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MLS

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Call me!

Log Cabin Office**NEWS****Fern Valley Water update**

District to hold special meeting to replace Clark

...PAGE A2

**Watch out for deer**

Deer and vehicle collide, again

...PAGE A3

Health Insurance

Don't count on lower insurance costs for next year

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Recycling

Idyllwild Transfer Station has recycling options

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RCOE grant

HUSD receives hundreds of mobile hot spots

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ON THE TOWN**Idylogy**

Restaurant reopens under new ownership

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Member Supported

Idyllwild Town Crier

Idyllwild's Only Newspaper

ALMOST ALL THE NEWS — PART OF THE TIME ... ONLINE ALL THE TIME @ IDYLLWILD TOWN CRIER.COM

VOL. 75 NO. 39

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS., SEPT. 24, 2020



Thanks to the generous efforts of **Tee Ness**, president of Hawthorne Cat, and **Greg Vena**, director of sales and rentals at Hawthorne Cat, and an anonymous donor, Living Free Animal Sanctuary and War Horse Creek received a John Deere tractor and a 4-seater Polaris on Sept. 16. Delivery was accompanied by **Steve Rich**, sales at Hawthorne Cat. Living Free Animal Sanctuary and War Horse Creek occupies 154 acres. This equipment is critical to help with the care and feeding of the animals and fire abatement. Featured in the photo are **Tom Hawthorne**, founder of Hawthorne Cat, **Melody Sussan**, executive assistant at Hawthorne Cat, **Randall Harris**, president of Living Free Animal Sanctuary and War Horse Creek, **Ray Barmore**, equine manager, and **Amara Wilson**, War Horse Creek.

PHOTO BY MELISSA DIAZ HERNANDEZ

Caltrans' culvert work update:

The culvert work projects on highways 243 and 74 are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020, weather permitting.

There will be flagging with one-way traffic control between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. If you experience delays that exceed 30 minutes or if you have questions or concerns, contact public affairs at 909-383-4631.

Active searching continues for missing persons

BY JENNY KIRCHNER
REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Four people are still officially listed as missing through the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (RCSD).

"At this time, there is no update available on our missing persons," Correctional Sergeant Deanna Pecoraro responded Friday morning after the newspaper asked if there were any updates. "We are still asking for the public's assistance in locating them."

On Sept. 10, a RCSD SUV was spotted hauling an off-road vehicle on Highway 243 near Saunders Meadow Road. The Town Crier inquired about why the deputies were in the area.

"The SUV may have been in the area for training and/or some type of search," Pecoraro responded. "We do not have the specifics of where they may have been or why as there was no incident in the area that was requesting the SUV during that timeframe."

Due to that response, Captain Leonard Purvis from the Hemet Sheriff's Station was contacted via email to see what information he could provide.

"They were conducting follow-up searches for Melissa Lane," Purvis wrote.

While it was unclear exactly where on the mountain deputies were searching for Lane, Purvis did confirm that the search didn't provide any further evidence regarding Lane's disappearance.

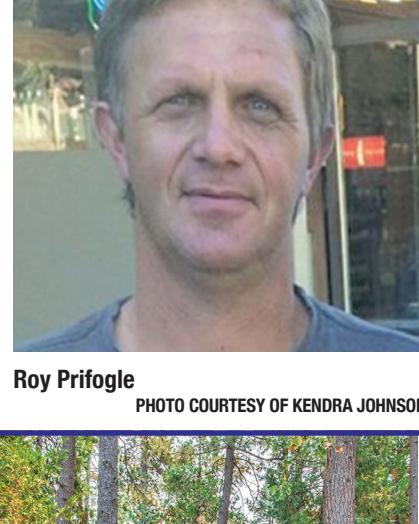
Melissa Lane, 41, was last seen June 15, according to a poster on display in the Mountain Room at Café Aroma.

See Missing persons, page A6



Melissa Lane, 41, was last seen June 15.

PHOTO BY HALIE WILSON



Roy Prifogle

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRA JOHNSON

Idyllwild Town Crier

ROBIN OATES
REAL ESTATE INC.
www.idyhomes.com

Robin Oates Broker/Owner
CalBRE# 00591170

(951) 236-7636
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**MID CENTURY STYLE**

With a tranquil setting on a usable double lot measuring .35 acre, this 1958 home has some mid century/Frank Lloyd Wright character just waiting for someone to take it to the next level. Single level, spacious open living, kitchen and dining, fireplace, roomy one bedroom, one bath, plus large, partially finished studio room. \$289,000

**McCall Fire****shuts down****Highway 74**

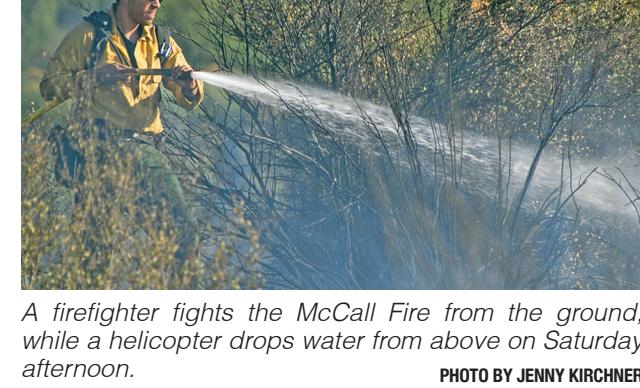
BY JENNY KIRCHNER
REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

According to San Bernardino National Forest Public Affairs Officer Zach Behrens, the McCall Fire broke out Saturday at 4:23 p.m. The fire started 1 mile west of McCall Park Road and Highway 74.

Crews from the U.S. Forest Service, Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire and Idyllwild Fire Protection District responded quickly to extinguish the blaze. By the time crews arrived on scene, the fire was on both sides of the highway.

Crews battled the fire on the ground and by air, quickly containing the brush fire before destroying any buildings.

See McCall Fire, page A3



A firefighter fights the McCall Fire from the ground, while a helicopter drops water from above on Saturday afternoon.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATE:**Cases continue to slow, county moves to red tier**

BY MELISSA DIAZ HERNANDEZ
EDITOR

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors were voting Tuesday on whether or not to approve Supervisor Jeff Hewitt's proposal to reopen the county completely in three weeks. The newspaper had to go to press prior to the vote. However, the county moved from purple to red Tuesday in the state's tier system.

As of press time, there are still a total of 22 reported COVID-19 cases since the outbreak and one death reported for the area of Idyllwild-Pine Cove, according to the Riverside University Health System – Public Health (RUHS) website.

Twenty-one of the 22 people have recovered.

As of press time on Sept. 22, Riverside County has 57,482 confirmed COVID-19 cases. There are 1,172 deaths related to COVID-19 and 52,776 people have recovered. There are 146 individuals being hospitalized and of those 42 are in the intensive care unit (ICU).

As of press time on Sept. 15, Riverside County had 55,986 confirmed COVID-19 cases. There were 1,125 deaths related to COVID-19 and 51,032 people had recovered. There were 155 individuals being hospitalized and of those 49 were in the ICU.

As of press time on Sept. 9, Riverside County

See COVID, page A2

COVID*Continued from A1*

ty had 54,735 confirmed COVID-19 cases. There were 1,085 deaths related to COVID-19 and 48,761 people had recovered. There were 185 individuals being hospitalized and of those 62 were in the ICU.

To date, 616,470 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Riverside County, according to RUHS. The age range with the most confirmed cases is 18- to 39-year-olds. The two demographics with the highest number of cases are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latino.

The county is urging residents and visitors to cover their face, keep 6 feet of distance and wash their hands.

Riverside County announced a COVID-19 business grant program. The \$10,000-grant for small businesses (less than 50 employees) is first-come first-served basis. Applications are available

at www.RivCoBizHelp.org and will be accepted beginning Sept. 16 through 5 p.m. on Oct. 30. Funds may be used for payroll/employee retention, working capital, purchase of personal protective equipment, rent or mortgage payments and paying vendor invoices.

