

Holiday closures

IRWD offices will be closed Dec. 25, 26, 29, and Jan. 1.

For online service, visit IRWD.com.

pipelines

DECEMBER 2023



Irvine Ranch
Water District

Give the gift of nature this season

If you love gardening and want to show off your skills, here are some do-it-yourself holiday gifts you can make for your friends and loved ones:

- **Pressed flowers and leaves** – Use pressed flowers to create things like bookmarks, jewelry or candles. Select clippings from your landscape, press them in a hardcover book or iron them between parchment paper, and let your imagination go wild!
- **Succulents** – Group or pair succulents with complementary colors, forms and textures. Make sure they have similar moisture and light requirements as well. Choose containers that match your loved one's style. Some ideal varieties include echeveria, sempervivums, sedums, aeoniums and aloaceae.
- **Rocks** – Using crafty acrylic paint, you can turn any normal rock into an extraordinary piece of art. Create jars of wishing stones, filling them with eight to 10 rocks you paint to reflect people's favorite colors or themes, and include positive words like "growth," "health" and "love."

Visit Pinterest or search online for more nature-inspired ideas.



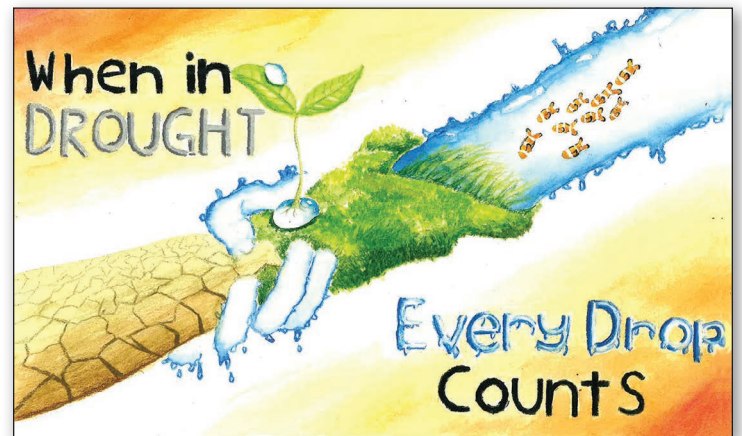
Local students win regional poster contest

The artwork of two local students was chosen to be included in the 2024 "Being Water Wise is..." student art poster calendar.

Crystal Shin, an 11th grader at Northwood High, won with her poster that read, "Save your today, secure your tomorrow." **Eric Cheon**, a 10th grader at Beckman High, won for his poster, "When in drought, every drop counts." Congratulations, Crystal and Eric!

Inclusion in the calendar is the final step in an annual competition hosted by IRWD, the Municipal Water District of Orange County, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and other water districts throughout Southern California.

View all Orange County semi-finalists in the 2023 contest at bit.ly/2023posterwinners. To enter the 2024 contest for the 2025 calendar, visit IRWD.com/postercontest.



Keep your pipes jolly for the holidays

The holiday season is here, which could mean lots of time in the kitchen. Clogged drains can lead to problems you don't want. To prevent a sewer catastrophe, here are some things to remember.

- **Fats, oils and grease—known as FOG—should never be poured down the drain.** That includes meat fats, cooking oil, butter, margarine, sauces, soups, dairy products and even baked goods.
- **Place leftover grease in containers** with lids and throw them away on trash pick-up day.
- **Wipe greasy dishes and pans** with a paper towel before washing.

For more information about sewers and FOG, go to IRWD.com/services/sewer.



Ask Juan



Q: Juan, mushrooms have taken over my landscape. What could be causing this?

A: Mushrooms can be a sign of overwatering. Fungi thrive in wet environments, and the best way to get rid of these dome-capped oddities is to check and adjust your watering schedule. Mushrooms growing around tree trunks could also be a sign of root rot, and you may need a professional arborist to assess the situation. Otherwise, if your soil isn't soggy, mushrooms can be good—

indicating a healthy, organic soil full of microbes, nematodes and worms that help provide nutrients and minerals to keep your plants healthy.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at IRWD.com/AskJuan.

California native corner Juan's December plant: Christmas berry

Christmas berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) is a summer-blooming shrub also known as toyon.

It is prized for its foliage, flowers and berries, which give it a striking resemblance to holly this time of year. Easy to grow, it can be trained as a small tree and requires little to no water once it's established. — Juan



Ask Customer Service

Q: Can I manage my account online?

A: Virtually any service you need can be handled online at IRWD.com.

Simply click on the "Customer Care" tab at the top left of the home screen, and choose from a drop-down menu with links to start or stop service; pay your bill or set up automatic payments; request a variance or payment assistance; request a home audit; or to get information about rates and charges and more.

A green "Customer Care" button at the top right of the home page also provides quick links to those services.

You can also email us at CustomerService@IRWD.com.

If you send your email outside of regular business hours, we will respond within two business days.

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