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coachellavalleyweekly.com • December 19 to December 25, 2024 Vol.13 No.41

CV WEEKLY

THE DUSTY STRINGS COLLECTIVE

ACOUSTIC AMERICANA MUSIC & OPEN MIC

FEATURING

RICK SHELLEY



SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH 5:30-7:30PM

PALM SPRINGS Cultural Center®

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CV WEEKLY
Coachella Valley Weekly
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coachellavalleyweekly.com
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RICK SHELLEY TO PLAY THE DUSTY STRINGS COLLECTIVE
AT THE VIP LOUNGE AT THE PALM SPRINGS CULTURAL CENTER

BY ELENI AUSTIN



It's no exaggeration to state Rick Shelley is one of the best singer-songwriters on the Desert music scene. It's also a fact that he and I have been great friends for nearly 40 years. We met when I was a svelte, suntanned Bitch Goddess in-training and he was a long-haired aspiring Rock star from the Northwest. We had pretty much nothing in common, certainly not musically. But we discovered we both had an affinity for David Letterman and The Monkees. Somehow, a friendship blossomed and it has been a ride-or-die relationship that has sustained us through good times and bad.

On Sunday, December 29th, Rick will be playing a show under the aegis of The Dusty Strings Collective at The Palm Springs Cultural Center. This time out, Rick has joined forces with fiddle player Bobby Furgo and multi-instrumentalist Mikael Jacobson, who will be playing upright bass.

Rick moved to California as a teenager with one goal in mind, to become a successful musician. The Walla Walla Washington native, along with his hometown pals, guitarist James Danielson and drummer Eric Turner had their sights set on Hollywood but wound up a little further East in Palm Springs.

Their disparate musical influences included Motley Crue, Bob Dylan, The Kinks, Iron Maiden, Miles Davis and Van Halen. After a couple years, they found a bassist, future Desert Rock legend Nick Oliveri. He brought a Punk sensibility to the newly minted four-piece, with inspirations that hewed closer to The Ramones, The Damned and Iggy & The Stooges. As RagTag, they began gigging around the desert. Their sound landed somewhere between the feral intensity of Guns N' Roses and serpentine Glam/Punk energy of Jane's Addiction. Rick proved to be an agile and charismatic vocalist, and they quickly built a solid local following. In 1989, they acquired a manager and made the leap to Hollywood. Despite the punishing Pay-To-Play policies that dominated the L.A. club scene, they managed to play venerable venues like The Whisky, The Country Club, Gazzari's, The Roxy and The Troubadour. Ultimately, their manager couldn't deliver everything she promised, and the band imploded.

While Nick went on to form Kyuss with his old friend, Josh Homme, Rick, James and Eric returned to the desert, married and started families. But the pull to make music was too great. Within a couple of years, they recruited Nick's equally talented brother, Dean, to handle bass duties, Rick shifted to rhythm guitar, while he and James traded lead vocals.

As Woodshed, they expanded their musical horizons, drawing on their shared affinity for Jazz, The Grateful Dead, Townes Van Zandt, and a surfeit of Blues. The result was A tight, Blues-Rock band that struck a balance between lean economy and epic improvisation. Between 1994 and 2004 they released two studio albums, *Fires Of Spring, Let It Roll* and a live set, *Goodnight Irene.* Although they recorded an album's worth of songs at Rancho de La Luna, that effort has never been officially released.

Despite relentless touring through California, and opening for well-known acts like Gene Loves Jezebel, L.A. Guns, Kip Winger, The Untouchables and Tommy Tutone, Woodshed had plateaued. Although they never formally broke up, the band went on hiatus in 2004. Rick put music on the backburner and concentrated on family. When his marriage ended a few years later, he focused on raising his three kids. As they became more independent, his need to create music was reignited. With the help of Mystic Avalanche Entertainment, he booked his first solo show at the tail-end of 2014.

After nearly a decade of inactivity, new music seemed to just *flow*. Pretty quickly, he'd amassed an arsenal of killer songs. Having experienced some setbacks and challenges over the years, his music had evolved. Memorable melodies were matched by inventive arrangements and nuanced narratives.

Connecting with Chris Unck, owner of High Lonesome Recording Studio in Joshua Tree, the pair sifted through about 40 songs, separating six from the pack for Rick's 2015 debut EP, *1909 Miles.* Rave reviews followed and he was nominated in three categories at the 2016 Coachella Valley Music Awards. Soon enough, he was sharing stages with artists like Cisco & Dewey, Travis Meadows and Jann Browne.

Two years later, he and Chris emerged from High Lonesome with Rick's first long-player, *Hope Wrapped In Razor Wire.* Again, critical acclaim was unanimous and Rick's fan-base increased exponentially. Since then, he has opened for celebrated British Folk-Rocker Jasmine Rodgers, Country sensation Genthen Jenkins and Roadhouse Rockers The Cruzados. He has also played every place from the Long Beach Buskerfest, the Beatnik Lounge in Joshua Tree, The Alibi in Palm Springs, Pappy & Harriet's (when that still meant something), as well as The Mint and The Echo in Los Angeles and Stagecoach.

Rick currently has a cache of road-tested songs that will hopefully be recorded in 2025. He will undoubtedly play those, as well as a few old favorites at The Dusty Strings show.

The Dusty Strings Collective Acoustic Americana Music Featuring Rick Shelley

Sunday, Dec. 29th, 2024. 5:30-7:30pm.

VIP Lounge At The Palm Springs Cultural Center - 2300 E. Baristo Rd, Palm Springs. CV







LOCAL MUSIC

BLACKENED THRASH BAND "CRYPTIC FUNERAL" SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON EXTREME MUSIC IN THE VALLEY





ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL HARRELL



Coachella Valley metal has clawed and screamed its way out of the shadows of the desert music scene—inching further and further into the periphery of local audiences and taking to the stage with a roar too striking and eminent to ignore. Cryptic Funeral has joined the ranks of this thunderous boom—with sets that electrify audiences in an anthemic frenzy of thrash and death metal, caught in grooving riffs that underscore the grit and bite of the genre. The band consists of Christian Torres (Vocals/ Lyrics), Henry Murillo (Guitar/Songwriter), Tim "Crash" Puckett (Drums/Recording/ Mixing/ Mastering) and Kurt Schawacker (Bass/Graphics). *Coachella Valley Weekly* caught up with Cryptic Funeral during their winter show schedule.

CV Weekly: You guys have gained a lot of traction in the last year. When was Cryptic Funeral first established?

Henry: Christian and I started the band during the pandemic in 2020. We both have the same taste in music and were writing music together. Because COVID was around, we had time to envision what we wanted the sound to be, and since there aren't a lot of bands that play this style of music out here, it's pretty exciting to bring a new sound to the Valley. With the music we play, you'd need to travel out of the desert to hear this genre. The metal scene out here is a bit different

CV Weekly: And why did you decide to name your band Cryptic Funeral?

Christian: I actually had a list of band names that weren't already taken and I would present them to Henry and our old drummer Brian Perales (drummer for *Instigator*) and we all agreed that Cryptic Funeral matched our band the best. The hardest part was finding a name that didn't already exist. I think it fits our sound perfectly though.

CV Weekly: It definitely gives off a dark vibe. Outside of the band, how long have you been making music?

Henry: Since 2019. During the pandemic is when we really started writing so many tracks that we have yet to touch, so we have a lot of material. It's a matter of when we can get to them so we can put out a full length album.

Tim: I've been making music since 1997. I'm old.

Kurt: I grew up in a musical family, but started writing my own tunes around 2010.

CV Weekly: And with your different music backgrounds, what is your songwriting process like as a band?

Henry: I usually listen to bands I take inspiration from on my way home, and I infuse it with thrash mostly. I record my guitars, and also have a program to input drums in so the band can actually hear what I have envisioned and just leave it up to them on how they want to approach their parts.

Tim: Henry creates demo tracks for our material. Christian will also lay down some scratch vocals. We review during practice and edit the arrangements and parts as we see fit. Once learned, we incorporate them into our practice set list. We were blown away when Kurt joined, representing our low end. Besides being an integral component of our journey, he's so much more—graphic designing, video production. Not only an outstanding bass player, but a great friend and teammate.

CV Weekly: Sounds like you collaborate very well together. How would you describe your music to those who haven't heard you perform?

Christian: It's a combination of thrash, black metal, and death metal. Extreme music with a catchy groove.

CV Weekly: That's a promising juxtaposition. Are there any musical inspirations you have for that sound?

Tim: Death, Dying Fetus, Deeds of Flesh, Cryptopsy, Morbid Angel, Nile, Vile.

Henry: Behemoth, Belphegor, Hate, Dark Funeral

Christian: Early Cannibal Corpse, Deicide, Black Sabbath

Kurt: I grew up on Megadeth and Children of Bodom, but really enjoy injecting more modern punchy, aggressive low end from modern acts like Brand of Sacrifice and Darko US.

CV Weekly: Those are some big names. What are your favorite songs to play in front of crowds?

Tim: Definitely "Fetido," our Spanish language song.

Kurt: I'd say our song, "Life Beyond the Grave". We've gotten a great reaction out of the crowd each time we've played it.

CV Weekly: And what would be your dream venue to perform at, even outside of the desert?

Tim: Slim's in San Francisco.

Kurt: The Wiltern, Los Angeles.

CV Weekly: Since coming together as a band, what has been the most memorable experience of Cryptic Funeral?

Tim: The never-ending support and professionalism within our team. We're like family. We can do anything together. Whether joking around, or serious/uncomfortable conversations, we actively listen and extend unconditional love to each other.

CV Weekly: That strong foundation definitely serves you well. Do you have any long-term future goals as a band?

Kurt: I'd love to see Cryptic Funeral continue to carve out a place for extreme music here in the Valley and expand out into the wider Southern California region when the opportunity arises. This is a highly dedicated, hard-working group of guys and with the right combination of enthusiasm and not taking ourselves too seriously, I know people will enjoy what we have to offer.

CV Weekly: Awesome, and where can people find your music?

Kurt: You can find Cryptic Funeral on all major streaming platforms, but by far the best place to experience the music is at one of our shows. We sound solid and our fans are our favorite part of what we do.

CV Weekly: Thank you, guys, for taking the time to tell your story. Is there anything else you would like our readers to know?

Henry: We just have so much material that we cant wait to play for you.

Christian: I encourage any metal heads reading this to go out and start a band. Hopefully we can get a much-needed metal scene going in this Valley.

Tim: Everything clicks with us. This amazing team has personally made me a better musician/entertainer. We want to inspire and empower anyone who gives a listen. The brotherhood in this group is the most positive, by far, I've ever witnessed in every project since 1997. Conversations and pre-production has started for our upcoming LP. While we don't have a release date yet, we are working on it. It'll be a blast. CV







2025 PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL HEADLINES

PSIFF



Cynthia Erivo to Receive Variety's Creative Impact in Acting Award at 2025 Palm Springs Film Festival

Variety will honor two-time Academy Award Nominated and Tony, Grammy and Emmy winning "Wicked" star Cynthia Erivo at the 2025 Palm Springs Film Festival with its Creative Impact in Acting Award. The award will be given as part of *Variety's* annual 10 Directors to Watch and Creative Impact Awards brunch on January 4. Grammy Award-winning singer and actor Ariana Grande will present Erivo with the award.

"In less than a decade, Cynthia Erivo has moved from Tony Award-winning actress (for "The Color Purple") to Oscar nominated actress (for "Harriet") and now finds herself at the heart of the 2024 awards season. Her role as Elphaba in "Wicked'" is already racking up major awards," said Variety's Executive Vice President of Content Steven Gaydos. "Erivo has taken on an iconic role and powerfully transformed it into a creative statement that is resonating with audiences and critics all over the world."

The award-winning actor and producer will be recognized for her performances in "Harriet," "Drift," "Bad Times at the El Royale," and her most recent film "Wicked." Released on November 22 of this year, "Wicked" has already earned over $360 million in box office revenue, making it the highest grossing movie of all time based on a Broadway musical. The film originally premiered at the State Theater in Sydney, Australia, on November 3, 2024, and has already won awards at Heartland Film Festival, Manaki Brothers Film Festival, and the Celebration of Black Cinema and Television.

The Palm Springs International Film Festival runs Jan. 2 to 13, 2025. Passes and tickets are currently on sale. For additional information visit www.psfilmfest.org.

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS TO HONOR *WICKED*'S ARIANA GRANDE WITH THE RISING STAR AWARD

The **Palm Springs International Film Awards** has announced that Grammy-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and global star Ariana Grande is the recipient of the Rising Star Award for her performance in Universal Pictures' *Wicked,* her first starring role in a major studio film. The Film Awards will take place on January 3, 2025, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, with the festival running January 2-13, 2025. The event will be presented by Silvercrest and sponsored by Entertainment Tonight.

Wicked, directed by Jon M. Chu, is based on the generation-defining stage musical about the untold story of the witches of Oz. Grande plays Glinda, a popular young woman, gilded by privilege, whose life and world view is upended by her unlikely friendship with Elphaba, a young woman ostracized because of her green skin. Their adventures together will lead them to fulfill their destinies as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

"In *Wicked*, Ariana Grande's portrayal of Glinda elevates her to new heights with a powerful acting performance that beautifully combines her outstanding musical talent, brilliant characterization and impeccable comedic timing," said Festival Chairman Nachhattar Singh Chandi. "Ariana is an iconic global performer, who has seamlessly transitioned to film in her first major starring role, proving herself to be a multifaceted and undeniable talent. This role is certain to be the beginning of the many accolades she will garner throughout her acting career. It is our great honor to recognize Ariana Grande with the Rising Star Award."