Previously, the Riverside County board of supervisors unanimously approved using \$4 million in CARES Act funding for the Pathways to Employment program which will recruit 500 unemployed adults impacted by the pandemic to receive work training and mentoring.

Participants will receive a stipend of \$20 per hour, training and mentoring from nonprofit and government partners and supportive services including transportation, clothing, counseling and technological assistance.

For more information, please call the Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions department at 951-955-1161.

FVWD to hold special meeting to replace Clark**Board approves 4/10 workweek and purchase of stand-by generator**

BY MELISSA DIAZ HERNANDEZ
EDITOR

Three individuals have submitted applications to fill the vacancy left by Fern Valley Water District (FVWD) Director Trischa Clark. The board will have a special meeting at 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12 to interview and select Clark's replacement before the district's next regular board meeting Oct. 16. The final day to submit an application for those interested in filling Clark's vacancy is Oct. 9.

The board of directors approved keeping a 4/10 work schedule. Director James Rees was the lone no vote.

One of the directors commented that there are no vehicles in the district's office parking lot some Fridays and Mondays and asked how the district handles the of-

fice when no one is at the office.

General Manager Victor Jimenez responded "It is the same as a Saturday or Sunday. Those days are not operating hours. It has not been a problem and the schedule is actually more effective because staff is here longer hours." The district, according to Jimenez, tends to see issues arise in the evening or early morning. Staff has gone out as a courtesy to assist customers with thawing frozen pipes, especially those new to the mountain, and get the roads to district facilities plowed early so the roads are cleared before the majority of roadway activity.

"We have been doing 4/10 work-hours for 15 months and it is working well," said Jimenez.

The board unanimously approved the purchase of a stand-by generator from Northern Tool + Equipment for \$5,576.14. The item, presented at last

See FVWD, page A6

COVID-19 updates & resources

COVID-19 testing

COVID-19 testing is available for those with or without symptoms. Testing is free and available for everyone.

Residents can visit www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus/testing to schedule an appointment online or call 800-945-6171 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. to make an appointment over the phone for drive-up testing. Looking for a shorter wait time when calling to make an appointment? The county suggests calling between the hours of 5 and 10 p.m.

State testing sites are also operational in Riverside County. To make an appointment, visit <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or call 888-634-1123.

Fern Creek Medical Center in Idyllwild offers a COVID-19 antibody test.

Schools update

The Hemet Unified School District (HUSD) began the school year Aug. 17 fully online. Idyllwild Arts Academy (IAA) students began their 2020/21 school year Aug. 31 with distance learning.

IAA students will be able to return to campus Oct. 1. Dr. Cameron Kaiser, the county's public health officer, said "They are authorized to allow

students back as a hotel as a boarding school, not for in-person instruction." IAA staff hopes that in-person instruction can begin by the time students return Oct. 1. The county must move from purple to red on the governor's new tier system.

Riverside County public and private schools, kindergarten through sixth grade, may apply for a waiver to conduct in-person education, the county announced Friday, Aug. 21. Once a county is in the red tier for at least two weeks, schools can reopen without a waiver.

HUSD had a study session Sept. 22 to seek direction on the waiver. The newspaper will report on the Sept. 22 meeting in the Oct. 1 edition.

HUSD provides mobile hot spots. However, it realized that was not always adequate in the areas of Anza and Idyllwild. In response, the district stationed two buses that distribute a WiFi signal — one at Idyllwild Community Playground and the other at Camp Maranatha — from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. HUSD partnered with the Anza Community Center to bring internet access to students.

Reopening

Gov. Gavin Newsom outlined a color-coded, tiered system that will use two metrics to measure the coronavirus: spread rate and test positivity percentage.

The tiers are designated by four colors: purple (widespread), red (substantial), orange (moderate) and yellow (minimal with the lowest restrictions).

Counties must remain at each tier for a minimum of 21 days. The metrics will be tracked at www.COVID19.ca.gov. Riverside County moved to the red tier on Sept. 22. However, the newspaper had to go to press prior to the details from the Board of Supervisors vote on Supervisor Jeff Hewitt's proposal to reopen the county. Details will be made available online when we have them.

For more information on state guidance, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>. Visit www.RivCoBiz.org for modifications and other measures encouraged by the county to keep employees, customers and clients safe.

Cooling center

Riverside County opened cooling

centers on June 1 with modifications to accommodate coronavirus safety guidelines. For a list of cooling center locations, visit www.capriverside.org.

Food assistance

For those needing to connect with food resources, visit <https://rivcoph.org/coronavirus> and select "Food Access" at the top right for a county map directing you to food pantries, senior and school meals.

HUSD serves students supper, lunch and breakfast at no charge for students enrolled at Hamilton School, Hamilton High School, Idyllwild School, Academy of Innovation and Hemet High. Meal kits are distributed Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4 p.m. and will contain breakfast, lunch and supper for three days.

Behavioral health

For those in need of behavioral health assistance, you may utilize a computer and smartphone app called TakeMyHand.co. You may also contact 2-1-1 or call the behavioral health CARES line at 800-706-7500. A 24/7 free, confidential crisis or suicide intervention service can be reached at 951-686-HELP (4357).

Local entities update:

Art Walk & Wine Tasting: The event has been canceled.

Fern Valley Water District: The office is still closed to the public.

Idyllwild Area Historical Society: This year's Home Tour is canceled, and the museum remains closed.

Idyllwild Community Center: ICC has closed all of its programs (including sports, senior fitness and child care) for the time being. The food distribution program is still occurring. The Farmers Market is back Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside at Town Hall, 25925 Cedar Street.

Idyllwild Fire Protection District: The front office is open by appointment only.

Idyllwild HELP Center and Thrift store: Check their Facebook page for update dates.

Idyllwild Library: The library is open for express service only. The express service hours for Idyllwild Library are Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon. All online services are still up and running. Staff are available for Live Chat or Ask a Librarian reference from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday through the Riverside County Library System website at <http://www.rivlib.info>.

Idyllwild Pharmacy: The pharmacy is open. A face mask is required. Check the Idyllwild Pharmacy Facebook page for updates on hours.

Idyllwild Shuttle: The current schedule is as follows: Door-to-door service from Pine Cove to Mountain Center is provided Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call the day you need a ride.

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Riverside County offices: Visit county department websites or call for updates on how to complete requests online, over the phone or through the mail.

State parks: Visit www.parks.ca.gov / FlattenTheCurve for updated information.

days. To get transportation to the food share at Mountain Center on Thursdays, meet at the HELP Center at noon. Reservations are required. Call 951-426-9688 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you are utilizing the shuttle, a face mask and hand sanitation is required. Off-Hill transportation is for medical appointments only.

Idyllwild Songwriter Festival: The festival, originally scheduled for Sept. 25 to 27, has been canceled.

Idyllwild Town Crier: The office is open to the public by telephone only. For advertising information, contact Lisa Streeter (lisa@towncrier.com) or Mandy Johnson (mandy@towncrier.com) and for editorial questions contact Melissa Diaz Hernandez (melissa@towncrier.com). Newspapers will be available to purchase in front of the new Town Crier office at 54391 Village Center Drive Suite #5, Idyllwild Pharmacy, Mountain Center and Pine Cove markets and at Village and Fairway markets, Mountain Top Liquor, the Idyllwild Chevron and Shell stations, and Lake Hemet Market.

Idyllwild Water District: The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pine Cove Water District: The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. A mask is required.

Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival: This was scheduled for Feb. 12 to 21, 2021, and has been canceled.

Riverside County offices: Visit county department websites or call for updates on how to complete requests online, over the phone or through the mail.

State parks: Visit www.parks.ca.gov / FlattenTheCurve for updated information.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE COVID-19 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

NEW
ELIGIBILITY

**\$10,000 GRANTS**

Apply at www.RivCoBizHelp.org

Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications will be accepted beginning on September 16th until October 30th at 5pm.

ELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

- ✓ NEW - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Recipients (\$75,000 or less)
- ✓ Located in Riverside County: if within a city must have a current business license/registration
- ✓ Private For-Profit
- ✓ Small businesses with less than 50 employees
- ✓ Sole Proprietors that do not have employees
- ✓ Businesses that received the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan or advance
- ✓ Must have experienced a financial hardship as a result of COVID-19
- ✓ Operating for a minimum of one-year as of March 1, 2020

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES
BIZINFO@RIVCO.ORG



VISIT WWW.RIVCOBIZHELP.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

IMAGE COURTESY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service

Wednesday 9/23



80/63

Sunny

Sunday 9/27



84/68

Sunny

Thursday 9/24



81/63

Sunny

Friday 9/25



79/62

Sunny

Saturday 9/26



82/66

Sunny

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

Idyllwild this year

Date	High	Low	M	S
09/15	85	53	0.00	x
09/16	87	52	0.00	x
09/17	90	53	0.00	x
09/18	87	57	0.00	x
09/19	84	53	0.00	x
09/20	85	53	0.00	x
09/21	84	54	0.00	x

Idyllwild last year

Date	High	Low	M	S

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McCall Fire

Continued from A1

"The firefighters did a great job stopping the fire and not letting it get larger," Behrens said Saturday. "They've been stretched thin working the Snow Fire, the El Dorado Fire and a fire in Redlands earlier today."

As of 6:45 p.m. Saturday, the fire was one-and-a-half acres and 50% contained. The forward rate of spread of the fire had stopped and crews were on scene until the fire was completely extinguished later that evening. Highway 74, which was closed when the fire broke out, reopened by 8 p.m.

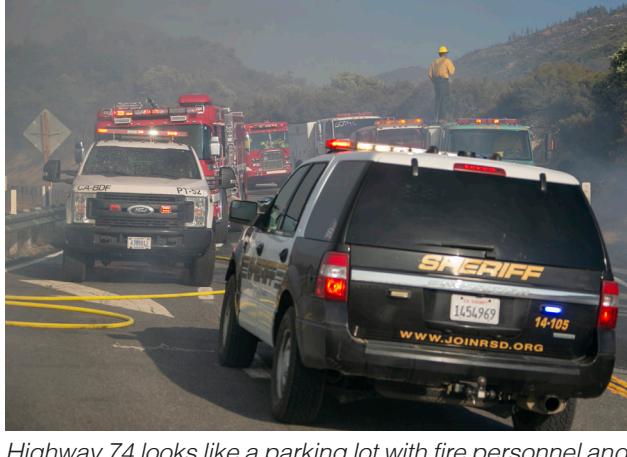
The California Highway Patrol, Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Caltrans assisted with traffic control.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.



A fixed-wing plane drops fire retardant across Highway 74 during the McCall Fire.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER



Highway 74 looks like a parking lot with fire personnel and hoses as they fight the McCall Fire.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER



Old Glory flying at half-staff during a vigil Sunday remembering Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

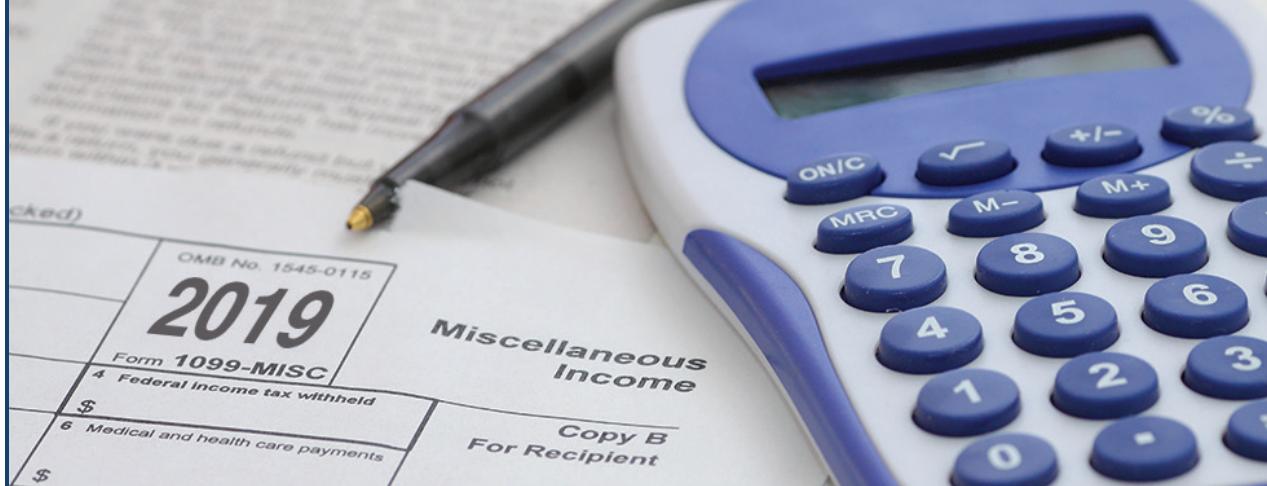
Deer and vehicle collide, again

BY JENNY KIRCHNER
REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

A traffic collision over the last week involved a deer, according to California Highway Patrol Public Information Officer Matt Napier.

On Sept. 20 at 5:29 a.m., Peter Lynn Swirsky, 35 of Hemet, was driving a Riverside County Sheriff patrol vehicle (2011 Ford Crown Victoria) at 55 mph westbound on Highway 74 just east of Keen Camp Road.

A deer crossed the highway in front of Swirsky. His patrol vehicle collided with the deer. He suffered no injuries. The patrol car was driven from the scene. The fate of the deer is unknown.



IT'S CRUNCH TIME

This is a reminder that the final deadline for 2019 taxes if you filed for an extention is

Oct. 15th, 2020

Schedule your appointment:

866.472.7669 ext. 3 call or text

taxes@pamperedbysam.com

We'll Take It From Here

*Returns accepted after Oct. 1st will be subject to additional filing fees

Labor Day Savings ALL Month Long



0% APR
FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS

90 DAYS
NO PAYMENTS

Fantastic Savings Celebrating 13 Years in Temecula

\$500 Active Military Rebate - \$750 Mazda Owner & Lease Loyalty, No First Month Lease Payment
Limitations Apply. (OAC. See Hine for Details. Offers expire 9/30/20.)

2020 MAZDA3 SEDAN



FINANCING AS LOW AS
0% APR up to 60 months
No payments for 90 Days
And \$500 APR Cash

OR
36 MONTH LEASE

\$99 per month

\$2,995 due at signing
PLUS We'll make your first payment
(Up to \$500)

2020 MAZDA CX30



FINANCING AS LOW AS
0% APR up to 60 months
No payments for 90 Days

OR
36 MONTH LEASE

\$139 per month

\$4,995 due at signing
PLUS We'll make your first payment
(Up to \$500)

2020 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT



FINANCING AS LOW AS
0% APR up to 60 months
No payments for 90 Days
And \$500 APR Cash

OR
36 MONTH LEASE

\$189 per month

\$4,495 due at signing
PLUS We'll make your first payment
(Up to \$500)

2020 MAZDA CX-9 SPORT



FINANCING AS LOW AS
0% APR up to 60 months
No payments for 90 Days
And \$1,000 APR Cash

OR
36 MONTH LEASE

\$189 per month

\$4,995 due at signing
PLUS We'll make your first payment
(Up to \$500)

Stock #16732. All 2020 Mazda3 Sedan FWD with MSRP \$22,445. Payment based on Cap Cost of \$20,470 after \$1,690 Mazda lease support. Less any additional rebates you may qualify for. Total lease payments of \$3,564. Finance offers in lieu of some, but no all, customer rebates & discounts. Leasee responsible for excess miles over 10k miles per year at 15 cents per mile. Includes \$650 acquisition fee. No security deposit. Plus 1st month payment, tax, title and fees. In lieu of finance offers. Specials must be financed and leased thru Mazda Financial Services. Dealer participation required. Based on residency and other factors. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest rates or payments. Must be taken from dealer's inventory by 9/30/20. See dealer for complete details.

