

Idyllwild



Magazine & Visitor's Guide

Winter 2007-08

A publication of the Idyllwild Town Crier newspaper

Rustic Theatre Revisited
Idyllwild's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
Bald Eagles • Snow Plants
The Lens: Winter on the Mountain
Plus a complete guide to events and celebrations on the Hill



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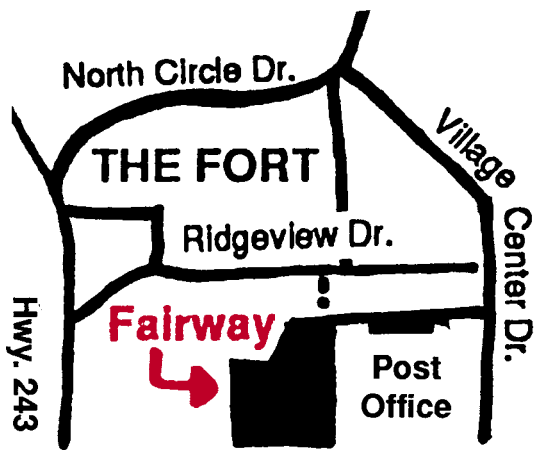


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Welcome to the Mountain



Becky Clark
 Publisher-Editor
*Idyllwild Magazine
 & Visitor's Guide*
Town Crier newspaper

Idyllwild Magazine & Visitor's Guide is your directory to having fun on the mountain — whether that's relaxing, strolling throughout the village or enjoying adventure in the wilderness. This guide is chock full of who, what and where to get you there. An abundance of events are listed in the Calendar on pages 8-10 in this issue. And don't miss the Idyllwild Arts Calendar on page 36. This is a busy community. There's always something fun to do in Idyllwild.

Whatever isn't listed here most likely is in the weekly Town Crier newspaper, available at newsstands throughout the mountain communities and by subscription. An abundance of local and tourist information is online at www.towncrier.com. We hope you visit us again very soon. Below is our featured community service club.



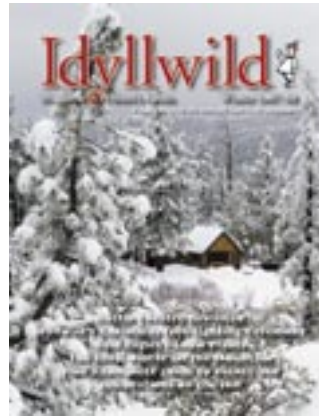
Joy Woodman
 President
*Idyllwild
 Garden Club*

Since 1956, the Idyllwild Garden Club has enjoyed enhancing the natural beauty of Idyllwild. You may have noticed some of our endeavors in various parts of town, including the area around the Idyllwild monument, a dozen barrels of colorful flowers next to businesses in The Fort and along North Circle Drive, the Idyllwild Area Historical Society grounds, the daffodils blooming in front of the Town Crier, and our latest

project of weeding and adding color to the parking lot of Strawberry Creek Shopping Center.

One of the club's favorite projects, Idyllwild School's Junior Garden Club, introduces students to growing flowers and vegetables and working with nature to create a beautiful native habitat for our local birds and butterflies. The club also gives an annual scholarship to a student who plans to pursue a career in a related field.

If you enjoy being inspired by other people's gardens, mark your calendar for June 30, our annual and always popular Home Garden Tour. For more information, call me at (951) 659-8339.



On the cover
A snowy scene in Pine Cove, just north of Idyllwild, captured by former Idyllwild Staff Photographer Michael Erlich.

Idyllwild

Magazine & Visitor's Guide

Published By ...

EDITOR Becky Clark
 OPERATIONS MANAGER Jim Crandall
 ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Grace Reed
 ADVERTISING SALES Shannon Johnston
 GRAPHIC DESIGN Jim Crandall
 PRODUCTION & DESIGN Shannon Johnston,
 Zac Johnson
 COPY EDITOR James Larkin
 STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS Michael Erlich, J.P. Crumrine
 CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Marcia E. Gawecki,
 Betty Bailey, John Robinson
 CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Ellen Feeley,
 Gina Genis, Amy Holland, Marcia Cox, Halie
 Johnson
 CUSTOMER SERVICE Dolores Sizer

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Where is Idyllwild?

Idyllwild, an oasis of sanity in Southern California, is less than one hour from Palm Desert, Hemet, Anza or Banning, and has no traffic backups on the way.

Each of the routes to Idyllwild is scenic and unique.

Idyllwild nestles in the San Jacinto Mountains. This southern, isolated section of the San Bernardino National Forest, a forest that includes Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead, also encompasses the Santa Rosa Mountains close by.

Idyllwild was once the summer home of the Cahuilla Indians.

Driving Distances From Idyllwild

Banning (via Hwy. 243)	22 miles
Escondido (via Hwy. 371)	68 miles
Hemet (via Hwy. 74)	25 miles
Long Beach (via Hwy. 243)	103 miles
Los Angeles (via Hwy. 243)	100 miles
Orange County (via Hwy. 243)	93 miles
Palm Desert (via Hwy. 74)	47 miles
Palm Springs (via Hwy. 243)	47 miles
Riverside (via Hwy. 243)	51 miles
San Bernardino (via Hwy. 243)	57 miles
San Diego (via Hwy. 371)	114 miles
San Fernando Valley (via Hwy. 243)	121 miles
Santa Monica (via Hwy. 243)	117 miles
Temecula (via Hwy. 371)	48 miles

For Everyone's Safety: "Slower traffic use turnouts"

The scenery is beautiful but the drive may be a bit daunting. So if you need to pace yourself when driving in the mountains, please use courtesy when faster vehicles are following and pull over in the turnout areas provided for you.



54200 North Circle Dr.
 Across from the Fort
 Take a stroll down our
 boardwalk and take
 home a remembrance
 of your stay in Idyllwild
 from one of our unique
 shops, or just relax and
 enjoy yourself in our
 tranquil picnic area.

Dragonfly Tea House & Bakery
 "The Village Lane"
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Idyllwild

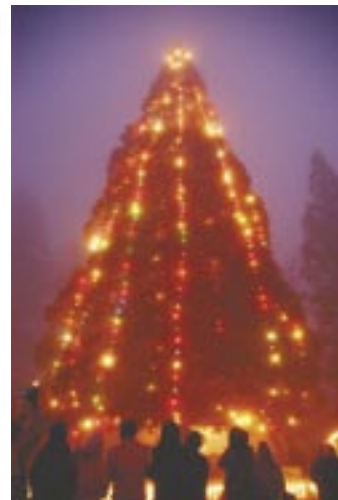


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11 Sparking the Spirit of the Season

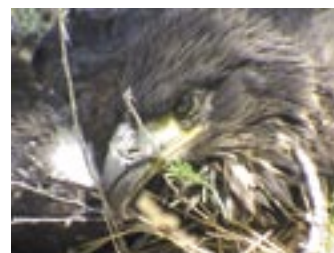
Every year, folks gather in the center of the Village of Idyllwild to watch the big Sequoia light up the sky.

By Marcia E. Gawecki

25 Bald Eagles at Lake Hemet

A breeding pair find challenges in raising a family.

By Betty Bailey



41 Yesterday: The Rustic Theatre

Idyllwild's charming link to Hollywood.

By Marcia E. Gawecki



45 Snow Plants

Red beacons in the snow.

By Marcia E. Gawecki

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Winter on the Mountain.

Photograph by Michael Erlich



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Idyllwild

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for further information call 951-659-3259

A Cut Above
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Alhatti Christian Resort
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Candy Cupboard
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Faux Ever After
Fern Valley Emporium
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Fern Village Chalets
Ferrellgas
Fireside Inn
Flaming O Productions
Forest Lumber
Four Corners Fine Art Gallery
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Java Lounge
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Meant To Be Fit

Mile High Country Inn
Miller Jones Mortuary
Morning Sky School
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Mt. San Jacinto College
Nancy Millsap
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Natural Solutions of Idyllwild Notary 24/7
Oma's European Restaurant & Bakery
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Sunlax Tax Services
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Calendar of Events

Key: Event name, day(s), time, location.

Also see page 36 for Idyllwild Arts events.

September

The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 1st, 9am; **Tom Hines Jazz Trio**, 1pm; **The Greg Jones Band**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jr. Naturalist Program, for ages 7-12, 1st, 10am-noon, Idyllwild Nature Center.

Friends of the Idyllwild Library Book Sale, 1st, 10am-2pm, Idyllwild Library.

Idyllwild Area Historical Society Ice Cream, Social, 1st, 11am-2pm, Idyllwild Area Historical Society Museum.

Idyllwild Western Festival, 1st, 11am-10pm, Between Jo'An's & The Fort.

Vic Moraga, 1st, noon-5pm & 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 1st, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Labor Day Barbecue, 1st, 4-8pm, American Legion Post 800.

Della Rose (Harp), 1st, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

Art Alliance of Idyllwild's 6th-annual Plein Air Art Festival, 1st-2nd, time TBA, The Rainbow Inn.

Labor Day Weekend Family Fun, 1st-3rd, 9am-4:30pm, Idyllwild Nature Center.

Idyllwild Community Recreation Council Pancake Breakfast Fund-raiser, 2nd, 8am, Town Hall.

Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 2nd, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am; **Idyllwild Poets Society**, 2:30pm; **Bill Saitta & the Mountain Mothers of Jazz**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Idyllwild Western Festival, 2nd, 11am-5pm, Between Jo'An's & The Fort.

Jerome Robinson, 2nd, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Della Rose (Harp), 2nd, noon, The Bread Basket.

Lions Club Labor Day Barbecue, 2nd, 3-7pm, Town Hall.

Children's Storytime, 3rd, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.

Two Micks & a Chick, 3rd, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 4th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Sandii Castleberry, 5th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Biff Bonnar & the Snotty Bastards, 6th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 7th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Tom McNeary & Noses that Run, 7th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Dottie Goldfarb (Violin), 7th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

Kat & Co. Karaoke, 7th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 8th, 9am; **Manage Trios**, 1pm; **Tom Hines & the Back Scratchers**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jr. Naturalist Program, for ages 7-12, 8th, 10am-noon, Idyllwild Nature Center.

Saturday Morning Art Café, 8th, 10am-noon, Baker Woodworks.

Change Required, 8th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Roger Friend (Drum Circle), 8th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Live Music, 8th, 6-9pm, La Casita.

Della Rose (Harp), 8th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

24-Hour World Peace Sit, 8th-9th, 8am-8am, Yokoji Zen Mountain Center.

Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 9th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am; **Rumble Chicken**, 1pm; **Celebrate Grandparents Day With Skeleton Crew**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jerome Robinson, 9th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Della Rose (Harp), 9th, noon, The Bread Basket.

EarthWitness Benefit Concert, Arthur Kennedy & Local Color, 9th, 12:30pm, Yokoji Zen Mountain Center.

Children's Storytime, 10th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.

Brian Martin Returns, 10th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 11th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Wayne Johnston & Friends, 12th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Flamodical Romantica, 13th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Paul Carman & Marshall Hawkins (Jazz), 14th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Sandii Castleberry, 14th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Dottie Goldfarb (Violin), 14th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

Kat & Co. Karaoke, 14th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Saturday Morning Art Café, 15th, 10am-noon, Artspresso.

The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 15th, 9am, Café Aroma.

Idyllwild Area Historical Society's 7th-annual Historic Home Tour, 15th, 10am-4pm, begins at the Tree Monument site in the center of town.

The Mike Lowe Band, 15th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Live Music, 15th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Tom McNeary With Dental Floss, 15th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Live Music, 15th, 6-9pm, La Casita.

Della Rose (Harp), 15th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 16th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am; **Kevin Danzig**, 1pm; **Bill Saitta & the Psychotics of Jazz**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jerome Robinson, 16th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Della Rose (Harp), 16th, noon, The Bread Basket.

Children's Storytime, 17th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.

Biff Bonnar & the Not-So-Snotty Bastards, 17th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 18th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Tom McNeary & the Tank Tops, 19th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Brian Martin Comes Back Again, 20th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Rumble Chicken, 21st, 6pm, Café Aroma.

John King & Friends (Folk), 21st, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Dottie Goldfarb (Violin), 21st, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

Kat & Co. Karaoke, 21st, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 22nd, 9am; **Robert Earl Longley**, 1pm; **Tom Hines**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Saturday Morning Art Café, 22nd, 10am-noon, Flying Pigments Studio.

The Mike Lowe Band, 22nd, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Bluegrass Jam, 22nd, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Live Music, 22nd, 6-9pm, La Casita.

Della Rose (Harp), 22nd, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.

24 Hours of Adrenalin mountain bike race, 22nd, Hurkey



Storytime at the library. PHOTO BY HALIE JOHNSON

Creek Campground.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 23rd, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am; **Bill Saitta**, 1pm; **Happy Birthday Herb Jeffries**, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 23rd, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Della Rose (Harp), 23rd, noon, The Bread Basket.
Children's Storytime, 24th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.

Sandii Castleberry, 24th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 25th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Wayne Johnston & the Adrenaline Junkies, 26th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Flamodical Romantica, 27th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Beat Poetry, 28th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Skeleton Crew, 28th, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Dottie Goldfarb (Violin), 28th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 28th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Open Mic, 29th, 1-4pm, Java Lounge.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 29th, 9am; **Flamodical Romantica**, 1pm; **Vic Moraga**, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Vic Moraga, 29th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Friends of the San Jacinto Mountain County Parks Semi-annual Meeting, 29th, 5:30pm, Idyllwild Nature Center.

Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 29th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Live Music, 29th, 6-9pm, La Casita.
Della Rose (Harp), 29th, 6:30-8pm, The Bread Basket.
Oktoberfest, 29th-30th, noon-

4pm, weekends, Oma's European Restaurant & Bakery. (Through Oct. 14.)
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 30th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am; **Kevin Danzig**, 1pm; **Skeleton Crew**, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 30th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Della Rose (Harp), 30th, noon, The Bread Basket.

October

Children's Storytime, 1st, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Oktoberfest, 1st-14th, noon-4pm, weekends, Oma's European Restaurant & Bakery. (Also Sept. 29-30.)
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 2nd, 6pm, Café Aroma.

Living Free Benefit, 5th, noon-7pm, Paradise Corner Café.
Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 5th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 5th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 6th, 9am, Café Aroma.

Vic Moraga, 6th, noon-5pm, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.

Living Free Benefit, noon-7pm, Paradise Corner Café.

Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 6th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.

Art Alliance of Idyllwild's 10th-annual Art Walk & Wine Tasting, 6th, 2-5pm, member galleries.

Live Music, 6th, 6-9pm, La Casita.

Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 7th, 9am-noon; **Chess**

Games, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 7th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Children's Storytime, 8th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 9th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Paul Carman & Marshall Hawkins (Jazz), 12th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 12th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 13th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Change Required, 13th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Roger Friend (Drum Circle), 13th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 13th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Live Music, 13th, 6-9pm, La Casita.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 14th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 14th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Children's Storytime, 15th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 16th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
John King & Friends (Folk), 19th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 19th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 20th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Mountain Quilters Quilt Show, 20th, 9am-4pm, Idyllwild School.
Live Music, 20th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Live Music, 20th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Live Music, 20th, 6-9pm, La Casita.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 21st, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 21st, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Children's Storytime, 22nd, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 23rd, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Beat Poetry, 26th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 26th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo

Guitar Serenade), 27th, 9am, Café Aroma.
The Mike Lowe Band, 27th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Living Free Benefit, 27th, 1-3pm, The Gardens on El Paseo, Palm Desert.
Bluegrass Jam, 27th, 1-4pm, Java Lounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 27th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Live Music, 27th, 6-9pm, La Casita.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 28th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
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Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 30th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Idyllwild Great Pumpkin Carnival & Parade, 31st, North Circle Drive & Downtown Idyllwild.

November

Sandii Castleberry, 2nd, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 2nd, 8pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 3rd, 9am, Café Aroma.
Sandii Castleberry, 3rd, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar) Java Lounge.
Live Entertainment, 3rd, 10pm-2am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 4th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Children's Storytime, 5th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 6th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Paul Carman & Marshall Hawkins, 9th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 9th, 8pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 10th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Drum Circle, 10th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar) 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Live Entertainment, 10th, 10pm-2am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 11th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Veteran's Day Observation,



Dickens and Twain shared the stage at the Rustic Theatre in December 2006. In December of 2007, Dickens will share the stage with Longfellow.

