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ENTERTAINMENT

The Inland Empire's Guide to Fun

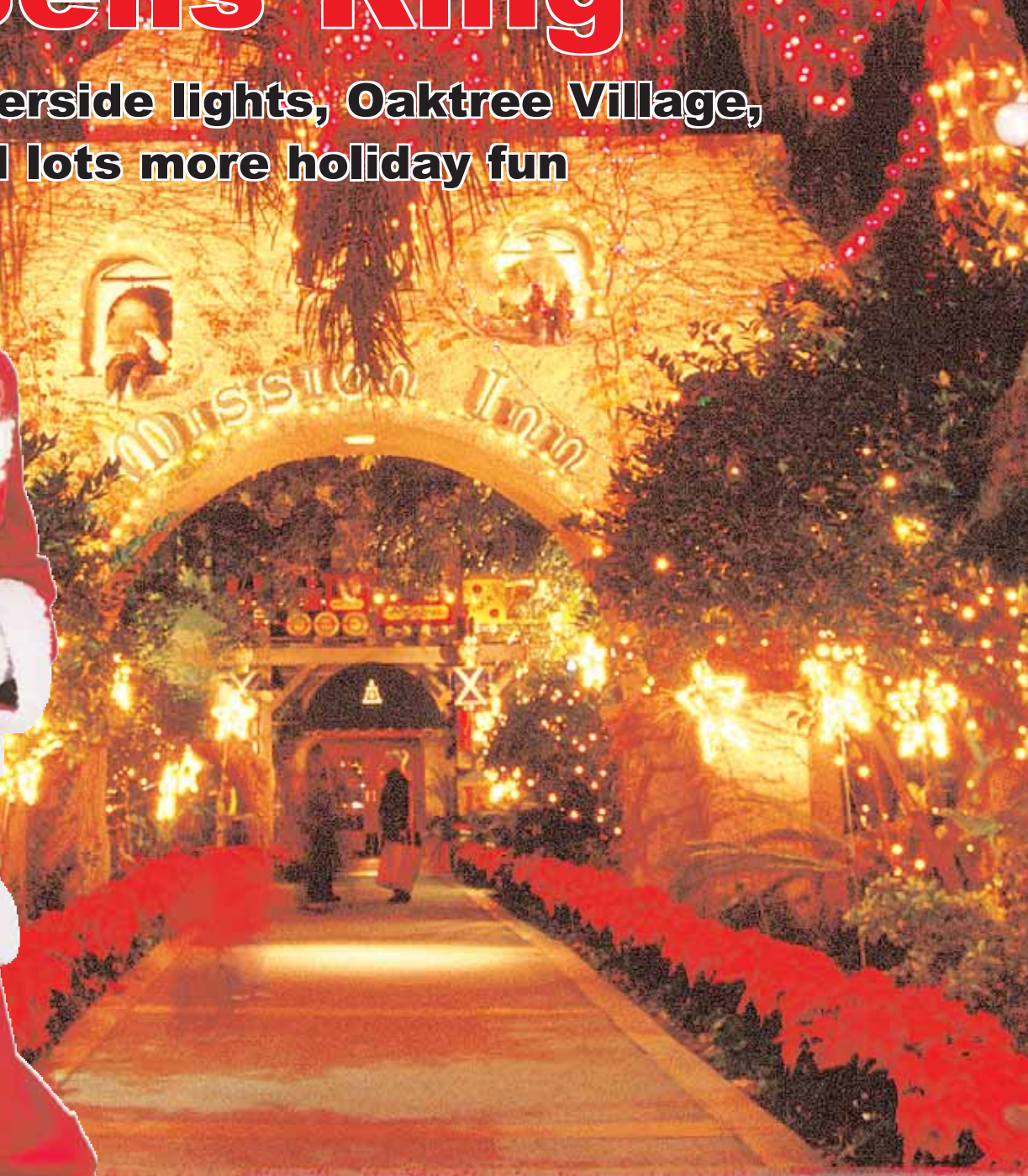
REVIEW

December, 2005

Sleigh Bells Ring

Riverside lights, Oaktree Village,
and lots more holiday fun

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1942 Mentone Blvd.
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Suite G-3
(951) 243-6570
North area

24525 Alessandro Blvd.,
Suite D

(951) 243-3858
South area

16420 Perris Blvd.
Ste. M

(951) 247-6000
At Perris and Krameria

NUEVO

29614 Nuevo Rd.
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Nuevo Village Center

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2203 S. Mountain Ave.
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7385 Milliken Ave. #130
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9635 Milliken Ave., #E106
(909) 476-7971

RIVERSIDE

5225 Canyon Crest Dr.
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(951) 684-1076
Canyon Crest area

3537 Main St.
(951) 276-7100

Downtown area

2955 Van Buren #E2
(951) 509-4878

At Van Buren & Lincoln in
the Arlington area

19040 Van Buren #101

(951) 789-8417
Van Buren/Wood,
Orangecrest area

ROMOLAND

28480 State Hwy. 74 Ste. D
(951) 928-6300
Motts Center

SAN BERNARDINO

1983 Diners Court
(909) 890-9056
South area

1455 W. Highland Ave.,
Suite #109

(909) 473-3267
W. Highland Shopping
Center

Merry Christmas to all and to all a fun month!

The season of joy and cheer is upon us again, and the Inland Empire is full of good tidings. Check out our guide, starting on page 4, for holiday events and good places to get your tree. There is no shortage of fun and festive activities, from visiting Santa's Kitchen at OakTree Village to spending a family-day at Live Oak Canyon, to enjoying Riverside's Downtown Aglow or the WildLights Holiday Festival at The Living Desert in Palm Desert – to mention just a few of the Inland Empire's Christmas festivities.

From everyone here at the IER office to you and your family Merry Christmas!

Tom Pigeon, Editor

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Word Mill Publishing, creating quality publications since 1992

ON THE COVER: Christmas lights sparkle on the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside.

Photo by Michael J. Elderman.



Santa's Kitchen at Apple Annie's Restaurant

**In Oak Tree Village
Starting December 3, 2005**

Join us for a Memorable Holiday Feast!

Bring the kids and meet:

- ❖ Santa and Mrs. Claus
- ❖ Frosty the Snowman
- ❖ Rudolph
- ❖ Santa's Elves

**Story time every hour and a half
December 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18**





Meet live animals at Mountain Town

Call 909 • 797-7371 For Reservations

38480 Oak Glen Road,
Oak Glen, CA, 92399

"Cher, the Christmas dog"

'Tis the Season

Fill your season with good cheer

It may not snow in the Inland Empire (except in the mountains, of course), but December is no less a wonderland as we enter the holiday season. Below is our guide to holiday cheer.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Tickets are still available for A Christmas Carol at the Old Packing Shed at Riley's Farm in Oak Glen. Included in the festivities are great food, carols, 18th-century dancing, cider pressing, live music and more. Wear warm clothing as some of the activities are outdoors. For information, call (909) 797-7534.

A HOLIDAY POPS SPECTACULAR

Performance Riverside presents the Riverside Pops Orchestra at Landis Performing Arts Center, Dec. 11. See article on page 25.

BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA

Brian Setzer and his Big Band return to the Spotlight Showroom stage with the Brian Setzer Orchestra Christmas Extravaganza on December 15 at Spotlight 29 Casino. Showtime is 8pm, and tickets are \$65, \$50, \$45. Tickets are available at StarTicketsPlus.com or by calling (800) 585-3737, and at the Spotlight 29 Casino Gift Shop and Box Office on the day of the show. For more information, go online to www.Spotlight29.com.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON, HANDPAINTED ORNAMENTS

Thousands visit the Riverside Mission Inn each year to view the beautiful holiday decorations in December. On Dec. 4, from 1-4pm, create your own holiday ornaments at the 103-year-old hotel. This free activity is held at the Mission Inn Museum, 3696 Main St. in Riverside.

Downtown aglow features downtown Riverside in full Christmas cheer. From lights across the Mission Inn to festivities Wednesday through Sunday, "Aglow" is sure to brighten your holiday.



All Aboard the **Santa Train**

At Orange Empire Railway Museum

Santa Claus visits Dec. 10-11 and 17-18

**Ride Santa's North Pole Express Train • Receive a gift
Refreshments • Holiday music
Family fun!**

Train trips between 11am and 4:30pm

**Admission to the Museum grounds is FREE
All Day Passes to ride the trolleys and trains
(including the Santa Train) is
\$10 for adults, \$8 for children 5 to 11, free for
kids under 5. Parking is free.**

2201 South "A" Street in Perris • (951) 657-2605

CHRISTMAS IN CALICO

At the Calico Ghost Town in Yermo, from Dec. 1-21, see the antique town dressed in Yuletide fashion. Enjoy Holiday decorations and shop for gifts. Christmas tree lighting will occur on Dec. 10 at 5pm. Adults are \$8, juniors \$5 and young children free.

DOWNTOWN AGLOW

Riverside Downtown Partnership (RDP) is pleased to continue the holiday tradition of food and fun in downtown Riverside on the Main Street Mall. Visitors to downtown will enjoy holiday festivities every Wednesday through Sunday from 6 to 9pm. Downtown Aglow runs through Friday, Dec. 23.

Free live entertainment will include choral groups, the California Baptist University Jazz Band, Empire Acrogymnastics, dance performances, Ballet Folklorico and much more. Visitors can also expect holiday food and merchandise vendors, blocks of local eclectic and unique specialty shops open for the holidays, and a wide range of restaurants.

Check out the Orange Blossom Holiday Village— every Wednesday through Dec. 21. Shoppers will find handcrafted items and other holiday vendors, great food and live entertainment on the Main Street Mall in the University and Mission Inn Avenue blocks. Visit downtown Riverside every Wednesday through Sunday from 6 to 9pm for these free family-fun holiday celebrations. For more information call 951-781-5896 or visit RiversideDowntown.org.

ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

Performance Riverside will open its 2005/06 Children's Series with the California Theatre Center-produced *The Elves and the Shoemaker*. Based on the Grimm's fairy tale, this charming holiday treat has been delighting children throughout the United States for 15 years.

Based in Sunnyvale, the California Theatre Center is recognized on the national and international theatre scene and was twice named by the American Theatre Association as the top professional theatre in the United States for young audiences.

This production features CTC performers Ken Boswell, Robert Gay, Victoria Whitlow, Katherine Reynolds, and Keite Davis.

"We've worked hard to make our Children's Series something special this year," says Performance Riverside's Chuck Abernathy. "The *Elves and the Shoemaker* is an ideal choice for our youngest theatre goers, and it will keep grownups entertained, too. Its energy and simple sense of fun make it unique from all the other holiday presentations out there."

