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RICK SHELLEY TO PLAY SPAGHETTI WESTERN

BY ELENI P. AUSTIN



Critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Rick Shelley will be playing Spaghetti Western in Morongo Valley, this Saturday, August 23rd.

Originally from Walla, Walla Washington, Rick has been a part of the ever-evolving desert music scene since the mid '80s. He first garnered attention as the snake-hipped front-man for the gritty Glam/Punk band RagTag.

The band included Walla Walla natives James Danielson on guitar and drummer Eric Turner. Anchoring the low-end was teenage desert denizen Nick Oliveri. They made their bones in the desert, then relocated to Los Angeles in the summer of 1989. They managed to make a name for themselves, despite the punishing pay-to-play policies that dominated the club scene.

Their sound was a sharp amalgam of Glam-Metal and Punk that sandwiched comfortably between Jane's Addiction and Guns N' Roses. RagTag were booked in celebrated venues like The Whisky, The Roxy, The Country Club and the Troubadour. Although their manager promised big things, ultimately, she couldn't deliver a record contract. The four-piece began to fray at the seams.

Even though RagTag broke up. Nick went on to achieve infamy inbands like Kyuss and Queens Of The Stone Age. The Walla Walla boys weren't finished with music. Rick, James and Eric returned to the desert to regroup. They recruited, Nick's brother Dean (a fine basist in his own right) and reemerged in 1992 as Woodshed.

In musician terms, "woodshedding" means practicing and honing your craft, so the moniker felt wholly apropos. This time out, Rick played rhythm guitar and split lead vocal duties with James.

By this time, most of the guys were married and had started families, their musical tastes had also evolved. Their disparate influences included Jazz Fusion pioneer Miles Davis, Blues giants like Buddy Guy and Albert King, the improvisational genius of the Grateful Dead and narrative acumen of Bob Dylan and Steve Earle.

Woodshed's sound fit in with the Jam band aesthetic introduced by the Dead and maintained by a number of '90s disciples like Blues Traveler and Dave Matthews Band. Their music see-sawed between epic improvisation and lean economy. The band had a lengthy run from 1992 until 2004, and recorded two studio albums, The Fires Of Spring and Let It Roll in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

But the band made their reputation as a live act. Woodshed toured extensively through California. They opened locally for everyone from L.A. Guns, Kip Winger, Gene Loves Jezebel, Tommy Tutone and The Untouchables. Their 2001 live effort, Goodnight Irene captured the band at the height of their powers. They recorded a final effort in the high desert at the famed Rancho de La Luna recording studio that remains unreleased. Even as they cultivated a passionate fan base, commercial success and national exposure eluded the band. First Eric, and then James relocated their families back to their Walla Walla hometown. Woodshed quietly went on hiatus in 2004, never officially breaking up.

For the next 10 years, family became Rick's priority. Although he weathered a devastating divorce, he remained a dedicated dad, raising his three kids. As they became more independent, the spark to make music was rekindled. Pondering the twists and turns that life takes, he began writing songs again. In late 2014, he made his solo debut at several desert clubs. Playing solo was equal parts terrifying and exhilarating. He had always bounced ideas off James, Eric and Dean. Now, He began to experience a new feeling of freedom by going it alone.

Picking up his guitar after a decade-long musical sabbatical, the songs just came pouring of him. Rick began demo'ing playing all the instruments and latticing the harmonies himself. When he'd amassed an arsenal of 40 tracks, he was ready to go into a proper studio. He connected with Chris Unck. The respected multi-instrumentalist had toured with Pink and Butch Walker before opening his Hi-Lonesome Recording studio in Joshua Tree.



Rick released his debut EP, 1909 Miles in 2015. It garnered rave reviews and Rick was nominated in three categories at the 2016 Coachella Valley Music Awards, including Best New Artist. The next 18 months found Rick sharing the stage with a plethora of musicians like Cisco & Dewey, celebrated Folk-Rocker Jasmine Rodgers, Country legend Jann Brown, high desert sensations The Adobe Collective and award-winning singer-songwriter Travis Meadows.

Rick returned to the recording studio with Chris and 2017 saw the release of his first official long-player, Hope Wrapped In Razor Wire. The 12-song set was by turns, rollicking, wistful andcontemplative. Melodies split the difference between Rock & Roll swagger and good ol' Country comfort. Once again, critical acclaim was unanimous.

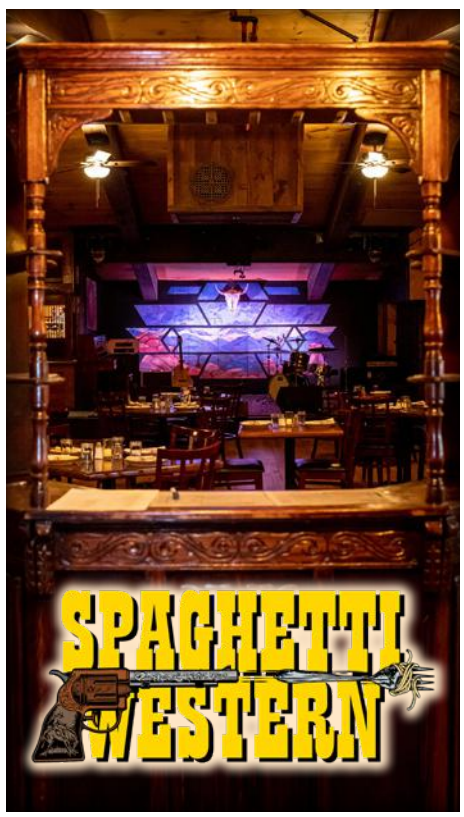
Since then, Rick has written a clutch of new songs that he's looking to record before the year is out. By now, he's played everywhere from Pappy & Harriet's, The Joshua Tree Saloon, the Songwriters In The Round series at the Beatnik, The McCallum

Theatre, The Mint and The Echo in Los Angeles, Long Beach's annual Buskerfest, Songs Alive Songwriter Night in Orange County and AutoCamp.

Although his music is characterized as Americana, Roots Rock might be a more accurate signifier. Rick's sound is anchored by everything that came before. From the Top 40 AM radio hits he absorbed as a kid, to his teenage infatuation with Hard Rock and Hair Metal, as well as more recent inspirations like Elvis Costello, Lucinda Williams, Todd Snider, Patty Griffin and Robert Earl Keen, yet it remains wholly his own.

Rick Shelley At Spaghetti Western, Saturday, August 23rd 2025, 7pm to 9pm 50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley.

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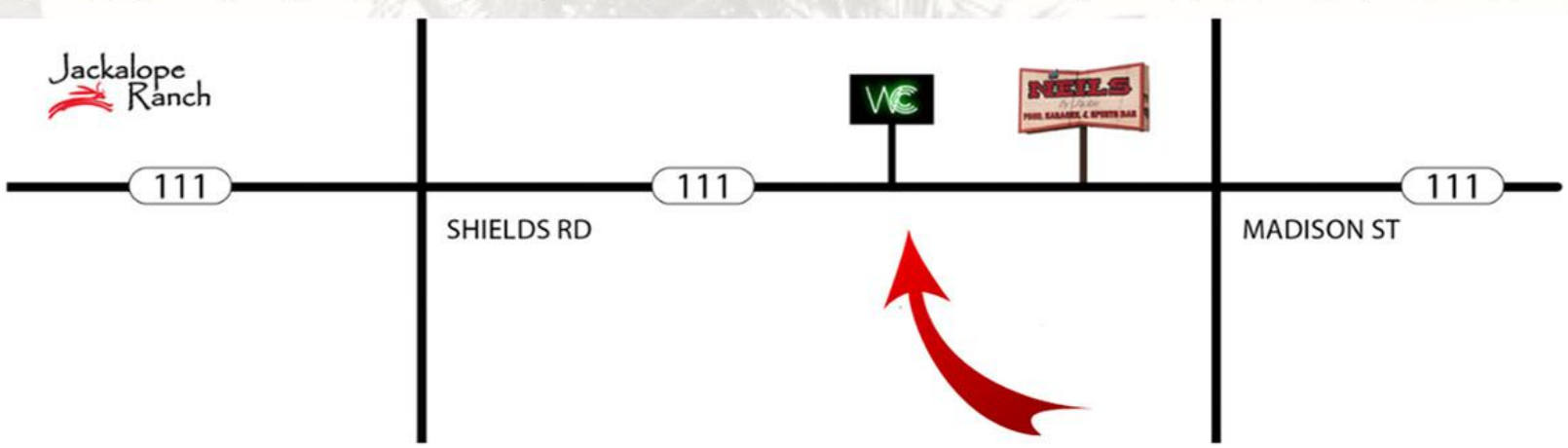
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LOCAL MUSIC SPOTLIGHT WITH JOSH FIMBRES

LOCAL MUSIC

BY PHIL LACOMBE





The Coachella Valley doesn't just listen to music, we live it. Local Music Spotlight is your all-access pass to the bands, DJs, and solo artists turning our desert nights into unforgettable moments. From sweaty dance floors to starlit stages, this is where the local legends and the next big thing collide.

