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# **Community Newspaper**

IDYLLWILD - MOUNTAIN CENTER - PINE COVE - FERN VALLEY - RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

FREE

Volume 1

Issue No.4

Wednesday

October 11, 2023

# TODAY IN OUR WORLD: Residents Urge Idyllwild Community to Contribute to Help The Israel People

It is time for people of good conscience to act. Israel has been viciously attacked by Hamas. A terrorist group committed to the destruction of Israel ("From the River to the Sea.") Their charter calls for the death of all Jews. Not just Israelis.

The Palestinians have had several opportunities to resolve their issues: Think of the Camp David Meetings. Their leaders could not agree to sign because they would no longer have a cause to Champion.

It seems that we have such low expectations of the Palestinians. They can send rockets and missiles to Israel, with a view towards killing civilians. Where's the outrage? They can violate International norms, with virtually no condemnation - where's the outrage?

The Palestinian leadership is corrupt. Both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) siphon off funds, to the detriment of the people.

Pray for the Israel Nation



The blue stripes are intended to symbolize the stripes on a tallit, the traditional Jewish prayer shawl.

The Star of David is a widely acknowledged symbol of the Jewish people and of Judaism. In Judaism, the color blue symbolizes God's glory, purity and gevurah (God's severity). The White field represents Chesed (Divine Benevolence).

One can not criticize their regimes, lest they be arrested, beaten, imprisoned, and possibly killed. They control the media. Both Hamas and The PA inculate their population, including the children, with the virtue of being a martyr, in the killing of Israelis.

How can you possibly negotiate with people whose raison de' etre is to kill you, and who see any accommodation with Israel as treason?

"I urge all good people to contribute to Magen David Adom (The Israeli equivalent of the US Red Cross.) Jeffery Cohen https://www.mdais.org/en/ donation

I have to wonder what we Americans would do if a hostile neighbor behaved the way Hamas and PA have behaved. Our B-52s would be flying over their territory dropping bombs.

The Star thanks Jeffery Cohen, Board member of Temple Har Shalom for his time and interview

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THE STAR
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Mountain Center, CA

Ask about Off The Hill subscription rate

Community
Calendar Deadline
Wednesdays
one week prior to events

The Star is now Digital!

Currently fine tuning the pages

www.thestarnews.com

**Contact:** Office phone:

951-527-0055

## The Editor's Page

## **Letter to the Editor Policy**

The Star provides a place *for we the people* to carry on a dialog with the community, as well as with the county and state government officials.

The Star wants to address that in the proofing of any edition, it is not the sole responsibility of the proofreader to catch all errors that may be found in the publication. Though we reserve the right to edit spelling and punctuation, we also take responsibility to admit when we have erred.

Letters to the Editor must be signed and dated. Please include your address and phone number. All letters are the property of Monroe Publishing LLC and The Star.

WE THE PEOPLE will make better decisions when we are better informed and when we have a safe place to communicate with our community and elected officials.

Send your Letter to The Editor to:
The Star
P.O. Box 3019
Idyllwild, CA 92549
or contact: 951-527-0055
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
A place where you talk and we listen.



# NATIONAL NEWS: As of Monday the ISRAEL WAR Spending Report

EU Commission suspends all Palestinian funding until further review following Hamas attack. From CNN's Radina Gigova and Sana Noor Haq

The European Union's Commission is suspending all Palestinian funding until further review following the Hamas attack on Israel, an official said Monday.

"The scale of terror and brutality against Israel and its people is a turning point," Neighborhood and Enlargement Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi, said in a series of posts on social media. "There can be no business as usual."

As the biggest donor for the Palestinians, the European Commission is putting its full development portfolio under review, which is worth a about 691 million euros (\$728 million) he said. This included:

- All payments are immediately suspended.
- All projects are put under review.
- All new budget proposals, including for 2023, are postponed until further notice.
- Comprehensive assessment of the whole portfolio is being conducted.

"The foundations for peace, tolerance and co-existence must now be addressed," Varhelyi said.

"Incitement to hatred, violence and glorification of terror have poisoned the minds of too many," he added. "We need action and we need it now."



