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1.5 Bath**

**\$439,900**



**Shane & Ashley Stewart**  
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DRE#01239103 & DRE#01466789

[www.lovethehill.com](http://www.lovethehill.com)  
shane@idyrealty.com  
ashley@ridgewayvision.com

**54400  
MARIAN VIEW DR.**

**3 Bed  
1.75 Bath**

**\$799,000**



MLS# 2009796

## NEWS

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**Member Supported**

# Idyllwild Town Crier

*Idyllwild's Newspaper, Serving the Hill for More Than 75 Years*

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

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**VOL. 77 NO. 15**    **IDYLLWILD, CA**    **APRIL 14, 2022**

# Easter events return to the mountain

By BECKY CLARK  
EDITOR

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Easter traditions return this weekend with the annual egg hunt and services dedicated to Christian religious resurrection beliefs.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 16, the Idyllwild Community Center (ICC) and Riverside County Parks are hosting an Easter egg hunt at the Idyllwild County Park. The address is 54000 Riverside County Playground Road.

Photos with the Easter Bunny begin at 10 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., the Easter egg hunt begins with four age groups. "Every Easter egg found will contain a candy or prize, and each age group area will have one special Golden Easter Egg Ticket that will entitle the finder to a special Easter prize box," said ICC President Stephanie Yost.

The free event includes refreshments. Participants need to bring their own baskets or containers to collect eggs.

The annual Sunrise Service at Inspiration Point returns this year also after a two-year hiatus of non-gathering due to COVID-19. It is from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Sunday, April 17. Bring chairs and warm blankets.

Churches sponsoring the event are Calvary Chapel (10 a.m.), Idyllwild Bible Church (9 and 10:45 a.m.) and Idyllwild Community Church (9:30 a.m.) with their regular service times that day listed in parentheses.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Easter service begins at 10 a.m. with two sister missionaries speaking about the miracles of Easter.

St. Hugh's of Lincoln Episcopal Church begins its Easter celebrations with a Maundy Thursday Eucharist at 5 p.m. April 14, and Good Friday service at noon Friday, April 15. Easter Sunday begins with a breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by Resurrectionist Eucharist at 11 a.m. For church listings, see page B7.



The **Easter Bunny** will attend the Idyllwild Community Center Easter Egg Hunt at Idyllwild County Park next Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ICC

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District will test its emergency siren alert system at 1 p.m. the third Saturday of the month. The test will last 1 minute. In an emergency, you will hear three consecutive 3 minute alerts. Tune into WNKI-AM 1610 to receive information regarding the emergency alert. The following websites will also have information regarding the reason for the alert and action that needs to be taken: [idyllwildfire.com](http://idyllwildfire.com), [fernvalleywater.com](http://fernvalleywater.com) and [mdpidyllwild.org](http://mdpidyllwild.org).

# Idyllwild public restrooms may be coming soon

Idyllwild Community Center (ICC) President Stephanie Yost and Ashley and Shane Stewart of Idyllwild Realty having been working for several months with the office of Riverside County Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington and the Office of Economic Development to address a long-standing community issue: Idyllwild's lack of a public restroom for town visitors.

Numerous business owners and residents have raised this important community issue for many years.

Although the board of supervisors' final funding allocation and authorization is pending, the county is actively reviewing options and plans to provide public restrooms in downtown Idyllwild in support of the mountain communities.

Assuming the project moves forward, the restrooms would be located on a street-fronting easement the Stewarts granted at no cost to the county to their property at 54385 North Circle Drive, immediately in front of Mile Hi Plaza. Regardless of the status of this project, however, the old oak tree that previously stood in this location has been removed due to an infestation by the Goldspotted oak borer.

ICC would manage and maintain the restrooms, which would be a prefabricated permanent building Riverside County would provide and erect, through an annual county contract. The county would be working with the Stewarts (again, at no cost) to manage the installation, sewer and electrical hook-up, as well as other construction-related details. Idyllwild surveyor Lee Arnsen has already donated his services to help prepare the designated property.

The restrooms would be open daily during daylight hours, as well as during major town evening events, such as the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Halloween carnival. Further details of this pending project will be announced as soon as they are made available, according to Yost.



Behind these signs may be new public restrooms soon.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF IDYLLWILD COMMUNITY CENTER

# Governor issues drought emergency order

By JP CRUMRINE  
CORRESPONDENT

California's drought conditions show no sign of abating.

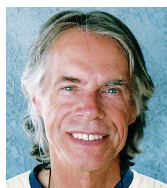
The water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record. All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation. January, February and March 2022 were the driest on record dating back over 100 years. Just 6 inches of precipitation were recorded in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. That is less than half the precipitation accumulated in the first three months of 2013, which had been the driest, the state's water agencies recently reported.

Since July, when the governor asked Californians to conserve water, at least 15% of their water use compared to 2020, the statewide average savings has been 6.2%, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently reported. It was 7.3% in December, but water use increased in January and was only 0.5% savings in February.

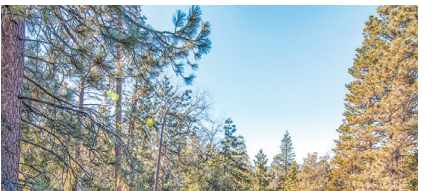
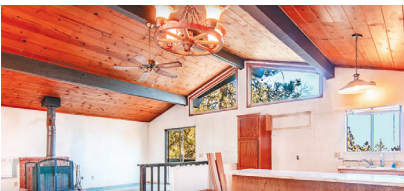
While Gov. Gavin Newsom is not a rainmaker, he still must govern a state in a drought, which weather forecasters expect to worsen. Consequently, on March 28, he issued an Executive Order (EO) asking local water

See Drought, page A2

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## DESIRABLE FERN VALLEY LOCATION

An open beam ceiling, pine paneling and gable end picture windows highlight this 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home offering lots of potential for full or part-time living. With near level access, this home sits back from the street and has ample yard for kids and pets. The open living/dining/kitchen area flows to a balcony deck with westerly views. There is a wood stove, washer and dryer hookups, multi-level decking and free-standing storage shed. Located in a neighborhood of more expensive homes, this fixer upper has loads of potential and is priced to sell. #2009724 **\$399,000**



# COVID-19 LOCAL UPDATE: CDC on COVID vaccines: ‘Most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history’

By JACK CLARK  
CO-PUBLISHER

As of April 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s current seven-day national moving average of daily new COVID cases was 25,596, which is a 4.9% increase over the previous seven-day moving average. The Omicron variants now account for virtually all new cases in the U.S., and a total of 80,111,065 COVID-19 cases and 981,197 COVID-19 deaths have been reported in the U.S.

Nonetheless, CDC reports the U.S. has made "tremendous progress" in the fight against COVID-19 with cases, hospitalizations and deaths declining across the country and with millions at much lower risk of serious sickness from COVID — but it still warns of ongoing community transmission.

CDC reports that vaccination rates among children ages 5 to 11 years remain low, which leaves them more vulnerable to serious disease. While children face a lower risk of contracting severe COVID, they can still become seriously ill, the CDC warns, saying "there is no way to tell in advance which a child will get a mild or severe case." According to CDC, "COVID-19 vaccines have undergone — and continue to undergo — the "most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history." CDC urges people to talk with their healthcare provider about COVID vaccination.

CDC continues to rate Riverside County's "community level" as "Low." People in all community levels are recommended to stay up to date with their vaccines, and to get tested if they have symptoms.

## Drought

Continued from A1

agencies to recognize the drought's threats and, therefore, to take more actions to conserve water supplies.

Newsom directed the SWRCB to adopt regulations banning water use for "non-functional turf" in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors. The EO defines this as "... ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreation purposes such as school fields, sports fields, and parks..."

This section has no applicability on the Hill. For example, Idyllwild School replaced the grass on its athletic field with artificial turf years ago.

However, SWRCB will be urging water districts to adopt, at least, level 2 drought conditions.

Currently, the three Hill districts each are in a different water emergency stage.

Idyllwild Water District is in Stage 1. General Manager Leo Havener said, "Based on the static water level, pumping levels and storage, we're in good shape. I'm in the process of completing an analysis of past data to project to the future."

Pine Cove Water District (PCWD) is currently in Stage 2. "Our water table is good and the wells are holding up," said Jeremy Potter, interim general manager. "There may be opportunities to come out of Stage 2. But we'll wait and see. As for the drought, it is with us, we have to adapt to it."

Fern Valley Water District is the most concerned of the Hill districts. Currently, FVWD is in Stage 3. "I see more drought. I don't know how long the dryness will last," said Victor Jimenez, general manager. "The drought is not over. Overall, it's been a dry eight to 12 years. We need to conserve and more preparation."

"With only one month left in California's wet season and no major storms in the forecast, Californians should plan for a third year of drought conditions," said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. "A significantly below-average snowpack combined with already low reservoir levels make it critical that all Californians step up and conserve water every day to help the state meet the challenges of severe drought."

Other provisions of the EO may have consequences in the longer-term for Hill residents. For example, the governor direct-

ed SWRCB to expand its inspections of illegal water use. PCWD has been the victim of water theft in the past.

He also asked state agencies to cooperate with federal and local agencies to promote projects for groundwater recharge or increasing water storage.

The EO does not identify specific conservation measures for urban water providers. It does not affect agricultural water providers, or small water systems especially vulnerable to drought.

And state agencies have been asked to submit proposals for mitigation of "... the worsening effects of severe drought, including emergency assistance to communities and households... facing water shortages as... facilitation of groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protection of fish and wildlife, mitigation of drought-related economic or water-supply disruption." The deadline for submission of these proposals is April 15 and they will be reviewed.

Future funding of any of these proposals is in addition to the \$22.5 million Newsom announced on March 13. Slightly more than one-third of that money went to "Save Our Water" (<https://saveourwater.com/>) for educational and outreach activities to reach Californians with water-saving tips via social media and other digital advertising, geo-targeting counties with high water use.

Besides issuing the EO, Newsom announced earlier in March that the water cities and farms receive from the State Water Project will decline again. The amount now available is about 650,000 acre-feet, only 5% of the original projected delivery. This is the third consecutive year of declining allotments from the water project.

Contributing to this decision was a snowpack only 39% of historic levels at this time of year.

According to state data, the western half of Riverside County is considered in moderate drought, while the eastern portion is in a severe drought. The January and February period this year has been the third driest in more than 125 years. And for most of the county, rainfall has been less than 25% of normal.

Nevertheless, on April 1, the National Interagency Fire Center forecast, "Significant fire potential will be near to a little below normal across [the Southern California] area April through July."

CDC advises that vaccination, along with other important prevention strategies, continues to be the best defense against severe COVID disease. Everyone ages 5 years and up is recommended to be vaccinated, with boosters for everyone ages 12 and older — specifically the Pfizer-BioNTech booster for those ages 12 to 15.

COVID vaccinations are available in Idyllwild by appointment at Idyllwild Pharmacy (1-951-659-2135). Riverside County is not listing any place on the Hill as a future county vaccination location, but places in Hemet, San Jacinto, Banning, Beaumont, Moreno Valley, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Desert are listed. Visit <https://rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine-with-Registration-to-schedule-vaccinations-through-RCPH>.

Also, CDC suggests visiting [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov), calling 1-800-232-0233 or texting your ZIP code to 438829 to find a vaccination site near you. Further CDC resources are available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/COVID-data/COVIDview/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/COVID-data/COVIDview/).

# Earth Day's Wild and Scenic Film Festival

At 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, an Earth Day film festival begins online at <https://wildandscenicfilmfestival.org>. The festival may be streamed on-demand through April 29. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival showcases the year's top environmental and adventure films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, and indigenous cultures. Visit <https://brower-center.org/wsff-2022/> and get \$5 off each ticket with code CCLP2P. A portion of the proceeds go to support the Palms to Pines Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby that includes Idyllwild.