Local Music Spotlight is cranking up the volume with Josh Fimbres, a powerhouse local musician who doesn't just keep the beat, he leads it. Whether he's behind the drums, shredding on guitar, commanding the stage as the frontman of the Coachella Valley's own Rage Against the Machine tribute band, **People of the Sun**, or busting the raps with Thr3strykes, Josh delivers the kind of raw energy and passion that turns every performance into a full-throttle experience.

CVW: What's the wildest or most unexpected thing that's ever happened to you on stage?

Fimbres: "Launched countless trash hip hop wannabes offstage for thinking our set was an "open mic." Ripped my ACL in 2005 at the Cat Club Hollywood, leaping offstage. I jumped through my buddy's windshield that night (fucking Long Islands, sorry Chris.) Did it again launching off a speaker with Ghostface in 2018. Played a house party somewhere near Riverside, there was a couple clapping cheeks working back to the side of us. Jeff got into it with some dude and a riot popped off, helicopters, swat, whole deal. Jesse on the roof of The Hood waiting for us to come out so he could pounce on us ninja style always makes me laugh."

CVW: Which local venue or event feels like "home" to you, and what makes it special?

Fimbres: "A lot of the old Palm Springs places that are now closed were classic, but The Date Shed for sure. We did the Grand Opening night there in 2010 and grew the audience every show more and more. Our best performances were probably there. We had over 400 people at our album drop, insane. Met and opened for a lot of heroes, saw some amazing shows. Ghostface pulled me up to do "Protect Ya Neck." I did Method Man's verse and set it off. Deflowered the Green Room's virtue long before the rest of the world got to it."

CVW: What's one piece of advice you'd give to a young musician starting out here?

Fimbres: "Looking cool and being a dick is real fun and everything my guy, but image's fade. Where's the fucking song? An original lil tune that makes you want to listen to it again and puts you in a place that nothing else can get you to. Write something that makes people go "dude have you heard this?" Sounds impossible? It is! You know something like that. Believe in your tunes! If you don't, it's probably ass anyway. Write 10 songs and hope for 1 good one."

CVW: What's next for you — any big projects, releases, or surprises we should be watching for?

Fimbres: "I'm going into full Girl Dad mode here in September man, so I've got Van Halen lullabies locked in the playlist up next haha! The People of the Sun are aiming at the Casinos. Smallz has sent me 10 to 15 slappers for some new Strykes stuff that will be super epic. Definitely wanna track some new stuff with Yoves. The world will know when I have a studio set up & running because I have songs up the yin-yang. Working hard and providing for Elora while having the most fun possible has leapt to the top of my projects list."

CVW: How has living in the Coachella Valley shaped your sound or style?

Fimbres: "Well it's working class vibes for me dig? Add the DIY ethic, add the fact it's gorgeous, a dash of it can be ridiculously hot. Blue collar 'do what you gotta do' to take care of your tribe type shit. I'd wear sandals year-round, shoes get in the way. Foot stomping, head knocking, dig your feet into the earth and say what you feel type of desert hippy."

CVW: What's the most meaningful feedback you've ever received from a fan?

Fimbres: "Your music got me through a really rough time." Heard that about the song "Today" by Thr3 Strykes frequently and still do.**"**

"It's life I know, can't be no other way." "I wrote that in a super dark place at the time, and people get happy vibes from it, that's fucking rock n roll. Everyone can relate to certain songs helping us clear the grey sky. Hearing old memories of shows is awesome too. Ran into an old friend in Vegas for 311 day and his girl was like "is this the Josh that jumped on your head and had you at the chiropractor for months?!" Recently at a Idyllwild show, a guy recalled meeting me when we opened for Bone Thugs in 2013! Brought his daughter, took pics, gave each other beers, love it."

CVW: If you could time travel to any music era, where would you go and what would you play? If you could open for any artist, past or present, who would it be and what would you play first?

Fimbres: "Probably during the British Invasion heyday. I feel like that was my time, far out. Everything was so new and the music was raw and unpolished, mysterious even. I'd be in Humble Pie causing havoc with Steve Marriott. We'd open with "Hot N' Nasty," straight into "I Don't Need No Doctor." Somewhere around 1969-1972, opening for Zeppelin and Hendrix. Die a few times, make a religion, plot a murder of some insidious character and live my life out in the countryside smoking doobie till I fell out my tree. Joshua Tree."

CVW: What's a local collaboration you'd love to make happen?

Fimbres: "Original music where I front the band and play guitar in collaboration with some bad mamma jamma's that do it for the love of playing out and rocking. Not for likes and personal insta self gratifi-masturbation.

Whether it's Mike Keeth and I, or People of the Sun, or Yovès, we get together and have fun every time, all the time."

CVW: What's one ritual or superstition you have before performing?

Fimbres: Rehearsing. There's no short cuts. If you wanna be good at anything in life you've gotta put the work in right? Know the set list, know the songs, know the breaks, read the room. Stretching out is crucial. I need a little chaos the day of gigs, or just something to do. The waiting is the hardest part and can get you in the most trouble. Valerie cleanses me in all the most metaphysical and spiritual ways."

CVW: Where do you see the local music scene heading in the next five years?

Fimbres: "Ol' watermelon head having, no teeth brushing, lizard face, trout mouth, half dead corn bread, no education, conversation, wee wee stimulation, photo manipulation, influencer in-floozy'er. Something like that. Or DJ NumbNutz."

CVW: First album you ever bought — no skipping the embarrassing answer.

Fimbres: "First ever given to me was the Alvin & the Chipmunks Christmas Album on cassette (still have it). But with my own loot, it was RATT "Out of the Cellar," and KRIS KROSS "Totally Krossed Out." Both cassettes. Indio Mall triple OG. First CD was PANTERA "Cowboys From Hell."

CVW: Most overplayed song on your personal playlist right now.

Fimbres: "La Chona," by Los Tucanes De Tijuana.

CVW: Three words that describe your live shows.

Fimbres: "My Fingers Hurt."

Check out **Thr3strykes** here:
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People of the Sun:
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That's a wrap on this week's Local Music Spotlight — but the party doesn't stop here. Hit the shows, feel the beats, and keep the valley's music scene thriving. Because around here, the next song that changes your life might be playing tonight. CV





LOCAL BUSINESS



BY CRYSTAL HARRELL

ENJOY WEEKEND WAVES AT MALEZA, DRIFT PALM SPRINGS

Tucked inside Drift Palm Springs, one of the desert's most stylish boutique hotels, Maleza has quickly become a culinary destination in its own right. Since opening in March 2023, the restaurant has defined itself with a menu that feels both adventurous and deeply rooted in Mexican tradition. Led by Chef Ysaac Ramirez, Maleza celebrates the vibrant flavors of Baja California while adding the kind of modern polish that fits seamlessly into Palm Springs' growing food scene.

At its core, Maleza is all about shareable Mexican favorites. The restaurant encourages communal dining, inviting guests to explore a wide variety of flavors together. Instead of the standard starter-entrée-dessert rhythm, Maleza's menu unfolds as a series of plates designed for grazing with bright ceviches, smoky grilled vegetables, perfectly seared seafood, and rich meats accompanied by house-made salsas.

Weekend Waves, a new summertime offer that provides a pool day pass to those who purchase a brunch entrée at Maleza on Saturdays and Sundays, is now available to reserve via Resy.

Weekend Waves is the perfect way to soak up the sun and enjoy dishes like the French Toast Waffle and the Breakfast Burrito poolside, before cooling off in the water and enjoying some rest and relaxation.

Another unique offering is the Catfish Torta, a dish that immediately sets the tone for the restaurant as familiar yet surprising, playful but executed with serious technique. Similarly, the Fish Al Pastor layer delicate fish with crunch, acidity, and chile heat, delivering a bite that feels like an edible postcard from Baja's coast.