11th, 11am, American Legion Post 800.
Children's Storytime, 12th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 13th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Folk Sensei, 16th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
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The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 17th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Live Entertainment, 17th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9 Java Lounge.
Live Entertainment, 17th, 10pm-2am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 18th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Children's Storytime, 19th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
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The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 24th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Harvest Festival of Arts & Crafts, Idyllwild Rotary, 23rd-24th, 10am-5pm, Town Hall.
Bluegrass Jam, 24th, 1-4pm; **Ernesto Alé** (Classical Guitar), 6-9 Java Lounge Idyllwild.
Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Soroptimist International of Idyllwild, 24th, 4pm, **Caroling & Lighting; Kids' Corner**, 1-3pm, Center of town.

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December

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Jazz Night, Paul Carman (Sax), **Marshall Hawkins** (Bass) & **Barnaby Finch** (Keys), 4th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Idyllwild School Charles Dickens Essay & Poster Contest Awards Presentation, 7th, 1pm, Idyllwild School.
Sandii Castleberry, 7th, 6-9pm, Java Lounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 7th, 8pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
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"An Evening With Charles Dickens & Henry Wadsworth Longfellow," Olde English Theatre performance to benefit the Friends of the Idyllwild Library, 8th, 4pm, The Rustic Theatre.
Live Entertainment, 8th, 10pm-2am, Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar.
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Children's Storytime, 10th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
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See Calendar, next page

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See Calendar, next page

Sparking the Spirit of the Season

By Marcia E. Gawrecki

Every year, folks gather 'round the largest Sequoia in the center of town, sing Christmas carols, drink hot chocolate, pose for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and shop the area craft booths. At the end, the tree is illuminated by thousands of lights. This tree-lighting event can attract hundreds of tourists and locals, but it takes some pre-planning.

Coordinator Diane Riggi has been orchestrating the event for years. She said the planning starts on a Saturday during the last weekend in October. "We all meet for breakfast and get it done," she said. The Soroptimists of Idyllwild put up the multicolored lights, about 12 to 14 strands, that total about 1,000. Village Hardware supplies the lights every year, including replacements for lost or broken bulbs, and sometimes replaces the strands altogether.

The 14 strands do not stay on the tree year-round, so Riggi relies on volunteer tree climbers like Ronny Pearson to reach the upper echelons of the tree located outside Jo'An's Restaurant. The lights stay up during the holiday season, but come down the first week in January, she said. Part of the excitement is seeing all the lights come on at once, so Riggi and the other volunteers just give people a taste of what's to come. One month before, only the star at the top of the tree is lit at night, usually from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

This year's tree-lighting event is at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24, said Riggi, because it starts getting pitch dark an hour later. The streets are blocked off and people are milling around The Fort at that time, shopping at holiday craft booths. A kids' Craft Corner begins at 1 p.m. Riggi hands out sheets of popular Christmas carols, and everyone starts singing. Local musician Ken Dahleen provides the stage and sound system so that various individuals and choral groups can perform for the crowd, including the Children's Choir and the Idyllwild Master Chorale. "We'll accommodate anyone who wants to participate," Riggi said. "The more the merrier, but we have to limit the program to one hour."

Sometime during the singing part of the program, Santa and Mrs. Claus (alias Mike and Emily Pearson) come riding up on an Idyllwild Fire ladder truck. They toss out candy for the children and then go inside The Fort to pose for pictures. All the area businesses participate, Riggi said, but what they do changes from year to year. "Mel Goldfarb from Idyllwild Pharmacy handed out candy canes to the kids for years, and the Rotary gives out hot chocolate and coffee," she said. "The Idyllwild Chamber of Commerce supplies the electricity, which is attached to a bull cord and a spider box behind Jo'An's."

Then at 4 p.m., the crowd hushes — in anticipation of the tree lighting. Riggi sings her solo, "Silent Night," while the crowd joins



PHOTO BY MICHAEL ERLICH

in. Once the song is done, the tree is fully lit and everyone cheers.

Idyllwild's tree-lighting ceremony attracts many tourists to Idyllwild during the holiday season, Riggi said. Depending upon the weather, as many as 1,000 attendees to as little as 300 have attended. "Weather has been mostly cool and moderate, but we've had pouring-down rain and bitter temperatures, too," Riggi said. "We don't cancel the program, but just move under the eaves of The Fort for shelter."

"It's a great event for the entire family," she added. "Children enjoy it the most, I think, especially when the sirens are blaring, and Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on the ladder truck." ❧

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Dining, Nightlife & Dessert

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Bread Basket Restaurant & Bakery 54710 N. Circle Dr. • 659-3506																	12
Café Aroma 54750 N. Circle Dr. • 659-5212																	14,33
Café Rendezvous 26290 Hwy. 243 • 659-5205																	12
Cahuilla Café at Cahuilla Casino 52702 Hwy. 371, Anza • 763-1200 ext. 145																	54
Candy Cupboard 54250 N. Circle Dr. • 659-5502																	
Country Farms 25980 Hwy. 243 • 659-3434																	27
Creek House 54905 N. Circle Dr. • 659-0686																	15
Fairway Market 54111 Village Center Dr. • 659-2737																	1
Gary's Deli 54423 Village Center Dr., #4. • 659-5600																	
Goodtimes Pub & Grill 26245 Hwy. 243 •																	
The Greek Place 54200 N. Circle Dr. • 659-4540																	4, 14
Hidden Village Chinese 25840 Cedar St. • 659-2712																	14
Idyllwild Café 26600 Hwy. 243 • 659-2210																	
Idyllwild Pizza Co. 54391 Village Center Dr. • 659-5900																	14
Idyllwild Shell Café Hwy. 243 & Ridgeview Dr. • 659-3437																	15
JavaLounge Idyllwild 54245 N. Circle Dr. • 659-5282																	12
Jo'An's Restaurant & Bar 25070 Village Center Dr. • 659-0295																	12
La Casita Mexican Restaurant 54650 N. Circle Dr. • 659-6038																	12
The Lumber Mill Bar & Grill 25985 Hwy. 243 • 659-0315																	
Mountain Harvest Market 54423 Village Ctr. Dr., #3 • 659-4555																	15
Mountain Top Liquor 26005 Hwy. 243 • 659-2591																	
Nature's Wisdom 54235 Ridgeview Dr. • 659-4300																	15
Oma's Restaurant & Bakery 54241 Ridgeview Dr. • 659-2979																	
Paradise Corner Café 61721 Hwy. 74, Garner Valley • 659-0730																	
Pine Cove Market 23235 Hwy. 243, Pine Cove • 659-2938																	
The Red Kettle 54220 N. Circle Dr. • 659-4063																	
Restaurant Gastrognome 54381 Ridgeview Dr. • 659-5055																	15
Village Market 26000 Hwy. 243 • 659-3169																	34



Arriba Mexican Restaurant owner Jose Huizar (left) and his longtime cook, Kiki Solario, prepared food for the grand reopening of the restaurant in August. The popular eatery had been closed for three years because of a fire. PHOTO BY MARCIA E. GAWECKI

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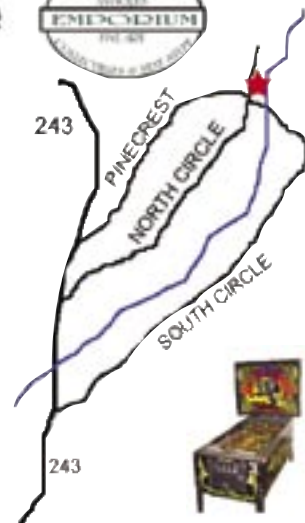
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Alderwood Cabins 25690 Alderwood St. • 659-3571	Under \$100-\$200	•		2		•	•	•	•		•	•	•						•	•				26
Alhatti Private Christian Resort 23551 Hwy. 243 • 659-2066	\$201-\$300+	•			•	•	•	•			•	•			200	•	•		•	•		•	•	24
Atipahato Lodge 25525 Hwy. 243 • 659-2201	Under \$100-\$200			1+	•	•		•			•	•	•		18				•	•	•			24
Bluebird Cottage Inn 26906 Hwy. 243 • 659-2696	Under \$100-\$200				•	•		•			•	•	•		60	•	•		•	•	•		•	24
Cedar Street Inn 25880 Cedar St. • 659-4789	Under \$100-\$200	•	•	1-3	•	•		•			•	•	•		40			•	•	•	•		•	18
Creekstone Inn 54950 Pine Crest Ave. • 659-3342	\$101-\$200			2	•		•			•		•	•		18				•		•		•	
Edelweiss Lodge 25055 Marion Ridge • 659-2787	Under \$100-\$200			2		•					•	•	•								•			26
Elite Mountain Homes (310) 398-6058	\$301+	•		2		•	•					•	•	•	10	•			•	•	•	•	•	
Fern Valley Inn & Cabins 25240 Fern Valley Rd. • 659-2205	Under \$100-\$200	•	•	1-3		•	•	•			•	•	•		25	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Fern Village Chalets & Motel 54821 N. Circle Dr. • 659-2869	Under \$100-\$200				•			•					•						•	•				26
Fireside Inn 54540 N. Circle Dr. • 659-2966	Under \$100-\$200	•	•	2	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•				27
Idyllwild Cabin Rentals 25740 Fir St. • (877) 270-3285	\$101-\$301+			2		•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•		•	28
Idyllwild Inn 54300 Village Center Dr. • 659-2552	Under \$100 to 300	•		1-2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•			•	22
Idyllwild Mountain Rentals 54240 N. Circle Dr. • 659-5349	\$301+	•		2-4		•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•		•	
Idyllwild Vacation Rentals 54085 S. Circle Dr. • 659-5015	\$100-\$301+			2		•	•	•			•	•	•	•				•	•	•			•	26
Katie's Kabins (619) 518-1961				2				•				•	•	•					•	•	•		•	
Knotty Pine Cabins 54350 Pine Crest Ave. • 659-2933	Under \$100-\$200			1-4	•	•		•			•	•	•			•			•	•				22
Lodge at Pine Cove 24900 Marion Ridge Dr. • 659-4463	Under \$100-\$200	•		1-2	•	•		•			•								•	•	•		•	
Manzanita Cabins 54100 Pine Crest Ave. • 659-3151	Under \$100-\$200	•		1-4	•	•					•	•	•						•	•	•		•	
Mile High Country Inn 54635 N. Circle Dr. • 659-2931	Under \$100-\$200				•						•	•							•	•	•		•	
Oak Crest Lodge 25000 Hwy. 243 • 659-2998	Under \$100			1-2	•	•		•			•	•	•		20	•			•	•				
Quiet Creek Inn & Vacation Rentals 26345 Delano Dr. • 659-6110	Under \$100-\$301+	•	•	1-2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	50				•	•	•		•	22
Peaceful Mountain Inn 23481 Hwy 243 • 659-5033	Under \$100-\$200				•			•			•	•	•		50	•	•		•	•				22
Rainbow Inn Bed & Breakfast 54420 S. Circle Dr. • 659-0111	Under \$100-\$200				•			•		•	•	•			75		•	•	•		•		•	22
Royal Pines Mobile Estates 26350 Delano Dr. • 659-2691	Under \$100				•	•		•			•	•			45	•	•		•		•	•	•	48
Silver Pines Lodge 25955 Cedar St. • 659-4335	Under \$100-\$200			1-2	•	•	•	•			•	•	•		50		•	•	•	•			•	
Starlight Sanctuary Cabin Rentals (949) 887-1633	\$100-\$200	•		2		•					•	•	•	•					•	•				27
Strawberry Creek Inn 26370 Hwy. 243 • 659-3202	Under \$100-\$200	•	•	1-2	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	20				•	•	•		•	24
Tahquitz Inn 25840 Hwy. 243 • 659-4554	Under \$100-\$200	•		1-2	•			•			•	•	•	•		•			•			•		20
Wilder Cabins 54550 S. Circle Dr. • 659-2926	Under \$100			1-2		•		•			•	•							•	•				
Woodland Park Manor 55350 S. Circle Dr. • 659-2657	Under \$100-\$300	•	•	1-2	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	26

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Day Use Areas

Key:

- F Federal
- S State
- C County
- L Local

	Fee	Permit	Adventure Pass required to park	Picnic tables	Barbecue grills	Restrooms	Stream	Lake	Fishing	Boat Rentals	Museum and/or Exhibit	Miles & direction from Idyllwild	Trails	Jurisdiction	Dogs allowed
Black Mountain Lookout Tower Black Mountain Road off Highway 243			•				•					14N	•	F	•
Cahuilla Tewanet Vista Point Highway 74												26SE		F	•
Suicide Rock Hike from Deer Springs Trailhead, Highway 243		•										4NE	•	S	
Fuller Mill Creek* Highway 243				•	•	•	•					7N	•	F	•
Idyllwild Area Historical Society 54470 North Circle Drive, Idyllwild				•							•	0		L	•
Idyllwild County Park County Park Road, Idyllwild	•			•	•	•						0	•	C	•
Idyllwild Nature Center Highway 243	•			•	•						•	1N	•	C	•
Idyllwild Ranger Station 54270 Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild						•					•	0		F	
Indian Rocks At upper end of Pine Crest Avenue and at Idyllwild County Park											•	0		C	
Inspiration Point End of Double View Drive, Idyllwild												1W		C	•
Lake Fulmor Highway 243			•	•	•	•		•	•			10N	•	F	•
Lake Hemet Highway 74, Garner Valley	•			•	•	•		•	•	•		10S		L	•
Lake Hemet Picnic Area Highway 74, Garner Valley			•	•	•	•		•	•			10S		F	•
Mt. San Jacinto State Park Office 25905 Highway 243, Idyllwild				•	•	•						0		S	•
North Fork of the San Jacinto River* Highway 243						•						7N	•	F	•
Palm Springs Tramway Tramway Road off Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs	•					•						49NE	•	S	
Parks Exhibition Center Cahuilla Drive, Idyllwild Arts campus						•					•	1W		L	
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert			•			•					•	38SE	•	F	•
Speed of Light Marker Junction of Pine Cove Road & Chickadee Lane, Pine Cove											•	5N		F	•
Strawberry Creek Idyllwild									•			0	•	L	•
Tahquitz or Lily Rock at its base At Humber Park, end of Fern Valley Road			•									1E	•	F	•
Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower Hike from Devil's Slide Trailhead, Fern Valley Road or South Ridge Trailhead, Tahquitz View Drive to South Ridge Road, Idyllwild	•	•										4E	•	F	•



Strawberry Creek (top). Devil's Slide Trail. (bottom).

PHOTOS: MICHAEL ERLICH (TOP), MARCIA COX (BOTTOM).

Adventure or Recreation Pass required to park.

* California Department of Fish and Game no longer stocks fish in these streams because the streams are suitable habitat for a protected species, the mountain yellow legged frog.

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Hiking & Backpacking

Day Hikes

No fees for permits.

No dogs allowed in Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness area; dogs on leash allowed in San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service).

A day-hike permit is not needed if you have an overnight permit.

	One-way distance in miles	Difficulty	Elevation gain in feet	Wildernesses	Permit required	No. people per permit	Permits at ...	Jurisdiction	Dogs allowed
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Highway 74 1 mile east of Highway 371 to Fuller Ridge Trail at Black Mountain Road	38	S	4,000	P	•	12	FS	FS	Y
Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail Humber Park to Tahquitz View Drive	2.6	E						FS	Y
Fuller Ridge Trail Black Mountain Road off Highway 243 to San Jacinto Peak	7.5	S	3,000	•	•	12	FS/SW	FS/SW	N
Seven Pines Trail Dark Canyon Road off Highway 243 to Deer Springs	4	M	2,600	•	•	12	FS/SW	FS/SW	N
Marion Mountain Trail Fern Basin Road off Highway 243 to San Jacinto Peak	5.9	S	4,400	•	•	12	FS/SW	FS/SW	N
Devil's Slide Trail Humber Park to Saddle Junction	2.5	M	1,700	•	•	12	FS	FS	Y
Deer Springs Trail Highway 243 1 mile north of Idyllwild to Suicide Rock	3.3	M	1,700	•	•	12	FS/SW	SW	N
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Tramway Terminal to Round Valley	1.7	E	700	•	•	12	SW	SW	N
Spitler Peak Trail Apple Canyon Road off Highway 74 to Apache Peak	5	S	2,800					FS	Y

Key:

P Partially
E Easy
M Moderate
S Strenuous

Agencies for permits:

FS U.S. Forest Service
54270 Pine Crest Ave.
P.O. Box 518
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(909) 382-2921 (voice)
(951) 659-5748 (TTY)
(951) 659-2107 (fax)
SW Mt. San Jacinto State Park
P.O. Box 308
25905 Highway 243
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(951) 659-2607

Overnight Camps

No fees for permits.