#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCMENT

#### **UPDATE!!!**

THE STAR WILL PUBLISH BI-WEEKLY September 2023 through January 2024

Editorial and Advertising Deadlines:
October 25th for the November 1st publication

#### **Holiday Ad Deadlines**

November 8th and November 15th
December 6th and 13th
Please contact THE STAR for more info.
Call: 951-527-0055



### It's Almost Here...AEP

by Deshaundra Jones

The anticipation is building for October 15th. The first day of Annual **Enrollment Period for** Medicare beneficiaries to decide whether to change. keep, add or drop their Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplemental and prescription drug plans. Insurance companies, agents and brokers are finding ways to interact with the 65 plus year old American to assist in selecting the plan that works for the member.

Mass communication floods radio, phone, TV, newspaper, restaurants, stores, mail, email and more for months.

Sometimes advertising efforts cause seniors to be overwhelmed with too much information, unsure of who to trust although eager to get free benefits. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid has changed contact rules in an effort to reduce misinformation and high pressure sales tactics.

Beginning October 1, 2023 there is a 48 hour waiting period when setting an appointment to change, add or drop a Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement (also known as Medigap), or a prescription drug plan. The delay is not designed to be an inconvenience. It is designed to make sure the beneficiary knows what they want and are getting. This lets them think, consider questions, and make a selection without remorse.

There are several factors to consider about your health insurance for next year. Questions are:
Are my prescriptions covered? How much will it cost? Does my doctor accept original Medicare or Medicare Advantage now? Do I need denture or bridge work? Is transportation included? If I don't have Medicaid, what is available for me?

A licensed sales representative has been licensed by the State of California and certified by an insurance company with a privatized Medicare contract. They are informed of plan benefits, federal regulations, and state expectations for members. Insurance agents are required to pass standardized tests, at various percentages, to get Medicare certified every single year by each company they represent.

Some sales representatives are "captive" and work with one insurance company. Others are "non-captive" so they can represent several insurance companies. Armed with training, an individual licensed sales agent is not giving an opinion or misinformation, like other people do.

It is my professional industry experience to share: know who you are talking to and their title. Not everyone saying or advertising they are a Medicare representative or a sales agent is not licensed and certified to do so. At this exciting time with choices, new plans, and

changes of benefits for Medicare options, I have one request: *know who you are talking to*. Are they state licensed and medicare certified? Ask them, it's okay. They may answer phone calls and get your information so you can be transferred to a sales person SOMEWHERE.

Let's have a good experience with health insurance this year. Good information is at your fingertips. Online: www.medicare.gov

In person there are local health insurance offices where walk-ins are welcome, or you can attend local seminars about Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplemental with food included in your area.

Navigating through Medicare choices should be stress free, informed and upfront. Locate an independent agent with reputable experience and companies.

> Happy AEP Annual Enrollment Period!



"Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions."

Henri Nouwen



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## ARTISTS OF IDYLLWILD



Photo courtesy of Bonnie Reynolds

Poets and Artists seem to capture so often what we feel and more than that, of what we miss, as we hurry through our days. Bonnie Reynolds has been painting since she was 8 year old and since that time has progressed in her expression of the beauty seen and unseen by so many.

She captures a magical image of reality and an awesome majestic beauty for our eyes to absorb.

Nature has surrounded her with subjects from mountains to waterfalls, including the snow covered cabins and the treed raccoons that appear to pose just for her.

## BONNIE REYNOLDS LOCAL ARTIST



A STAR Artist-Bonnie Reynolds

You will probably agree that each painting frames a moment of time that Bonnie brings from her past travels and transports us to her memories of love, warmth, and belonging.

If the eyes are the window to the soul, then what Bonnie shares is her heart and a glimpse of heaven on earth.



Bonnie Reynolds is a mother, poet, a singer of songs, a gardener, a waitress, a caregiver, and a career woman who has given much of her life to loving others, helping those she can and serving to be an inspiration to young artists learning to take time to see and smell more that just the roses around each of us. You can find Bonnie at the Red Kettle Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday mornings, pouring coffee and greeting customers with her welcoming smile.