For diners looking for something heartier, the Maleza Burger delivers richness cut through by bright garnishes and vibrant sauces, while the grilled angus patty brings an earthy depth for a classic palette.

The emphasis on seasonal, locally inspired ingredients means the menu never feels static. Chef Ramirez leans into the produce and flavors of the desert, weaving them into Baja-style preparations that feel simultaneously rooted and innovative. Each dish is plated with an eye for color and texture, reflecting Drift Palm Springs' broader design ethos tuned into its natural surroundings.

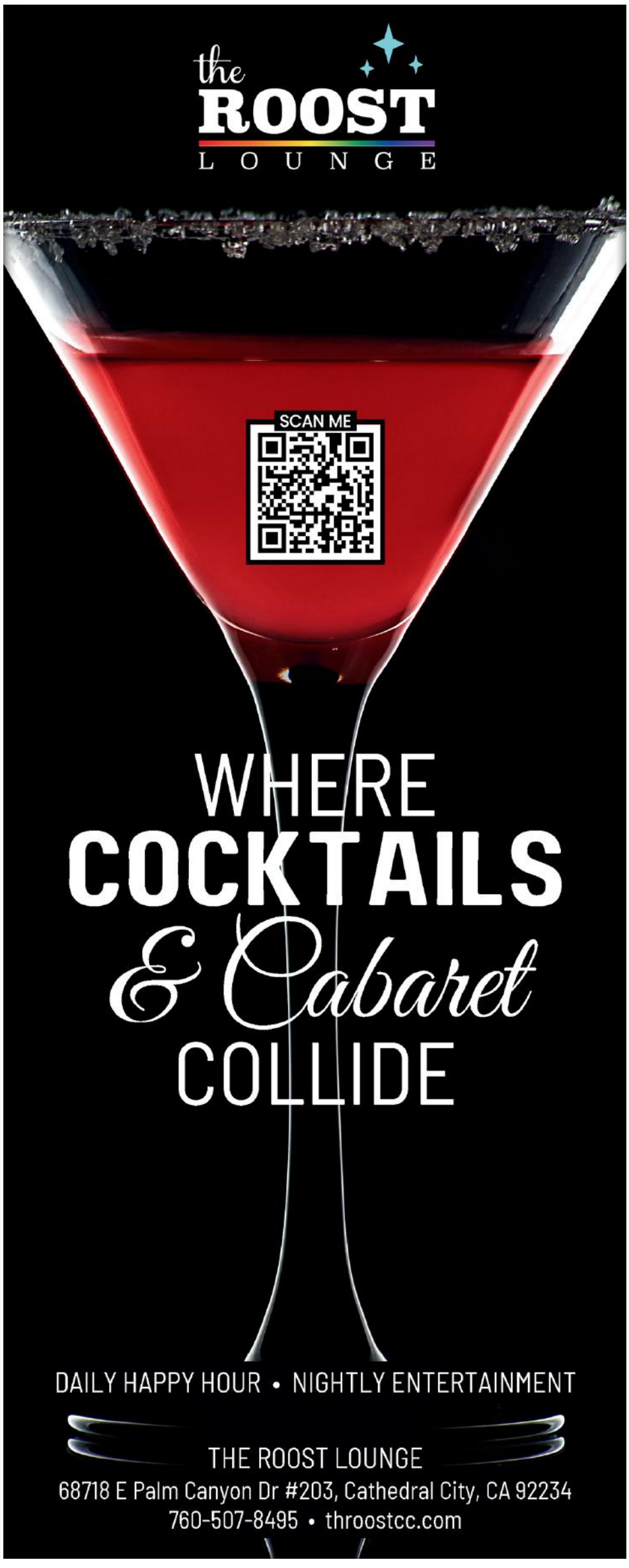
The restaurant boasts one of the most extensive collections of Mexican spirits in the region. Tequilas and mezcals—served both neat and in signature cocktails—anchor the list, with lesser-known agave spirits like raicilla and sotol making appearances for those eager to explore. Seasonal cocktails showcase these spirits in fresh, creative ways: smoky mezcal balanced with citrus, tequila paired with tropical fruit, or herb-infused concoctions that nod to both Baja and the Coachella Valley. For those seeking a lighter option, Maleza also crafts inventive non-alcoholic cocktails, ensuring the same level of creativity and care without the alcohol.

Maleza's day-to-night approach makes it versatile for every kind of outing. In the mornings, guests can enjoy coffee and lighter fare, while afternoons bring casual poolside bites. As the sun sets, the menu shifts into a more indulgent rhythm, with larger plates, richer flavors, and craft cocktails designed to carry the evening forward. On weekends, Maleza leans into brunch with a mix of traditional Mexican breakfast favorites and Baja-inspired twists.

For those planning a visit, expect a menu that's bold yet approachable, rooted in tradition but eager to surprise. Whether it's ceviche and mezcal by the pool, a family-style dinner anchored by whole fish and pork belly, or a leisurely brunch with Baja-inspired cocktails, Maleza delivers a taste of Mexico's coastal spirit in the heart of the desert. CV







KEEP A BREAST 25TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURING ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT & DJ SHEPARD FAIREY AT PAPPY & HARRIET'S FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2025

EVENTS



BY ELENI P. AUSTIN

Critically acclaimed Hip-Hop collective Arrested Development are headed to Pappy & Harriet's. They're sharing the bill with Shephard Fairey. And it's all for a good cause, with proceeds going to the Keep A Breast Foundation. Based in Yucca Valley, the non-profit organization has been around for 25 years, their focus is on breast cancer prevention, education and early detection.

Arrested Development first formed in Atlanta in 1988, the brain child of Speech, a rapper, and DJ Headliner. Inspired by Public Enemy, they opted to hone in on a sound that emphasized a positive, Afrocentric point of view. The original line-up included Baba Oje, Montsho Eshe, Rasa Don, Aerie Taree and Dionne Farris (who quickly broke off and forged her own path as a solo artist).

Their debut arrived in 1992. Cheekily entitled *3 Years, 5 Months & 2 Days In The Life Of….*, the appellation referred to the length of time it took for the band to secure a deal with Chrysalis Records. Critical acclaim was matched by commercial success. Songs like *"Tennessee"* and *"People Everyday"* garnered airplay on mainstream radio and MTV. Spike Lee asked the group to contribute to the *Malcolm X* soundtrack, and they were named *Rolling Stone* magazine's Band Of The Year. The record achieved platinum status by the end of 1992. They also won Grammy Awards for Best New Artist and Best Rap Performance.

The following year a live appearance on MTV was documented for their *Unplugged* series. Their second official long-player, *Zingalamaduni* was released in 1994. But the public's attentions had shifted to a harder Gangsta Rap style and sales diminished. Arrested Development quietly called it quits, and Speech launched a solo career.

At the start of the 21st century, Arrested Development reconvened, and they've been going strong ever since. The line-up remains fluid, Aerie Taree became a poet, and, sadly, Baba Oje passed away in 2018. All told, the band has released 16 studio albums. The latest, *Adult Contemporary Hip-Hop* was released this year to rapturous reviews. Their sound is still a potent combo-platter of Funk, Hip Hop and Jazz, with hints of Folk and World music. Lyrics offer a message that is timely, but never preachy or didactic.

Shephard Fairy's career coincided with the emerging skateboarding scene. The founder of OBEY Clothing grew up in Charleston, South Carolina and started drawing designs for skateboards and t-shirts as a teen. He studied at Idyllwild Arts Academy and the Rhode Island School Of Design. Of course, the celebrated artist and activist is probably best-known for his iconic, Barack Obama *Hope* poster, but he is also a sought-after club DJ. His socially conscious style is influenced by the music of The Clash, Bob Marley, Public Enemy, The Sex Pistols and Bob Dylan, "People who used their music as a way to speak their mind socially and politically." His interest in DJing took hold when he was working on the documentary *Scratch.* He has DJed at events like Lollapalooza and has been featured on KCRW's *Morning Becomes Eclectic* program. His sets typically include everything from Punk, Hip Hop, Funk Electronica and Dance. He mixes artists like M.I.A., White Stripes, Grandmaster Flash and The Clash with more obscure music.

