



VOL. 19 SUMMER 2025

IDLE TIMES

Newsletter of the Idlewild Community

Letter from the President

What a blessing it is to write to our community from Idlewild! Laura and I were first introduced to Idlewild in the summer of 1995. As a young pastor, Laura and I, along with our four children were sponsored by Fred and Carolyn McMahan, members of the church community we served in Amarillo. Idlewild was and remains a magical, peaceful place with a wonderful community of people. We are deeply grateful to all who founded this community and to everyone who continues to make it special.

Since that first visit, we have returned many times with Randy and Ann Palmer and have enjoyed teaching at the Chapel worship service on several occasions. In January 2018, we purchased the Cullendar cabin on Road 9 and have loved being part of this community ever since. I have enjoyed serving on our Board of Directors for the past couple of years and am honored to serve as President of the Board.

So far this season, we had a fairly dry winter. Just a few weeks ago we experienced over 20 inches of very wet snow. As you all know better than I do, our weather is primarily influenced by ENSO. When the "El Niño" pattern dominates the Pacific, we typically receive more moisture; when "La Niña" is dominant, we receive less. A weak La Niña is currently present but is predicted to shift toward a neutral pattern this summer, which could bring us more moisture. Thank you all for praying for rain and for the snow!

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Letter from the President continued

In this edition of the newsletter, **AJ Baretta** will provide an update on the progress of our road projects. **Donna Woolsey** will share news about the Grant for the Colfax County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. **Randy Michael** will report on updates to the Preacher's Cabin to prepare it for our summer season of welcoming pastors. **Laura Oheim** will update us on the schedule of pastors to teach at our Chapel from Father's Day to Labor Day. Of course, we will also hear from our wonderful caretaker, **Daniel Helker**. **Fred Montague** will inform us about the current status of our Firewise Community designation. Also, we will hear from **Beverly Hart-Inkster** about Emergency Preparedness and having AEDs available in Idlewild.

I believe that we have an amazing volunteer Board who are truly kind, generous and seek the best for our community. I am excited about our nominees for 2025-2028. I know they will serve with humility and with a focus on helping Idlewild thrive! You will see their bios in this Summer edition of the Idle Times.

Thank you to every community member who faithfully supports Idlewild by contributing your annual assessment! Please notice the "QR" code on this page. It contains a link to make donations or pay assessments to the Idlewild general fund. These assessments do more than help with our roads and garbage collection-they keep us independent and thriving as a community.

Also, I wish to offer a caution. Please resist using the dumpsters in Eagle Nest. If you do they will want to charge you for the entire year. Please use the dumpsters located in Idlewild provided through your Idlewild assessments.

Kurt Oheim





Caretaker's Corner

This is your Caretaker Daniel. We had a beautiful Fall. We did have some runoff issues on our roads. Some of them got pretty beat up but fortunately they all stayed passible even though a little rough. The Preachers cabin was updated with a ceiling fan and new led lights. There will be more updates to it later and you are welcome to donate to that cause as you are able. We had very few Bear sightings this past summer so that was good. Just a reminder always lock the dumpster that you use before you leave it. Please, Please only Household trash. We still have remodeling and construction materials being thrown in the dumpsters. Your contractors are not paying to use your dumpsters and they take all the available space.

The Road committee has done some really nice improvements to a couple of the worst roads that are heavily traveled. We have again this year added new property owners so please be nice and help them learn the Idlewild way. The State has finally done some work on the lower part of 127. We hope they come back and address the upper part of that road.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone for another wonderful Summer in Idlewild!