More Art displayed at the Red Kettle Cont. page 11

## Hot Property For Sale!!! 54071 Northridge Dr. Asking \$745,000.

Live amongst the trees in this beautiful Idyllwild home. With 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms this newer build home has plenty of room and is just a quick couple minutes to town. More features include a newly remodeled kitchen, new generator, wood floors, vaulted ceilings and 2 car garage. Price reduced! MLS # NDP2306146.







Charlotte Reed, REALTOR Lic #01423850. Call 760-822-8008 to see it today!

#### STARS IN IDYLLWILD

## **Comedy Supreme Returns to The Rustic Theatre**



#### STAR PREFORMANCE



COMEDY COURTESY OF THE RUSTIC THEATRE AND "COMEDY SUPREME PRESENTS"

Idyllwild is a wonderful town and while it's known for its hiking trails and natural beauty, when it comes to entertainment, top talent has graced the stage of The Rustic Theatre courtesy of the new owners Gail and Graham.

Since June 2021, "Comedy Supreme Presents" has been produced by comedians Richard Weiss and Donna Maine, who have prided themselves in bringing in top headliners such as SNL's Darrell Hammond and everybody's favorite weatherman Fritz Coleman, who will be returning November 25 to The Rustic Theatre

All performers on CSP shows are touring comics and seasoned professionals. This always makes for a high-quality show.

October 14th will be CSP's next event featuring 3 headliners; America's Got Talent's Aiko Tanaka (who received a standing ovation and the judges called hilarious), ex-teacher and Last Comic Standing's Mark Schumacher, as well as rising star Nishy XL, from Netflix Is A Joke and Asian Invasion.

Donna & Richard open each show with brand new material. As Richard said, "I've written two published joke books and love the creative process of coming up with new material for each show."

Donna Maine hosts and always delivers topical jokes reflecting the latest news of the day, as well as bits about her life. As Donna pointed out, "We bring the best talent to Idyllwild because we love the town and the people."

Tickets to the October 14th and November 25th shows are now available @ rustictheatre.com





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## Life on the Hill

## Reconnecting with our Forest Home

by Kathy Harmon-Luber

Looking at photos of Earth from space, we're struck by how it's not only our home, but our entire life support system.

There's a fragile thread of connection running through the tapestry of the world, binding us to the planet, land, animals, plants, elements. Everywhere, threads of connection weaving each of us and nature into One. Similarly, we're woven into the tapestry of this forest.

There are two ways to exist in our great big forest: One is to simply "live here" in your cabin, participating in daily village life, admiring the mountain's beauty, yet believing the myth of separation—that we humans are separate from nature, in control of our environment. The road less traveled is one of eco-awakening: living with awareness of how we humans are deeply woven into the awe-filled tapestry of nature.

Robin Wall Kimmerer emphasizes: "Knowing that you love the Earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the Earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship into a sacred bond."

We belong to the Earth—and our forest—and are interconnected with all beings. There's never been a more important time to rekindle this reconnection and live in reciprocity with nature.

Everything in this interconnected web of life is sacred. The tree knows its purpose. As does dragonfly and mosquito. Coyote and wildflowers, too. Have you asked: What is my sacred, unique purpose in this web of life? What's my relationship with Nature?

Find inspiration in Rilke's words: "Earth...before I was named, I belonged to you..." We're born in relationship to Earth, and if we haven't already, we can rekindle that relationship.

How can we connect with the forest as a living, breathing being? Next issue, we'll share simple and fun ways to rekindle, integrate, and anchor reconnection and reciprocity with our forest home.

----

Kathy Harmon-Luber is an author, certified Sound Healing Practitioner, Reiki Master, and life-long nature girl.







Come ready for fun! Put on your detective hat and explore Idyllwild. This is the perfect mixture of mystery, adventure, and the history of Idyllwild.

Guided by the game, you will make your way around Idyllwild. At each stop there's a puzzle. Solve the puzzle and receive a clue. Collect the clues and solve the mystery.

This is great fun for exploring Idyllwild with your friends and family. The mystery tour takes approximately two hours as you learn the history of Idyllwild, solve the mystery, and finish your adventure.