The Keep A Breast Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit with a mission to reduce breast cancer risk and it's impact globally through art, education, prevention and action. Since it was founded in 2000, KAB has acknowledged the power and vision of young people, ready to be engaged and educated, to establish their identities through meaningful action. KAB strives to empower youth to become their own health advocates and believes that art and creative expression are powerful healing tools.



Keep A Breast & KCRW Present ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT & DJ SHEPHARD FAIREY.

Friday September 5th, 2025 At Pappy & Harriet's Doors: 5:30pm, Show: 7:00pm. 53688 Pioneertown Rd, Pioneertown.

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BY ELENI P. AUSTIN

Nearly half a century ago, Punk Rock exploded in Great Britain. The inaugural class of 1977 included The Sex Pistols, The Clash, Elvis Costello, The Damned and The Jam. Initially dismissed by the music industry as unlistenable, Punk was torn and jagged, sometimes devoid of melody. It featured staccato guitars and bludgeoning beats. Vocalists didn't so much sing as *spit* out lyrics that railed against authority, conformity and the status quo. Their look was as alienating as their music, Punks spiked and mohawked their hair, safety-pinned their faces and strategically ripped their clothes.

Jam front-man Paul Weller began making music in a semi-professional capacity when he was just 14 years old. Born in 1958, he grew up in Woking, a working-class town in Northwest Surry. His dad, John, drove a taxi, his mum, Ann, was a homemaker. Growing up in the '60s he became obsessed with music. His passion for British Invasion hitmakers like The Beatles, the Small Faces and The Who motivated him to dig a little deeper and explore the musical touchstones that inspired his heroes. He wound up becoming a true connoisseur of Motown, Curtis Mayfield, Stax-Volt and the Blues.

The earliest incarnation of The Jam formed in 1972. It included Paul's best mates, Steve Brookes and Dave Waller. The line-up cemented with the addition of drummer Rick Butler. Paul's dad began booking their gigs and the band made their bones playing local working-man clubs. Set-lists consisted of covers of Beatles and Who hits, and they put their own spin on Motown favorites and classic R&B songs.

When Steve and Dave left the band, Paul recruited Bruce Foxton. He had also begun writing his own songs and the three-piece quickly shifted from a covers band to performing mostly original music. As their protean talent emerged, their popularity began to grow.

The Clash invited The Jam to open for them on their White Riot tour. Rather quickly, the trio inked a deal with Polydor Records and released their debut, *In The City,* in the Spring of 1977. It was a stunning introduction, sharp and defiant lyrics articulated the restless angst that defined that era. But it was Paul's melodies that really stood out, pushing past the spit-soaked primitivism of his peers, he embraced the crisp songwriting styles employed by The Who's Pete Townshend and Ray Davies and The Kinks, as well as Motown's resident bard, Smokey Robinson. Almost accidently, The Jam became the soundtrack to the Mod Revival of the late '70s.

Over the course of five years, The Jam released six magnificent studio albums, a clutch of EPs and a live album. They consistently topped the charts in the U.K. achieving massive commercial *and* critical success, a feat they never replicated in the U.S. By 1982, one of their final singles, the Motown-flavored, working-class anthem, *"A Town Called Malice,"* finally received some airplay on mainstream radio in America. But it was a pyrrhic victory, The Jam broke up that year. Paul was ready for a new challenge. Along with Mick Talbot, he formed The Style Council. Their sound reflected his deep affinity for '60s Soul and his newfound appreciation for Jazz. As lyrics mined the personal *and* political, the melodies offered up a potent combo-platter of Jazz, Soul and Funk, with just a soupcon of Hip Hop. They released six albums between 1984 and 1998, scoring a minor hit in America with the song "My Ever Changing Moods."

Style Council quietly disbanded in 1989, Paul took a couple of years off, spending time with his family before he embarked on a solo career in 1992. He delivered his self-titled debut that same year and it felt like a revelation. Somehow, his Punk/Pop predilections dovetailed with his Soul/Jazz inclinations, creating a perfect synthesis of all that came before.

During the final decade of the 20th century, he was on fire. His next three albums, *Wildwood, Stanley Road* and *Heavy Soul* were equal parts expansive and concise. He integrated rustic, acoustic instrumentation, along with traces of Folk, Funk and Punk plus a heavy dose of Psychedelia.

Much as Pete Townshend served as a musical lodestar for Paul during The Jam era, Brit-Pop sensations like Oasis, Blur and Ocean Colour Scene pledged their undying loyalty to Paul Weller. This new generation of hit-makers affectionately christened him "The Modfather." The last quarter century, he has been wildly prolific, all told, he has released 17 studio albums, five live efforts and myriad compilations. Both The Jam and The Style Council have been subjects of lovingly curated documentary films *(About The Young Idea* and *Long Hot Summers: The Story Of The Style Council,* respectively). Now he is back with a new one, *Find Eldorado.* It's his second collection of cover songs, the first being 2004's *Studio 150.* Paul's encyclopedic musical knowledge is on full display here, as he cherry-picked 15 tracks that are more obscure and esoteric, rather than well-known.

The record opens on a deceptively tranquil note with a fairly faithful take of Richie Havens' *"Handouts In The Rain."* Shimmering guitars partner with lush piano notes, their effervescence is supplanted by Paul's soulful croon as he trades verses with Irish singer-songwriter, Declan O' Roarke. Although the song first appeared on Richie's 2002 album, *"Wishing Well,"* lyrics like *"You can bomb your foreign brother, you can hurt him until he dies, you can kill him until he never ask you why, you're on his land…you're on his land/But we all know that's all over, and that can only lead to blame, where we might end up for our country, taking handouts in the rain,"* could just as easily be addressing the megalomania that has 2025 in it's grip. Paul and Declan's voices alchemize on the title and ecclesiastic guitars gambol on the break. It's the most beautiful, heartbreaking racket.

Paul has always been a bit of a contrarian, so it's no surprise that most of the songs that make up this collection won't be very familiar to the listener. Several tracks here were recorded in the late '60s and early '70s, the era he came of age. Take *"One Last Cold Kiss,"* originally found on the third album from New York Rock band, Mountain. But Paul takes his cues from the version Irish Folksinger Christy Moore recorded in the mid '70s. Cittern, Harmonium and mandolin coalesce around sawing violin, plangent piano and strumming acoustic guitars. Paul's vocals are rough but tender as lyrics unspool a true story of Swans who had mated for life. Sadly, the female is targeted by a hunter and cut down in her prime. Acclaimed Folk songwriter Amelia Coburn adds some distaff energy to this woebegone tale.

Then there's the relatively obscure *"Nobody's Fool."* Written by Ray Davies and performed by Cold Turkey (which some contend was a pseudonym for The Kinks), it was the theme song for the British TV series, *Budgie.* He strips away the snarl of the original as solemn piano and angular bass are swathed in an orchestral string arrangement. The bespoke instrumentation is juxtaposed by Paul's soul-crushing vocals and lyrics like *"I can go out for a walk on a crowded street and see millions of faces staring at me, some of them smiling, some of them glare, but most of them don't even know that I'm there,"* that depict disillusion and disaffection with a few deftly-turned phrases.

Co-written by Cajun singer-songwriter Bobby Charles and Rick Danko from The Band, *"Small Town Talk,"* is a back porch ramble powered by fluttery piano, celestial Hammond organ, thrumming bass and a sturdy horn section. Paul's vocal delivery is all honey and woodsmoke as lyrics offer a tart rejoinder to the naysayers: *"It's all small town talk, you know how people are, they can't stand to see someone else doing what they like to do, it's all small town talk, you mustn't pay no mind, don't believe a word, they try and do it every time."* Punchy horns at a bit of Stax/Volt heft on the break.