Daniel





Road Report

Members: AJ Beretta, John Driggers

2024 Accomplishments

Drafted detailed specifications for Road Improvements, including shaping, drainage, construction procedures, and materials;
Submitted competitive bid requests to seven area Contractors;
Drafted Contract between Idlewild and selected Contractor;
Prioritized Roads for repairs based on traffic volume and needed improvement: Roads 9 and 6

Roadwork Completed:

Road 6 (Community/Worship Center Road): 450 feet—Cost: \$18,556

Road 9 (lower sections): 895 feet—Cost: \$25,089

Dumpster Truck Turnaround (across from the Community Center) including parking area improvement and reseeded: Turnaround is 48 feet—Cost: \$8,816

Concrete pad and fencing surrounding dumpsters near the Community Center—Cost: \$2,435.04

Trails End Ditching at Hwy. 127: no charge

Caution and Snowplow Signs installed on Roads 6 and 9

Contractor for above Roadwork: Lindsey Excavation, (505) 204-6902, Angel Fire, Cole Lindsey, Owner. Please Note: The contractor put in an additional full day of labor and heavy equipment plus materials to finish the job on Road 9 at his own expense. Notably, the contractor kept his word to Idlewild, only charging what he had bid and no more. Along with driveways, Lindsey also does earthmoving, utilities, waterlines, and septic services.





Road Report (continued)

Near-term Future Plans

Complete Road 9 improvements from Oheim to Stephenson cabins (482 feet).

Improvements to Roads 10 and Spur 9—Because these roads serve only a few cabins, the cabin owners will be asked to contribute a share of the road improvement costs. Provide annual light road repairs mostly with a bulldozer throughout the community where needed most; Maintenance on roadwork completed this year as needed.

Acknowledgments: These road improvements are your Road Fund dollars at work, and we appreciate every contribution. Thank you for yours. Please help keep our newly improved roads in good shape by keeping snow plow blades several inches above the road surface. Gouging and scrapping by snow plows can add to our maintenance costs. You may wonder why we only accomplished the work mentioned above. We ran out of money and used almost every dollar contributed over the last two years to the Road Fund.

Contact Information: AJ Beretta, Roads Committee
Chairman: ajberetta@gmail.com



Board Member Election Information

Melanie Wells

Most of you knew my parents, Ron and Dot Wells, who were beloved residents of Idlewild and who are sorely missed by all of us. Through Dot and Daddyo, I have been a resident once-removed of Idlewild for over 30 years. After their passing, I received many notes, phone calls and cards from their Idlewild friends – most of whom I knew and some of whom I had never met. I was deeply touched by this caring little mountain community. To honor my parents' spirits and their love of this place, I took it upon myself to rehab our sweet little cabin and do some much-needed repairs and updating. A zillion dollars, three years, and many new friends later, I can confidently say that the cabin feels just as cozy but ... a dishwasher and a second bathroom are welcome improvements. Come on by for a glass of wine sometime! You'll see me (and occasionally the hubs Dennis) sitting in the red chairs on Road 6, next door to the community center. And you might occasionally see me playing fiddle at church! In my Dallas flat-lander life, I own a mental health and wellness company called Lifeologie (wefixbrains.com), which I founded in 2000. Since then, we have grown to 20 locations around the US. When I'm not shrinking heads myself, I'm training a team of exceptional clinicians and building out Lifeologie to scale nation-wide so that we can offer exceptional mental healthcare everywhere. I've been married to the love of my life, Dennis Ippolito, since 2006. We are the reluctant parents of George, a chihuahua mix with a neurotic streak, and Taco, another chihuahua mix with a neurotic streak. Bring treats.





Board Member Election Information

David Chapman

I currently reside in South Carolina but spend as much time as I can in the place closest to my heart—Idlewild. Nestled in the mountains, Idlewild has been my family’s treasured retreat for more than four generations. It’s not just a getaway; it’s our Mountain Home, full of memories, traditions, and a deep-rooted sense of belonging.

I’m a proud graduate of Texas Tech University and a retired Lubbock, Texas police officer. Throughout my career in law enforcement, I was committed to service, safety, and the well-being of my community. Along the way, I also ventured into entrepreneurship and successfully owned two small businesses, which gave me new perspectives and challenges beyond the badge.

