



*Eight pages of special Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival information
Inside — pages 13-20*

October 2017 East Kern

Visions

\$1.00

East Kern

Visions

October 2017

Inside this issue

Desert Empire Fair	3	Tehachapi Loop sightseeing	21
Concerts in Ridgecrest	8	Things to do in Inyo County	24
Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival	13	California city Renaissance Faire ..	29
		Food and Wine in Kernville	31

Publisher

John Watkins

Editor

Jack Barnwell

Advertising Director

Paula McKay

Advertising Sales

Rodney Preul
Robert Aslanian

Writers

Jack Barnwell
Michael Smit

Layout

Aaron Crutchfield

On the cover: A scene from last year's Petroglyph Festival



JACK BARNWELL/DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO



Desert Empire Fair runs Oct. 20-22

The 2017 Desert Empire Fair will run Oct. 20-22 with this year's theme, "Honoring Courage, Saluting Sacrifice." The community is invited to join us in celebrating and thanking all those who serve, save and protect us, including our retired first responders and veterans. All active duty first responders and military will receive \$4 entry with official ID. We have invited all these organizations to present displays, exhibits and information to educate the community on all they do to serve us. Fair participants will see flags all over the grounds which will be available for purchase after the fair. This is sure to be another family-friendly, flavorful, festival of fun.

This year's music headliners include Doobie Rock featuring music of the Doobie Bros.; Jett Benatar, a salute to both Joan Jett and Pat Benatar; 60s Summer of Love Psychedelic Rock 'n' Roll; and Chase Curry electric Rock 'n' Roll covering Neil Diamond, The Beatles, CCR, Chuck Berry, Rolling Stones etc.; along with several favorite local bands.

The Fair will also have shows galore featuring J.D Platt and the K-9 Kings from the CBS TV show "Greatest American Dog," Wild About Monkeys includes a hilarious primate show with the big screen stars of "Evan Almighty" and "Rock of Ages" just to name a few.

Fred Prez brings his Crazy Contest Show including the first annual DEF Karaoke Contest, you never know what contest Freddy will come up with but there's everything from "Fast Fingers Texting," "The Great Toilet Paper Blow Out," "The Splatt Attack," "Fidget Spinner Contest" and many others that will leave you smiling. This is a must see because you have a chance at the \$10,000 Frisbee Toss sponsored by The Daily Independent.

Of course, no fair is complete without Cook's fumbling and bumbling racing pigs.

Strolling the grounds will be "FIRE STRYKER" a smoke blowing, fire-breathing, wing flapping, one-of-a-kind dragon, led around on a leash by a "medieval Viking" handler. Those comical "Little Cowboys" (maybe even a Cowgirl) will be trotting around for photo ops and the worst humor this side of the Mississippi! Street Drum Corps is a world-renowned,

JACK BARNWELL/DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

A pair of young fairgoers head down the slide during the 2016 Desert Empire Fair. The 2017 fair runs Oct. 20 through 22.



JACK BARNWELL/DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

A young fairgoer gets an up-close encounter with a sheep during the 2016 Desert Empire Fair. The 2017 fair runs Oct. 20 through 22.

high energy, drum and percussion show formed in Los Angeles. They will amaze and entertain.

“All about Animals” is back with their petting zoo and camel rides.

Saturday features a Junior Rodeo in the morning and at 7 p.m. The Ridgecrest Rodeo Kicks in with Pro rodeo act Donny Landis and announcer Ted Dwyer, with Royalty introduction, Mutton Bustin’, Bull Riding, Barrel Racing, Team Roping, Tie Down CR and much more.

Rodeo tickets are \$15 and include a \$4 discount to the fair. The Junior Livestock Show actually begins Thursday at 9 a.m., with over 100 entries at press time, and don’t miss the exciting JLA Auction at 4 p.m. Saturday — come out and support these kids.

Our Still Exhibits are busting at the seams as many of this year’s categories offer great prizes on top of traditional ribbons. They are also sponsoring many great contests like homemade fudge, best salsa, Lego building and Jell-O eating to name a few. The Oasis garden club plant show will once again be displayed in Desert Valleys Community Complex



JESSICA WESTON /DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

Giddy up! These two enjoy some horseplay during the 2016 fair.



"HONORING COURAGE, SALUTING SACRIFICE"

Friday October 20th to Sunday October 22nd

Adults 13+ \$8 • Seniors 65+ \$4 • Active & Retired Military \$4 • Children 6-12 \$4 • Children 5 & Under Free

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR

AVOID THE LINES • PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.DESERTEMPIREFAIR.COM

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE PRESALE RIDE TICKETS

Available At: Desert Valleys FCU • Red Rock Books • IWV Drive Through Dairy
Gateway Hardware Inyokern

ENTERTAINMENT



Jett Benatar
A Salute to
Joan Jett
& Pat Benatar

Saturday - Sunday



**60s Summer
Of Love**
Rock & Roll

Friday - Saturday



Doobie Rock!
The Music Of
The Doobie
Brothers

Saturday - Sunday

GROUND ACTS

Camel Rides • Firestryker The Amazing Dragon • J. D. Platt & K-9 Kings Dog Show
Street Drum Corp Wild About Moneys • Freddie Prez Crazy Contest • Petting Zoo
The Little Cowboys • Cooks Pig Racing



Ridgecrest Rodeo

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Tickets \$15

Children 8 & under FREE

Local Bands

*Check Our New Website For
Local Band & Event Schedules*

W. A. Thompson, Inc.

COSO
Operating Company
since 1971

Ridgecrest
REGIONAL HOSPITAL

LIBERTY AMBULANCE
"Caring For Life"

WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

DESERT VALLEYS
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

THE SWAP SHEET

WWW.DESERTEMPIREFAIR.COM • 760-375-8000 • RIDGECREST, CA



JESSICA WESTON/DAILY INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO

Three young fairgoers, all of whom are tall enough to ride, watch and wait their turn during the 2016 Desert Empire Fair. The 2017 fair runs Oct. 20 through 22.

with hundreds of beautiful flora.

Also in Desert Valleys Community Complex and around the grounds will be numerous commercial vendors as well as more crazy fair food than you could ever imagine, like rainbow grilled cheese, tornado fries, cheese curds, knight burgers, fried alligator, kettle corn, Thai chicken, pulled pork, tri-tip, funnel cakes, roasted corn, TK's famous Chinese food and much more.

Once again Butler Amusements will provide our midway with several new rides and all the old favorites.

It all starts at 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20 till midnight, noon to midnight on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6 to 12, seniors and military. Children ages 5 and under get in free. On Friday, seniors 62 and over get in free. Sunday, kids 12 years old and younger get in free, and from noon to 3 p.m. bring in three cans of pet food (per person) for free admission. Avoid the lines and purchase your fair tickets online at www.desertempirefair.com.

In addition, unlimited ride wristbands are on sale at the following:

- Desert Valleys FCU
- Pizza Factory
- The Drive Thru Dairy
- Red Rocks Books
- Gateway Hardware in Inyokern
- The Desert Empire Fairgrounds office

As always, the quality of next year's fair is directly affected by the attendance of this year's fair. Come out and support all our great vendors and spend early and often so we can continue to grow and put on a great show. You won't find more fun anywhere; there is truly something for everyone at one great price, hours of family-friendly enjoyment.

The Desert Empire Fair couldn't do it without our great sponsors: W.A. Thompson, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Coso Operating Co, Desert Valleys Credit Union, Liberty Ambulance, The Swap Sheet and Waste Management.



WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Commercial Loans • Business Lines of Credit
- SBA 7(a) and 504 Loans • Business Accounts
- Excellent Customer Service



MISSION BANK

"Let our Experience work for you"

1450 N. Norma
Ridgecrest



(760) 446-3576
Member FDIC

It's time for concerts in Ridge-

BY MICHAEL SMIT
The Daily Independent

As the hot summer days recede into pleasant fall and winter evenings, the numerous musical groups of the Ridgecrest area once again start gearing up for their seasons of music.

The area has a surprisingly large number of musical groups, larger than one would expect for the area's population and isolation. Or perhaps, it has a large number of musical groups because of that isolation. The slow desert nights afford people the time to invest themselves into an instrument.

But there isn't simply a high quantity of musical groups — it's also of high quality. Some groups bring talent from out of town while other groups are made to showcase local musicians. Each group provides a different experience with different shows.