A roundelay in ¾ time, *"When You Are A King"* by the British band White Plains reached the Top 10 in the U.K., but never matched the worldwide success of the exuberant *"My*

continue to page 10



THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Babaloo Lounge – Roger & the Rebels – 7pm
Bart Lounge – DJ – 8pm
Carousel @ Agua Caliente P.S. – Will Brahm – 7pm
Coachella Valley Brewery TP – Open Mic Night – 7pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Throwbacks w/ DJ Rapmarz – 9pm
Eddie V's – Kevin Tokarz Trio – 6:30pm
Kitchen 86 – Krystofer Do – 8:30pm
Mojave Gold – King Madre, Palo Xanto and J Shaw – 6pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Pappy and Harriet's – Japanese Breakfast and Hand Habits – 8pm
Plan B Live Entertainment and Cocktails – Acoustic Vibes w/ Desert Moons, Damien and Mario Quintero - 9pm – 9pm
Shanghai Reds PS – Desert Crows – 6pm
Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – HWY 111 – 8pm
V Wine Lounge and Martini Bar – Jason Weber – 6pm

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Babaloo Lounge – Off Da Cuff – 7pm
Bart Lounge – DJ – 8pm
Big Rock Pub – Electric Feel – 7pm
Cascade Lounge @ Agua Caliente – Dueling Pianos – 7pm, Cascade Nights Dance Party – 10pm
Casuelas Café – The Myx – 6:30pm
Coachella Valley Brewery – Laughs and Drafts – 6:30pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – TBA – 8pm, DJ Rapmarz – 11pm
Eddie V's – Johnny Meza Trio – 6:30pm
Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Marc Antonelli – 6pm
Kitchen 86 – Dueling Pianos – 9pm
Lit @ Fantasy Springs – Dudes of San Diego – 9pm
The Local on 50th – Michael Keeth – 6pm
Mojave Gold – Rode Hard Country Night – 9pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Pappy and Harriet's – Tennis and Cults – 7:30pm, The Dickies and Love Canal – 9pm
Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm
Shanghai Reds PS – Barry Baughn Blues Band – 7pm
Spotlight Casino – Teachers Gone Bad w/ Irma Ruiz Comedy Show – 8pm
Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – Moonchild – 7pm, Steel Rod – 10:30pm
V Wine Lounge and Martini Bar – Siobhan – 7pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Babaloo Lounge – Desert Crows – 7pm
Bart Lounge – DJ – 8pm
Big Rock Pub – TBA – 8pm
Cascade Lounge @ Agua Caliente – Cascade Nights Dance Party – 10pm
Casuelas Café – Live Music – 7pm
Coachella Valley Brewery – Taproom Tunes – 8pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – DJ Rapmarz – 9pm
Eddie V's – Yve Evans – 6:30pm
The Hood – The People of the Sun (Rage Against the Machine Tribute), The Shurper Fuzz Band and the DJ Spinning Ozzy All Night Long Honoring the Prince of Darkness – 9pm
Hotel Zoso – Funshine Pool Party – noon
Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Marc Antonelli – 6pm
Kitchen 86 – Dueling Pianos – 9pm
Lit @ Fantasy Springs – Dudes of San Diego – 9pm
The Local on 50th – Live Music – 7pm
Mojave Gold – Fred Armisen (Sold Out) – 9pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Oasis on Miles – Live Music – 6:30pm
Pappy and Harriet's – Giovannie and the Hired Guns w/ Sterling Elza and Dalton Torres – 9pm
Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm
The Roost Lounge – Gennine Francis Jackson – 5:30pm
Shanghai Reds PS – Barry Baughn Blues Band – 7pm
Sullivan's – The Myx – 6pm
Twelve @ Fantasy Springs – Moonchild – 7pm, Steel Rod – 10:30pm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Babaloo Lounge – Judy Wolman Piano Bar – 4pm, Tim Burleson – 7pm
Bart Lounge – DJ LF – 8pm
Cascade Lounge @ Agua Caliente – Latin Nights – 9pm
Coachella Valley Brewery PS – Trivia Hosted by Wes Gainey – 4-6pm
Coachella Valley Brewery TP – Acoustic Afternoon – 3:30pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – DJ Rapmarz – 9pm
Eddie V's – Chris Cerna Group – 6pm
Fisherman's Market, PS – Live Music – 6pm
Hotel Zoso – Funshine Pool Party - noon
Kitchen 86 – Krystofer Do – 8:30pm
The Local on 50th – Live Music – 11-2pm
Melvyn's – Mikael Healey – 3:30-7:30pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Pappy and Harriet's – Israel's Arcade w/ Bed – 9pm
Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – LNA Karaoke – 7pm
The Roost Lounge – Rebecca Clark – 6pm
Shanghai Reds PS – Stanley Butler – 6pm

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Eddie V's – Chris Cerna Group – 6:30pm
La Quinta Brewery – Trivia Night – 6pm
Mojave Gold – Summer School Open Mic – 6pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
The Roost Lounge – Open Mic – 6pm
V Wine Lounge and Martini Bar – Leanna and Miguel – 5pm

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Babaloo Lounge – Judy Wolman Piano Bar – 4pm, Hotwyre – 7pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Banda Night – 9pm
Eddie V's – Laree Goodhead – 6:30pm
Fireside Lounge – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm
The Local on 50th – Trivia Night Hosted by Dacoda Miracle – 7pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Pappy and Harriet's – The English Beat w/ DJ Lee Joseph – 8pm
The Roost Lounge – Karaoke – 6pm
V Wine Lounge and Martini Bar – Keisha D – 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Babaloo Lounge – Steve Sanders Piano Bar – 4pm, Live Music – 6:30pm
Cascade Lounge @ Agua Caliente – Black Sugar Blues Band – 7pm
Coachella Valley Brewing Co. – Trivia Night Hosted by Derek Wade Timmons – 7pm
DJ's Sports Bar and Grill – Country Night – 9pm
Eddie V's – Laree Goodhead – 6:30pm
The Hood – Open Mic – 9pm
Hotel Zoso – Desert Soul Club – 6pm
Indian Wells Resort Hotel – Patrice Morris – 6pm
Larkspur Grill – Slim Man and Chase Huna: "Rat Pack Duo" – 6pm
The Local on 50th – Live Music – 7pm
The Nest – Live Music – 6:30pm
Plan B Live Entertainment & Cocktails – Red's Rockstar Karaoke – 9pm
The Roost Lounge – The Roost Revue w/ Host Jason Mannino – 6:30pm
V Wine Lounge and Martini Bar – Karaoke Hosted by Julian – 6pm CV



PAUL WELLER continued from page 8

Baby Loves Lovin," (apparently, because she had what it took, and she knew how to use it). Burnished strings and stately horns are augmented by ringing acoustic guitar and twinkly glockenspiel. Paul wraps his sardonic tone around lyrics that pivot between laissez-faire and noblesse oblige: *"Parting in your hair, it's hardly ever there, wash your face, shabby in your dress, always look a mess, don't you care, Mummy's there to see you look your very best, change your dirty vest… When you are a king, everywhere you go, people bowing low, carriages to take you anywhere, feet won't ever touch a thing, when you are a king."*

Probably the best-known tracks here are *"I Started A Joke"* and *"White Line Fever.* The former was an early hit by The Bee Gees long before they were crowned the Kings of Disco. Paul's rendition of this 1968 hit recalibrates the moody melancholia of the original. Descending piano notes are matched by plucky strings and shang-a-lang guitars and sanctified organ. The airy arrangement, coupled with his full-throated voice, offer a distraction from maudlin lyrics like *"I started to cry, which started the whole world laughing, oh, if I'd only seen that the joke was on me."* It's a majestic take.

The latter was a hit for Merle Haggard, but Paul's acquaintanceship began with a Flying Burrito Brothers '45 he purchased in 1994. Jangly guitar, keening pedal steel (courtesy ex-Byrd/Burrito Brother Chris Hillman) and flinty bass are tethered to a clip-clop gait. While Merle was singing about life on the road, the Burritos may have had more hedonistic intent. Paul splits the difference. imbuing the lyrics with an urge for going.

The best songs here uncoil on the second half of the record. *"Pinball,"* by actor/musician Brian Protheroe hit the Top 40 in the U.K. back in 1974, but never made a dent in the U.S. The angular melody is anchored by spiky guitars, sinuous Hammond organ, tattered piano, tensile bass and a chunky back-beat. Paul's defiant vocals align with lyrics that offer a seedy Soho snapshot of a rejected swain post break-up: *"And I've run out of pale ale, and I feel like I'm in jail and my music bores me once again, and I've been on the pinball, and I no longer know it all, and they say that you never know when you're insane."* A sly saxophone solo cuts across a conga-fied beat on the break, punctuating the lyrical ennui.