The *Elves and the Shoemaker* will be performed on Dec. 11, at



**Shop in Historic
Downtown Riverside
for the Holidays**

**Up to 4 Hours FREE Parking in Garages 1, 2 & 3
with receipt of purchase from any downtown business**

*Riverside
Festival of Lights*

**Continues through January 6, 2006
at the Historic Mission Inn**

Photo by Michael J. Elderman

**Downtown Aglow &
Orange Blossom Holiday Village
Every Wednesday to Sunday
through December 23, 5 to 9 p.m.
on the Main Street Mall**

- FREE Entertainment • Carriage Rides
- Holiday Food • Specialty Vendors and more

**Festival of Lights and Downtown Aglow Programs,
as well as other useful guides available at
the Visitors Center on Main Street
and University Avenue**



MEET THE CLAUSES AT OAKTREE VILLAGE

For a special treat for the kids this season, take them for a lunch adventure with Mr. and Mrs. Claus thanks to Santa's Kitchen at Apple Annie's, located at OakTree Village in Oak Glen.

Continuing a tradition started last year at OakTree Village, Apple Annie's is preparing a fun-filled special Christmas treat for the kids (and parents). The mountain village will offer this special get-together each weekend in December, starting Dec. 3. Enjoy a meal while visiting with the jolly couple.

Frosty, Rudolph and Santa's elves also make an appearance. Mrs. Claus will conduct storytime every hour and half-hour, on Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18.

Apple Annie's owners, the Wilson and Fox families, encourage the little ones to get comfy as they cozy up with hot chocolate and listen to the stories. Apple Annie's takes on a warm, living room feel.

"This is for the kids and we want to help bring some Christmas magic to their holidays. It will be lots of fun for everyone," Terry Fox said.

OakTree Village also offers a wide range of entertainment, including encounters with live animals, pony rides, craft shops and more. OakTree Village is located at 38480 Oak Glen Rd. in Oak Glen. For more information call (909) 797-7371.



Time for a serious conversation with Santa Claus at OakTree Village.

2pm. The Landis Performing Arts Center is located at Riverside City College at 4800 Magnolia Avenue. General admission tickets are \$10, and can be purchased through the Landis Box Office, (951) 222-8100. Discounted tickets for weekday school matinee performances may be obtained by calling (951) 222-8372. More information about Performance Riverside is available at performanceriverside.org.

MICHAEL PAULO

Christmas concert with world renown Saxophonist Michael Paulo and family, with guitarist Ray Fuller at the Old Town Temecula Community Theater, Dec. 21 at 8pm. Tickets are \$38 advance, \$42 at the door. For more information call (866) 653-8696, or go online to temeculatheater.org.

NEWPORT HARBOR PARADE OF LIGHTS

This annual event runs Dec. 14-18 and features hundreds of boats and waterfront homes in Newport Harbor decorated for the Christmas season. Charter service



Fresh Christmas Trees

The Christmas Tree you want with an experience that will become a tradition

Family Fun

Petting Zoo • Pony Rides • Picnic Area • Slides
Bounces • Quad Rides • Giant Hay Castle

Freshest Trees on the West Coast

Our Noble and Grand Fir Trees ranked 1st in moisture (freshness) in a test by Washington State University, Dec. 2002, which tested dozens of Christmas Tree retailers on the West coast

Our Farm Grown Monterey Pine, Aleppo Pine, Sierra Redwood and Leyland Cypress are available to reserve or cut fresh at your convenience

The Inland Empire's Favorite Christmas Tree Location For Over 20 years!



Opens Nov. 14
7 days a week
9am to 5pm

open evenings Nov. 27 - Dec 12
until 8:00 pm
(909) 795-TREE (8733)

www.liveoakcanyon.com

See coupon on page 38

Largest Selection

Thousands of Trees • 7 Varieties
All sizes • Choose and Cut
Pre Cut • Potted Trees

Christmas Store

Tree Decorations • Lights
Stands • Home Decorations
Gifts • Fresh and Artificial
Wreaths and Garlands

Award Winning Quality

Our Farm has won multiple 1st place awards for the high quality Christmas Trees that we grow

Davey's Locker can take you out on the water to view the spectacle firsthand. They offer two trips nightly, at 6pm and 8pm. For more information, call (949) 673-1434, or go online to www.daveyslocker.com.

NUTCRACKER

At the Old Town Temecula Community Theater, the classic tale of a girl, a mouse and a nutcracker, Dec. 15-18 at 7pm, Dec. 17-18 at 3pm. Tickets are \$25 and \$20. For more information call (866) 653-8696, or go online to temeculatheater.org.

RIVERSIDE PLAZA FESTIVITIES

Through Dec. 23, the Riverside Plaza offers a host of Holiday cheer. Visit with Santa Mon.-Sat., Noon to 9pm, and Sun. Noon to 5pm. Photos are available, with special pet (Dec. 5, 12, 19) and old-fashioned (De. 6, 13, 20) opportunities available. Horse-drawn carriage rides are offered nightly, 5-9pm. Holiday music begins at 7pm nightly, and free snow at 6pm and 8pm.

The Riverside Plaza is located on Central Ave. between the 91 Freeway and Magnolia Ave.

ORANGE EMPIRE RAILWAY MUSEUM SANTA'S TRAIN

The Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris will welcome visits from Santa Claus on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10-11 and 17-18. Children can ride Santa's North Pole Express Train and tell him what they would like for Christmas, and they will receive a gift as a memory of their day with Santa.

The Santa Train is an annual event at the Museum. There will be many train trips each day between 11am and 4:30pm, offering ample opportunity for children and parents to ride with Santa. Guests may also ride Los Angeles Railway Yellow Cars from Southern California's past and visit the Pinacate Station Gift Shop. There will be refreshments, holiday music, and family fun.

Admission to the Museum grounds is free, and an All Day Pass to ride the trolleys and trains (including the Santa Train) is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 5 to 11, free for kids under 5. Parking is free.

The Orange Empire Railway Museum is located at 2201 South "A" Street in Perris, California, 17 miles south of Riverside on Interstate 215. For more information call (951) 657-2605.

MOUNTAIN CENTER NURSERY
61618 Highway 74 • Mountain Center • Corner of Highway 74 & 371

Your Christmas Tree Headquarters
Hundreds of live and cut trees
Trees in containers from 18" to 18'.
35 varieties: Douglas, Nobles, Grand Fir, Sequoias, and more.
Cut Christmas trees from tabletops to 14'

Live wreaths and garlands, custom flocking and fireproofing
Delivery available

(951) 659-5160 See coupon page 30.



Old-Fashioned Christmas at

CANYON CREST TOWNE CENTRE

Want to slow down & ENJOY hearing the children talk to Santa? We do, too!

Free Pictures with Santa
Free Candy Canes & "Gifts" for Children
Free Face Painting by K-Bo & Lady Bug
(11:00 am - 1:00 pm, or as time allows)
Free Children's Craft Table ~ Dickens' Carolers

Sat., Dec 10th 11:00-2:00

5225 Canyon Crest Dr., Riverside
951-686-1222
www.canyoncresttownecentre.com



GREENSPOT FARM

Wreaths, Nobles, Monterey Pines Redwoods & Cedars

Beautiful 28-acre farm in foothills of Mentone

Hayrides, train rides, mazes, farm animals and much more!

We fireproof (\$3/ft.) and flock (\$4.50/ft.)

Gift store - lots of ornaments!

Garden spot offers farm tours to schools or groups of 20 or more. A great place for weddings or special events.

Now offering horse boarding

9-5 EVERY DAY
909.794.7653
10133 Ward Wy., Mentone
Just off of Hwy. 38 (look for signs)



**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PLAYERS
PRESENT A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

The Riverside Community Players will present the best-loved of all holiday classics with its upcoming production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Part of the theatre's Family Series, the play is adapted by Kathryn Gage and runs December 9 through 11.

A Christmas Carol runs Dec. 9 at 7pm, Dec. 10 at 2pm and 7pm, and Dec. 11 at 2pm. Tickets for each Family Series production are \$8.00. For further information or for reservations, call the Riverside Community Players box office at (951) 686-4030.

SCROOGE THE MUSICAL

The Temecula Valley Players, at the Old Town Temecula Community Theatre, present the classic play done to music, based on the CCF/CBS motion picture "Scrooge." Performances are Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10 at 8pm and Dec. 10 and 11 at 2pm. Tickets are \$25 and \$20. The theatre is located in Old Town Temecula at 42051 Main St. For more information, call 1-866-96-DRAMA.

SINFONIA MEXICANA

Enjoy a "Merri-Achi Christmas," starring Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, Dec. 17 at 7:30pm. See the article on page 23.

SOUTHWEST WOMEN'S CHORUS

At the Old Town Temecula Community Theater, Dec. 4 at 2pm, "A Spiritual Christmas" combines traditional sacred Christmas music with solos and sing-alongs, plus roof-raising spirituals and gospel music. Advance tickets \$15 adult, \$11 senior/child, tickets at the door \$18 adult, \$13 senior/child. For more information call (866) 653-8696, or go online to temeculatheater.org.

WILDLIGHTS AT THE LIVING DESERT

The Berger Foundation's WildLights Holiday Festival at The Living Desert is open Dec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16-23, 26-Jan. 1. WildLights admission is \$6.75 adults, \$5.00 children (ages 3-12), Living Desert members \$5.50.

More than 275,000 twinkling lights illuminate the park after dark, turning the desert into a holiday winter wonder-



Butterflies a-blazin' at the Living Desert's Wildlights Festival.

CHRISTMAS CONIFERS II
has a **TREE-Mendous** selection this year
2000 Monterey Pines to choose from
Opens weekends of Nov. 12-13, Nov. 19-20
Weekend hours: 9am to dark
Starting Friday, Nov. 25, 9am
Weekday hours, 11am to dark
located on Reche Canyon Rd. & Westwood,
under the powerlines, in Colton
(909) 824-6489
For all your
Christmas tree needs!

See coupon on page 38

**Randy's
Christmas Trees**

From Pumpkins to Christmas Trees, continue the Holiday Spirit! Fun for the kids, petting zoo and Randy's pony rides.

(951) 295-8445
Open daily from Nov. 25 to Christmas day.
In Moreno Valley, on Sunnymead Blvd.