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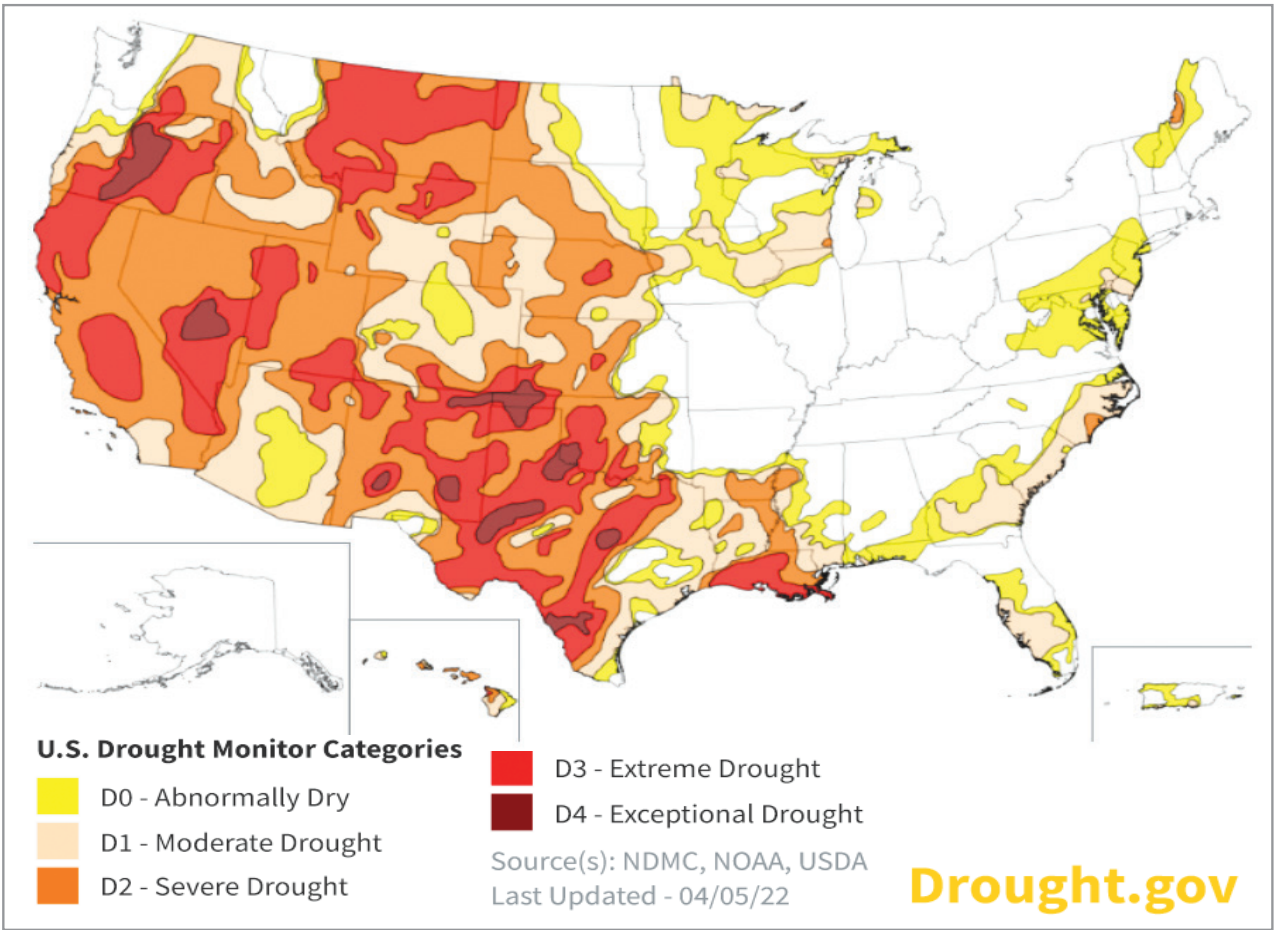
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## Idyllwild Weather

From the National Weather Service


Wednesday 4/13

 **55/39**  
Sunny


Thursday 4/14

 **60/44**  
Sunny


Friday 4/15

 **65/45**  
Sunny


Saturday 4/16

 **62/45**  
Sunny


Sunday 4/17

 **68/51**  
Sunny

Monday 4/18

 **72/47**  
Sunny

Tuesday 4/19

 **69/43**  
Mostly sunny


Find the latest weather information from the National Weather Service at [www.weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov).

Idyllwild this year					
Date	High	Low	M	S	
04/05	77	43	0.00	0.0	
04/06	82	45	0.00	0.0	
04/07	82	59	0.00	0.0	
04/08	84	51	0.00	0.0	
04/09	75	45	0.00	0.0	
04/10	66	41	0.00	0.0	
04/11	56	38	0.00	0.0	

Idyllwild last year					
Date	High	Low	M	S	
04/05	71	50	0.00	0.0	
04/06	68	43	0.00	0.0	
04/07	75	40	0.00	0.0	
04/08	70	45	0.00	0.0	
04/09	75	36	0.00	0.0	
04/10	74	44	0.00	0.0	
04/11	72	42	0.00	0.0	

The Town Crier's Idyllwild daily high and low temperatures and rain and snow totals in the past were taken directly from the National Weather Service website, which gets its Idyllwild weather information from automatic weather sensing equipment at Idyllwild Fire Station, an official NWS COOP reporter. [We are seeking reliable Idyllwild and Pine Cove full-time residents to provide this information. Residents who follow CoCoRaHS procedures would be strongly preferred. CoCoRaHS is an organization of private, amateur weather observers that provides carefully collected data for use by the NWS. If you are interested in providing us with rain and snow reports, please contact [jack@towncrier.com](mailto:jack@towncrier.com) or (951) 659-2145.]

Our weather season is July 1 to June 30. Our season totals now have been corrected for the period July 1 through September 17, 2018, which prior to this issue of the TC had been in error. For Hill road conditions and Hill weather, visit us on the Internet at [www.idyllwildtowncrier.com](https://www.idyllwildtowncrier.com) or call Caltrans road update at 1-800-427-7623.



A lovely spring morning in Idyllwild on Tuesday with temperatures in the high-40s.

PHOTO BY MANDY JOHNSON



# State submits new recycling proposal

By JP CRUMRINE  
CORRESPONDENT

California’s Recycling Agency (CalRecycle) has submitted a proposal to increase credits for returns of recyclable containers. The state’s Beverage Container Recycling Fund (BRCF) has a huge surplus of several hundred million dollars, for which the agency submitted a proposal to return half of the funds to citizens and to invest in more equipment to increase incentives to recycle.

One part of the plan would temporarily double to a dime the refund for a 12-ounce (355 milliliters) bottle or can and 20 cents for containers over 24 ounces (709 milliliters),

“This surplus belongs to California consumers and we want to get that money back in their pockets through bonus recycling credits and more convenient redemption options,” Rachel Machi Wagoner, director of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, said in her April 1 press release. “These targeted investments double California Redemption Value (CRV) refunds to get surplus deposits back to Californians.”

In its letter to the state Department of Finance, CalRecycle submitted a plan for how it would use this funding. In fiscal year (FY) 2022-23, \$330 million of the more than \$630 million balance in the Beverage Container Recycling Fund would be available to Californians through increased return refunds or through investments to enhance recycling. These are one-time steps, not recurring annually programs.

At the end of FY 2020-21 (June 30, 2020), the funds balance was about \$275 million. Now CalRecycle estimates it will grow by more than 130% through the end of FY 2022-23 unless some of the monies are used.

The plan has five components, of which, providing

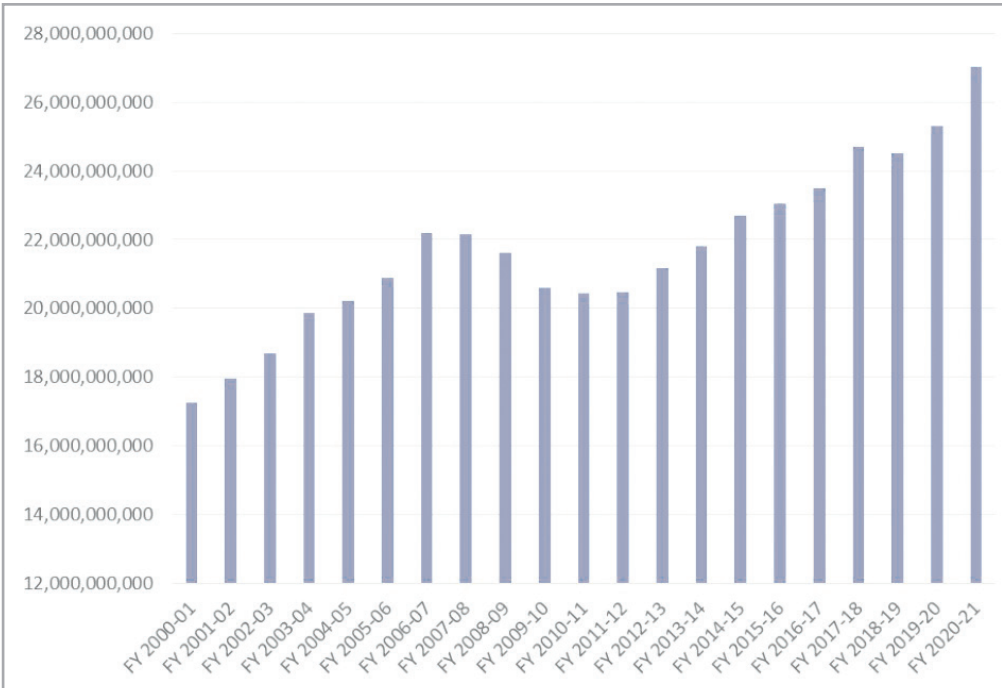
consumer recycling credits for returning beverage containers would use \$100 million. Another \$70 million would be used to add about 2,000 reverse vending machines through grants to high schools, colleges and retailers that are obligated to redeem containers in-store.

Another \$105 million would finance two smaller programs: Increasing the number and availability of state-funded mobile recycling programs in rural and underserved communities to boost recyclable returns. \$55 million would be allocated to this program.

Another \$50 million would be used to improve the quality of recycled beverage containers to help more get recyclable material into new beverage containers. Assembly Bill 793, which the governor signed in September 2020, requires the composition of plastic containers to have more and more postconsumer recycled material.

The remaining \$25 million would be used for new infrastructure and technology to support redemptions and administration costs.

The rapid growth of the BRCF, which is funded from the California Refund Value of a nickel or dime charge to each can of soda purchased, is another reminder of the COVID-19 pandemic. Californians recycled 18.5 billion bottles and cans from July 2020 through June 2021, a roughly 800 million container in-



crease from the previous fiscal year.

“Beverage sales increased to historic levels in 2020 and 2021, as consumers stocked up on bottled water and other beverages. Returns of beverage containers slumped in 2020, as stay at home and social distancing orders were in effect. While returns have increased significantly in 2021, also hitting a historic high. . .,” CalRecycle explained in its Finance letter.

Consequently the recycling collections have quickly grown since refunds have slowed.

A major goal of the proposal is to increase California’s recycling rate to 80% or higher, according to Wagoner.

“Californians want to recycle and they’re doing their part with the return of 18.5 billion bottles and cans last (fiscal) year. That’s a nearly 70 percent recycling rate,” Wagoner said. “We can get closer to 100 percent recycling by giving Californians more redemption options and new opportunities to succeed.”

# Forest Service budget increases wildfire support

By JP CRUMRINE  
CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Forest Service’s (USFS) budget request of nearly \$9 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 (starting Oct. 1, 2022) is \$1.5 billion greater than the previous year’s budget. Nearly 40% of the increase is for Wildland Fire Management and Suppression Operations (WFMSO). The National Forest System programs will also receive another \$600 million for a total of \$2.2 billion. Another \$60 million is being added to the USFS’s research programs.

As the number and size of wildfires continues to grow, the agency’s efforts to combat and prevent these conflagrations also has increased. The total request this year for WFMSO is nearly \$4.2 billion. Ten years ago, USFS’s total funding request was \$4.9 billion.

Total funding for wildland firefighting is proposed to increase about \$1 billion from \$3.9 billion to a request of \$4.9 billion.

Of the total, \$320 million is for the hazardous fuels program. Last fiscal year, hazardous fuels was appropriated \$180 million and was included in the National Forest System account. Still, this request is \$140 million more than that funding level.

These funds are for more hazardous fuels treatments covering 3.8 million acres of forest land. In FY 2021, USFS treated 3.7 million acres of hazardous fuels. Nearly 1.8 million acres were treated with prescribed burns.

After the president’s budget release, Secretary

of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack said in a press release, “The Budget includes \$390 million in additional funding to ensure ongoing support for President Biden’s direction that no firefighter is paid less than \$15 per hour, hire additional firefighters, increase their pay, and convert more firefighters from temporary to permanent. These changes support USDA’s ability to confront the wildland fire crisis due to longer fire seasons associated with a changing climate.”

The budget request includes \$56 million to pay all firefighters at least \$15 per hour, and to support increases to base capacity levels, as well as permanent pay increases.

But an additional \$334 million is added to increase the number of full-time equivalent firefighters by 25% from about 12,000 to more than 15,000.

While the net funding increase for the National Forest System account is \$394 million, that includes the \$180 million decrease for the transfer of the Hazardous Fuels program. In actuality, the Forest System funding will increase about \$575 million.

The largest increases are \$100 million for salary and benefit increases for current staff, and \$100 million for staffing to implement work authorized in several new pieces of legislation. New staffing will increase by 1,661 full-time equivalents to a total of 14,545.

This new staff is needed “... to perform land line surveys, realty management, cadastral and engineering services in support of the increase in pace and scale of the Agency’s wildland fuels

reduction activities outlined in the 10-year strategy. In addition, increased capacity in engineering, recreation planning, patrol and service technicians, and grants and agreement specialists are necessary to support The Great American Outdoors Act (P.L. 116-152) as well as the portions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that target trail and recreation infrastructure.”

The Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness programs request is an increase of \$70 million, for a total of \$110 million. These programs support visitor services, visitor information centers, visitor interpretive programs, recreation improvements and enrichment opportunities, and public engagement programs.

Among the planned results from this increase are the speeding up of reviewing and issuing permits for outfitters and guides. USFS also is planning to address and serve the recreational needs of the increasing numbers of new and returning visitors who want year-round activities on National Forest System as well as for Wilderness Stewardship Performance, Wilderness Character Monitoring, and critical planning processes associated with Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Speaking of the entire departmental budget, Vilsack said, “... It will also help many of USDA’s agencies rebuild capacity after years of staff losses, strengthening the Department so we can better perform our duties and serve the American people. This budget proposal is a statement of intent that underscores President Biden’s commitment to the success of rural Americans and their communities.”