Past recipients of the Rising Star Award include Gal Gadot (*Wonder Woman*), Terrence Howard (*Hustle & Flow*), Anna Kendrick (*Up in the Air*), Scarlett Johansson (*Lost in Translation*), Jennifer Lawrence (*Winter's Bone*), and Alicia Vikander (*The Danish Girl* and *Ex Machina)*. In the years those actors were each honored, Howard, Lawrence, and Kendrick received Academy Award® nominations, and Vikander received the Best Supporting Actress Academy Award.

Grande joins this year's announced honorees: Adrien Brody (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor); Timothée Chalamet (Chairman's Award); *Conclave* (Ensemble Performance Award) presented to actors Ralph Fiennes, Isabella Rossellini, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, and Lucian Msamati; Kieran Culkin (Breakthrough Performance Award, Actor); Colman Domingo (Spotlight Award, Actor); Angelina Jolie (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress); Nicole Kidman (International Star Award); Mikey Madison (Breakthrough Performance Award, Actress); and *Emilia Pérez* (Vanguard Award) presented to director Jacques Audiard and actors Karla Sofia Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez and Edgar Ramírez.

Grande is the first artist to hold the top three Billboard Hot 100 spots since The Beatles in 1964 with "7 Rings," "Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored," and "Thank U, Next." At age 31, she has delivered seven consecutive platinum-selling albums led by 4x Platinum "My Everything" and surpassed 34 billion streams on Spotify – she's the platform's most streamed female artist of all-time – while rapidly becoming one of the biggest pop stars of our generation with her powerhouse vocals and unmatched presence both on stage and with her fans. In 2022, Grande became the first artist to have four albums with over 4 billion streams each on Spotify. Grande is also the first female artist in Spotify history to have 9 songs with over 1 billion streams and 20 songs with over 900 million streams. Grande has over 50 billion streams on Spotify across all credits (solo & features) and 15 songs with over 1 billion Spotify streams.

In January 2024, Grande announced her seventh studio album *Eternal Sunshine.* Its lead single, "Yes, And" was released with an accompanying music video on January 12, 2024, and debuted atop the *Billboard* Hot 100. The song topped the Billboard Global 200 and Global Excl. US charts for two weeks. On March 8th, Grande released *Eternal Sunshine* along with the second single off the record, "We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)." Both the album and its second single debuted atop the Billboard 200 and the Hot 100 respectively. It also marked Grande's first instance of reaching the top of both the Billboard Hot 100 Songwriters and Hot 100 Producers charts. In June 2024, Grande released the third single from the album, "The Boy is Mine" soon followed by "The Boy is Mine (Remix)" with Brandy and Monica.

At 15 years old, Grande landed the role of "Charlotte" in the Broadway production of *13*. From there, she was cast in Nickelodeon's *Victorious,* which led to a spin-off starring Grande's character in *Sam & Cat*.

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS TO HONOR TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

The **Palm Springs International Film Awards** has announced that Timothée Chalamet is the recipient of the Chairman's Award for his performance in Searchlight Pictures' *A Complete Unknown* from James Mangold. The Film Awards will take place on January 3, 2025, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, with the festival running January 2-13, 2025. The event will be presented by Silvercrest and sponsored by Entertainment Tonight.

"Timothée Chalamet embodies one of the most iconic figures in music history with his extraordinary performance as Bob Dylan in *A Complete Unknown*," said Festival Chairman Nachhattar Singh Chandi. "Timothée showcases both his physical and vocal talents as he brings depth and nuance to this role that is certain to receive award recognition. It is our honor to recognize Timothée, one of the most respected actors of his generation, with the Chairman's Award."

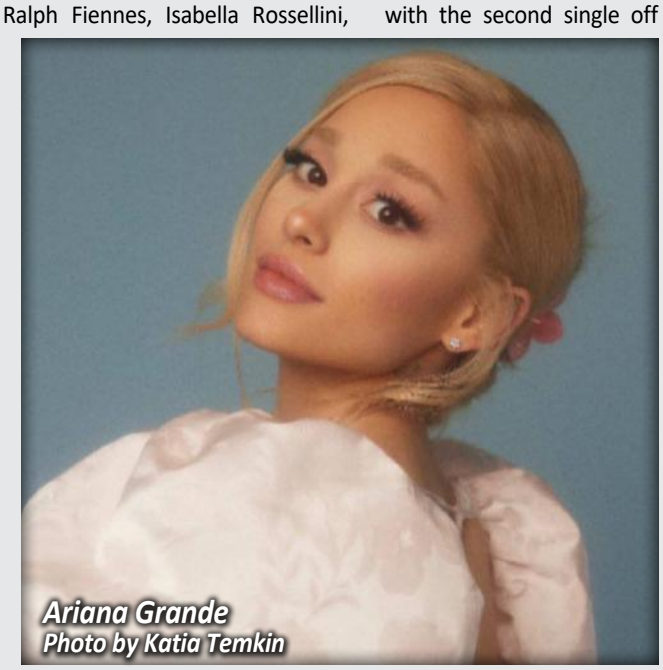
Chalamet previously received the Festival's Rising Star Award (2018) for *Call Me By Your Name* and the Spotlight Award (2019) for *Beautiful Boy*. Past recipients of the Chairman's Award include last year's recipients, Billie Eilish and Finneas O'Connell, who went on to receive the Academy Award for Best Original Song, along with previous honorees Amy Adams, George Clooney, Viola Davis, Tom Hanks, Jennifer Hudson, Nicole Kidman, Regina King, Gary Oldman, and Reese Witherspoon.

He joins this year's announced honorees: Adrien Brody (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor), *Conclave* (Ensemble Performance Award) presented to actors Ralph Fiennes, Isabella Rossellini, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, and Lucian Msamati; Kieran Culkin (Breakthrough Performance

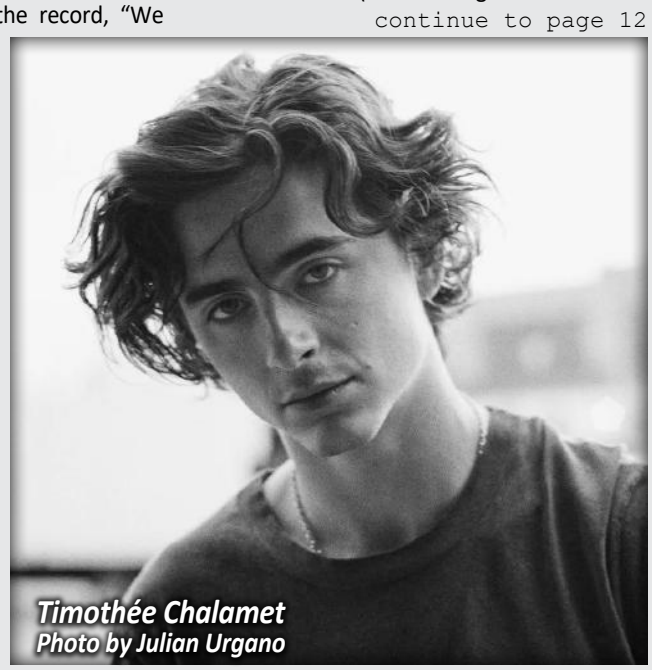
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Cynthia Erivo
Photo by Mark Seliger



Ariana Grande
Photo by Katia Temkin



Timothée Chalamet
Photo by Julian Urgano

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE
CARE ESTHETICS OF LA QUINTA

EVENTS

PRODUCED BY TIAR'A LITERARY & ILLUSTRATION



For several years there has been a new wave of medical and cosmetic interest that is reaching a fever pitch. Here, in our gorgeous Coachella Valley, health and wellness have been on the tips of tongues, and in the thoughts of many for decades. After all, the Coachella Valley, its dry heat, epic landscape, and opportunity to exercise almost anywhere, is a safe-haven for any persons looking to halt, or turn back the hands of time.

In La Quinta, a new era is dawning as, *Care Esthetics* of La Quinta, and Dr. Arek are now delivering their expertise to our ever-expanding health-conscious community. From Botox to fillers, to procedures, skin treatments, and hormone replacement therapy.

Health, wellness, and cosmetics are not just skin deep as many health and wellness advocates will have you believe. Optimal health is far more intricate. Furthermore, there are far more nuances to individual's health and wellness plans than mere blood test results, as Dr. Arek informs us.

"We don't just look at numbers from a blood test, because what might be high for one person may be just right for someone else." – Dr. Arek | Care Esthetics

Modern mainstream medicine employs numbered charts to decide an individual's health. Yet, holistic medicine dictates that for one person to become optimally healthy, they need a specific, tailored made and supervised plan that suits their mind, their temperament, and their life's objectives. One scale, or one blood test result does not fit all.

Speaking of fitting all, at *Care Esthetics* they utilize a specialized weight loss program which is a fundamental approach to help clients obtain their desired results.

Dr. Arek comes to us from the big city of bright lights and movie stars - Beverly Hills, California. A board-certified internal medicine M.D., Dr. Arek is no stranger to working under intense pressure to obtain the highest quality results.

The consensus is in. Would you like to look, feel, and act younger? Our world today demands far more than it did thirty years ago, and so remaining optimal, while having a knowledgeable doctor who lives and understands the modern demographic is the only approach you need to consider when contemplating cosmetics, health, and wellness. CV

SAFETY TIPS

BY FIRE CHIEF SAM DIGIOVANNA



THE BEST GIFT THIS YEAR — IS IN AN EARSHOT!

The holidays provide a good opportunity to spend quality time with family, friends and co-workers while making deposits in our relationships. Naturally, conversation and talking with people is a big part of this season. "Most people are very good at talking about themselves, however, the best gift this year is the gift of listening, and it doesn't cost a dime reminds Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna."

Listening is more than "hearing." When you truly hear and comprehend what another person is saying, you add to their self-worth and validate them. Who wouldn't want that for a gift?

What's the key? Speak less, listen more. Don't try to "one up" the other person. Know you're okay just who you are.

We live in an increasingly busy world. No matter how busy or who you are, take the time to listen to others. Give co-workers, family and friends your attention. Greet them with a smile. Look them in the eyes and honor their thoughts.

There is no better compliment you can pay another person than taking the time to ask them questions and listen to their responses. Try to listen without the intent to reply. Practice patience and listen completely until the person finishes his or her point.

Break out of old habits of not listening and needing to be the center of attention. You're great just the way you are. Not only will it make the holidays more enjoyable, but it will also help you in your professional and personal life. And it doesn't cost a dime!

Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna CV





OLIVE CREST DESERT COMMUNITIES INVITES THE COMMUNITY-AT-LARGE TO DECEMBER 18, 2024 COMMUNITY DAY, OFFERING FREE SERVICES & RESOURCES TO COACHELLA VALLEY FAMILIES

SOCIETY SCENE



BY MADELINE ZUCKERMAN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLIVE CREST DESERT COMMUNITIES

Olive Crest Desert Communities, known for its dedication to preventing child abuse, to treating and educating at-risk children and to preserving the family "One Life at a Time®," will hold its upcoming Community Day ***on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm*** at its comprehensive Olive Crest Child and Family Resource Center, located at 39830 Portola Avenue, Suite A, in Palm Desert, California. Olive Crest Desert Communities currently serves over 800 families and children annually within the Coachella Valley, aiming to bring strong families and ensure child safety.

The general public is invited for ***free*** to take advantage of the free services and resources that will be offered by the 22 local organizations participating in this highly anticipated indoor resource and information fair This event will offer families assistance with legal and child support services, a free vaccination clinic, emergency food and diapers, and much more. There will be a full slate of sensory activities for children in attendance, as well as toy and book giveaways, drawings for bicycles, and even an opportunity to meet Santa Claus!

"With 31.1% of Coachella Valley's children living below the poverty line, the need for events like this ***monthly*** Olive Crest Community Day is clear," said Tracy Fitzsimmons, Executive Director of Olive Crest Inland & Desert Communities.

Olive Crest will host this December event in partnership with the following leading nonprofits and agencies:

IEHP
SPARK
FIND FOOD BANK
DAP HEALTH
DPSS OUTREACH TEAM
MAMA'S HOUSE
RISE ABOVE DEFEAT
INLAND SOCAL UNITED WAY 211+
RIVERSIDE LEGAL AID
ALTURA CREDIT UNION
TOOLS FOR TOMORROW
THE BEHAVIOR LAB
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
KINDFUL RESTORATION
VOICES FOR CHILDREN
VISION Y CONPROMISO
RUHS-PH MOBILE IMMUNIZATIONS
RCOE – SCHOOL OF CAREER EDUCATION
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF THE INLAND EMPIRE
RIVERSIDE SAN BERNARDINO INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC
RAP FOUNDATION/CALFRESH HELTHY LIVING

"We are pleased to work with these remarkable nonprofits and agencies who will be participating in this upcoming Community Day," said Fitzsimmons. "We are excited about the magnifying impact this can have for families who are struggling during difficult times, and we see the collective impact this can have as a moral imperative to provide a 'hand up' to help distressed families."

Olive Crest representatives and volunteers from the partnering groups will be on hand to greet attendees and provide on-site assistance with Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal applications. Throughout the event, these volunteers will assist attendees with access to such resources as: Housing, Mental Health Counseling, Behavioral Health and Wellness, Counseling, Food, Financial and Legal Services, Employment Opportunities, Utility Assistance, etc.

"The creation of these monthly Community Days is the continued realization of a vision at our comprehensive Children and Family Resource Center," Fitzsimmons added. "We are excited to hold these ongoing Community Day events."

Community Day events for 2025 are scheduled for: ***January 22, 2025, February 26, 2025, March 26, 2025, April 23, 2025, May 28, 2025, and June 25, 2025*** at the Olive Crest Children and Family Resource Center located at 39830 Portola Avenue, Suite A, in Palm Desert., California.

For additional information on these Community Day events or to be connected to the services, please call 760-341-8507.