DAVEY'S LOCKER
NEWPORT BEACH
97TH ANNUAL **2005**
NEWPORT HARBOR
"PARADE OF LIGHTS"
Boat Parade
NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS FOR
FRIENDS, GROUPS & FAMILIES
WHO WANT TO HAVE FUN!
December 14th thru 18th
HUNDREDS OF DECORATED
WATERFRONT HOMES & BOATS
2 TRIPS NIGHTLY - 6PM & 8PM

BOOK NOW
AND BE PART
OF THE PARADE

INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
(949) 673-1434
www.daveyslocker.com

land. North American and African plants and animals as well as traditional holiday scenes are depicted in over 35 giant lighted displays. Plus, this year the WildLights Festival has expanded to include many new animated scenes and the return of the ever-popular giant red teddy bear and tunnel of lights.

A new attraction this year is "ice" skating. Skate among the lighted holiday displays on the Super Glide skating rink, a new technology in "ice skating." It's not wet, cold or ice but a new surface that creates an "ice like" surface.

Highlighting the event will be a nightly visit by Santa who will hear those special holiday wishes. As always, the popular LGB model train exhibits will be running decked out in their holiday splendor. This year the exhibits have been expanded with well over a 1/2 mile of track, including the world's longest wooden model train trestle that extends over 200 feet.

WildLife at WildLights, a nighttime version of the popular Wildlife Wonders live animal show, has a new show this season that will occur every evening at 6:30pm in the park's Tenny

Amphitheater. These informative shows, highlighting animals from the world's deserts, are even more theatrical and entertaining this year.

The Living Desert is a 1,200 acre private, non-profit zoological park and botanical gardens that aims to educate the public in an enjoyable way about the delicate balance of life found in desert ecosystems around the world. The Living Desert is located a 1/2 mile south of State Highway 111 at 47-900 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert. Parking is free. General Admission: \$11.95; Seniors (62+), Military, AAA: \$10.50; Children 3-12: \$7.50; under 3: Free. Admission tickets are available on-line at www.livingdesert.org. Call 760-346-5694 for additional information.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHRISTMAS

Join a 20-year tradition as Ben Bollinger's Candlelight Pavilion Dinner Theater in Claremont presents The Wonderful World of Christmas.

This annual musical is crafted each year with a new storyline and always featuring your favorite holiday tunes.

Christmas Gift Ideas

The Cottage in Canyon Crest

Looking for that unique gift or something special this Christmas? The Gardener's Cottage in the Canyon Crest Towne Centre in Riverside has been providing unique gifts for the garden-minded for five years.

Now is the time to check the shop out: it has expanded with the addition of Chef's Corner, a new adjacent store offering kitchen products. Also, during December, the Cottage transforms into the "Christmas Cottage," offering an assortment of gifts and decorations you will not likely find at any other store.

Owner Sylvia Paulsen is a gardening and decorating fanatic, leaving a 20-year career to pursue her passion for all things beautiful. Her expertise now benefits the lover of custom home decor, offering a pair of shops that cater to the personal touch.

The Gardener's Cottage and Chef's Corner are located at 5225 Canyon Crest Blvd. in Riverside, Suites 23, 30A and B. For more information, call (951) 682-4099.



RIVERSIDE

3540 Riverside Plaza Dr. #314
(951) 788-0999

Fire-Roasted Gourmet Pizza™, Fresh Chopped Salads and Fresh Italian Gelato Ice Cream™
Stop by for lunch and dinner

NOW OPEN

**Small 1 Topping Pizza
Small Breadsticks
Any Small Drink** **\$7.95**

One coupon per customer per visit.

Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain

Snow Play area Magic Carpet • Makes the return to the top EASY!

Children **FREE!**
(2-6 years old, with an adult)

For information call
(909) 866-4626



When it's cold enough, we make our own snow!
Whether natural or man-made, you'll have a fun-packed day on our spacious snowplay hill.

Your **Alpine Slide** experience begins with a scenic chairlift ride above the beautiful Big Bear Lake. Then, with you controlling the speed, your toboggan plummets back down the mountain creating a thrill you'll want to relive again and again!

Parents Pay only if they play!
Parents...sun on our spacious deck while the kids play!

Year-round family fun
with 300 clear days a year!

Go Carts • Video Games • Delicious Snack Bar
2 hours from most Southern California cities; 3 hours from Las Vegas

On Big Bear Blvd. • Big Bear Lake • 1/4 mile west of the village • Family Fun!
www.alpineslidebigbear.com

The Wonderful World of Christmas is a family delight. The show makes for an excellent holiday treat, complete with relaxing atmosphere and a gourmet dinner.

Children will especially enjoy joining Mr. and Mrs. Claus onstage, where they become part of the show.

This production will run through December 30 with two shows a day Tuesday through Sunday with selected Monday shows.

For more information, go online to candlelightpavilion.com or call (909) 626-1254. The theater is located at 455 Foothill Blvd. in Claremont.

Christmas Trees

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: YUCAIPA

Live Oak Canyon

Make a family adventure out of your Christmas tree hunt. Live Oak Canyon Christmas Tree farm offers lots of trees, but also lots of activities for the family.

Kids will enjoy bouncies, pony rides, a petting zoo, slides, quad rides, a giant hay castle and more. There is also food and entertainment, making Live Oak

Canyon a great afternoon outing.

As far as trees, the farm offers thousands, with seven varieties, including choose and cut, pre cut and potted. An on-site Christmas Store offers decorations, lights, stands, wreaths and garlands and more.

For more information, call (909) 795-8733 or go online to www.liveoak-canyon.com.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY: MORENO VALLEY

Randy's Christmas Trees

Continue the holiday spirit at Randy's, with trees, a petting zoo, pony rides and more kid-oriented fun. Randy's Christmas Trees is located in Moreno Valley on Sunnymead Blvd. and is open daily from Nov. 25 to Christmas Day. For more information, call (951) 295-8445.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY: MOUNTAIN CENTER

Mountain Center Nursery

Located at 61618 Highway 74 in Mountain Center, this nursery features

trees from 18" to 18' in height in 35 varieties. They also offer live wreaths and garlands, custom flocking and fireproofing. Dress warm as snow is possible. (951) 659-5160

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: MENTONE

Greenspot Farm

A 128-acre farm in the Mentone foothills, Greenspot offers nobles, Monterey pines, redwoods, and cedars. In addition to trees, the farm hosts activities for families, such as hayrides, train rides, mazes, animals and more. A gift store carries a wide assortment of unique ornaments. Greenspot is open every day from 9am to 5pm and is located off of Highway 38 at 10133 Ward Wy in Mentone. For more information, call (909) 794-7653.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY: COLTON

Christmas Conifers II

Offering a wide selection of more than 2,000 trees to choose from. Christmas Conifers is located on Reche Canyon Rd. in Colton. For more information, call (909) 824-6489. □

RILEY'S FARM
PROUD TO BE TELLING
THE SAME OLD STORY!
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AND A FEW MINUTES AWAY
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AND A FEW MINUTES AWAY

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ADVENTURES GROUP BANQUETS
OLD JOE HOMESTEAD FIELD TRIPS

\$2 Off
an Apple Pie
with this Ad!

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PRE X-MAS SALE!

LIONEL TRAINS

*Polar Express, Thomas, Coke, Amtrak
 Freight & Passenger Trains ~ Garden Railway*

SADDLEBACK STATION
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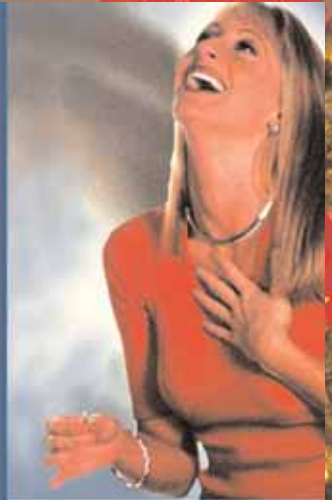
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






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Inspiration

Facing down the 'fat machine'

I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I was blessed with this special gift on Dec. 25, 2004. My youngest sister had signed me up for a year at Curves.

I was a little apprehensive about stepping on the scale. I didn't realize the Curves consultant would measure me and also have me squeeze on this fat measurement machine. As I squeezed on this device it read 60-something percent. At that moment I prayed, "Lord, don't let me smother in my fat!" So with that on my mind and on my heart, I started exercising at least three times a week and three times around the circuit before I quit.

As the ladies weighed me each month, a few pounds lighter I would be. But my fat was still registering high at 60-something. Beverly reassured me that eventually the fat reading would drop.

In March or April the numbers on the fat measuring machine started to change. Not drastically, but it was okay. Well, it's now May 23, and it's time for me to be weighed and measured, and squeeze on that fat monitoring machine again. As I squeezed the machine a reading shows up: 43%. I was shocked! Beverly was excited with me.

Beverly asked me to write a few lines to encourage you to keep exercising and you will see results!

Rita Pearson

Member of Curves in Riverside,
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Butterfly kingdom

The Living Desert's new exhibit puts you in touch a world of living color

For a limited two-year engagement, visitors to The Living Desert zoo in Palm Desert can watch nature transform in Butterflies Alive!, Riverside County's first butterfly exhibit. Featuring hundreds of North American butterflies representing over 30 different species roaming freely in a spacious screened house, children and adults can experience a world of flying color.

The new walk-through butterfly exhibit is a close encounter that puts you in proximity with exotic butterflies. Species include Queen, Mourning Cloak, Painted Lady, Julia, Cloudless Sulphur, Malachite, Zebra Longwing, Gulf Fritillary, Giant Swallowtail and many others.

The butterfly house includes a butterfly themed gift shop and a Pupa Emergence room. The third stage of a butterfly's life is known as a pupa. The pupa forms a chrysalis shell from which emerges a butterfly. Visitors can view this miracle of nature with their own eyes.

The exhibit includes lush gardens, fountains and butterfly benches, making it a pleasant new addition to the zoo.

The Living Desert Butterflies Alive! runs through April 2006 and open daily from 10am to 4:30pm, with the last admission at 4pm. Butterflies Alive! admission is \$1 for non-members and free to members of The Living Desert.

For more information, call (760) 346-5694 or go online to livingdesert.org.



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The Wonders of Astronomy

Observatory offers a family-friendly experience for all ages

It may be difficult for some to imagine enjoying an encounter with the subject of astronomy. And yet, that's exactly what the founders of the MSAS Astronomy Village in Lake Arrowhead had in mind. Situated 5,000 feet above the light and air pollution of the city, this facility offers spectacular dark night sky observation in a beautiful mountain setting.

The Village is designed to acquaint the public with astronomy and space exploration in a relaxed, informal and inviting way. The award-winning programs are lively, entertaining and highly informative. But don't let that fool you ... each topic is packed with current, cutting-edge information presented by well-trained volunteers under the supervision of a professional astrophysicist and educator.