## Saint Hugh's Holy Week Schedule

***Maundy***  
*Thursday, April 14th 5PM Eucharist*


***Good Friday Service***  
*Friday, April 15th at Noon*

***Easter Sunday Breakfast***  
*Sunday, April 17th 9:30AM at the Church*

***Resurrection Eucharist***  
*Sunday April 17th 11AM*

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## Easter



## Sunrise Service

at Inspiration Point

**Sunday Morning,**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 – 7:30 am**

Take Highway 243 south to Marian View and make your way out to Inspiration Point.  
Bring lawn chairs and dress in warm clothing.

*Sponsored by:*

- Community Church**  
(Regular Service 9:30 am)
- Calvary Chapel Mountain Center**  
(Regular Service 10 am)
- Idyllwild Bible Church**  
(Regular Service 9 & 10:45 am)

In case of inclement weather, the Sunrise Service will not take place. However, Easter Services will follow at the various sponsoring churches at their regular times.

**For more information call:**  
**951-659-4775**



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 600 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 with-in a 14-day period.
  - Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Town Crier staff.
  - Letters may be submitted by e-mail to editor@towncrier.com and must include “Letter to the Editor” in the subject line.
  - The deadline is 10 a.m. Monday.

Regarding Ordinance 927.1

DEAR EDITOR:  
Editor: This letter was also sent to the Riverside County Planning Department.

For your consideration, Airbnb was founded in San Francisco in 2008. It has over 6,000 employees and received over \$4.8 billion in revenues in 2021.

Vacasa was founded in 2009, has 6,500 employees with 2021 revenues of over \$885 million.

I have yet to find in your Ordinance 348.4978, Article III, Section 3.1, Section 6.25 (permitted uses), regarding R1A, Mountain Resort Residential One family dwellings, where it says anywhere that dwellings may be owned, operated, managed, used for profit, or otherwise controlled by multi-million-dollar businesses.

Your planning department has correctly directed what purposes are legally allowed now in R1A-zoned parcels; clearly, Airbnb and Vacasa businesses are not allowed by your own ordinance.



So rather than create empty new ordinances that allow for these illegal, harmful and unwanted entities to invade our once-quiet, peaceful communities, you all need to do what townships all over this nation are doing. That is, prohibit them.

Or better yet, allow them in “commercially zoned areas only,” where they legally belong.

If you all don't do anything to limit the number of short-term rentals (STRs) in Idyllwild, it won't be long until we see this same headline again (www.nytimes.com/2022/04/07/travel/joshua-tree-california-airbnb.html), except it won't be Joshua Tree, it will be Idyllwild they write about.

Please do something to reduce the number of STRs in our community.

MARK DEAN  
PINE COVE

Water districts

EDITOR:

I was driving to Banning the other day and saw several signs in Pine Cove showing drivers that Pine Cove Water District (PCWD) is in Stage 2 Water Conservation. They were very noticeable and good looking signs that let customers and visitors know to please conserve water. Well done, PCWD.

I also notice while riding my bicycle that Fern Valley Wa-

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Hill businesses and institutions normally open that will be closed Sunday, April 17, to observe Easter are:

- Fairway Foods
- Idyllwild Nature Center
- Idyllwild Pharmacy
- Idyllwild Transfer Station

ter District (FVWD) has several signs when entering its district stating it is in Stage 3 Water Conservation. Again, to inform customers and visitors to please conserve water. Kudos, FVWD.

I really wish Idyllwild Water District (IWD) would care enough to let its customers and visitors know what water conservation stage we are at.

Using IWD's own ratepayer- and board-approved formulas and metrics, IWD has been in Stage 2 Water Conservation since August. Yet, the IWD general manager (GM) and directors refuse to protect our precious and very limited water supply and our community by going to Stage 2 and posting it so people know to conserve water.

If our local water districts are at Stage 2 and 3 in April, imagine where we will all be in August.

Come on, IWD, show some respect and caring for our community and our water supply by accurately being on the correct stage that you should have been since August. It doesn't reflect poorly on you when we haven't had enough precipitation. It does show incompetence and poor judgment when the GM and entire board are repeatedly shown the facts and they all choose to ignore them.

Our mountain is suffering from excessive tourism, overpopulation and lack of rain and snowfall. IWD Board of Directors and GM don't seem to care about our mountain community at all. Very sad indeed.

DAVE HUNT

4TH GENERATION IDYLLWILD HILLBILLY

Dispatchers use new tech to locate people

By DAVID JEROME  
CORRESPONDENT

Local first responders are using a new app to simplify communicating the exact locations of those in need of assistance. The app is called what3words (W3W) and can be downloaded for free. It divides the Earth's surface into squares 3 meters per side, (57 trillion of them) and assigns a unique combination of three common words to each one. A person calling for help can give those three words to a dispatcher, who can easily communicate the exact location to police, fire or medical personnel.

Ride and delivery services are using the app, as well as businesses and humanitarian organizations seeking to improve “last mile delivery efficiency” (from what3words.com.) In 2018, Mercedes-Benz acquired a 10% share in the company and has begun incorporating the system into its onboard entertainment and navigation systems.

The developers' theory is that three words are easier to communicate than longitude and latitude numbers, including degrees, minutes and seconds. The program uses a proprietary algorithm to assign the words. Sound-alike words are eliminated, and near matches are assigned to squares so far apart on Earth that a dispatcher would never be confused. Common words are used for places more heavily trafficked.

For example, sitting on the bench surrounding the flagpole in the center of IdyPark, as one moves around the circle to face the four converging paths, one would move between squares tagged “rambler/whisks/calculating” “refrained/scars/waveform,” “longstanding/repeating/boring” and “weakening/truth/rejoined.” Another user would find you without having to explain where you were or which direction you were facing.

A recent Press Enterprise (PE) story quoted Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief Tim Wuerfel: “It takes the search out of ‘search and rescue’ because we know exactly where they are.” His department adopted the technology in July 2021.

Riverside County also is prepared to handle calls from W3W users. Riverside County Sheriff's Department Media Information Bureau Sgt. Edward Soto said, “Our dispatch staff is familiar with the What3Words app and are readily available to use it if necessary. The app seems very popular in Europe, the East Coast, and has even gained a little steam here on the West Coast. Having said that, we are on the cutting edge of location accuracy and our dispatchers are ready in the event it is used. We have not utilized the new program with any rescues to date, but are certainly prepared if need be.”

The PE story added that the three-word codes show up automatically on calls to Riverside and San Bernardino county sheriffs, and that “Riverside city firefighters have used what3words to rescue people in remote Sycamore Canyon Park and the thickly brushed Santa Ana River. Each fire engine has a cellphone with the app.”

The program has its critics. Because the algorithm used to assign words is proprietary, no one is able to really evaluate how closely it matches its goals. An article on cybergibbons.com by researcher Andrew Tierney points out that the list of words used includes easily confused pairs like “once” and “wants,” “census” and “senses,” “incite” and “insight,” to name a few. The algorithm, in theory, assigns these possible sound-a-likes to distant squares, but confirming this is difficult, the cybergibbons story claims to have found many confusable pairs in proximity, and posits that missing plurals could result in emergency personnel being sent miles away from an accident.

The discussion there and elsewhere points out that when evaluating the suitability of an app like this, one must include the failure mode of other systems. An imperfect tool may still be an improvement. W3W also notes that the app is usually used in conjunction with other information, and “... the call handler will often (but not always) have a GPS location from the caller's device...” (what3words.medium.com)

W3W is one player in a growing field. Other apps providing a similar service include GoogleMaps, Connect Rocket, YourLocation and Mapcode. Most modern phones have the ability to send your location as a text message to emergency services.

In response to email questions, Cal Fire and Riverside County Fire Department Public Information Officer Jody Hagemann invited the Crier to visit their Perris dispatch center.

The dispatch center is kept in perpetual half light for the best screen-viewing conditions. Occasional red lamps provide orientation without forcing eyes to re-adjust. Hagemann filled in the background on the functioning of the dispatch center.

JH: “We handle 500 to 600 incidents a day. We are an all-risk agency: We respond to medical emergencies, fire, haz-mat, public service assist, we do everything. When someone dials 911 we are a secondary PSAP (public safety answering point). [Calls] are transferred [to us]. We do get primary calls on the 800 or seven-digit emergency lines, but all other calls are transferred from a Riverside County law enforcement agency. Example: call for a house on fire. Someone dials 911 and reports. Wherever that person is calling from is routed to the closest PSAP, and then transferred. Once call type is determined, it is transferred to the jurisdictionally responsible agency. If they are calling within our response jurisdiction, it would go to us.

“Sometimes more than one agency would respond. We handle everything in Riverside County with the exception of Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Corona, Riverside City, Murrieta, Canyon Lake, Calimesa, Blythe, Idyllwild and Hemet. They all have their own fire agencies. However, they assist each other through auto and mutual aid requests.

“911 dispatchers are the first point of contact. Our dispatchers are trained in Emergency Medical Dispatch and Emergency Fire Dispatch, also known as EMD and EFD. We are certified through the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch. We are able to triage calls and give life-saving, pre-arrival instructions over the phone while the first responders are in route.”

Erin Goff, a fire communications dispatcher (FCD) II, explained that dispatchers are hired at level I, “probation,” and II is “journey” level. The next level is the option to promote to senior FCD.

The center has 52 dispatchers, Goff said, with another 26 in training. On an average day (four shifts; day, swing, evening, graveyard) about 15 to 20 dispatchers are on the floor, and more during an “incident.”

EG: “When we have a major incident that is going to be extended, meaning more than 24 hours, we get additional staffing. Days off, overtime, team that works our expanded office, those dispatchers are assigned to the incident while everyone else on the team can function for day-to-day calls.”

TC: “What can you tell our readers about the technology you are using here?”

EG: “We have a program we use called ‘RapidDeploy’ by Radius Mapping. New generation 911 technology, NG911. It is a cloud-based system that interfaces with other agencies.”

TC: “Why is that important?”

EG: “So we can find our callers. [The screen] tells me it was



Riverside County Fire Communications Dispatcher II Erin Goff. PHOTO BY DAVID JEROME

a cellphone call. It gives me a couple of tools I can use to find my caller. W3W is one of those tools we can use to locate a caller in an emergency. No better or worse than any other tool. If someone calls and gives me a Google ‘pin drop’ that gives a lat. and long. [latitude and longitude] for where they're at, within 1 meter accuracy. W3W gives 3 meters. W3W can be valuable because it's easier ... ‘Race.upstairs.landmark’ is easier to relay than reading degrees, minutes, seconds. If someone is hiking on the PCT and they break their leg and they text a friend with W3W (sometimes texting is easier than voice coverage, a phone keeps trying to send in poor reception areas) they call us and give us the W3W, we are able to find them.

“It's just as easy to open Google maps and drop a pin and share that with a friend. There is a share button on the app; you can send that to a friend.”

TC: “What other app-based tools do you use?”

EG: “W3W, Google Maps, Google Plus Codes; RapidDeploy takes all these tools and puts them to use so we can find the person.”

As an example, Goff put the above W3W code into RapidDeploy, and the screen showed us where we were in the command center.

TC: “Can you tell about times you've used W3W?”

EG: “I did have a situation where the caller didn't have their W3W, but based on the cellphone location I could see their W3W. It was a medical emergency in the middle of the desert, and I was able to put the W3W into the call, the firefighter downloaded the app to his phone, used the W3W and was able to navigate to the person's exact location.

“We had another call I heard about this morning, a patient that was, I believe, mountain biking, and knew their W3W and sent it to the wife and we were able to locate the patient. I know other agencies are using it.”

Hagemann and Goff pointed out that this story will be published during National 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Week, the second week of April.

Hagemann put this technology into perspective: “Compared to when I was in dispatch, 1990-2007, the technology to locate patients and get resources to incidents has increased exponentially... tenfold. We are very fortunate to have this tech; it gets help to callers in the quickest and safest manner. When I started, we were using map books, Thomas Guides and topography maps. Our record keeping was done by hand, writing on incident cards.”



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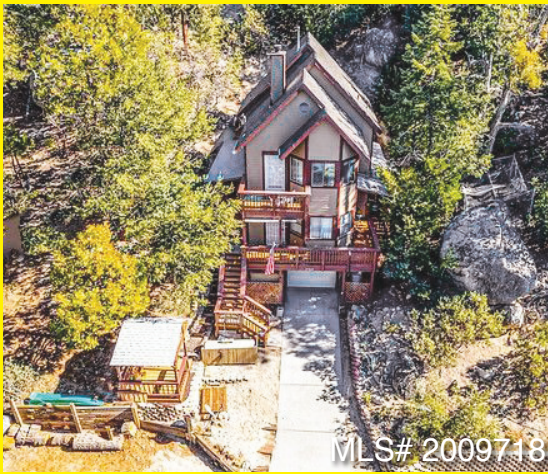
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# State funding of local newspapers moving forward

By JP CRUMRINE  
CORRESPONDENT

California Senate Bill 911, “California Public Interest Media Act of 2022,” was introduced in February and the Senate Governmental Organizations Committee held a hearing on the bill last week.