If The Small Faces ever collaborated with '80s era Paul Simon, it might sound like Paul's take of *"Journey,"* written by Folkie cult-favorite, Duncan Browne. The buoyant melody matches spiraling acoustic licks, elastic bass, honeyed Mellotron notes and finger-picked Kora fills from Senegalese master Sekou Keita. His mien is seductive and playful as lyrics encourage a lover to run away and make a fresh start: *"Pack up your sorrow, put away your evening star, don't change your clothes, I like you just the way you are, I know you've been sleeping under a big, black cloud, and you've never been allowed to be honest, well, I'm no saint, but I'll carry you home, there's a place of your own if you want it."*

Meanwhile, Willie Griffin's low-key *"Where There's Smoke, There's Fire"* is recast a Funktastic groover. Low-slung electric guitar, acoustic rhythm riffs, rubbery bass lines, pliant piano and hiccoughing percussion are wed to a percolating beat. Paul's gruff sensuality amplifies combustible lyrics that limn the limits of desire: *"Where there's smoke, there's fire, where there's smoke, baby, there's fire, burning for you, I need your love, we fit together like a hand in a glove, the smoke is rising high, I know who is your loss, take the water of your love to keep me calm."* Rippling piano chords collide with Gypsy-Jazz inflected guitar on the break.

Finally, there's the album's first single, the rollicking *"Lawdy Rolla."* The French band Guerillas drafted off an old Alan Lomax field recording, *"Early In The Morning,"* giving it a Jazz/Folk spin in 1969. Opening with staccato handclaps, swooping acoustic guitar and Paul's commanding vocals, it quickly kicks into gear. He salts the mix with Chicken Shack Hammond organ, strutting guitars, pounding piano, moody Mellotron, spidery bass and a trap kit beat. Lyrics offer occupational woes and marital aspirations: *"Buildin' rocks and gravel to make a solid road, Lawdy Mama, take the rocks and the gravel to make a solid road, oh well, I take the rocks and the gravel to make a solid road, oh well, Lawdy Mama, take a good-lookin' woman well out, to make a good-lookin' home."* A snake-charmer alto sax solo slithers through the break and ushers the song to a close.

Other interesting tracks include the pastoral grace of *"Never The Same,"* then there's sweet *"Daltry Street,"* the only 21st century song to make the cut here. Courtly and unabashedly Celtic, the title track, written by musician/musicologist Eammon Friel features Oasis architect Noel Gallagher on acoustic guitar along with wistful whistle and sylvan strings. Paul is at his most tender when he suggests *"Let's dance, let's romance, find El Dorado, beyond the mountains of the moon, no fears, no, no tears, you pay the piper, you call the tune."*

The record ends with *"Clive's Song,"* originally written for Incredible String Band founder, Clive Palmer by Scottish Folksinger Hamish Imlach. This version hews more closely with Country-Blues as shards of slide acoustic guitar, smoky harmonica and ticklish rhythm acoustic guitar are bookended by a stompy beat. Trading verses with Paul, and supplying the wily harmonica runs is the Golden God Of Rock himself, Robert Plant. Downcast verses like *"You see me now, you think I'm happy, you sure don't know my mind, you see me laugh, you see me cry, I'm laughing just to keep from crying,"* is belied by the sing-song chorus. Both voices intertwine on *"I feel so fine, feel so fine, I'm right out of my mind, I feel so fine, I feel so fine."* Harmonica and slide acoustic guitar up the ante on the break, closing with a final harmonica flourish. It's a potent finish to a great record.

Covers albums are tricky, they can be viewed as a cynical cash-grab or a sign of writer's block. But this is definitely not the case for *Find Eldorado*. Not only is it Paul's first covers project in 21 years, since then he has released 10 solo records of new material. As he said in a recent interview, "These songs, I've carried with me for years. They've taken on new shapes over the years and now felt like the moment to share them." There's always been a thrilling authenticity and integrity to Paul's music that has allowed him to chart his own course in this mercurial business. The Modfather never disappoints. CV





MUSIC

PUBLIC ENEMY CONCERT AT FANTASY SPRINGS RESORT CASINO RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, NOV. 14, 2025



Hip-hop/rap legends Public Enemy have rescheduled their concert at the Special Events Center at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino to Friday, Nov. 14, 2025. Tickets to the 8 p.m. show are on sale now at the Fantasy Springs Box Office, via phone at (760) 342-5000 or online at FantasySpringsResort.com.

If you would like to attend the rescheduled concert, hang on to your tickets! If you prefer a refund, please contact the Fantasy Springs Box Office via phone (760) 342-5000 or online at FantasySpringsResort.com. All ticket refund requests must be made by Friday, August 15, 2025.

Public Enemy are in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. They've got a GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award, platinum records, and sold-out concerts in nearly every country in the world. But their biggest honor isn't something to put on a shelf or hang on a wall. It's their ability to stand up and speak out against social injustice. To shine a glaring, jarring spotlight onto the plight of the oppressed and to call for change.

Public Enemy's classic albums are the soundtrack to hip-hop's rise as a form of social and political commentary. Their debut record, Yo! Bum Rush The Show was named Album of the Year by NME, with Rolling Stone claiming that the release "heralded hip-hop's great leap forward" and The New York Times calling Public Enemy "the voice of a community." Their sophomore effort, 1988's It Takes a Nation of Millions To Hold Us Back, was, and still is, one of the most important records ever made. The New York Times added it to their list of 25 Most Significant Albums of the Last Century, crediting the record with setting "a newer, prouder agenda for hip-hop" in which rap was at its "most politically and musically dangerous."

Fear of a Black Planet featured Public Enemy's signature song, "Fight The Power," used by Spike Lee in his film Do The Right Thing. Rolling Stone magazine called it "the ultimate anti-establishment rallying cry." The album also included the powerful "911 Is a Joke" and "Welcome To The Terrordome."

Apocalypse 91…The Enemy Strikes Black carried on the group's legacy, hitting No. 4 on the album chart and going platinum. The record included "By the Time I Get To Arizona," an emotional demand that America confront race relations after the state's governor refused to recognize the new Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

By 1999, Public Enemy became one of the first acts to become completely independent from the major record label system, recording for Chuck D's own Slam Jamz record label. That same year, Terminator X retired from the group and DJ Lord took over the turntables.

The group continued to tour the planet year after year and in 2012 Public Enemy's "Harder Than You Think" went to No.1 on the UK urban and indie singles chart and to No.4 on the official UK singles chart, their tenth Top 40 hit in England and their highest charting single ever.

In 2016, Chuck D co-founded the supergroup Prophets Of Rage with members of Rage Against The Machine, B-Real of Cypress Hill, and DJ Lord. They relentlessly toured the world, headlining festivals and arenas until 2019. They also released an album and an EP.

In 2020, Public Enemy returned with a new song and video, "State of the Union (STFU)," produced by DJ Premier. A fiery return to the frontlines to take on Donald Trump and his fascist regime, Public Enemy gave away the track to fans for free.

By June, they were tapped to open the BET Awards with a remix of "Fight The Power" where they were joined by Nas, Rapsody, The Roots, YG and Jahi in a fiery protest against the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless others at the hands of police officers. They followed that up with the critically acclaimed album "What You Gonna Do When The Grid Goes Down" released on Def Jam and featuring guest performances by the Beastie Boys' Mike D and Ad-Rock, George Clinton, Cypress Hill, Ice-T, PMD, Run-DMC and more.

As America faces a fresh rebellion against racial division and social inequality, it is no surprise that the world looks to hip-hop's original champions of change to continue the fight alongside them.

Tickets to see Public Enemy on Friday, Nov. 14, are on sale now at the Fantasy Springs Box Office, via phone at (760) 342-5000, or online at FantasySpringsResort.com. CV

LOCAL BUSINESS

360 SPORTS – COACHELLA VALLEY'S PREMIER SPORTS BARS, KICK OFF FOOTBALL SEASON W/ GAME DAY GRUB MENU, FUNDAY BRUNCH AND EXPANDED HOURS

Starting September 1, to celebrate the start of Football Season, 360 Sports (all three locations, Palm Springs Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage) are launching, new hours and food and drink specials.