Audiences are highly diverse and include people of all ages and backgrounds. The Village attracts thousands of tourists from across the nation and around the world annually.

The Robert Brownlee Observatory is a place where people get



personal with astronomy. It houses a 16' Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with custom optics and a library of 200,000,000 objects. There is always a sense of excitement and anticipation as visitors wait their turn to ascend the platform stairs and look into space. Many gasp when the light from an object thousands of light years away reaches them through the eyepiece of the telescope. They are literally looking back in time and seeing things as they were when this light originated in space.

SkyQuest Public Programs offer a variety of topics from "Basic Astronomy" to "Exploring the Known Universe" and include such things as behind-the-scenes tours of premier research facilities around the world. Behold the simulation of a

Black Hole. Find out what really happened to the dinosaurs and the truth about aliens from space. And don't miss how to "catch a falling star and put it in your pocket!"

Each component of the Village enhances your visit. Two modular buildings house a lender library, gift shop, and classroom. The library lends books, slides, video tapes, telescopes, microscopes and teacher resource materials to members. Rare items are rotated on display including KT Boundary material, historic memorabilia flown in space, a Mars rock sample, and a global meteorite collection. There is a butterfly garden which is at its peak during summer months. Bring a picnic lunch or early dinner and enjoy the vast panorama of distant mountain peaks and valleys, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. A variety of wildlife frequents the site and you can watch hawks and eagles soar overhead while a sunset bathes the western sky in shimmering gold and red.

The Star Gazer's Gift Shop is well-stocked with many unique items. You can purchase authenticated samples of space shuttle tile, meteorites from the Moon, Mars and Vespa, and hard-to-find materials like aerogel or seeds flown in space. There are toys, games, science kits, models, binoculars, astronaut food, collectibles, and books for all ages.

Perhaps the most unique thing about this non-profit, public benefit corporation is that it is maintained and operated solely on support from gift shop revenues, program fees, memberships, corporate and private donations. No federal or state funds are involved. Moreover, the board of directors, the facility director, and dedicated members donate their time to operate and maintain the facility.

The MSAS Astronomy Village and Star Gazer's Gift Shop are open daily, 10am to 4pm. It is located just off of State Highway 18, West of Rim of the World High School, in Lake Arrowhead. For more information, SkyQuest Public Program tickets, and directions, call (909) 336-1699, or visit the website at www.mountain-skies.org. For the Star Gazer's 24 hour Sky and Event Report, call (909) 336-1299. ■

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A collage of three photographs on a yellow background. The top left photo shows a family of four (a man, a woman, and two children) sitting at a table in a restaurant, eating and talking. The top right photo shows a family of four hiking in a forest; a woman is carrying a child on her shoulders. The bottom photo is a large landscape shot of a dense forest of tall pine trees under a blue sky.

Airshow and Aerobatics

Cable Air Show brings sky-high excitement to Upland



Bear," Rob Harrison from Claremont, tumbling and twisting his Zlin 50 in the sky that will cause the crowd to hold their breath. Also "Dr. D," Frank Donnelly and his "Old Fashion Aerobatics" in a clipped wing Taylor Craft, demonstrates how the early pilots kept their audiences spellbound. The Corona

aviation mechanics and other aviation related careers.

The Cable Air Show is open at 8am with a pancake breakfast offered by Maniac Mikes Café (located on the airport). The afternoon Air Show, starting at 2pm, will host a group of 16 parachutists comprised of several groups, coordinated by Rich Brooks of the Freedom Parachute Team. Around noon, antique and classic cars that have been on display will do a drive-by through the crowd for a close up and personal view. Food vendors will be available to match everyone's favorite foods.

Airplanes include antiques, war birds, and even futuristic home built kit planes to look at. For the adventurer, there will be airplane and helicopter rides available. For the not-so-adventurous, there will be merchandise vendors, plane memorabilia and art displays, as well as community awareness booths.

Kids can enjoy slides, bungee jumping, a rock wall and more activities. ■

The weather for the New Year's Rose Parade has traditionally been clear and the organizers of the Cable Air Show in Upland hope tradition holds all week.

The Cable Air Show starts off the City of Upland's "Celebrating 100 years of Community Pride!" on January 7 and 8. The 31st annual Cable Air Show (formerly the Pomona Valley Air Fair) has something for everyone. Aerobatic performers include local favorite "The Tumbling

Radio Controlled Airplane Club demonstrates how the "little planes" can do everything that the "big planes" can and more.

The Air Show is co-sponsored by the Pomona Valley Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 448 and Cable Airport.

Proceeds go to aviation related scholarships at Mt. San Antonio College, Chaffey College and the EAA Young Eagles Program. These scholarships help kids achieve their goals of becoming pilots,

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Snow deal!

Save time, money and sanity with mid-week mountain bargains



Planning for your next big ski weekend? Here's a tip: don't wait for the weekend.

The Big Bear Lake Resort Association says skiers and snowboarders can save 18 to 26 percent on skiing and lodging with "Midweek Ski/Board Packages." One or two night package deals start at \$70 per person, per night, with minimum double occupancy.

Mid week ski/board packages include lodging at one of Big Bear's participating lodges and all-day, interchangeable lift tickets at Big Bear Mountain Resorts for use at Snow Summit and Bear Mountain. Packages are good for lodging arrival Sunday through Thursday and skiing or snowboarding Monday through Friday.

"Why drive home after a full day of fun on the slopes?" said Big Bear Lake Resort Association Executive CEO Ken Brengle. "It's best to stay an extra day or two to really get the pressures of the city out of your system."

Commutes to and from Big Bear Lake during the weekdays are an easier drive than weekend commutes. In addition, Weekday skiers and boarders enjoy shorter lift lines, more relaxed crowds


and less congestion on the slopes delivering more room to maneuver.


"Midweek skiers and snowboarders benefit more ways than one," Brengle said. "They save their money, time and sanity with midweek packages."

Big Bear Mountain Resorts includes ski resort Snow Summit and the nation's first all-mountain freestyle park, Bear Mountain. Combined, both resorts offer 55 runs, 27 lifts, 4 high-speed chairs, 150 jumps, over 80 jibs and boxes, two half pipes and Southern California's only Superpipe. Big Bear Mountain Resorts also offers a ski or snowboard learning experience for all ages.

Big Bear is also great for other winter sports including inner-tubing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

During the winter, snow chains are recommended for all vehicles, except those equipped with 4-wheel drive and snow tires. For road conditions, call 1.800.427.ROAD (1.800.427.7623).

These offers are not valid on weekends, during holiday periods or with any other discount. For more details about these mid week ski/lodging packages, call 1.800.4.BIG.BEAR (1.800.424.4232) or go online to www.bigbear.com. 



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FANTASY SPRINGS RESORT CASINO: (800) 827-2946. www.fantasyspringsresort.com. 84-245 Indio Springs, Pkwy. Tickets can be purchased at the website or through www.tickets.com.

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12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: Dec. 12-23, \$100,000 cash drawing Dec. 22 at 10pm. 1 car will be given away daily from Dec. 11 to Dec. 21 each night.

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BRIAN SETZER ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA: Dec. 15, 8pm. Tickets are \$65, \$50, \$45. Tickets are available at StarTicketsPlus.com or by calling (800) 585-3737. www.Spotlight29.com.

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Beyond this popular casino fun, the Pioneer also boasts The Round-Up Club, the state's first slot player's club. The slot club offers members the chance to pick up easy to earn points while they play for big jackpots. The points can be redeemed for cash, meals, overnight stays, gift shop merchandise and more. Enrollment into the club is free.

The Pioneer offers some of the best Blackjack rules in Laughlin, 10x odds on Craps, Roulette, Let It Ride, 3 Card Poker and Texas Hold 'Em.

The Pioneer features 416 elegant and traditionally appointed rooms, including 80 with views of the clear blue waters of the mighty Colorado River. The resort's competitive prices make the stay enjoyable, whether guests choose a standard, deluxe or mini suite.

After an entire day of gaming fun, treat yourself to an evening of fine dining. Granny's Gourmet Room is a Laughlin hot spot for the best gourmet meals at moderate prices, which earned it the honor of being voted "Best of the Millennium" by Casino Players Magazine. Granny's is open Tuesday through Saturday, 5-9pm. Reservations are recommended and a dress code is in effect. On Sunday from 9am to 1:30pm, Granny's offers a Sunday Champagne Brunch, renowned for its fabulous selection and serv-



ice. All you can eat lobster, fresh hot crab legs, shrimp, grilled steaks, oysters on the half shell, eggs Benedict, a carving station, homemade salads and pastries, crepes, cherries jubilee and bananas foster are just a few of the dishes you can enjoy during your Granny's brunch.

The Boarding House Restaurant offers 24-hour breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets, plus it offers a full a la carte menu that features down-home style meals.

In addition, the Pioneer also features The Fast Draw Snack bar with a Texas-sized 1/2 pound hot dog and the "best shrimp cocktail in the west."

The resort offers a wide range of games for the serious gambler. Tournaments include the \$100,000 Big Bucks Slot Tournament twice a year, Blackjack Tournaments, Video Poker Tournaments and the zany "Wide Open" Miniature Golf Tournament.

If you like your gaming with a western flair the Pioneer is the best resort in Laughlin. For reservations and more information, call the Pioneer Hotel & Gambling Hall at 1-800-634-3469. ■

Club card members receive double points and cash back, 2 for the price of one buffets in the Native Harvest Buffet (or half price for one), and two hours for the price of one at Kids Quest.

PAYDAY FRIDAYS: Drawings every 30 minutes 4pm-10pm to win \$50 to \$250. Winners drawn and present within 30 minutes spin the cash wheel to determine cash prize.

5-BUCK BINGO: Sun Mon Wed Thu 3pm & 6pm; all regular games pays \$100 each.

FREE BINGO: Monday through Friday 8am & 11am; Bonus Balls \$1 each.

FREE \$1,000 SLOT TOURNAMENT: Every Tuesday - registration begins at 11am, session starts and Noon with final round at 7:30pm. 1st-\$600, 2nd-\$250, 3rd-\$150.

FREE \$1,500 VIDEO POKER TOURNAMENT: Every Wednesday - registration begins at Noon, tournament begins 1pm; 1st-\$800, 2nd-\$500, 3rd-\$200.

\$ 1,600 BLACKJACK TOURNAMENTS: Every

Tuesday and Thursday - registrations at Noon; sessions start 4pm; \$15 buy-in with buffet; \$10 without buffet, \$ for re-buy

BRENDEN THEATRES: For movie schedule, call (702) 535-7469 or go online to www.brendentheatres.com.