ABOUT OLIVE CREST

Since 1973, Olive Crest has transformed the lives of over 200,000 children and their families. We were tirelessly to meet the individual needs of kids in crisis by providing safe homes, counseling, and education for both youth and parents. Our many innovative programs reflect our conviction that strengthening the family is one of the most powerful ways to help heal children. Our 98% stability rate is a testament to the lifelong commitment and unwavering compassion that the Olive Crest family maintains to the children and families we serve, even after they have graduated from our programs. Olive Crest serves 5,000 children and families each day throughout the Western United States. CV













CONSIDER THIS

bôa "WHIPLASH" (NETTWERK RECORDS)

BY ELENI P. AUSTIN





Last year, serendipity and social media collided, the result was the return of the beloved British band bôa. Quite unexpectedly, their best-known song, *"Duvet"* popped up on TikTok and went viral in the best possible way. Suddenly, the band, which broke up in 2005, were part of the zeitgeist.

bôa originally formed in 1993, in its earliest incarnation, it was a Funk band. The four-piece included drummer Ed Herten, Paul Terrell on keys, Alex Caird on bass and Steve Rodgers on guitars and vocals. Steve, the son of legendary Free/Bad Company vocalist Paul Rodgers, recruited his younger sister, Jasmine to sing the chorus of one of their early songs, and rather quickly, she was invited to join bôa as their lead singer.

Their first live performance, they faced a daunting challenge, opening for their world-famous dad at the London Forum. Their talent immediately shone through. When Ed left the band, Lee Sullivan took over behind the drum kit. Two years later they signed with a Japanese label and their debut, *The Race Of A Thousand Camels,* arrived in 1998. One song, *"Duvet,"* was used as the opening theme for the Japanese anime series *Serial Experiments Lain.* At the dawn of the 21st century, they switched labels and rereleased their debut in the U.S. under a new title, *Twilight.* A U.S tour followed, not long after, Paul left the band and Steve followed suit. The rest of bôa amicably parted ways by 2005. All of the band members have remained active in the music world after bôa's demise, most prominently, Jasmine who launched a solo career and has recorded two critically acclaimed EPs and a long-player, *Blood Red Sun.*

Rather randomly, *"Duvet"* began a second life in 2021. First, it was sampled by Spanish Urban-Trap singer-producer, Yung Beef. Suddenly, record labels and music publishing firms were reaching out to the band. Then last year, the song found an audience on social media, earning seven million streams a week. Since then, it's been used over 250,000 times as a soundtrack for TikTok videos. Sadly, Paul Turrell passed away in 2017 and missed out on the belated success.

The band fielded offers to reunite and hit the road. Rather than tour as a nostalgia act, playing music from 20 years ago, they opted to sign with a major indie label, Nettwerk Records (original home to hitmakers like Sarah McLachlan, Barenaked Ladies, Dido and Coldplay). Finally, as a three-piece, Jasmine on lead vocals, guitar and piano, Alex on a plethora of guitars and bass and Lee on drums and percussion, headed into the recording studio. The result is their first new music in nearly two decades, *Whiplash.*

The record kicks in as though already in progress with *"Let Me In,"* and it's as though the band had never been away. Liquid acoustic arpeggios partner with swaying electric riffs, lithe bass lines, whooshy keys and a clackity beat. Jasmine's vocals dip and soar atop honeyed harmonies as lyrics attempt the tenderest way to end a relationship: *"And when I walk away, I'll know that I've been loved, no more tears, no more tears, all the fears, all the fears, all the years I've given you, give them back to me, in the end, in the end, we'll be friends, we'll be friends, we'll be friends, say goodbye, say goodbye and let me go."* Guitars spiral and strings shimmer on the break, the song builds to a to a stunning crescendo before Jasmine has the last word: *"And when you walk away, you'll know that you've been loved, with all my heart."*

In retrospect, it's kind of shocking that bôa didn't have a wider audience here in the U.S. Their music is in the same wheelhouse as Kate Bush, Cocteau Twins and The Sundays, equal parts lush, Baroque and dreamy. But on the new record, they exhibit a more rough and tumble sound on a couple of tracks, *"Worry"* and *"Strange Few."*

The former is a feral Rocker that opens with Jasmine's urgent cri du cœur, just ahead pounding drums, prowling guitars and throbbing bass. Lyrics function as a mental health check: *"I'm taking all of the all the passion that I had, I'm trying to hold it in my hands but I let it fall, and in the end it becomes my own destroyer, I turned it round and I'm lost again."* Guitars strafe across the break, as the song rounds the final curve a pummeling drum salvo ushers it to a close.

The latter is powered by squiggly guitar figures, marauding bass lines, a see-saw beat and sawing strings. Jasmine's vocals display a harder edge as lyrics spiral down a psychological rabbit-hole: *"Build walls inside your own head, closed doors in the same rooms and sad stumble of the old chair, dust falls on their cold, cold stares."* As the arrangement accelerates, the instrumentation drills down with a moody magnificence as rapid-fire guitars and sinewy bass lines wash over gothic strings and a crashing beat. At the last minute, Jasmine pulls back from the abyss: *"Somehow, you know there is more to do, somehow you can turn it around again…to your delight, you find you still care."*

This record is wonderful front to back, but a few songs stand out from the pack. *"Beautiful But Broken"* is a wistful minor key waltz that matches braided acoustic guitars, airy strings, mercurial electric riffs, cascading piano notes and buoyant bass to a rippling beat. Jasmine's vocals soar and shiver, as perspicacious lyrics remind us that perfection doesn't automatically equate grace: *"I wish that I was stronger, I wish that I was better, but I think there's something beautiful in the broken."* As strings swell on the break a Jazzy guitar solo ricochets through the mix. Effortless and elegant, it sports an irresistible hook that reels you in and holds you close. There's a Punktastic energy to *"Seafarer."* Scattershot guitars collide with boinging bass, plinky piano and a pogo beat. Time signatures shift, Jasmine's honeyed vocals belie lyrics that offer a nautically themed kiss-off: *"All the fire that used to flame, no more stars up in my sky, I'm sailing further than I meant to go, the waves will wash/You go your own way honey, see you later, you go your own way darling, I say goodbye now, you go your own way precious, take it easy, you go your own way baby, I never knew you."* The action slows momentarily on the break, as Alex uncoils a snake-charmer riff that slithers across wily bass lines and is bookended by a stuttery back-beat.

"Vienna" wears its heart on its sleeve. Plangent guitars wrap around sylvan strings, taut bass lines and a tick-tock beat. Jasmine's conversational tone can't camouflage the angst behind lyrics aimed at a withholding lover: *"Don't give me an excuse to break it all today, these games that we play, I don't wanna play, I don't wanna play/Take the pieces off the bôard and show me your rules, and take the pieces off the board, cos I'll let you win."*

Despite its ambivalent title, the melody and arrangement of *"I Don't Know,"* seem incapable of equivocation. Brawny bass lines and a trap-kit beat make way for shards of dissonant guitar that are quietly juxtaposed by gossamer strings. Jasmine's hesitation is mirrored by diffident lyrics like *"All the things I wanna tell you, simple feelings I can't convey, meaning in the things I do, said I don't know, I don't know, I don't know, I don't know."*

Finally, the title track is swirly and Psychedelic in all the right ways. Shuddery guitars and vinegary bass lines are shackled to a breakneck beat. Lyrics find Jasmine wrestling with her demons: *"Whiplash, before you know you're broken, turning into breakdown, scars go deep into a heartache."* But the New Wave-flavored arrangement, pulsating instrumentation and sunny chorus make it impossible to dwell on the emotional disconnect.

Other interesting tracks include *"Walk With Me,"* a tensile tale of instant attraction accented by walloping drums, pinwheeling bass and wiry guitar riffs. Jasmine's head is turned by a pretty face, but she's determined to take it slow. Then there's, the jangly *"Crawling"* chronicles a one-night stand that becomes something more significant. Meanwhile, there's the icy heartbreak of *"Frozen,"* which is anchored by slinky bass, pastoral strings, shang-a-lang guitars and a slipstitch beat. Once again, Jasmine's stunning turns of phrase deflects from the lyrical *sturm und drang.*

The record closes on an upbeat note with *"Shadow."* Loose-limbed guitars connect with thready bass and an elastic backbeat. Jasmine's willowy vocals deftly somersault through the melody, even as lyrics advise maintaining a low profile. It's a thrilling finish to a brilliant return. Much like the inclusion of *"Running Up The Hill"* in the TV series *Stranger Things* catapulted Kate Bush into the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame, bôa's raised profile guaranteed that the song *"Duvet"* achieved Platinum status, meaning over a million sold. The first leg of their American tour instantly sold out, and subsequent tours in the U.K. and Australia were equally as successful.

bôa acquits themselves beautifully on *Whiplash.* The songs feel instantly familiar to old fans, yet they've added new colors and textures to their sonic palette. There is certainly something to be said for delayed gratification. CV



CLUB CRAWLER NIGHTLIFE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Babaloo Lounge – Steven Sanders Piano Bar – 4-6:30pm, Woody and the Retros – 7:30pm

Bart Lounge – Trappea Thursdays – 8pm

Casuelas Café – Live Music – 5:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery PS – eMMELLE Duo – 6:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery TP – Open Mic Night Hosted by Matt Claborn – 6pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Throwbacks w/ DJ Rapmarz – 9pm

Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Christine Love – 6pm

Larkspur Grill – Fun with Dick and Jane – 6pm

Lavender Bistro – Jeff Bonds and Scott Carter – 6pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

Pappy & Harriet's – The Hangmen – 9pm

Plan B Live Entertainment and Cocktails – Yuletide Blaze w/ Saint Andrew's Fire and Desert Moons – 8pm

Purple Room – Sharon Sills – 6:30pm

Sandbar – Bill Baker – 6pm

Shadow Mountain Golf Club – Open Mic – 4-7pm

Shanghai Reds PS – Live Music – 6pm

Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – HWY 111 – 8pm

Vicky's of Santa Fe – Richard Turner Jr. and Wayne Cobham – 6pm

Wildest – Derek Jordan Gregg – 6pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Babaloo Lounge – Eric Frankson Piano Bar – 4-7pm, Live Music – 7pm

Bart Lounge – DJ – 8pm

Casuelas Café – The Myx – 6:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery – "Laughs and Drafts" – 8pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – TBA – 8pm, DJ Rapmarz – 11pm

Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Marc Antonelli – 6pm

La Quinta Brewery – Karaoke – 8pm

Larkspur Grill – "Art of Sax" w/ Will Donato – 7pm

Lavender Bistro – Jeff Bonds and Scott Carter – 6pm

Lit @ Fantasy Springs – Smooth Touch – 9pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

O'Caine's – Ken O"Malley – 6pm

Pappy & Harriet's – Save Ferris – 9:30pm

Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm

Purple Room – Broadway Barbara's Holiday Spectacular – 8pm

Sandbar – Bill Baker – 6pm

Shanghai Reds PS – Barry Baughn Blues Band – 7pm

Tommy Bahamas – TBA – 5pm

Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – Moonchild – 7pm, Steel Rod – 10:30pm

Vicky's of Santa Fe – Doug MacDonald Trio – 5pm, John Stanley King – 7:30pm

Wildest – Derek Jordan Gregg – 6pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Babaloo Lounge – Eric Frankson Piano Bar – 4-6:30pm, Live Music – 7pm

Bart Lounge – DJ – 8pm

Big Rock Pub – Ugly Sweater Party w/ The Desert Crows – 7pm

Casuelas Café – Lisa Lynn and the Broken Hallelujahs – 6:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery – Taproom Grooves – 7pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – DJ Rapmarz – 9pm

Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Marc Antonelli – 6pm

Larkspur Grill – The 70's Party Band – 7pm

Lavender Bistro – Mark Guerrero and Scott Carter – 6pm

Lit @ Fantasy Springs – Smooth Touch – 9pm

Mitch's on El Paseo – TBA – 12-2:30pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

O'Caine's – Ken O"Malley – 6pm

Pappy and Harriet's – The Beat Farmers – 9:30pm

Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm

Purple Room – Broadway Barbara's Holiday Spectacular – 8pm

Sandbar – Bill Baker – 6pm

Shanghai Reds PS – Barry Baughn Blues Band – 7pm

Tommy Bahamas – TBA – 12pm

TQLAS – Derek Jordan Gregg – 11:30-2:30pm

Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – Moonchild – 7pm, Steel Rod – 10:30pm

Vicky's of Santa Fe – Rose Mallett – 5pm, John Stanley King – 7:30pm

Wildest – Derek Jordan Gregg – 6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Bart Lounge – DJ LF – 8pm

Casuelas Café – Mariachi – 1pm, Voices Carrie – 5:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery PS – After Brunch Trivia Hosted by Adam Gainey – 2:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewery TP – Acoustic Afternoon w/ Adam Gainey and Josh Heinz – 3:30pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – DJ Rapmarz – 9pm

Fisherman's Market, PS – Live Music – 6pm

Lavender Bistro – Mark Gurrero and Scott Carter – 6pm

Melvyn's – Mikael Healey – 3:30-7:30pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

Pappy & Harriet's – Andrew Cole – 9pm

Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – LNA Karaoke – 7pm

Purple Room – The Judy Show – 7pm

Shanghai Reds PS – Carla D Band – 6pm

Tommy Bahamas – TBA – 5pm

TQLAS – Derek Jordan Gregg – 11:30-2:30pm

Wildest – Derek Jordan Gregg – 6pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Casuelas Café – Live Music – 5:30pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Karaoke – 9pm, DJ Rapmarz – 11pm

Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Sharon Sills – 6pm

Lavender Bistro – Abbie Perkins and Jeff Bonds – 6pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

Shadow Mountain Golf Club – Phil and Lorie – 3:30pm

Tommy Bahamas – TBA – 12pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Babaloo Lounge – Judy Wolman Piano Bar – 4pm, Hotwyre – 6:30pm

