

## Huell Howser's Volcano House sold for \$750K

By Jose Quintero / Staff Writer

Posted Oct 3, 2015 at 4:42 PM

Updated Oct 3, 2015 at 5:08 PM

NEWBERRY SPRINGS — The Volcano House built in 1968 and previously owned by television personality Huell Howser has been sold for \$750,000, Bradco Company President Joseph W. Brady has announced.

Brady said the sale price was the highest for a single-family home in the past three years in the entire Barstow region north of Helendale.

“There is no other house in the entire High Desert region nor in San Bernardino County that comes close to this home with its very unique design, location and unbelievable views,” Brady said.

According to Realtor Annette Short of Barstow Real Estate Group, escrow closed Wednesday and the home sold for \$100,000 over the listing price. Short co-listed the property with Brady Sandahl of HOM Sotheby's International Realty. Short said the house saw “multiple” offers and was sold within five days of being on the market. Short said the buyers wish to remain anonymous.

“They want to kind of keep it low-key because we think they will get a lot of tourists that will go to the house and they just don't want that,” Short said. “But they are very excited for this new venture for them and love the home.”

The flying-saucer shaped home atop a 150-foot cinder cone in Newberry Springs hit the market last month for \$650,000. The home was donated to Chapman University in 2012 by Howser, the host of the KCET public television show “California's Gold.” Howser, who died Jan. 7, 2013, put it on the market in 2009, but ended up giving the house to Chapman University over lunch with university president Jim Doti at the Filling Station in Old Towne Orange.

According to previous reports, the home was to be a home base for study tours in environmental science and astronomy, television and film projects, writers' retreats and other activities.

The house was built by Vard Wallace, a Newport Beach resident who invented a drafting machine widely used in the aircraft industry during World War II. The 2,200-square-foot house sits on a 60-acre parcel, and has two bedrooms and two bathrooms in its classic, curving Mid-Century interior, plus a separate two-story building with a garage and an upstairs apartment.

Short said the house also has a private lake that is over four acres.

The most fascinating thing about the home is the observation lookout point, she said.

“The view is amazing because the house is just completely away from everyone,” Short said. “The view is indescribable because you get to see the entire valley.”

Short, who has been a Newberry Springs resident since 2000, said locals know the house as the “Lucille Ball home.” Many locals believe Ball, the comedienne icon, once owned the home. But Short said she found out Ball simply visited the home on several occasions in the 1970s.