A full list of local music could run for pages, from open mic nights at the USO Building every non-flex Friday to student concerts throughout the year. This article offers an insight and schedule into the Indian Wells Valley Concert Association, The Ridgecrest Chamber Music Society, the Desert Commu-



The Beatles Tribute bring back nostalgia of the British Invasion (well, the music invasion), on Feb. 1, 2018.

nity Orchestra, and the Maturango Museum Concert Series.

Indian Wells Valley Concert Association

The Indian Wells Valley Concert Association brings in out of town talent to perform in Ridgecrest, and they've been doing it since 1947. And this year, IWVCA is looking to go in a new direction.

In previous years, IWVCA has

brought in classical and traditional music. Last year included groups playing Civil War era brass music, traditional celtic music, and classical music performances. However, the very first per-



James Garner's Johnny Cash Tribute plays Nov. 13 in the iWVCA line up.



The Spanish Brass hits the stage at the Parker Performing Arts Center Nov. 30 as part of the IWVCA concert season line up.

Desert Area Resources and Training

201 E. Ridgecrest Blvd. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Our Mission, Their Dreams Since 1961...



The premier provider of programs and services of the intellectually and developmentally disabled, in the Indian Wells Valley and surrounding communities of the Central Mojave Desert.

DART is a private, not-for-profit 501 (C) (3).

Fully CARF accredited, State of California Licensed.



- Information and Referral
- Full day Early Childhood Services, infant, toddler and preschool
- Full time adult employment training program
- Supported Living Services
- Transportation services for those enrolled
- Summer Autism Day Camp, "Artists On The Edge" program, After School Programs
- Over Fifty Five years of operations
- Thrift Store, Commercial Contracts
- Accepting referrals from the Kern Regional Center
- Document Destruction

dartontarget.org or call 760-375-9787

Se Habla Español





Bettman & Halpin come to Ridgecrest as part of the IWVCA season line up on Dec. 18.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Delphi Trio will dazzle with chamber music on Dec. 3 as part of the RCMS season.

formance on this year's schedule shows loud and clear the new direction IWVCA is going in. Their first show, on Nov. 13, is a Johnny Cash tribute band.

"It's the biggest redirection IWVCA has done," Tristan Kratz told the Daily Independent. "We have a lot of orchestras here in town, we have the chamber music. So IWVCA sat down and talked about what niche we could fill."

The IWVCA board passed out surveys to concert goers and reviewed opinions. They decided the niche they could fill in Ridgecrest's music scene would be to bring acts that play the music most of the concert growers grew up with. This IWVCA season will bring in a Johnny Cash tribute, a Beatles tribute, a John Denver tribute, as well as a couple traditional music groups.

In addition to bringing great music to Ridgecrest, IWVCA also brings great music education to the kids. Almost every performer that comes to town has it in their contract to also do a show for local elementary students. Many performers often change their routine, playing a more kid themed show and even holding question-and-answer time to help students learn more about music.

Kratz expressed great respect for IWVCA director Bob Covington because of his constant volunteering around town. Covington volunteers with Key Club, Kiwanis, and more, as well as being the director of IWVCA.

"That's how a lot of us were raised,

you get involved in the community," Kratz said. "But a lot of those organizations are dying because people don't seem to volunteer anymore, and that's how these things are run. It's all volunteer. So if you want, come see the shows, that's the biggest thing. We do bring some remarkable talent to this town. We're kind of unusual like that, that a town of this size has such a love for live performances, be it music or theater."

The IWVCA website at www.IWVCA.com can lead any interested parties through the process of finding tickets. Show entrance is available either by purchasing season tickets or purchasing tickets for individual shows.

Individual tickets are \$25, or \$22 for those who qualify for reduced rates (children, elders, military). Season tickets are available for \$80 to \$96 based on seating area, \$66 to \$82 reduced rates.

IWVCA 2017-2018 schedule:

- James Garner's Tribute to Johnny Cash (7:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at the PPAC);
- Spanish Brass (7:30 p.m. November 30 at the PPAC);
- Bettman & Halpin (7:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at the PPAC);
- Kit and the Kats (7:30 p.m. Jan. 23, 2018, at the PPAC);
- The Beatles Tribute (7:30 p.m. Feb. 1, 2018, at the PPAC);
- John Denver Musical Tribute (7:30 p.m. April 18, 2018, at the PPAC).



SEE SOME OF THE TECHNOLOGY THAT KEEPS US SAFE AND SECURE.

**Visit
Our
Works
of Art...
See the
Technology
That Keeps
You Safe at
Home!**



China Lake Museum

One Pearl Harbor Way (on Base)

China Lake, CA 93555

760-939-3530 • CALL FOR ACCESS

Soon To Be At Our New Address

130 E Las Flores • Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Operating Hours

Monday Through Saturday 10am to 4pm

Closed Sundays and Selected Holidays

www.chinalakemuseum.org

Member Agency #13086. United Way of Indian Wells Valley



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Felici Piano Trio returns on April 13, 2018, for the Ridgecrest Chamber Music Society season.

Ridgecrest Chamber Music Society

The Ridgecrest Chamber Music Society (RCMS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that brings professional chamber music groups to Ridgecrest. Their concerts are held at the Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church at 633 West Las Flores Avenue.

Ticket prices are \$25 for general ad-

mission, \$20 for seniors, and \$5 for students and active duty military. Tickets are available at Red Rock Books, Maturango Museum, or at the door. They also feature donors in their concert programs, with categories from Friend (\$25 donation) all the way up to Benefactor (\$2,000 or more).

Chamber music gets its name from the groups size, small enough to play in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ensemble 4.1 performs Jan. 29, 2018, as part of the RCMS 2017-18 season.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

See the Neave Trio perform March 4, 2018, with rich style.



HARDWARE • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL



**Come visit
our drive-thru
warehouse!**

**We're
celebrating our
53rd year in business.
Serving you since
1964**

ACE

Mon-Fri 7-6, Sat & Sun 8-5

**877-459-6237 (toll free) • 760-379-4631
4700 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella
www.lmlumber.com**



COURTESY OF DESERT COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Desert Community Orchestra conductor Robby Martinez returns to lead a new season.

a chamber or room. It differs from orchestral groups in that there's generally just one type of each represented instrument, rather than having multiple players of the same instrument. This

gives chamber music a more personal feel, as the audience feels each musician's contribution more vividly.

The RCMS website says, "The Ridgecrest Chamber Music Society promotes education and awareness of the genre of chamber music and provides opportunities for community members to experience music in our small desert city."

To this end, not only does RCMS hold four to six concerts every season, but they also a number of in school programs just for local students to experience professional chamber music and learn about art. Visit RCMS's website at www.rcchambermusic.org to learn more.

RCMS's remaining shows in the 2017-2018 season:

- Delphi Trio (4 p.m. Dec. 3 at Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church, 633 W. Las Flores Ave.);
- Ensemble 4.1 (7 p.m. Jan. 29, 2018, at Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church);
- Neave Trio (4 p.m. March 4, 2018, at Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church);
- Felici Piano Trio (7:30 p.m. April 13 Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church).

Desert Community Orchestra

The Desert Community Orchestra is a group of local musicians who play four concerts through their season, in addition to a concert for students. The range of their music varies from traditional classical orchestra music to light hearted sports music, like at their Pops Concert, which they played on Sept. 30.

DCO conductor Robby Martinez describes the music as "the classical arts with an American style." Conductor since 1994, Martinez is a music professor at Bakersfield College and has led a long career in music both as a musician and a conductor.

Though he's performed as DCO's conductor since 1994, he says many of DCO's musician have been in the orchestra longer than he has. While many of the other groups bring in out-of-town talent, DCO shows that this town's got a lot of talent too. They rehearse together every Tuesday evening at James Monroe Middle School's music room.