By an 8-4 vote, the bill was approved and referred to the Senate’s Appropriation Committee for assessment of its fiscal commitments. Sen. Melissa Melendez who represents Idyllwild was one of the four members opposing the bill. When asked why, she said, “The intent of the bill seems honorable, in practice, but creating a government entity — even an independent, bipartisan one — to support the media seems fraught with potential issues. For example, if the intent is to foster good, and quality reporting or unbiased information on the actions of government, it could easily be manipulated when the watchdogs are funded from the very entity they are supposed to be watching.”

“Senate Bill 911! It’s a very apt number because SB 911 responds to an emergency, a real emergency, the threat posed to our democracy by misinformation,” stated Sen. Steven Glazer (D-Contra Costa), the bill’s author, as he began the

discussion during the committee hearing.

“In the Internet Age, access to information and to methods of threading misinformation has become so cheap anyone can do it. Good, old fashioned, fact-based news is not cheap,” he continued. False information “... deliberately undermines our institutions — government, academia and the media — all in an effort to convince people that none of these groups can be trusted.”

Since 2004, when there were about 9,000 U.S. newspapers — daily and weekly — more than a quarter have been lost; most in small communities, creating what Penelope Muse Abernathy, Knight chair of Journalism and Digital Media Economics at the University of North Carolina, School of Journalism and Media, describes as “news deserts.”

“No state has been spared the death of a newspaper...,” according to Glazer. Since 2004, California has lost 25% of its local news media.

Speaking in support of the bill, Jessica Gonzalez, co-CEO of Free Press, said bluntly, “We shouldn’t have to rely on local government actors — whether they be school boards, law enforcement, air quality management boards, or city councils — as our sole sources of information.”

The purpose of SB 911 is to encourage independent, local

public service news coverage. This would be achieved through grants to local media organizations and journalists to support coverage of local public affairs. This bill is modeled after the California Arts Council and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, two organizations providing public funding of independent arts and media.

Ultimately, Glazer and his fellow sponsors hope this will achieve an environment of public trust in which all news organizations are free from influence.

Since its introduction, Glazer, in cooperation with many colleagues, has made amendments to the proposed legislation. For example, recipients of these grants must be California-owned entities.

The bill would created a 15-member board to consider grants. The bill now prohibits the board “from discriminating for or against a news organization on the basis of political partisanship.”

Another is that this legislation, if passed, will sunset January 1, 2028.

After several colleagues, all of whom supported the goal, spoke in favor and some raised questions or preferred a different means to achieve these goals, Glazer said he would work with them to modify and improve the bill.

In concluding the discussion, he averred, “[the demise of local news media] is a slow-motion crash: We’re all watching it in front of us. We all know how important oversight is to a thriving democracy; we know that is a crucial element. We have to find a way to shore up that foundation.”



*Editor’s note: Organizations, please read your listings carefully and email editor@towncrier.com with any changes.*

- Wednesday, April 13**
- Rotary International of Idyllwild meeting, 7:30 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marian View Dr.
  - Riverside County Mobile Health Clinic, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - Pine Cove Water District board meeting, 10 a.m. PCWD, 24917 Marion Ridge Rd., Pine Cove.
  - Community Church Guild, noon. Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church, 54400 N. Circle Dr.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, noon, St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Fit After 50, noon-1p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - Idyllwild Chamber Orchestra rehearsal, 1-3 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.

- Idyllwild Chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby, 6 p.m. Zoom link will be sent to those who sign up at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>.
- Co-dependents Anonymous, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.

- Thursday, April 14**
- Fit After 50, 10-11 a.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - AA meeting, noon. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Feeding America, 1-2 p.m. Calvary Chapel Mountain Center, 29430 Highway 243, Mountain Center.
  - Mountain Communities Mutual Aid food distribution, 1-2 p.m. Camp Maranatha, 54162 Maranatha Dr.
  - Idyllwild Community Meditation, 6 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio, 54445 N. Circle Dr. Call Valerie Kyoshin Velez at 951-659-5750 for information.
  - Palms to Pines Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, 6-7 p.m. <https://zoom.us/j/4391478344>

- Friday, April 15**
- Fern Valley Water District board meeting, 9 a.m. FVWD board room, 55790 South Circle Dr.
  - AA, Daily Reflections, noon.

- St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
- Mountain Area Genealogy, 1-2:30 p.m. Call 659-2300 for Zoom info.
  - Women’s Writing Group with fellow writers, 2-4 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat. Call 951-659-2523 for Zoom info.

- Saturday, April 16**
- Antifreeze, batteries, oil and paint center, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Idyllwild Transfer Station, 28100 Saunders Meadow Rd.
  - Healing Rooms, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Shiloh Christian Ministries, 54295 Village Center Dr.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Dog Park Saturdays, 3-4 p.m. Rick Barker Dog Park, 26375 Hwy. 243.
  - Narcotics Anonymous speaker meeting, 4 p.m. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous 5:30 p.m. Parking lot next to the Butterfield Amphitheatre.

- Sunday, April 17**
- Peace Meditation Practice, 10 a.m. Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center, 53191 Mountain View, Pine Cove.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, open meeting, noon-1 p.m.,

- Idyllwild Water District, 25945 Highway 243.

- Monday, April 18**
- Day of Mindfulness, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St.
  - AA, noon. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Idyllwild Elders, noon-1:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
  - Fit After 50, noon-1 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - Idyllwild Community Meditation, 5:30-6:45 p.m. & 6:45-8 p.m. Idyllwild Yoga Studio, 54445 N. Circle Dr.

- Tuesday, April 19**
- Fit After 50, 10-11 a.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - Idyllwild Garden Club board, 10 a.m. 25025 Fern Valley Rd.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Mountain Disaster Preparedness board meeting, 4-5:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library, 54401 Village Center Dr.
  - Lovingkindness Meditation Group, 5-5:30 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oakwood St. Call 951-659-2523.
  - Self-Realization Fellowship Meditation, 6-7 p.m. Spirit Mountain Retreat, 25661 Oak-

- wood St. Call 951-659-2523.
- Sons of the American Legion board meeting, 6 p.m. Post 800, 54360 Marian View Dr.
  - Hemet Unified School District board meeting, 6:30 p.m. HUSD offices, 1791 W. Acacia Ave., Hemet.
  - Idyllwild Right to Life, 7 p.m. Call 951-659-3174 for location.

- Wednesday, April 20**
- Rotary International of Idyllwild meeting, 7:30 a.m. American Legion Post 800, 54360 Marian View Dr.
  - Garner Valley Book Club, 10:30 a.m. Call 951-659-6049 for location.
  - Alcoholics Anonymous, noon. St. Hugh’s Episcopal Church, 25525 Tahquitz Dr.
  - Fit After 50, noon-1p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - Community Church Guild, noon. Idyllwild Community Presbyterian Church, 54400 N. Circle Dr.
  - Idyllwild Chamber Orchestra rehearsal, 1-3 p.m. Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St.
  - High Valleys Water District board meeting, 3 p.m. HVWD office, 47781 Twin Pines Rd., Twin Pines.
  - Idyllwild Water District board meeting, 6 p.m. IWD board room, 25945 High-

- way 243.
- Co-dependents Anonymous, 6:30-7:30 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., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri., 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. (Closed New Year’s Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day); Grinding Facility, 8 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Mon., Wed. & Fri.
  - Idyllwild Ranger Station, closed. Call 909-382-2921.

## NEWS OF RECORD

### Idyllwild Fire

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District responded to these calls from Monday to Sunday, April 4 to 10.

- April 4 — Public service assist, 1:40 a.m. Maranatha Dr.
- April 4 — EMS call, provide advanced life support, 11:53 a.m. Hwy. 243.
- April 4 — EMS call, provide ALS, 6:07 p.m. N. Circle Dr.
- April 5 — Gas leak, 6:28 p.m. Hwy. 243.
- April 6 — Traffic crash, provide manpower, 5:42 p.m. Hwy. 243.
- April 7 — Cooking fire, confined to container, 2:18 a.m. Hwy. 243.
- April 8 — Public service, 11 a.m. Maranatha Dr.
- April 8 — Smoke detector activation, no fire, unintentional, 7:56 p.m. Pine Crest Ave.
- April 9 — Public service assist, 11:45 a.m. Maranatha Dr.
- April 9 — EMS call, provide ALS, 9:43 p.m. Scenic Dr.

- April 9 — Smoke scare, odor of smoke, 11:03 p.m. Hwy. 74.

### Riverside County Fire / Cal Fire log

The Riverside County Fire Department/Cal Fire responded to these recent dispatches from Monday to Sunday, April 4 to 10.

- Pine Cove**
- April 5 — Fainting, 1:57 p.m.
  - April 6 — Sick person, 2:40 a.m.
  - April 6 — Traffic crash, 5:42 p.m.
  - April 7 — Fire, false alarm, 2:17 a.m.
  - April 9 — Fainting, 12:47 p.m.

- Garner Valley**
- April 4 — Fall, 9:32 p.m.
  - April 7 — Fire, false alarm, 2:17 p.m.
  - April 8 — Vegetation fire, 3:06 p.m.
  - April 9 — Fall, 11:13 a.m.

- April 9 — Fire, false alarm, 11:02 p.m.
- April 10 — Breathing problems, 7:36 p.m.

- Pinyon**
- April 4 — Traffic cras, 7:55 p.m.
  - April 5 — Fire, 1:44 p.m.
  - April 5 — Vegetation fire, 2:33 p.m.
  - April 6 — Breathing problems, 8:26 a.m.
  - April 6 — Fainting, 10:28 a.m.
  - April 7 — Fire assist, 3:45 p.m.
  - April 7 — Multi-family structure fire, 5:44 p.m.
  - April 8 — Outside fire, 10:47 a.m.
  - April 8 — Vehicle vs. motorcycle, 9:15 p.m.

**Sheriff’s log**

The Riverside County Sheriff’s Department Hemet Station responded to the following calls Saturday to Friday, April 2 to 8.

- Idyllwild**
- April 2 — Vandalism, 12:11

p.m. 26000 block of Hwy. 243. Report taken.

- April 2 — Vehicle code violation, 5:12 p.m. Cassler Dr. Handled by deputy.
- April 2 — Vandalism, 6:19 p.m. 26000 block of Saunders Meadow Rd. Unfounded.
- April 2 — Public disturbance, 12:54 p.m. Live Oak St. Handled by deputy.
- April 2 — Vandalism, 6:15 p.m. 54000 block of S. Circle Dr. Arrest made.
- April 2 — Assault w/deadly weapon, 6:24 p.m. Address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- April 5 — Follow-up, 8:05 a.m. Address withheld. Handled by deputy.
- April 5 — Alarm call, 2:00 a.m. Village Center Dr. Handled by deputy.
- April 5 — Fraud, 3:34 p.m. Live Oak St. Unfounded.
- April 5 — Public disturbance, 5:35 p.m. Country Club Dr. Handled by deputy.
- April 5 — Alarm call, 8:21 p.m. Village Center Dr. Handled by deputy.
- April 5 — Alarm call, 10:40 p.m. Village Center Dr. Handled by deputy.

- April 6 — Harassing phone calls, 9:40 a.m. Address withheld. Handled by deputy.

- April 6 — Harassing phone calls, 9:40 a.m. Address withheld. Unfounded.
- April 6 — Public disturbance, 4:46 p.m. Delano Dr. Handled by deputy.
- April 7 — Lost hiker, 4:59 p.m. Address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- April 7 — Burglary, 6:44 p.m. Address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- April 8 — Burglary, 2:20 p.m. 54000 block of S. Circle Dr. Report taken.
- April 8 — Noise complaint, 9:46 p.m. Address undefined. Handled by deputy.
- April 8 — Noise complaint, 11:22 p.m. Upper Rim Rock Rd. Handled by deputy.

- Pine Cove**
- April 2 — Public disturbance, 1:24 p.m. Laurel Trl. Handled by deputy.
  - April 6 — Unknown trouble, 2:37 a.m. Acorn Ln. Handled by deputy.
  - April 6 — Brandishing/weapon

on — past, 1:20 p.m. Address undefined. Unfounded.

- Pine Meadows / Garner Valley**
- April 5 — Check the welfare, 9:33 p.m. Tool Box Spring Rd. Handled by deputy.

- Poppet Flats / Twin Pines**
- April 2 — Trespassing, 5:52 p.m. Coyote St. Handled by deputy.
  - April 7 — 911 hangup from cellphone, 1:32 p.m. Coyote St. Handled by deputy.

- San Bernardino National Forest**
- April 2 — Unknown trouble, 12:35 p.m. 27000 block of Hwy. 243. Handled by deputy.
  - April 5 — Trespassing, 10:18 a.m. Twin Pines Rd. Handled by deputy.
  - April 7 — Trespassing, 1:39 p.m. 49000 block of E. Hwy. 74. Handled by deputy.
  - April 7 — Follow-up, 3:23 p.m. Address withheld. Handled by deputy.
  - April 8 — Alarm call, 9:17 p.m. Box Elder St. Handled by deputy.

## Public Notices

Legals • Doing Business As

For Questions about Public Notices call the Town Crier (951) 659-2145 or Email: [mandy@towncrier.com](mailto:mandy@towncrier.com)

Every day throughout the United States, newspapers publish thousands of public notices about events, conditions or actions that affect countless individuals, families, neighborhoods and businesses. Public notices cover many topics, including business matters, liquor licensing, public auctions and sales, estates, zoning, public meetings, bids to sell goods and services to the government, local government finances and state and local elections. Public notice is a fundamental component of our system of representative democracy, which depends upon the participation of educated, responsible citizens.