These days, life moves at a different pace. I find peace and joy in the waters surrounding Idlewild—my fly fishing paradise. The natural beauty of the area, combined with the strong bonds of its people, make Idlewild truly special. I’m passionate about giving back to this community that has given my family so much. Whether through local involvement or simply preserving the legacy of this remarkable place, I look forward to being part of Idlewild’s bright and enduring future.





Board Member Election Information

Gabe Thornhill

Gabe's grandparents built a cabin off Road 9 back in the 1950s. He and his sisters, Elizabeth Wagster & Mary Ann Frishman, now share the cabin and enjoy as much time as possible each summer in Idlewild. Gabe works as an investment advisor in Austin, TX. He and his wife Susie have three sons and one grandchild.



Kurt Oheim

Kurt and Laura Oheim have been owners of their cabin in Idlewild since 2018. Kurt retired after 43 years of full-time ministry in 2023 and now works as an engineer in the Oil and Gas industry. Kurt and Laura have five children Zach, Grayson, Ben, Hannah and Audrey. They also have five grandchildren Julian, London, Ivan, Luca and Nora. This will be his second term on the Idlewild Board. He currently serves as President of the Board.



Board Member Election Information

The Nominating Committee for the 2025 elections has nominated the following individuals for a three-year term ending in 2028 on the Board of Directors. See information about each individual in this newsletter.

Melanie Wells	For [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Against [<input type="checkbox"/>]
David Chapman	For [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Against [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Gabe Thornhill	For [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Against [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Kurt Oheim	For [<input type="checkbox"/>]	Against [<input type="checkbox"/>]

After making your selections, this proxy letter should be sent to:

The Idlewild Community PO Box 225 Eagle Nest, NM 87718

Use this document to mail. You may cut out this page and fold it in thirds so that the address on the back is in the proper place. Tape the page shut and adhere postage. Submissions must be received by Friday, July 17, 2025, in order to be counted. Proxy: For the member of Idlewild Community Center, a New Mexico Corporation, this proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors. The undersigned appoints the Board of Directors, as the proxy of the undersigned, with power of substitution, to vote and otherwise represent the undersigned at the annual meeting of members of the Corporation at 12:30 p.m. on July 27, 2025, at the Community Center, Idlewild, Colfax County, New Mexico, and any adjournments thereof, with the same effect as if the undersigned were present and voting on the following matters and in the following manner. (1) The election of the above persons as directors of the Corporation to serve until the next annual meeting of members and until their successors are elected and qualified. (2) To vote or otherwise represent my membership on any other business or on other matters which should properly come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof according to its decision. In the event this proxy is not returned to the Chairman, the membership represented by this proxy will be voted FOR each of the above persons and/or proposals.

_____ Print Name _____ Date

_____ Signature

Summer 2025 Preaching Schedule

It's been completed! I'm so very excited to announce our lineup of wonderful ministers! Thank you all for your suggestions. I make certain to call them all. It's always such a blessing to offer them a week in our little piece of Heaven, and giving back by blessing us with their gift of proclaiming Jesus! It's a win-win for our community!

June 15 - Pastor Chuck Williams
June 22 - Pastor Russell Duck
June 29 - Pastor Mike Borger
July 6 - Pastor Brady Clark
July 13 - Pastor Mandy Stanford
July 20 - Pastor Cindi Young
July 27 - Reverend Tyler Tabor
August 3 - Pastor Tim Ferris
August 10 - Pastor Judith Reedy
August 17 - Pastor Mason Jones
August 24 - Pastor Orlando Lopez
August 31 - Pastor Jimmy Mohler
September 7 - Pastor Deborah Stokes

Services begin at 10:30 in our beautiful outdoor chapel!

Summer 2025 Preaching Schedule Cont.