Visit desertcommunityorchestra.weebly.com to learn more. Season tickets are available for \$25. Tickets for indi-



**Home of the Famous
Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich**

1-760-384-4541

501 N. China Lake Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA

Historic... EWINGS

"A Fine Dining Experience"

Open 7 Days A Week
Breakfast 7-11am
Lunch 11am-4pm • Dinner 4-9pm

Come Join Us... Dining ♦ Drinks ♦ Views



Open Thanksgiving Day And Christmas Eve

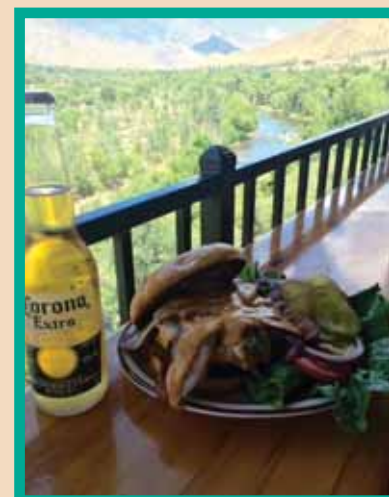
Banquet Facility • Private Parties
2 Fireplaces • 5 Large Screen TV's

Reservations accepted for parties
of six or more

760-376-2411

125 Buena Vista Dr Kernville

Featuring





Folias Flute and Guitar Duo will wrap up the Maturango Museum's concert series on June 8, 2018.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

individual shows are \$11, or \$9 senior pricing. Military in uniform or kids under 7 get in free. Tickets are available at the door or at Red Rock Books, 206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. DCO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and welcomes donations so that they can keep this great music playing in Ridgecrest.

DCO's remaining shows in the 2017-2018 season:

- "A Christmas in Ridgecrest," featuring performances by Suzuki Strings (7 p.m. Dec. 16 at the PPAC, 500 French Ave.);
- "A Classic Winter," featuring The Neave Piano Trio (7 p.m. March 3, 2018, at Ridgecrest Methodist Church, 639 N Norma St.);

- "A Touch of Class" featuring DCO's Young Artist soloist winners (7 p.m. May 5, 2018, at James Monroe Middle School, 340 W. Church Ave.).

Maturango Museum Concert Series

Maturango Museum has their hand in a lot of activities beyond simply being a fascinating educational resource on the history of the Indian Wells Valley. On top of leading Petroglyph tours, holding children's education hours, and highlighting local flora and fauna, Maturango also hosts their own concert series.

Fran Rogers told the Daily Independent that the Maturango Museum Concert Series generally hosts local musicians, and run about four to seven concerts per season. Because their focus is on local musicians rather than on a particular musical style, they're able to put on shows from a wide range of genres.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$5 for children ages 12 years and younger. Purchase tickets at the museum or online at shop.maturango.org/concerts. Concerts are held in the Coso Gallery of the museum itself at 100 E Las Flores Avenue.

Rogers said that the schedule shows concerts confirmed so far, but more may be added as the year goes

on. Connect with the museum through their website at maturango.org or by following the Maturango Museum Facebook page, which is updated regularly to show upcoming events.

Maturango Museum Concert Series schedule for 2017-2018:

- Fiddlin' Pete Watercott and Neil Gelvin on Guitar (7 p.m. October 27 at Maturango Museum);
- Music Teachers' Showcase (7:30 p.m. January 26, 2018, at Maturango Museum);
- Folias Flute and Guitar Duo (7 p.m. June 8, 2018, at Maturango Museum).

❖

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Ridgecrest **PETROGLYPH** *Festival*

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017 • RPFESTIVAL.COM

PRESENTED BY THE

PETROGLYPH EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Publication written and produced by Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

FREE Petroglyph Park Festival 2017

Sat. Nov. 4, Noon to 9:00 p.m. • Sun, Nov. 5, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

**MUSIC PERFORMANCES — SPEAKERS — VENDORS — WINE AND BEER GARDEN
FOR FREE TICKETS AND INFORMATION PLEASE CALL RACVB, 760-375-8202
CONSULT WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES, WWW.RPFESTIVAL.COM**

* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

The City of Ridgecrest will hold one of the largest Native American gatherings in Southern California during November's Native American Heritage Month. The fourth annual Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival celebrates the area's historic Native America petroglyph rock art November 4-5, 2017. Just over an hour north of Lancaster and east of Bakersfield, the region is home to over 100,000 petroglyphs – the vastest collection in the Western Hemisphere.

HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Petroglyph Festival Dinner Dance Presented by the IWV Optimist Club

Kerr McGee Center
100 E. California Avenue,
Ridgecrest, California 93555

FRIDAY Nov 3rd-Petroglyph Festival Weekend
Doors open and music begins 6:00 p.m. — Dinner
starts 7:00 p.m.

Full smoked tri-tip dinner with sides
Music by Station Street Band • Dancing

Tickets \$250 table of eight; \$55 couple; \$35 individual

All proceeds benefit IWV Optimist Youth Scholarship
Program.



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

Ridgecrest Petroglyph Honor-A-Veteran Car, Truck and Bike Show

Leroy Jackson Park

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Awards Presentation 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by RPFestival.com, RACVB.com, City of
Ridgecrest, Kern County, Ridgecrest Veterans Advisory
Council, Pleistocene Foundation, Dead Owls,
RodsWest and Muscle Mustangs of Ridgecrest

BLM Burro and Horse Facility



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

Red Rock Books

206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Saturday and Sunday, all day buy-1-get-1-free sale on
all used books

Multi-author book signing Saturday 12 noon to 3:00
p.m. featuring fiction authors whose books take place
in the high desert: Jenny Andersen (*Burn in the West-
ern Heroes series*) and Cal Stevens (*The Swan of
Tuonela: A Life in the California Desert*).

Door prize: Ticket to the Tuesday, December 5 Dickens
Tea at My Enchanted Cottage, donated by Ridge Writ-
ers, East Sierra Branch of the 108-year-old California
Writers Club.

Located in one of the historic buildings in Ridgecrest's
Old Town, Red Rock Books offers new and used
books, magazines, and other items not found else-
where in the Indian Wells Valley. Hours of Operation:
Monday – Saturday 10 to 7, Sunday 11-5
(www.redrockbooks.net; 760-375-3454).

Performances in the Park*

— Both Native American and local performers in a vari-
ety of musical styles

— DDAT, RED FUSION, THE WHATEVERS, STATION
STREET

— Terry Goedel, traditional hoop dancer, back by en-
thusiastic demand



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

Maturango Museum

100 E. Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Don McCauley Exhibit
“Coso Rock Art Expressions”
Opening Reception Friday,
November 3, 7:00 p.m.
This exhibit will continue at the museum until
December 31, 2017.
(www.maturango.org; 760-375-6900)

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. 62nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show

Desert Empire Fairgrounds
November 4-5, 2017 - 9a.m.-5p.m.

Free Admission
Geodes, Exhibits, Donation Prizes, Field Trips, Jewelry
IWG&MS a Non-Profit Organization

Ridgecrest's Petroglyph History

Several Ridgecrest resident joined forces, starting with the gem of an idea proposed in 2007 by Meris Lueck, wife of Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) Executive Director, Doug Lueck. She had read a Country Magazine article about the Barn Quilts of Grundy Project in Iowa, an initiative for painting quilt patterns on old tobacco barns as a means of drawing motorists off the new highway that bypassed their town. Already a petroglyph fan who had painted the ancient patterns on her backyard fence, she immediately saw the possibilities. A spinoff on the Grundy model could lead to various artists placing rock art motifs in Ridgecrest, linked by a drivable tour.

She could foresee school field trips and maybe bus tours. She, husband Doug, and Harris Brokke, director of Maturango Museum, became a committee named the Ridgecrest Rock Art Tour. After visiting the Tehachapi Mural Project across the Sierra Nevada for inspiration, they presented the concept to the Arts Council in April 2008. Mayor Dan Clark got behind them enthusiastically. The Arts Council endorsed them.

The committee began to work with local artists, arranging in June 2008 for Olaf Doud to chip petroglyph designs into a boulder provided by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Today it sits in front of the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert (HSUMD) headquarters on West Ridgecrest Boulevard. Then Doud went next door to do his magic on the existing boulder at the Health Department. In September 2009, he did two boulders for a City Sculpture Garden at Ridgecrest City Hall. Meanwhile, Scott Sayre included a petroglyph picture for his mural inside the HSUMD building; Maturango Museum had full-sized petroglyphs in their garden; and sculptor Skip Gorman placed pieces at several Ridgecrest locations.

The committee had grown by 2011. In 2013, with an eye on expansion plans for Leroy Jackson Park, Doug Lueck and Harris Brokke approached the county about including petroglyph art. County Supervisor Mick Gleason agreed. For the "Petroglyph Challenge," Nick Null volunteered his services to paint designs on businesses and storefronts in exchange for donations to the Animal Shelter. When organizations had rock drawings painted on their walls, the RACVB listed them in guides and other publications.