FLAMINGO: Features a 60,000 square foot casino, 1,555 slots, fifty-four table games, twelve restaurants and a hotel with 1,996 rooms. For more information go online to caesars.com/flamingo/laughlin or call (800) 435-8469. The Laughlin Flamingo is located at 1900 South Casino Drive.

REALLY BIG SHEW: Ed Sullivan-style variety show, running through April 16, 2006. Tickets: \$14.95, \$13.95 with Connection Card. Show time 7 & 9pm.

FOOTBALL IN THE SHOWROOM: College Football action on Saturdays at 8:30am and for NFL action at 9:30am on Sundays. View games all day

Saturday and Sunday until approximately 5pm after which time Sunday's evening games can be viewed in the Flamingo Race and Sports Book. Monday Night Football can also be viewed in the Flamingo Race and Sports Book. During the weekend games the Flamingo will be offering drink specials. The Flamingo will also be offering stadium style food specials. Win Miller Beer merchandise, show tickets to "A Really Big Shew," Paradise Garden Buffets, hot dogs and Miller Beer. College Football will run in the Showroom until Dec. 3. The NFL regular season will run until Jan. 1.

FLAMINGO'S POKER TOURNAMENTS: Daily Texas Hold 'Em- held everyday at noon. Entry fee is \$25. Prize money is dependent on the number of entrants.

PIONEER HOTEL AND GAMBLING HALL: 25,532 square foot casino with 776 slots and sixteen table games. The property has three restaurants and a hotel with 416 rooms. 2200 South Casino Drive, Laughlin, Nevada. (702) 298-2442. ■

AIRTIME: Indoor playground of large inflated toys. Areas for private parties. 26670 Madison Ave., Murrieta. (951) 304-2028, www.air-timeparty.com.

ALPINE SLIDE AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN: A full service family favorite that's also home to the signature bobsled-like ride of the same name. The Alpine Slide lets riders experience Olympic-like action as they negotiate sleds along a quarter-mile track with banked turns and long straightaways. The site features snow-time and summer activities. The Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain is located on the boulevard in Big Bear Lake, 1/4 mile west of the Village shopping area, home to 60 specialty stores. 800 Wild Rose Lane. Call (909) 866-4626.

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS AT OAKTREE VILLAGE: Exotic animal sanctuary, meet live exotic animals up close, in person, and endangered species in naturalistic habitats. Interactive educational exhibits for the whole family. 38480 Oak Glen Rd., in Oak Glen. (909) 797-4020. www.oaktree-village.com.

ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER: Dec. 11. See article on page 5.

FIESTA VILLAGE: Has two miniature golf

Discover the stage at Riv. Children's Theatre

Children live the dream of stage magic through the Riverside Children's Theatre. RCT will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in the 2006-2007 school year, continuing a proud heritage of introducing children to the craft of the stage.

The Press Enterprise "2005 Reader's Choice Awards" recently named Riverside Children's Theatre the "Best Live Theater Group" in the Inland Empire. What started as a small group of children led by Joan Wing has blossomed into an organization enriching the lives of 150 families each year.

Children in kindergarten through eighth grade congregate at Sierra Middle School in Riverside eighteen Saturdays during the Riverside Unified School District calendar year. For three hours children in grade level classes receive instruction from qualified teachers in vocal music, drama and dance. New and continuing students in grades nine and ten may study stagecraft in an additional class.

According to the organizers, the goal of

the group is not to create stars, but to help children develop into confident young adults.

The organization is run by parents and through their volunteerism the children are able to participate in two full-scale musical productions each year. Live orchestras and colorful costumes add to the production value each year. Three months of nightly practices bring the dream of live theater to fruition at Ramona High School on Magnolia Avenue in Riverside for two weekends each March and December.

The Children's Theater brings "Seussical the Musical" to life this month, on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10. Shows are at 7:30pm on both Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinees are at 1:30pm each weekend. Tickets are \$7 presale and \$10 at the door. Call 951-789-6332 for tickets.

RCT will perform Rodger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" in March 2006, "Peter Pan" in December, 2006 and "The Wizard of Oz" for their 50th anniversary show in March 2007.

LITTLE BEAR

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR TODDLER

JANUARY 18th
at 6PM

stage 1
at candlewalk

TICKETS ONLINE: www.stage1atcandlewalk.com

CHARGE BY PHONE: 1-877-8 stage 1

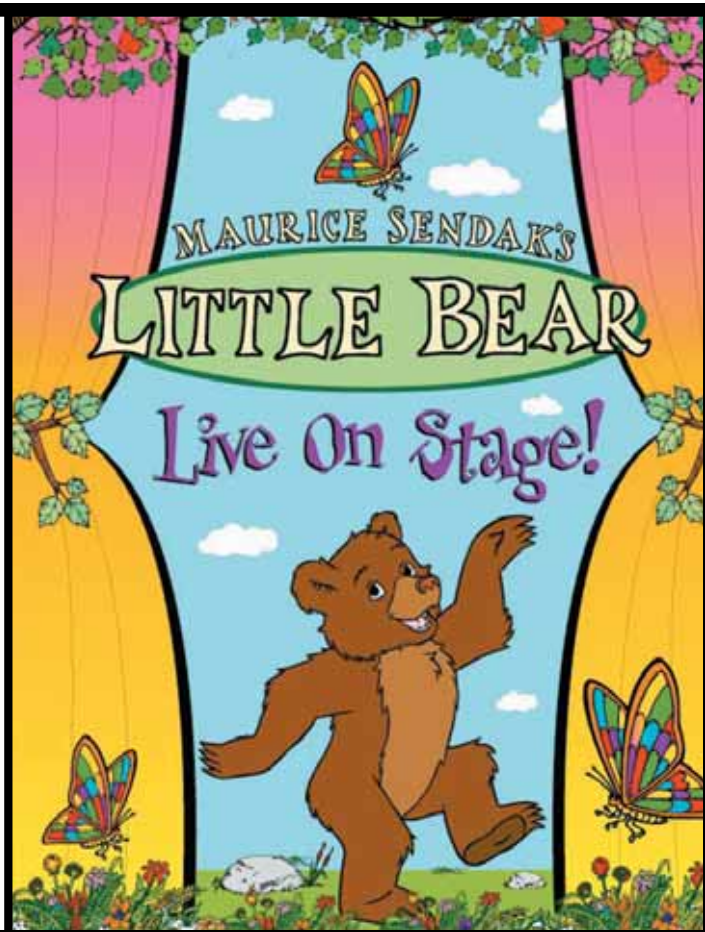
BOX OFFICE: 2331 Kellogg Ave, south Corona 92881



All seats reserved.

sponsored by

c r o s s r o a d s





Shangani the Serval cat enjoying his recent birthday party at OakTree Village. Children can meet Shangani, and other animals friends, through Animal Ambassadors at the Village in Oak Glen. For more information, see their listing in this section or call (909) 797-4020.

page 7. • Dec 22. What stealthy hunters fly through the air, grabbing their prey with razor sharp claws? Why, raptors of course! Learn how owls, hawks and falcons use their 'tools of the trade.' Evening concludes with the opportunity to view the holiday WildLights displays. Evening includes an animal guest appearance. Cost per evening: Adults \$22 Member/\$32 non-Member (No more than two

OAKTREE VILLAGE: 38480 Oak Glen Rd., in Oak Glen. Apple season is open, with events throughout the season. Open every day, with entertainment every weekend. Artisans, pony rides, animal park, trout fishing, shops, restaurants and more. (909) 797-4020. www.oaktree-village.com.

ORANGE EMPIRE RAILWAY MUSEUM: Santa's Train: Dec. 10-11 and 17-18. Children can ride Santa's North Pole Express Train and tell him what they would like for Christmas, and they will receive a gift as a memory of their day with Santa. Museum open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 2201 S. A St., Perris; train and trolley rides, weekends and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; all-day train and trolley pass \$8, children 5-11 \$6. (909) 943-3020. www.oerm.org.

RIVERSIDE CHILDREN'S THEATER: Seussical the Musical, Dec. 2 & 9 at 7:30pm, Dec. 3 & 10 at 1:30pm and 7:30pm. Tickets \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Ramona High School. (951) 359-6075. See article on page 21.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PLAYERS: A Christmas Carol, Dec. 9-11, tickets \$8.. A traditional version of the classic story. Tickets \$8. 4026 14th St., Riverside. Theatre in the Round. Box office: (951) 686-4030.

STAGE 1 AT CANDLEWALK: Little Bear Live on Stage, Jan. 18, 6pm. 2331 Kellogg Ave., Corona. 1-877-8-STAGE 1, www.stage1atcandlewalk.com. All seats reserved.

For more fun kids' events, see the What To Do section on page 26. 📌

courses, race cars, the largest batting cage facility in Southern California, amusement rides, arcade and waterpark. 1405 E. Washington St., Colton, (909) 824-1111.

GROVE THEATRE: Located in his-

toric downtown Upland, 276 E 9th St.. (909) 920-4343, grovethatre.com.

HOLIDAY EVENTS: See feature article starting on page 4.

THE LIVING DESERT: Wildlights Holiday Festival, see article on

children per paid adult.) Children \$15 Member/\$25 non-Member – no children under age 4. For 24 • Zoo featuring flora and fauna of the area's deserts. Located south of State Highway 111 at 47-900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert. 760-346-5694, livingdesert.org.

MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK: Commonly called the Big Bear Zoo, located in Big Bear Lake across from Bear Mountain Ski Resort. Park admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, age 60 and over, and \$4 for children ages 3-10; kids under age 3 are free. The park is open daily and hours Sept. through May are 10 am – 4pm Monday through Friday, and until 5pm on weekends. For more information go to www.BigBearZoo.com or call (909) 878-4200.

Now Playing!

THE BERGER FOUNDATION'S
WildLights
HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
Presented by the City of Indian Wells

Nov. 25-27, Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-23, 26-Jan.1, 2006 • 6 to 8:30 pm

- New This Season! Super-Glide Skating Rink. Skates like ice! (Separate ticket required)
- 260,000 twinkling lights • LGB (G-Gauge) Model Trains
- Larger-than-life illuminated and animated displays
- Santa's Corner and Holiday entertainment
 - Cozy outdoor fireplaces with s'mores
- Holiday shopping, barbecue & refreshments
- Make a child's Holiday dream come true when you bring an unwrapped new toy for Toys for Tots





47-900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert/Indian Wells
760-346-5694 • www.livingdesert.org



THE LIVING DESERT
ZOO & GARDENS

CELEBRATING OUR 49TH YEAR CELEBRATING THE ARTS
THE RIVERSIDE CHILDREN'S THEATRE
proudly announces our upcoming Fall Production of

Seussical The Musical

The first 2 weekends in December at Ramona High School in Riverside, 7675 Magnolia Avenue

Friday, December 2nd & December 9th at 7:30 pm
Saturday -- December 3rd and 10th at 1:30 pm and at 7:30 pm

Advance purchase \$7.00 / \$10.00 At the door

Theater & the Arts

Text in RED denotes an event occurring this month.