Casuelas Café – Johnny Meza Duo – 5:30pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Banda Night – 9pm

Fireside Lounge – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm

Larkspur Grill – Elvis and More – 7pm

Lavender Bistro – Abbie Perkins and Mark Guerrero – 6pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

Purple Room – Rose Mallett – 6:30pm

Sandbar – Bill Baker – 6pm

Shadow Mountain Golf Club – Game Night – 4-6pm

Tommy Bahamas – Live Music – 5pm

Vicky's of Santa Fe – Slim Man Band – 6pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Babaloo Lounge – Steven Sanders Piano Bar – 4pm, Live Music – 6:30pm

Casuelas Café – Live Music – 5:30pm

Coachella Valley Brewing Co. – Trivia Night Hosted by Derek Wade Timmons – 7pm

DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Country Night w/ DJ Big John – 9pm

Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Patrice Morris – 6pm

Larkspur Grill – Slim Man and Chase Huna: "Rat Pack Duo" – 6pm

Lavender Bistro – Abbie Perkins and Scott Carter – 6pm

The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm

Palm Canyon Roadhouse – Country Night w/ Roger & the House Rebels – 6pm

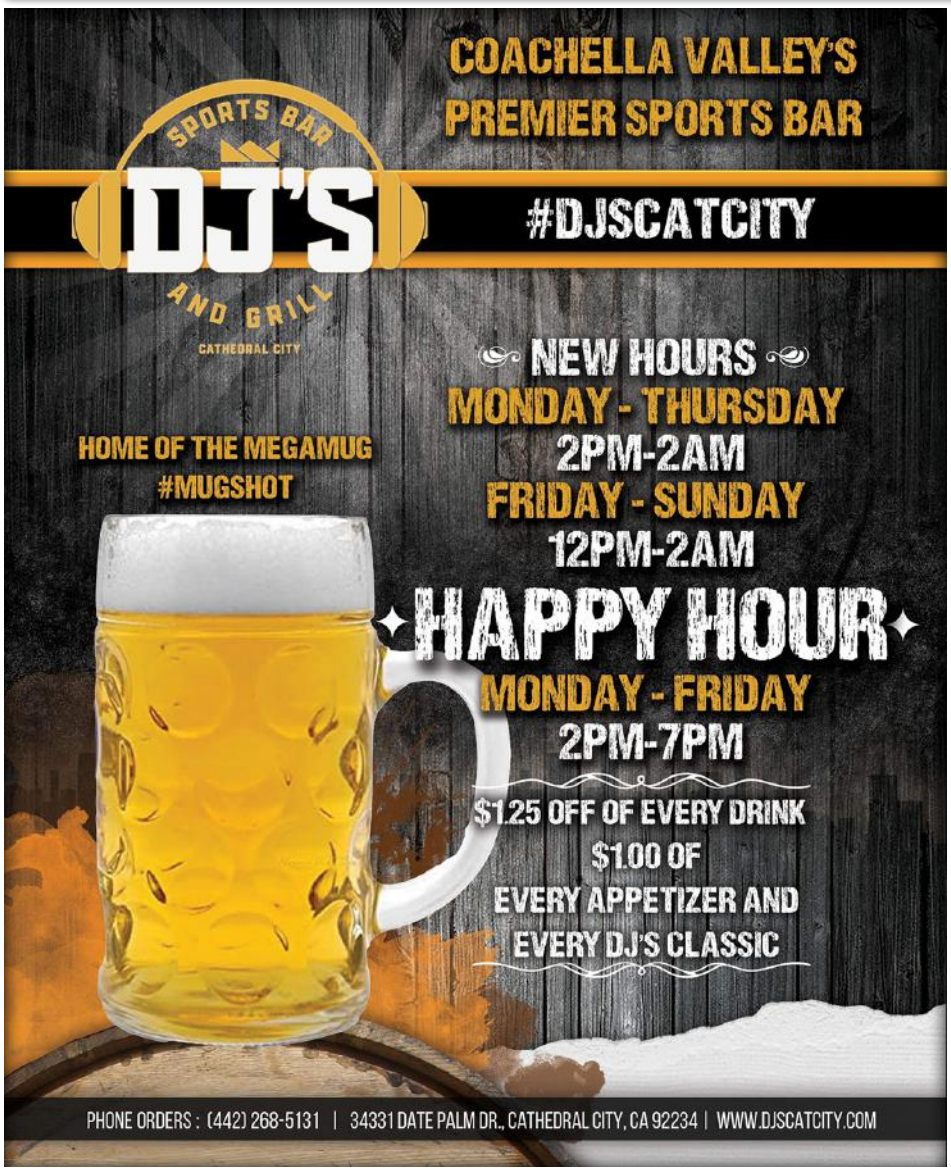
Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm

Purple Room – Charles Herrera, Darci Daniels and Michael Holmes – 6:30pm

Sandbar – Bill Baker – 6pm

Shadow Mountain Golf Club – Doug McDonald Trio – 5:30pm

Vicky's of Santa Fe – John Stanley King Cowboy Songs – 6pm CV





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Jennifer Lopez
Photo by Gabriel Goldberg

Award, Actor); Colman Domingo (Spotlight Award, Actor); Angelina Jolie (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress), Nicole Kidman (International Star Award); Mikey Madison (Breakthrough Performance Award, Actress); and *Emilia Pérez* (Vanguard Award) presented to director Jacques Audiard and actors Karla Sofia Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez and Edgar Ramírez.

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's *A Complete Unknown*, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. The film also stars Edward Norton as Pete Seeger, Elle Fanning as Sylvie Russo, Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez, Boyd Holbrook as Johnny Cash and Scoot McNairy as Woody Guthrie.

Timothée Chalamet was the youngest "Best Actor" Oscar nominee since 1939 for his breakout role in *Call Me by Your Name*. He has starred in five "Best Picture" Oscar nominees: *Call Me by Your Name, Lady Bird, Little Women, Dune*, and *Don't Look Up*. Additional credits include *Bones and All*, *The French Dispatch*, *Beautiful Boy*, *The King*, *Interstellar*, *Dune: Part Two,* and *Wonka*. He is currently in production on A24 and Josh Safdie's *Marty Supreme,* inspired by the late American table tennis legend Martin 'Marty' Reisman.

VARIETY WILL HONOR GLOBAL SUPERSTAR JENNIFER LOPEZ with the LEGEND & GROUNDBREAKER AWARD at the 2025 PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Variety announced that Jennifer Lopez will be honored during the Palm Springs International Film Festival as part of Variety's annual 10 Directors to Watch and Creative Impact Awards brunch on Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Parker Palm Springs.

Lopez will receive the Legend & Groundbreaker Award, paying homage to Lopez's remarkable journey as a multifaceted force in entertainment, spanning film, television, music, and more- including her powerful turn in the film Unstoppable."

"Unstoppable," from Amazon MGM Studios, premiered at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, and follows the inspiring true story of Anthony Robles – the unbreakable Arizona State wrestler who was born with one leg. Jennifer plays Anothony's mother, Judy Robles, who taught him how to fight for himself—how to take what the world might see as a setback and turn it into the very thing that propels you forward. The film is set to be released in select theaters on Dec. 6 and will be on Prime Video on Jan. 16.

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS TO HONOR KIERAN CULKIN WITH THE BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE AWARD

The **Palm Springs International Film Awards** has announced that **Kieran Culkin** is the recipient of the **Breakthrough Performance Award, Actor** for his performance in *A Real Pain.* The Film Awards will take place on January 3, 2025, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, with the festival running January 2-13, 2025. The event will be presented by Silvercrest and sponsored by Entertainment Tonight.

"Kieran Culkin delivers an extraordinary performance in his latest role as Benji in *A Real Pain*. The film follows two cousins who, after the death of their grandmother, embark on a tour of Polish Holocaust history, stirring a mix of emotions as they confront their shared past," said Festival Chairman Nachhattar Singh Chandi. "Culkin brings remarkable depth to his character—a free spirit whose charm captivates a small tour group, yet who wrestles with the emotions of family loss and a sense of an unfulfilled life. For this complex performance, we present Kieran Culkin with this year's Breakthrough Performance Award."

Culkin joins this year's previously announced honorees **Adrien Brody** (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor), *Conclave* (Ensemble Performance Award) presented to actors **Ralph Fiennes**, **Isabella Rossellini**, **Stanley Tucci**, **John Lithgow**, and **Lucian Msamati**; **Colman Domingo** (Spotlight Award, Actor); **Angelina Jolie** (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress); **Nicole Kidman** (International Star Award); **Mikey Madison** (Breakthrough Performance Award); and *Emilia Pérez* (Vanguard Award) presented to director **Jacques Audiard** and actors **Karla Sofia Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez** and **Edgar Ramírez**.

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Kieran Culkin
Photo by Steve Granitz

CREED ANNOUNCES 'SUMMER OF '99' TOUR STOP AT ACRISURE ARENA IN GREATER PALM SPRINGS ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

MUSIC

GENERAL TICKET ON-SALE NOW AT TICKETMASTER.COM

Today, **Creed** announced their highly anticipated Summer of '99 Tour, a massive North American trek featuring support from 3 Doors Down, Daughtry, Big Wreck, and Mammoth WVH. The tour will see the multi-platinum rock band performing at iconic venues across the U.S. and Canada, including a stop at Southern California's premier entertainment destination, Acrisure Arena in Greater Palm Springs, on Thursday, August 7, 2025. Other key stops include the Hollywood Bowl, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, and Chicago's United Center. The tour kicks off on July 17 in Salt Lake City, UT, and concludes on August 31 in Tampa, FL.

TICKETS: Tickets for Creed's highly anticipated Summer 2025 North American Tour will be available to the public beginning Friday, December 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM local time via Ticketmaster.com, the official ticketing provider of Acrisure Arena.

Additionally, Acrisure Arena invites fans to enhance their concert experience by upgrading to the Silvercrest Compound, an exclusive outdoor VIP premium space just steps from the stage. Silvercrest Compound offers a hosted full-service bar (spirits for purchase), a generous buffet, and unique amenities such as cozy fire pits, mini golf, bocce ball, and more.

Creed is one of the most successful rock bands of the late 1990s and early 2000s, with an impressive catalog of hits like "Higher," "With Arms Wide Open," and "My Sacrifice." Since their debut in 1997, the band has sold over 28 million albums in the United States, received four Grammy nominations, and won one Grammy Award. Their tour follows the buzz surrounding their recent reunion aboard the Summer of '99 Cruise, which sold out in record time and reignited fans' passion for the band's electrifying performances.

Supporting Creed on the Summer of '99 Tour is a lineup of rock powerhouses, including:

3 Doors Down: Known for hits like "Kryptonite" and "Here Without You."

Daughtry: Led by Chris Daughtry, the band is a staple of modern rock with hits such as "It's Not Over" and "Home."

Big Wreck: A Canadian-American rock band praised for their dynamic live performances.

Mammoth WVH: Wolfgang Van Halen's project, blending contemporary and classic rock influences.

SUMMER OF '99 TOUR DATES

*(3DD - with **3 DOORS DOWN**, D - With **DAUGHTRY**, BW - with **BIG WRECK**, MWVH - with **MAMMOTH WVH**)*

Jul. 09 - Lexington, KY - Rupp Arena – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 11 - Syracuse, NY - Empower Federal Credit Union Amphitheater at Lakeview – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 12 - Camden, NJ - Freedom Mortgage Pavilion – 3DD

Jul. 15 - Wantagh, NY - Northwell at Jones Beach Theater – D/MWVH

Jul. 16 - Scranton, PA - The Pavilion at Montage Mountain – D/MWVH

Jul. 20 - Columbus, OH - Schottenstein Center – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 22 - Hartford, CT - Xfinity Theatre – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 24 - Charleston, SC - Credit One Stadium – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 26 - New Orleans, LA - Smoothie King Center – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 27 - Memphis, TN - FedExForum – 3DD/MWVH

Jul. 29 - Wichita, KS - INTRUST Bank Arena – D/MWVH

Aug. 01 - Lincoln, NE - Pinnacle Bank Arena – D/MWVH

Aug. 02 - Ridgedale, MO - Thunder Ridge Nature Arena – D/MWVH

Aug. 04 - Albuquerque, NM - Isleta Amphitheater – D/MWVH

Aug. 06 - Chula Vista, CA - North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre – D/MWVH

Aug. 07 – Greater Palm Springs, CA - Acrisure Arena – 3DD/MWVH

Aug. 09 - Mountain View, CA - Shoreline Amphitheatre – 3DD/MWVH

Aug. 10 - Stateline, NV - Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena at Harveys – 3DD/MWVH (Not a Live Nation date)

Aug. 13 - Ridgefield, WA - RV Inn Style Resorts Amphitheater – 3DD/MWVH

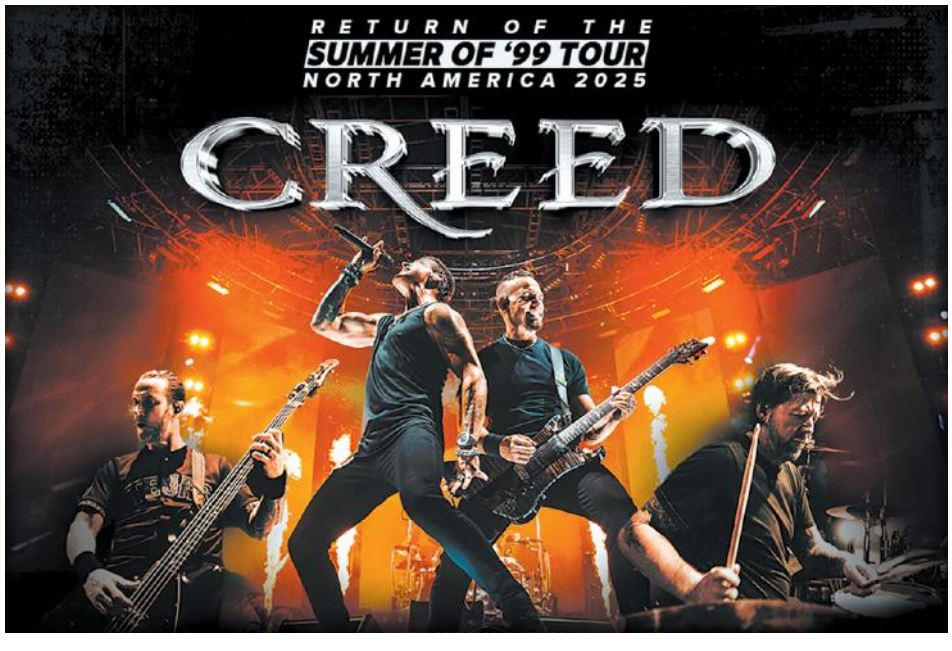
Aug. 14 - Auburn, WA - White River Amphitheatre – 3DD/MWVH