By November 14-15, 2014, Ridgecrest had expanded the petroglyph theme into a full-scale event. Groupon listed the first Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival as one of the 10 most unique autumn festivals in the country, and attendance exceeded expecta-



RACVB Staff Photo

tions. The crowd numbered easily 10,000, with arrivals not only from all over California and the US, but also Russia and France. Among the highlights, the city opened and dedicated the long-awaited Petroglyph Park, with pieces by Olaf Doud.

The following year, petroglyphic median art cropped up on China Lake Boulevard and with one more on Ridgecrest Boulevard.

In 2016, Don McCauley's Public Petroglyph Paintings appeared on service boxes, with subjects such as "Coso Family Welcome" and "Medicine Woman Healing." In "Bighorn Sheepdog Training" at South China Lake Blvd and California Avenue at the entrance to Kerr McGee Community Center, McCauley comments, "Here we find graphic humor with sheepdogs in training, all excited by the bighorn sheep jumping petroglyph canyon walls above them." The depiction at the Downs and Drummond intersection, "Coso Stolics," takes off on Grant Wood's "American Gothic." The figures, like Wood's man and woman in the famous masterpiece, "with all their strengths and weakness, represent survivors."

From a few boulders on West Ridgecrest Boulevard to paintings on the walls of buildings to a festival, a new park, median art, and service boxes, Meris Lueck's gem of an idea has more than come to fruition. Anyone can guess what the future may hold. Rock on!

Step Back into Long Ago:

What are the Petroglyphs?

Standing vigil as they have since time immemorial, the petroglyphs of California's Coso Range represent the richest collection of Native American rock art in the Western Hemisphere. The Coso Mountains rise to an altitude of about 5,000 feet from a remote area between Death Valley and the Sierra Nevada, where the Mojave and Great Basin deserts converge. The largest concentration occupies two canyons, Black Canyon (or Big Petroglyph Canyon) and Renegade Canyon (or Little Petroglyph Canyon). Many thousands upon many thousands of these

petroglyphs remain three hours northeast of Los Angeles in secluded canyons, gorges, and plateaus of the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS). These awe-inspiring examples of narrative and spiritual artistry sit safely within the confines of the base.

Perhaps as early as 16,000 years ago and as recently as the 1800s (and the rare instance, 1900s) – from Paleoindian times to essentially the present – hunter-gatherers carved, engraved, pecked, and abraded designs in the basalt boulders and cliff walls. These creators achieved the striking effect by using their tools to remove the dark outer layer of varnish, or patina, primarily manganese, that coats the rocks, exposing the lighter surface underneath. They left images of bighorn sheep, snakes, lizards, and the animals that populated their lives, anthropomorphic beings with bird heads and other features, shamen, weapons such as bows and arrows, atlatls (spear-throwers), spirals, circles, and various motifs. Opinions contrast as to the purposes intended for the art, perhaps as tokens of hunting magic, symbols commemorating vision quests, depictions of rituals and rites of passage, boundaries to set off territories and clans, efforts to improve the abundance of game and

success of a hunting expedition, and stories to transmit traditions and lore. The occasional unexpected cowboy, vehicle, and even “E-MC square” clearly have their roots in the last century or so.

The Navy established residence in 1943, initially cutting off public access. The Navy has since eased restrictions. Later, the site became the Coso Rock Art National Historic Landmark. “NHL” is the federal government's highest designation to identify and preserve significant historic and prehistoric places. National Historic Land-

marks are controlled and regulated by federal law. The landmark was dedicated jointly by the Navy and the National Park Service in 2005.

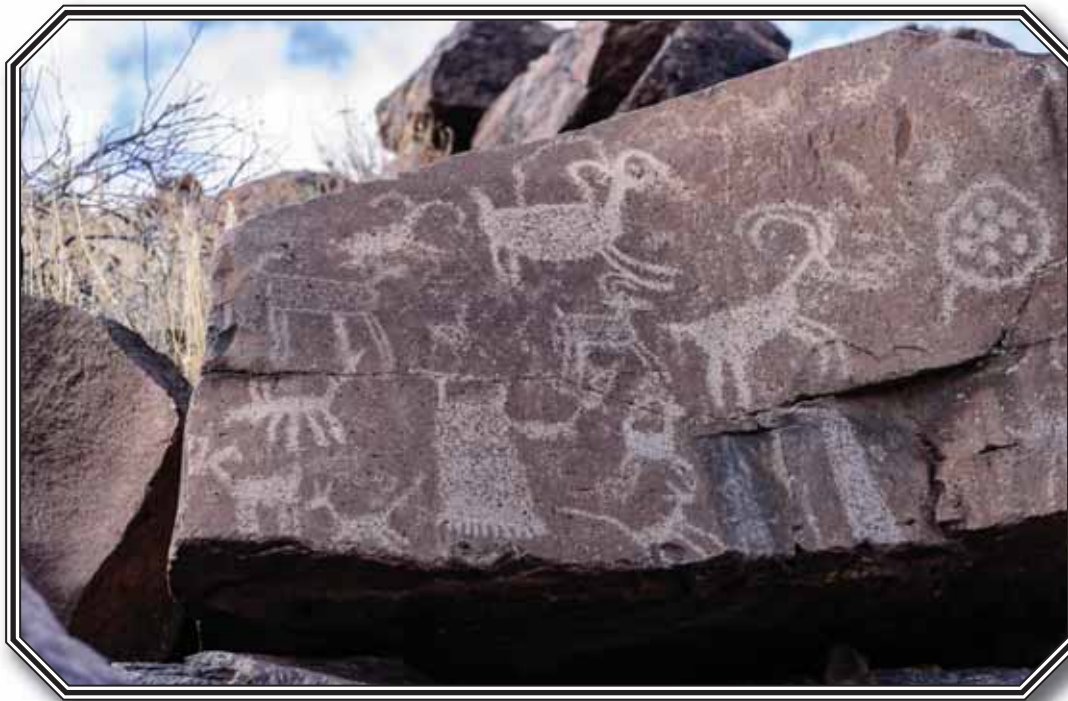
Today, the public can visit Little Petroglyph Canyon by arrangement through Maturango Museum (www.maturango.org/petroglyph-tours/) on limited days, and must apply in advance. Tours, conducted exclusively by Navy-approved guides, fill up quickly.

You owe it to yourself to see the petroglyphs, but you won't drive up and breeze in. Both because of their location on military

property and also to safeguard these priceless treasures, visitors must give their full names and vital statistics; show photo IDs on arrival; and allow inspection of their vehicles and belongings if requested. Participants stay with the group, with their binoculars and cameras locked up until pulling into the canyon's parking lot. Do you get the impression that everything is fully protected, from bits of artifacts to obsidian chips, to vegetation, critters scurrying about, and art?

Yet the prize more than justifies the pesky logistics. A sort of outdoor-in-the-raw gallery. Breathtaking. Overwhelming. Eye-popping. And very, very old.

Photo by: Cheryl McDonald



The Petroglyphs Artists, ancient and modern

The ancient artists

As far back as Paleoindian times, the hunter-gatherer people who inhabited this region recorded their voices on stone. They employed both petroglyphs and pictographs, although chiefly petroglyphs created by cutting into rock. Pictographs rely on paint or dry pigments.

Three pictographs await the intrepid seekers in sheltered locations in Little Petroglyph Canyon.

Artist Don McCauley observes, "Our Coso Paleo Native Americans had our brain power. Their ancient expressions in rock are evidence they too



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

hoped to bring some order to the otherwise chaos of human record." Gifted champions of their culture have spoken through the ages by chipping images in basalt rock. Contemporary artists Milton K. Burford, Olaf Doud, Skip Gorman, Don McCauley, Nick Null, and Mike Youngblood have heard them loud and clear.

Milton K. Burford

Milt Burford graduated 1962 in Mechanical Engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy. His career at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, spanned 37 years, where he held positions as a project engineer, program manager, head of two divisions, head of two departments, and retired in 1998 as Director of Corporate Operations.

His metal work began with the development and construction of custom-made knives, followed by the design and fabrication of silver jewelry after the Hopi Indian style. In 2003, he began designing and building steel silhouette statues. His concentration in this area has been in replicating the petroglyph art found in the Coso Mountain region on the North Ranges at China Lake.

