Sabin polio vaccine clinic to get one of those miraculous cubes of sugar.

50 years ago - 1967
Chuck Muir, Hemet High senior, was named football lineman of the week at school.

45 years ago - 1972
The Grey Squirrel, previously a fixture in Fern Valley Corners, moved to



For Halloween 1973, the Parents Club of Idyllwild Elementary School decided to hold the annual carnival outdoors on the school grounds — and it was a happy decision. There was plenty of run-and-play space, plenty of space for game booths and noise didn't matter. Costumes ran the gamut from eerie to adorable, and the judges would have given everybody a prize if there had been enough. The hit of the day was an ingenious haunted house. When receipts were counted, it was found that 500 youngsters had giggled and screamed their way through it. FILE PHOTO

a new building in downtown Idyllwild. Inez Johnson, proprietor, posted an apologetic sign: BPWU-WNFY. Translation: "Be patient with us; we're not finished yet."

40 years ago - 1977
A \$30,000 chlorinator was added to the Fern Valley Water District system. Gill Johnson, general manager, said the chlorine would not affect the water's taste.

35 years ago - 1982
America's Cleanest Forest was a lot cleaner thanks to Desert Sun School students and faculty. They worked together to pick up more than 100 bags of trash on Saunders Meadow Road.

30 years ago - 1987
More than 250 parents turned out for Parents Day at Elliott-Pope and ISOMATA. The activities included a mini-class schedule, performances of

the musical "Cole," and a music and dance recital.

25 years ago - 1992
A Town Crier three-part series examining the Hemet Unified School District showed HUSD in desperate need of funds to build schools for the 40-percent of students being taught in portable classrooms.

20 years ago - 1997
The Hemet Unified School District was debating protecting gay students from discrimination and harassment on campus. When asked their opinion by the Town Crier for the "Town Talk" column, all four interviewees said they supported the idea.

15 years ago - 2002
Almost 400 signatures were collected by The Citizens Committee on Unification in support of the idea of creating one governing body for the three

water districts on the Hill.

10 years ago - 2007
Caltrans began a \$763,000 street-widening project around the dangerous horseshoe curve in Mountain Center on Highway 243 near Highway 74.

•••
Erratic Santa Ana winds punished Hill residents and visitors. Several trees were downed, knocking out power and closing many streets in town.

5 years ago - 2012
At the age of 97, Dot Lewis was recognized for her work as a pilot during World War II. Motivated to become a pilot after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Lewis became one of the few women pilots of her time.

1 year ago - 2016
Idyllwild honored the memory of the five Esperanza firefighters the deadly wildfire took on its 10-year anniversary at the site in Twin Pines.

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Opal and the Secret Code

BY JANIE LANCASTER
AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Introduction: Janie Lancaster grew up in Middletown, New York and now lives in Hemet with her husband Don, her blue-eyed childhood sweetheart. She has two grown children and a granddaughter.

After working as a sign language interpreter for 15 years and a college professor for seven, she set out on a course to fulfill her childhood dream to publish her written works. Her first novel, "Julie & The Lost Fairy Tale," was serialized in newspapers nationwide through Newspapers in Education from 2005 to 2010 and is now available as a book. Visit Janie's website to see her other written works. www.janielancaster.com

Lancaster has recently created another serial story for newspapers — An educational project of historical significance for the deaf community and for children in classrooms. Lancaster's nine-installment story is based on a true story with lesson plans, sign Language graphics, pictures and historical information.

The historical fiction serial will be cherished and valued by the deaf community and add to their true-to-life history as well as promote compassion and understanding in classrooms.

The story is unique because it tells the true story of a deaf girl, Opal Mehigan Fleming, and how in the 1930s, learning American Sign Language opened up a whole new world for her. It shows how her new language made her feel equal to others and not left out in a dark, lonely world.

Opal's resilient spirit enabled her to overcome so much in her lifetime. She became a well-educated, dignified person loved by so many, including the author of Opal's story. For 20 years, she was a teacher's aide at the North Carolina School for the Deaf. She died in 2003.