Special

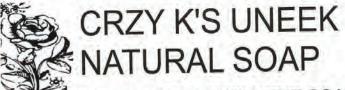


Discount

upstairs at the Fort-coyoteredsidyllwild.com

## Idyllwild Marketplace





"TAKE TIME TO SMELL THE SOAP" KATHY & DANIEL (951) 259-0917

54245 N. Circle Drive C-5 Idyllwild, Ca. Crzy-Ks-Uneek-Natural soap.com





Photo by The Star staff

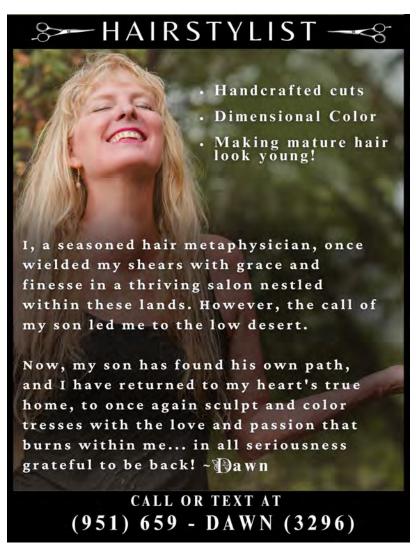
Stopped in at Fratello's Ristorante to enjoy the soulful sound of Unlimited Flavor - Saxophonist Sugar Bear with keyboard and vocalist David Roy. Pictured between them is lead server Tim Mejia who serves Fratello's best meals with a smile. We always enjoy a great evening of music, food and service.







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## **Aunt Mary's Pantry**

Staring Jennifer Berger Recipes for the Working Single Gal

"I Love Idyllwild - It is my favorite place to hike and relax from my busy schedule." Jennifer



"While living in Michigan, I was persuaded to cook for my single friends and family." Jennifer's culinary pleasure is to prepare healthy, home-cooked meals with fresh ingredients. "I especially enjoy cooking one-pot meals and comfort food."

Jennifer works as an analyst for American Airlines which includes traveling and allows for exploring ethnic and regional foods. She enjoys bringing home new ideas, and putting spins on dishes by combining different herbs and spices.

"A brisk fall weekend brings on a taste for potato soup," Jennifer shared. "So, I created a recipe that my extended California family and friends say far surpasses any they have had."

#### **Jennifer's Potato Soup**

8 medium Russet potatoes

1 lb. Applewood smoked bacon

(or your favorite thick-cut bacon)

1/4 cup white onion, finely chopped

1 16-oz. carton heavy whipping cream

1 32-oz. box turkey stock

1/4 cup white flour

2 Tbsp. celery salt

1/2 Tbsp. ground black pepper

1 Tbsp. garlic powder

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

- 1.Peel potatoes, and cut them into 2-inch cubes. Cover them with water in a 5-qt pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Turn to low and simmer until tender (about 10 minutes). Drain potatoes and set aside, reserving 1 cup of the potato water.
- 2. Cut bacon strips in half. Cook bacon crisp; chop and set aside. Reserve 1/4 cup bacon grease, and discard the remainder of the grease.
  3. Saute' onions in reserved bacon grease, on low heat, until transparent. Wisk 8 oz. of the heavy whipping

cream slowly into the onions.

- 4. Add half of the turkey stock. Add 1/4 cup flour and whisk slowly until the flour is smooth and thick (avoid overheating or boiling the mixture).
- 5. Add celery salt, black pepper and garlic powder.
- 6. Once mixture is thick, pour it over the potatoes and stir it in slowly.
- 7. Add remaining turkey stock, and remaining whipping cream; cook on medium heat allowing potatoes to cook through.
- 8. Top with crumbled bacon and shredded cheddar cheese.

Try to pace yourself, most people go back for seconds, thirds...