Stock #16824. All 2020 Mazda CX30 FWD with MSRP \$23,025. Payment based on Cap Cost of \$23,025. Less any additional rebates you may qualify for. Total lease payments of \$5,004. Finance offers in lieu of some, but no all, customer rebates & discounts. Leasee responsible for excess miles over 10k miles per year at 15 cents per mile. Includes \$650 acquisition fee. No security deposit. Plus 1st month payment, tax, title and fees. In lieu of finance offers. Specials must be financed and leased thru Mazda Financial Services. Dealer participation required. Based on residency and other factors. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest rates or payments. Must be taken from dealer's inventory by 9/30/20. See dealer for complete details.

Stock #16772. All 2020 Mazda CX-9 Sport FWD with MSRP \$34,990. Payment based on Cap Cost of \$32,594 after \$4200 Mazda Customer Lease Support. Less any additional rebates you may qualify for. Total lease payments of \$6,804. Finance offers in lieu of some, but no all, customer rebates & discounts. Leasee responsible for excess miles over 10k miles per year at 15 cents per mile. Includes \$650 acquisition fee. No security deposit. Plus 1st month payment, tax, title and fees. In lieu of finance offers. Specials must be financed and leased thru Mazda Financial Services. Dealer participation required. Based on residency and other factors. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest rates or payments. Must be taken from dealer's inventory by 9/30/20. See dealer for complete details.

JOHN HINE TEMECULA MAZDA
42050 DLR DR AT YNEZ ROAD, TEMECULA AUTO MALL
(951) 553-2000

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 by e-mail to melissa@towncrier.com and must include "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.
- The deadline is 10 a.m. Monday.

IWD issues

DEAREDITOR

As a part-time resident of the Hill, I have been amazed at the issues plaguing the various service districts over the past several years. These are small communities and small service districts manned by a small number of employees — most of them dedicated to serving their community.

The latest fiasco with Idyllwild Water District is a case in point. Two general managers sepa-

Residents should get a board with a spine willing to take appropriate action and save the taxpayers a huge amount of money better used to provide service to the community and improving infrastructure instead of fighting employee lawsuits.

rate from the district citing similar issues with the same person or persons. Employees resign and/or complain of harassment by the same person or persons responsible for the managers leaving.

When will the board wake up and realize who the common denominator is? Residents should get a board with a spine willing to take appropriate action and save the taxpayers a huge amount of money better used to provide service to the community and improving infrastructure instead of fighting employee lawsuits.

Thank you, Town Crier for keeping us informed about the presence of managers and board members who lack moral character and put themselves before and above the people they are supposed to serve.

Al Bates
Pine Cove and San Diego

Suicide prevention

DEAREDITOR

September is Suicide Prevention Month and it's important that we are there for each other and take steps to prevent suicide. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's theme for the month is to #KeepGoing, by taking simple actions to safeguard our mental health and save lives. From learning the warning signs for suicide and what to do if you

are worried someone is struggling, to bringing education programs to your community, we can all learn new ways to help each other save lives.

One action I'm taking is to urge my public officials to

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's theme for the month is to #KeepGoing, by taking simple actions to safeguard our mental health and save lives.

prioritize suicide prevention and mental health. When someone is in acute crisis, it's hard for them to think clearly, and even reaching out for help can be a struggle.

For this reason, it is vital that Congress pass the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act (H.R.4194/S.2661) to make a three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline a reality. This legislation will provide the funding and resources needed by crisis centers across the country that support those struggling with their mental health and thoughts of suicide.

In this time of uncertainty, we all need to find new ways to connect and support each other. Together, we #KeepGoing.

Elionai Guzman
Riverside

Don't count on lower insurance costs for next year

BY TRUDY LIEBERMAN
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS SERVICE

Steve Schneider owns a digital marketing agency in Indiana where he insures six people on the company's health insurance plan — two employees and their dependents — for about \$37,000 a year. He says it's an "ultra-high" deductible plan that requires each family to pay the first of the year's \$12,100 in medical costs out of their own pockets and charges totaling \$6,050 for each family member before the insurance plan pays.

That's hardly insurance, but that is the norm. "Every year," Schneider told me, "it's how much can we offer and how much can employees pay? How high can I push the deductible to lower the premium?"

Schneider is one of thousands of small-business owners who are making that same calculation this fall. In Stowe, Vermont, Jen Kimmich runs a craft brewery and wonders how long she can continue to pay a large share of the costs to insure her 42 employees.

She provides full coverage for all her employees even if they work as few as 10 hours a week. "They deserve it," Kimmich says, "but it's expensive and we don't know how much longer we can keep paying for it."

Why is insurance going to cost so much again this year? Keep in mind that the out-of-pocket costs consumers pay in the form of high deductibles, copays and coinsurance are just as important as the premiums in determining the total cost of your insurance.

Cost sharing is simply another way to make consumers pay more for their coverage.

But why is insurance still so expensive

"They are sitting on large rainy-day funds, which were built up by high prices over the years. COVID put a wrench into some of their plans to expand and expansion is good for hospitals. They are crying poverty but are paying consultants and lawyers millions of dollars to complete acquisitions." — Bob Herman

when the news media is full of stories about how Americans have stopped going to the doctor and avoiding medical services, either out of fear of contracting the coronavirus or fear of racking up high medical bills they would struggle to pay?

Don't fewer services mean less demand that would prompt doctors, hospitals and other providers of medical care to reduce their prices as a way to attract patients? That's the way it works with other goods and services.

Don't bet on it, says Dr. David Blumenthal, president of The Commonwealth Fund, a philanthropic organization in New York City. "The reduction in insurers' costs from reduced use of routine services will be much greater than the cost increases associated with care of COVID-19 patients. That means companies have realized substantial short-term profits."

Blumenthal added, "Consumers shouldn't assume they will get the benefit of the doubt. If there's any doubt about how much the use of care will go up, insurance companies will assume the worst. That's what investors want."

The companies have market power. Although insurance actuaries, the ones who crunch the numbers, say there is plenty of pressure from employers to keep premi-

ums low, insurers have enough clout to raise deductibles, copays and coinsurance. That places the burden on those who get sick.

Hospitals, which account for about one-third of U.S. health care spending, also have market clout. Bob Herman, a journalist who covers the hospital industry for Axios, told me, "The public safety net and rural hospitals haven't been doing great and have been neglected for years. On the other hand, he says, "It's a different story with the big, urban hospital systems."

"They are sitting on large rainy-day funds, which were built up by high prices over the years," he explained. "COVID put a wrench into some of their plans to expand and expansion is good for hospitals. They are crying poverty but are paying consultants and lawyers millions of dollars to complete acquisitions."

Many hospitals have begun costly advertising campaigns to drum up business. As that business returns, prices for hospital services are not likely to drop.

Dr. Sandeep Jauhar, a cardiologist at Northwell Health in New York, says hospitals in the state argue, "We need to ramp up care." He added, "Some departments are being told to not only resume care at pre-pandemic levels but to boost volume



Trudy Lieberman

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUDY LIEBERMAN

of care to make up for financial losses." In other words, they are being told to drum up business and in many cases they have enough market power to keep prices high.

While medical experts urge people not to delay needed care, it's important to remember that Americans often get too much care. "Hundreds of billions of dollars are spent unnecessarily on health care," Jauhar says, and maybe we should reboot in a different way. "Maybe patients don't need as much care as we've been providing."

Even if the number of services performed goes down, I'd wager, the price will continue to go up.

