



# THE STAR

## Community Newspaper

PRSR STD  
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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

IDYLLWILD - MOUNTAIN CENTER - PINE COVE - FERN VALLEY - RIVERSIDE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES **FREE**

Volume 1

Issue No. 5

Wednesday

November 1, 2023

### Idyllwild Trailer Park Residents Help to Make HWY 243 A Safer Crosswalk

Whether you are a speed walker, a slow walker, or even a dog walker, if you have wanted to cross Highway 243, you just don't do it with out concern for the vehicles zooming through, Until now.

With the recent repair and resurfacing of 243 in and through town the residents of Idyllwild Trailer Park reached out to the State of California, Department of Transportation. In doing so found the help hand of Kimberly Cherry, Public Information Office. After submitting a Customer Service Request acknowledging that their were over 50 senior residents, many meeting the definition of ADA.



Photo by Eric Tracy

In addition to the large number of tourist who walk across 243 to get to popular restaurants, one of the best town antique store and a liquor store, consideration was given to the fact that there was not a single place to safely cross on 243 throughout Idyllwild.

October 28, 2023 is a monumental and historical day as residents and visitors alike strolled safely across the first walkway on Hwy. 243. The first day, drivers slowed down and stopped as they acknowledged the walkway. ITP residents met to take a walk across and celebrate getting to the other side safely.



Photo by Eric Tracy



Photo by Eric Tracy

### BETWEEN THE PAGES

Residents Can Attend STR Meeting via Teleconference or in person at the Supervisor's Board Meeting November 7, 2023

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**Community  
Calendar** Deadline  
Wednesdays  
one week prior to events

The Star is now  
Digital!

Currently fine  
tuning the pages

www.thestar-  
news.com

**Contact:**  
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951-527-0055

## The Editor's Page

### Letter to the Editor Policy

The Star provides a place *for we the people* to carry on a dialog with the community, as well as with the county and state government officials.

The Star wants to address that in the proofing of any edition, it is not the sole responsibility of the proofreader to catch all errors that may be found in the publication. Though we reserve the right to edit spelling and punctuation, we also take responsibility to admit when we have erred.

Letters to the Editor must be signed and dated. Please include your address and phone number. All letters are the property of Monroe Publishing LLC and The Star.

WE THE PEOPLE will make better decisions when we are better informed and when we have a safe place to communicate with our community and elected officials.

Send your *Letter to The Editor* to:  
jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com

The Star  
P.O. Box 3019  
Idyllwild, CA 92549  
or contact: 951-527-0055  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
*A place where you talk and we listen.*



Idyllwild and Riverside Mountain Community Residents can attend the Board of Supervisors Meeting and voice their thoughts regarding the Short Term Rental - STR Ordinance 927.2 in person or via teleconference call-in.

Tuesday - November 7  
9:30 a.m.

4080 Lemon Street  
1st Floor, Suite 127  
Riverside, CA

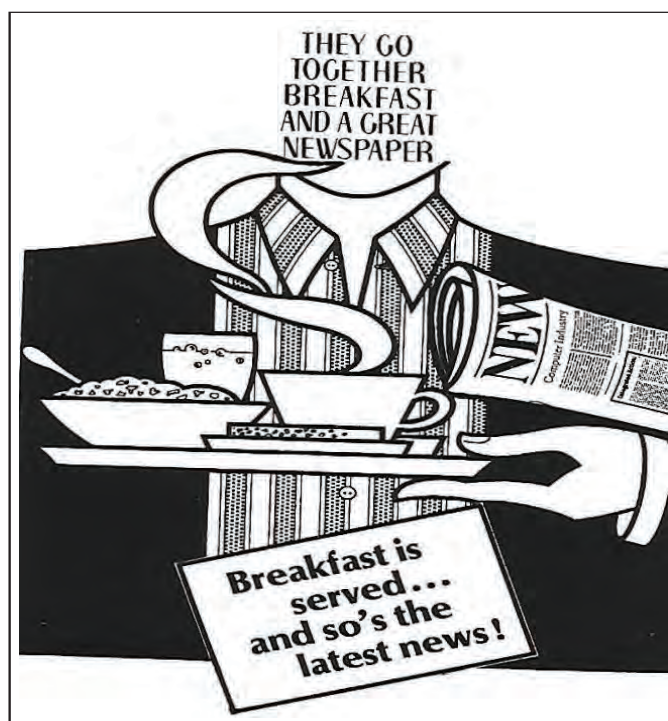
To submit your request to participate in the teleconference call visit: rivcocob.org