Starting Labor Day Monday September 1
Kitchen Open 10 AM Saturdays & Sundays
Bar Open 9 AM Saturdays & Sundays

Starting Saturday September 6
FUNDAY BRUNCH
Saturdays & Sundays | SERVING UNTIL NOON

ALL-PRO BREAKFAST
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Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice
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Finish Line Martini • Very Berry Mojito Mocktail

GAME DAY GRABS
SEPTEMBER 1 – 31 (New Specials Featured Each Month)

Shortstop Smash Burger | $18
Two Smashed Patties, Caramelized Onions, American Cheese, 360 Secret Sauce

Going Yard Stadium Dog | $20
Bacon-Wrapped Hot Dog, Grilled Peppers and Onions, Chile Toreado

Fried Oyster and Mushroom Po' Boy | $22
French Baguette, Fried Oysters and Mushrooms, Shredded Lettuce, Sliced Tomato, Shaved Dill Pickle, Spicy Mayo, Served with Cajun Thick-Cut Fries

Lucky Blonde | $5

Domestic Beer Bucket | $28

Premium Beer Bucket | $35

Signature Cocktails | $10
(Excludes Pívat Old Fashioned and Championship Margarita)

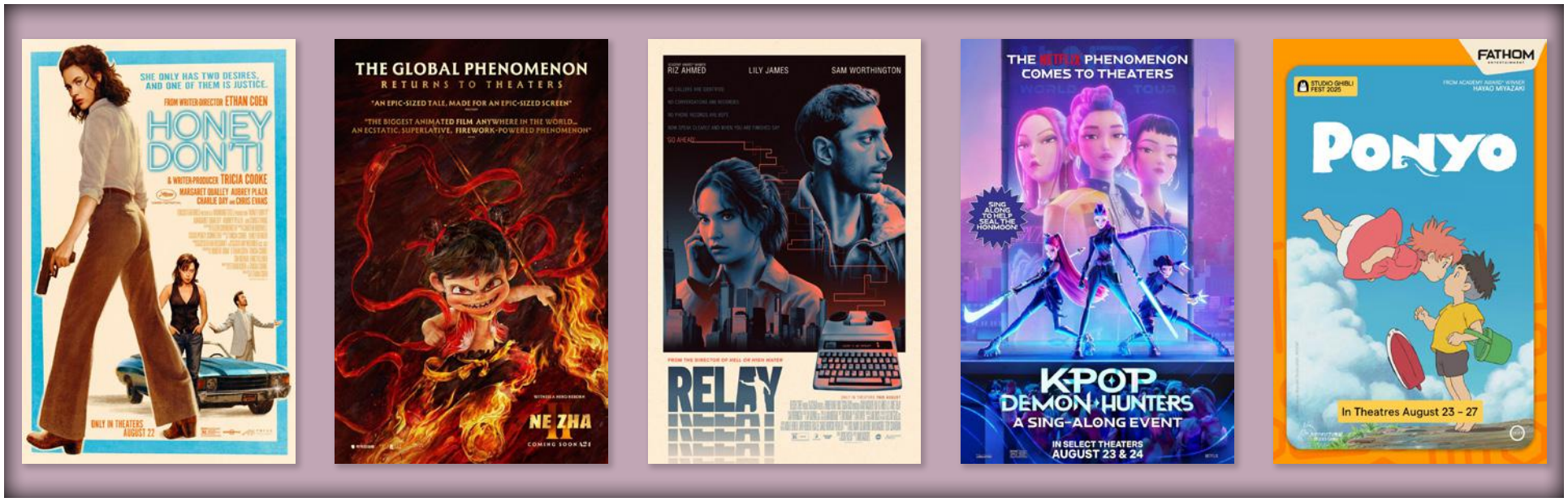
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FILM



Honey Don't! *(1h 29m – Rated R) Comedy*

Starring Margaret Qualley, Aubrey Plaza, Charlie Day, Chris Evans

HONEY DON'T! is a dark comedy about Honey O'Donahue, a small-town private investigator, who delves into a series of strange deaths tied to a mysterious church.

Ne Zha II *(2h 23m – Not Rated) Action, Animation, Fantasy*

Starring Yanting Lü, Joseph, Mo Han, Aidyn Ahn

A rebellious young boy, Ne Zha, is feared by the gods and born to mortal parents with wild, uncontrolled powers. Now he's faced with an ancient force intent on destroying humanity, he must grow up to become the hero the world needs.

Relay *(1h 52m – Rated R) Thriller*

Starring Riz Ahmed, Lily James, Sam Worthington

A broker of lucrative payoffs between corrupt corporations and the individuals who threaten them breaks his own rules when a new client seeks his protection to stay alive.

KPop Demon Hunters A Sing-Along Event *(1h 36m – Rated PG) Animation, Comedy, Music*

Starring Arden Cho, May Hong, Ji-young Yoo

When they aren't selling out stadiums, Kpop superstars Rumi, Mira and Zoey use their secret identities as badass demon hunters to protect their fans from an ever-present supernatural threat. Together, they must face their biggest enemy yet – an irresistible rival boy band of demons in disguise.

Ponyo – Studio Ghibli Fest 2025 *(2h – Rated G) Adventure, Animation, Family*

Starring Cate Blanchett, Matt Damon, Lily Tomlin

Ponyo is a spunky little goldfish who swims to the beat of her own tune. One day, Ponyo escapes the grip of her overbearing father and is found washed ashore by a human boy named Sosuke. But when Ponyo makes a wish to become human herself, she throws the entire balance of nature into turmoil. With direction from Academy Award® winner Hayao Miyazaki and a delightful score from Golden Globes® nominee Joe Hisaishi, Ponyo's whimsical narrative and popping colors are masterfully woven with resonant themes of environmental preservation and self-actualization. CV

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THE VINO VOICE

BY RICK RIOZZA



THE MERCURIAL MERCURY HEAD WINE

For those eager-beaver types who are already thinking and/or planning the "perfect" Christmas gift for their beloved, who is both a California Cab lover *and* an avid coin collector—well, this is your lucky moment! Do we have the consummate gift recommendation *or what!*

Enter now: The **Mercury Head** wine, a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from **Orin Swift Cellars** which features a real **Mercury dime** embedded on the bottle serving as its front label. So, who in the wine world does that?!



Most California Cab enthusiasts already know the story of vintner Dave Phinney who blasted himself on the wine scene with his Orin Swift winery known for its distinctive, artistic wine labels and bold, complex wines, particularly red blends, which included brand names such as **The Prisoner, Papillon, Abstract, Machete, Palermo**, and the like. (The Palermo label is perhaps my favorite wine label of all time. I think it depicts a grandmother dressed in traditional Sicilian garb; and, she's posing in front of a bullet pocked, Sicilian catacomb rock wall. The macabre aspect to the scene is that she is a mummified skeleton.)

Anyway—should you be so inclined, check out one of our past articles on the mercurial Dave Phinney/Orin Swift to catch up on the details of his claim to fame: coachellavalleyweekly.com/swift-winemaking-packaging .

So, we have both the wine and the dime going on: The idea behind Mercury Head is to blend history (the dime) with the art of winemaking. The wine is designed to be a special occasion wine, often enjoyed by collectors and those seeking unique, high-quality Cabernet Sauvignon.

As to the dime: it was designed and first minted in 1916 and known as the "Winged Liberty Head" dime minted in the US up to 1945. The head of the coin featured a depiction of Lady Liberty wearing a winged cap, and we are told that the art was an exemplary of the Beaux-Arts era. Unfortunately, some Americans didn't get the memo, and the design was mistakenly associated with the Roman god Mercury, the Roman god of commerce: thus, Mercury Head dime.

As to the wine: it is now called a flagship wine for Orin Swift, sourced from high-quality vineyards in Napa Valley. I still have a couple of bottles of the 2019 vintage; that one included grapes from Stagecoach, Emerson Day, and Morisoli vineyards, and a small amount from the historic Monte Rosso vineyard in Sonoma Valley. *Talk about flagship—that's pedigree 2.0!*

And with that statement, we know the wine will always be known for its complexity; always showing flavors of black currant, raspberry, cigar box, and sandalwood, along with a silky-smooth finish that most Californians desire. It's a powerful, modern Cabernet Sauvignon with the capacity to age. That's why I still have a couple of bottles—but can I leave them alone for another decade?

***2023* Mercury Head Wine Napa Valley.** The wine is typically priced around *$170* or so and even without the vintage Mercury Head dime affixed to it, the wine will always be a collector item. It's got great presentation, symbolizing history and craftsmanship.

Winery notes: "The nose is characterized by notes of blackcurrant, licorice, baking spices, and crushed gravel, with hints of lavender. On the palate, it delivers flavors of blackberry, dark chocolate, espresso, and a blueberry reduction, balanced by chalky tannins. The finish is long and smooth, often with a touch of Herbs de Provence."

Aged in French oak—probably around 55% new oak, certainly contributing to the wine's structure and complexity.