Aug. 16 - Vancouver, BC - Rogers Arena – BW/MWVH

Aug. 19 - Edmonton, AB - Rogers Place – BW/MWVH

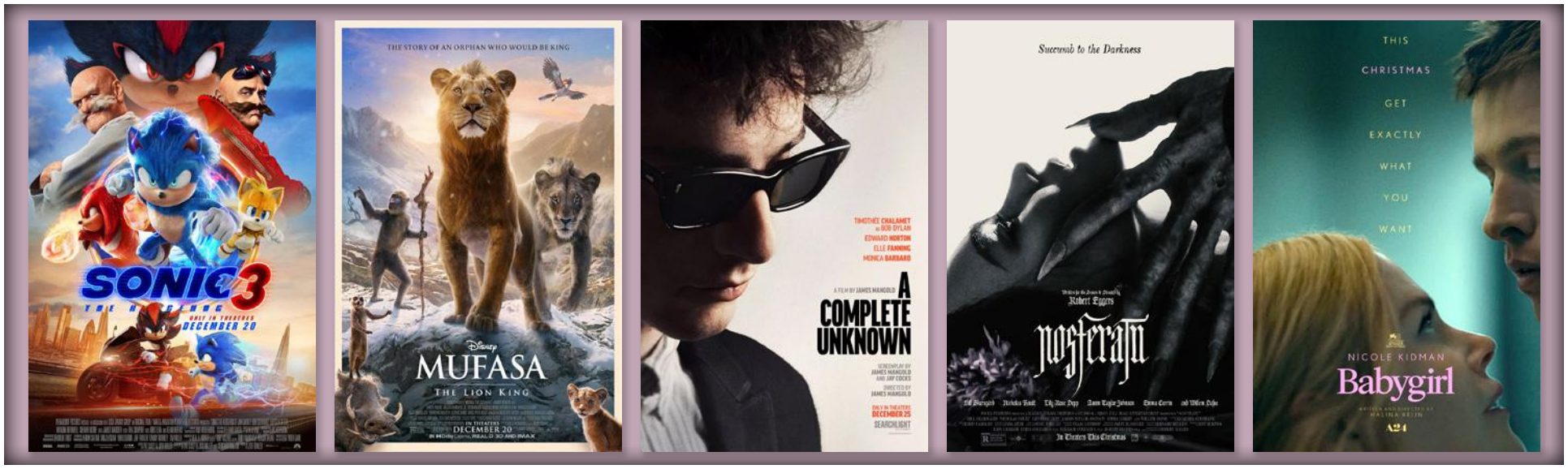
Aug. 20 - Calgary, AB - Scotiabank Saddledome – BW/MWVH

CV



PLAYING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 20TH AT THE MARY PICKFORD

FILM



Sonic the Hedgehog 3 *(1h 49m – Rated PG) Action, Adventure, Animation*

Starring Jim Carrey, Ben Schwartz, James Marsden, Tika Sumpter, Idris Elba, Colleen O'Shaughnessey, Natasha Rothwell, Shemar Moore, Adam Pally, Lee Majdoub, Alyla Browne, Krysten Ritter, Keanu Reeves

Sonic, Knuckles, and Tails reunite against a powerful new adversary, Shadow, a mysterious villain with powers unlike anything they have faced before. With their abilities outmatched in every way, Team Sonic must seek out an unlikely alliance in hopes of stopping Shadow and protecting the planet.

Mufasa: The Lion King *(1h 58m – Rated PG) Adventure, Animation, Drama*

Starring Donald Glover, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner, John Kani, Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Aaron Pierre, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Tiffany Boone, Mads Mikkelsen, Thandiwe Newton, Lennie James, Anika Noni Rose, Blue Ivy Carter

"Mufasa: The Lion King" enlists Rafiki to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Told in flashbacks, the story introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny—their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.

SHOWS STARTING CHRISTMAS DAY

A Complete Unknown *(2h 21m – Rated R) Biography, Drama, Music*

Starring Timothée Chalamet, Edward Norton, Elle Fanning, Monica Barbaro, Boyd Holbrook

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide.

Nosferatu *(2h 12m – Rated R) Drama, Horror, Mystery*

Starring Bill Skarsgård, Nicholas Hoult, Lily-Rose Depp, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Emma Corrin, Willem Dafoe

Robert Eggers' NOSFERATU is a gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing untold horror in its wake.

Babygirl *(1h 54m – Rated R) Crime, Mystery, Thriller*

Starring Nicole Kidman, Harris Dickinson, Sophie Wilde, Antonio Banderas.

Despite the risk and prejudices, a very successful CEO begins an illicit affair with her much younger intern. CV

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THE VINO VOICE

BY RICK RIOZZA



IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL WINE OF THE YEAR

As your friendly neighborhood wine steward/sommelier/fine wine quaffer, I meet a lot of wine enthusiasts. Fortunately, my stint as a wine steward over at the Palm Springs Ralphs Market, I get to meet and greet a bunch of tourists from Europe where I have the opportunity to practice my French & Italian.

Lately though, we're getting a lot of South Americans visiting, so we get to practice proper Spanish as well. (Yes—we also have the pleasure of meeting Brazilians; unfortunately I don't speak Portuguese, but I did study *bossa nova* guitar and I know the Portuguese lyrics that accompany the tunes—but no one wants to hear me sing in the wine aisle. *Talk about burying the lead!*



Anyway—I've come to know a Chilean gentlemen customer residing here who has just come back from visiting his homeland for his 65th high school reunion. He had nothing to report but simply a having a wonderful Christmastime with old friends and viewing vistas of flying saucer shaped clouds over the Andes.

When he's shopped for wine here at Ralphs, he always inquires if we have any new Chilean wines in stock. On his recent return, I was overboard with news of our new Chilean Cab in stock.

But of course, I had to be a bit dramatic before simply informing him the wine we now are selling. "As far as world class wine goes," I posed, "where do you think Chilean wine stands?"

He of course proudly pronounced. "There is some very good wine produced there."

"You think!?", I playfully retorted. I'm sure I dragged the conversation on, but I soon guided him to our premium wine cabinet near the front of the store where over 150 top quality and world class wines are on display. And then I had to give him the good news, "Oh by the way—did you hear that the ***2021Viña Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon Puente Alto Vineyard*** was declared the '***2024 Wine of the Year***' by *Wine Spectator* magazine? That's a big deal in the world of wine!—for wine folk, it becomes history"

And voila! I pointed to the bottle that I had the properly exhibited right in the middle of the wine cabinet. "It sells here for $150, and since there was only 5,000 cases imported to the United States, it will soon, perhaps, become a collector/investment piece. Great for the Chilean wine business."

He was as happy as punch! We both hugged and agreed to savor the moment. Forget about an investment for the ages; we decided now's the time to start Christmas a little early and we purchased the Don Melchor Cab and met at a local pub to taste the wine with some tapas.

Circling back to what it means to be awarded the *Wine Spectator's* ***Wine of the Year,*** the publication, after blind-tasting nearly 10,500 wines during this past year, they go on to winnow the selection down to the "top"100 wines, where those are evaluated for quality based on "score", value based on price, availability based on the cases made or imported into the U.S., and most importantly, the energy and story behind the wine—what they call the "X-factor".

One would think that being part of that selection team is the best gig in the world; but that's a lot of wine to get through, and although we love the idea, it's good *WS* is handling it. The magazine talked about the fact that the 2021 California Cabernet Sauvignon was a major "protagonist" with all of their stellar wines in the competition. It definitely speaks volumes by the fact that a Chilean Cab ended up on the top.

Chilean wines have always been decent table wine—especially at such reasonable prices. For those of you who have not heard of Viña Don Melchor, do realize that its parent company is ***Concha y Toro***: that name you've probably seen on the wine aisle with their Cab and Malbec. And they are known for very good high-volume and low-priced wine. The Viña Don Melchor is now a stand-alone brand.

I think true Cabernet Sauvignon fans will begin take serious notice of the Cabs coming out of Chile. Right now, Ralphs offers a Chilean Cab, the ***2022*** **Icon,** priced at around $15, that I find delicious: tastes like a California Cab but has the medium body of a Bordeaux.

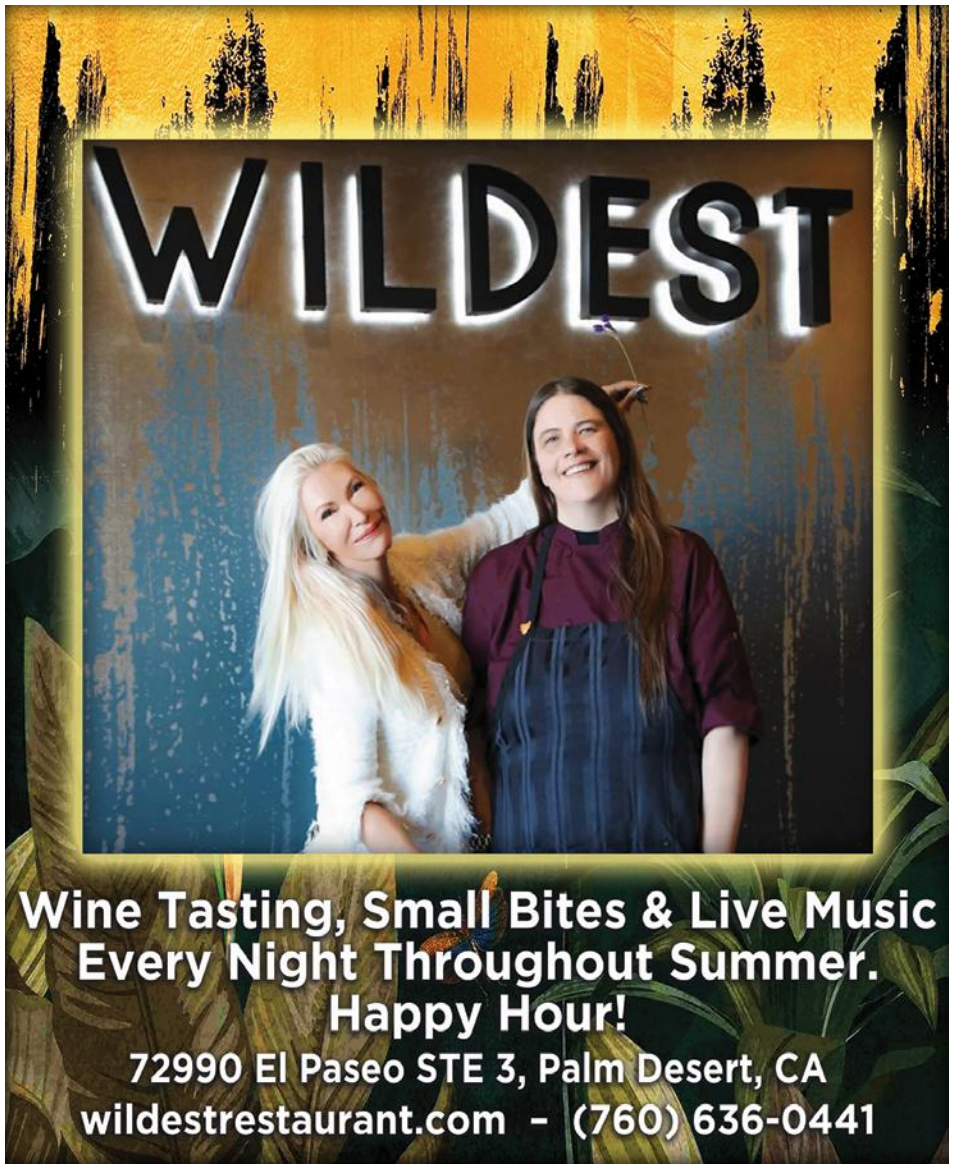
So we enjoyed the *Wine of the Year* Chilean Cab immensely. Here's a synopsis of our findings: It's dark garnet in the glass. The nose starts off quietly (note: we did aerate with a device; ideally, we would have decanted it for an hour or so.), but we did get blackcurrant with hints of fall leaves and black tea; with a little time in the glass, woody aromas and gentle touches of plum and red bell pepper emerged. Now an aroma such as that, tells you wonderful things are to come.