What kind of insurance increases are you expecting? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

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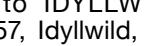
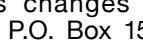
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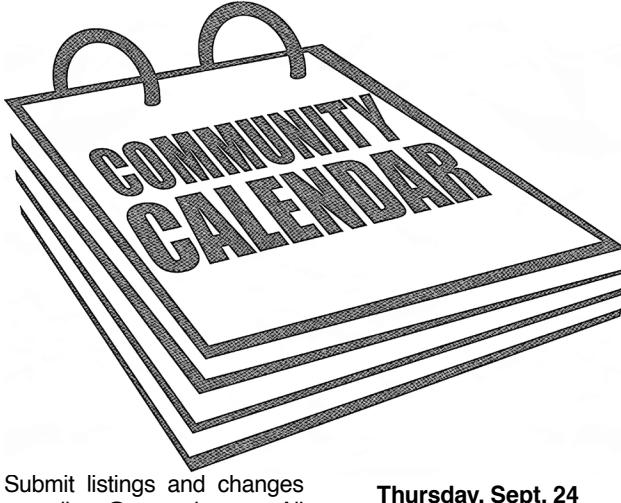
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Submit listings and changes to melissa@towncrier.com. All events are subject to last-minute changes.

Note: Some events, meetings and office hours may be canceled or modified due to precautions being taken to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

- Coed Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Al-Anon weekly Zoom online meeting, 5 p.m. Join meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86652637379>.

Thursday, Sept. 24

- Women's Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Feeding America, 1-2 p.m. Calvary Chapel Mountain Center, 29430 Highway 243, Mountain Center.

- Idyllwild Community Meditation, 6 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio, 54445 N. Circle Dr. Call Valerie Kyoshin Velez at 951-659-5750 for information.

Friday, Sept. 25

- Free community Mat Pilates classes, 9 a.m. Call 760-200-5757 for information & directions.
- Women's Writing Group with fellow writers, 2-4 p.m. Spirit

Mountain Retreat. Call 951-659-2523

Saturday, Sept. 26

- Coed Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Household hazardous waste event, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. County Road Yard, 25780 Johnson Rd. next to the Idyllwild Fire Department.

Sunday, Sept. 27

- Coed Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
- Course in Miracles discussion, 11 a.m. Call Karin at 951-973-8651 for location.

Monday, Sept. 28

- Women's Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Al-Anon weekly Zoom online meeting, 6:30 p.m. Join meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/411120217pwd=R21lejhwl0RlenRVOGVULz1QVmtGdz09>.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

- Lovingkindness Meditation

Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat. Call 951-659-2523.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

- Coed Pickleball, 9-11 a.m. Idyllwild Pines Camp, 26375 Highway 243.
- Al-Anon weekly Zoom online meeting, 5 p.m. Join meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86652637379>.

Community service hours

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (bark beetle issues), 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Mountain Re-source Center, 25380 Franklin Dr. 951-659-3335.

- Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Wed.-Sun. 951-659-3850.

- Idyllwild Area Historical Museum, 54470 N. Circle Dr., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri., Sat. and Sun. (Mon. holidays) Group tours by app. 951-659-2717.

- Idyllwild HELP Center, 26330 Highway 243, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri. 951-659-2110.

- 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. and Fri.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. 951-659-2300.

Grant funds mobile hot spots for students

By MELISSA DIAZ HERNANDEZ
EDITOR

Hemet Unified School District (HUSD) was one of 19 school districts that received part of the \$10 million in CARES Act funds from the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Foundation's "All For One" campaign.

HUSD received approximately 500 laptops/tablets and 500 mobile hot spots.

The funds were allocated by the board of supervisors to aid in the purchase of tech equipment for the 2020/21 school year. Laptops, tablets and reliable internet access were all things that could be purchased with the funds.

"The 'All For One' campaign was launched exactly for this reason — to provide funds directly to districts to address students' needs related to distance learning," said Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judy D. White. "As schools and districts prepare to offer hybrid and in-person learning over the coming months, elements of distance learning will remain a necessity in socially-distanced classrooms, for completing homework, and to ensure continuity of education if COVID-19 or other emergencies force school closures."

RCOE launched the foundation in May to bridge the digital divide resulting from March's abruptly forced distance learning to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Missing persons

Continued from A1

tain Center area. The Town Crier spoke to Kathy Lamont, Lane's mother, "She was an avid hiker, but didn't have a destination. She was last seen in Pine Cove. I don't know if she's dead or alive."

Rosario Garcia was last seen July 7 wearing a brown shirt and blue jeans at the 26000 block of Katherine Street in Hemet. Garcia is a 73-year-old Hispanic female and it is possible she suffers from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. She is 5' 3" tall and 120 pounds.

Palm Desert deputies from the RCSD were dispatched to the area of 70000 East Highway 74 in Pinyon Pines at 11:46 a.m. July 9 after Garcia's vehicle was found unoccupied. Garcia was not located after a search of the area was conducted.

Earlier in the year, local Roy Prifogle was reported missing after going on a hike in the Pine Cove area Wednesday, March 4. He left home at about 1 p.m. and was last seen at the Pine Cove Market at 6:30 p.m. on the same day. He was last seen wearing a red backpack and jeans.

RCSD Deputy Jeremy Parsons said, "After six full days of searching in between inclement weather, searching 8 to 10 hours per day, Prifogle has not been located. The Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (RMRU), as well as search and rescue volunteers from San Ber-

nardino County, Orange County and San Diego County, were assisting. In total, about 150 people have been searching during those six days." Also adding, "On the second or third day of the search, we found his backpack, but have found no other clues as to his whereabouts."

On Sunday, June 7 at approximately 8:24 a.m., Hemet Station Deputies were dispatched to the 58000 block of Bonita Vista in reference to a missing person. Lydia "Dia" Abrams was placed into the system as a missing person.

Abrams is 65 years old, 5' 5" tall, 130 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes. She was last seen wearing a black and turquoise jack, yellow shirt and blue jeans.

According to RMRU, their team of volunteers was dispatched to Abrams' 160-acre ranch in the Apple Canyon area (between Mountain Center and Garner Valley) June 9. They conducted a search from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with no success of finding Abrams.

RMRU went out again June 10 to search more difficult areas on the property including a creek bed and the hills overlooking her ranch. All assignments were completed by 6 p.m. At that point, detectives took over the investigation and called off the physical ground search.

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Roy Prifogle, Dia Abrams, Rosario Garcia or Melissa Lane, contact the RCSD immediately at 800-950-2444.



Rosario Garcia
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Lydia 'Dia' Abrams
PHOTO COURTESY OF LYDIA 'DIA' ABRAMS

NEWS OF RECORD

Idyllwild Fire

Idyllwild Fire Protection District recently responded to the following calls.

- Sept. 13 — Medical aid, 1:36 p.m. Highway 243.

- Sept. 13 — No incident found on arrival, 7:05 p.m. Saunders Meadow Rd.

- Sept. 13 — No incident found on arrival, 8:30 p.m. Riverside County Playground.

- Sept. 13 — Unauthorized burning, 9 p.m. Highway 243.

- Sept. 14 — Walk-in medical aid, 7:10 p.m.

- Sept. 15 — Dispatched and canceled en route, 9:32 a.m. Temecula Dr.

- Sept. 15 — Explosion - no fire, 3 p.m. Saunders Meadow Rd.

- Sept. 18 — Gas leak, 12:30 p.m. Fern Leaf Dr.

- Sept. 18 — Medical aid, 4:53 p.m. N. Circle Dr.

- Sept. 19 — Medical aid, 10:54 a.m. Scenic Dr.

- Sept. 19 — Brush or brush and grass mixture fire, 4:30 p.m. Highway 74.

- Sept. 19 — Extrication - rescue, 4:30 p.m. Green Craig Dr.

- Sept. 20 — Medical aid, 1:38 p.m. Highway 243.

Cal Fire

Cal Fire recently responded to the following calls by station.

Station 23 - Pine Cove

- Sept. 14 — Traumatic injuries, 3:50 p.m.

- Sept. 15 — Falls - public assist, 2:34 p.m.

- Sept. 15 — Fire - false alarm, 2:57 p.m.