Select Search: enter "Request to Speak"  
Fill in the form, submit, and receive your email confirmation and the required password.

You will need the Agenda Number which is assigned and available on Thursday, November 2, the week prior to the meeting.

Request must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to November 7th meeting.

If you do not receive a confirmation email contact 951-955-1069.



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to Public Request !!

THE STAR WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH WEEKLY  
jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com

#### **Holiday Ad Deadlines**

- November 08th
- November 15th
- November 22th
- November 29th
- December 06th
- December 13th
- December 20th

Please contact THE STAR for more info. Call: 951-527-0055



**Comparing Medicare options?  
I can help.**

**DESHAUNDRA JONES**  
Licensed Sales Agent  
214-571-8922, TTY 711

Contact Me Today



## It's Almost Here...AEP by Deshaundra Jones

The anticipation is building for October 15th. The first day of Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare beneficiaries to decide whether to change, keep, add or drop their Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplemental and prescription drug plans. Insurance companies, agents and brokers are finding ways to interact with the 65 plus year old American to assist in selecting the plan that works for the member.

Mass communication floods radio, phone, TV, newspaper, restaurants, stores, mail, email and more for months.

Sometimes advertising efforts cause seniors to be overwhelmed with too much information, unsure of who to trust although eager to get free benefits. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid has changed contact rules in an effort to reduce misinformation and high pressure sales tactics.

Beginning October 1, 2023 there is a 48 hour waiting period when setting an appointment to change, add or drop a Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplement (also known as Medigap), or a prescription drug plan. The delay is not designed to be an inconvenience. It is designed to make sure the beneficiary knows what they want and are getting. This lets them think, consider questions, and make a selection without remorse.

There are several factors to consider about your health insurance for next year. Questions are: Are my prescriptions covered? How much will it cost? Does my doctor accept original Medicare or Medicare Advantage now? Do I need denture or bridge work? Is transportation included? If I don't have Medicaid, what is available for me? A licensed sales representative has been licensed by the State of California and certified by

an insurance company with a privatized Medicare contract. They are informed of plan benefits, federal regulations, and state expectations for members. Insurance agents are required to pass standardized tests, at various percentages, to get Medicare certified every single year by each company they represent.

Some sales representatives are "captive" and work with one insurance company. Others are "non-captive" so they can represent several insurance companies. Armed with training, an individual licensed sales agent is not giving an opinion or misinformation, like other people do.

It is my professional industry experience to share: *know who you are talking to and their title.* Not everyone saying or advertising they are a Medicare representative or a sales agent is not licensed and certified to do so. At this exciting time with choices, new plans, and

changes of benefits for Medicare options, I have one request: *know who you are talking to.* Are they state licensed and medicare certified? Ask them, it's okay. They may answer phone calls and get your information so you can be transferred to a sales person SOMEWHERE.

Let's have a good experience with health insurance this year. Good information is at your fingertips. Online: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

In person there are local health insurance offices where walk-ins are welcome, or you can attend local seminars about Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplemental with food included in your area.

Navigating through Medicare choices should be stress free, informed and upfront. Locate an independent agent with reputable experience and companies.