ANNENBERG THEATER: At the Palm Springs Art Museum at 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs. www.psmuseum.org. (760) 325-4490.

BEN BOLLINGER'S CANDLELIGHT PAVILION DINNER THEATER: (909) 626-1254. 455 Foothill Blvd., Claremont.

CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY THEATRE: (951) 343-4319. www.calbaptist.edu/theatre.

CHINO COMMUNITY THEATRE: Nuncrackers, Nov. 25-Dec. 17, 8pm and 2:30pm. General Admission \$12, seniors/students/children \$10. Chino Community Theatre, 13123 7th St., Chino.

COMMUNITY ARTS THEATER SOCIETY: A Christmas Carol, Dec. 2-3. 31970 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake. (909) 866-4970.

CORONA CIVIC CENTER THEATER: 815 W. 6th., Corona. (951) 279-2298

FULLERTON CIVIC LIGHT OPERA: Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton. (714) 879-1732, www.fclo.com.

Sinfonia offers a 'Merri-Achi Christmas'

Sinfonia Mexicana's last concert of the 20th anniversary season takes place Dec. 17 at the Historic and recently renovated California Theatre of Performing Arts, 562 West 4th Street, in downtown San Bernardino. The annual Christmas celebration "Merri-Achi Christmas" stars Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez and features the exuberant Ballet Pacifico Dance Company.

The special guest will be soprano Florencia Tinoco who thrilled San Bernardino audiences in Sinfonia's "Opera y Mariachi" and "Noche de Alegria" concerts previously.

Mariachi Sol de Mexico has recorded with some of the most respected names in the music industry, including Selena, Linda Rondstadt, Vikki Carr, and Willie Nelson.

Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico Dance Company is a Los Angeles based dance company founded in 1992 by Adriana a. Gainey, general director, and Jose Vences, artistic director and former dancer with Ballet Folklorico de Mexico. Its repertory is based on regional dances of Mexico and the dancers are drawn from the Southern California community.

Florencia Tinoco is a featured soloist and vocal instructor of the Baja California Orchestra and Conservatory of Music. She has thrilled audiences worldwide with her beautifully expressive lyrical Coloratura voice. A native of Mexico and classically trained in Europe, Florencia's vast repertoire has kept her busy performing major roles in everything from Puccini's La Boheme and Mozart's The Magic Flute to Carl Orff's Carmina Burana.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Sinfonia office at (909) 884-3228 or toll free 1-800-901-5002. For more information, go online to sinfoni-amexicana.com.



Jose Hernandez.

Sawdust Art Festival Winter Fantasy



All of Santa's Favorite Things



Four Great Weekends!
Begins November 19th
10 am - 6 pm



935 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA
949.494.3030
www.SawdustArtFestival.org

BEN D. BOLLINGER'S



The Wonderful World of Christmas



When's the last time you had a great "date night?" Don't miss these fabulous shows at the Candlelight Pavilion!

Through December 30
Crafted each year with a new, fresh storyline always featuring your favorite holiday tunes, one of the first things this show does is wrap our audiences in nostalgia.

Gift Certificates Available
Season Tickets on Sale Now!

Make great, last minute Christmas gifts

Call now for information or reservations: (909) 626-1254
455 Foothill Boulevard • Claremont, CA • 91711
www.candlelightpavilion.com

Be a TWIT and solve a mystery

TWIT stands for Temecula Whodunit Interactive Theatre, a unique idea for theatrical entertainment in the Inland Empire. This talented group of actors have been spending their weekends bringing laughter, and a three-course meal, to audiences of amateur sleuths for three years.

"The audience is a major character in our shows," Gary Wright, co-founder of TWIT Productions, said. "The entire banquet room of the restaurant is our stage and cast members also serve the meals and beverages in character. All audience TWITS are asked to solve the mystery at dessert time and we award a prize for the best solution."

Their first show, *The Hole Truth or Honestly, I'm Lying!* opened in Dec. of 2002 to rave reviews. The current TWIT mystery, *Murder on the Bismartanic*, their fourth show, runs through the holidays.

Attire is casual, the food is good and plentiful (with four main course choices) and the laughter is frequent.

TWIT's interactive dinner shows are presented every Friday at 7:30pm and Saturday at 7pm at the Country Garden Restaurant and Bakery in Temecula. For reservations or information, call (951) 323-3292, or go online to www.twitproductions.com.

GROVE THEATRE: Located in historic downtown Upland, 276 E. 9th St. (909) 920-4343, grovetheatre.com.

HOLIDAY EVENTS: See feature article starting on page 4.

INDIAN WELLS DESERT SYMPHONY: Hooked on the Holidays, Dec. 3, 8pm. At the McCallum Theatre, Palm Desert. (760) 773-5988.

MCCALLUM THEATRE: Barry Manilow, Dec. 1 • Craig Chaquico, Dec. 2, 8pm, \$75, \$50, \$40, \$30. • Natalie Cole, Dec. 4, 7pm, \$100, \$80, \$70, \$60. Box Office: (760) 340-ARTS. mccallumtheatre.com. 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert.

OLD TOWN TEMECULA COMMUNITY THEATER: Southwest Women's Chorus, Dec. 4 at 2pm, "A Spiritual Christmas." Traditional sacred Christmas music with solos and sing-alongs, plus roof-raising spirituals and gospel music. Come and feel the spirit! Advance tickets \$15 adult, \$11 senior/child, tickets at the door \$18 adult, \$13 senior/child. (866) 653-8696, temecula-theater.org.

PHIL VASSAR: Dec. 1, 7pm, Stage 1 at Candlewalk, 2331 Kellogg Ave., Corona. 1-877-8-STAGE 1, www.stage1atcandlewalk.com. All seats reserved.

RAMONA BOWL AMPHITHEATRE: Don't Tell Mother, Dec. 2-18, 7pm. General \$12, seniors \$11. A comedy of bank robberies, mistaken identities and mothers. Tickets and info call (951) 658-5300. 27400 Ramona Bowl Rd., San Jacinto. (951) 658-3111.

RIALTO COMMUNITY PLAYERS: 150 E. San Bernardino Ave., Rialto. (909) 873-8514.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE: • Kinetic Conversations, RCC Dance, Dec. 2 at 8pm, Dec. 3 at 2pm and 8pm. • Off-Broadway Play Series will present Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart," Dec. 2-3 at 8pm, Dec. 3-4 at 2pm, Dec. 4 at 7pm. This controversial play chronicles the start of the AIDS epidemic in New York City during the early 1980's. In the Digital Library Auditorium on the Riverside City Campus. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students with identification. This show contains strong adult language and situations and is not recommended for students under the age of 16. • Little Shop of Horrors, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10 at 7:30pm, Dec. 8 at 2:30pm. Presented by the Norco Theatre Conservatory. For information, call (951) 372-7000, ext. 5400. • The Elves and the Shoemaker, Dec. 11 at 2pm. Presented by Performance Riverside. 4800 Magnolia Ave., Riverside. (951) 222-8100.

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY PLAYERS: A Christmas Carol, Dec. 9-11. A traditional version of the classic story. Tickets \$8. 4026 14th St., Riverside. Theatre in the Round. Box office: (951) 686-4030.

RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM: 3485 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside. (951) 788-3944.

SAN BERNARDINO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Dec. 10, 3pm, Symphonic Variations. Featuring music of Stevie Wonder, Duke Ellington, Andrew Lloyd Webber, John Williams and Peter Tchaikovsky. Tickets: single \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, students, \$10, military 1/2 price. California Theatre of the Performing Arts in downtown San Bernardino, 562 W. 4th St. (909) 381-5388.

SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL WINTER FANTASY: Dec. 3-4, 10-11. 10am-6pm, 935 Laguna Canyon Rd. in Laguna Beach. (949) 494-3030, www.sawdustartfestival.org.

SINFONIA MEXICANA: A "Merri-Achi Christmas," starring Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, Dec. 17 at 7:30pm. See the article on page 23.

THEATRICAL ARTS INTERNATIONAL: (909) 885-5152. California Theatre of the Performing Arts, 562 West Fourth Street, San Bernardino. ☐

Sinfonia Mexicana
presents
"A Merri-Achi Christmas"
Starring Mariachi Sol de Mexico De Jose Hernandez



Maestro Jose Hernandez

featuring



Sol de Mexico



Soprano Florencia Tinoco

Ballet Folklorico del Pacifico Dance Company

Saturday, December 17, 2005, 7:30 PM
California Theatre of Performing Arts, 572 W. 4th St, San Bernardino
Call the Sinfonia Mexicana office to purchase tickets at 909-884-3228 or toll free 1-800-901-5002 and 8-866-687-4284, or visit us at 468 W. 5th Street (between D & E)
Ticket prices \$22, \$27, \$35, \$40

The Arts @ RCC

Performance Riverside
Family Series

The Elves & the Shoemaker
Sunday, December 11 @ 2 pm
The ticket prices call 951.222.8100

Kinetic Conversations
Friday, December 2 @ 8pm
Saturday, December 3 @ 2pm & 8pm
Info: 951.222.8100

Norco Theatre Conservatory

Little Shop of Horrors
December 2, 3, 9, 10 @ 7:30pm
December 8 @ 2:30pm
Info: 951.372.7000 ext. 5400

OFF BROADWAY PLAY SERIES

THE NORMAL HEART
December 2 & 3 @ 8pm
December 3 & 4 @ 2pm
December 4 @ 7pm
Info: 951.222.8100

Moreno Valley Master Chorale
Saturday, December 3
Info: 951.247.9261

RCC Wind Ensemble
Sunday, December 4 @ 4pm
Info: 951.222.8100

Hot Big Band Jazz on a Cool Night
Tuesday, December 6 @ 7pm
Info: 951.222.8331 or www.RCCJazz.com

RCC Chamber Singers & Festival Singers Concert
Tuesday, December 6 @ 7:30pm
Info: 951.222.8247

Moreno Valley Master Chorale Christmas Concert
Wednesday, December 7 @ 7pm
Info: 951.247.9261

The Vocal Jazz Ensemble Winter Concert
Wednesday, December 7 @ 7:30pm
Info: 951.222.8248

Jazz, Big and Small
Thursday, December 8 @ 7pm
Info: 951.222.8331 or www.RCCJazz.com

Riverside Master Chorale Winter Concert
Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 pm.
Info: 951.222.8100

A Holiday Pops Spectacular
Sunday, December 18 @ 2pm
Info: 951.222.8100

Mr. Claus, I presume?