No open campfires.

No dogs allowed in Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness area; dogs on leash allowed in San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)

A day-hike permit is not needed if you have an overnight permit.

	No. people per area	Permit required	No. people per permit	Water	Camp stoves allowed with California Campfire Permit	Dogs allowed	Permits at ...
Chinquapin Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	75	•	12	S	•	•	FS
Skunk Cabbage Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	75	•	12	S	•	•	FS
Tahquitz Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	50	•	12	S	•	•	FS
North Rim Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	75	•	12	S	•	•	FS
Lower Basin Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	75	•	12	S	•	•	FS
Desert View Zone San Jacinto Wilderness (Forest Service)	50	•	12	S	•	•	FS
Round Valley Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness	28	•	15	P	•		SW
Tamarack Valley Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness	12	•	15	S	•		SW
Little Round Valley Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness	6	•	15	S	•		SW
Strawberry Junction Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness	3	•	15	S	•		SW

Water:
S Stream
P Piped



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Bald Eagle Pair Reside at Lake Hemet

By Betty Bailey

If Ben Franklin had carried a bit more clout, the emblem adorning our country's currency, and the Great Seal of the United States, would be a turkey. But, when you look at the majestic American Bald Eagle, it's easy to see why Franklin was outvoted. With a wingspan that approaches 7 feet, and a height of up to 43 inches, this regal bird seems the very essence of strength and vitality.

Its eye, nearly the size of a human's, sees four times more clearly. Two centers of focus enable the bird to see forward and sideways at the same time, allowing it to stalk fish beneath the water while keeping an eye on where it's going. Experts believe that from one position, a bald eagle can spot prey in an area of about 3 square miles.

The bald eagle has few, if any, natural predators and, in 1782, the white-headed bird of prey easily beat out the turkey to become the symbol that would represent our new nation and its founding principles of freedom. Two such birds, a nesting pair, make their home in the San Jacinto Mountains. Their story, like their predecessors who once flew freely throughout the continent, has been a rocky one.

By the late 1930s, it was apparent that the bald eagle population was declining except in Alaska, then a U.S. territory, where the birds have always thrived. The birds were already under the protection of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, an agreement between the U.S. and Great Britain (later expanded to include Mexico, Japan and Russia) that made it unlawful to hunt, capture, kill or sell migratory birds.

In 1940, additional safeguards were put in place when the federal government authorized the Bald Eagle Protection Act, forerunner of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Criminal and civil penalties would be levied against anyone possessing, selling, purchasing, bartering, transporting or exporting any bald or golden eagle, nest or egg without a permit.

Despite government protection, the bald eagle was not out of danger. By 1963, only 417 nesting pairs of bald eagles could be found in the lower 48 states. Blame fell on the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, popular after World War II. DDT residue built up in the eagles' systems, causing the shells of their eggs to become weak and too frail to sustain life. In Southern California, the bald eagle population suffered further damage by coastal development, which destroyed much of the land that served as habitat for the birds.

In 1967, a precursor to the Endangered Species Act was put in place, to offer protection to bald eagles in all areas south of the 40th parallel. (When the Endangered Species Act was formally adopted in 1973, the bald eagle would be among the first to be listed.) But it was not until 1972, when the Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT, that the bald eagle began making its recovery. A combination of captive breeding and reintroduction programs, the protection of habitats and nesting sites, and efforts to enforce existing laws contributed to the return of the stately bird.



An eaglet faces an uncertain future at Lake Hemet. PHOTO BY BILL HARING

In late June, 44 years after the bird was near extinction, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the bald eagle from its list of threatened and endangered species. Fish and Wildlife officials declared the number of bald eagle nesting pairs had grown from the low of 417 to 9,789.

Of the nearly 10,000 nesting pairs, 200 live in California. Among those are two eagles that have made their nest on the south shore of Lake Hemet.

A pair of grown eagles was first spotted near the lake in the 1990s but it wasn't until 2003 that water district workers discovered some young eaglets in their nest. It was the first time since the 1920s that baby eagles had been spotted south of Santa Barbara County.

"That female had two chicks that were successfully fledged," said Anne Poopatanapong, U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist. "The female that is nesting there now is not the one who was there in the 1990s or early 2000s. They mate for life so it's very likely that the other female passed away or was killed."

According to Poopatanapong, the new female arrived at Lake Hemet in 2004. She wears a tag marked "02," allowing experts to track her progress from the time she was hatched. "She was born in San Francisco Zoo and raised by hand for one week and then introduced at the west end of Catalina Island," said Poopatanapong. "She was raised on Catalina Island."

Poopatanapong said the new female was probably born in the spring of 2000 and, being a migratory bird, did not stay in one place for long. "Bald eagles fly up to Alaska and back. They travel a lot," she said. "She left Catalina Island on Aug. 28, 2000 and then flew up to Oregon in 2001. She returned back to Catalina in 2002 then flew up to Santa Cruz Island in 2003 and showed up here in 2004."

The female eagle was 4 years old; about the age the birds reach sexual maturity. Since then, "02" has been trying to nest. "The fact that we have a breeding pair here at Lake Hemet every year is really pretty neat," said Poopatanapong. "Bald eagles are migratory. They don't nest in California. To have two here is extremely rare already. "I think we're doing something right."

The Lake Hemet reservoir is more than 100 years old. Experts say its mature stock of fish and secluded stands of trees make it a good breeding area for the birds. Bald eagles typically stay near lakes or reservoirs, since fish makes up the bulk of their diet. The local

Continued on page 61

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October

Children's Storytime, 1st, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Oktoberfest, 1st-14th, noon-4pm weekends, Oma's European Restaurant & Bakery. (Also Sept. 29th-30th.)
Jazz Night Featuring Paul Carman (Sax), Marshall Hawkins (Bass) & Barnaby Finch (Keys), 2nd, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Kelly Armantage, 3rd, 6:30-8pm, Café Rendezvous.
Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 5th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
Kat & Co. Karaoke, 5th, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 6th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Vic Moraga, 6th, noon-5pm, 9pm-1am, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Sandii Castleberry (Folk), 6th, 1-4pm, JavaLounge.
Art Alliance of Idyllwild's 10th-annual Art Walk & Wine Tasting, 6th, 2-5pm, member galleries.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 6th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 7th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 7th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Children's Storytime, 8th,

10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night Featuring Paul Carman (Sax), Marshall Hawkins (Bass) & Barnaby Finch (Keys), 9th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Kelly Armantage, 10th, 6:30-8pm, Café Rendezvous.
Paul Carman & Marshall Hawkins (Jazz), 12th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
K & Co. Karaoke, 1am, Jo'An's Restaurant.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 13th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Change Required, 13th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Roger Friend (Drum Circle), 13th, 1-4pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 13th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 14th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 14th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Children's Storytime, 15th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night Featuring Paul Carman (Sax), Marshall Hawkins (& Barnaby Finch (Keys), 16th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Kelly Armantage, 17th, 6:30-8pm, Café Rendezvous.
John King & Friends (Folk), 19th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
K & Co. Karaoke,

1am, Jo'An's Restaurant.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 20th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Live Music, 20th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Live Music, 20th, 1-4pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 20th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 21st, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 21st, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Children's Storytime, 22nd, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night Featuring Paul Carman (Sax), Marshall Hawkins (Bass) & Barnaby Finch (Keys), 23rd, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Kelly Armantage, 24th, 6:30-8pm, Café Rendezvous.
Beat Poetry, 26th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
K & Co. Karaoke, 1am, Jo'An's Restaurant.
The Unknown Jerome (Solo Guitar Serenade), 27th, 9am, Café Aroma.
Mike Lowe Band, 27th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Bluegrass Jam, 27th, 1-4pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar), 27th, 6-9pm, JavaLounge.
Ernesto Alé (Classical Guitar),



The Great Pumpkin Carnival & Parade.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL ERLICH

28th, 9am-noon; **Chess Games**, 11am, Café Aroma.
Jerome Robinson, 28th, noon-5pm, Jo'An's Restaurant.
Children's Storytime, 29th, 10:30am, Idyllwild Library.
Jazz Night Featuring Paul Carman (Sax), Marshall Hawkins (Bass) & Barnaby Finch (Keys), 30th, 6pm, Café Aroma.
Kelly Armantage, 31st, 6:30-8pm, Café Rendezvous.

Idyllwild Great Pumpkin Carnival & Parade, 31st, North Circle Drive & Downtown Idyllwild. 🍂

NOTE: Events, Exhibits, Performances, Dates, Times & Locations are subject to change. For the most current information, see the weekly A&E Calendar in the Idyllwild Town Crier newspaper or visit www.towncrier.com.



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Dark Canyon Campground Dark Canyon Road 6 miles north of Idyllwild	17		•	•	•		P	V		8/1		22	\$12	\$9	FS	5,800					•	•			FS
Marion Mountain Campground Fern Basin Road 6 miles north of Idyllwild	24	•	•	•	•		P	V		8/1		15	\$10	\$9	FS	6,400					•	•			FS
Fern Basin Campground Fern Basin Road 6 miles north of Idyllwild	22	•	•	•	•		P	V		8/1		15	\$10	\$9	FS	6,300					•	•			FS
Boulder Basin Campground Black Mountain Road 15 mi. north of Idyllwild	34	•	•	•	•		P	V		8/1		15	\$10	\$9	FS	7,300					•	•			FS
Pinyon Flat Campground Highway 74 east of Highway 371	18	•	•	•	•		P	V		8/1		15	\$8		A	4,000					•	•	•	•	FS
Ribbonwood Equestrian Campground Highway 74 east of Highway 371	8	•	•	•	•		P	F	•	8/1		50	\$15	\$9	FS	4,000		•			•	•	•	•	FS
Santa Rosa Springs Campground Santa Rosa Truck Trail off Highway 74 near Pinyon	3		•	•	•		S	V		8/1			\$0		P	7,200					•				FS
Tool Box Springs Campground Thomas Mountain Road off Highway 74 Garner Valley	6	•	•	•	•			V		8/1			\$0		P	6,500					•	•			FS
Idyllwild Campground Mt. San Jacinto State Park Highway 243, Idyllwild	33	•	•	•	•	•	P	F	•	8/2	•	24	\$20-28	\$7.50	SP	5,300						•	•	•	SP
Stone Creek Campground Mt. San Jacinto State Park Stone Creek Road 6 miles north of Idyllwild	50	•	•	•	•		P	V		8/2		24	\$15	\$7.50	SP	6,000					•	•	•		SP
Idyllwild County Park County Park Road, Idyllwild	92	•	•	•	•		P	F	•	6/2		40	\$17	\$7	CP	5,300	•				•	•	•		CP
Hurkey Creek Park Highway 74 4 miles southeast of Idyllwild	130	•	•	•	•		P	F	•	6/2		40	\$17	\$7	CP	4,400	•				•	•	•		CP
McCall Memorial Park McCall Park Road off Highway 74 near Mountain Center	50	•	•	•	•		P	F	•	6/2		40	\$15	\$7	A/CP	4,400	•	•			•	•	•		CP
Lake Hemet Campground Off Highway 74 in Garner Valley	1,000	•	•	•	•		P	F/V	•	NL/I	•	40	*\$20+		A^	4,300	•		•			•	•	LH	
Group Camping																									
Black Mountain Group Camp Black Mountain Road north of Idyllwild Group camping also at CP campgrounds listed above	1	•	•	•	•		P	V		100/ 25			\$140	\$9	FS	7,500	•				•	•	•	•	FS

Key

Agencies

FS U.S. Forest Service
 SP Mt. San Jacinto State Park
 CP Riverside County Parks
 LH Lake Hemet Municipal Water District

Reservations:

FS Phone: 1-877-444-6777 • Online: recreation.gov
 A Pay at campground, no reservations.
 P Adventure Pass required; free campfire and/or campstove permit required. Idyllwild Ranger Station, Highway 243 and Pine Crest Avenue, Idyllwild. (909) 382-2921
 SP Phone: 1-800-444-7275 • Online: www.reserveamerica.com
 CP Phone: 1-800-234-7275 (Call for group reservations at any CP sites.)
 Online: www.riversidecountyparks.org/reservations/ (for Idyllwild and Hurkey Creek parks only).
 NL No limit.
 * Additional fees may apply.
 ^ Group reservations accepted. Call (951) 659-2680.

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AAI Member Gallery



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Mountain Biking


With approximately 200 miles of dirt roads and more than 40 miles of trails open to bikers, the San Jacinto Mountains around Idyllwild offer a number of experiences for mountain biking aficionados.

For that reason, the local mountain trails have become extremely popular among riders looking for challenging routes and breathtaking scenery. Local trails provide mountain bikers with a diverse selection of roads from which to choose.

In an effort to expand the recreational opportunities for mountain biking, the San Jacinto Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service applied for an American Great Outdoor grant in 1993.

The U.S. Forest Service received a grant of approximately \$150,000 to develop a mountain bike trail program. With the help of other agencies, organizations and private citizens, the Forest Service developed a strategic plan to guide the district in developing local mountain bike trails.

The Forest Service has set up regulations in regard to mountain biking in the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains to ensure the safety of riders and the protection of natural resources. Bicycles may be ridden on established roads and trails within the mountains; however, bikes are not allowed within the San Jacinto or Santa Rosa wilderness areas or along the Pacific Crest Trail.

If parking a vehicle on Forest Service land in the areas of Thomas Mountain and Black Mountain, Lake Hemet and Humber Park, visitors may be required to display an Adventure or Recreation Pass  in their vehicle. Call the Idyllwild

Ranger Station at (909) 382-2922 for more details.

The Pass is available in two forms: a daily pass for \$5 and a \$30 annual pass good for one year from the month of purchase.

Passes are available at the Forest Service office or see the list of vendors on page 55.

The Forest Service also offers these safety tips for mountain bikers: Keep your eyes and ears open to equestrians and hikers on trails and to vehicles on roads; helmets are highly recommended; control your speed; avoid riding after dark; and carry a map.

Mountain Bike Trails


- **Coyote Run:** Beginning at the north end of Hurkey Creek County Park and ending at the waterfalls on Herkey Creek, this easy and scenic ride is about two miles on a dirt road closed to vehicles. Parking is available at the day use area within the Hurkey Creek Campground or outside the park.

- **Fobes Ranch Road and Spurs:** This trail is located three miles south of Lake Hemet on Highway 74 in Garner Valley. The roads are easy to moderate and offer more than two miles of mountain bike riding.

- **South Fork Trail:** This trail begins on the south side of Highway 74, four miles west of Mountain Center near the large gravel bin turnout. The trail is approximately two-and-a-half miles in length with the last half-mile a steep descent to the South Fork of the San Jacinto River.

- **Thomas Mountain and Ramona Trail:** This challenging 17-mile loop is considered one of the best rides in the area. It begins one mile south of Lake Hemet on Highway 74, six miles east of the junction with Highway 371. The dirt road ascends from an elevation of 4,500 feet to more than 8,700 feet in 13 miles to Thomas Mountain Peak, offering far-reaching views of Anza and San Diego below.

- **Saw Mill Road:** Just off Highway 74 near Pinyon Flat, this old Forest Service road links up with the Cactus Springs Trailhead where it continues for six miles. The road is rough and steep but it offers scenic views of the Desert valleys to the north and east.

- **Other Trails:** May Valley and South Ridge Trail, the Alvin Meadows and Webster Trail, and the Ernie Maxwell Scenic Trail which is a good ride, provided bikers show courtesy to pedestrians and others using the trail. 