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JOSE A. PINEDA**  
Case No. PRIN2200406

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOSE A. PINEDA

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Marcelino Pineda in the Superior Court of California, County of RIVERSIDE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Marcelino Pineda be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good

cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 06/20/2022 at 8:45 a.m. in Dept. PS3 located at 3255 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Probate.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:  
William H. Sauls  
3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92103  
619-239-8096

**Pub. TC: Mar. 31, Apr. 7, 14, 2022.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given that Lockaway Storage, 1181 N. State Street in the city of Hemet, County of Riverside, State of California, will sell at Public Auction to be hosted online at [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://www.StorageTreasures.com) on April 21st at 10:00 A.M. by the undersigned that a public lien sale of the following described Personal property. The items to be sold are generally described as follows: household items, misc. furniture, boxes, misc. tools & equipment. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 ET. Seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California.

B320 - Berglund, Jeri  
A127 - Mendez, Julio  
H42 - Jordan, Devonia  
B318 - Lizardi, Jhoatan

Auction to be held on April 21st, 2022, @ 10:00 AM  
Online at [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://www.StorageTreasures.com)  
**Pub. TC: Apr. 7, 14, 2022.**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF GARY GORDON ATCHISON**  
Case No. PRIN2200447

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of estate of GARY GORDON ATCHISON.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Michael Andrew Atchison in the Superior Court of California, County of RIVERSIDE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Michael Andrew Atchison be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good

required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on, 06/30/2022 at 8:45 am in Dept. PS3, Room. Address of court: 3255 E Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262, Palm Springs Courthouse.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Steven F. Bliss, Esq., SBN 147856  
43920 Margarita Road, Suite F  
Temecula, CA 92592  
951-223-7000

**Pub. TC: Apr. 14, 21, 28, 2022.**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as THE KNOTTY BEAR CABIN; THE KNOTTY BEAR CABIN NESTLED IN THE PINES; THE KNOTTY BEAR at 25155 Nestwa Trl., Idyllwild-Pine Cove, CA 92549, Riverside County. Mailing Address: 2228 Cecelia Ter, San Diego, CA 92110. DEBRA MAXINE WEISS, 25155 Nestwa Trl., Idyllwild-Pine Cove, CA 92549.

This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name listed above. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code, that the registrant knows to be false, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Registrant Signature:  
DEBRA MAXINE WEISS

Statement filed with the County Clerk of Riverside County on March 18, 2022.

FILE NO.: R-202203426

**NOTICE — IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (a) OF SECTION 17920, A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT GENERALLY EXPIRES AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT, AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920, WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION OF 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION.**

THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14411 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE).

Publication of notice pursuant to this section shall be once a week for four successive weeks. Four publications in a newspaper regularly published once a week or oftener, with at least 5 days intervening between the respective publication dates, are sufficient. The period of notice commences with the first day of publication and terminates at the end of the twenty-eighth day, including therein the first day.

**CERTIFICATION**

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

PETER ALDANA,  
County Clerk

**Pub. TC: Apr. 14, 21, 28, 2022.**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given The undersigned will sell at public online auction by competitive bidding on or after 12:00pm May 4th, 2022 for the purpose of satisfying lien for the storage and will be held online at, [www.StorageTreasures.com](http://www.StorageTreasures.com). The property has been stored at San Jacinto Self Storage, 1137 S San Jacinto Ave. in the city of San Jacinto, County of Riverside State of California. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 ET. Seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California.

Auctioneer’s Site: <https://www.storage-treasures.com>  
Storage Treasures

All units listed contain miscellaneous household items and furniture. Unit numbers and identity of Occupants renting each space are as follows:

609 – Marissa Monique Garcia  
418 – Joann Carson

**Pub. TC: Apr. 14, 21, 2022**





# URGENT MESSAGE FROM SHANE STEWART, BROKER OF IDYLLWILD REALTY

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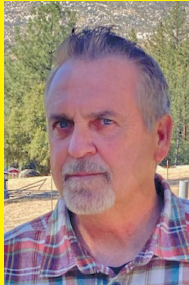
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**15+ YEAR AGENT**



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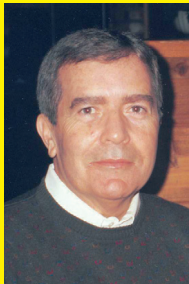
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**Brandi Thomas, Associate**  
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**(979) 272-6348**  
DRE # 02060365

**Ron Schingo, Associate**  
**30+ YEAR AGENT**



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DRE # 01041184

**Bill Sperling, Broker Associate**  
**30+ YEAR BROKER**



**(951) 852-2848**  
DRE # 00938869

**Steve Taylor, LFRO-Associate**  
**25+ YEAR AGENT**



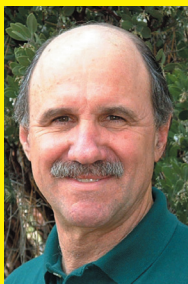
**(951) 288-1945**  
DRE # 0127191

**Marshall Smith, LFRO-Associate**  
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**(951) 990-5076**  
DRE # 02085221

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# Like the look of a paper newspaper?

## Please give the TC’s weekly PDF version a try.

By JACK CLARK  
CO-PUBLISHER

Many of our readers — particularly older readers — tell us they want to read a “real” ink-on-paper newspaper they can hold in their hands rather than an online version. Well, we have to tell you, the luxury of a continued ink-on-paper issue is costing the Town Crier an estimated more than \$60,000 a year over producing just online versions. That’s more than 600 Town Crier regular Memberships, right there.

Actually, apart from an ink-on-paper version, Town Crier Members have three different ways to read the TC online with an ordinary computer, tablet or cellphone. One is a website-appearing version, but the other two both let you see each

page of the TC exactly like it looks on paper: one which lets you flip the pages side to side, and another — my favorite — a PDF file that lets you easily and seamlessly scroll from page to page.

I’d like you all to try the PDF version. If you already have a TC Membership, you can try it right now. You receive an email from us — generally on Tuesday afternoons — telling you that the Town Crier is ready to be read online, no matter where you live. That’s a bonus feature of reading the Town Crier online — you get it a day early.

On this page is a photo of what a Town Crier front page looks like on your screen in PDF format. Looks just like a newsprint paper, doesn’t it? It blows up clear and sharp clicking on the “+” sign. Select the size you want once, and it reads virtually like a regular paper. To “turn” pages, you just

swipe vertically or scroll down from the first page all the way to the last. Couldn’t be easier, and it couldn’t look and read more like a “real” newspaper.

Of course, “real” newspapers like the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Idyllwild Town Crier are commonly read online these days. So, if you haven’t tried it lately, please give it a shot. It may turn out to be the difference between losing a real community newspaper and keeping a real newspaper serving our community online.

We’ve been trying to save the Town Crier for almost nine years now, and it’s getting harder and harder. So, please, please, give reading the TC online a try, and let us know what you think. Many thanks to you all.

A01-gannett\_jtc06.pdf

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VOL. 77 NO. 6

IDYLLWILD, CA

THURS. 04/14/2022

Planning Commission continues Idyllwild item: Is it added motel units or apartments?

By JP CRUMRINE  
CORRESPONDENT

Wednesday, Feb. 2, the Riverside County Planning Commission unanimously decided to continue the proposal to expand the former Tahquitz Inn, currently the Pine Woods Resort.

The commissioners were confused whether the proposal, which owner Shane Stewart submitted, was intended to expand the existing motel usage or to create more long-term rentals in Idyllwild.

The confusion was evident from the beginning of this item's time before the commission. "This is a conditional use permit proposed by Shane Stewart to expand an existing apartment or motel complex in Idyllwild," said Commission Chair David Leonard, who represents the 2nd Supervisorial District.

After Project Planner Brett Dawson described the proposal and made the staff recommendations, Commissioner Guillermo "Bill" Sanchez (4th District) asked for clarification of the proposal's purpose. "The application and staff report say it's a motel, but some letters and correspondence seem to indicate it's long-term rentals?" Sanchez inquired.

"It's a proposal for a motel," Dawson replied.

Other features of the design plan — such as the urban look of the buildings, the height of the building backing to Oakwood and adequate open space — also raised questions during the commission's hearing.

Commissioner Gary Thornhill (3rd District) expressed the strongest reservations about the plan. At

See Planning Commission, page A2

Dr. Marshall Hawkins

Dr. Marshall Hawkins of Idyllwild

By JACK CLARK  
CO-PUBLISHER

Marshall Hawkins, regular and respected in Idyllwild as jazz bass musician

## Town Crier Membership Application:

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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 – \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

Members have no ownership or voting interest in the Town Crier. And we know our Members appreciate that we cannot allow the fact of their Memberships to influence or control the paper’s ongoing editorial policies and decisions.

**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.
- 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 “Idyllwild Town Crier.” | You may contact Becky at 951-659-2145 or [membership@towncrier.com](mailto:membership@towncrier.com).





# On the Tow

Local Dining, Arts & Entertainment

B SECTION

IDYLLWILD, CA

14, 2022

## ‘Suffering to Thriving’ author talks about book

By DAVID JEROME  
CORRESPONDENT

Idyllwilders may know Kathy Harmon-Luber for her art deer in front of the bank, her fine art photography, her participation in the Art Alliance and other community groups, or her performances as a flutist. She has now published a book, “Suffering to Thriving,” based on her own experiences with health challenges and self-healing.

TC: “The book seems to be a very practical guide to making the best of limiting and frightening situations.”

KHL: “That’s a good way to characterize it. I try to keep it practical and I was thinking about the tools I wish I had in my toolbox when I started facing these health crises.”

TC: “The crisis was in your back, but you had other long-standing issues?”

KHL: “Back in my 20s, I began having mystery symptoms and it took a long time for them to be diagnosed as auto-immune diseases. There are over 100 auto-immune diseases and it can be difficult for doctors to diagnose them. Once I got my diagnosis, I began to immerse myself learning as much as I could about dealing with the issues. Many of the things I had they told me they would get progressively worse. And they didn’t go away but they have reversed in progression; they are getting better. In addition to supplements, healing foods and robust self-care, each of the 38 short chapters in my book have at least one tool that I used to heal myself, and now share with others.”

TC: “The tools you are speaking of include things like acceptance, ‘writing a different story,’ making the best of a difficult situation, adapting to pain. Some of these fall into the category of mindfulness?”

KHL: “One of the things I love to stress; so often when we get a bad diagnosis for any disease, we begin suffering, we go down this road of, I like to say ‘asking the wrong questions.’ Those are: ‘Why did this happen to me? Will this ever be over? What will happen to me?’ Every moment is a choice. We can choose to perceive what is happening to us differently. We can ask what

new opportunity there may be for me.

“As an example, prior to my disastrous rupture in 2016, I was performing flute with my partner Christine Ziegenfuss-Holanda all over town, I did art and photography shows, I was an avid hiker, I swam three times a week, and I went to be being completely flat on my back for over a year. It was very depressing, of course. I started asking myself [those wrong questions.] I didn’t want to become this angry, bitter person because of what had happened.

“I took inventory: I was flat on my back but I was still working. Instead of the creative things I was able to do previously like photography, I began to keep a journal on my computer. Every day, recording my challenges, my insights and inspirations. I realized I may never ride horses again but I can sketch them. I may not be able to play classical flute, but I can play Native American flute. I learned to find satisfaction and joy in those things. That journal became this book. I had never set out to write a book. I had been a writer my whole life, grant writing and poetry; this is the book I wish I had. The book is full of tools for turning these things around so we can be productive.”

TC: “There are two levels of suffering, there is the physical pain and disability, and there is the mental anguish that results from our responses.”

KHL: “Our responses and choices. One chapter is called ‘Your mind is your medicine.’ It’s all about gaining a different perspective on what happens to us so we can have a better response and live a more fulfilling life.”

TC: “It’s very practical advice. It’s not a guru from a mountain top, it’s like the advice a best friend would give you if they had suffered the same.”

KHL: “We all go through a lot of the same challenges



Kathy Harmon-Luber with her book “Suffering to Thriving.”

PHOTO BY LYNN EDDICE

and sometimes when we are stuck in suffering we just need someone to remind us there are better choices we can make and better days ahead. The healing journey is part of our life’s journey, which is embedded in our soul’s journey. The healing crises we go through shine a light on our purpose and direction.”

The book will be available first on Amazon May 17, then Barnes and Nobles, and then everywhere. Harmon-Luber will hold a virtual book launch event, for friends all over the country and around the world who want to be a part of it. “On the website [www.sufferingtothriving.com] we’ll be posting information about how to participate in the virtual event. It will be on Facebook live,” she said.

## Pickleball fence repaired; donations needed

By STEPHANIE YOST  
IDYLLWILD COMMUNITY CENTER PRESIDENT

There’s good news this week for local and visiting pickleball players. Idyllwild Community Center (ICC) has repaired the pickleball court fence. The court was significantly damaged in a Thanksgiving windstorm in 2021 when a large pine tree on Idyllwild Pines’ grounds, where ICC’s pickleball court is located, snapped and fell across the two courts.

It has taken several months to get the fence repaired, due in no small part to vendor and materials delays.

