

# INSIDE IDYLLWILD

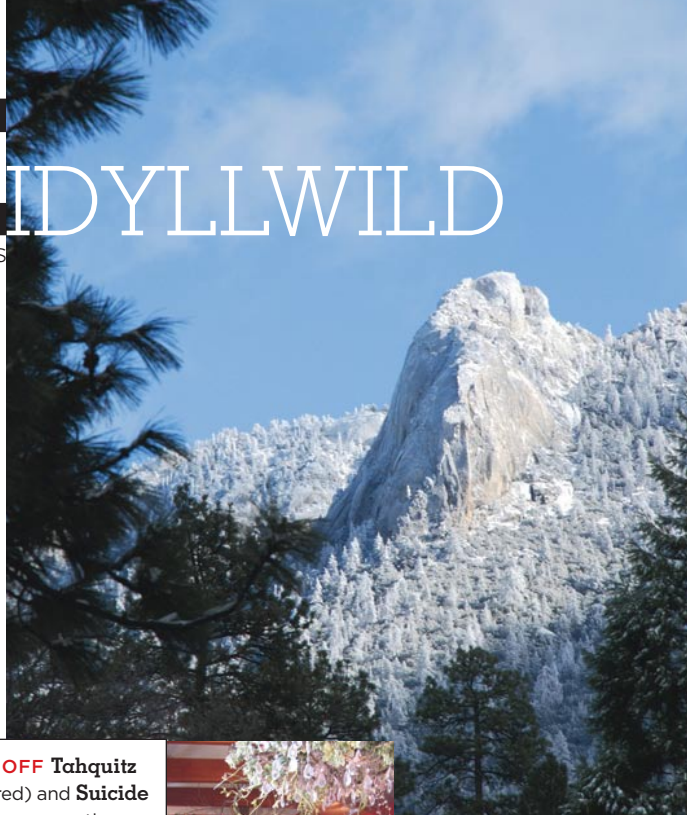
Local luminaries share their hometown favorites



Valerie Sobel

**V**alerie Sobel is an actress-turned-interior-designer and the founder and president of the Andre Sobel River of Life Foundation (*andreriveroflife.org*). Named for her son, who died of a brain tumor, Sobel formed the organization for single caregivers of critically ill children and now shares her time between L.A. and Idyllwild. "I LOVE TO BE HERE WHEN THE PRECIOUS SNOW FALLS, BUT I AM

ALSO BESOTTED WITH THE PLENTIFUL SPRING, WHEN LILACS, DAFFODILS, NARCISSUS AND IRIS ARE OVER-THE-TOP HAPPY." MOUTHWATERING **Gastrognome** has been open since 1973, and everyone famous and not so famous has eaten here. 54381 Ridgeview Dr., 951-659-5055. **CAFE SOCIETY Cafe Aroma** is major competition for any restaurant in Idyllwild. The premier table: "the sofa." 54750 N. Circle Dr., 951-659-5212. **MARKET FRESH Mountain Harvest Market** only carries products from local Certified Organic farms, and at last, we have homeopathics. 54423 Village Center Dr., 951-659-4555. **SWEET TREATS Oma's European Bakery & Restaurant** sweets are just as grandmother would make them. 54241 Ridgeview Dr., 951-659-2979. **Nature's Wisdom Juice Bar & Bistro** has supreme all-organic cheese/apricot and apple strudels that are made fresh daily. 54235 Ridgeview Dr., 951-659-4300. **MAIN DRAG North**



**FACE OFF Tahquitz** (pictured) and **Suicide** rocks are more than pretty faces—they're rich in lore. Brad Pitt trained here for *Seven Years in Tibet*.



Cafe Aroma

Flying Pigment Studio



**Circle** is the main street; you must be sure not to sneeze or you'll miss it. **ARTS + CRAFTS** At **Earth 'n' Fire**, you can hand-paint pottery by local artists. On Thursdays, paint all day for \$10. 54225 N. Circle Dr., 951-659-4481. **HOT TICKETS**

**Idyllwild Arts** has an outdoor amphithe-



## SOCIAL CLIMBERS

Idyllwild is among the best places for hiking in the U.S.; we're connected to the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail.

Idyllwild Arts



Idyllwild Gallery of Fine Art

ater where they perform concerts practically every week. It's truly a wonder—from chamber music to cantatas. 52500 Temecula Rd., 951-659-2171. And our most sophisticated musical event is "Jazz in the Pines" in August. Hang out all day picnicking and listening to performers. *idyllwildjazz.com*. **RESERVATIONS** This little town has more B&Bs than banks or real estate. My favorite is **Cedar Street Inn & Spa**. 25870 Cedar St., 951-659-4789. **JENNY MURRAY HOOKS**