#### **Home Cooks**

## Something special for the fall holidays.

The Star is asking if you will invite us into your kitchen and/or share your favorite recipes. Call the office, leave a message and your phone number. We will call you back. O: 951-527-0055

## GOOD READS

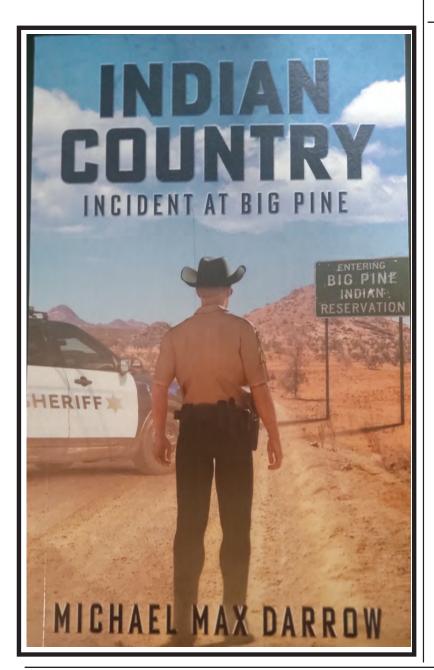
#### MICHAEL M. DARROW



MICHAEL M. DARROW was born and raised in Southern Callifornia where he lives with his wife of 30 years. They have three amazing adult children. Mike joined the military right out of high school, then later the National Guard and Reserve. In both, he enlisted and was a commissioned Infantry Officer. He also served his community as a police officer until retirement.

This book is a work of fiction. Although the characters and events of this story are not true, it does reflect many of the author's true life experiences in regards to his career in law enforcement, with people of the First Nations and in practicing Native American spirituality.

The author wishes to convey to you, dear reader, that his sole intent in penning this novel is to entertain. No offense to any person, organization, location or religion is intended.





### **MONROE PUBLISHING LLC**

Monroe Publishing LLC is currently accepting your published books ready for marketing. Monroe can provide the help to edit, structure content, and coordinate the layout of graphics to collaborate the story in your book prior to publishing.

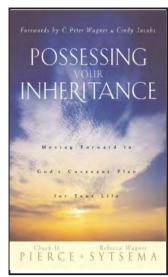
It can be very easy to get a book published in today's world of technology, but not so easy to find someone to market your book.

Consider: Your book is published, ready for distribution. Your fans can going on-line to buy a copy. However, who knows you have a book? Family, friends, co-workers? This is what Monroe Publishing does. Connects you to the right market and people to have your book read. Contact Jo Monroe: jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com

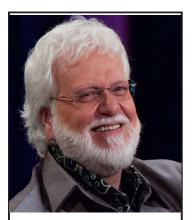
#### Chuck D. Pierce,

know for his accurate prophetic gifting, is president of Glory of Zion International Ministries and Global Spheres, Inc., in Corinth, Texas.

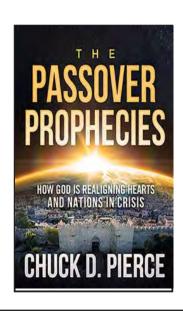
Chuck's books are available to purchase at: www.chosenbooks.com a division of Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



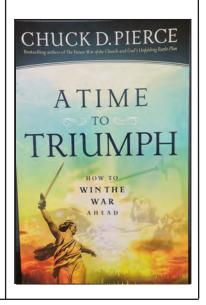
#### SPECIAL FEATURE AUTHOR



Chuck Pierce - Author President of GOZ



"We are living in one of the most violent, chaotic and permissive times in history-and each year the darkness looms larger. In the face of such overwhelming evil, what can we do? " In this empowering and practical book, Chuck D. Pierceone of the most accurate prophets ministering today-shows how you can be part of God's Kingdom army, and identifies the supernatural weapons at your fingertips.



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## AROUND THE TOWN









Breakfast at the Red Kettle Lupe and Jeanelle, you're both THE STAR!



#### The Red Kettle Team

Lupe and Jeanelle served up a perfect egg. They where both really such GOOD EGGs to pose for a photo shot!"

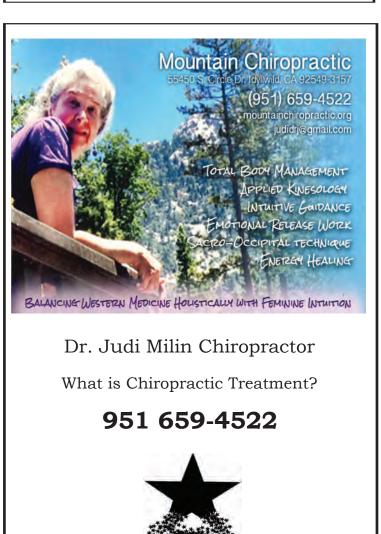
Have you ever tried to explain how you would like your eggs?