The cost of the repairs is about \$2,400, of which only \$500 has

been raised to date through a generous anonymous donation.

Although ICC holds a contract with Riverside County with local County Service Area 36 funds, that money is earmarked for recreation and programs, not facilities operations and maintenance, which is funded exclusively through donations.

ICC is hoping to raise the remaining funds for the repair cost through community outreach. Those interested in helping can make an online donation at ICC’s website: idyllwild-communitycenter.org. Click the “Donate” button at the top right of the homepage and note that the donation is for the pickleball court in the message box.



Santa Ana Winds snapped a majestic tree during the Thanksgiving holiday 2021 that crashed onto the Idyllwild Community Center’s pickleball courts on Idyllwild Pines Camp property. The fence is now repaired but donations are needed to fund it.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IDYLLWILD COMMUNITY CENTER

## Scholarships for local students

Over the next few weeks, the Idyllwild Scholarship Fund board is requesting community donations to support scholarships for area 2022 high school graduates.

The Idyllwild Scholarship Fund goes back to 1969 when three students were awarded “scholarships.” One was for \$250, another for \$100, and one student received a dictionary. In April 2021, six high school students were awarded a total of \$49,000.

To be eligible, a student must have resided in the Idyllwild School attendance area with a parent or guardian for at least three years during kindergarten through eighth grade, and for two of the four high school years.

Academic requirements are: an attainment of a 2.5 GPA or a combined SAT score of 1052 (or ACT of 20). Other considerations would be involvement in school or community activities, and a demonstration of intent to further his/her education.

Applicants must fill out a packet, write an essay and appear for an interview with the selection committee. The selection committee is made up of representatives from local organizations, three members at large and Idyllwild School Principal Nicole Picchiottino.

Pick up application packets from a high school counselor, at the front office of Idyllwild School or at www.idyllwild-scholarshipfund.org.

Packets are due by 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Idyllwild School. Interviews will be scheduled for April 26 and 27.

Donations may be sent to Idyllwild Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 778, Idyllwild, CA 92549. All donations are tax-deductible.

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## The Bunny Buddies are Back!

Buzz and Beeper Bunny are back with all kinds of Easter fun!

If the activities on this page seem hard, find some bunny to help you. If it looks easy, help some bunny younger than you!

### NATIONAL EGG-QUIRER

NEWS FROM THE HENHOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE!

#### HEN HATCHES HUGE SURPRISE

COOPERVILLE – Last night, things really started hopping for Henrietta Hen. The young mother of 152 is \_\_\_\_\_ with excitement over the unusual \_\_\_\_\_ in her nest last night.

“I was just dozing off, around \_\_\_\_\_ when one of my eggs began to shake,” Henrietta recalls. “Now I know why I didn’t hear the tapping and \_\_\_\_\_ sounds the sweet beaks of my chicks usually make as they crack out of their shells.”

When Henrietta’s egg finally opened, a smiling \_\_\_\_\_

hopped out. “I nearly flew the coop!” Mrs. Hen said.

Although she is a bit “chicken” when it comes to all of the media \_\_\_\_\_, Henrietta’s story will soon be made into a book and a movie.

“I guess I’ll enjoy the fame while it lasts,” Henrietta says. “However, I don’t like to put all of my \_\_\_\_\_ in one basket.”

Draw a line to where each of these missing words belongs in the article.

**BUNNY JUMPING CHIPPING EGGS**

**MIDNIGHT ATTENTION HATCHING**

### Bunny Loses Basket

Mr. E.B. Rabbit has an Easter Basket all ready to deliver. But he can’t remember where he put it. Take your pencil and show him the way through the maze to the basket. Don’t retrace your route or cross any lines.


**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written instructions.

### Bonnet Bizarre

Only two of these bonnets are exactly alike. Can you find them?

### Silly Scramble

The secret code to crack Beeper’s riddle is hidden in the egg rows.

 is the letter A. The egg to the right of it is B. The next is C, and so on.

The alphabet follows in order from left to right, top to bottom. Each egg stands for one letter of the alphabet.

**What kind of stories do bunnies like best?**

**Extra! Extra! Facts vs. Opinions**

Look through the newspaper for advertisements with an Easter theme. Circle the facts in yellow. Circle the opinions in green.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Distinguish between fact and opinion in expository text.

How many chocolate bunnies can you find on this page in one minute? How many can a friend find? Who found more?

**ANSWERS:**

1. I nearly flew the coop!  
2. she is a bit “chicken”  
3. don’t put your eggs in one basket  
4. things really started hopping

**Standards Links:** Decoding: Recognize letters of the alphabet. Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

## Say What?

Some phrases people use don’t mean exactly what they say. For example the saying, “It’s raining cats and dogs,” doesn’t mean that cats and dogs are falling from the sky. It is a phrase people use to say it is raining hard.

These kinds of phrases are called **idioms**.

The Eqq-quirer page has several idioms. Find the idiom that goes with each meaning below:

1. Meaning: I was really surprised!

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Meaning: To be afraid.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Meaning: Not to depend on one thing.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Meaning: Things are getting busy.

Idiom: \_\_\_\_\_

**What a Character!™**

### Humor is ...

... laughing **with** people, not **at** them.

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

This week’s word: **IDIOM**

The noun **idiom** means a phrase that cannot be understood from the meaning of the words that make up the phrase.

“Don’t count your chickens before they hatch,” said Coach Pesko when we were sure we would win the game.

Try to use an **idiom** today when talking with your friends and family.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### Egg Patterns

Buzz Bunny has decorated his eggs with number patterns. Help Beeper figure out where to put each of the numbers left in the basket. Draw a line to where each egg belongs.

3	6	9		15
48		12	6	3
5	10		40	80
25	20		10	5

**Standards Link:** Math/Probability: Recognize patterns.

### Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Reporter Game

With a partner, read a newspaper article. One of you must choose to be a person in the article and the other should be the reporter. Decide what questions were asked to get the relevant information and then role-play the interview.

**Standards Link:** Reading Comprehension: Ask clarifying questions about essential textual elements, restate facts and details, clarify and organize ideas.



## What do you need if your chocolate eggs suddenly disappear?

**ANSWER:** An eggs-planation!

### Write On!

#### Easter Bunny Spotted

The Easter Bunny has been spotted, and you are the reporter covering the story.



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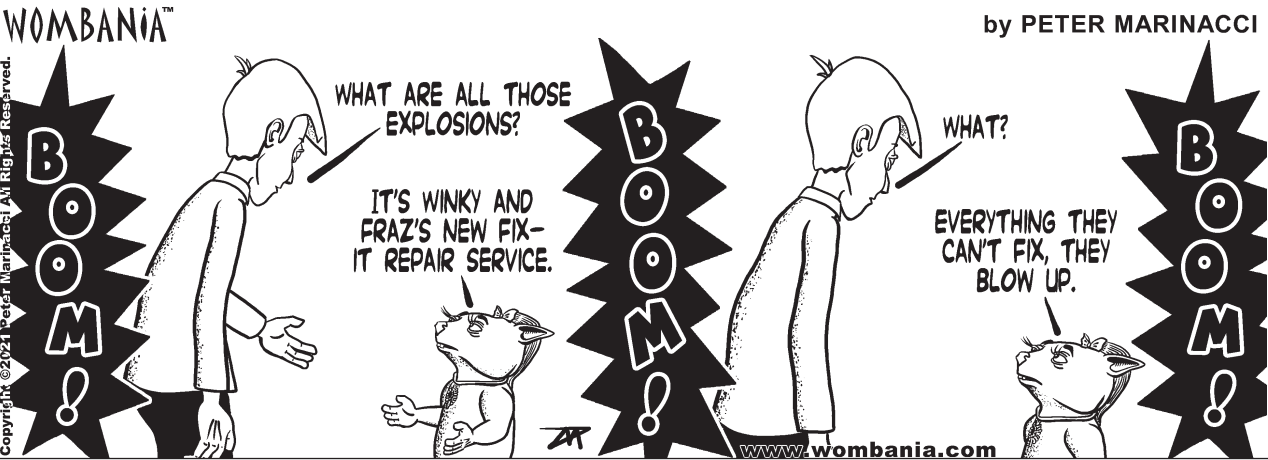
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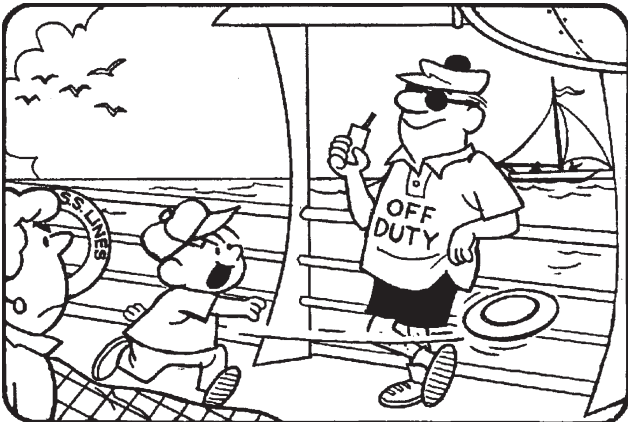
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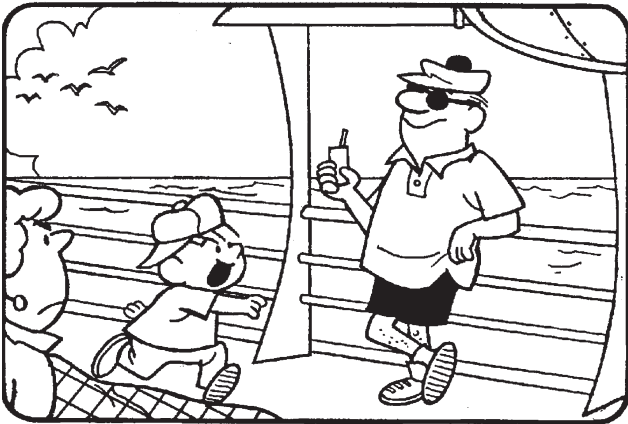




IT'S DIFFERENT



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Life preserver is missing. 2. Cap is reversed. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Shirt words are missing. 5. Frisbee is missing. 6. Boat is missing.



A Saturday morning exercise class at the Idyllwild Community Center amphitheater.

PHOTO BY JOEL FEINGOLD



Sadie (visiting from Maryland) and her grandfather Jack Clark (Town Crier co-publisher) construct a Mason bee house Saturday at the Idyllwild Nature Center from kits provided for free.

PHOTO BY BECKY CLARK



John Huddleston (right) of A Better Tree Company and a new member of the Idyllwild Rotary Club spoke to the club at its Wednesday morning, April 6, meeting at American Legion Post 800. Rotary President Nacho Garcia (left) thanks Huddleston for the talk with a Rotary mug.

PHOTO BY THOM WALLACE



Todd and Laura Munson of San Diego taking a stroll through IdyPark on Saturday afternoon.

PHOTO BY JOEL FEINGOLD



Alois and Penelope Smrz recently returned from hiking around Death Valley and were fortunate enough to "find" a Town Crier on the top of the Striped Butte.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SMRZ'S



Jennifer Hill won the "Name the IAHS Museum bear contest" with her entry of "George," which was drawn by the Idyllwild Area Historical Society board, and she was awarded the little carved bear. Jennifer attended Hemet High School. She and her family only get to visit Idyllwild occasionally and she took the little carved bear home.

PHOTO BY TOM PIERCE



A large crowd of volunteers and well-wishers turned out on a windy Thursday to celebrate the grand opening of a vision begun in 1917 between Ray Barmore and the late Randall Harris of Living Free Animal Sanctuary to provide support for veterans at War Horse Creek on the property.



Living Free Animal Sanctuary President Ray Barmore cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of Camp Harris at War Horse Creek on Living Free's property Thursday afternoon.



U.S. Rep. Raul Ruiz's Field Representative Michael Bailey (right) presents a proclamation to Living Free President Ray Barmore commending the nonprofit's efforts to help veterans struggling to adjust to civilian life at War Horse Creek at Camp Harris' grand opening Thursday.



Bob Lippert (right) presents a \$2,000 check from the Idyllwild Rotary Club to Living Free Animal Sanctuary President Ray Barmore for building Camp Harris, the facilities for an immersive program for veterans struggling to adjust to civilian life at War Horse Creek Thursday in the kitchen tent during the grand opening. The first group of veterans to stay at Camp Harris, named for the late Living Free President Randall Harris, to train with mustangs was due in that evening.

PHOTOS BY BECKY CLARK



Idyllwild Service Directory

- New ads placed at beginning of month only
- Deadline for new ads: 4 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
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**Quote of the Week**

“All publicity is good, except an obituary notice.”