DIAMOND BACK

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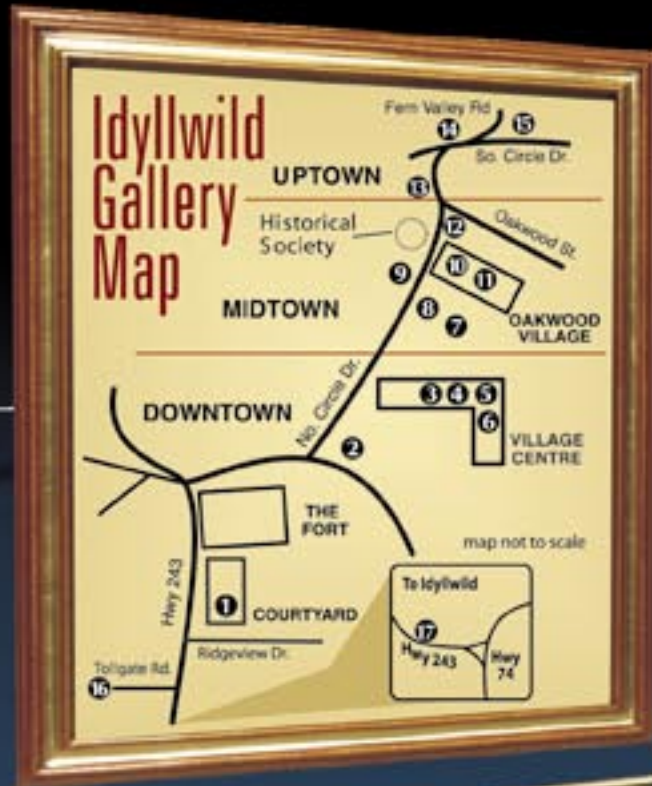
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ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE SINCE 1967

10

Art Alliance of Idyllwild



1. Courtyard Gallery

Contemporary art at its best! A vital and diverse gallery featuring pottery, visual art and photography of seven internationally acclaimed local artists: Carol Mills, Nel Ivancich, Judith Lepuschitz, Clair Hughes, Trish Tuley and Debbie Crowell. (951) 659-2774

2. Willow Creek Gallery

In the magical hamlet of Idyllwild, you'll find a whole new gallery shopping experience of fine works in a museum-like atmosphere. Affordable art that will touch your emotions and inspire the adventurer in you. Bring home the fondest of memories from Willow Creek Gallery. (951) 659-4950



3. Everitt's Minerals & Gallery

Lapidary artists and metalsmiths, Larry and Janet Everitt meld nature's gems, minerals and fossils into beautiful jewelry. Antique Japanese woodblock prints and other arts and crafts are on display. Artist/owner gallery. (951) 659-7075



4. Feats of Clay

Showcasing the internationally collected work of ceramicist David Salk. Featuring unique "clay baskets" and functional pottery. Also featuring 15 other artists in different media. (951) 659-2692



5. Idyllwild Gallery of Fine Art

It's all about color! This 2006 American Top 25 Gallery winner represents 150 fine craft artists working in glass, clay, metal, fiber and wood. The gallery specializes in glass sculpture, wall installations and lighting. An expansive collection of art jewelry complements a diverse and always changing contemporary presentation. www.idyllwildgallery.com (951) 659-1948



6. Lily Rock Gallery

A Best New American Gallery 2006 nominee where fine art and crafts stand as testimony to the value of works produced by hand. We feature contemporary plein air and studio paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry and crafts. (951) 659-5377



7. Florist In The Forest & Gallery

A full service flower shop mingling with the creations of visionary artists. This showcase features paintings, photography and gift cards by owner and designer Donna Lori Parker as well as cloth creations, gourds, jewelry, etchings and metal sculptures. www.floristintheforest.com (951) 659-4143



8. Flying Pigments Studio

This studio gallery features visionary works by Darcy Gerdes in original acrylics, giclees and prints; whimsical art rocks by Kathleen Chaney; Dore Capitani's metal sculptures in the garden; Sherry Chaney's hand-painted cards and jewelry; and photographer Carol Rice's local images of Idyllwild. (951) 659-4010



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9. Artspresso

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14. Four Corners Gallery

Landscape paintings of AAI's two-time *Artist of The Year*, Elena Kern, are featured at the gallery. View members in this working studio engaged in the creative process. Artists include award-winning Billie Motta, Irene Corey, Ilona Passino, Jaki Markarian, Karin Hedstrom and 2001 AAI *Artist of The Year*, Helen Molles. Jewelry by Steve Mosley. www.elenakern.com (951) 659-6427



10. Artisans Gallery

The richness and depth of Idyllwild's local artist community is beautifully explored in this diverse collection of works. The area's unique array of creative talent presents visual, decorative and wearable art in a wide variety of media. (951) 659-9091



15. Two Babes in the Woods Fine Art & Antiques

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11. Baker Galleries

A collection of lamps and fine art for your home. Our galleries showcase the work of over 75 local and international artists. We feature pierced wood turnings, bronze sculptures, paintings, jewelry, ceramics, local photos and original music. www.bakergalleries.com (951) 659-2597



16. Parks Exhibition Center

The Parks Exhibition Center is an environment where young visual artists and faculty from the world-renown Idyllwild Arts Academy, Southern California and the wider U.S., show their work. Featuring visual, writing, motion picture, music, dance and theater arts. www.idyllwildarts.org (951) 659-2171



12. Aardvark Gallery

We're proud to open our doors to the public this year. On permanent display are photographs by *Sports Illustrated Magazine* contributor John Leonard Barnwell. Also on display are fine art paintings, pastels, drawings, and photographs by local professional and student artists. (951) 233-7618



13. Café Aroma

A one-of-a-kind bistro gallery experience showcasing the talents of local artists, musicians and writers. Neo-traditional culinary art and gourmet coffee. www.cafearoma.org (951) 659-5212



17. Mountain Metals

This metal art fabrication studio and outdoor sculpture garden is set amid a beautiful natural oak grove. Wander through and see the work of owner Dore Capitani, 2004 AAI *Artist of The Year* or watch him at work in his studio. Located on Hwy. 243 in Mountain Center. Open weekends by chance or appointment. 28815 Hwy 243. (951) 659-0791

18. Mason Fine Art Gallery

Featuring California Plein Air artist masters old, new and undiscovered. An exciting on-line gallery experience available on the internet at www.masonfineartgallery.com (951) 659-5246

2007 AAI Event Calendar

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May 5, 6	9th Annual Members' Show	Sept. 1, 2	Plein Air Festival
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PHOTO BY JIM CRANDALL

Rock Climbing

For rock climbers from Southern California and beyond, Tahquitz Rock is not just another pretty face.

Far more than just good climbing, both Tahquitz and Suicide rocks, located in the cliffs above Idyllwild, are rich in rock climbing lore.

Idyllwild is renowned for several key characteristics: clean, yet unglaciated granite, proximity to a large population center, good weather and a mountain setting.

There are upward of 300 routes on Suicide Rock alone, and 200 or so on Tahquitz, also called Lily Rock.

Tahquitz Rock is special because, for the Southern California area, its routes are relatively long. It also is cool most of the day and has more crack climbing.

Suicide Rock also is high quality rock but it has more climbing routes on its face and is sunny most of the time.

The first-ascent party of a climb has the honor of classifying it, and the names chosen describe the route's complexity

and unique characteristics. Route names vary with the imagination of the climber, leading to such designations as Spring Cleaning, Knocking on Heaven's Door, Sahara Terror, Blanketty Blank, My Pink Half of the Drainpipe, Coffin Nail and Godzilla's Return.

Technical climbing routes are rated up to 5.14 on the basis of difficulty. Some of the most noteworthy climbs on Tahquitz include The Mechanic's Route, a 5.8 climbed in 1937 by Dick Jones and Glen Dawson; The Open Book, a 5.9 climbed in 1952 and The Vampire, a 5.11c climbed in 1960, both by Royal Robbins; and The Edge, a 5.11 climbed in 1975 by Tobin Sorenson. In 1970, Ivan Couch climbed a 5.11a, Valhalla, on Suicide Rock.

Before attempting to climb in Idyllwild, here are a few pointers to keep in mind:

- Attend professional rock climbing classes. The instruction could prevent disaster. Classes instruct climbers in use of the proper gear, up-to-date climbing techniques and safety procedures.

- Rule number one for climbers is never climb alone. Always climb with a partner and never take unnecessary chances.

- Rock climbers should use appropriate equipment. Consult a professional for advice.

- The three types of climbs are: free, aid and solo. In free climbing, equipment is used for protection only in case of a fall. Aid climbing involves the use of special aid gear placed into the rock and is for situations in which the climber must depend on the equipment to be hauled or pulled up. Solo climbing is done without the aid of ropes. It is not recommended for the novice and should only be attempted by highly experienced climbers.

- Accidents do happen, but far fewer than imagined when safety precautions are used. Accidents may occur because of falling rocks, inadequate equipment, bad weather or loss of concentration. Human error and the climber's overestimation of his or her ability is the reason behind most accidents. 🚫

Idyllwild Arts Calendar

September

Beyond Heritage, Latino Art Show, Opening Reception, 14th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs 8-10th, 12th.)

October

Guest Performance, Laura Melton Piano Quartet, 5th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Creative Writing Reading Series, 11th, 7pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 IAAO Concert, 13th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 IAAO Concert, 14th, 2pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 One-person Show, 15th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 One-person Show, 16th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Visual Poetry Exhibition, 19th, Bowman Lobby.
 Metamorphosis, Opening Reception, 19th, 7:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs through 26th.)
 Music in the Meadow, 20th, 4pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Musical Theatre in the Meadow, 21st, noon, location TBA.
 Music in the Meadow, 22nd, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.

November

Theatre Production I, 2nd-3rd, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Juried Theme Show, Opening Reception, 2nd, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs through 16th.)
 Theatre Production I, 4th, 2pm, IAF Theatre.
 Chamber Music Concert, 9th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Visual Art Faculty Show, Opening Reception, 30th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs through 12/14.)

December

Nutcracker or IAAO, 8th.
 Nutcracker or IAAO, 9th.
 Visual Art Holiday Sale, 11th, noon, location TBA.

Jazz Concert, 11th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.

January

Retrospective, Eric Metzler Photography, Opening Reception, 11th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs through 25th.)
 Parallax Reading I, 14th, 7:30pm, Fireside Room.
 Pianofest, 15th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Theatre Production II, 18th-19th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Theatre Production II, 20th, 2pm, IAF Theatre.
 Group Student Recital, voice, 21st, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Creative Writing Tour, 30th-31st.

February

IAAO Concert, 2nd, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 IAAO Concert, 3rd, 7pm, Sherwood Auditorium, La Jolla.
 Visiting Artist Show, Inside/Outside, Group sculpture/lectures, Opening Reception, 8th, 6:30pm. Show runs through 29th.)
 Music in the Meadow, 18th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Theatre Tour Show, 27th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Creative Writing Reading Series, 29th, 7:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.

March

Student Recital, 3rd, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 4th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Creative Writing Reading Series, 7th, 7:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 Chamber Music Concert, 8th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 10th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Musical Theatre in the Meadow, 11th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Spring Dance Concert, 12th-14th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.

April

Visual Art Junior Show, Opening Reception, 4th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center. (Show runs through 11th.)
 GALA, 5th, 7pm.
 Student Recital, 7th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 8th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Creative Writing Reading Series, 11th, 7:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 Student Recital, 14th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 15th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Visual Art Senior Group Show I, Opening Reception, 18th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 Student Recital, 18th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Theatre Production III, 18th-19th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Theatre Production III, 20th, 2pm, IAF Theatre.
 Student Recital, 21st, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 22nd, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 25th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital or Music in the Pines, 29th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.

May

Student Recital, 2nd, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Visual Art Senior Group Show II, Opening Reception, 9th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 IAAO Concert, 10th, 7:30pm, location TBA.
 IAAO Concert, 11th, Red Cat



Clarinetist David Shifrin and the Idyllwild Arts Academy Orchestra conducted by Ransom Wilson during a spring performance. PHOTO BY GARY SQUIER

Theater, Los Angeles, time TBA.
 Student Recital, 12th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 13th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Choreography, 15th-16th, Fischer Dance Studio.
 Theatre Production IV, 16th-17th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Theatre Production IV, 17th, 2pm, IAF Theatre.
 Parallax Reading II, 17th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Student Recital, 19th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Senior Honors Show, Reception, 20th, 6:30pm, Parks Exhibition Center.
 Theatre Senior Showcase, 20th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Creative Writing Senior Readings, 21st, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Vocal Chamber Music Recital, 22nd, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.
 Interdisciplinary Arts Fashion Show, 23rd, 1:15pm, IAF Theatre.
 Moving Pictures Screening, 23rd-24th, 7:30pm, IAF Theatre.
 Jazz Concert, 28th, 7:30pm, Stephens Recital Hall.

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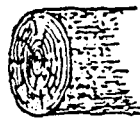
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The old Idyllwild Inn that burned down in the 1940s was the center of activity in the village.

PHOTO BY THE LATE HARRY WENDELKEN

How Idyllwild Got its Name

By John Robinson

Legends often become so ingrained in the public mind that they become accepted as truth. Such is the case with the often repeated story that Laura Rutledge named Idyllwild.

Real credit for Idyllwild's origin should go to Michigan-born George B. Hannahs and his wife Sarah, who arrived in Strawberry Valley in 1889 and promptly built a sawmill on upper Dutch Flat.

In the summer of 1890, they opened a tent resort on a forested bench just west of Strawberry Creek and called it Camp Idylwilde. The camp was located about where the Idyllwild Tree Monument stood in the center of town.

Besides managing his sawmill on Dutch Flat and Camp Idylwilde, George Hannahs, ever the entrepreneur, opened a general store in lower Strawberry Valley, about where today's Toll Gate Road crosses Strawberry Creek to Idyllwild Arts.

On March 3, 1893, a post office was established at the Hannahs' store and George Hannahs was appointed as the first postmaster. The couple named the store and post office Raynetta, in honor of their young son Raymond. Contrary to legend, George and Sarah had no daughter named Henrietta.

In 1900, Dr. Walter Lindley, a Los Angeles physician, and a number of other doctors incorporated the California Health Resort Company and announced plans to build a sanatorium in Strawberry Valley.

The Riverside Press (May 26, 1900) reported, "The plan is to put the sanatorium on the upper end of the valley, at what is now Idylwilde," which clearly indicates that the name Idylwilde was

then in use for that portion of the valley.

The large two-story structure was named the Idyllwild Sanatorium, undoubtedly because it was located on the site of the Hannahs' old Camp Idylwilde. It opened for patients in June 1901 with Ralph Lowe as manager and Charles Rutledge as bookkeeper and secretary. Mr. Rutledge brought his wife Laura and their daughter to Strawberry Valley for the summer season.

The Hemet News of June 28, 1901 reported, "the name of Raynetta post office will be changed to Idyllwild" and that the new post office would be located in the sanatorium. The Idyllwild Post Office was opened for business on Sept. 26, 1901.

There is no mention in any of the contemporary newspapers of just who suggested the name change from Raynetta to Idyllwild, nor why Idylwilde was changed to Idyllwild. It is entirely possible that the new post office name was Laura Rutledge's idea, so the Rutledge story cannot be totally discounted.

Thirty-six years later, in The Hemet News of May 14, 1937, the story of Laura Rutledge naming Idyllwild first appears as a part of her obituary. Since then it has been repeated time and again.

The facts are this: George and Sarah Hannahs opened Camp Idylwilde in the summer of 1890 and deserve credit for originating the name. Laura Rutledge may or may not have suggested the post office name be changed from Raynetta to Idyllwild in 1901. We'll probably never know for certain. ❏

John Robinson is the co-author of the book "The San Jacintos."



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The Rustic Theatre — 1944 to Today

By Marcia E. Gawecki



This photo is from an ad that ran in the July 28, 1972 edition of the Idyllwild Town Crier newspaper. It shows the original Rustic Theatre in what is now the Silver Pines Lodge on Cedar Street in Idyllwild.

From its original location at the Silver Pines Lodge to where it stands today, the Rustic Theatre has had a 63-year run in Idyllwild. In 1944, Bill and Prudence Underhill of Twentynine Palms purchased the Silver Pines Lodge with the idea of opening up a movie theater.

“Bill had a home and a theater in Twentynine Palms and this was his second place to have a theater,” said Keith Froehlich, whose family later owned The Rustic Theatre. “A hole was cut in the rear wall of the main room and a galvanized projection booth was installed on an outdoor platform.” Movies were shown from May 1 to Labor Day. The theater could seat 145, but only four rows of seats were tiered, so there was always a rush for the best seats in the house.