Let's all support our ministers and their families by coming to worship when you are up in Idlewild, 10:30 am from Father's Day to Labor Day! It's not too early to recommend other ministers for 2026! Even if they have visited in the past, don't hesitate to re-recommend them, so I know they might still be interested.

Last summer our chapel services were greatly attended (up from the Covid ridden years) and we hope that is a trend to stay!

I would also LOVE to have special music weekly this summer, and I need YOUR help to make that happen! If you, or anyone you know who visits our mountain can provide us a weekend of special music PLEASE contact me and either I or my great team of Charlotte Burton and Jerri Lynne Porter will be glad to give them a shout and get them scheduled as well!

Laura Oheim 806-654-0585 (text or call me!)
lauraheim@me.com



Preacher Cabin Update

We are excited to let you know about the freshly updated Preacher's Cabin! Randy Michael, our board facilities director has been very busy painting, staining, and providing a sofa upgrade!

With many wonderful donations we were able to purchase new and necessary items, in order to give the cabin a clean, comfortable and safe space for the many ministers who use it each summer!! To name a few our minsters will have a new couch, sheets, towels, Keurig coffee pot, and so much more! We would like very much to form a small team who will be willing to share in making sure our Preacher Cabin is stocked and maintained over the summer months. If you are interested please contact Randy Michael at 806-220-9555 or Laura Oheim at 806-654-0585.

Another wonderful addition to keeping our cabin in tip top shape over the summer is Ivy Bucklin from Angel Fire. She will be cleaning our cabin weekly. She has a clear job description and is ready and willing to keep our cabin pristine and shiny for those amazing families we will host this summer. If you happen to see her hard at work on a Monday when she comes to clean, make sure you thank her and welcome her to our community!

Also, keep your eyes on Facebook this summer as we plan to have a community Preacher Cabin open house for all to walk through and see what's been done! Or maybe you've just never stepped foot inside and would like to see what wonderful accommodations we provide for our visiting pastors and their families.

Last but not least, thank you for your kind donations to this cause, and don't forget to join us each Summer Sunday, from Father's Day to Labor Day at 10:30am for our Worship Service under the Idlewild Sky.

Randy Michael and Laura Oheim





CCWUI Project

Contract signing, site visits, and tree marking will be completed in a 6 week period beginning the middle of June.

We have approx 125 residents signed up. If you haven't signed up, but want to be included please email your name, address, cabin block and lot number, and email address and phone number to dwoolsey2222@gmail.com.

You will receive more information when we get exact days.

Donna Woolsey

FIREWISE

Fred Montegue

At the start of the new year I think about the coming fire season. So far it has been a relatively dry season with only one good snow. Fire prevention will be very important again this year. Idlewild did a great job of clearing limbs and needles around Idlewild last year and we need to do so again this year. I think that the access to the large roll-off trash containers was a great success and hopefully it will be possible to make them available again this year.

The 2024 Firewise Certificate that may help reduce your fire insurance can be found on the Idlewild Community web page.

Memorial Plaques at the Idlewild Worship Center

If you are interested in obtaining a memorial plaque for a loved one, please contact Louise Montague at (602) 326-8102. She will be able to get the placement of the plaque accomplished for you. Additionally, you can start the process by going to our website idlewildcommunity.org and selecting the Donation-Memorial Plaque Form. The cost of each plaque is \$95.00.



Emergency Preparedness

BEV HART-INKSTER, RN, BSN, OCN®

For some time now we have been working on obtaining an AED for Idlewild. In the event of a cardiac 'event', utilizing an AED as quickly as possible will help save a life.

AED stands for Automated External Defibrillator. According to the Red Cross, sudden cardiac arrest is among the leading causes of death in the United States. Currently, the only way to restore a regular heart rhythm during cardiac arrest is to use an AED.

You should always contact 911 in the event of a cardiac arrest. However, because we live in such a remote area with Eagle Nest EMS the closest help, there might be a delay in receiving their assistance. That is why we (the board and I) think having an AED on the mountain would help our community help themselves while awaiting EMS.