He has donated his steel art for placement on Maturango Museum grounds, for sale at their auctions and other events, to generate operating revenue, and for use as awards to deserving volunteers. Presently the museum has situated on their property, and sold at their auctions or to Kern County, over 40 such statues. Over 30 statues of various sizes up to over 10 feet in height are currently on public display around Ridgecrest including the median art piece "The Cat and the Kittens."

Olaf Doud

Olaf Doud has chalked, flaked, and shaped art for over 30 years. He uses rock, clay, and local petroglyph designs. He makes bookends and other objects from the rock and double-matted, framed wall hangings from the clay. He was known for his petroglyphic interpretations when the RACVB (Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau) recruited him to help launch the city's then-new petroglyph public art project. He chipped a boulder in front of the Historic USO Building on West Ridgecrest Boulevard, unleashing a force of nature. The idea took off. Since then, he has created the series of petroglyph rock art for Ridgecrest's Petroglyph Park between China Lake Boulevard and Leroy Jackson Park.



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

Describing his process, he has explained, "First, I find the image that I want from the Rock Art Drawings of the Coso Range, a book by Campbell Grant, James W. Baird and J. Kenneth Pringle. I try to copy them. I can't copy them exactly because I'm making them larger. Once I have the image, I'll chalk it in, then I chip. Once I get the outline there, then I'll chip in the circles."

J.P. "Skip" Gorman

A Vietnam veteran and a retired electronics engineer, "Skip" Gorman took up metal art after putting in a full career at the Naval Air Weapons Center, China Lake. He owns and operates "J. P. Gorman LLC" in Ridgecrest. The sheet metal and welding shop specializes in large metal art often utilizing recycled material. He tries to keep regular working hours there and welcomes visitors. His pieces include the "cliff goats" around town and the petroglyph tribute "Hunting Magic" stationed outside the Ridgecrest Area Convention & Visitors Bureau on China Lake Boulevard, and his unique works constructed from horseshoes have earned high praise from a growing legion of fans. Ingenious as only a true visionary could be, at the invitation of the Ridge Project, he even devised a fitting to keep ravens from plaguing the trash receptacles on Balsam Street. He came up with a fowl-detering tube attached to a lid with – what else? – petroglyphs carved on it. He also writes a weekly editorial in the local newspaper, the Daily Independent.

The Petroglyphs Artists, ancient and modern

Don McCauley

Don McCauley's exhibit "Coso Rock Art Expressions" opens with a reception at Maturango Museum on Friday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. He cites for inspiration the "nearby Paleo Native American Coso petroglyphs found in the Coso Mountains 30 miles north of Ridgecrest" as well as desert adventure his children had.



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

His art further beautifies much of Ridgecrest on sidewalks and at intersections. "Prior to our Second Annual Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival in 2015," he reflects, "my wife Judy and I were asked by Meris and Doug Lueck to spruce up and paint petroglyphs on the 10 Ridgecrest City service boxes. At first I balked at their suggestion, since I hadn't painted for 33 years. But my kids said, 'Dad, it'd be great to give back to the city.'"

He adds, "If there's one takeaway from this exhibit, I'd like it to be An Art Making Process I often use in painting: Choose an experience, or it chooses you, either real or imagined. Have an emotional reaction to that experience. Think about your emotions and form a viewpoint. Everyone, artist or not, creates viewpoints. The artist however takes the viewpoint forward two more steps: The artist gives time, energy, desire and persistence, finding what is expressible about this specific viewpoint. Having found what is expressible, the artist expresses it in dance, painting, poetry, sculpture, writing, acting, music, etc."

"Coso Rock Art Expressions" continues until December 31.

Nick Null

Early on when Ridgecrest first decided to celebrate Native American rock art heritage, and RACVB approached Nick Null to decorate community buildings with petroglyph-style line drawings. He generously agreed to paint the figures on any structure in town in exchange for donations to the Animal Shelter. As his work gained in popularity, his authentic Indian-Wells-Valley-inspired interpretations went up all over.



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

Gladys Merrick Garden at Maturango Museum

Thanks to a grant from the Indian Wells Valley Water District, the museum has planted xerriscape garden of both native and nonnative vegetation. Scattered throughout, sculptural pieces grace the landscaping. Milt Burford fashioned large metal shamen and sheep based on petroglyphic iconography. Mike Youngblood made others of the shamen.

Ridgecrest's Median Art



RACVB Staff Photo

You can hardly miss the display of evocative and in spots whimsical black metal art that runs down the center of China Like Boulevard and one onto Ridgecrest Boulevard.

Contributing artists: Milton K. Burford, Olaf Doud, and "Skip" Gorman. John and Suzette Caufield did the cut steel

petroglyphic additions to some of the Olaf Doud median art for the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital.



RACVB Staff Photo

Petroglyph Park

A new generation of petroglyphs occupy the roughly 12-acre field near Leroy Jackson Park. The park facilitates self-guided tours of petroglyph history for visitors unable to see the originals at Little Petroglyph Canyons. The pieces take three forms: petroglyphs (petroglyph meaning carving in rock), pictographs (paintings), and geoglyphs (rock alignments).

Olaf Doud developed the rock art tribute for the inaugural Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival in 2014, employing hand-picked stone and, primarily, tools consistent with those the Ancient Ones used. He chalked and chipped representations based on Coso petroglyphs, giving on-site public demonstrations. Thunderbird. Shaman. Spiral. So much more. With the overall plan to have 31 boulders over time, he aimed for and finished about half by the November ribbon-cutting.

Steel statues by Milt Burford accompany the rock art, as do a series of instructive markers, walking path, and an abundance of brilliantly-colored blooms during wildflower season.



RACVB Staff Photo

SPEAKERS

at Maturango Museum in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery
100 E. Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Presented by the Ridgecrest Petroglyph Education Foundation

Saturday, November 4, 2017

10:00 a.m. "Buffalo Man," Rod Blankenship, about the importance of the buffalo in the daily lives of Native Americans.

11:00 a.m. "Big Horn Sheep," Mark C. Jorgansen, looks at the desert big horn sheep and the ecological and management issues affecting them and their habitat.

12 noon. "The Discovery of the Coso Petroglyphs," Alexander "Sandy" Rogers, archaeological curator, Maturango Museum.

1:00 p.m. "Nuui Cunni (Our House) Native American Intertribal Culture, Visitor's Center and Museum," Patricia Henry, Eric Stockton, and ladies, demonstrating Clapstick and Pine Needle Basket Making.

2:00 p.m. "Reptiles of the Desert and Snake Hunters," Bob Parker, reptile specialist, Maturango Museum.

3:00 p.m. "Pictures of Our World and Demonstrations," George Gholson, Chairman, and Spike Jackson, Environmental Director, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.

4:00 p.m. "La Rumorosa Rock Art along the Border," Don Liponi, Ph.D., author and photographer, book signing.

5:00 p.m. "Talking Stone," video with Dr. Alan Gold, author and filmmaker of Coso rock art fame.

Sunday, November 5, 2017

12 noon. "Buffalo Man," Rod Blankenship, about the importance of the buffalo in the daily lives of Native Americans.

1:00 p.m. "Nuui Cunni (Our House) Native American Intertribal Culture, Visitor's Center and Museum," Patricia Henry, Eric Stockton, and ladies, demonstrating Clapstick and Pine Needle Basket Making.

2:00 p.m. "tubatulabal, Our History in the Kern River Valley," Betsy Johnson and Tina Guerrero, tubatulabal tribe members.

3:00 p.m. "Archaeoastronomy – The Investigation of the Astronomical Knowledge of Prehistoric Cultures," Christine Clarkson.

4:00 p.m. "La Rumorosa Rock Art along the Border," Don Liponi, Ph.D., author and photographer, book signing.

Later this year – on Saturdays, November 11 and December 2 – Maturango Museum Archaeology Curator and Archaeologist Alexander "Sandy" Rogers will lecture on the Coso Petroglyphs. These lectures are free to the public and will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery. Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Lectures are designed for those who have taken or will take a petroglyph tour through the Museum.

In addition to the exhibit galleries, which spotlight the Upper Mojave Desert, Maturango Museum sponsors many programs, field trips such as to wildflowers seasonally and Death Valley, and tours, including tours to the world-famous Coso petroglyphs. The museum is an information center for Death Valley, the Northern Mojave Desert, and the Highway 395 and 178 corridors. Admission is free to the gift shop and information area. The mission: To preserve, interpret, and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert through research and education in the natural and physical sciences, and to promote the arts (maturango.org; 760-375-6900).