*Happy AEP Annual Enrollment Period!*



**A Big Thank You** to Idyllwild Fire and their amazing crew for hosting and co-teaching the two day CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. Hearing real firefighter stories really drives home the information. The classes wrapped up with a big finale, a full fledged disaster scene where station firefighters posed as victims with torn clothing and fake blood and great acting. There were amplified disaster sounds, a live fire, a destroyed car, a collapsed building, victim dolls, and a simulated impaling. The exercise ended with an active shooter drill.

I know that CERT training may be an inconsequential part of the firefighter job but the outsized effort, professionalism and competency of our fire department was nothing less than inspiring. And thank you to Mike Feyder and our MDP (Mountain Disaster Preparedness) group and our CERT training staff - MDPidyllwild.org.

Woody Henderson

# IDYLLWILD Holiday Delights



## Aunt Mary's Pantry

### SAVORY MEAT PIE

- 1 1/2 cups cubed peeled potatoes 2 lbs lean minced pork  
(Add 1/3 lb of beef to the pork)
- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- 3/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 3/4 cup chicken stock
- 2 onions finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp dried sage
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon

Cooler weather means it's time for comfort food. And one of the easiest ways to warm up and bring comfort to family and friends is to bake your own homemade pot pie.

This recipe will make a pie for you and one to share.

Warm up your home with an aroma of fall and welcome sounds of friends and family.

So put on your apron and get out the spices! Enjoy!

Preheat oven at 375 \*  
Bake for 60-70 minutes

Pre-bake 2 deep dish pie shells  
Be sure to prick the pie shells with a fork. Follow baking directions

For easy clean up for your oven place a cookie sheet under the pies.

## Home Cooks

### *Getting ready for the Holidays*

**Do you have a holiday cake, cookie, or candy recipe you would like to share?**

**The Star invites you to join us in the tradition of sharing your favorite Holiday recipe**

**SEE YOUR RECIPE FEATURED IN THE STAR**

**Send your recipes to [jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com)**

**OR**

**Call the office, leave a message with your phone number.**

**We will call you back.  
O: 951-527-0055**

# IDYLLWILD ROTARY CHRISTMAS MARKET & FESTIVAL 2023

**Idyllwild Pines Camp**

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**Idyllwild Rotary Christmas Market & Festival**  
Idyllwild Pine Camp

### Middle Ridge Winery Presents Mo Mullins



"I have waited many years to do this "Organic Joni" project as Joni Mitchell has been my greatest musical influence. She is truly one of the greatest poets, song writers and musical influences of our time."

Mo Mullins

Organic Joni will on 11/3/23 at 4:00 p.m. at Middle Ridge Winery featuring Mo Mullins on guitar, piano, dulcimer, John Mullins on bass, Scott Bump on guitar, Richard Espinoza on percussion and Monica Sierra on background vocals and percussion. Joni Mitchell's 80th birthday is next week on November 7, so we wanted to do this is celebration of this most amazing artist. This group also performs frequently in Idyllwild as "MoMoJo" doing as eclectic blend of easy sippin' popular music.

"Organic Joni" has been a long time coming as my day job as a physician associate took most of my time for many years, but recent retirement has allowed me to pursue my true passion: Music. In Organic Joni Mo will also feature original compositions of her Dreamers album that features Peter Sprague and other notable So Cal musicians. All of the band members of are Idyllwild locals.



Schedule an appointment today with Dr. Judi Milin

Mountain Chiropractic  
55450 S Circle Drive  
Idyllwild-Pine Cove

951-659-4522



ComedySupremePresents@gmail.com

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## Gisela M. Stearns - An Idyllwild Angel

I live in Idyllwild 6 months out of the year and then I go down to Palm Desert. I grew up in Glauchau, Saxony ( Germany) and was born in January of 1934. I will be 90 in January 2024. I was a student – study to be a teacher in Leipzig, Saxony. I started teaching at about 19 years old, and taught until the age of 21. I taught languages and sports.