— Brendan Behan

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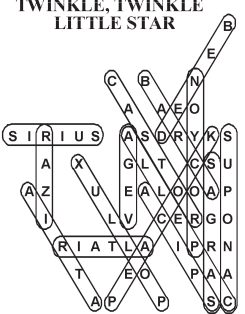
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TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR



**Answers to Word Search**  
(Puzzle on next Classified page)

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

**Answers to Sudoku**  
(Puzzle on next Classified page)

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

**Answers to Crossword**  
(Puzzle on next Classified page)

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**Continued →**

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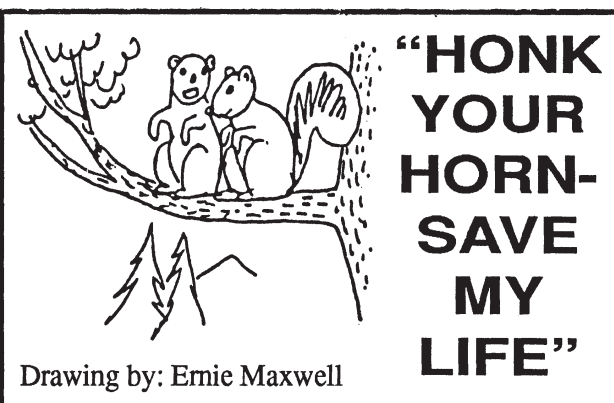
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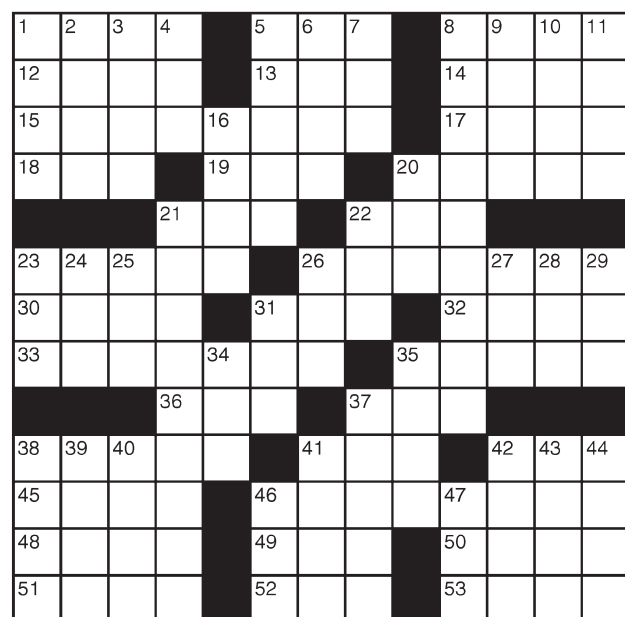
Drawing by: Ernie Maxwell

CROSSWORD

(Answers on previous classifieds page)

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swiss peaks
  - 5 — roll (winning)
  - 8 Lily variety
  - 12 Not worth debating
  - 13 Chest muscle
  - 14 Here (Sp.)
  - 15 Shop tools
  - 17 Void partner
  - 18 Chemical suffix
  - 19 MGM motto start
  - 20 Enlighten
  - 21 Elev.
  - 22 Petrol
  - 23 Prima donnas
  - 26 Thornton Wilder drama
  - 30 B — boy
  - 31 Grass shack
  - 32 "Closer" actor
  - 33 "Blue Bloods" actress
  - 35 El Greco's birthplace
  - 36 Sunbather's goal
  - 37 Carrier to
- DOWN**
- 1 Both (Pref.)
  - 2 Burden
  - 3 Corn recipe
  - 4 Norm (Abbr.)
  - 5 Dizzying designs
  - 6 Reporter's quest
  - 7 Rm. coolers
  - 8 Desert hazard
  - 9 Iso-
  - 10 Chasm
  - 11 Unctuous
  - 16 Droops
  - 20 Listener
  - 21 Small wiper
  - 22 Belly
  - 23 Apply cream
  - 24 Medit. nation
  - 25 Half of XIV
  - 26 Ump's call
  - 27 Have bills
  - 28 Drench
  - 29 SSW opposite
  - 31 Chick's mom
  - 34 Carefree
  - 35 LummoX
  - 37 Rap star West
  - 38 Distort
  - 39 "The King —"
  - 40 Bridal accessory
  - 41 Oodles
  - 42 Poet Sandburg
  - 43 Basra resident
  - 44 B'way booth sign
  - 46 Legislation
  - 47 CEO's deg.



**HOROSCOPES**

April 2022 — Week 2



March 21 – April 19

A sudden change of plans could lead to a misunderstanding with a friend or family member. Be ready to offer a full explanation of your decision. A past favor is returned.



April 20 – May 20

Expect pressure from those who want you to change your position on a matter of importance. However, the determined Bovine will be able to withstand the bullying and win out.



May 21 – June 21

It's time to stop dwelling on past disappointments and move on to other possibilities. By week's end, you'll be meeting new people and making new plans for the future.



June 22 – July 22

A long-simmering situation between co-workers threatens to heat up and could create problems with your work schedule. Best advice: Consult a supervisor on how to proceed.



July 23 – August 22

You might have just learned that someone close to you is keeping a secret. And, of course, the Cat's curiosity has gone into overdrive. But be patient. All is revealed soon enough.



August 23 – September 22

Don't give up. The recognition citing the good work you recently did will come through. Meanwhile, an opportunity opens up that can lead to a lot of traveling later on.



September 23 – October 22

A financial crunch eases, but it's still a good idea to keep a tight rein on what you spend for nonessentials. Education becomes a major focus as the week winds down.



October 23 – November 21

Recent encounters with stressful situations could require some restorative measures to get your energy levels back up. Talk to your doctor about a diet and exercise program.



November 22 – December 21

New connections follow changes on the job or in your personal life. But keep your feelings reined in until these relationships have a chance to develop.



December 22 – January 19

Pay more attention to your aches and pains, but avoid self-diagnoses. Seek professional advice to make sure these problems won't lead to something more serious.



January 20 – February 18

You love doing research and learning new things, so you'll be happy to know that education becomes a big part of your life at this time, and for some time to come.



February 19 – March 20

Your Piscean penchant for doing things logically could be challenged by an equally strong emotional reaction to a new situation. Best advice: Keep the two factors in balance.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

(Answers on previous classifieds page)

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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- \$1,240 2x2 No.; \$1,240 2x2 So.

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WORD SEARCH

(Answers on previous classifieds page)

**MAGIC MAZE** ● TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: CLOSEST STAR TO EARTH

AcraB	Capella	Peacock	Sirius
Altair	Castor	Pollux	Spica
Atria	Deneb	Procyon	Vega
Canopus	Izar	Sargas	

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★ EXCELLENT FINANCING ★

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Arts & Entertainment  
CALENDAR

Event charges may apply.  
See ads throughout the issue.  
Email editor@towncrier.com.

- Wednesday, April 13**
- Forest Folk cribbage, 10 a.m.-noon. Idyllwild Library.
  - Storytime: "Easter Bunny" with Miss Rachel, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
  - Wild & Wonderous Writers Club with Missy, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.

- Thursday, April 14**
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist, 5 p.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church.

- Friday, April 15**
- Good Friday service, noon. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church.

- Sunday, April 17**
- Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30-7:30 a.m. Inspiration Point.
  - Easter Sunday breakfast, 9:30 a.m.; Resurrectionist Eucharist, 11 a.m. St. Hugh's Episcopal Church.

- Monday, April 18**
- Crochet Club with Stella, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Idyllwild Library.

- Tuesday, April 19**
- Mah Jongg, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.

- "How a Community College Opens the Door to a Future of Opportunities," Mary Rider, 6-7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
- Crochet Club with Stella, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.

- Wednesday, April 20**
- Forest Folk Cribbage, 10 a.m.-noon. Idyllwild Library.
  - Storytime: "Hats off to You!" with Miss Susan, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Idyllwild Library.
  - Fireside Book Group, "Pachinko," 2-3 p.m. Idyllwild Library.

- Friday, April 22**
- Genealogy Cafe, Idyllwild Area Genealogy Group, 1-2 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
  - Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 7 p.m. <https://brownercenter.org/wsff-2022/>.

- Saturday, April 23**
- Earth Day Story Time, 10:30-11:30 p.m. Idyllwild Nature Center.

- Monday, April 25**
- Crochet Club with Stella, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Idyllwild Library.

- Tuesday, April 26**
- Mah Jongg, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.
  - Crochet Club with Stella, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Idyllwild Library.



**75 years ago - 1947**  
The U.S. Forest Service reported the insect situation had become critical in the Idyllwild area. Warm weather added another hatch of bugs and 750 trees were infected.

**70 years ago - 1952**  
The season's rainfall totaled 43 inches.

• • •  
Town Crier saluted Denis Evarts Bowman as one of Idyllwild's most distinguished citizens. Bowman, a scholar and former attorney and school teacher, was the donor of the Bowman Arts Center at ISOMATA.

**60 years ago - 1962**  
On his property, Val Hansen found a rattlesnake with nine rattles.

• • •  
Robert Robbins and Pamela Hamilton were chosen chief and princess for the Bear Flag Festival on the basis of "good citizenship, character and scholarship."

**55 years ago - 1967**  
Four young hikers were rescued from the north slope of Mt. San Jacinto. Two members of the Riverside Mountain Rescue Team jumped from a helicopter and led the lost hikers to safety.

**50 years ago - 1972**  
Both the Idyllwild County Water District and the Forest Lake mobile home park developers started drilling new wells at Dutch Flat and Foster Lake.

**40 years ago - 1982**  
A "Meet the Candidates Night," to introduce the six candidates for sheriff and one for district attorney, and sponsored by the Rotary Club, was being planned at Town Hall.

**35 years ago - 1987**  
An \$8.9-million increase in the Clean Water Grant for the Idyllwild-area sewer project was approved. But state officials warned if there were any more delays in the project the grant would be terminated.

**30 years ago - 1992**  
After removing his family to safety, off-duty volunteer firefighter Duane Knight saved his rented home from a fire by fighting the blaze with a garden hose until the Idyllwild Fire Department arrived.

**25 years ago - 1997**  
John Fitch, a Cherry Valley resident, was named the new Mountain Center postmaster.

**20 years ago - 2002**  
An Escondido man was arrested in connection with a string of at least 15 fraudulent checks written in the Idyllwild area in March.



In March 1972, the Idyllwild Water District declared a water emergency and passed an ordinance limiting consumption. Ernie Hauke, owner of the Koffee Kup, donned his Native American suit and performed a rain dance. It didn't work.

FILE PHOTO (GARY SQUIER)

**15 years ago - 2007**  
The local U.S. Forest Service complained about losing fire staff to competing agencies with higher-pay scales.

**10 years ago - 2012**  
A major fire destroyed the Fern Valley home of Idyllwild businessman Shane Stewart.

**5 years ago - 2017**  
Drought emergency restrictions were lifted statewide by Gov. Jerry Brown.

**1 year ago - 2021**  
Riding 20 to 25 miles per day, Goodlett and her Mustangs took the PCT trail in three- to five-day increments before coming off the trail to rest in Idyllwild.

CREATURE CORNER

By JANICE MURASKO

Last week in "Days of Our Nine Lives," the ARF cats met the new dog Tiny, puppy Newman, and cats Magic and Garfield.

**Phil:** And the hits just keep on comin'!

**Harley:** What do you mean?

**Phil:** Better get ready to take notes on this one. Three cats have been adopted; Garfield, Lola and Paisley!

**Whiskers:** Holy catnip! That's wonderful.

**Phil:** But wait! There's more. The puppy Newman also was adopted.

**Tiny:** But I'm still here. I hope I haven't frightened off potential adopters because of my very limited vision. You now, I still play, cuddle and move around as if I were any other adorable, friendly dog.

**Pepper:** It's so true! Juvenile cataracts just aren't fair, but Tiny, you seem to be perfectly fine.

**Tiny:** I am! And I will make the perfect companion for a loving human who offers his or her lap.

**Harley:** And I heard ARF has another new cat, Angeli.

**Angeli:** (bounding into the room) Yep! I'm the new cat.

**Phil:** Welcome to our cattery. I see you're a beautiful calico.

**Angeli:** Thank you. And you know, I'm very friendly and I love to meet people. Other cats are usually OK, too.

**Magic:** I'm sad because my buddy Garfield is gone, but I'm very happy he has a forever family.

**Pepper:** We have volunteers who now come in just to visit with us cats.

**Angeli:** Yes! They visited with me last weekend. It was so very nice. But this Sunday ARF will be closed.

**Don:** I really like visiting with humans, as do the other cats.

**Phil:** We are so friendly with everyone who comes to visit. I can only imagine how happy we'd be in a forever home.

**Magic:** Any one of us would be the resident greeter.

**Whiskers:** How nice that would be for any family.

**Don:** Whew. Glad I took notes on all of this!



Garfield



Magic



Angeli



Tiny

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. ARF is open Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and during the week by appointment. Please call 951-659-1122.

Creature Corner is sponsored by Sandi Mathers.

The Idyllwild Town Crier

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Contact Bob Hughes at [bob@hughesproperties.com](mailto:bob@hughesproperties.com) or call 1-760-275-6914

Churches & Spiritual Centers Directory of Idyllwild

**Calvary Chapel Mountain Center**  
29375 Hwy. 243, Mountain Center, Ca. 92561  
Church Office 951-659-0097  
Nursery Care, Children's & Youth Ministries  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am  
Weekly Bible Studies & Home Groups

**Idyllwild Bible Church**  
25860 Highway 243, Pastor Jeff Giampa  
A Family Friendly Bible Based Fellowship  
Sunday Worship & Nursery Care 9-10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, Nursery & Sunday School, 10:45-11:45 a.m.  
Mid-week Bible Studies & Youth Groups  
Call Church Office for Information, 951-659-4775

**Community Church**  
54400 N. Circle Dr. 659-2935  
www.icpchurch.net  
Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m. • Rev. Dr. Robert Mitchell  
Celebration: 5th grade & under during worship - Child care available  
Tuesday: Men's Breakfast, 6:30 a.m. - Wednesday: Women's Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.