The Rustic Theatre began operations on May 1, 1944. However, after only three weeks, the projectionist quit. Bill then asked Glenn Froehlich if he would run the movie projector. “My dad didn’t know how to run one,” said Keith, Glenn’s son. “He was working for California Electric Power Company [now Southern California Edison], but he decided to give it a try.” Two years later, the Froehlichs bought the theater operation from the Underhills.

The Rustic Theatre continued to operate at the Silver Pines Lodge until 1952, when it moved to its present location at 54290 North Circle Drive. Its eight years in the original building saw stars such as Lewis Stone (of the old Andy Hardy series), Audie Murphy, Dennis Morgan and Van Johnson, among others.

Glenn designed The Rustic Theatre on a vacant lot he bought from Jerry Johnson. “I’m guessing that the terrain was perfect excavation for a slope,” Keith said. “My dad had never built anything like that before, but he and my grandfather had built homes and small businesses in San Jacinto.”

Bill kept the movie equipment, so the Froehlichs needed to buy some. “There was a Navy auction in San Diego that was selling used projectors and sound equipment, and our family came up with a final bid of \$539.45,” Keith said. With that money, they got four projectors, all the sound equipment and a variety of other electronic equipment. “It was old Navy equipment from World War II, but it worked fine until we sold the theater in 1963,” Keith said.

Keith thinks the three or four short-term owners between 1963 and 1977 continued to use their old Navy equipment. “The film industry was changing in the 1970s, so I think Maury [Bronson] needed to upgrade it,” he said. “I saw him at the Post Office one day and he told me that I had to stop by and see the new equipment. He was so proud.”

When The Rustic opened (on North Circle Drive) in 1952, tickets were 25 cents for children and 60 cents for adults, Keith said. For nine months out of the year, it showed movies on Friday and Saturday nights, but in the summertime, movies ran every night. It was always a family operation. Keith and his father ran the projector, while his mother and younger sister sold tickets and concessions.

Keith had fond memories of The Rustic as a teenager. “When I graduated from high school in 1954, there were seven of us from Idyllwild,” he said. “Our theater and the bowling alley were the only

places in town for entertainment. It sure helped with my popularity.”

Bonnie Bronson Wolf, owner of Bonnie’s Happy Look and former manager of the Rustic, said her parents bought it in 1977 because the family had strong ties to movie theaters. Wolf’s grandfather, Ben Bronson, owned three movie theaters in Los Angeles, and later built the Sun Air Drive-In in Cathedral City. “We were used to always having free movie passes, so my mom and I pressured my dad to buy the Rustic,” Wolf said. At that time, Maury Bronson was 67 years old and retired.

“We showed double features, which wasn’t easy because we were on the platter system,” said Marsha Bronson, Bonnie’s sister and the projectionist for 18 years. A feature film would come in several platters and she would line them up and splice them together. Once, she put one of the platters in backwards. “Nobody noticed, except one of the kids from Morning Sky School said that the people were walking backwards,” Marsha said. She knew it would take 20 minutes to get the film ready again. Immediately, Terry Kiser, from the “Weekend at Bernie’s” movies, jumped up on stage and started entertaining the audience. “He was a good friend and really saved the day.”

Getting first-run movies to the Rustic wasn’t always easy, Wolf said. They would pick them up from a bus station in Beaumont or Los Angeles, and some would get lost and UPS would have to track them down. “It was nerve-racking because UPS only guaranteed delivery for five days,” she said. Getting candy concessions proved to be just as challenging. “L.A. delivery trucks didn’t want to drive up to Idyllwild,” Wolf said. So she would meet them at the Starbucks parking lot in Hemet and transfer the candy into her car.

Some of the movie stars and famous faces that came into The Rustic during that time included Ted Danson, Rhea Perlman, Danny DeVito, Carrie Snodgrass, Heidi Fleiss, Rhonda Haynes, Mark Hamill, Dinah Shore, Shari Lewis, Kevin Bacon and Art Cohen.

The silent film, “Cinema Paradiso” was one of Marsha’s favorites. “We never showed it at The Rustic, but, basically, it was the story of my life,” she said. It was about an old projectionist who teaches a young boy how to operate the machinery. Much to his dismay, the boy had to cut all of the kissing scenes out of the films. However, when the old man died, he left a film of all the kisses spliced together for the boy to keep.

The Bronsons sold the Rustic Theatre to Ken and Eva Gioeli in 2004, who added charming décor and a beautifully carved new sign, expanded the stage to accommodate live performances, upgraded the sound system, and much more. Despite all these improvements, the theater still maintains its special ambiance that can only be found in Idyllwild. ❖

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL ERLICH

Legend of Tahquitz

Perhaps the most prominent and alluring natural landmark of the Hill is Tahquitz Rock, also known by many as Lily Rock. Due to the dramatic nature of this beauty, legends have been born as to its purpose. The legend of Tahquitz originated with native Indian tribes and there are variations on the theme. Presented here is the most popular as retold by the late Ernie Maxwell:

Tauquitch (Tahquitz)

Chief Tauquitch (Tahquitz) once ruled over all the Indians of the San Jacinto Valley. He was a tall, handsome man, bold and cunning. At first, Tauquitch ruled his people well, but gradually he became arbitrary and though the Indians were dissatisfied, they feared their leader.

One day, the beautiful daughter of one of the chiefs disappeared. Soon after, another was missing and then another.

The women trembled and the men became enraged — and they all suspected Tauquitch of the evil doing. A search confirmed their fears that Tauquitch had done away with the maidens.

For this, the tribe condemned him to death by fire.

Preparations were made and as the flames burned brighter about the condemned Tauquitch, the people gasped. Before their eyes, the form of the chief disappeared and a great spark of fire leaped into the air and wafted eastward toward the mountains. Then the people knew that he was a demon.

The strange rumbling that may be heard even today in the depths of the high mountains was Tauquitch who had taken up abode in a large cave. In some versions of the legend, this cave was behind Lily (or Tahquitz) Rock and the huge monument of stone was rolled into place before the cave, either by Tauquitch or one of his pursuers.

After Tauquitch escaped to the mountains, the Indian maidens continued to disappear.

One day the brave son of the chief Algot was killed by Tauquitch along a mountain trail. The chief prepared to avenge the death, swearing combat with the demon who now possessed the power to change his disguise at will.

When all was ready, Algot set out for the mountain to meet with Tauquitch, saying to his people, “I have not asked you to sorrow with me, to shed your tears with mine, to mingle your cries and groans with mine, at the fearful death of my noble son. I did not want to weep and sorrow and cry away the anger of my soul. I wanted my heart to keep burning hot with fury against his hated destroyer.

“As the sun reaches its height today, I leave my home and you my people, never to return until Tauquitch is slain. He shall die or Algot will die. Those above cannot resist my plea for aid. Send up your prayers with mine that I may find this enemy of my people, and that I may have strength to slay him.”

Ascending the mountain, Algot approached the valley and the cave of Tauquitch.

Algot called the demon forth to do battle. Tauquitch accepted the challenge but demanded that the battle be fought in the valley below, so that he might also do away with the Indians who came to witness the struggle.

Where the San Jacinto emptied into a large lake (the spot now known as Lakeview), the battle was waged. First was an exchange of huge boulders thrown by the fighters.

The piled-up granite boulders in the vicinity of San Jacinto and Moreno Valley are supposed to be the result of that fateful battle.

In the water, the two fought, until Tauquitch turned himself into a huge sea serpent, lashing out with his tail at Algot.

Once, he lashed out with such ferocity that he cut a gash through to where Lake Elsinore now lies — and the water rushed from the battleground, forming the lake to the west. Not having water to swim in, Tauquitch was helpless, and Algot conquered.

The scaly serpent was placed upon a funeral pyre. Unfortunately, some green wood was used and the spirit of Tauquitch escaped in a wreath of smoke to his cave in the San Jacinto Mountains.

To this day, he haunts the region and until “Those Above” destroy his spirit, the rumblings of Tauquitch may still be heard. ■

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Snow Plants: Red Beacons in the Snow

By Marcia E. Gawecki • Photos by Gina Genis

If you walk down a forest trail around Idyllwild, you might discover several bright, waxy red beacons popping out of the snow. They're called "snow plants" because they were once believed to arrive only after a freshly fallen snow in the mountains. But they really come up after the snow has mostly melted. Now botanists have discovered that they're really fungus flowers living off tree roots and the duff layer of pine needles from the forest.

The startling blood-red color of the snow plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*) tells us that they are among a unique group of plants that do not depend on chlorophyll and photosynthesis for food. They were once thought to survive on nutrients from decaying organic matter in the soil, states Wayne's Word, an educational Web site. Today, we know they are getting their organic nutrients from nearby forest trees via a microscopic conduit system of mycorrhizal soil fungi. In other words, these flowers have exploited a virtually untapped food source.

Why the bright color? Nobody really knows. Such a bright color may attract pollinating insects in the rather shady areas where the snow plant grows. They like to grow between 4,000 and 8,000 feet in conifer forests throughout most of California, southern Oregon and even northern Baja. An abundance of them are growing in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains around Idyllwild.

Shelley Kibby, Idyllwild Nature Center park interpreter, saw 18 of them together in the county park last May. "A whole patch of those bright, fuchsia flowers was really an amazing sight to see," she said. Kibby always knows when people have spotted snow plants for the first time. "They come into the Nature Center with puzzled looks on their faces and say, 'We just saw the most incredible plant growing in the forest.'" she said.

A couple of times, Kibby tried to transplant snow plants so she could study them, but they didn't survive. "It seems that wherever they sprout up in the forest is critical to their continued survival. They don't like the sun," she said, pulling off a dried seed of a snow plant that had withered by early August. "I don't know much about them, but their roots run deep. It is believed that the asparagus-like texture of young snow plants is edible, if boiled in water. "If they're poisonous, I don't want to be the first to find out," Kibby said with a smile. "Apparently, ground squirrels or some kind of rodent is eating their seeds. See how they're scattered?"

But of all the fungus flowers, the snow plant is one of the most truly spectacular wildflowers — and was one of the favorites of legendary naturalist John Muir. 🌲





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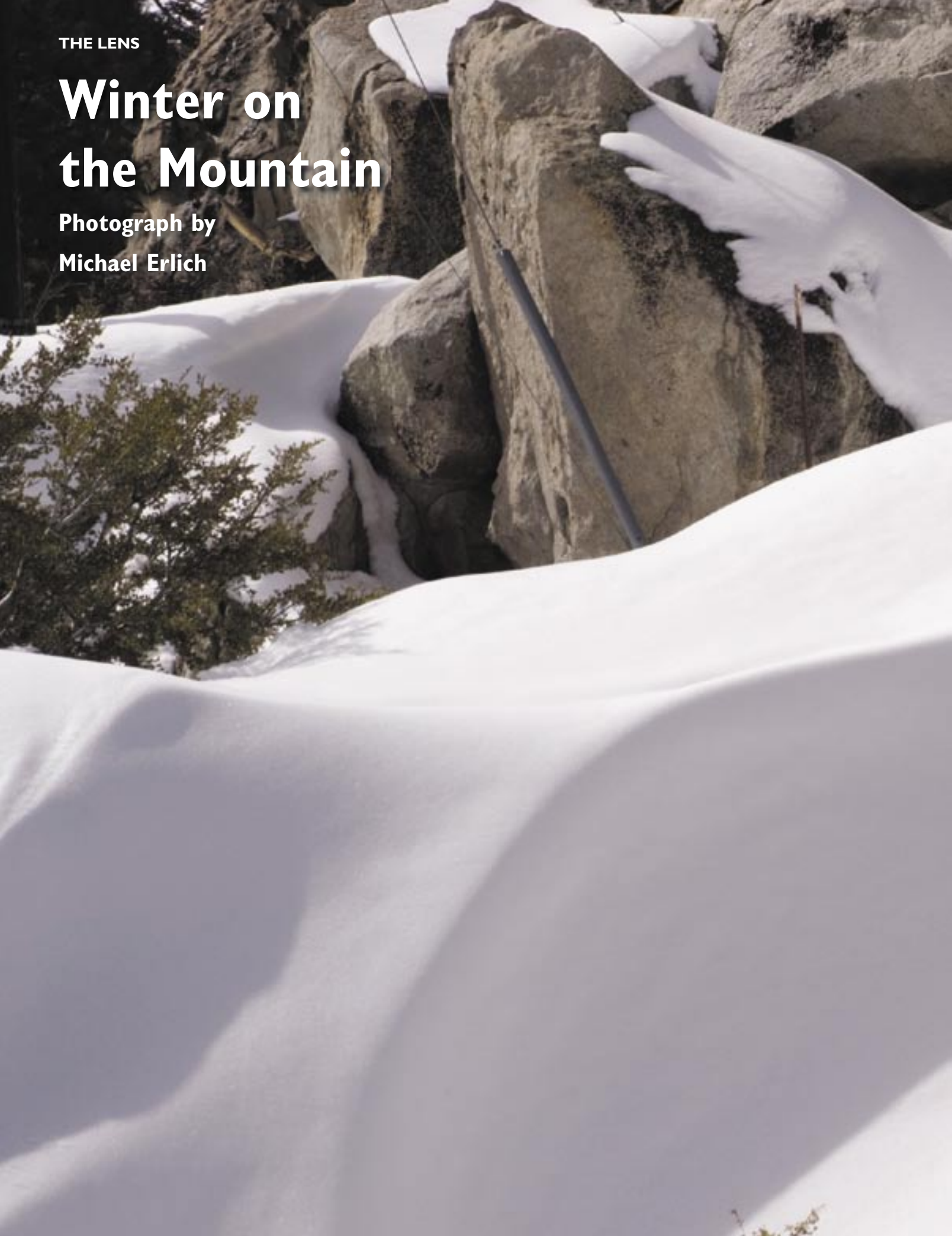
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Winter on the Mountain

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Lake Fulmor in fog. PHOTO BY ELLEN FEELEY

Fishing in the San Jacintos


Few things are as relaxing as lying in the warm sun on a lazy day with a fishing pole. Fortunately for visitors and residents in the San Jacinto Mountains, a variety of fishing adventures await anglers at two lakes and several streams.

Lake Hemet, the largest lake in the San Jacinto Mountains, is a fisherman's paradise, stocked throughout most of the year with rainbow trout by the State Department of Fish and Game. Natural channel catfish, big-mouth bass and bluegill also provide good sport fishing.

Located at an elevation of 4,340 feet, the lake is 1-1/2 miles long, 1/2 mile wide and 135 feet deep when full.

The lake is about 4 miles east of Mountain Center on Highway 74 in Garner Valley. It is owned and operated by the Lake Hemet Municipal Water District.

Two public recreation areas are on the lake's shores.

The U.S. Forest Service maintains a picnic area for day use only along the north shore. The entrance is west of Lake Hemet Market, on Highway 74. You do need an Adventure or Recreation Pass  to park in the Forest Service area. See the section, "Adventure Pass," on page 55 in this magazine for more information.

The water district also owns and operates the Lake Hemet Campground. It has been open to the public on a fee basis for more than 30 years along the north shore, toward the eastern end of the lake.

The campground also encourages family recreation, with a water playground, camping, picnic areas, boating and kayaking along with fishing. No swimming or water skiing is allowed because they conflict with fishing.


Lake Hemet offers scenic mountain views and quiet lakeside moments to many visitors to the Hill area.

Contact the campground personnel at (951) 659-2680 for more information.

Lake Fulmor, about 10 miles north of Idyllwild on Highway 243, is stocked with trout by the Department of Fish and Game

from spring through summer.

The 2-acre serene lake on Forest Service property offers good trout fishing during spring, summer and fall months. Occasionally, the lake freezes over in winter.


Lake Fulmor is on National Forest land. The lake provides day use activities for the public. Fishing and picnic areas with grills, an encompassing trail that crosses a bridge, and beautiful surroundings make this an enjoyable spot for locals and tourists. A parking area is across the highway from the lake so use caution when crossing to and from the lake. You do need an Adventure or Recreation Pass  to park.


Strawberry Creek is the only stream where fishing is allowed in the San Jacinto Mountains. California Department of Fish and Game no longer stocks fish in Fuller Mill, North Fork and Dark Canyon creeks because the streams are suitable habitat for a protected species, the mountain yellow legged frog.