- Sept. 15 — Public assist, 5:30 p.m.

- Sept. 17 — Vegetation fire, 2:38 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Burns, 6:56 a.m.

- Sept. 19 — Falls, 4:18 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Hemorrhage, 6:43 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Fire - false alarm, 7:49 p.m.

Station 30 - Pinyon Pines

- Sept. 16 — Traffic collision with fire, 6:21 p.m.

- Sept. 20 — Sick person, 7:24 p.m.

Station 53 - Garner Valley

- Sept. 15 — Traffic collision, 1:53 a.m.

- Sept. 15 — Sick person, 8:55 a.m.

- Sept. 16 — Assault, 9:23 a.m.

- Sept. 16 — Sick person, 1:27 p.m.

- Sept. 17 — Falls, 7:59 a.m.

- Sept. 17 — Vegetation fire, 2:38 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Burns, 6:56 a.m.

- Sept. 19 — Fire - assist, 4:13 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Inaccessible rescue, 7:08 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Fire - false

Cal Fire

Cal Fire recently responded to the following calls by station.

Station 63 - Poppel Flats

- Sept. 17 — Public assist, 10:02 a.m.

- Sept. 18 — Fire - false alarm, 8:26 a.m.

- Sept. 18 — Fire - false alarm, 2:18 p.m.

- Sept. 19 — Fire - assist, 4:13 p.m.

Sheriff's log

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department Hemet Station responded to the following calls Sunday to Saturday, Sept. 13 to Sept. 19.

Idyllwild

- Sept. 13 — Public disturbance, 12:18 a.m. 24000 block Fern Valley Rd. Handled by deputy.

- Sept. 13 — Fireworks, 7:15 p.m. 26000 block of Highway 243. Handled by deputy.

- Sept. 19 — Fire - assist, 4:13 p.m.

Station 30 - Pinyon Pines

- Sept. 16 — Traffic collision with fire, 6:21 p.m.

- Sept. 20 — Sick person, 7:24 p.m.

Station 53 - Garner Valley

- Sept. 15 — Traffic collision, 1:53 a.m.

- Sept. 15 — Sick person, 8:55 a.m.

- Sept. 16 — Assault, 9:23 a.m.

- Sept. 16 — Sick person, 1:27 p.m.

- Sept. 17 — Falls, 7:59 a.m.

- Sept. 17 — Vegetation fire, 2:



On the Town

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment

B SECTION

Idyology reopens under new ownership

By JENNY KIRCHNER
REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Idyology's location has boasted a creekside restaurant for decades, one of them being The Chart House. This location offers one of the most attractive patio ambiances on the mountain, offering two areas for outdoor dining — the upper deck and the lower patio area next to Strawberry Creek.

Carmel Benson is the new owner of Idyology. She bought the business on Feb. 29, just days before COVID-19 shut down businesses. While that threw a wrench in her plans to open, she finally opened the outdoor dining area Sept. 3, just in time for Labor Day weekend.

Benson is new to the restaurant business and actually comes from a psychology background in corporate America.

Benson is originally from New York. She received her bachelor's degree in French from Columbia University in 1980 even though she always had an interest in psychology.

"I was fascinated by the idea of doing a study of anything that was statistically valid," Benson explained. "So, I went to the University of California, Santa Cruz for my master's in psychology and my doctorate in social/organizational psychology. I finished them in 2001. My dissertation was on leadership style which I apply to everything in my life, including Idyology."

No matter what the circumstances are people always want to feel like their voice is heard. What Benson learned is how people are willing to deal with change when they are able to provide their input from the very beginning.

"Just the fact that they were asked makes them feel validated," Benson explained. "Their input matters. That's why it's so important for my staff and the community to give me their input and ideas of what they want Idyology to be."

Wherever Benson has worked — including companies like Apple and Cisco Systems — she was in charge



A satisfied customer exits from Idyology over the weekend.

of their employee engagement or employee satisfaction programs.

So while she might not have much restaurant experience, she does have the knowledge to create a happy environment for her staff and customers.

"The smallest companies I've worked for have had between 1,500 to 3,500 people and helping them understand and brand the culture they already have," Benson said. "That's essentially the same size as this town. I want to create an ambiance for the town that fits the town and continues to evolve. I've been getting input from locals since I first stepped foot here to help make



The upper deck was full Saturday night as people enjoyed their meals.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER



PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

that a possibility."

Benson found herself burnt out by her 20-year career in corporate America. She needed a change and fell in love with Idyllwild the minute she arrived.

Benson had never even heard of Idyllwild until she came here for a songwriting workshop put on by Brett Perkins back in January. Benson has always loved music and has written and recorded her own songs for years.

"I always thought having a wine bar or restaurant would be fun," Benson acknowledged. "I came here for a songwriting workshop and left with an offer on the property."

See *Idyology*, page B5



The lower deck, complete with beautiful lighting, was also full Saturday night.

PHOTO BY JENNY KIRCHNER

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What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A



B

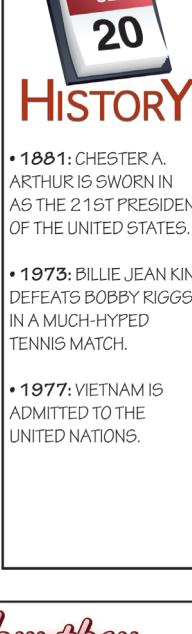


Answers: 1. Girl on left is wearing sunglasses
2. Orange purse has "L" on it
3. Road has lines
4. Girl on right has ponpon on hat



ON THIS DAY IN SEPTEMBER, THE SUN IS DIRECTLY OVER THE EQUATOR AND DAY AND NIGHT ARE OF THE SAME LENGTH.

ANSWER: AUTUMNAL EQUINOX



SHED
allow leaves or fruit to fall to the ground



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GOURD

Library Room at Café Aroma gets a makeover

BY ART ALLIANCE OF IDYLLWILD
CONTRIBUTED

The Art Alliance of Idyllwild (AAI) has a long-standing relationship with Café Aroma, from using the parking area for the Art Walk and Wine Tasting to curating the art on their walls. There are even two of the AAI's painted deer. Café Aroma is also one of the AAI's art hot spots and has been featured in the AAI's Gallery Guide for many years.

Over the years, the red walls in the restaurant's Library Room became harder to patch as previously exhibited art was replaced with newly featured art. The AAI offered to repaint the room's walls with a lighter, brighter color that would better highlight the art.

With an accent wall of sage green, the room looks elegantly serene. Donna Elliot, Neil Jenkins, Cynthia Grady, Rob Padilla and Delphine Bordas composed the painting team who made all this happen on Sept. 17.

CREATURE CORNER

BY JANICE MURASKO

Last week in "Days of Our Nine Lives," ARF cats continued their discussion about effects of heat on animals.

Whiskers: COVID, COVID, COVID! That's all I hear anymore. When will this end?

Sadie: If I had the answer to that, I'd be famous.

Whiskers: It has had such an effect on pets as well as their guardians.

Sadie: I have the feeling many humans who had not had pets decided to get one once this pandemic set in.

Pepper: Why would they do that?

Whiskers: There are lots of reasons. Did you know that a pet in the home can do wonders for the guardian?

Sadie: Yes! I've heard that a human can benefit from having a dog or cat by experiencing decreased blood pressure, cholesterol levels and reducing feelings of loneliness.

Whiskers: Not to mention the increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities.

Pepper: And in this pandemic, outdoor activities are probably the safest.

Whiskers: Don't forget that having a dog or cat can give a sense of purpose to any guardian.

Pepper: Another great benefit is that the human will have a loving being that will be there through thick and thin.

Whiskers: That alone is very valuable.

Pepper: On top of everything else, a pet doesn't care if its guardian is wearing sweat all the time, has bad breath or hasn't had her hair colored or cut in weeks!

Whiskers: Ha! That is so true! And a cat or dog is so very happy to have the guardian at home, regardless of the reason.