**First Church of Christ Scientist, Idyllwild**  
25970 Cedar St. at River Drive, 659-2511. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Service 10 a.m.; Wednesday meeting, 7 p.m.  
Christian Science Reading Room, in church building, open to the public, Wednesday, 6-7 p.m.; Sunday, 11a.m.-Noon.

**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

**St. Hugh's Episcopal Church**  
Sunday Services 11 AM • Sunday School  
Phone (951) 659-4471 • [www.sthughsidyllwild.org](http://www.sthughsidyllwild.org)  
25525 Tahquitz Dr.

**Shiloh Christian Ministries**  
54295 Village Center Drive  
Pastors Wayne & LaDonna Sleme  
Sunday Service - 10 am  
Healing Room - Saturdays 10 am - Noon  
Tel: 951.659.2416 Tel for Prayer: 951.659.0031

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Preceding Passover, connecting to the theme of freedom and liberation:  
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Passover Seder 6:30 PM April 15th  
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# Historic board split on Wild Idy art

## Planning department to decide

By DAVID JEROME  
CORRESPONDENT

Thursday April 7, members of the Idyllwild Historic Preservation District (IHPD) Local Review Board (LRB) held a special meeting to consider the retroactive application by the proprietors of Wild Idy to allow the murals that adorn the chimney on their 54340 North Circle Drive business and the fence surrounding their next-door AirBnB “Proud Mary” cottage.

IHPD was formed in 2011. The state offers a tax advantage, and freedom from certain regulations, to owners whose buildings within such county-created districts are deemed of historic value, and who opt in to the district, becoming “contributors.” In exchange, they must file applications with the planning department for any alterations visible from public rights of way.

In the 11 years since the formation of IHPD, locals can only remember two other applications; those of Ferro’s restaurant and the Middle Ridge Winery “tasting gallery.” County Historic Preservation Officer Antone Pierucci noted by email those are the only two previous applications of which he is aware.

Ferro’s project involved essentially an entirely new building that followed the footprint and style of a “contributing” building. Middle Ridge’s included a large deck facing the street that includes fencing to comply with the stringent state Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) rules for establishments serving alcohol. Wild Idy is thus the first business to face the county over paint.

The owners asked their landlord, Shane Stewart, for permission before having the murals painted. Since his family had been involved in the formation of IHPD and since other “contributing” businesses had since painted their buildings without permits, they believed they were OK.

The murals, with their bright colors and psychedelia, inspired one anonymous individual to begin a campaign of phone calls to the county. Two details cited in the report about the murals are that the fence is over the “recommended” 42 inches for privacy fences, and the gate is of an “incompatible material” (it is covered with artificial turf.)

On Jan. 27, the LRB met to discuss the murals, and the proprietors of Wild Idy, Amy Hawley and Jayne Spencer, began the process of applying for a retroactive permit for their murals. The application completed (and fees paid), a special meeting was scheduled and Historic Preservation Officer Antone Pierucci collected the relevant material, including his recommendation.

Present at last week’s meeting were LRB Chair Terry Shirley and board members Warren Monroe, Nancy Borchers and Ron Kammeyer. Absent was board member Leslie Mouriquand. Pierucci represented the county, explaining that this board is merely advisory, giving only an opinion to the planning commission.

Shirley called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. embers of public who wished to make statements submitted forms and Pierucci set ground rules. Comments should maintain a respectful tone; no personal attacks.

Hawley spoke of “the joy these murals invoke... the smiling faces posing for pictures in front of them... the thousands of people who signed the petition in support...” She went on to question [w]hy would some anonymous individual wait for over a year and a half after these murals went up to decide they were offended by their content and call Code Enforcement daily...” when no complaints had ever come to them personally.

She mentioned the many favorable comments from residents and business people, and the other colorful businesses in the “vibrant” downtown: the hot pink of the Candy Cupboard, the red of the Red Kettle, the purple of Merkaba, and the giant cowboy hat on Wooley’s. She stirred the memories of those who can recall when the building that now houses Wild Idy was pink and sported a family of life-sized plastic panda bears frolicking on the roof.

Hawley outlined the struggles she and her childhood best friend and business partner underwent, the fires and road closures, then COVID, the work to establish a business, and “the murals that finally opened up the foot traffic we so desperately needed.” She also mentioned the application fee, over \$700.

She attributed the attempt to remove the murals to a desire on the part of a few to censor artistic expression. She concluded by hoping the board would “honor your message of supporting the small businesses of Idyllwild... and not become the modern day soul-eater of this mountain through censorship based on your personal taste or bias.” (This last a reference to the Cahuilla legend of Tahquitz.)

Members of the public spoke in favor of granting the permit and allowing the murals to remain. At least six people read prepared statements.

The letters and comments echoed one another without repeating. Themes emerged: Idyllwild as a haven for artists, and a quirky, colorful place; the spiritual importance of public art to our identity as a community; the economic importance of the tourism art generates; the joy these murals spark; the odiousness of censorship. The quotes that follow are drawn from these statements.

Ruven Klausner, a full-time resident of four years, artist, and e-commerce pro, wrote that “Idyllwild is an arts community — or so we claim. Which is why this entire mural argument seems antithetical to who we are. Art is subjective — but as a community of artists, it is pivotal that we do not kowtow to a single — but loud — dissenting voice.

“The only art that should be censored or removed is that which is hateful, pornographic, or incites violence — which these murals clearly do not. Forcing these murals to be removed would set a terrible precedent for our community.”

Resident Kelly Visel said she grew up here, learned to love art here, and is now an art historian. She tied art and commerce together. “When I came back [to Idyllwild], Amy was the first one to hire me to do social media and photography. They do that for artists, small artists, big artists, they give you that shot ... It would be a shame to take that away.”

One individual called the attempt to remove the murals the “tip of the iceberg of future problems, showing future generations their creations don’t matter.” They noted that the framers of the constitution included promotion of the arts among government’s purposes. Idyllwild is “meant to be a colorful town. People don’t stop and take pictures in front of grey buildings.”



From left, Idyllwild Historic Preservation District Local Review Board members **Nancy Borchers**, **Warren Monroe**, Chair **Terry Shirley** and **Ron Kammeyer**. The board met to discuss the retroactive permit application for the murals at Wild Idy. Shirley is explaining the purpose of the district. Board vote to permit was split, which means it will go to the county planner for a final decision.

PHOTO BY JOEL FEINGOLD

Another member of the public read statements from the mural artist Nick Danger and his mother. “It’s a real blessing when you find a group of people that support you and support creativity and artists of all kinds.” He noted Idyllwild’s “creative energy and unique setting” and its “support for artists like nowhere else I have been.”

His mother, Phyllis McPherson of Cleburne, Texas, asked the LRB to “[p]lease keep the unique and vibrant life of the community by honoring the efforts of the artists and business people.”

Nina Sparks, a San Diego resident, felt compelled to attend the meeting. She said that not all art is for everyone, but thought censoring by municipal code outrageous. She said it was “beautiful that Idyllwild locals are pouring time, energy, money into creating this forum for the arts,” but was “saddened to hear of the removal of the murals being considered. To the person or people championing this effort: Before Idyllwild was this way, it was another way... If you can keep an open heart you may even find something that benefits you in this change.”

Local resident and business owner Cynthia Stevenson’s statement began: “Public art matters. It enhances meaning in our civic spaces... humanizes the built environment. It provides an intersection between past, present and future, and between disciplines and ideas. The motion to destroy the murals... does nothing to support Idyllwild’s unique historical identity. Painting over these original works of art would harm and diminish our community.”

At the conclusion of the public comments, Pierucci read his report in advance of the board’s discussion and vote. “The subject-matter of the murals reflects the unique history of the Idyllwild community, from Cahuilla legends to the important counter-culture period of the 1960s. The psychedelic style of the murals also reflects that counter-culture.

“Although the colors themselves, when considered as mere paint, do not fit the design guidelines of the district, they do meet the standard of being public art and indicative of the ‘artistic flair and community spirit of local residents’ indicated as character-defining features in the Design Guidelines. Moreover, their historic subject-matter is especially pertinent in this discussion.

“Given the fact that the fence is painted in this mural, it is the opinion of the historic preservation officer that the height of the fence does not rise to the level of significance to warrant removal or alteration.

“Based on the information provided by the applicant, it is the opinion of the historic preservation officer that the proposed project adheres to the best practices as laid out in the Design Guidelines and therefore the Review Board should advise the planning director to approve it, with the following corrections, which the property owner needs to make: Replace the fence gate with a more appropriate gate that adheres to the Design Guidelines.”

He then made a motion to discuss the recommendation to allow the permit.

Borchers recounted the beginning of her involvement in the controversy. She recalled being accosted in the bank by someone (not present) and accused of “...two, three, four times a day calling Code Enforcement... accused in public of doing things that I had not done. I was quite upset, still am.” Borchers denies having made any such calls.

She also pointed out an issue with the “Save the Murals” petition (on change.org) submitted as an annex to the county application. “My name on the petition supporting the murals is a lie and a forgery.” A perusal of the petition reveals, in addition to Borchers allegedly spurious entry, a few suspicious names, like “Person You Know” residing in Vatican City and “UR Mom” living in USA. The bulk of the names appear genuine and the petition is not at issue in the application.

Borchers mentioned her 15 years of membership in the Art Alliance and volunteer work with the Idyllwild Area Historical Society. Her personal opinion, “I still think it’s garish, but it’s better than the pallet fence there before,” acknowledged that a fence made of non-conventional materials had been removed and replaced with the cedar board fence now carrying the mural.

Getting at the deeper reasons for her objections she said that “the mural praises a drug pusher on whose property 20 miles away two people died.” Here she is perhaps referring to the large mushroom on the fence. Wild Idy has not shied away from noting the psychedelic import of the work. The applica-

tion’s supporting material includes a page of references, many of which refer to articles covering Timothy Leary and the Brotherhood of Eternal Love during their stay at Fobes Ranch in Garner Valley.

Borcher also said she was “glad at least they are now following regulations by filing for a permit,” but that the gate covered with artificial turf should be replaced.

Monroe opened with the observation that “just as people in the media refuse to read the Florida legislation, they also refuse to read our guidelines.” He did not clarify this statement, and did not respond to a phone message requesting clarification. The ordinance creating the historic preservation districts in Riverside County states that paint color is included in the alterations requiring a permit. But these regulations are routinely ignored. Monroe also noted “something to remember: this district was formed fairly recently. Things like a bright red restaurant or a purple store, (Merkaba) were not taken into account because they were not there.” He also added that he has “been getting unsolicited comments from many people that the thing is not in keeping with the character of Idyllwild.”

About the petition he observed that “approximately 9% of the 2,500 on that list are from Idyllwild. I think it’s wonderful that Boston rang in ...” but was unsure if Bostonians should have a say in what Idyllwild should accept. The petition, with more than 2,200 names, contains by this writer’s count, 316 Idyllwild signatures (14%), and others from Pine Cove, Mountain Center, Anza, Hemet/ San Jacinto. Most are from California, but residents of all inhabited continents have added their names.

Monroe admitted he was “not sure how many artists would agree with the boring view the board had when creating the IHPD. The Cahuillas lived here, ground their acorns here, it’s not clear they used peyote, I wasn’t there at the time, though some think I was.” His opinion was that Wild Idy should “cut it down to 42 inches. I think that should be the recommendation.”

Kammeyer introduced himself as a landscape architect, designer of projects as diverse as the courtyard in South Coast Plaza and the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial at Window Rock in Arizona. “Art is subjective.” He said his “mind is open” but that he would have to look at the regulations. “Art is a spirit of its own.”

Shirley clarified IHPD’s purpose and underlined that property owners in the district have a responsibility to be aware of what county guidelines are... “we don’t write them.” He mentioned the 103 eligible buildings within the district, of which 57 are considered “contributing.” He explained that the IHPD allowed waiving American Disability Act requirements, “one way to preserve the character of the village.” Ordinance 528 creates an application process and regulations. The designation has benefits and restrictions. “The purpose of the design guidelines is to help businesses to preserve the village; create a consistent and fair outline. We have a responsibility to help businesses to thrive.”

Pierucci then introduced a motion for vote. Shirley motioned, Kammeyer seconded with Borchers and Monroe voting against. Pierucci announced that the vote was tied and will go to the planning department for final decision since the LRB is advisory.

Monroe then moved that the application be approved, but only by living up to all regulations, the fence being reduced to 42 inches and the gate being replaced. Kammeyer brought up that this would destroy the art work. The motion died without a second.

Shirley listed tentative future agenda items: repaving North Circle; streets signs to better highlight the district; creating an IHPD website. Shirley noted there are funds available from the county for signage, and also grants available from COVID funds to help impacted rural businesses. Information would be presented at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for noon Thursday, May 5, at the Idyllwild Library.

Monroe underlined the importance of getting better information to realtors about IHPD regulations, offered at the library.



Some people like them and some don't. Wild Idy's murals, including this **Nicholas Danger**-painted chimney at the North Circle Drive location, are creating controversy amongst residents.

PHOTO BY DAVID JEROME