The fish-planting program is financed through fishing licenses and stamp sales. Licenses are required for anglers age 16 and over and there is a daily bag limit of five trout during the year-round season.

One-year licenses are available to California residents for \$37.30 at Village Hardware and Lake Hemet Market. Cost to nonresidents is \$100. Residents and nonresidents can purchase a one-day license for \$12.10 or a two-consecutive-day license for \$18.65 at those locations. A 10-day nonresident license costs \$37.30.

June 9 and Sept. 22, 2007 are free fishing days throughout California.

Equipment and bait can be purchased at Idyllwild General Store, Lake Hemet Market, Village Hardware and Pine Cove Market. Fairway Market, Forest Lumber and Village Market also stock some supplies. 

 Adventure or Recreation Pass required to park if not camping.

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Camps, Outdoor Programs & Retreats

The Hill has long been known for its summer camps and as an ideal place for outdoor educational opportunities and retreats. Some of the area's camps also rent their facilities to groups and organizations that provide programs on a year-round basis. Here are descriptions of a few:

Alhatti Christian Resort

Alhatti Christian Resort is cradled in the whispering pines of the San Jacinto Mountains above Palm Springs.

About 8 miles north of Idyllwild, the resort an extraordinary array of facilities, including cottages, dormitories, meeting and dining rooms, a chapel, a sauna/steam room, a jacuzzi, a business lounge and a recording studio.

Relax with a massage, try your hand at the sports court (basketball, tennis, chip 'n putt, softball, volleyball and table games), and enjoy the walking trail and fishing lake.

See the ad on page 24, call (951) 659-2066 or visit www.alhatti.com.

Astro Camp

Located on 90 acres of land, Astro Camp is a summer camp for ages 8 to 14 and a program for school groups. But unlike traditional camps, Astro Camp focuses on exploration of the universe. This unique camp experience involves exploring such things as astronomy, lasers, electromagnetism, Newton's experiments, rocketry, gases and microgravity.

Campers construct a mock satellite in a weightless environment, suit up in a NASA-style flight suit and blast off on a simulated mission to a newly discovered planet, collect micrometeorites and study them under microscopes, and build and launch their own rockets, among other things.

Campers also participate in ropes courses, a rock-climbing wall and bouldering to build teamwork and self-confidence. For more information, see the ad on page 50, call 1-800-645-1423 or visit www.astrocamp.com.

Buckhorn Camp

Buckhorn Camp is a full, self-service, year-round facility for churches, music, Boy Scouts, outdoor education, planning, training, family reunions, school clubs and holistic healing programs. Located on 120 acres north of Idyllwild along Highway



Views such as this one from Alhatti Private Christian Resort offer nature lovers a great place to find peace and serenity.

243, it can accommodate small groups of 40 to groups of 300-plus. Housing is in heated dormitory lodges or A-frame cabins with bunk beds. Heated bathhouses are adjacent. The Wrangler Cabins have in-room bathrooms, ceiling fans and carpet. Healthy, attractive meals adjusted for special needs are served in a year-round dining hall. Wireless Internet access is available.

A variety of indoor and outdoor assembly and recreation areas are offered, as well as a large, heated swimming pool in summer. Acres of wooded trails are open for hiking and a large, open meadow provides opportunities for games and activities. A new, large fire arena is available for fellowship.

For more information, see the ad on page 50 or visit www.campbuckhorn.org.

Thousand Trails

Thousands Trails in Pine Cove is a members-only preserve in a system of more than 50 campgrounds.

At an elevation of 6,425 feet, the preserve offers 220 summertime campsites and 40 winter sites. It also rents 30 trailers, two cottages and three getaway cabins.

This 200-acre camping preserve allows you to escape from the Southern California heat and enjoy panoramic mountain scenery. These rugged, pine-covered mountains are perfect for summer hiking and winter snowshoeing. The preserve allows fishing in its stocked trout pond, or has swimming and wading pools.

For more infor-

mation, see the ad on page 50, call (951) 659-4137 or visit <http://www.1000trails.com>.

Yokoji Zen Mountain Center

Yokoji Zen Mountain Center is a Zen Buddhist training and retreat center on 160 acres in Mountain Center. Founded in 1981 as a summer retreat center for the Zen Center of Los Angeles, it is now a year-round Zen training center for resident and non-resident trainees.

It is open to people in all spiritual traditions and walks of life who would like to experience the life-changing practice of meditation and awareness. Offered are a regular daily schedule, introductory weekends, silent meditation retreats, two intensive training periods a year, and retreats and programs in Buddhist studies and related disciplines.

Trainees can enter into either full-time residential training or practice at home, coming to the Center for periods of intensive practice and sitting together with one of the affiliated sitting groups in Southern California, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

For more information, see the ad on page 50, call (951) 659-5272 or visit www.zmc.org.

Others are:

Apple Canyon Center, 1-800-625-7295
Azalea Trails, (909) 307-6555
Camp Emerson, (909) 793-2463
Camp Joe Scherman, 1-800-979-9444
Camp Maranatha, (951) 659-2739
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Campers in the 1890s relax by an "Idlewild" sign fashioned from fern leaves.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE IDYLLWILD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Idyllwild Area Historical Society Museum

The Museum of the Idyllwild Area Historical Society is located in a charming cabin at 54470 North Circle Drive and the quaintness of the surroundings encourage you to step right in.

In 1922, C.L. Emerson, an early Idyllwild entrepreneur and noted developer, sold the property to Della Ferguson for \$10 in gold. The cabin and garage were built in the 1920s and the cabin is representative of the architectural style of many early bungalows built in Southern California. For most of its life, the cabin housed one family. In a period lasting almost 60 years, three generations of the Butts family spent their summers exploring the many hiking trails, horseback riding in the forest, and wading in the cool waters of Strawberry Creek.

The Historical Society acquired the property in 2002 and spent the next year restoring the cabin

and the grounds. Today, the museum exhibits many historical artifacts that reflect the richness and diversity of this region. Early Cahuilla Indian artifacts, implements from pioneer lumber barons, samples of furniture from a local factory, and numerous photos and documents are displayed to tell the story of Idyllwild and the interesting characters who made it possible.

You are invited to visit the museum and learn the fascinating history of the surrounding mountain communities. Docents and volunteers are on hand to answer your questions. Admission is free and donations are always welcome.

Write to the Museum at P.O. Box 3320, Idyllwild, CA 92549 or phone (951) 659-2717. A visit to www.IdyllwildAreaHistoricalSociety.org will keep you informed about upcoming events and new exhibits. 📌

Museum hours:

Memorial Day (May) to Labor Day (September), Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Labor Day (September) to Memorial Day (May), Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The museum is also open on all Monday holidays.

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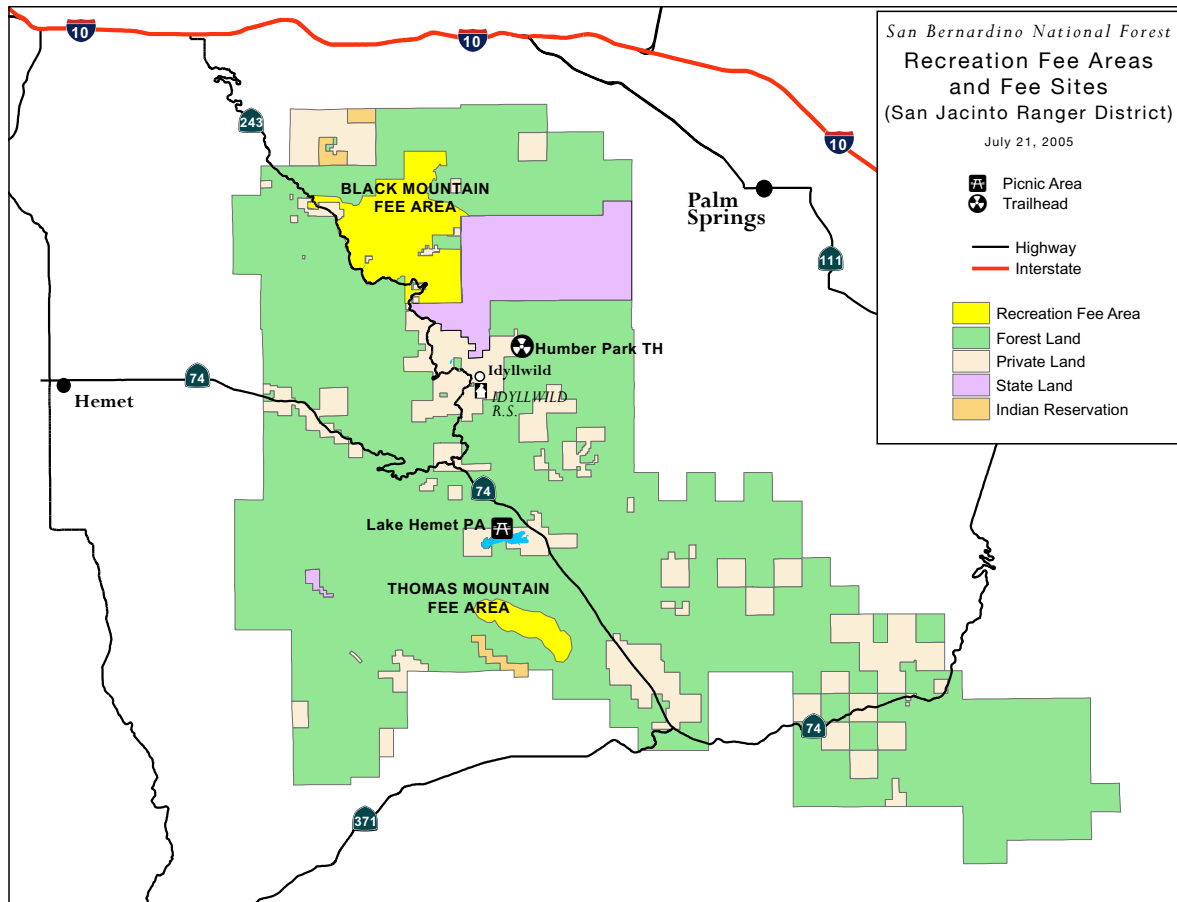
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Adventure Pass

The Adventure Pass has been in effect on Southern California national forests since June 16, 1997. Recreationalists who park their vehicles on some Forest Service lands need to display an Adventure or Recreation pass in their vehicles.

Forest Service officials say the fees they collect from the vehicle pass fund cleaner restrooms, more frequent trash removal, better-maintained trails, and restoration and protection of the natural environment. Cars parked without a permit will be cited.

Adventure or Recreation passes are on sale at the Idyllwild Ranger Station, adjacent to Highway 243 on Pine Crest Avenue. Various businesses also sell the Adventure Pass. (See list at end of article).

A day pass costs \$5, a yearly costs \$30 and a second-vehicle pass costs \$5.

Using the pass is simple. Most Forest Service parking areas have signs posted advising users that a pass is required.

Using the pass is simple. Forest Service areas requiring the pass have signs posted advising that of users.

For your convenience, the Idyllwild

Ranger Station is staffed with helpful people who can provide answers.


Just where will you need the pass? Here are the places: Humber Park, Lake Hemet (on the Forest Service side of the lake), the Black Mountain area and the Thomas Mountain area. When in doubt, call (909) 382-2922.

People do not need a pass to merely drive over Forest Service land.

Another special rule is that if you are already paying for a Forest Service developed campsite, you won't need to buy the pass, unless you drive away from your Forest Service campsite to park on Forest Service land that requires a pass.

You do need a pass in the Thomas Mountain Ridge and Fuller Ridge remote campsite areas.

Holders of an Interagency Senior Pass, Lifetime Access Pass or Interagency Access Pass will not need an Adventure Pass when parked outside of developed campgrounds.

When the vehicle is parked, the pass must be visible through the vehicle's windshield. 

Adventure Pass Vendors

Businesses that sell the Adventure Pass in or near the San Jacinto Ranger District:

Idyllwild Chevron

25015 Highway 243, (951) 659-3867

Idyllwild Ranger Station

54270 Pine Crest Ave., (909) 382-2922

Idyllwild Shell

Highway 243, (951) 659-3437


Lake Hemet Market,

56571 Highway 74, (951) 659-2350


Pine Cove Market

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For other vendors in your area, call the U.S. Forest Service at (909) 382-2922.



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We also welcome everyone in joining our organization. Call us and find out how you can help keep the mountain safe as a supporter of the Fire Safe Council.

We love the mountain—let's keep it fire safe!



Trees on the Mountain

When thinking of forests, pine trees are what come to mind immediately. However, many species of pine trees, as well as a wide variety of other trees are found in the forests of the San Jacinto Mountains. This is in part because of geography.

The dramatic drop from the mountain peaks (some nearly 11,000 feet in elevation) to the desert floor is one of the sheerest escarpments in North America. Within this are several life zones ranging from true desert to the Canadian-Hudsonian.

Many of the western slopes facing toward the Pacific Ocean are less steep, with the lower elevations covered with a variety of rugged shrubs. The Idyllwild area lies in a transition zone where brush mingles with pines, oaks and incense cedars.

The San Jacintos have a variety of pines — Coulter, Jeffrey, lodgepole, ponderosa and pinyon to name a few.

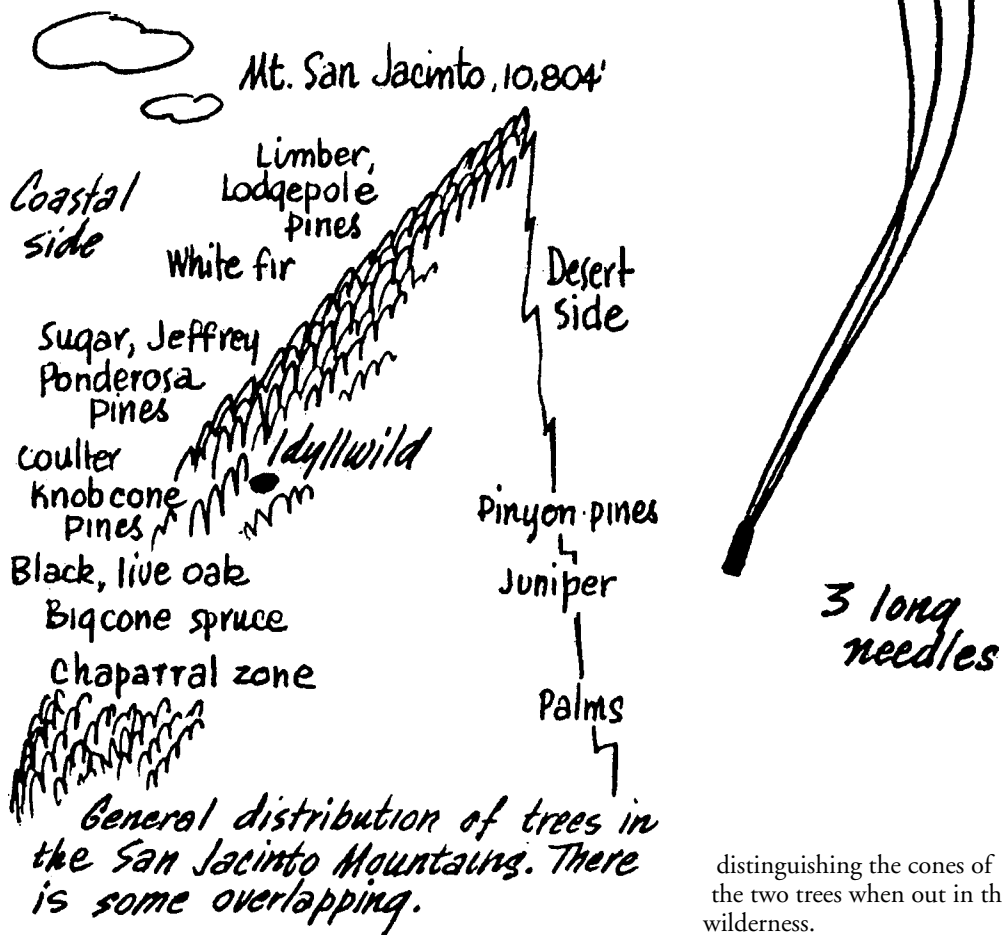
The Coulter pine is noteworthy for its cones. Nicknamed the bigcone pine, this tree's cones can be a foot long (sometimes longer) with thick, yellow pitch oozing out from between sharp scales. The cone is also unique in its color—a clear blond coloration. These cones are also found spreading seeds after a major fire, as the heat causes the cone to erupt, sending seeds of the species in the fire zones.