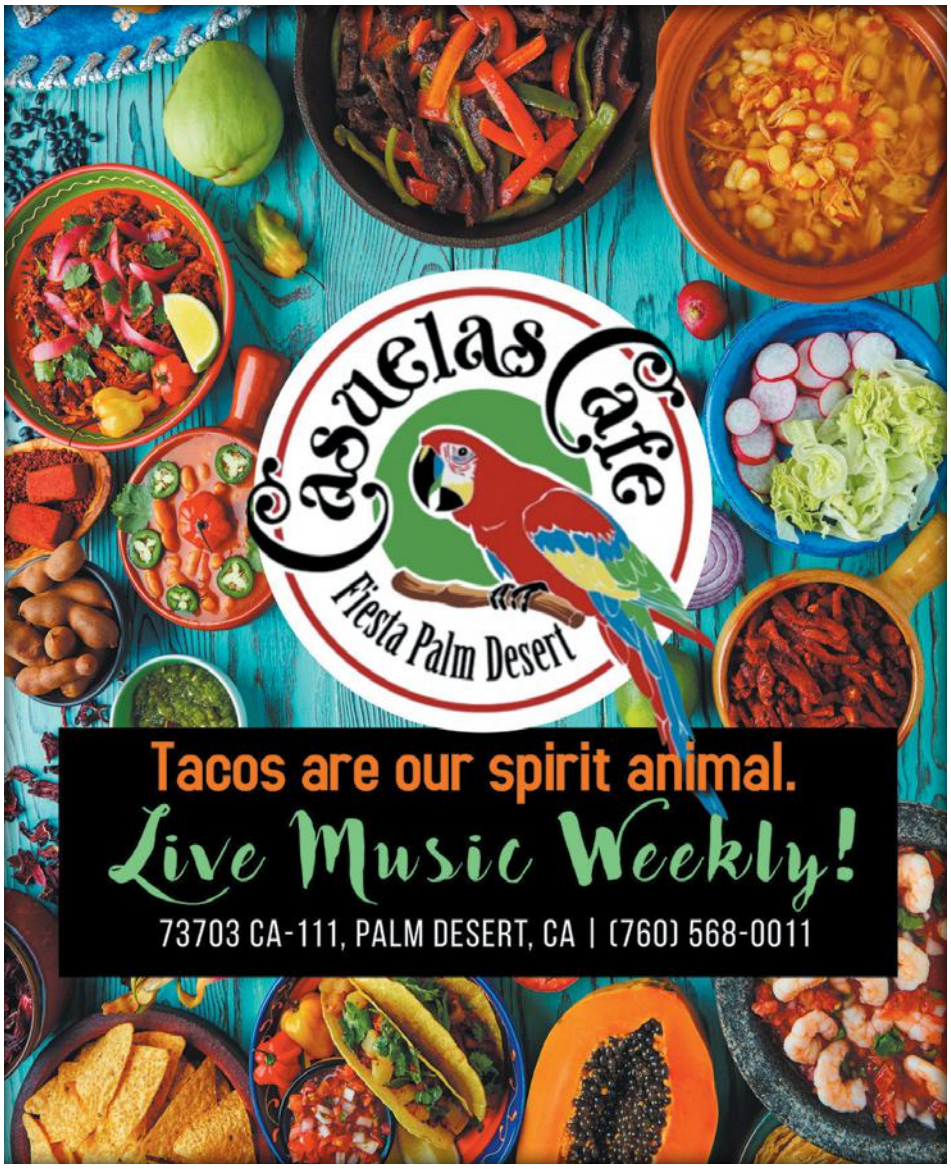
And the flavors that came included: blackberry, cassis, graphite, iron, chocolate, cigar box, dried rosemary, white pepper, raspberry and plum. The wine is rich, elegant and intense—like a fabulous Bordeaux, with juiciness and round tannins; full-bodied with an acidity to keep things fresh, and a long intense finish that will match any holiday meal on the table. The blend is 93% Cab Sauv, 4% Cab Franc, and 3% Merlot.

Merry Christmas Baby!—Cheers CV




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PET PLACE

NEW PET AT CHRISTMAS TIME?



BY JANET McAFEE



It was once widely believed that the holiday season was a bad time to adopt a new dog or cat, and some private shelters and rescues actually closed down until the New Year arrived. There was concern that "impulse" adoptions, and in particular pets bought as "gifts" for other people would result in a large number of adoption returns. While there is some truth to that concern, Michael Arms, CEO and President of the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California, did some research that indicated this might be a great time of year to promote rescue animals.

With private shelter doors closed, would be adopters in December resorted to shopping at pet stores, puppy mills, and backyard breeders for a family pet. Arms realized that this increased the business of non-reputable puppy stores and backyard breeders. However, the staff at these "businesses" were rarely trained to make a successful animal-to-family match, resulting in an increase in the number of pets dumped in public open-admission shelters after the gift giving season ended.

Home 4 The Holidays is now an annual event, now on its 26th annual campaign, having helped adopt over 20 million orphan pets into loving homes each holiday season. This year, orphan puppies from New York based Paws Crossed Animal Rescue joined Michael Arms and Blue Buffalo CEO, Billy Bishop, in Times Square to ring in NASDAQ's opening bell. This now nationally based campaign runs from October 1st, 2024, through January 2nd, 2024.

How does the campaign work? The Blue Buffalo Home 4 The Holidays nationwide effort encourages shelters and rescues to keep their doors open throughout the holiday season. They assist by offering these groups marketing assistance. Blue Buffalo distributes 600,000 pet adoption kits to participating shelters and rescue groups to help adopters get off to a good start with their rescue pet. The kits include pet food coupons and a portfolio to record health and other pet information. National marketing support drives potential pet parents to adopt at participating organizations, and over 4,000 groups now take part.

Michael Arms reports, "The support that Blue Buffalo puts behind this program each year is an incredible gift. All of the participating adoption organizations benefit from months of campaign-messaging encouraging families to visit their local rescue groups or pet adoption center over the holiday season to give orphan pets a chance."

Any time of the year, if you want give a pet to an adult, consider accompanying them to a shelter, let them select an animal, and then pay their adoption fee. Choosing a pet is a very individual and personal decision. Don't surprise your mother-in-law with a large energetic puppy on Christmas morning. The only exception might be if you are a parent purchasing a holiday gift for your own young children, and the animal will be in your home.

Anytime of the year is the BEST time to open your heart and home to a homeless animal. Here at Loving All Animals we are blessed this season by the folks calling to adopt one of our wonderful dogs or cats. Visit us at www.lovingallanimals.org or call (760) 834-7000 for information about where to adopt a pet of any kind this season. View the animals at our large county shelter in Thousand Palms, the Coachella Valley Animal Campus, at www.rcdas.org or call them at (760) 343-3644. There's nothing like the warm, loving and grateful heart of a rescue dog or cat to bring you holiday joy.

Merry Christmas to you and your 4-legged family members!

Jmcafee7@verizon.net CV





MEET SKIPPER

This precious 9-mo-old fellow is 40-lbs of doggie love! He's a special 3-legged pup (Tripod) who runs like the wind. Call Loving All Animals at (760) 834-7002 to meet Skipper.



MEET RHONDA

LOVING ALL ANIMALS rescued Rhonda & her siblings when they were abandoned outside Petco. 6-mo-old Rhonda is ready for a forever home, She looks like a Shepherd mix and will be medium size. Call 760-834-7000 to meet this happy girl!





Here is a partial list of animal shelters & rescues:

COACHELLA VALLEY ANIMAL CAMPUS – Open 10:00-4:00 Monday through Saturday. View animals online at all 4 county shelters www.rcdas.org, 72-050 Pet Land Place, Thousand Palms, Call (760) 343-3644. (Public)

PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER – Open to the public, closed Tuesday. View animals online at www.psanimalsshelter.org and complete application for the one you want to meet, 4575 E. Mesquite Ave, Palm Springs, Call (760) 416-5718. (Public)

DESERT HOT SPRINGS ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL - Open daily 9:30-4:30. www.cityofdhs.org/animal-care-control.com, View animals at www.petango.com/dhsacc. 65810 Hacienda Ave, Desert Hot Springs, Call for appointment (760) 329-6411 ext. 450.

ANIMAL SAMARITANS – Open to the public. View their animals at www.animalsamaritans.org. Email volunteer@animalsamaritans.org to foster or volunteer. Located at 72307 Ramon Rd, Thousand Palms, (760) 601-3918. (Private)

CALIFORNIA PAWS RESCUE - Call for an appointment to adopt. Located at 73650 Dinah Shore, Palm Desert. View their animals at www.californiapawsrescue.com, (760) 656-3833. (Private)

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY – Fill out an application online www.orphanpet.com and call for an appointment. This shelter has dogs of all sizes and cats, Located at 17825 N. Indian Canyon, Palm Springs, (760) 329-0203. (Private)

KITTYLAND – Open to the public to adopt cats and kittens. Located at 67600 18th Avenue, Desert Hot Springs, www.kittylandrescue.org, (760) 251-2700. (Private)

PRETTY GOOD CAT – Foster based rescue for cats located in La Quinta. Contact them at www.prettygoodcat.com, (760) 660-3414 (Private)

LOVING ALL ANIMALS – Call for appointment to adopt dogs. Located at 83496 Ave 51, Coachella, www.lovingallanimals.org, (760) 834-7000. (Private)

ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER OF CALIFORNIA (ARC), Foster based rescue for dogs and cats in Indio. www.thearc-ca.org, (760) 877-7077 (Private)

FLUFFS & SCRUFFS – Foster based rescue for small dogs in Cathedral City. FLUFFSANDSCRUFFS@AOL.COM, (310) 980-3383 (Private)

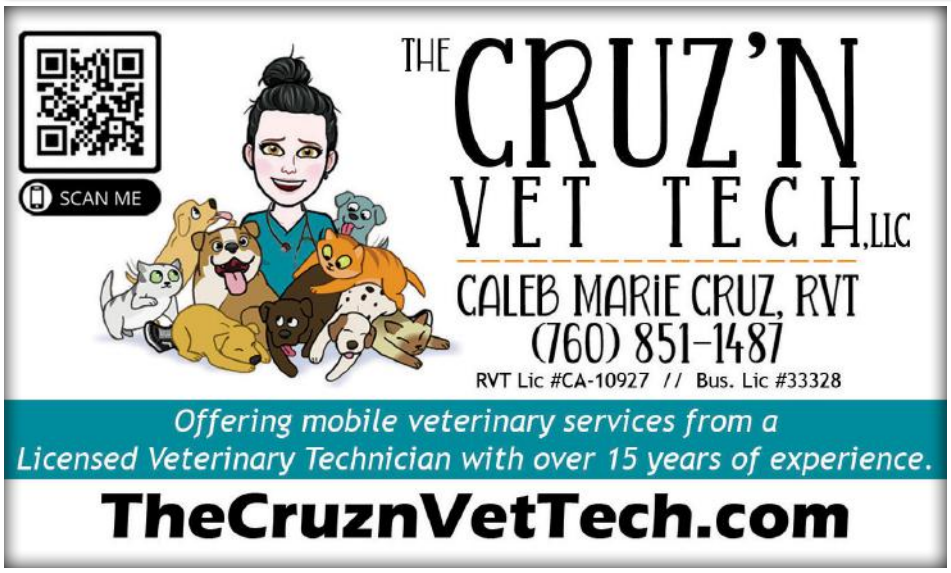
SOCIETY'S OUTKAST ANIMAL RESCUE – Foster based rescue for dogs in Rancho Mirage, www.societysoutkasts.com, (760) 832-0617. (Private)

LIVING FREE ANIMAL SANCTUARY – Large outdoor shelter for dogs and cats up Hwy 74, Mountain Center, www.living-free.org, (951) 659-4687. (Private)

CITY OF BANNING ANIMAL SHELTER – Open daily 10am-6pm. Located at 2050 E. Charles Street, Banning. Many beautiful animals of all sizes. View animals at www.arerecue.org/banning. (951) 708-1280 Short staffed so don't always answer phones. (public)

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO ANIMAL SHELTER – Open 12:00 – 3pm Tues through Sat. Google "City of San Bernardino Animal Shelter" for website to view animals and get the ID number of the animal you want. Located at 333 Chandler Place, San Bernardino, (909) 384-1304 or (909) 384-7272. (Public)

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AT DEVORE – Open 7 days a week. Call (909) 386-9280, www.sbcounty.gov/acc and get the ID number of animal you are interested in adopting, 19777 Shelter Way, San Bernardino (Public). CV



These friendly dogs are at the Coachella Valley Animal Campus waiting for homes. Come meet them at 72-050 Petland Place, Thousand Palms, and www.rcdas.org for more info.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES









GREEN UNDER THE INVESTMENT TREE

HADDON LIBBY



BY HADDON LIBBY

This has been a banner year for investors. At the start of the year, most feared a recession caused by higher borrowing rates and inflation. At the mid-month point, the US stock market was up by 25% to 30%.

Given the great year that most investors have had, it might be time to look at the mix of assets in your 401k or investment account to see if any changes might be necessary.

The first thing to figure out is your risk level. Younger investors typically keep most if not all assets in stocks or alternatives. As the stock market can be volatile, the more youthful amongst us have a longer time to recover from market declines. As people age, they tend to take less risk and therefore keep more in bonds and bank CDs.

Cash is considered the lowest risk option. Given that inflation erodes its value by 3%/year, this is probably a bit too conservative for most. Cash in an investment account can easily earn more than 4%.

Next would be a bond portfolio. Over time, this asset type can be expected to pay 4%. At present, bonds are yielding a bit more than the historic average.

If you hold bonds via a fund, be aware that higher interest rates can cause this 'safe' asset to fall in value by more than the interest rate received. When interest rates are stable or declining, bond funds work. My preference is to own the underlying bonds to maturity as I know what I'm earning. I also prefer investment grade bonds versus high yield bonds. If I want a higher yield, I'm more likely to put those funds in the stock market versus



a risky piece of paper that often does not pay enough to make up for the risk incurred.

Before discussing stocks, let's take a quick look at alternatives. Alternatives include investments like gold, silver, partnerships, hedge funds, options, and bitcoin. These are typically more speculative investments. Where gold has been the historic store of value against inflation, many see bitcoin as a future alternative.

Stocks make up the largest percentage of most investment portfolios. Professionals advise that you hold a diverse mix of stocks. Diversification comes by holding companies of many sizes that operate in many industries around the world. Roughly 60% of all stocks are in the United States.