I like mine not to runny, not hard, somewhere in the middle, if there is a place.

Well, Lupe made me a perfect egg this morning. Absolutely perfect.

So, Lupe you really are The Star!
And Jeanelle you are just as much of A Star Beam with your smile.

Thank you both for serving us a great breakfast and the perfect egg!



## RIVERSIDE COUNTY



## Honoring The Cahuilla Nation

by Kristy Frazier

Research and information gathered through Google Search engine and NSN.gov

The Cahuilla (pronounced kah-wee-ah) Nation includes nine tribes that range from the San Bernardino mountains south through the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains to the Coachella Valley, and on to the north shore of the Salton Sea. The name Cahuilla means. "masters," or "powerful ones."

They were the first known inhabitants of the Coachella Valley, arriving in the area about 3000 years ago. The Mountain Cahuilla lived here in the San Jacinto mountains during the summer, and then moved down to the Coachella Valley in the winter.

They were hunter gatherers who lived with and respected the land that provided them with food, water, clothing, and building materials for their dwellings. While here, they lived on acorns, pine nuts, rose hips, Manzanita and elderberries, roots, seeds, small animals, and deer.

The women collected acorns in the fall. When gathered around the fire in the evening, they cracked them open with rocks. They were then dried in the sun on beds of leaves or large woven mats. When dry they were rubbed by hand to remove the reddish skin. The acorns were then ground into the consistency of meal using a stone pestle and bed rock mortars formed in flat granite rocks. The meal was then put into baskets and rinsed with water to flush out the bitter tannins.

The local Cahuilla have a rich culture which includes songs, dances, story telling, and they are famous for their basket weaving. They made baskets to store food, and even wove some of them so tight they could hold water. One of their traditional ceremonial rituals is called Bird Singing. A gathering of tribal members keeps a hypnotic rhythm with handmade gourd rattles that are filled with seeds. Their songs describe different facets of their ancestral heritage, including their appreciation for nature, descriptions of worldly things, and other ceremonial stories.

The Spiritual traditions of the Cahuilla were expressed through rituals and ceremonies for a variety of purposes. These included healing and the renewal of the Natural World.

While living in the desert, the women wore skirts made from the bark of Mesquite trees, and the men wore loin cloths made from deer skin. Children wore nothing until the age of about ten years old. Blankets were often made from rabbit skins. They traded acorns, mesquite beans, seeds of all kinds, wild fruit, agave and yucca for other types of food, shells, as well as animal and mineral products. Some grew corn, squash, and beans. Their dwellings in the desert were called kishes, and were made of wood, palm fronds, reed mats and leaves.

The Cahuilla Nations thrived throughout Southern California with an estimated population of around 15,000 people. Then, around 1860, the arrival of Europeans brought small pox. The native people had no immunity to it, and by 1910 a census found only 754 Cahuilla still living. Fortunately, their numbers have grown to about 4000 Cahuilla Tribal members today. Many of the reservations operate casinos to provide resources like health care, services for the elderly, and scholarships for students.

Here on the Hill we have the legend of Tahquitz, (pronounced Tah-queesh), an evil Shaman who was banished to the San Jacinto mountains where he was buried under Tahquitz Rock. It is said he is still there, and his rumblings can be heard in the area. He is expressing his anger and frustration at being trapped under the huge rock. I have heard those rumblings!

Bonnie Reynolds - Local Artist
 Continued from page 4

Raccoons Up The Tree



Majestic Waterfall



The Star thanks Bonnie Reynolds for her time and for sharing her heart and art with us.

Bonnie's beautiful paintings can be seen at the Red Kettle Restaurant.

## **COMMUNITY DIALOG**

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

IWD Mismanagement

After making a lengthy Public Comment at last month's Idyllwild Water District Board meeting regarding wasted public funds and mismanagement, I read in their minutes that I "shared my displeasure of the recent rate increases." Because that is apparently all they heard, I felt the need to write a letter to the Editor to share some of my concerns with the community.