The Coulter is plentiful around Mountain Center and along Highway 243. The bark of the Coulter is rough and dark on older trees, and the needles grow in groups of three, averaging nine inches in length.

Two other prominent pines locally are the Jeffrey, discovered by Oregon Botanical Association collector John Jeffrey in 1852, and the ponderosa. The two pines are very similar and distinguishing between them can be difficult.

However, Jeffrey pines have a darker bark, larger cones and branches that droop more than those of the ponderosa. The Jeffrey pine can be easily identified by the nature novice by the scent of its bark — smelling fruity to some, and like butterscotch or vanilla to others. Jeffrey cones also have scales that turn inward, making them less painful than those of the ponderosa.

The ponderosa pine can be distinguished by its heavy, yellowish bark, with pieces resembling jigsaw puzzle pieces. Ponderosa cones are painful to hold. The cones also vary in both size and color. Some are bright green, others dark purple or reddish. The saying, “Gentle Jeffrey, Prickly Ponderosa” can be one method of



distinguishing the cones of the two trees when out in the wilderness.

Both the Jeffrey and ponderosa pines have needles that grow 5-10 inches in length in bundles of three.

Locally, the Jeffrey pine can be found near Idyllwild, on Black Mountain or in Garner Valley, and ponderosas are prominent in Fern Valley.

The lodgepole and limber pines are native to the pinnacles of the San Jacintos, neither flourishing below 8,000 feet. Both of these pines reside in the upper life zones and this far south, are found only in the local wilderness outward. Thus, the proliferation area. The trails from Saddle Junction and Tahquitz Valley to Tahquitz Peak pass through a stand mixed with both pines.

The cones of both are small, as are the trees themselves. A distinguishing difference between the two is the needles. Lodgepole needles grow in bundles of two, while limber needles grow in bundles of five. Another difference between the two is their bark. Lodgepole's bark is pale and thin, while limber's bark is redder and usually rougher.

The lodgepole pine's name comes from its use by Native

Continued on page 59



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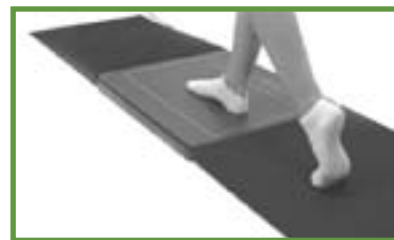
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Trees *Continued from page 57*

Americans in erecting teepees. Rumor has it that Lewis and Clark first named the lodgepole after seeing the tree in the North, where it was used by Indians.

On the semiarid slopes of San Jacinto and Santa Rosa, two varieties of pinyon pines can be found. These trees are also called nut pines because of their edible seeds.

The singleleaf pinyon is the only pine producing one needle in a bundle, ranging in length from 1-2 inches long. The tree can reach heights of 25-35 feet and has a branchy trunk. Fourleaf pinyon is more symmetrical, growing to about 15 or 30 feet high.

Neither pinyon develops large cones, but the seeds are large, sometimes a half-inch long. Pinyons are pitchy, fragrant and grow very slowly. The singleleaf pinyon can be found in other areas of California, but the fourleaf pinyon grows only in the south. Locally, many pinyons are along the road to Anza and in Pinyon Flat.

The tallest tree in our forest is the sugar pine. These towering trees may appear to be standing gracefully with arms outstretched. From these arms dangle cones in bunches of one, two and three. These cones are also big — a foot long or longer — with fragile-appearing scales.

The sugar pine is usually unbranched and uniform in diameter for a considerable distance above the ground, and the bark is less rough than that of some pines and has a reddish color. Needles of the sugar pine grow in bundles of five, are short (3 inches or shorter), and are blue-green.

Locally, sugar pines are found in Pine Cove and Fern Valley above the 5,600-foot level. Very few are found in Idyllwild, which has been attributed to early logging operations.

Pines are not the only trees in our local forests. Others can be spotted intermittently such as the incense cedar, the bigcone spruce (also called bigcone Douglas-fir), and the white fir.

The incense cedar tree is not really a cedar, it is actually a cypress relative. True cedars are not native to North America. Incense cedars are seldom found in pure stands, but are mixed with ponderosa and Jeffrey pines.

Cedars have fine, feathery sprays of foliage formed in a flat fan shape. Older trees have a reddish bark resembling that of a Sequoia. Young trees are covered with a brown, thin bark with a tendency to peel easily. The wood of the incense cedar is fragrant and is identified with the smell of pencils.

The bigcone spruce lives on western slopes below the 4,500-foot level, and is not true spruce. A characteristic of the tree is the long, drooping pattern of limbs, giving the tree a willowy appearance.

The white fir produces one of the rarer cones (rarely found intact) in the San Jacintos. Cones of the white fir crumble on the tree and disintegrate.

The white fir, also known as the “Christmas tree,” is native to this mountain range and numerous on north slopes. These trees do not grow in pure stands, but intermingle with pines. White firs are along the Devil’s Slide Trail and in Round Valley.



Pine trees reach for the sky. PHOTO BY HALIE JOHNSON

Another category of local trees is the oaks, including the California black oak, the live oak and the rare oracle oak, a hybrid of the live and black oak. Oaks are divided into two kinds — black and white. Only one black oak grows locally and it is deciduous. However, white, or live oaks retain their leaves year-round and these trees are much smaller than black oaks.

Black oaks have a darker bark, whereas white oaks possess white or whitish bark. Another difference is the acorns. The acorns on the black oak form every two years, while those on the white oak form annually.

Black oaks are plentiful in Idyllwild and can reach a height of 85 feet with massive trunks and lower limbs. White oaks are not only numerous locally, but varied, with at least six different kinds and hybrids found.

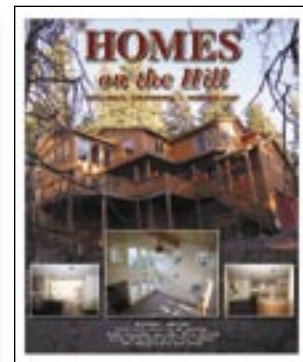
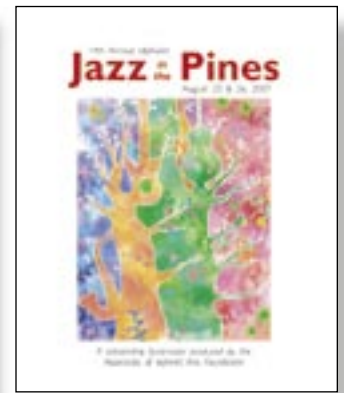
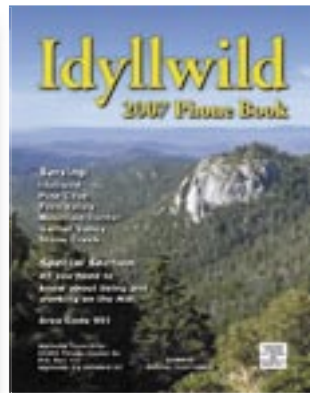
Oaks usually grow on dry slopes between 5,000 and 7,000 feet, often in pure stands.

Of course, many other trees and a variety of brush and chaparral are found in the San Jacintos. For more information on local vegetation and trees, contact the U.S. Forest Service or the Idyllwild County Nature Center. 🌲

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Eagles *Continued from page 25*

bald eagles have learned to survive but procreation has been an uphill battle. In 2006, the eagles successfully hatched a pair of eaglets but the babies died after being blown out of their nest.

This past spring, the pair hatched two more eaglets. One, at 9 weeks of age, fell out of the nest and fractured its right wing. The eaglet was nursed back to health at the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center in Indio and, later, released back into the nesting area. But observers say the bird has not been seen since shortly after it was released. Before the injured bird was returned to the nest, its sibling was reported missing. "It fell out of the nest shortly after the other one," said Poopatanapong. "We don't know if the other chick survived or not. The whole nest was destroyed. When I went over there, it was all sticks and twigs. The nest had completely come down."

Experts don't know if the nest collapsed because of the wind or if it simply couldn't support the weight of the baby birds once they began flapping their powerful wings. At 9 weeks of age, eaglets weigh about 14 pounds.

Mark Perinsky, manager of the Lake Hemet Campground, which is owned by the Lake Hemet Water District, said there is talk of building a sturdier nest for the pair of eagles, to help avoid such tragedy in the future. But, he added, the idea is still in the talking stages.

"We would be a willing participant but would not be the lead agency," said Perinsky. "But, if they needed our help or needed a piece of property on our shoreline, we would help them out." ❏




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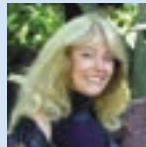
Barbara Hunt
Realtor Associate

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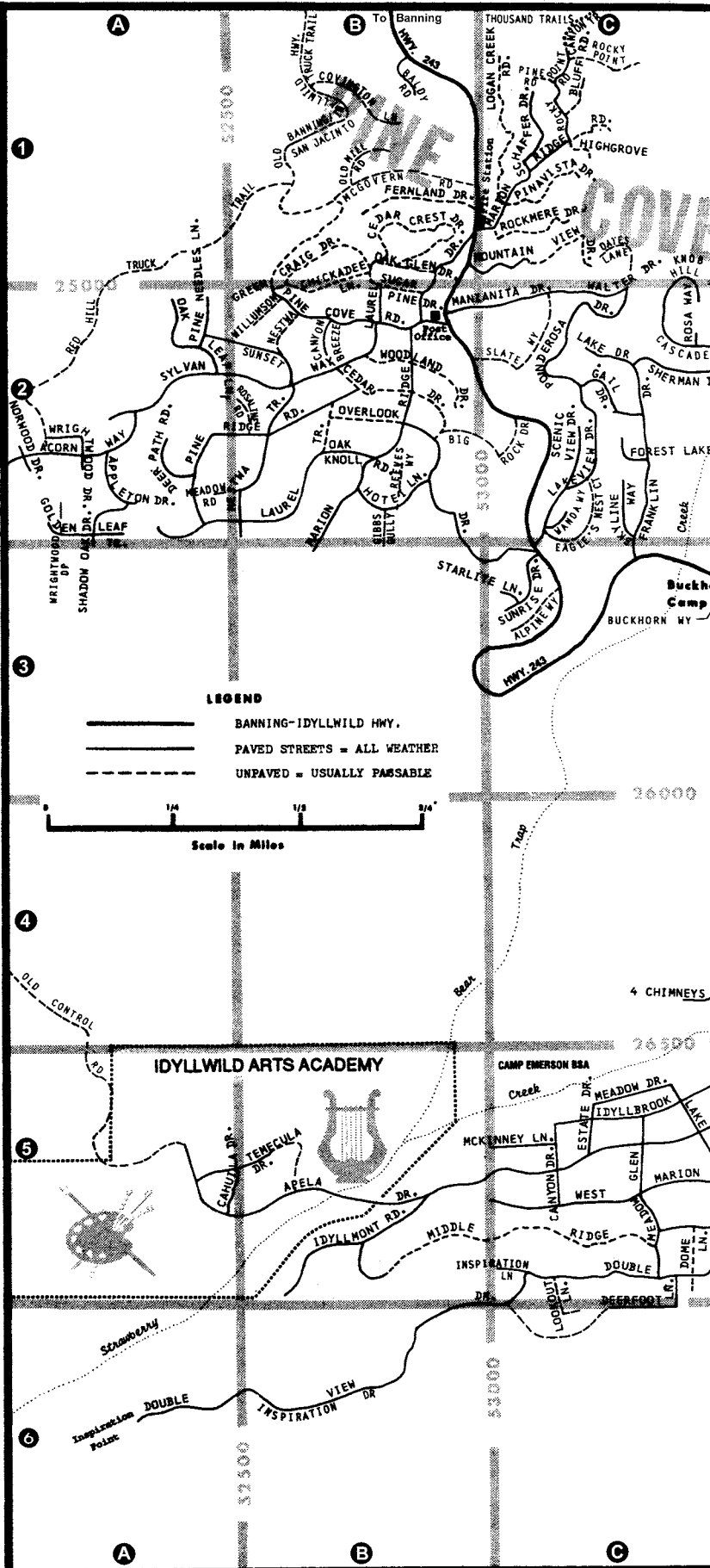
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Street Map of IDYLLWILD