War was over in 1945 – before that time, of course, we lived under Hitler. I still remember and can hear his voice, if I want to, because he was very powerful. He could make people do what he wanted. He had an animal magnetism. Not only that, once WWI was over, allies put a heavy load, there was a retribution, no food, or any jobs, So, when Hitler came to power, he promise that he would make it better, and he did, for 2-3 years. After that, people didn't realize what was happening and by the time they did, it was too late. You had to do what you had to do. You had to do what was being done. We were told to be very careful to who we spoke to, when we talked to other people. The enemy is listening. What a time that was...

One day, there was a big coat hanging over the fence, and I thought "what is this?" I went into the house and there was a young man, a strange looking young man there and he was a Polish Jew. My parents had a brewery and they needed more workers. So, they (Germans) let him out of a labor camp. His coat was full of little animals, fleas and what not. So, he didn't understand us and we didn't understand him. But for gestures.

My parents where the best, they showed kindness to other people. My mother that day, told him to take his clothes off and go in the bathtub. She scrubbed him. The poor guy must have been thinking "this is the end of my life." But she gave him my bothers clothes and let him sit down and eat with us. She made him feel comfortable. He did not have to wear the Star of David. They did not have him to do that. And his name was Sigismund Phillip. Phillip was treated like family. And he learned German, he was in the family, because my mother said, (my brother was only 16 when he went to the draft, in the army. She said, "I hope there is another mother treating my son the way I treat Phillip. (tears). So, a couple of days before the war ended. There was chaos, so all the soldiers threw their weapons in the river by our house and also in the cellar where we had our beer barrels, there was just chaos, there were no soldiers any more. So there where quite a few Polish Jews in our town. Phillip had them come and stand guard at our house. Phillip said, "you were good to us, now we are good to you." (tears).

So, when Germany was divided after the war, America was given this side and Germany was given the other side. Saxony was near Dresden, so when they (German) came in a few weeks later, they said "You are going home," and they gathered them in a train. They said, "You are going back to Poland." If they had of reached Poland, we would have heard from Phillip. But we never heard from them again. So what happened to them? The Russians killed them all. They never reached their homeland. (tears)

And so, I studied in East Germany and after I was done, 10 years after, I lived under the Russian regime. I had enough. I did not like what they were doing. My uncle had a beautiful farm. They came in and said this belongs to "The People. And this is not yours anymore." They put someone in charge that didn't know anything about farming and ran it into the ground. This is what happened.

My girlfriend's family had a factory, I came from a textile town. They had a beautiful villa. They had to flee with just what was on their body. They were capitalist and this now belonged to "The People." They took and they took, and they took until there was nothing left to take. You now have Venezuela, Cuba, and anywhere they want to put socialism and where they want to put communism. From riches to poor. If we want something like this, we need to understand what is in front of us.

Gisela Stearns cont. page 10

ANGELS ARE AMONG US - Do you know an Angel? If so, let us tell your story and share your appreciation for that very special person.  
Contact: jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com or call 951-527-0055



**Come ready for fun! Put on your detective hat and explore Idyllwild. This is the perfect mixture of mystery, adventure, and the history of Idyllwild.**

**Guided by the game, you will make your way around Idyllwild. At each stop there's a puzzle. Solve the puzzle and receive a clue. Collect the clues and solve the mystery.**

**This is great fun for exploring Idyllwild with your friends and family.**

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# Idyllwild Marketplace



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# Christmas Preview



## Letters to Santa

BOYS and GIRLS

November is such a busy month for Santa.

He already is checking his list of children who are naughty or nice.

He asked The Star to remind all the boys and girls that he looks forward to getting your letters. And to make sure he gets them in time he asked that you send them to

The Star - PO Box 3019 - Idyllwild, CA 92549

Each week Letters to Santa will be printed in The Star Newspaper to make sure Santa reads your letter.



## Name the Mouse - Coloring Contest

Hi Kids!

This little mouse was found in my house.

He has no name that I know of.

Please help me find a name and color the mouse

Give him the best name ever

And he will become Famous!