Most stocks are blocked into one of eleven sectors. Technology stocks represent the largest stock with 30% of all stock market value. Other sectors include Financials (13%), Healthcare (12%), Cyclicals (10%), Industrials (9%), Communications (8%), Consumer Staples (5%), Energy (4%), Utilities (3%), Real Estate (3%) and Materials (2%).

When building a portfolio, diversification typically provides better performance over time. The US stock market has 70% in LargeCap stocks with 20% in MidCap and 10% in SmallCap. At the same time, about 25% of stocks are considered Growth stocks with 30% considered Value stocks with the remaining 45% in Core stocks.

So how do you use all this information to see if your mix of assets is what you want?

Once you have determined the split between stocks and bonds, you want to make sure that the stocks or funds that you use stay within the general percentages of the market. All too often, investment portfolios are built for one moment in time and do not adjust to changing market conditions. As an example, many people had more in energy stocks when the price of oil was rising yet kept those percentages in place as valuations fell.

Looking at the next year, will the threat of tariff wars lead to a weaker performance for non-US stocks? If you believe this, you might want to keep those holdings smaller than market averages.

If all this is something you avoid, talk to an investment professional who can help.

Haddon Libby is the Founder and Chief Investment Officer of RIA firm, Winslow Drake Investment Management. For a free portfolio review, please visit WinslowDrake.com. CV

WINSLOW DRAKE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

YOU WILL HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR... IF YOU DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

DALE GRIBOW ON THE LAW

LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF THE INJURED & CRIMINALLY ACCUSED





Who do you love more than your dog? Probably your immediate family, and that's it. Who else shows they're happy when they see you, or waits at the front door for you to get home? Unlike a spouse, you only have 10 to 15 years of this love and devotion. Our Bella is 16 and we are confronted with having to put her down because of her health during the 2024 holidays.

If left alone, your puppy will not have food or water, and possibly be chained. Your dog needs you!...so DON'T DRINK, DRIVE OR TEXT AND GET A PI OR DUI. UNDERSTANT THAT BEING INTEXTICATED, IS AS SERIOUS AS BEING INTOXICATED AND IMPAIRED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING! A TAXI OR UBER IS CHEAPER THAN ME.

Being jailed or hospitalized after we drove impaired and got arrested or had an accident, will cause you money and heartache...not to mention embarrassment. You want the lights following you home to be street lights, and not Red and Blue flashing lights.

Remember to remain Silent. You can only hurt your case talking to the police or the insurance company. It is not what you say, but what they "thought you said"... **so keep your mouth shut**! Many lawyers don't understand it is not what you say, but rather what the adjuster, investigator, officer THOUGHT you said.

When a lawyer tells them the same thing, s/he can say they are wrong and must have misunderstood, and they will check and get back to the officer or insurance company. If you say the same thing, you are locked into that testimony.

DO NOT TALK, SIGN, SETTLE OR DEAL WITH ANYONE FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANY OR POLICE... WITHOUT YOUR LAWYERS OK. Please understand, the insurance company on a PI, and the police on a DUI, are; "not on your side" and you are not in "good hands" because your "friendly neighbor" will not give you " a piece of the rock."

If stopped for a DUI and requested to take the VOLUNTARY Breath or Field Sobriety Agility Test, set me up as the strawman, and let me be the bad guy. Explain you would be happy to talk to them and take a field sobriety test. However, your lawyer asked you to not discuss anything without his/her permission. Ask the police to call me, and then you will do whatever they want. Explain you would be happy to take a Blood Test. If you follow this advice, you hopefully will not need me.

They won't call me, but you can honestly testify that you were willing to do, and answer anything if they just got the ok from your lawyer. With an accident case, get the name and number of the adjuster, and explain you want to get permission to talk to them from your lawyer. After you call me, I will call them and explain, it is not the policy of our office to allow a client to talk. Thus, you remain the good guy and the lawyer is the bad guy.

The truth is that you may not need a PI/DUI lawyer. However, you do need a lawyer who focuses on these areas of the law. After a free strategy analysis consultation to determine your needs, I may advise clients they can proceed without me and direct them.

For years my legal columns and "Accidentally Yours" talk shows explained: "ONLY hire a local award-winning PI Lawyer, and NOT some no- name, nonlocal 1-800 lawyer. As an accident victim, I have "walked in your shoes and understand what you are, and will be, going through. "Don't let a lawyer, who has not walked in your shoes, tell you how to tie your laces, and don't let the insurance company run you over again." Demand sound advice, not soundbites, from an experienced award-winning lawyer!

Only a lawyer who has also been in an accident will understand: your not being able to lift/bend; trouble sleeping; fear of driving; temperamental; confused; what to do first; how to find a doctor and then which doctor. After all, you want a doctor who is competent in providing medical care... and knows How To Write A Med/Legal Report which is not taught in most medical schools. For a decade, I taught the Prestigious International College of Orthopedic Surgeons on this subject. This is a major factor in getting more money on a case.

The insurance company is motivated by "Perception of Risk". Thus, you would prefer a doc saying there is a 50% chance you will not recover, rather than a 50% you will recover. Keep them scared of your hitting it "big".

If you are like me, you may have relived the accident when sleeping and driving. I would constantly look in the rear and side view mirrors to be sure the cars behind me were stopping. When I heard brakes screech, I would tighten my neck and shoulder muscles, preparing to be hit...is that you too?

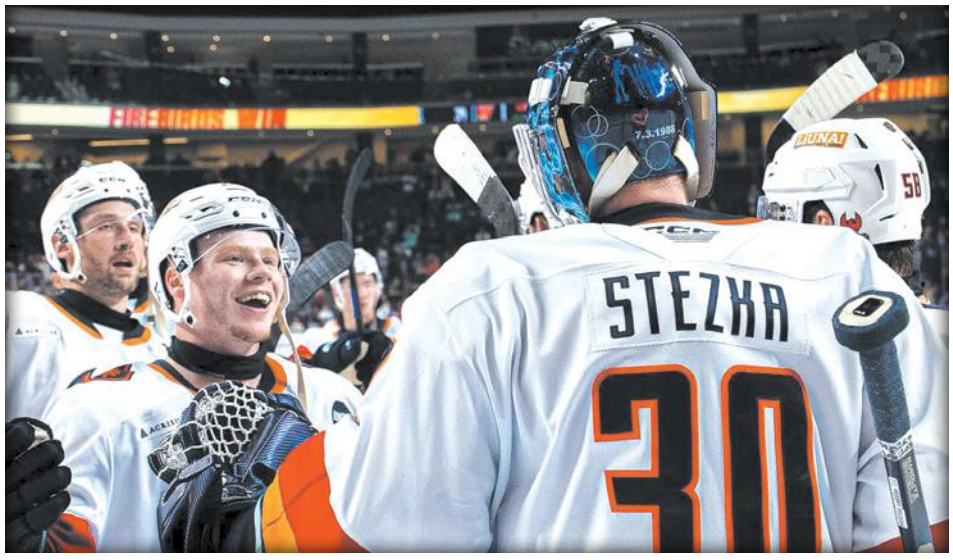
DALE GRIBOW

A 5 Star lawyer with 9 Top Lawyer Awards while representing the Injured and Criminally accused. CV

FIREBIRDS MOVE BACK INTO WIN COLUMN WITH 3-1 VICTORY OVER WRANGLERS

SPORTS SCENE

STEZKA MAKES 33 SAVES IN COACHELLA VALLEY'S WIN OVER FIRST PLACE CALGARY



The Coachella Valley Firebirds, the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate of the Seattle Kraken, defeated the Calgary Wranglers on Saturday night by the final score of 3-1. Ben Meyers, John Hayden, and Jani Nyman each scored for Coachella Valley while Ales Stezka made 33 saves to help the Firebirds move to 12-8-1-3.

QUICK NOTE:

• Ben Meyers redirected a shot from Gustav Olofsson just 31 seconds into the game to put Coachella Valley up 1-0. John Hayden earned the secondary assists.

• Calgary tied the game halfway through the period as Adam Klapka netted his seventh of the season on a rebound.

• The Firebirds regained the lead on a shorthanded goal from John Hayden, set up by Meyers at 2:50 of the second period.

• Jani Nyman extended Coachella Valley's lead with a breakaway goal. Ty Nelson launched a pass from inside of his own zone and found Nyman in by himself. Nyman went from his forehand to his backhand to beat Calgary goaltender Walterri Ignatjew at 13:30.

• The Firebirds killed all four Wranglers powerplays in the game.

• Coachella Valley was outshot by Calgary 34-20.

• Ales Stezka made 33 saves on 34 shots in the win, improving his record to 6-7-3 on the season. Over the last two games, Stezka has made 83 saves.

• With the win tonight, Coachella Valley snapped a three-game winless skid.

• This was the Firebirds' first win over the Wranglers this season (1-1).

Coachella Valley continues their homestand tomorrow, Sunday, December 15 to rematch against the Calgary Wranglers. Puck drop is set for 3pm PT. Get Buy One Get One tickets to any Firebirds' home game through December 18th! Visit CVFirebirds.com to get yours today! BOGO offer valid online only, taxes and fees apply.

Get a jump on the 2024-25 Firebirds season with individual, full season, half season, and 9-game Pick 'Em Plan ticket packages on sale now! In addition to all Firebirds home games, full season ticket packages include access to the 2025 AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29, along with special events, gifts, membership perks, and more!

Stay up to date on the latest Firebirds' news and info by visiting CVFirebirds.com and by following the team on social media @Firebirds.

One Valley. One Team. Rising Together.

About the Coachella Valley Firebirds

The Coachella Valley Firebirds are the AHL's 32nd Franchise and the affiliate of the Seattle Kraken. The Firebirds are the league's back-to-back Western Conference Champions and play their home games at Acrisure Arena in Palm Desert, CA. Visit www.cvfirebirds.com for the latest news and information. CV

PSIFF continued from page 12

Past recipients of the Breakthrough Performance Award include Mahershala Ali, Austin Butler, Rami Malek, David Oyelowo, and Jeremy Renner. In the years they were honored, Ali and Malek went on to receive Academy Awards, while Butler and Renner received nominations.

A Real Pain, presented by Searchlight Pictures, follows mismatched cousins David and Benji as they reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. Directed and written by Jesse Eisenberg, the film stars Eisenberg alongside Culkin with a cast rounded out by Will Sharpe, Jennifer Grey, Kurt Egyiawan, Liza Sadovy, and Daniel Oreskes.

Coming off one of the most critically acclaimed television shows in recent history, Kieran Culkin garnered praise for his performance as Roman Roy in the Emmy and SAG winning drama, "Succession." Culkin won an Emmy®, Critics Choice Award, and Golden Globe® last year for the final season of the show. Culkin, who has been acting for over 30 years, has made distinct choices in both film and theatre. Recent film credits include: *Igby Goes Down, Scott Pilgrim vs. The World, No Sudden Move, Weiner Dog, The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys, The Mighty, Paper Man and Margaret*. Upcoming, he will be seen in the revival of David Mamet's play *Glengarry Glen Ross,* set to open in 2025 on Broadway.

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS TO HONOR ANGELINA JOLIE WITH THE DESERT PALM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, ACTRESS

The **Palm Springs International Film Awards** has announced that **Angelina Jolie** is the recipient of the Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress, for Pablo Larraín›s *Maria*. The Film Awards will take place on January 3, 2025, at the Palm Springs Convention Center, with the festival running January 2-13, 2025.

Angelina Jolie
Photo courtesy of Netflix

The event will be presented by Silvercrest and sponsored by Entertainment Tonight.

"Maria presents the iconic Angelina Jolie in the role of a lifetime as she embodies Maria Callas, the world-renowned opera legend. Jolie's extraordinary portrayal captures the heart and complexity of an artist whose life was as captivating as her music," said Festival Chairman Nachhattar Singh Chandi. "In honor of her mesmerizing transformation into this groundbreaking yet tragic figure, we are thrilled to present Angelina Jolie with the Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress."

Jolie joins this year's previously announced honorees: **Adrien Brody** (Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor), *Conclave* (Ensemble Performance Award) presented to actors **Ralph Fiennes**, **Isabella Rossellini**, **Stanley Tucci**, **John Lithgow**, and **Lucian Msamati**; **Colman Domingo** (Spotlight Award, Actor); **Nicole Kidman** (International Star Award); **Mikey Madison** (Breakthrough Performance Award); and *Emilia Pérez* (Vanguard Award) presented to director **Jacques Audiard** and actors **Karla Sofia Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez** and **Edgar Ramírez**.

Past winners of the Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actress include last year's recipient Emma Stone who went on to receive the Academy Award for Best Actress, along with Cate Blanchett, Halle Berry, Sandra Bullock, Jessica Chastain, Olivia Colman, Marion Cotillard, Viola Davis, Julianne Moore, Natalie Portman, Charlize Theron and Renée Zellweger.

From director Pablo Larraín, *Maria,* stars Academy Award winner, Angelina Jolie as Maria Callas, one of the greatest opera singers of the 20th century. The film follows the American-Greek soprano as she retreats to Paris after a glamorous and tumultuous life in the public eye. *Maria* reimagines the legendary soprano in her final days as the diva reckons with her identity and life. The film also features Pierfrancesco Favino, Alba Rohrwacher, Haluk Bilginer, Stephen Ashfield, with Valeria Golino and Kodi Smit-McPhee as Mandrax. *Maria* releases in select theaters on November 27, 2024, and on Netflix on December 11, 2024.

Angelina Jolie is an Academy Award-winning actress, director, and producer, with film credits including Walt Disney Pictures' *Maleficent* series, *Salt*, and *Girl, Interrupted.* Jolie directed, produced and co-wrote the critically acclaimed feature *First They Killed My Father* and the upcoming *Without Blood*; additionally, she directed the Oscar®-nominated drama *Unbroken.* She is a Tony Award-winning producer on the acclaimed new Broadway musical *The Outsiders*.