Many of you may know about AEDs, many may not. It is a very simple piece of equipment. You apply two patches to the victim, turn on the device and it will read the cardiac rhythm and decide if a shock is needed. If so, it will say through a speaker on the device "shock needed", "give the shock, push the button".

While this explanation may seem simple, training the community on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, the importance of calling 911 and then learning how to use the device by 'playing with it' will be my job. As an experienced nurse and educator, I will provide training sessions. My husband Rod and I will be on the mountain starting June 19th. First, I will have to become a certified trainer and then I will start offering classes at the community center. I will have more information about dates once I firm up my training. I'll announce plans at each church service starting June 22nd and keep everyone updated.

I would like to thank the Idlewild Board and the Eagle Nest EMS for their support of this endeavor. Eagle Nest EMS is permanently loaning us an AED as we secure a second one. I look forward to meeting you and helping get everyone on the mountain ready for emergencies.



Idlewild Board of Directors

Board Members as of 2024-2025

Officers

Kurt Oheim, President (2025)
AJ Baretta, Vice President (2027)
Jerri Lynn Porter, Secretary (2027)
David Chapman, Treasurer (2025)

Email to all officers: officers@idlewildcommunity.org

Board

AJ Barretta (2027)
Charlie Davis (2027)
Robert Goodwin (2027)
Beverly Hart-Inkster (2026)
Chris Herring (2026)
Kayla Marsh (2026)
Randy Michael (2026)
Louise Montague (2025)
Kurt Oheim (2025)
Earl O'Steen (2025)
Jerri Lynn Porter (2027)

Email to all Board Members [board@idlewildcommunity .org](mailto:board@idlewildcommunity.org)



Upcoming Events in the Area.

Concert in the Park (Eagle Nest)	Thursday, June 7 th 6-8PM (John Denver Tribute)
Balloons Over Angel Fire (Angel Fire Airport)	Friday, June 13 - 5PM-7PM, Sat. June 14 - 9AM-10AM. Sun. June 15, 10AM-2PM
Art and Wine Festival (Red River)	Friday, June 13-15
Golden Eagle RV Farmer's Markets	Fridays, Late June - September 10:00am-1:00pm
Golden Eagle RV Entertainment Nights	Fridays & Saturdays June- September 2025 7:00pm
Firemen's BBQ & Fireworks (Eagle Nest)	July 4 - Line up at 12:30PM, Parade at 1PM Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Benefits
Concert in the Park (Eagle Nest)	July 24 6-8PM Eagles Cover Band
High Country Arts & Crafts Festival	July 24 Eagle Nest
Idlewild Potluck Meals	July 26 & August 31 Idlewild Community Center Please bring a large dish
Annual Idlewild Community Meeting	July 27 12:30pm Idlewild Chapel/Community Center
Red River BBQ and Music Festival	August 13-15
Eagle Nest Balloonfest	August 15-17 (Comanche Creek Launch Field)
33th Annual Fish Fest	September 2025 Eagle Nest Cabins & Marina

GENERAL RELEASE OF LIABILITY

This General Release of Liability ("Release") made this ____ day of _____, 202__ is by and between Daniel Helker, an independent contractor ("Contractor") and _____, property owner ("Owner").

Contractor has been engaged to perform work for Owner. Owner understands that Contractor is not performing this work on behalf of Idlewild Community ("IWCC") but simply as an independent contractor that has been employed for this purpose.

#1: Owner recognizes that they have no legal ability to seek damages from IWCC for any damages or disputes based upon the work being performed by Contractor.

#2: Owner agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and forever discharge IWCC from all liability, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, and causes of action due to injury, loss, or damage.

This Release shall be binding upon the undersigned, and his/her respective heirs, executors, administrators, personal representatives, and assigns.

Daniel Helker, Contractor Date

Idlewild Property Owner Date

Print Name