So will you! On November 15th someone will be selected in a drawing and win a donuts for themselves to share with those who live in your house.

If you find the magic words in this place we will take a picture of your smiling face. So you will be The Star of Idyllwild.

Now remember, mail in this page and tell us your name and age. Include a phone number so we can call a parent at home, should you win.

Name:

Age:

Phone number:

Parents:



# *In Time for Christmas*



## MONROE PUBLISHING LLC

Monroe Publishing LLC is currently accepting your published books ready for marketing. Monroe can provide the help to edit, structure content, and coordinate the layout of graphics to collaborate the story in your book prior to publishing.

It can be very easy to get a book published in today's world of technology, but not so easy to find someone to market your book.

Consider: Your book is published, ready for distribution. Your fans can go on-line to buy a copy. However, who knows you have a book? Family, friends, co-workers? This is what Monroe Publishing does. Connects you to the right market and people to have your book read. Contact Jo Monroe: [jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:jo.monroepublishing@gmail.com)



**FOOD DRIVE**

October 16 - November 17, 2023

Consider donating non-perishable food during our donation period at participating Riverside County Library Branches!

Donated food will go to local Food Pantries across Riverside County.

Thank you for your donation!

RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Riverside County Library System

ANGELS - cont. from page 6



Photo by David Saulk

The Star thanks Gisela Stearns for sharing her story and heart. No one can ever erase the images that are seen in war. As you share your heart to give hope to others, we can hope that it brings some peace to each who grieve for those who are lost.

My Mother was so kind...

When Phillip was able to converse with my mother, he said, "My wife is in Brukenfault and I would be so grateful to go and get her there. You say you need more help in business." Anybody in their right mind would have known what was happening in Brukenfault, but NO. The only people who knew that there were camps, concentration camps, were the people who worked there and those who lived in the area that could smell what was going on. So, my mother was unaware. We were horrified to know what happened there. When after the war, as a child, I went there at maybe 12 years old. When I saw all the shoes and the clothes, before they went to the gas chamber, it stayed with me all my life. (tears) I mean, how can someone be so cruel. Only because they were Jews. I mean, So what? I was Christian-Lutheran, but after I had seen all this in growing up my religion is gone!

I go to the head and not to the feet. If there is only one God, how can there be so many religions? So, it's man made. What have religion and politics done for mankind? We have not learned about the barbarians. That is what we are. I have tried all my life, whether it was a human being or an animal, I would stand in front of anyone who is being abused, I am not afraid. Because God loves me. He protects me. I am here to help and do what God has intended for us to be. Humans, you can't even call us animals. Animals do what is out of instinct to do, what they have to do.

This whole thing, they are trying to take our rights away, take our freedom away. They are trying to make us march to their tunes. We have nothing to say. Politics and religion have not done anything for humanity. So, there should only be the One God for all of us. And Kindness. I think that is what Heavenly Father is doing for us. That is why I'm here."



Rides

"Great service, always on time, reasonable prices. Sandy is very respectful and friendly driver. Highly recommend," E. Machowska



Grocery Shopping

"Very convenient and saved me time going off the hill. Sandy brought my groceries when promised. Rate was very affordable, and so easy" Patti Davis



Pet Sitting

"Sandy took excellent care of my pets, was reliable and competent. Her love shows, and it's also a reasonable price for great service" Tricia Pilkington



Love has no borders. When I was studying in the university, I met a young woman there, she spoke Russian very well. She invited me one day to come to her house. Here comes her boyfriend, he was a Russian officer. Now at that time, people were not allowed to mingle with them. The way it was, they were punished if they did. There must have had a good reason, we did not know what the Germans would do to them.

Who do these people think they are to put their religion in front for an excuse. This is nothing but an excuse. What have the Jews done to humanity to deserve this? What? Who can tell me this? Why are they doing this? And why are they not stopped? I am not afraid to tell anybody what my mission is in life. I had the best parents. And I feel it is my job to help humanity.