This year (2017) is the 200th Bicentennial of the first American School for the Deaf. Janie is available to visit classrooms to help motivate kids to write their own stories and build believable characters.

Chapter One: Going on a trip with Pa

I grew up on the Oklahoma prairie in an old log cabin with Pa, Ma and my older brother and sister. We mostly traveled on foot to the nearby town. Once in a while Pa would hitch up our old gray mare to the wagon and we'd visit Ma's relatives afar off.

I always seemed to be in some kind of trouble, without really knowing why. My older brother often had to pull me off one of the other kids during a knockdown drag-out fight. That's how I got kicked out of school. The teacher told Pa I was too much for her to handle even though I was a tiny, scrawny, 7-year-old girl.

All my crying and kicking did me no good. My brother and sister, hand-in-hand, would travel down the dusty narrow path day after day on their way to school. Ma kept a tight grip and a careful eye on me.

But today was different. It was just me and Pa. We made our way down that dusty path hand-in-hand with a carpetbag in hand. I waved goodbye to Ma and my brother and sister. This time there were tears in their eyes as they were left behind. I looked back, smiled at them and skipped alongside Pa. I didn't know where I was going. I was just glad to be going somewhere with Pa.

Pa didn't know how to tell me where we were going because I am deaf. Born that way they say. I never did hear a word—just a loud noise every now and then. It was the



greatest thrill to see lightning, to feel the ground rumble under my feet and every now and then hear the sound of thunder.

Soon we got to town. I saw a big, long train. As we got closer I wondered was Pa taking me on that train? Could it be!

Then we walked right

up the iron steps of that train. I leaped into the air and tapped Pa, pointed to myself, then to Pa, and to the train. Pa laughed and nodded his head. He lifted me up onto the train. There were so many times I had seen the train and begged Pa to let me go for a ride. Now here I was getting on that train. It felt almost too good to be true.

Soon the train rumbled on its way. I pressed my nose against the window and pointed out to Pa every house and every animal I saw along the way. There were so many horses, cows and sheep scattered across the Oklahoma prairie. I'd never seen so many houses and animals in all my life. Not even when Pa took us in the old wagon to visit Ma's relatives afar off.

Pa sat quietly. He looked sad, his mind was somewhere off from the excitement of the ever-changing view. I didn't know what Pa was thinking, just that it must be something important. Maybe even something to worry about. It wouldn't be until almost a year later that I'd understand the story behind us taking this trip together.

Visit her website at: www.JanieLancaster.com Workbook Copyright by Janie Lanca

★ STUDENTS OF THE WEEK ★



Soccer

Town Hall Sports Coordinator **Michael Holato** gave this report on Youth Soccer. Below are the scores, standings and players of the game for Town Hall Youth Soccer. For the 4 to 6 year olds we are only doing player of the game.

Ages 4-6

Idyllwild Shell Bears' **River Fernandes** scored a goal and, along with **Hannah Jang**, played outstanding in goal. Idyllwild Automotive Spinjitsu also played outstanding defense in an exciting close game.

Dominic Rivera-Sandin and **Cade Brown** scored goals for the Village Market Avengers and **Miles Sechrest** added a goal for the Ferro Lightning Bolts in another well-played defensive game.

The Bears' **Jack Taylor** scored a goal in a defensive battle with the Lightning Bolts. **Luke Oliver** of Spinjitsu scored 2 goals in their game with the Avengers. Dominic scored another goal for the Avengers.

Ages 7-9

In one of the closest and most exciting games of the season, Idyllwild Vacation Cabins Idyllwild Star edged the Pacific Slope Tree Company Dragons 2-1. Star goals were scored by **Salvador Solario** and **Oliver Gonzalez** while **Darius Esparza** scored the lone goal by the Dragons.

Idyllwild Garage Assassins, in another close exciting game, defeated the Crazy Train Pub and Grill Goal Busters 1-0 on a goal from the Assassins' **Soren "Gus" Peterson**. **Eduardo Lopez** was outstanding for the Goal Busters.