Meet the real Santa at the Sawdust Winter Fantasy

Michael Sullivan always knew there was a Santa Claus, but he never thought it would be him.

At age six, Sullivan became skeptical of the Santa Claus he waited in line to see at a local department store, mostly because of Santa's demeanor. "For some reason I thought the Santa I was about to see wasn't taking enough time to talk to each kid. Like it was an ordeal for him to be Santa, not a pleasure. So I just knew he couldn't be the "real" Santa with such an attitude," Sullivan said.

It may have been his desire to show the world how a "real" Santa Claus should act that fueled his interest in taking on the jolly persona. But Sullivan, now 67 and a Whittier resident, claims his wife Vicki also



Children at "snow play" during the Sawdust Winter Fantasy in Laguna Beach.

Continued on page 29

Performance Riverside Presents 'A Holiday Pops Spectacular!'

Performance Riverside will present "A Holiday Pops Spectacular!" featuring the Riverside Pops Orchestra at Landis Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Dec. 18. Conducted by Riverside Community College's Richard Stover, this holiday concert will feature a 30-piece pops orchestra and special guest artists Stan and Kirsten Benton Chandler, who will entertain the family with the best in classic holiday tunes.

Richard Stover is conductor of the Riverside Pops Orchestra. An integral part of Performance Riverside for over twenty years, he's the composer, lyricist, and occasional script writer of more than two dozen musicals. He is the owner of OnStage Musicals and has several writing and production projects in development.

Stan Chandler made his Broadway debut singing "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" in the Hal Prince revival of Cabaret, starring Joel Grey. But he is perhaps best known for creating the nose-bleeding role of "Jinx" in the Off-Broadway smash hit Forever Plaid, a role he reprised at Performance Riverside in 2002. He has also played the Baker in Performance Riverside's Into the Woods and Edward Rutledge in Performance Riverside's Ovation award-winning production of 1776.

Kirsten Benton Chandler is perhaps best known for her role as Magenta in the award-winning revival of The Rocky Horror Show starring David Arquette, for which she received the Drama Critics



Stan and Kirsten Chandler (left) perform holiday classics, with the Riverside Pops Orchestra (top), at the Dec. 18 A Holiday Pops Spectacular!

Circle Award for best featured actor. She has performed in the title role in Performance Riverside's production of Sweet Charity, and played "The Baker's Wife" in 2001's Into the Woods. Kirsten provides the singing voice of "Pocahontas" for Disney's World on Ice, and she can be heard in the animated feature, Princess and the Pea.

The Landis Performing Arts Center is located on the Riverside Community College City Campus at 4800 Magnolia Avenue. A Holiday Pops Spectacular! plays on Dec. 18, at 2pm. Tickets are \$27, 22, 19, and \$15, and can be purchased through the Landis Box Office at 951-222-8100. For more information, go online to www.performanceriverside.org. ■

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BEACH ACTIVITIES

DAVEY'S LOCKER: Whale watching and fishing trips. Newport Beach, (949) 673-1434. www.daveyslocker.com.

CHRISTIAN EVENTS

CHRISTIAN SINGLES EVENTS: Christian Speedy Intro, Bunco and Karaoke, Meridian Club, Fullerton. For more information: 714/210-3337, www.ccisingles.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, EVENTS

CABLE AIR SHOW: Jan. 7-8, 8am-4pm, at Cable Airport in Upland. Aerial acrobatics, vintage cars and planes, and more. See article on page 16. Free parking. Adults \$7, children \$5, preschoolers free.

COMPUTER FAIR: Dec. 17-18, at the Pomona Fairplex, building 6, 10am-5pm. Hundreds of computer items at wholesale prices. Admission \$8. www.lacomputerfair.com.

DOWNTOWN AGLOW: In downtown Riverside, every Wednesday to Sunday through Dec. 25, 6 to 9pm, on the Main Street Mall. Enjoy holiday entertainment, carriage rides, food, vendors and more. For more information call (951) 781-5896 or go online to www.riversidedowntown.org. See article on page 4.

EASYSIDERS BIKE SHOW TOUR: Jan. 7-8, at the LA Fairplex in Pomona. For more information, go online to www.easyridersevents.com.

NOS SPORTS CENTER WINNERS CIRCLE BINGO: Every Fri. and Sat., 3-9pm. \$10 buy in, two 3-hour sessions benefitting Inland Empire charities. Gate 10 off Arrowhead Ave. (909) 885-7223.

OAKTREE VILLAGE: 38480 Oak Glen Rd., in Oak Glen. Apple season is open, with events throughout the season. Open every day, with entertainment every weekend. Artisans, pony rides, animal park, trout fishing, shops, restaurants and more. (909) 797-4020. www.oaktree-village.com.

RG CANNING SWAP MEET: Dec. 4, 11, 18, 7am-3pm, at the Orange Show in San Bernardino. www.rgcshows.com, free admission. (909) 889-9300. Carnival lot, gate 7.

RILEY'S FARM: In Oak Glen, offering

Revolutionary War Adventures Mon.-Fri., 10am-2pm. (909) 797-7534, www.rileysfarm.com.

SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL WINTER FANTASY: 10am-6pm, 935 Laguna Canyon Rd. in Laguna Beach. (949) 494-3030, www.sawdustartfestival.org. See article on page 25.

WEST COAST'S LARGEST ANTIQUE AUTO SWAP MEET: Fairplex in Pomona, Drag Strip. Dec. 4, 5am-2pm. More than 15 miles of car related items including customs and classics. General admission is \$8, free for ages 12 and younger. Parking is at Gate 17 on Fairplex Dr. www.pomonaswapmeet.com

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

SEE FEATURE ARTICLE STARTING ON PAGE 4.

MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES

ALPINE SLIDE AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN: A full service family favorite that's also home to the signature bobsled-like ride of the same name. The Alpine Slide lets riders experience Olympic-like action as they negotiate sleds along a quarter-mile track with banked turns and long straightaways. Getting to the top is a snap with Magic Carpet uphill lifts. The Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain is located on the boulevard in Big Bear Lake, 1/4 mile west of the Village shopping area, home to 60 specialty stores. 800 Wild Rose Lane. Call (909) 866-4626.

ARROWHEAD QUEEN: Narrated boat tour across Lake Arrowhead. (909) 336-6992.

GILMAN RANCH: Historic interpretive programs, wagon museum, picnic facilities, Wilson and 16th streets, Banning. (951) 922-9200.

IDYLLWILD NATURE CENTER: Hiking trails, museum, education, 1 mile northwest of Idyllwild on 25225 Hwy 243. Children's Discovery area, local history, wildlife, gift shop. (951) 659-3850, www.idyllwildwild-naturecenter.net

MOONRIDGE ANIMAL PARK: Commonly called the Big Bear Zoo, located in Big Bear Lake across from Bear Mountain Ski Resort. Park admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, age 60 and over, and \$4 for children

Get your event listed in the

Inland ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

What to do

section

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to see listed in these pages, please send the following information:

- Name of the event
- Date and time
- City, location and address
- A contact phone number
- Name of the person submitting the event

Send it in one of the following ways:

EMAIL: IER@InlandReview.com

FAX: (951) 686-0290

MAIL: Inland Entertainment Review, c/o Word Mill Publishing, 5005 La Mart Dr. #204, Riverside, CA 92507

WEB: Go online at www.InlandReview.com and fill out our online submission form.

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ages 3-10; kids under age 3 are free. The park is open daily and hours Sept. through May are 10 am – 4pm Monday through Friday, and until 5pm on weekends. For more information go to www.BigBearZoo.com or call (909) 878-4200.

OAKTREE VILLAGE: 38480 Oak Glen Rd., in Oak Glen. Open every day, with entertainment every weekend. Artisans, pony rides, animal park, trout fishing, shops, restaurants and more. (909) 797-4020. www.oaktree-village.com.

PALM SPRINGS TRAMWAY: A 2.5 mile ride to the San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness area in Palm Springs. (800) 515-TRAM.

MUSEUMS

THE ASISTENCIA, AN OUTPOST OF THE MISSION SAN GABRIEL: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 26930 Barton Road, Redlands, free, donations accepted, (909) 793-5402.

ASTRONOMY VILLAGE: The Village is located at 2001 Observatory Way, off Hwy. 18, West of Rim of the World High School in Lake Arrowhead.

CABAZON CULTURAL MUSEUM: Exhibits on the past, present and future of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m.

Sundays, 84-245 Indio Springs Parkway, Indio, free, (800) 827-2946.

CABOT'S PUEBLO MUSEUM: 67-616 E. Desert View Ave., Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240. CPM is open Oct. through May for regular Heritage Tours and Pueblo Crafter Exhibitions on Fri. & Sat. from 10am-3pm. Hopi-inspired Pueblo constructed by California homesteader & adventurer Cabot Yerxa. Turn-of-the-last century photographs and Native American collections. The Pueblo Gallery features handcrafted American and Southwestern heritage gifts and art. For information on special events and summer group tours, call (760) 329-7610.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 3824 Main St., Riverside, (951) 787-4787. www.cmp.ucr.edu.

COACHELLA VALLEY MUSEUM: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays, 82-616 Miles Ave., Indio, \$2, seniors and children 5-12 \$1, (760) 342-6651.

CORONA HERITAGE PARK & MUSEUM: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, 510 W. Foothill Parkway, Corona, free, (951) 898-0687.

EDWARD-DEAN MUSEUM & GARDENS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, 9401 Oak Glen Road, Cherry Valley, \$3, seniors and students \$2, children younger than 12 free, (909) 845-2626.

GILMAN RANCH: Historic interpretive programs, wagon museum, picnic facilities, Wilson and 16th streets, Banning. (951) 922-9200.

HEMET MUSEUM: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays, Santa Fe Depot freight house, Florida Avenue and State Street, Hemet, free, (951) 929-4409.

LA SIERRA WORLD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY: 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Cossentine Hall, La Sierra University, 4700 Pierce St., Riverside, free, (951) 785-2209.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE: houses thousands of volumes on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, Smiley Park, 125 W. Vine St., Redlands, free, (909) 798-7636.

THE LIVING DESERT: Zoo featuring flora and fauna of the area's deserts. Located south of State Highway 111 at 47-900 Portola Avenue, Palm Desert. 760-346-5694, www.livingdesert.org.