If ratepayers are fine with wasting their money on rented office space and remodeling of offices after doubling our sewer rates, then please don't continue reading this.

If you are content with the GM and CFO working part-time while receiving full salary, please don't read any further.

Over the last five years, IWD has had at least 5 General Managers and cannot seem to keep enough good field workers for an extended period of time. An efficient and well run organization is attributed to leadership at the top. Unfortunately, the IWD Board of Directors has been led by the same President and Vice-President for almost a decade and the district clearly shows a lack of leadership. An effective GM with good leadership skills would work at least 40 hours per week in the district

and get out in the field and the community not show up in a rented office two days a week!, The duty of the Board of Directors is to direct the GM. If they can't direct the GM to show up full-time, then they lack the leadership required to run an efficient organization and should be replaced. If you feel like I do, please show up to the meetings and share your concerns. Run for an open board position and vote them out in the next election cycle. Our community deserves better! Stop wasting our money IWD!

David Hunt 4th Generation Idyllwild Hillbilly

The Star Community Newspaper respects the right to individuals opinions as well as the right to speak to issues concerning the community in which they live.

We do not agree nor disagree with individual's opinions voiced in the Letter to the Editor.

It should be noted that we keep on file all letters for record. And do not edit the letters received. The Star does however reserve the right to not print malicious or vindictive language, we do edit only for punctuation and spelling.

Should you have any questions please contact the office of THE STAR at 951-527-0055.



### Carrying Capacity of the Hill continued by Kristy Frazier

In the September 27th issue of the Star, information was presented in the Community Dialog, regarding the Carrying Capacity of the Hill. This would include Idyllwild and the surrounding residential areas, commercial zones, and the natural ecosystems within and beyond the perimeter of the Hill. Studies show that a carrying capacity overload occurs when population growth places excessive demands on the quality of life of the residents, the quality of the experience of the visitors, and the surrounding natural environment. Safety issues are also considered when it comes to evacuation in the event of a wildfire or an extreme wet weather occurrence. Other concerns that are considered are public necessities like water, sewage, fire and police protection.

Back in the 90's there was a group in Idyllwild called the Idyllwild Municipal Advisory Council. It was called IMAC, or HillMAC, and was made up of such iconic Idyllwild personalities as Ernie Maxwell, Roy Mills, and Spark Schnitzer. (There are others who contributed greatly, please forgive me for not remembering all of the names.) Even that long ago, it was necessary to consider the ramifications of population growth causing

excessive demands on natural areas, and the quality of life for residents, as well as the quality of experience for visitors.

Fast forward a couple of decades, and consider the number of people that come up to this area, especially on busy weekends. The advent of Short Term Rentals has made it possible for many more people to stay up here at any given time. The increase in the number of STRs in recent years has had a negative impact on the quality of life for many residents. STRs make it possible for as many as a 1000 or more additional people to be here on holiday weekends. If you include the residents, visitors in hotels and STRs, campers, hikers, and day trippers, there could be as many as 4000 people in the area on a busy weekend.. This causes great concern when it comes to wildfire evacuation. I know our fabulous fire departments have many evacuation plans in place, but a fire, combined with high wind can negate any foregone plans. Our roads are one lane in each direction. If one of the roads headed off the Hill is closed, thousands of cars would be forced to evacuate on the only available road.

Those who feel that Short Term Rentals are having a negative impact in their neighborhood are looking for some kind of balance between their desires, and the opinions of the county.

People in Idyllwild and surrounding area have voted and expressed a need for a certification cap of 350 STRs with a density limit of 300 feet between them. The county responded with a cap of 500 with a density limit of only 150 feet. Residents proposed a middle ground with a cap of 400 STRs and density limit of 200 feet.

Another point of balance is to no longer allow STRs in residential areas. STRs are in part an income business, and should be regulated for commercial zoned areas.

The county is planning another meeting on November 7th, so please let them know your concerns regarding the impact of STRs on our peaceful village.

Send emails: Supervisor V. Manuel Perez district4@rivco.org.

Planning Dept. at: TLMA-STR@rivco.org.