Sadie: I think having one of us in the home is a win-win for all involved.

Pepper: I couldn't have said it better.

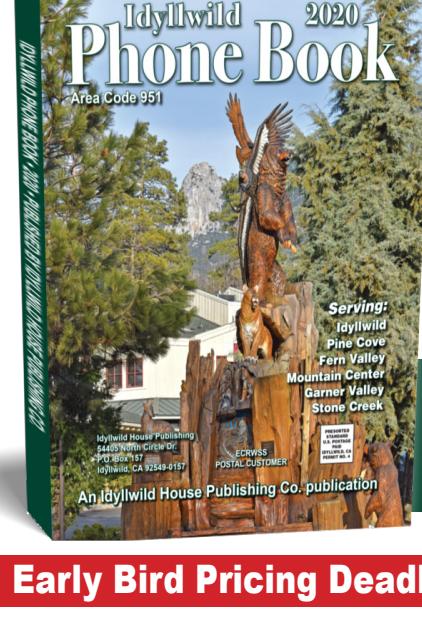
Be sure to keep up with the animal antics of "Days of our Nine Lives" each week. And please stop in to say hello to the entire adoptable cast at the ARF House, 26890 Highway 243 on Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment M-F by calling 951-659-1122.

Creature Corner is sponsored by Carole Herman & Sandi Mathers.

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The 2021 Local Business and Residential Directory for the Idyllwild area is published by the Idyllwild Town Crier.

Currently featured artists at Café Aroma include Neil Jenkins, Charlotte Lerner, Karlis Dabols, Delphine Bordas and Joan Leal Carter.

Jenkins' bold blue acrylic "Rainbow Forest" triptych is the centerpiece of the Library Room. Four of Jenkins' landscape watercolors complete the main wall's exhibition.

Lerner's watercolors adorn the other walls in this room. Her soft style and colors are the epitome of expert watercolor techniques and talent.

A large landscape painting by Dabols provides the finishing touch to this artistic endeavor.

The bold, bright nature photographs of Bordas grace the patio walls and the interior of Café Aroma. Bordas grew up in France and has traveled to and lived in many parts of the world. The California desert is now her home. Of her art, Bordas says, "For the last 20 years, I have had two uninterrupted passions that have been the thread of my life: a love of nature and eagerness to capture it with photography ... My photographs are my own vision of nature's best: a sense of evasion, serenity, warm spirit and excitement."

When you visit Café Aroma, you will also be treated to several paintings by Leal Carter, the founder of Artheals and a traumatic brain injury survivor. Her passion for art through her large murals demonstrates the healing power of artistic expression.

All of the paintings and photographs are for sale at Café Aroma. Visit for art and stay for the excellent food and refreshing drinks.

For more information, contact the AAI at art@idyllwild.org or visit the AAI website at www.artinidyllwild.org.



Neil Jenkins poses with his artwork in the newly painted Library Room at Café Aroma.

PHOTO BY DONNA ELLIOT



The bold, bright nature photographs of Delphine Bordas on the patio walls at Café Aroma.

PHOTO BY DONNA ELLIOT

Idyllwild Service Directory

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

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Quote of the Week

"The subtlety of nature is greater many times over than the subtlety of the senses and understanding."

— Francis Bacon

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CRISISLINE, 683-0829 or 1 (800) 339-7233. Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV) provides information, counseling and shelter services for battered women and their children.

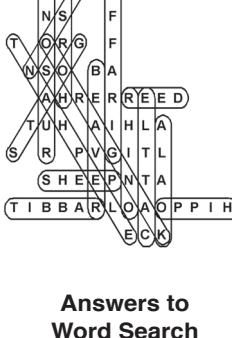
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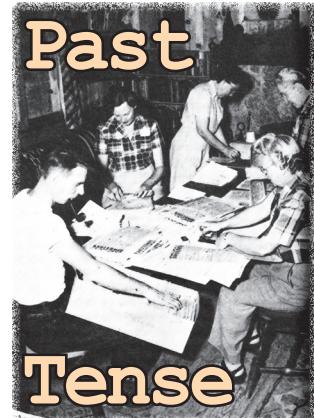
Number of Lines	Each time
Up to 10 lines	\$13.95
Ea. addtl. line, add:	\$1.00

Bold Face: \$1 entire ad or 25¢ each word Center entire ad: \$1

Display Classified Rate Schedule
Includes placement online: www.idyllwildtowncrier.com

2-inch ad (minimum size)	\$18.95
Each additional inch	\$9.45

70 years ago - 1950
Upon completion of the architectural drawings for the workshops and studios of the Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts (now Idyllwild Arts Academy), construction began.



Past
Tense

65 years ago - 1955
After four years of planning for zoning despite continuous opposition, the County Planning Commission adopted a master plan for the mountain area, which eliminated some spot zones that had previously been allowed.

60 years ago - 1960
Fire commissioners passed the responsibility of fire hydrant testing to local water districts following disclosure that the Pacific Fire Underwriters Bureau was unable to perform the tests.

55 years ago - 1965
The first snow fell on the San Jacinto Mountains when an unannounced storm replaced the predicted Santa Ana winds.

50 years ago - 1970
A 10-year effort to transfer the Banning-Idyllwild Highway into the state system was a success. But before the state could accept the 29-mile route, \$160,000 in repairs had to be made by Riverside County.

45 years ago - 1975
Following the Lake Hemet Burn and subsequent heavy rainstorms, mud and black ashes washed onto Highway 74 and created a \$8,000 clean-up job in Garner Valley.

40 years ago - 1980
The Idyllwild Town Hall started featuring activities ranging from acrobatics to batik to chainsaw safety instruction.

35 years ago - 1985
Local resident and writer Gene Thompson, author of television scripts for shows such as the Groucho Marx and Lucille Ball programs, spoke about "The Form of Mystery, and the Mystery of Form" at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library.

30 years ago - 1990
The Idyllwild Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners promoted with pay increases all seven of the district's full-time firefighters.

25 years ago - 1995
With a new \$6,450,000 federal grant in hand, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department pledged to increase sheriff's patrols in the mountain area. "We will be able to reach a goal of one deputy per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas," said Sheriff Larry Smith.

20 years ago - 2000
Idyllwild bike riders were gearing up for the third-annual 24 Hours of Adrenalin Mountain Bike Team Relay Championships, called "the Woodstock of mountain biking."

15 years ago - 2005
The Riverside County Office of Emergency Services had finally received a \$148,875 federal grant to purchase a countywide, early-warning notification system.

10 years ago - 2010
A piece of Idyllwild history was lost in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Sept. 15. A fierce blaze destroyed a Pine Cove log cabin built by Charles "Selden" Belden, the Idyllwild creator of the now highly collectible pinecraft furniture.

5 years ago - 2015
The Idyllwild Shuttle Bus had arrived, funded from a Riverside County Transportation grant and Supervisor Chuck Washington.

1 year ago - 2019
The Town Crier brought on photographer Jenny Kirchner to replace JP Crumrine, who retired in September from the newspaper after 13 years of covering news and all-things on the hill. She would still be taking photos and covering local events. Our long-time readers knew that Jenny was not new to her role.

Idyology

Continued from B1

Benson said with a laugh, "I'm not used to loving being at work so much and my commute went from an hour and a half each way to five minutes."