with PINE COVE
and FERN VALLEY

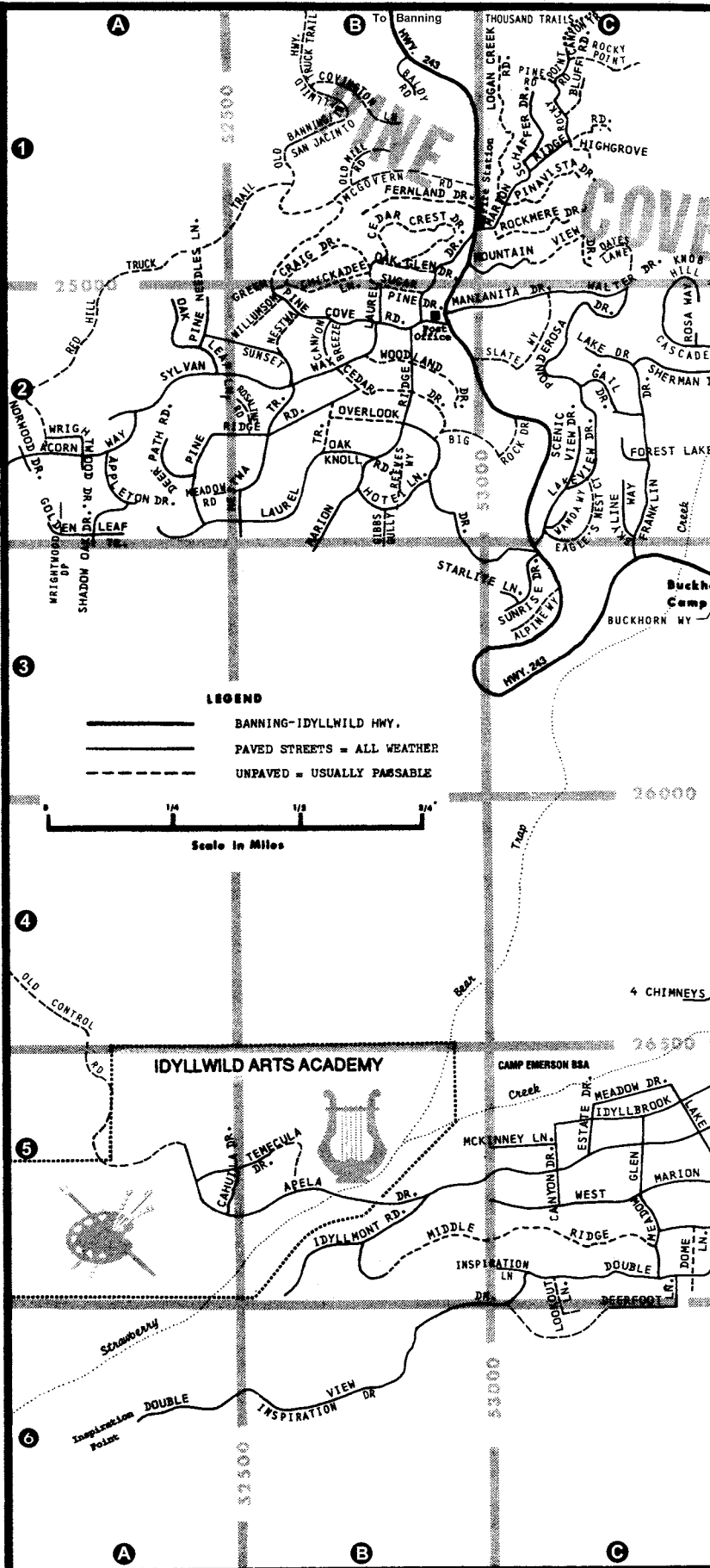
ACORN LANE	A2	GRANITE PLACE	G3	PINE CREST AVENUE	E3, F3
ADAMS DRIVE	F3	GRANITE SPRINGS	F5	PINE DELL DRIVE	E4
ALDERWOOD STREET	E3, F3	GREEN AVENUE	E5	PINE AVENUE	E5
ALPINE WAY	B3	GREEN CRAIG DRIVE	B1	PINE ROAD (PINE COVE)	C1
APELA DRIVE	B5	GREEN OAKS COURT	E2	PINE NEEDLES LANE	A2
APPLETON DRIVE	A2	HEMSTREET PLACE	F4	PINE RIDGE ROAD	A2, B2
AZALEA DRIVE	E2	HIDE-A-LANE	E4	PIONEER ROAD	G1
AZALEA ROAD (FERN VALLEY)	G1	HIGHGROVE	C1	PONDEROSA DRIVE	E2
BALDY ROAD	B1	HILL STREET	F3	POINT OF ROCKS DRIVE	C2
BICKNELL LANE	E4	HILLSDALE STREET	G3	RAINBOW LANE	D5
BIG PINE STREET	D3	HOPKINS DRIVE	E5	REED LANE	F4
BIG ROCK DRIVE	B2, C2	HOTEL LANE	B2	REEVES WAY	B2
BLUEGRASS COURT	E6	HOWLAND ROAD	G1	RED HILL TRUCK TRAIL	A2
BLUFF DRIVE	C1	HUMBER ROAD	G2	RIDGE CREST	E3
BOULDER DRIVE	F4	IDYLLBROOK DRIVE	C5, D4	RIDGEVIEW DRIVE	E4
BUCKHORN WAY	C3	IDYLLMONT ROAD	B5	RIM ROCK ROAD	G2
CAHUILA DRIVE	A5	HIDIAN ROCK ROAD	F2	RISING GLEN ROAD	G3
CAIRN HILL ROAD	D2	INSPIRATION DRIVE	A6, B6	RIVER DRIVE	F3
CANYON BREEZE	B2	INSPIRATION LANE	C5	ROBIN DRIVE	D5
CANYON DRIVE	C5	IRIS ROAD	F3	ROBLE DRIVE	H1
CANYON TRAIL	C1	JAMESON DRIVE	E3, F3	ROCKDALE DRIVE	E2
CASCADE DRIVE	C2	JEFFERY PINE ROAD	D3	ROCKDALE SPUR	E2
CASSLER DRIVE	G3	JOHN MUIR ROAD	F2, G2	ROCKMERE DRIVE	C1
CEDAR AVENUE	E5	JOHNSON ROAD	E3	ROCKY POINT DRIVE	C1
CEDAR CREST DRIVE	B1	KNOB HILL	B2	ROCKY WAY	D3
CEDAR DRIVE (PINE COVE)	B2	LAKE DRIVE (PINE COVE)	C2	ROSA WAY	C2
CEDAR GLEN DRIVE	D3	LAKE LANE	C5	ROSALINE ROAD	B2
CEDAR STREET	E3, F3	LAKE VIEW DRIVE	C2	SADDLE ROAD	D5
CHICKADEE LANE (PINE COVE)	B1	LAUREL DRIVE	B2	SAN JACINTO ROAD	G2
CHIPMUNK DRIVE	F2	LAUREL TRAIL	B2	SAN JACINTO TRUCK TRAIL	B1
CIRCLE VIEW DRIVE	G3	LILAC DRIVE	F3	SAUNDERS MEADOW ROAD	D6, E6, E5, F5, E4
CIRCLE WAY	G3	LILAC LANE	F5	SCENIC DRIVE	F3, G3
COUGAR ROAD	G2	LILY WAY	G2	SCENIC VIEW DRIVE	C2
COULTER DRIVE	C2	LINGER LANE	E5	SCHAFFER DRIVE	C1
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE	D5	LIVE OAK LANE	D5	SENECA DRIVE	G2, G3
COUNTRY PARK ROAD	D4, E4	LIVE OAK STREET	E5	SHADOW OAK DRIVE	A2
COVINGTON LANE	B1	LODGE ROAD	F2, G2	SHADY VIEW DRIVE	G3
COW BELL ALLEY	F5	LOGAN CREEK ROAD	B1	SHANNON LANE	E4
CRAGHILL DRIVE	F2	LOOKOUT LANE	C5	SHERMAN DRIVE	C2
CREE LANE	E2	LOOKOUT ROAD	F4	SILVER FIR DRIVE	D3
CREST DRIVE	F4	LOWER PINE CREST	D4	SILVERTIP LANE	G2
CREST LANE	D5	MACKTECKLEWOOD	F5	SKYLINE WAY	C2
CRESTVIEW DRIVE	E4, E5	MANZANITA DRIVE	E2	SLATE WAY	C2
DARYLL ROAD	G3	MANZANITA DRIVE (PINE COVE)	B2	SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE	F2, E4, F4, F3
DEER FOOT LANE	C6	MARANATHA DRIVE	E3	SPRUCE AVENUE	E5
DEER PATH ROAD	A2	MARION RIDGE DRIVE	B2	STARLITE LANE	C3
DEER TRAIL	F5	MARION RIDGE ROAD	C1	STRAWBERRY VALLEY DRIVE	E4
DELANO ROAD	D4, D5	MARION VIEW DRIVE	D5, E4, F4	STRONG DRIVE	F4, G4, G3
DICKENSON ROAD	G2	MAY VALLEY TRUCK TRAIL	F6	SUGAR PINE DRIVE	B2
DOGWOOD ROAD	G1	MCCAUGHEY	G4	SUNRISE DRIVE	C3
DOME LANE	C5	MCGOVERN ROAD	B1	SUNSET	A2, B2
DOUBLE TREE DRIVE	D3	MCKINNEY LANE	C5	SUNSET VIEW DRIVE	G3
DOUBLE VIEW DRIVE	A6	MCMAHON ROAD	D5	SYLVAN WAY	A2, B2
EAGLE'S NEST COURT	C2	MEADOW DRIVE	D5	TAHOQUITZ DRIVE	F3, F4
ELK LANE	E4	MEADOW ROAD (PINE COVE)	A2	TAHOQUITZ ROAD	F2, G2
EMERICK ROAD	D2	MEADOW GLEN DRIVE	C5	TAHOQUITZ VIEW DR.	E5, F5, F4, G4
ENCINO ROAD	H1	MEADOWLARK ROAD	E4	TEMECULA DRIVE	B5
ESTATE DRIVE	C5	MEMORY LANE	F5	TANGLEWOOD LANE	F5
FAIRWAY DRIVE	E5	MIDDLE RIDGE DRIVE	B5, C5, D5	TOLLGATE ROAD	C5, D5, D4
FALLING LEAF DRIVE	F4	MONTGOMERY	F3	TRAILS END	F4
FERN DRIVE	F2	MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE	C1	UPPER PINE CREST	F2
FERNLAND DRIVE	E1	NESTVA TRAIL	B2	UPPER RIM ROCK ROAD	G1
FERNLEAF DRIVE	B2	NORTH CIRCLE DRIVE	F3	VALLEY VIEW DRIVE	E5
FERN VALLEY ROAD	F2, G2, H1	NORTH RIDGE DRIVE	E2	VILLAGE CENTER DRIVE	E3, E4
FIR STREET	F3	NORWOOD DRIVE	A2	VILLAGE VIEW DRIVE	E4
FOREST DRIVE	H1	OAK GLEN DRIVE	B1	WALTER DRIVE	C2
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FOREST HILL DRIVE	E4	OAK LEAF LANE	A2	WANDA WAY	C2
FOREST LAKE DRIVE	C2	OAKWOOD STREET	E3, F3	WAYNE DRIVE	C5
FOREST KNOLL DRIVE	F2	OATES LANE	C1	WEST MARION VIEW DRIVE	G3, D5
FOSTER LAKE ROAD	D2	OLD CONTROL ROAD	A4, A5	WEST RIDGE ROAD	D5
FOUR CHIMNEYS ROAD	C4	OLD MILL ROAD	B1	WILDWOOD DRIVE	F4
FRANKLIN DRIVE	C2	OVERLOOK DRIVE	B2	WILLUMSON	B2
GAIL DRIVE	C2	PALOMAR ROAD	G2	WOOD ROAD	F2
GIBBS GULLY	B2	PARK LANE	E3	WOODLAND DRIVE	B2
GLEN ROAD	G2, G3	PARKVIEW DRIVE	F3	WRIGHTWOOD DRIVE	A2
GOLDEN LEAF DRIVE	A2	PINAVISTA DRIVE	C1		
GOLDENROD ROAD	E6	PINE COVE ROAD	B2		



Street Map of IDYLLWILD

with PINE COVE
and FERN VALLEY

ACORN LANE	A2	GRANITE PLACE	G3	PINE CREST AVENUE	E3, F3
ADAMS DRIVE	F3	GRANITE SPRINGS	F5	PINE DELL DRIVE	E4
ALDERWOOD STREET	E3, F3	GREEN AVENUE	E5	PINE AVENUE	E5
ALPINE WAY	B3	GREEN CRAIG DRIVE	B1	PINE ROAD (PINE COVE)	C1
APELA DRIVE	B5	GREEN OAKS COURT	E2	PINE NEEDLES LANE	A2
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BIG PINE STREET	D3	HOPKINS DRIVE	E5	REED LANE	F4
BIG ROCK DRIVE	B2, C2	HOTEL LANE	B2	REEVES WAY	B2
BLUEGRASS COURT	E6	HOWLAND ROAD	G1	RED HILL TRUCK TRAIL	A2
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CANYON DRIVE	C5	IRIS ROAD	F3	ROBLE DRIVE	H1
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CASCADE DRIVE	C2	JEFFERY PINE ROAD	D3	ROCKDALE SPUR	E2
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CIRCLE VIEW DRIVE	G3	LILAC DRIVE	F3	SAUNDERS MEADOW ROAD	D6, E6, E5, F5, E4
CIRCLE WAY	G3	LILAC LANE	F5	SCENIC DRIVE	F3, G3
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COULTER DRIVE	C2	LINGER LANE	E5	SCHAFFER DRIVE	C1
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CREE LANE	E2	LOOKOUT ROAD	F4	SILVER FIR DRIVE	D3
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DOGWOOD ROAD	G1	MCCAUGHEY	G4	SUNRISE DRIVE	C3
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DOUBLE TREE DRIVE	D3	MCKINNEY LANE	C5	SUNSET VIEW DRIVE	G3
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FALLING LEAF DRIVE	F4	MONTGOMERY	F3	TRAILS END	F4
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FERNLAND DRIVE	E1	NESTVA TRAIL	B2	UPPER RIM ROCK ROAD	G1
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FOREST LAKE DRIVE	C2	OAKWOOD STREET	E3, F3	WAYNE DRIVE	C5
FOREST KNOLL DRIVE	F2	OATES LANE	C1	WEST MARION VIEW DRIVE	G3, D5
FOSTER LAKE ROAD	D2	OLD CONTROL ROAD	A4, A5	WEST RIDGE ROAD	D5
FOUR CHIMNEYS ROAD	C4	OLD MILL ROAD	B1	WILDWOOD DRIVE	F4
FRANKLIN DRIVE	C2	OVERLOOK DRIVE	B2	WILLUMSON	B2
GAIL DRIVE	C2	PALOMAR ROAD	G2	WOOD ROAD	F2
GIBBS GULLY	B2	PARK LANE	E3	WOODLAND DRIVE	B2
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GOLDEN LEAF DRIVE	A2	PINAVISTA DRIVE	C1		
GOLDENROD ROAD	E6	PINE COVE ROAD	B2		



Phone Numbers

Dial 9-1-1 for all emergencies

Barbecue permits

Idyllwild Fire Department, 54160 Maranatha Road, 659-2153.

California Highway Patrol

Beaumont, 195 Highland Springs Avenue, business phone, (951) 769-2000.

Electric

Southern California Edison, call (800) 655-4555.

Emergency resource center

Idyllwild HELP Center, 26330 Highway 243; thrift store, Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; office, Monday & Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. by appointment, and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 659-2110.

Fire

Idyllwild Fire Department, 54160 Maranatha Road; Emergency, 911; business phone, 659-2153.

Riverside County Fire Department, Emergency 911: **Pine Cove Station**, 24919 Marion Ridge Road, business phone, 659-2732; **Garner Valley Station**, 59200 Highway 74, Garner Valley, business phone, 659-5353; **Anza Station**, 56560 Highway 371, business phone, (951) 763-5611.

Health care services

Barry Shapiro, pharmacist, Idyllwild Pharmacy, 54391 Village Center Drive, Strawberry Creek Square, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, 659-2135.

Kamran Qureshi, M.D., Idyllwild Health Center, 54910 Pine Crest Ave., Fern Valley Corners, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 659-4908.

Heber Dunn, D.D.S. & Bryan Dunn, D.D.S., 54805 N. Circle Drive, Fern Valley Corners. For appointment, 659-5011; emergencies, (951) 652-2744.

Judi G. Milin, D.C., Mountain Chiropractic, by appointment weekdays & weekends, 659-4522.

Charles Schelly, D.C., Idyllwild Chiropractic, 54165 Pine Crest Ave., 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. & 3-5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday; 3-5:30 p.m. Thursday; also by appointment; 659-4663.

Jack Stone, D.C., 25555 Fern Valley Road, Friday-Monday by appt. 659-5544.

Library

Riverside County Branch, Idyllwild, 54185 Pine Crest Ave., 659-2300.

Lost pet

Idyllwild Animal Rescue Friends, 659-5184 or 659-1122; **Living Free Animal Sanctuary**, 659-4684; or **Ramona Animal Shelter**, (951) 654-8002, 690 Humane Way, San Jacinto.

Newspaper

Idyllwild Town Crier, 54295 Village Center Drive, P.O. Box 157, Idyllwild, CA 92549, 659-2145. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Post offices

Idyllwild, 54391 Strawberry Creek Square, 659-9719. Lobby open 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Saturday. Counter service, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Mail goes out 9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturdays 9:15 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Mountain Center, Highways 243 & 74, 659-2361. Lobby open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Counter service 8:30 a.m.-noon & 1-4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday. Mail goes out 10:30 a.m. (express only) & 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, & 3 p.m. Saturday.

Pine Cove, 23235 Highway 243, behind Pine Cove Market, 659-4955. Lobby open 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Counter service, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Mail goes out 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Radio

WNKI, 1610-AM, emergency & tourist information only, 659-9654.

Recreation

Town Hall, 25925 Cedar St., Jim Campbell, director, 659-2360.

Recycling bins

Waste Management of Inland Valley, 1-800-874-7774.

Riverside County Sheriff

Nonemergency, 24-hours, (800) 950-2444; **Lake Hemet substation**, 56550 Highway 74, Garner Valley, business phone, 659-3871.

Road & weather information

Up-to-date Hill weather reports daily on the Internet at **Town Crier's** Web site www.towncrier.com; **Southern California Weather Forecast**, (213) 554-1212.

Telephone service

Verizon: Business repair, 1-800-483-2000; residential repair, 1-800-483-1000; business, 1-800-483-5000; residential, 1-800-483-4000.

Trash disposal

Idyllwild Transfer Station, Saunders Meadow Road, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday-Monday. (Pine needles & fireplace ashes are accepted & a recycling bin is available for glass, aluminum, plastic, cardboard & newspaper.)

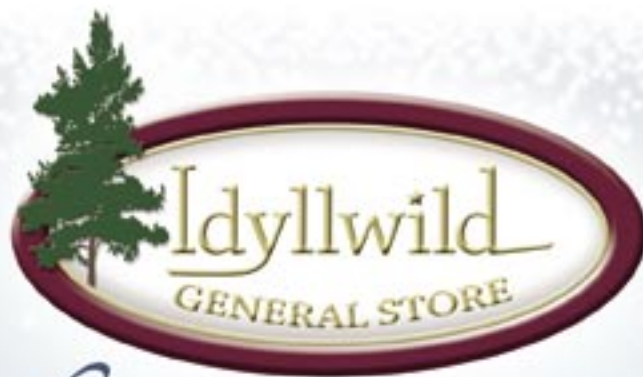
Water districts

Idyllwild Water District, 25945 Highway 243, 659-2143.

Pine Cove Water District, 24917 Marion Ridge Road, 659-2675.

Fern Valley Water District, 55790 South Circle Drive, 659-2200.

Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, 2480 East Florida Ave., Hemet, (951) 658-3241. ♣



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■ Academy Admission

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■ Summer Program and Family Camp Information

(951) 659-2171 ext. 2365

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