With over 20 years working as a humanitarian focusing on work with refugees and human rights, Jolie also champions local leadership in environmental conservation and has funded schools, health and education initiatives globally. Additionally, she is founder of the Maddox Foundation, an integrated development program headquartered in Cambodia, with a focus on conservation, agriculture, education and economic development projects in the area. She is the founder of Atelier Jolie, a hub for artists, empowering people to participate in creating their own fashion, with a focus on sustainability. Jolie is also co-author of *Know Your Rights and Claim Them,* a guide for youth.

Variety's "10 Directors to Watch." These directors will be honored during the Palm Springs International Fil Festival as part of Variety's annual 10 Directors to Watch and Creative Impact Awards brunch on Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Parker Palm Springs.

Those being honored include:

Durga Chew-Bose, "Bonjour Tristesse"

Coralie Fargeat, "The Substance"

David Fortune, "Color Book"

Drew Hancock, "Companion"

Zoe Kravitz, "Blink Twice"

Tom Nesher, "Come Closer"

Halina Reijn, "Babygirl"

James Sweeney, "Twinless"

Magnus von Horn, "The Girl With the Needle"

Malcolm Washington, "The Piano Lesson" CV

SWAG FOR THE SOUL

CRYSTAL ENERGY

BY AIMEE MOSCO



It is hard to deny that crystals are intriguing. Even if you have not been drawn to them for their metaphysical properties, you have probably had an attraction to a rock, a mineral specimen, or a crystal at some point in your life. If you are sensitive, you may have even been drawn to a crystal because the vibration it emits felt good to you. The subtle vibrations that emanate from crystals may not always trigger a reaction from your physical senses, but your energy receptors, such as your chakras and your meridians, as well as the outer layers of your energy field will typically respond to their influence.



Clearly, many crystals are aesthetically beautiful, but their true value to you and your inner spirit lies in their ability to capture, store, transmit, and amplify energy. They are libraries, receivers, transmitters, and generators for energy communications that support the well-being of all sentient beings on this planet, including you!

The physical body cannot live without exposure to certain minerals. The minerals that you must ingest or absorb to maintain health, carry information to your cells. When your cells receive the transmission, they integrate the applicable information you need to regenerate, restore, or grow. The same holds true for the non-physical layers of the energy field. Crystals deliver energetic communications that repair and support the function of your auric field.

Crystals serve as one of Earth's energetic categorization mechanisms. Minerals store the energy from all living beings once they perish. When a person, animal, insect, or plant is alive and having an embodied experience, the cells within the body are gathering and storing information. When the body expires, all that was captured in the cells goes back to the Earth. Once the Earth absorbs the energies, they sort themselves by finding their way back to the mineral libraries that store information with similar vibrational signatures. The Earth library is so expansive, in part, because each living being effectively contributes something of great value to it when they pass. Through the mineral kingdom, these contributions are ultimately repurposed and utilized to sustain the wellness of future living beings.

So, the next time a crystal or a rock catches your attention, know that it harbors the wisdom and experience energy of other beings who lived before you. Unless you know it to be toxic to your body, invite the specimen to convey communications to you, receive what benefits you, and give thanks for what you receive. Even if you do not understand what it has delivered to you, trust that your inner spirit has guided you to the energetic information contained within it for a very good reason.

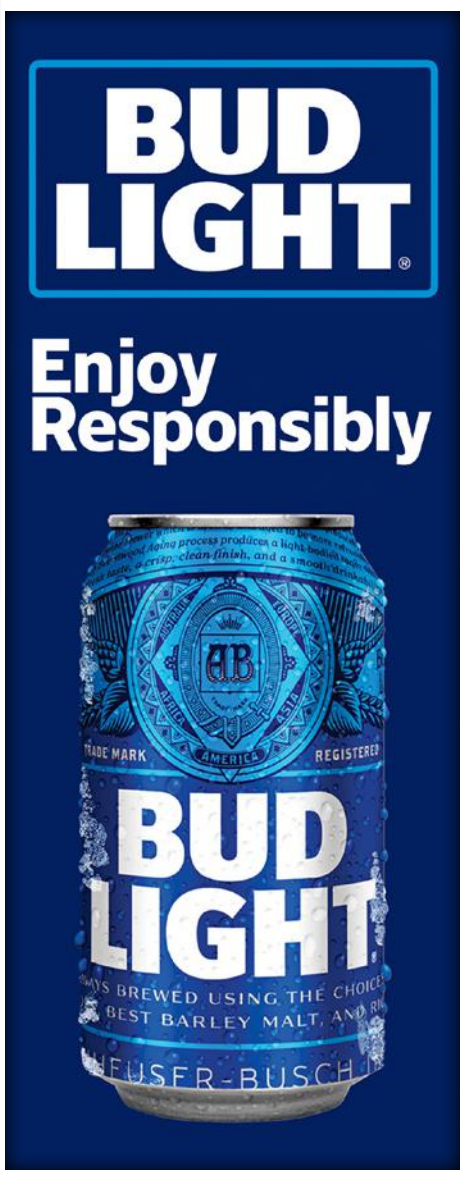
Aimee invites you to join her Telegram community ***DIVINE PURPOSE Discussions*** to explore the topic of crystals**.** Go to https://t.me/+8XQ9bgCiF0A2Yzlx to be part of these discussions.

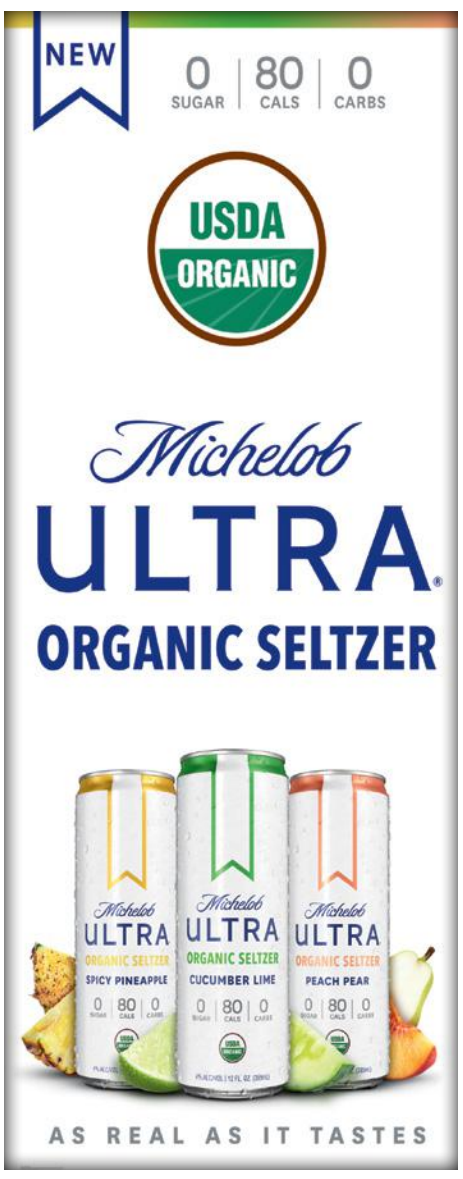
Aimee Mosco is an Author, Intuitive Channel, Spiritual Teacher and Co-Founder of **Intentional Healing Systems, LLC.** Aimee's desire to help others inspired her first book *"Gratitude + Forgiveness x (LOVE) = Happiness"*. Aimee serves on advisory committees to global charity organization, **World Game-Changers**, and local charity, **Coachella Valley Horse Rescue**. Visit Aimee at **www.ihsunity.com.** CV

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BY COACH NADIA POPOVA

As we wind down another year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the incredible journey you've taken.

Your 2024 Fitness Wins

Let's take a moment to celebrate all your hard work and dedication. Whether it was:

• **Conquering a new workout:** Maybe you finally mastered that burpee or nailed that perfect push-up.

• **Sticking to a healthy eating plan:** You ditched the processed snacks and embraced whole foods.

• **Prioritizing self-care:** You made time for yoga, meditation, or simply relaxing.

• **Building a strong community:** You found your fitness tribe and supported each other.

Every single one of these achievements is a step in the right direction. You're not just getting fitter; you're becoming stronger, healthier, and happier.

Setting Goals for 2025

Now, let's set our sights on the future. As you think about your fitness goals for the new year, remember to keep them **SMART:** Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

• **Run a 5K:** Set a target race and train consistently.

• **Build more muscle:** Increase your weightlifting routine.



• **Improve your flexibility:** Try yoga or Pilates.

• **Eat more fruits and vegetables:** Set a daily goal.

Staying Motivated and Consistent We know that staying motivated can be tough, especially during the holiday season. Here are a few tips to help you stay on track:

• **Find a workout buddy:** Having a training partner can make workouts more fun and keep you accountable.

• **Mix up your routine:** Try new workouts to avoid boredom.

• **Celebrate small wins:** Reward yourself for achieving your goals, no matter how small.

• **Don't be afraid to take a break:** Rest and recovery are essential for long-term success.

A Little Inspiration

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Remember, progress, not perfection, is the key. Keep pushing yourself, and we'll be here to support you every step of the way.

Our Send Me a Trainer team would love to walk the journey with you this coming year. Schedule a free call and let's find you the perfect trainer.You can reach out to our team at (760)880-9904 or visit our website at cvsendmeatrainer.com.

Here's to a fantastic 2025! CV

FREED THE WEED 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CANNABIS CORNER



BY RUTH HILL R.N.



In December 1999, the Inland Empire (IE) met with six people attending the first meeting of the Marijuana Anti-Prohibition Project (MAPP) at The Hemp Store in Desert Hot Springs, CA. Fast forward to Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at 7 p.m., MAPP is cordially inviting you to join in making cannabis history again by celebrating its 25th Anniversary at the 420 Bank Dispensary and Lounge in Palm Springs, CA.

If someone predicted 25 years ago that Coachella Valley (CV) stores would be selling cannabis, farmers would be cultivating legal crops, businesses would be manufacturing edibles, tinctures, oils and concentrates, the public would have wondered what they were drinking. Today, people convicted of cannabis violations are released from jail, and their convictions are being expunged from their records. Medical facilities are allowing patients to consume cannabis. California State Fair now awards Blue Ribbons for the best cannabis. The wholesale price of cannabis has plunged from $2,000 to $3,000/pound to $1,000/pound.

MAPP convinced the city of Palm Springs (PS) in 2008 to be the first city in the IE to allow the legal operation of medical marijuana dispensaries in Riverside County. In 2015, PS's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance allowed patients at one residence to cultivate up to 24 plants indoors and outdoors. MAPP effectively turned Riverside County from the backwaters of cannabis accessibility to a leader.

Unfortunately, San Bernardino County has been a much harder nut to crack. The County has always been a reactionary curmudgeon from their ill-fated lawsuit to have Senate Bill 420 declared unconstitutional to their fortunately ill-fated attempt to have Larry Swiekart imprisoned for his cannabis activism. Larry brought hundreds of patients to SB County Board of Supervisors meetings and harangued them about their refusal to implement Prop. 215 and Prop. 64, which was approved by their voters. SB County is losing the battle as several cities in the County have allowed businesses to make cannabis available. SB County has a long way to go to catch up with Riverside County.

Yes, there are still problems, and much more work needs to be done to make cannabis as easy to obtain and as affordable as a bottle of wine. To prove cannabis prohibition has ended, celebrate in 420 Bank Dispensary MAPP'S 25th Anniversary by consuming cannabis - smoking, vaping, vaporizing, eating, and, for those who dare, dabbing with no fear of arrest.

This is a rare opportunity to reconnect with many of the folks with whom you worked side-by-side as MAPP lobbied, marched, protested, and picketed during the last 25 years, demanding legal access to cannabis. In both counties, MAPP also provided court support for those who got caught up in the legal system for the use and/or cultivation of cannabis. Some of those maiden activists will be joining the celebration.

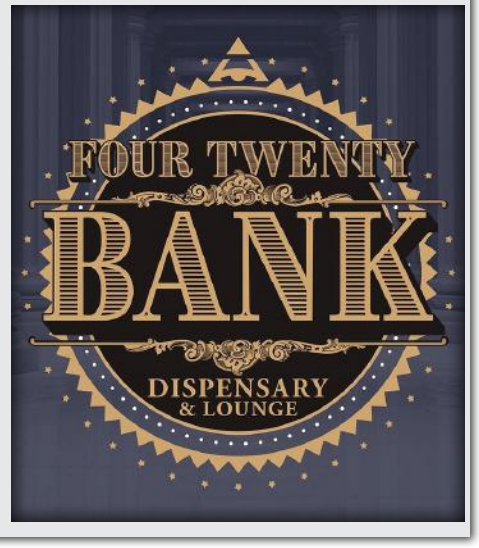
The 25th Anniversary Party will be held at the fabulous 420 Bank Dispensary and Lounge, located at 296 S. Palm Canyon Dr. in downtown Palm Springs. One of the largest cannabis dispensaries and lounges in California, the 420 Bank Dispensary is a gem. We will have a private room for our celebration, but the entire premises will be open and available for your enjoyment.

In keeping with the celebratory theme, the event will provide a scrumptious, non-medicated dessert and ice cream buffet. 420 Bank Dispensary is providing a private lounge and use of the entire facility gratis, so please DO NOT bring your own cannabis.

The 420 Bank is a licensed dispensary that offers an amazing variety of cannabis products, from the finest buds and intoxicating oils to the strongest concentrates and delicious edibles. Since December 21 is also the Winter Solstice (the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year), a pagan holiday dating back 5,000 years, it will be a double celebration with MAPP's 25th Anniversary party.

Please send an email to rnlanny@aol.com or phone Larry at 760-799-2055 how many will be coming so MAPP can plan properly.

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