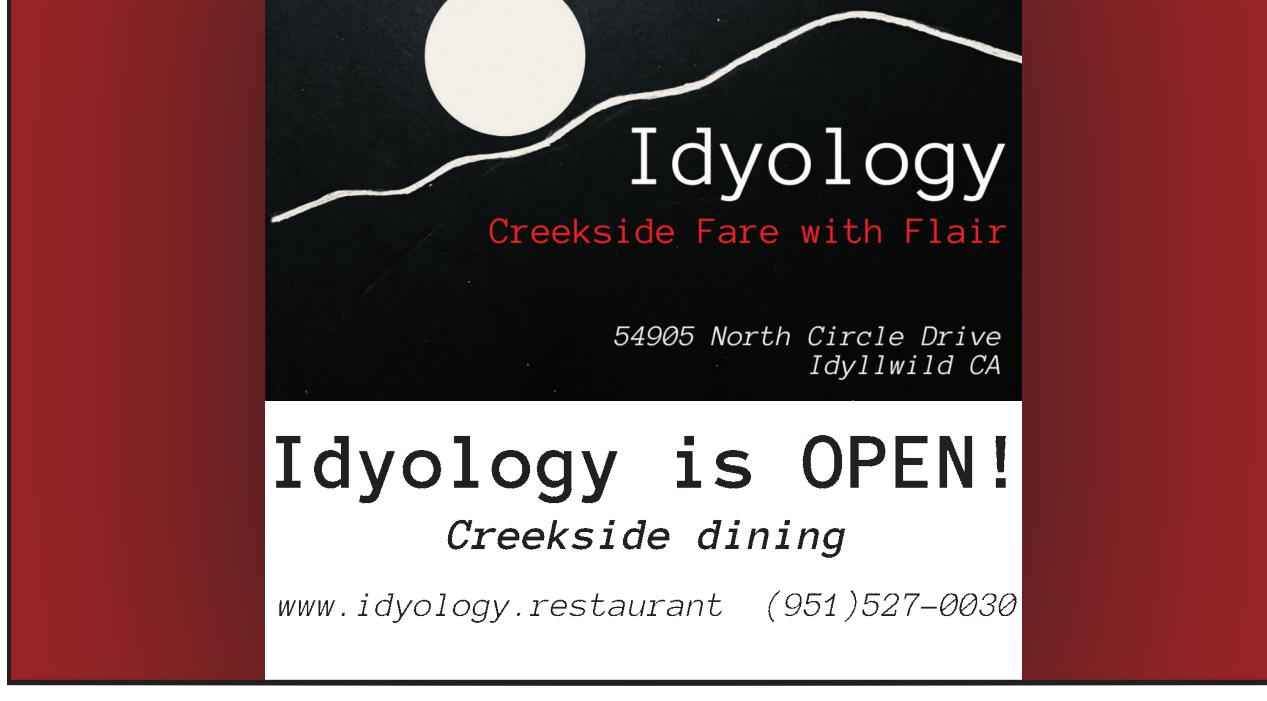
There are a lot of ideas and plans in the works for Idyology, entertainment being a big one. Unfortunately, with the current county and state restrictions due to COVID-19, Benson can't have live music yet.

"Everyone is asking if we are going to do music and the answer is yes," Benson said. "The other thing I want to do is stand-up comedy and maybe movie nights and weddings, parties and reunions. We've already had people asking about holiday parties."

While Idyology has only been open for less than a month, the feedback has been massive. Benson is taking into account all the information she gets to make sure Idyology is an establishment that everyone enjoys.



www.MountainAid.net **951.468.0110**



"The local and broader community has been so supportive," Benson said. "It's been great. Everyone has been really understanding with the glitches and learning curve. We've received comments about how happy the staff is and how happy the customers are."

Benson plans to sell Idyology apparel and possibly work out deals with other local businesses to sell their Idyllwild merchandise. She's going to sell Idyology's most popular sauces for customers to take home.

While Benson's goal is to make sure her staff and customers are happy, she is realistic about how society can be.

"It's not super important that everybody like me, but

I would like people to know I always have good intentions," Benson explained. "Even if I make a mistake, it's always meant from a good place."

Idyology is open for brunch, lunch and dinner. Hours are Thursday and Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Benson hopes to open Wednesdays as a locals' night which would have discounted food and drink deals.

Idyology is looking for servers and kitchen staff. If you're interested, email Benson at info@idyology.restaurant. Idyology is located at 54905 N. Circle Dr.



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HOROSCOPES

September 2020 — Week 4

**March 21 – April 19**

Although practical situations continue to dominate this week, there's time for the Lamb to indulge in the fun things in life -- like maybe taking a special someone out for a great evening.

**April 20 – May 20**

This week favors relationships. Take time to renew old ones, and make time to go where new friends can be found. On a more practical note, expect news about a business deal.

**May 21 – June 21**

You should be seeing some progress on that new workplace situation. Meanwhile, family matters might demand more attention, and you'll want to set aside time to deal with them.

**June 22 – July 22**

A relationship suddenly might present some challenges you never expected. After talking things out, you might want to consider taking some time to assess what you've learned.

**July 23 – August 22**

A disappointing response to a request might dampen the Lion's spirits. But you might want to ask the reasons behind it. What you learn can be of great importance in a future undertaking.

**August 23 – September 22**

A once-volatile situation should be settled by now, giving you a chance to refocus on a project you've been planning for. Look for an interested party to rally to your support.

**September 23 – October 22**

A business matter that unexpectedly turns into a personal situation could create complications. Best to resolve the matter now before too much harm can be done.

**October 23 – November 21**

Emotions can run high when they involve personal matters that no one really wants to talk about. But this could be a good time to create the means to a workable outcome.

**November 22 – December 21**

A positive response to a workplace request could lead the way to other long-sought changes. Congratulations. A personal situation also takes a welcome turn.

**December 22 – January 19**

Patience pays off, as that once-overwhelming work situation continues to become easier to handle on a one-by-one basis. Look for positive news from a colleague.

**January 20 – February 18**

It might be a good idea to take more time to reassess your next move in working out a complex situation. You could benefit from a new perspective on the matter.

**February 19 – March 20**

You might want to consider making time to discuss a change of plans with everyone concerned. Be prepared to explain your actions. Also be prepared to listen to alternatives.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

(Answers on previous page)

BE A MEMBER TODAY! (951) 659-2145

CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous page)

King Crossword**ACROSS**

1 Waller or Domino 39 Raw rock actions
5 " — not choose to run" 40 Boom times 11 Entanglement
8 Stoolie 42 Merry 19 Word after
12 Hardly ruddy 45 This or that, it heave or gung
13 Calendar abbr. 49 Sheltered 21 Finish
14 In due time 50 Possess 24 Night flyer
15 Noble gas 52 Legislation 25 Greek cross
16 Born 53 Factory-fresh 26 Guiltless
17 Loosen 54 Craze 28 Bill and —
18 Cowpoke of 55 Malaria symptom 29 Sly slur
the pampas 56 Automatons, 30 Glimpse
20 Get new for short 57 To and — 31 " — the season
actors 58 Egg part ...
22 Car-pool lane 36 Vinegar bottles
abbr. 37 Coop denizen
23 Profit 38 Off
24 Elevator name 2 Vampire tooth 41 "Life of —"
27 Crucial experiment 2 Cruising 42 Door-frame
32 See 12-Across 3 Grand piece
33 Heavy weight 4 Harmonizes 43 Hodgepodge
34 Mainlander's 5 Start something new 44 Remove, as a
memento 6 Buck's mate cap
35 Midday party 7 Finished 46 "Les
8 Tap 9 From birth Miserables" writer
38 Favorable 10 Affirmative 47 Hebrew month
votes 39 48 Stench
40 51 Simple card game

DOWN

1 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

WORD SEARCH

(Answers on previous page)

MAGIC MAZE ● HERBIVORES

H O L D I F B C Z W T Q N K I
F C Z I E I W E U R P M J H E
C Z X N S U S F Q N L J G C E
C T Z O R G X F V T R P A N L
J H N S O E B A C A Y M W V T
R P N A H R E R R E E D L K I
G E T U H C A I H L A B Z X W
U S S R R P V G I T L P O M L
J I G S H E E P N T A E D B A
Y T I B B A R L O A O P P I H
X W U T S Q P O E C K N L K J

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Beaver
Bison
Cattle
Deer
Dinosaur
Elephant
Giraffe
Goats
Hippo
Horse
Kangaroo
Koala
Rabbit
Rhino
Sheep

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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