Photo by: Cheryl McDonald

THE PETROGLYPH TOURS

Tours of the petroglyphs are available through Ridgecrest's Maturango Museum (100 E. Las Flores Avenue; 760-375-6900). Visitors interested in participating are urged to make reservations immediately. Owing to high demand, these excursions have consistently filled to capacity.

For the Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival tours, go to www.maturango.org/rpfestival. Look mid-page for "Petroglyph Festival Information & Tickets." At other times during the year, Maturango Museum sponsors tours during the spring and autumn, and announces individual dates on www.maturango.org/petroglyph-tours/. For these, download, complete, and sign the five-page Application for Petroglyph Tour. The Navy's Department of Security requires this form from every person age 18 and over going on a Petroglyph Tour on the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake. The document basically requests a temporary permit to NAWS during the day of the petroglyph tour.

School and other special tours can be arranged under certain circumstances, by contacting Linda Saholt at the museum, 760-375-6900, or emailing through the website.

Getting There:

The drive from the front gate of China Lake to the petroglyphs measures 45 miles one way – and you can do the math – 90 round trip. It traverses a paved road, except for concluding in a final five miles of graded dirt road. En route to the canyon, pass through relatively pristine desert and a Joshua tree forest, and cross the playa of the ancient China Lake, dating to the last glacial maximum of about 19,000 years ago. The lake once held water, and mammoth bones and fossils remain.

Little Petroglyph Canyon itself stretches longer than a mile. Prepare to hike and to do some strenuous walking over loose sand and rocks, as well as boulder-scrambling,

The parking lot has toilet and picnic facilities, but the canyon does not.

Because the tour is on an active Navy base, all persons must follow Navy rules.

For the 2017 Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival Only:

These are modified versions of the Maturango Museum's normally offered tour. You will be travelling in a multi-passenger van, no personal vehicles. Plan on four hours – two travel time and two in the canyon. Docents will be on hand in the canyon to answer questions. All information is required by the Navy, is for official use, and is Privacy Sensitive.

Tours are limited to 30 people per tour. Tickets are \$45 each.

CAUTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

Tour Rules:

- Stringent security measures apply in order to protect this extraordinary heritage site.
- All visitors must be US citizens.
- All visitors must be over 10 years of age.
- No pets.
- Visitors must be in good physical condition.
- Be alert for venomous snakes. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- The petroglyphs are in a desert mountain canyon. The ground is irregular sand and rock, temperatures are extremely variable, and water is essential.
- Carry out all trash.
- Dress appropriately, no open-toed shoes.
- Step carefully. Tripods, walking sticks, and even sand on soles can damage fragile designs.
- Do not write on or deface the grounds in any way, or anything on them. Photograph or sketch only.
- Photography and binoculars are strictly forbidden prior to arrival at the petroglyph canyon parking lot, and upon leaving.
- Smoking, a fire hazard in the canyon, is not allowed. In addition, remember that many Native Americans venerate these surroundings as sacred.
- Bring required documents including valid vehicle registration and insurance. Assume that your vehicle will be inspected on the base.
- All personnel entering a military installation are subject to searches and prohibited items, such as alcohol, marijuana (even with medical card), fire arms, ammunition, and similar items, will be cause for denial of entry.

PETROGLYPH EVENT MAP - NOVEMBER 4-5, 2017





ARNOLD REINHOLD VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A freight train moves through the Tehachapi Loop. The loop was a great feat of engineering when it opened in 1876, as it allowed trains to climb the Tehachapi pass, which would have been too steep without the loop to lengthen the distance to make the climb.

Get your train sightseeing on track at the Tehachapi Loop

BY JACK BARNWELL
The Daily Independent

On the ground, one might see nothing more than an oddly-shaped if well-built railway as it twists.

Seen from a higher elevation, and train fans might come to see the Tehachapi Loop as a rare feat of railway engineering, as it forms a circle at its center before continuing outward at either direction of the Tehachapi Pass.

Built in 1876 by Southern Pacific Railroad, the helix-shaped track connects Bakersfield and the Central Valley to Mojave in East Kern County. The loop

was the creation of chief engineer William Hood and took two years to build.

For 120 years, the loop was owned by Southern Pacific until it came under ownership of Union Pacific when two companies merged in 1996. Today only freight trains operate on the loop itself, which has been the case for decades (Amtrak customers typically must use motorcoaches to connect between Bakersfield and Los Angeles). When Amtrak was chartered in 1971, the passenger trains stopped becoming a regular occurrence.

Considered one of the most marvelous engineering feats of its day, the loop was designated the 508th Californian Historical Landmark in 1953, and earned the National Historic Engineering Landmark in 1998.



JOHNWAYNE STROUD VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The plaque designating the Tehachapi Loop as California Historical Landmark No. 508.



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Double-stacked train cars move through the Tehachapi Loop.

From a vantage point, sightseers and railfans can witness the loop take the gradual slope up around the hill, circle around and the enter through Tunnel 9 (the ninth tunnel built on the project from Bakersfield). Trains that are longer than 4,000 feet cross over themselves while on the loop.

It would have likely thrown most engineers in the 19th century for a loop (pun intended), but the design eased the stress of trains traveling from Bakersfield. It stretches nearly three-quarters of a mile and climbs on a 2-percent grade at an elevation change of 77 feet.

Like many rail projects of the day, construction of the loop used two things: dynamite and hard work, largely consisting of Chinese laborers (more than 3,000 people worked on the Tehachapi Loop). Hood utilized cut-and-fill methods to push the rail to fruition over the two years to keep the helix-shaped overpass and tunnel at a consistent grade.

Some of the best views are seen if you take Highway 58 west. To get a bit closer, if you're coming from Ridgecrest toward Bakersfield, take the exit at Keene, about two and a half miles west of the Loop, and then backtrack north along Woodford-Tehachapi Road. Travel a short bit and the road will connect with the tracks. There should be some spots available nearby for people to witness as trains utilize the loop or go over it.

The Tehachapi area itself, like a lot of East Kern, is a center for railway history. The Depot in Tehachapi, at 101 W. Tehachapi Blvd, houses the local museum dedicated to area rail history. Operated by the volunteer group Friends of the Depot, the museum holds exhibits, visual graphics and mementos of the area's train history, and it sits beside the Union Pacific line. The museum is currently open Thursday-Monday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, though donations are always appreciated.

The Friends of the Depot typically hold monthly meetings that include guest speakers and are a good source of where to go for rail-related information.

While in Tehachapi, one might as well take advantage of some of the restaurants in the area. Among the top of the list, if a little on the pricer side, is Kohnen's Bakery, a delightfully German-style bakeshop and restaurant located at 125 W. Tehachapi Blvd., right next door to The Depot. Kohnen's features a lovely outdoor patio and rustic, classic open indoor setting.

Its desserts make the mouth water, from pretzels to the custard-filled eclairs, not to mention 20 different artisan breads (the sun dried tomato is an excellent must, as is the pizza bread).

FPS
Auto Registration
Service
No Waiting in Line
Licensed and bonded by DMV
Renewals • Transfers
Lost Title • Vin Verification • Etc.

20725 South St. STE 12
Tehachapi, CA 93561
www.tehachapiautoregistrationfps.com
fpsautoreg@gmail.com
661-823-4278

Susan & Diane

CROSSROADS
MINI MART

- Self-Service Gas
- Diesel Fuel
- Hot & Cold Drinks / Beer
- Deli Sandwiches
- Hunting, Fishing Licenses
- Boat Permits

155 & Lake Isabella Blvd
Lake Isabella



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Tehachapi Loop is seen from the northeast in this aerial photo.

Kohnen's soups that are something to sing about, and it's soup season at the bakery. From October to May, Kohnen's makes soups that differ by the day. Sometimes the demand outpaces the supply.

Sandwiches on the menu are another delectable treat. The signature Po' Boy, which serves two people, comes served on shepherd's loaf and piled with roast beef, black forest ham, turkey break, swiss, provolone, cheddar, lettuce, tomato, red onion and a choice of mayo or mustard. Want a panini?

There are a few options, but this article's writer always made it a point to order the Cubano when he lived in Tehachapi. We're talking roasted pork, turkey and swiss, spread with grain mustard and dill slices all on a Cuban roll.

Ridgecrest railfans and train enthusiasts looking to see things closer to home can take a quick jaunt out to Mojave and the Mojave Transportation Museum. There, visitors can witness not only the transportation system that helped push the United States forward, but witness the innovations of aviation and eventually commercial space travel.