951-392-8460

www.IdyllwildServices.com

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY HISTORY



### THE PECHANGA BAND OF THE LUISENO INDIANS

by Kristy Frazier

Research and information gathered through Google Search engine and nsn.gov

Ten thousand years ago, the Pechanga (pronounced pehchonga; means “place where water drips.”) Indians lived and thrived throughout the Temecula Valley and the surrounding hills. At that time they were called the Payomkawichum, which means People of the West. Their life on earth began there, at Exva Temeeuku, the birthplace of the Kaamalam, or First Children. Temeeuku means Sun Place and is found in an ancestral story detailing the origins of the world. Their knowledge of life, sickness and death, plants and animals, what should or should not be eaten, and all other details of thriving in their surroundings came from there. Today, their presence is found in bedrock mortars, pottery, pictographs, and stone tools. Other related tribes include: Pauma, Pala, Rincon, San Luis Rey, La Jolla, and Soboba.

The name Temecula originated with an Indian word, “temecunga.” When the Spanish missionaries came to the area they changed the word to Temecula.

The Pechanga Indians had a deep sense of connection and respect for their land and natural cycles. Everyone in the tribe had food and shelter, and all knew what was expected of them, for the greater good. Stories passed down for millennia gave children the guidelines for acceptable behavior, and the consequences of not following those guidelines.

After the establishment of the Spanish Mission San Luis Rey in 1798, on ancestral Payomkawichum land, the local Indians began to be called San Luisenos, then later just Luisenos. Once the missions were established, the local Indian people were forced to work as laborers, and they had to eat European food which was not as nutritious as their native foods. They were also exposed to small pox, measles, and influenza. This resulted in the death of thousands of Pechanga natives in the following decades. At the same time, children were separated from their parents and were forced to live at boarding schools. Their long hair, which had great ancestral significance for them, was cut short, and they were punished if they spoke their native language amongst themselves. Illnesses and the breakdown of their social structure almost destroyed their culture entirely. Then, in 1834, the Mexicans secularized the missions and the surviving natives returned to the remaining small villages, or formed new ones in the area.

Over a decade later, during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), a series of events led to the Temecula Massacre of 1847. An estimated 100 Pechanga Indians were killed. Many of them now rest at the Old Temecula Village Cemetery. At the end of the Mexican-American war, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, and a huge territory belonging to Mexico, including California, was ceded to the United States. Under that treaty, the Native people were supposed to be granted all of the same rights as the Mexican people, but the U.S. chose to withhold citizenship to Native Americans, so they lost their right to own property. Along with statehood came An Act for the Governance and Protection of Indians in 1850. PECHANGA continued on page 12



### Smokey

These sweet kittens are in need of a home  
for the Holidays  
Please contact (951) 659-1122  
They are currently staying at the ARF  
House  
26890 State Highway 243  
Idyllwild, CA 92549

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

---

### STR Meeting to Continue

The STR battle has raged on for a few years, with ordinances being updated and moratoriums being put in place and or extended, but it is all coming to a culmination, and the most important vote of all in many of our opinions will take place at the Board of Supervisors meeting next week, Tuesday at 9:30 am, November 7, at 4080 Lemon St., Riverside County.

While I personally think the best way to make an impact is to show up and speak directly to the supervisors, which I've done many times and will do so this coming Tuesday, you can still get your message across by calling-in to the meeting and being heard live during the comment period, but you must register the day before. Please see instructions on how to do so in the paper.

Please do not let the industry, and those who claim to be looking out for the town's best interest, or what's right for the economy of Idyllwild, which has been around for 130 years with far less homes operating as STR's, continue to be the overwhelming force that has been lobbying the County.

Most of them are simply concerned with their pocketbook, the welfare of the residential neighborhoods is a distant thought for them. Some claim to be part of the community just because they come up a handful of times a year to check on their investment, while burdening the residential neighborhoods with their commercial enterprises.