ORANGE EMPIRE RAILWAY MUSEUM: Museum open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 2201 S. A St., Perris; train and trolley rides, weekends and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; all-day train and trolley pass \$8, children 5-11 \$6. (951) 943-3020. www.oerm.org

PALM SPRINGS DESERT MUSEUM: Weekly art workshops. 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs, (760) 325-0189, www.psmuseum.org.

PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S MCCALLUM ADOBE MUSEUM AND CORNELIA WHITE HOUSE MUSEUM: noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 221 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, \$1, children 12 and younger free, (760) 323-8297.

PLANES OF FAME: \$8.95 general, children 11 to 5 are \$1.95 and children under 5 are free. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Chino Airport. (909) 597-3722.

PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM: The museum is open daily 10am-5pm, Wednesday until 8pm. Admission \$10 adults, \$5 youth ages 6-17, children under 6 free, seniors and military \$8.50. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. For more information, call (760) 778-6262 or go online to www.palmspringsairmuseum.org.

RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM: 3580 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, (951) 826-5273.

RYAN SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICS MUSEUM: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, Ryan Field, 4280 Waldon Weaver Road, Hemet, free, (951) 658-2716.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM: 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, \$6, seniors and students \$5, children 5-12 \$4, (909) 307-2669. www.sbcounty-museum.org.

SAN JACINTO VALLEY MUSEUM: noon to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 181 E. Main St., San




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RACING

ADAMS KART TRACK: For ages 5 and up. Pro shop, kart track, racing school. 5292 24th St. in Riverside. (951) 686-3826. www.adamskarttrack.net.

CALIFORNIA SPEEDWAY: 9300 Cherry Ave., Fontana. Ticket office: (800) 944-7223 (RACE). www.californiaspeedway.com.

MORAN RACEWAY: Drive high-performance go-carts. Includes driving schools, corporate events and rentals. (951) 522-9302, www.moranraceway.com.

THEME PARKS

ALPINE SLIDE: Family fun at Big Bear Lake. \$20 for an all-day pass. 800 Wild Rose Lane, Big Bear Lake, (909) 866-4626.

CASTLE AMUSEMENT PARK: 3500 Polk St., Riverside. (951) 785-3000.

DISNEYLAND/DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE: 1313 Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, CA (714) 781-4565

FIESTA VILLAGE: Has two miniature golf courses, race cars, the largest batting cage facility in Southern California, amusement rides, arcade and waterpark. 1405 E. Washington St., Colton, (909) 824-1111.

KNOTTS BERRY FARM: 8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park. (714) 220-5200. www.knotts.com.

LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA: One Legoland Dr., Carlsbad, CA (877) 534-6526

OAKTREE VILLAGE: 38480 Oak Glen Rd., in Oak Glen. Open every day, with entertainment every weekend. Artisans, pony rides, animal park, trout fishing, and more. (909) 797-4020. www.oaktree-village.com.

PHARAOH'S LOST KINGDOM ADVENTURE PARK: 1101 N. California, Redlands, CA, 92374. (909) 335-7275. pharaohslostk-

ingdom.com.

RAGING WATERS: 111 Raging Waters Dr., San Dimas, (909) 802-2200, ragingwaters.com. California's largest waterpark, with over 50 landscaped acres and 36 slides and attractions, plus a sand beach. (909) 802-2200, www.ragingwaters.com. General Admission for guests 48" and taller is \$27.99. Junior Admission for those guests under 48" is \$16.99. Children two years and younger are free. Call for specials.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS: (909) 38-PARKS.

SAN DIEGO ZOO: 2920 Zoo Dr., San Diego, CA (619) 634-3153

SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK: 15500 San Pasqual Vly., Escondido, CA, (760) 767-8702

SCANDIA THEME PARK: I-15 between I-10 and Hwy. 60, Ontario, (909) 390-3092

SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN: 26101 Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia. (661) 255-4111.

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD: 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City. Directions: Take I-10 West to Highway 101 North to Universal Studios Boulevard and follow the signs. (818) 622-3801 or (818) 508-9600. universalstudios.com.

VILLAGE FUN PARK: Go-carts, carousel, Alpine slide, train ride, playground, Lake Arrowhead Village. Single rides \$4. 10am-8pm daily. (909) 337-2533.

WINERIES

CALLAWAY VINEYARD & WINERY: 32720 Rancho California Road, Temecula, (951) 676-4001.

FALKNER WINERY: 40620 Calle Contento, Temecula. Free jazz on Sundays, Noon to 3 pm. (951) 676-8231. www.falknerwinery.com.

FILSINGER VINEYARDS & WINERY: 39050 De Portola Road, Temecula, (951) 302-6363.

GALLEANO WINERY: Offering personalized wine bottles and gift baskets. Tasting room open daily. Tours Sat. and Sun. or by appt. 4231 Wineville Road, Mira Loma (951) 685-5376. www.galleanowinery.com.

HART WINERY: 41300 Avenida Biona Road, Temecula, (951) 676-6300.

JOSEPH FILIPPI WINERY: Daily tastings, sales, gifts, picnic, museum and tours. 2 locations: 12467 Base Line Rd., Rancho Cucamonga, (909) 899-5755 & 2803 E. Guasti Rd., Ontario-Guasti (909) 390-6998. www.josephfilippiwinery.com.

KEYWAYS VINEYARD & WINERY: 37338 De Portola Road, Temecula, (951) 676-1451.

LONGSHADOW RANCH WINERY: 39847 Calle Contento, Temecula 587-6221

MAURICE CARRIE WINERY: 34225 Rancho

California Road, Temecula, (951) 676-1711.

MIRAMONTE WINERY: 33410 Rancho California Rd., Temecula 506-5500

MOUNT PALOMAR WINERY: 33820 Rancho California Road, Temecula, (951) 676-5047.

PALUMBO FAMILY WINERY: 40150 Barksdale Circle, Temecula 676-7900

PONTE FAMILY WINERY: 35035 Rancho California Rd., Temecula 694-8855

SAN ANTONIO WINERY CENTER: 2802 S. Milliken Ave., Ontario, (909) 947-3995.

SOUTH COAST WINERY AND RESORT: 34843

Rancho California Rd., Temecula 587-WINE

STUART CELLARS: 33515 Rancho California Rd., Temecula 676-6414

THORNTON WINERY: 32575 Rancho California Rd, Temecula. (951) 699-0099.

VAN ROEKEL WINERY: 34567 Rancho California Rd., Temecula 699-6961

WINDY RIDGE CELLARS: 47200 De Portola Rd., Temecula. 951-767-3450. www.windyridgecellars.com. ■

Continued from page 25

had something to do with it as she commented one day “if you grew a beard you would look just like Santa.” That was 10 years ago.

Shortly after her comment, the couple, both artists, were selling their porcelain work at the Laguna Sawdust’s Winter Fantasy when Sullivan was approached by representatives from the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce.

“They just walked up to me and asked me if I would be interested in being Santa Claus for a couple of upcoming holiday events in town,” Sullivan said. “They must have seen what my wife saw in me, because I had not grown the beard yet.”

He was starting to get the hint, and decided to take them up on their offer just to see what it would be like. They provided the costume including the beard and hair for a two-day stint to greet shoppers at a few stores in Laguna Beach. It was then that Michael Sullivan officially became Santa Claus.

As people, especially children, sought him out, waved and shook hands, Sullivan had a gleam in his heart that was a sign to him he had found his true calling: to be Santa Claus.

Opting to buy his own authentic Santa garb, and growing the hair and beard, he was soon transformed into what he calls the “real” Santa Claus. He became so “real” he was accepted as a member of the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, which is an international organization of about 600 men dedicated to the joy of being Santa. As the club name implies, the primary criterion is all members must have a “real” natural white beard

Other guidelines require “real” Santas to be personable, be jolly and not promise anything. The latter stems from the popu-

lar request for pets or exotic animals, which Santa has to be careful about guaranteeing delivery of. In cases like this, Sullivan brings in the parents and encourages them to discuss this with the child to assure any desired pet would be welcome in the home.

But most wishes seem to come standard. For boys it is computer games, Play Stations, Power Rangers and the like and for girls anything Barbie seems to perpetually be at the top of the list, according to Sullivan.

However, before Sullivan asks each child what they want for Christmas he spends time asking them how they are, what their name is and always complimenting them on something such as their pretty dress, beautiful smile or how nice their freshly painted face looks, which is a commonly acquired adornment for children during their visit to the Winter Fantasy.

“Some also have questions for me that are not related to presents. They ask me how Mrs. Claus is doing, who is always fine. Or they want to know if reindeers really fly, which of course they do. And the most common inquiry from children who do not have fireplaces is how will I get inside their house if they don’t have a chimney,” Sullivan said.

To reassure the latter, he has a large ring of keys he shows the child while indicating their parents have provided the necessary tool for making sure the presents arrive on Christmas Eve. “That seems to resolve the dilemma.”

Sullivan notes that teenagers, parents and grandparents still like to talk to him as Santa and have their photo taken with him. No matter, his role as Santa is a rewarding one, and not having children of his own, he gets to experience the wide-eyed innocence and fantastical world of a

child not just at Christmastime, but all year.

With the “real” white beard and hair that he sports year round, he is approached somewhat as a celebrity whether he is at a restaurant or shopping in the supermarket.

“It is not unusual for a child to come right up to me when I am in regular clothes and say, “Hi Santa!”

“Sometimes they want to just say hello or they want to see how I am doing and if I got their letter, or a number of other things. It doesn’t really matter where I am or what time of year it is I will always be the real Santa to them.”

“By taking the time to listen and talk to kids, I am not only part of maintaining the fantasy for them, but I am helping to keep the spirit of Christmas alive all year.” This will be Sullivan’s sixth year doing so at the Winter Fantasy.

Visitors to the Sawdust Winter Fantasy in Laguna Beach can see the “real” Santa Claus each day of the weekend festival from 10:30am to 5:30pm, which is held Dec. 3 and 4 and Dec. 10 and 11.

The Winter Fantasy, located at the Sawdust Art Festival, 935 Laguna Canyon Road in Laguna Beach, features 170 artists from around the country offering a variety of fine art and crafts, a “real” snow play area, complimentary art classes, children’s art activities, entertainment and restaurants amidst thousands of holiday lights and décor. Hours are 10am to 6pm. Admission is \$5 for those 13 years and older, and \$2 for children six through 12 years. Children five and under are free. Season passes are available for \$7. For more information visit www.sawdustartfestival.org or call 949-494-3030.

The Sawdust Art Festival is a non-profit organization, dedicated to educating the public about the art created in the community of Laguna Beach. ■

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