Mojave Transportation Museum hosts the monthly event Plane Crazy, which highlights Mojave's history and activity as a transportation hub. The event is typically held at Mojave Air and Space Port on the third Saturday of the month. While the event has a heavily aeronautical event, the museum also looks at the area's locomotive past. For more information visit <http://mojavemuseum.org/> or call 661-824-248 Monday through

Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And for train enthusiasts locally, or parents who want to expose their little ones, Ridgecrest is home to the Eastern Sierra Railroad Society, located at the Desert Empire Fair-

grounds, 520 South Richmond Road. The railroad society meets Thursdays 5-8 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and are open during most fairground events.❖



FARMERS
INSURANCE
(760) 446-4560
1281 N. Norma St.
Ridgecrest, CA. 93555
CA Lic #0G05847



**baskin
robbins**
501 N. China Lake Blvd.
1-760-384-3131

Things to do in fall in Inyo

BY JACK BARNWELL
The Daily Independent

The Eastern Sierra Nevada is home to a plethora of activities for all seasons and all interests. From camping to touring historical landmarks, Kern County's northern neighbor county has always been a go-to place for recreation and to cool down as summer hits us. Now that fall is here, the season is shifting for different events.

Here are a few things that people can check out on their days off or for a vacation close to home.

Lone Pine Museum of Film

Lone Pine and the movie industry have a long, intertwined history and the Lone Pine Museum of Western Film History documents the glitz and glamour of from Hollywood's early days to the film that launched the Marvel Cinematic Universe saga.

Home to an extensive collection of real movie costumes, movie cars, props posters and more, "this collection tells the story of filming in the area in and around Lone Pine from the early days of the Round Up to the modern blockbusters of today such as Iron Man."

Inyo County itself remains a favorite Hollywood filming destination, as it offers wide range of landscapes and terrain, from the Alabama Hills to Owens Lake to the desert landscape of Death Valley National Park. More than 400 movies have been filmed in the Alabama Hills just west of Lone Pine.

Winter hours for the museum, located at 701 S. Main Street in Lone Pine, are Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is a \$5 donation for adults, and free for children under 12 years old, enlisted military members and museum members.

Visit the museum online at www.lonepinefilmhistorymuseum.org for more information.

Whitney Portal, Mount Whitney



JESSICA WESTON
/DAILY INDEPENDENT
FILE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Cut-outs of the Lone Ranger and Tonto at the Museum of Western Film History in Lone Pine in 2016.

LEFT: Film posters line the wall celebrating the western movie genre that has helped define Lone Pine's film history.



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The trailhead for the Mount Whitney Trail at Whitney Portal.

Whitney Portal is home to a popular camping site and scenic site in Inyo County. Just 14 miles west of Lone Pine, Whitney Portal starts visitors on the journey to the highest point in the Lower 48 at Mt. Whitney. The portal itself sits at 8,374 feet above sea level.

Arriving at the Portal, travelers will find a host of services, including a restaurant, hiking paths campgrounds. Whitney Portal is surrounded by gorgeous granite mountains

If you're heading up there for a day trip or hiking adventure, remember to take some extra water and contact plans.

Death Valley National Park

Inyo County is home to Death Valley National Park, a popular destination for both Indian Wells Valley residents and European visitors who make a trek to it every year. While most of the area is designated wilderness, and consid-

**S&M
COINS &
COLLECTIBLES**
Steve & Marnie Dobbs
Owners
10% Military Discount
760.384.1709
216 Balsam St.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**For All of Your
Automotive Needs**

Rusty
**WARREN'S
AUTOMOTIVE**
KEEPING YOU
ON THE ROAD SINCE 1982!

(760) 375-4123
501 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The view from Whitney Portal Road on the way to Whitney Portal and the trailhead for the eastern climb on Mt. Whitney.



Look differently.

NEW breast cancer screening technology for detection in women with dense breasts.

Now at Women's Imaging Center, the Invenia™ ABUS (Automated Breast Ultrasound System) improves cancer detection by 35% over mammography in women with dense breasts. Using 3D ultrasound, it looks at dense breasts differently to find cancer that mammography may not see. It's relatively comfortable, and it doesn't expose you to any additional radiation. The result: More confidence and peace of mind for you.

Call the Women's Imaging Center at 760.499.3820 to learn how only the GE Invenia ABUS can give you the definitive answers you need.



ered the hottest, driest part of the United States, life abounds in the area.

Visit Death Valley Junction, less than 10 miles from the Nevada state line and the home of the Amargosa Opera House.

The Amargosa Opera House and Hotel houses one of the most rich performing arts histories in California and the Eastern Sierra Nevada area. From 1968 until 2012, the late and legendary Marta Becket staged mime and dance shows that drew



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

Sea level near Furnace Creek. The bottom of Death Valley is 232 feet lower.



ABOVE: View of the dunes looking toward Nevada.
BELOW: The road to Zabriskie Point.

VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

hundreds. Becket died in January 2017, but left behind an enduring legacy that still continues.

The Opera House's ballet season is just getting underway, which started Oct. 20-21 with a weekend of events celebrating the life of Marta Becket, including a night of dance and pantomime by Hilda Vazquez, Becket's protege, on Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. and a Q&A session on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. presented by Emmy Award winning director Tod Robinson following a screening of his documentary "Amar-gosa."

Vasquez will continue performing Becket's ballets and pantomimes every Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. through May 2018. Tickets for the show are \$20. Additional shows include Harmony Handbells in December with a date to be determined and Nanuke and the Apologies on March 4, 2018.

The opera house and hotel are open year-round for visitors, but travelers should make arrangements like hav-



ing a full gas tank or plan to make a pit stop before or after visiting. The nearest gas station is 30 miles away in Furnace Creek.

Death Valley Junction is approximately two hours 45 minutes (150 miles) from Ridgecrest by way of State Route 190. Just take Highway 178 and Trona Wildrose Road east, hit the 190 east and turn onto State Route 127 south.

Visit <http://www.amargosa-opera-house.com> or call 760-852-4441 for more information.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT Watering Restrictions per Ordinance 103

	Days	Hours	Months
Even Addresses	Tue, Thu, Sat	8 pm - 8 am	April 1 - Oct 31
Odd Addresses	Wed, Fri, Sun		
Even Addresses	Sat Only	Anytime	Nov 1 - Feb 28
Odd Addresses	Sun Only		
ALL Addresses	In March, transition from the anytime hours schedule to the 8pm to 8am schedule above		
ALL Addresses	No watering on Mondays		
ALL Addresses	Excessive water runoff onto pavement is prohibited		
ALL Addresses	No watering within 48 hours of rainfall		

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP YOUR TREES WATERED!!!



Questions?
Call Or Visit
(760) 375-5086
www.iwvwd.com



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

View of Death Valley from Hell's Gate.

Toni Rae Caraker
www.libertytax.com 13359
 Smart # 661-771-3238

UNDERWAY
 TS 2018 (TY2017)
CALL FOR HOURS
 Interested in Tax School?
CALL NOW



**LIBERTY
TAX
SERVICE®**

**979 W. Valley Blvd., Units 2 & 3
 Tehachapi, CA 93561**
Phone: (661) 822-0660 & 822-7513
Cell: (661) 428-3601 • Fax: (661) 822-7511
toni.caraker@yahoo.com

FPS
**Vin Verification and
 Process Serving**

Licensed and bonded by DMV
**DMV Services • Vin Check
 Notary • Process Server
 MOBILE SERVICE**

20725 South St. STE 12
 Tehachapi, CA 93561
DIANE FERNANDEZ - OWNER
 dianesvincheck@gmail.com
661-236-4903

A 40 minute drive away is Tecopa Hot Springs Resort, home to the name-sake natural hot springs. The springs are available at \$8 a day per person. The resort has two private soaking tubs in its bath house, where guests can soak from 5 to 30 minutes in waters between 101 and 104 degrees. The water is pumped in from the nearby natural springs. The resort's motel building has an additional three tubs.

The resort also offers a motel and dry and full up campsites with nightly and weekly rates, and a monthly RV rate of \$300, as well as lodging cabins. Reservations are highly recommended. For more information call 760-852-4420 or email reservation@tecopahotsprings.org.