Too many of us live week to week, wondering what the next group of potentially rowdy guests will be like, will we hear them gleefully downing their second or third glass of wine on the deck, and bringing their city behavior to our once quiet and quaint neighborhoods?

You get the idea, a simple limit that's been proposed and passed by the planning board of 500 max STR's, which represents 14% of all homes, the GREATEST percentage in Riverside County, is a bare necessity to hang onto the integrity, and for that matter the community of Idyllwild. Furthermore, they've also proposed a density of 150 feet between STR's, which is half of what the majority of the town (if you look at their numbers, 500 STR's compared to 3000 homes that are not STR's, we have approximately 3500 homes) asked for.

Sure, we are a vacation destination, not a vacation town. 65% have nothing to do with the downtown businesses or STR's, we simply want to live in peace. We need to load up the phones with folks who desperately want the carveout ordinance 927.2 for Idyllwild passed. Any amendments made at the meeting should get closer to what the majority asked for, a 10% cap with a 300-foot density.

Joel Feingold

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### PECHANGA continued from page 11

This act gave American citizens the right to have control and custody of Indian minors and their earnings until they reached the age of adulthood. Later amendments allowed for adult Indians to be "indentured" or enslaved the same way. The Act was created to keep homeless Indians off the street. Unfortunately, unprincipled people took it as a green light for them to kidnap and sell Indians to unscrupulous masters. Fortunately, in 1852, US Indian Agents went to the Temecula Valley and created the Temecula Treaty, which ensured that parcels of land would be reserved for the Native groups to whom they belonged, except for mineral rights and public roads.

About twenty three years later, in 1875, some Temecula Valley ranchers petitioned for permission to evict the Payokawichum who lived in a small village that was then called Little Temecula Rancho. Permission was granted, even though Pechanga ancestors had lived there for generations under the terms of a Mexican land grant. In September, several local land owners formed a posse. They loaded the contents of each Pechanga dwelling into wagons and unloaded everything about 3 miles away, making the Indians walk behind them. The displaced people were able to stay on land owned by John Magee, whose wife was a local Indian. Then, most of them moved upstream to a spring where they took the name of Pechanga.

Finally, in 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the executive order that established the Pechanga Indian Reservation. Author Helen Hunt Jackson was a US government agent looking into the living conditions of Southern California Indians, and she played a large part in getting help for the Pechanga people after the Eviction of 1875. Life on the reservation was improving, until the early 1900's when drought and other setbacks left the Pechanga on the verge of starvation. Many went to work at local farms and ranches, including Vail Ranch. In 1906 the U.S. Indian Commissioner C.E Kelsey felt that the reservation needed more farmland to support its people, and he directed the government to purchase an additional 235 acres of land next to the Pechanga Reservation. The land was then put in to trust under the U. S. Interior Departments Bureau of Land Management. In spite of a nearby spring, there wasn't enough water to irrigate the entire property, so the Pechanga dug a well and put up a windmill-powered pump.

The most recent battle they had to fight was in the early 2000's, to keep a granite mining company from digging a 1000 foot deep pit on their sacred mountain, where all life began for them. They fought hard for about five years, and with the help of citizens from the Temecula Valley, Save our Southwest Hills, and the Santa Marguerita Ecological Preserve, they were able to protect the property at Pu'eska Mountain and forever save the area from future destruction. The reservation now covers about 7080 areas in Riverside and San Diego Counties. Their casino, golf course, and RV parks employ thousands of resident throughout Temecula Valley, they contribute greatly to the local tax base, and they donate to many local charities

Today, the Pechaangayam is a thriving community of resolute, hard working, and respectful people who contribute immensely to Temecula and the surrounding area. In their local schools they still teach the ancestral language and tenants of their spiritual values. On the Pechanga Preserve there is the oldest Oak Tree in the world. It still provides inspiration to those who visit it, and every couple of years it produces acorns which the children gather and plant throughout the area.