Finn Carpenter was outstanding in goal for the Goal Busters, keeping the game close in a 2-0 deficit to the Dragons. Darius and **Kail Mock** scored goals for the Dragons.

Idyllwild Star won a thriller in a 2-1 victory over the Assassins. **Emily Brosterhaus** scored the only goal for the Assassins. **Oliver Gonzalez** added another goal to his list of goals for the Star.

Standings	Wins	Losses	Ties
Idyllwild Star	7	1	0
Dragons	6	2	0
Assassins	3	5	0
Goal Busters	0	8	0

Ages 10-14

No games due to sixth-grade winter camp.

Standings	Wins	Losses	Ties
Blue Stars	8	0	0
Wild Cats	0	8	0

Adults

Fox scored a goal in the second half to tie Red Time 2-2 while F.C. Los Huevones scored 11 goals in the second half in a 14-4 win over 503.

Red Time hung on for a 4-3 win over F.C. Los Huevones and the #1 Playoff Seed. Fox edged 503 4-3.

Standings	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
Red Time	4	2	3	11
503	4	4	1	9
Fox	3	3	3	9
F.C. Los Huevones	3	5	1	7

Playoffs are Wednesday, Oct. 25, with F.C. Los Huevones vs. Red Time and Fox vs. 503. The championship is Wednesday, Nov. 1, with time to be decided.



Idyllwild School fifth-grade teacher **Michelle Wiesen** chose **Christian Gonzalez** and **Nadia Henry** as students of the week. She chose Christian because he is a huge Chicago Cubs fan, and is always very respectful and helpful in and out of the classroom. He is an all-around great young man. She chose Nadia because she always comes to school with a positive attitude and is always ready to learn and work hard. Nadia is also willing to help any friends in need.

PHOTO BY MARSHALL SMITH

The Town Crier's 39th annual

Snow Guessing Contest

An Idyllwild Tradition

Participating Businesses

1. Marge Muir - Muirs Mountain Realty
2. Fairway Market
3. Idyllwild Vacation Cabins
4. Idyllwild Beauty Salon
5. Idyllwild Pharmacy
6. Merkaba
7. Middle Ridge Winery
8. Idyllwild Bake & Brew

Churches & Spiritual Centers Directory of Idyllwild

Calvary Chapel Idyllwild
To Know Jesus Christ & Make Him Known
Meeting at 10 am Sundays at Tahquitz Pines Camp, 55251 S. Circle Drive
Tuesday Bible Study
Pastor Earl Somerville: 714-333-7493

Idyllwild Community Church
54400 N. Circle Dr. 659-2935
Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Celebration: 5th grade & under during worship - Child care available •
Wednesday: Men's Breakfast, 6:15 a.m. - Women's Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church
54525 N. Circle Dr., P.O. Box 1106, Idyllwild, CA
Father Charles E. Miller
Mass Schedule: Tues.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.; Sat. 4 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m. + 10 a.m.;
Confession: Sat. 3:30 p.m. or by appt. 659-2708

Shiloh Christian Ministries
~ FULL GOSPEL ~
54295 Village Center Dr.
Pastors Wayne & LaDonna Slemo 659-2416
Sunday Worship 10 am - Thurs. - Bible Study 6 pm
Shiloh Christian Ministries announces the opening of their "Healing Prayer Room" on Dec. 3.

Idyllwild Center for Spiritual Living
54240 Ridgeview Dr., Ste. 104 (Courtyard Building)
659-3464
Classes - Weddings - Memorials
Sunday service, 10:00 a.m.

St. Hugh's Episcopal Church
An Anglican House of Prayer for all people
Rev. Daniel Rondeau • Sunday Service, 10:00 am
1st and 3rd Wednesday Service, 10:00 am
25525 Tahquitz Dr. (in Fern Valley off South Circle Dr.)
Phone (951) 659-4471

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