From Ridgecrest, people can take either State Route 190 by way of Highway 178 east and Trona Wildrose Road, turn right on to Furnace Creek Road (make sure to gas up there if needed) and then head onto State Route 127 south. Or you can take Interstate 15 via U.S. 395 and Highway 58, and then head north from the I-15 to State Route 127. ❖



Residents enter the court of the queen during a previous California City Renaissance and Fantasy Festival.

COURTESY PHOTO

California City Renaissance Faire is Oct. 21

Come journey to the past with us for California City's 15th Renaissance and Fantasy Faire! October 21 and 22 will see Central Park transformed into Elizabethan England, as the Queen and her court from the Guild of St. Marie rolls into town, along with peddlers, jugglers, swordsmen, a blacksmith, hearty food, tempting tarts and a tavern! Free entrance to the High Desert Model Train Show in the building with paid admissions. The Faire opens on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 11 a.m.; admission is \$8 for adults, children 12 and under get in free, military and seniors are \$5. Tickets are available through Facebook. This is a pet-friendly event for the first time ever! Call 760-373-3530 for more information.

Confirmed vendors and entertainment include the following new entertainment: New Tribal Beats Dancing and Drummers, Her Majesty's Minstrel Cycle, Gallows Humor. Returning performers are Clan Mac Gowan, Port of the Black Sail, Blacksmith Chema, Cutthroat Reef, Juggler Adam Reed and Guild of the Common Chaps Bookshop, and Tomahawk throwing. New this year is Nippers' Cove children's games.

Hearty food new to this years' fair includes Pit Master's Outdoor BBQ & Kettle Corn. Returning is the famous Tempting Tarts with Rum Balls, shortbread, and tarts. Hearthstone Scottish/Celtic food: meat pies, sausage rolls, bangers and mash, roasted nuts. Boars Head Inn: Pigs on a Twig, English-style fish and chips,



KIEFFE & SONS

NO BULL SALES & SERVICES SINCE 1960

kieffeandsons.com



Over 50 years of service to our community!

MOJAVE

1-661-824-2477

TEHACHAPI

1-661-822-FORD

ROSAMOND

1-661-256-2811

CALIFORNIA CITY

1-760-373-FORD



cucumber salad and turkey legs, roast beef trenchers, German bratwurst, Chinese BBQ and the local favorite PDA Jerky. Maybe last but certainly not least, the Royal Raven Tavern will be open once again with mead and a heady variety of libations and wines for your pleasure.

Merchant's wares include cloaks, Celtic jewelry, accessories, blacksmith art, original art glass, bowls, trays, knives, swords, toys, period clothing, hats, clocks, jewelry, and Watkins will have their wonderful extracts and seasoning plus spices, gourmet products, pain relievers and natural remedies. There will also be booths with leather goods, woodwork, lapidary, books and much more. If you would like to be a merchant, please call 760-373-3530. Space is still available.

Mark the dates! Come enjoy a wonderful weekend with Her Majesty and her court and all the trappings of medieval time. Fun is the goal, and the California City Renaissance and Fantasy Faire is the place to find it, Oct. 21-22 at 11 a.m.



Patrons enjoy a previous California City Renaissance Faire.

COURTESY PHOTO



Daily Independent

Your Local 24/7 News Source
Print, Web, or Mobile

224 E Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
1-760-375-4481

www.ridgecrestca.com
m.ridgecrestca.com

facebook.com/thedailyindependent

2nd annual charity wine, food festival at Starlite Lounge,

Starlite Lounge, the Kern River Valley's only Wine Bar/Tasting Room/Restaurant, is launching its second annual "Cork N Fork Wine & Food Festival," a charity event to benefit the Kern River Conservancy, Keepers of the Kern and the Kern Valley River Council to help preserve and protect our wild and scenic Kern River.

This special event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, from 12 to 4pm in our very own Starlite Lounge parking lot, located at 13423 Sierra Way in Kernville.

This event is the brainchild of the Starlite Lounge's sister/owners, Dawn Jordan and Elise Modrovich, whose motto, their mantra, is "Life is too short to drink bad wine."

"We want to bring affordable, accessible, amazing wines to the Kern River Valley and create a warm, inviting place to enjoy them. And we believe that some of the best wines in the world can be found right here on California's Central Coast, which is why we feature them exclusively at our Wine Bar," states Jordan.

"When we started putting out feelers to see if any of our favorite wineries would be willing to participate, we were floored by the responses. Wine people are just the best," says Modrovich.

Some of the wonderful Central Coast wineries that will be participating are:

Adelaida, Andrew Murray, Ancient Peaks, Beckmen, Chronic Cellars, Claiborne and Churchill, Cypher, Eberle, Epiphany, Fess Parker, Fiddletown Cellars, Halter Ranch, J. Lohr, J. Dusi, Justin, Longoria, Martian Ranch & Vineyard, McPrice Myers, Midnight Cellars, Opolo Vineyards, Pomar Junction, Yupe, Sanford, Sculpterra/Heroe, Sort This Out Cellars, Vines on the Marycrest, Zaca Mesa ... and more!

But beyond wine, we also wanted to put the focus on our incredible and generous community, by inviting all the restaurants from the Kern River Valley to showcase their food and bring a taste of what they consider to be a signature dish.

A few of the Kern River Valley Restaurants that will feature their wares are:

Big Blue Bear Bistro, Cheryl's Diner, Coffee Mill Cafe, El Rio, Ewings on the Kern, Fremont Deli, Kern River Brewing Company, Pizza Barn, Sierra Vista Restaurant, Starlite Lounge, That's Italian... and more!

And because we (and everyone in the Kern River Valley) adore live music, we decided to invite some of our favorite "Local Live Music Thursday" bands to play on our special "Cork N Fork" stage. Kern River Band, Out of the Blue, Treacherous Edges and the Joe Tones will all be playing for the crowd, so that folks attending can see, smell, taste, touch and hear. It's a full five-sensory event!

Tickets are just \$30 for eight wine and eight food tastings, which includes a souvenir Cork N Fork tasting glass! You can purchase tickets by going to the Starlite Lounge website: www.starliteloungewinebar.com, or by stopping into the Lounge, located at 13423 Sierra Way in Kernville. Physical tickets can be picked up on the day of the event, and once there, if attendees would like to

sample more goodies, additional tickets can be purchased for just \$10 for five tastings.

And don't forget, it's all for a great cause.

Last, but by no means least, we wanted to do something to help the people who care so much and work so tirelessly to ensure that our beautiful Kern River and surrounding areas are preserved and protected for this and future generations to enjoy, by donating all the net proceeds from the event to three charitable organizations that do just that: Kern River Conservancy, Keepers of the Kern, and the Kern Valley River Council.

To learn more about these groups and what they do, please visit their websites, listed below.

Kern River Conservancy: www.kern-riverconservancy.org

Keepers of the Kern: www.keepersofthe-kern.org

Kern Valley River Council: www.kern-rivercouncil.org



Northern Mojave Visitor Center and Death Valley Tourist Center



Maturango Museum and Gift Shop
100 East Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest CA 93555
760-375-6900 • Fax 760-375-0479 • www.maturango.org
Open 10am - 5pm Daily Except Major Holidays





Bobby Waynes RV

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

FREE

**\$300
GAS CARD!**

WITH PURCHASE OF RV OR TRAILER

COUPON MUST BE PRESENT AT TIME OF PURCHASE

**ALL NEW!
RV COLLISION CENTER
FULL BODY REPAIR**

PAINT, BODY, AND ALUMINUM SIDING
(661) 726-5470

**10%
OFF RV PARTS**

IN OUR RV SERVICE DEPARTMENT

COUPON MUST BE PRESENT AT TIME OF PURCHASE



2018 Wolfpack 325
\$43,837 or \$410 a Month

O.A.C.
13' of garage, sleeps up to 8, Dual AC Units

Stock #WW0289

2018 Pursuit 32WC
\$89,775 or \$758 a Month

O.A.C.
Queen Bed, Large shower, outside TV

Stock #PU5601

2018 Freedom 246RKS
\$22,765 or \$190 a Month

O.A.C.
Rear Kitchen, sleeps 3-6 people, Light Weight

Stock #FE1157

SALES DEPARTMENT

45230 23RD ST. WEST
LANCASTER CA 93536

PH: (661) 945-9155

SERVICE DEPARTMENT

45640 23RD ST. WEST
LANCASTER CA 93536

PH: (661) 726-5470

WWW.BOBBYWAYNESRV.COM