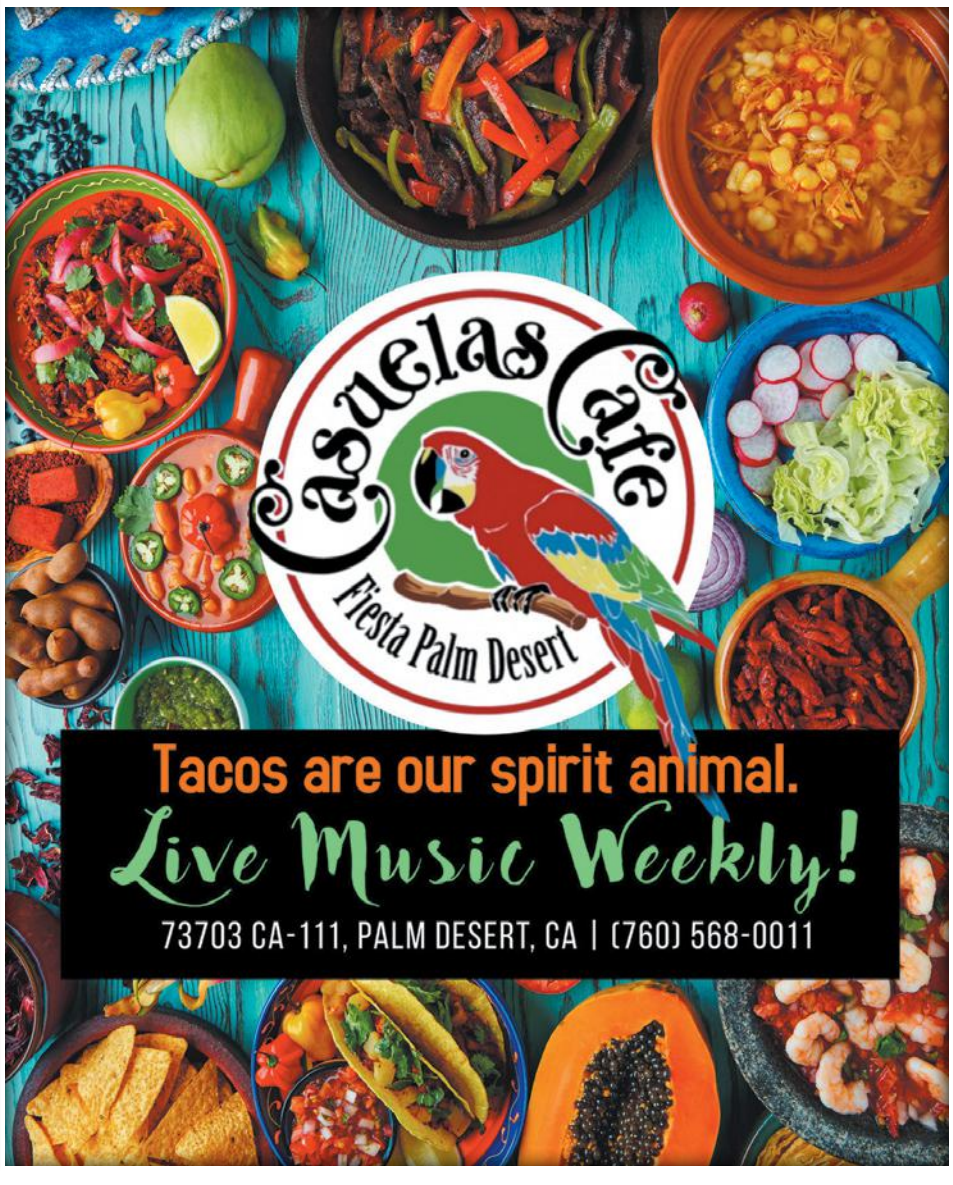
Cab connoisseurs already know what to pair this spectacular wine: For sure hearty dishes—grilled steak or lamb. My go-to match-up is presenting a Cognac drenched rare Steak au Poive. *But you've got to come hungry and stay late.*

So, I can see already that some of you capitalist wine game players are wondering about the "real" value of the bottle with a coin that was minted over 80 years ago and more! Indeed—if the coin is in very good condition and from a very particular year (you numismatics in the mist probably know that stuff), the coin on the bottle could be worth some bucks.

Some Mercury Head dimes have brought in hundreds of dollars—some a thousand! Now if Orin Swift produces around 6,000 cases of this particular Cab, that means around 36,000 dimes are being utilized every year! That's a bunch of old dimes out there; one has to get lucky every so often. ***How fun!—the game of wine! Cheers!***

Rick is your somm-about-town. He is currently seeking out new local eateries with interesting beverage lists to write about. If you know of, or have a new favorite haunt that can use some coverage, contact Rick at winespectrum@aol.com. CV





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AUGUST



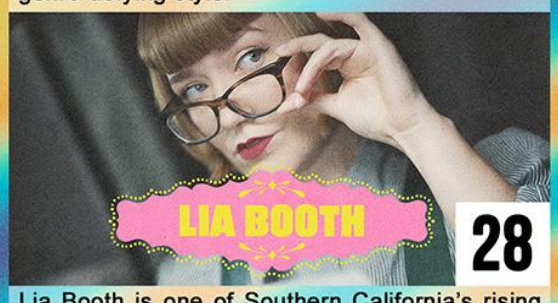
Melancholy Babies bring Western Swing, New Orleans jazz, and golden age American tunes to life with charm and soul. This desert-based trio channels vintage vibes with sweet harmonies, toe-tapping rhythms, and timeless style that feels both nostalgic and refreshingly new.



West Coast Jazz Hour began as a podcast in 2020, created by pianist Josh Nelson and drummer Kevin Van Den Elzen. Now a live quintet, they bring their deep love of jazz, storytelling, and vinyl to the stage with a lineup of West Coast greats.



Will Brahm is a guitarist blending jazz, rock, and cinematic soul through his Stratocaster. A Herbie Hancock semifinalist and touring alum with Arturo Sandoval, his latest album *Distance to Empty* showcases his rich, expressive, genre-defying style.



Lia Booth is one of Southern California's rising jazz vocalists, known for her radiant tone, modern spin on standards, and performances alongside legends like Arturo Sandoval and Jeff Goldblum. She brings timeless jazz to life with grace and soul.



Get ready for puro cotorreo and laughs with MC Raider! Repping Raider Nation, he brings raw stories, familia vibes, and sports fandom to the stage. Rock your gear, bring your crew—it's not just comedy, it's a full-blown Silver & Black party!



Narcizo Gonzalez delivers fearless, unfiltered comedy with sharp wit and raw storytelling. A veteran of The Ice House and Laugh Factory, he dives into culture, identity, and family chaos with bold honesty, making crowds laugh, think, and come back for more.



Cory and Chad, The Smash Brothers, are identical twin comics delivering wild laughs, fast banter, and twin-fueled chaos. One's the "good twin," the other's a wild card—but together, they've rocked stages nationwide with stories from their outrageous lives and nonstop energy.



Teachers Gone Bad features former educators-turned-comedians delivering brutally funny takes on classrooms, school politics, and real life. With sold-out shows and zero fear of HR, they bring unfiltered stories, adult humor, and unapologetic laughs you won't hear on campus.



Ace Guillen brings sharp stand-up, original songs, and wild crowd work to the stage for a night of nonstop comedy. A former rock musician turned nationally touring comic, Ace blends music and humor like no one else.



Wyman & The Wolves bring a gritty mix of Americana, rock, and alt-country from L.A. Led by Kyle Wyman, their heartfelt songs and hypnotic grooves deliver raw energy, standout tracks, and unforgettable live shows you'll feel in your bones.



Jonny Ransom brings blistering blues, soulful vocals, and desert-born grit to the stage. Influenced by legends like Stevie Ray Vaughan and Chris Stapleton, his fiery guitar work and modern blues style make every show a raw, unforgettable ride. Don't miss it.



Johnny Marfa and the Lights deliver a genre-blending mix of Americana, indie rock, and desert twang. With cinematic sound, heartfelt lyrics, and electrifying live shows, they turn every set into a soulful, high-voltage ride down a neon-lit highway.



Black Sugar Blues Band serves up raw, soulful blues with modern rock fire. Gritty riffs, thunderous rhythms, and truth-soaked vocals power every set. It's not your daddy's blues—it's bold, electric, and unforgettable. This is Black Sugar: sweet, dirty, and full of swagger.



The hottest Vegas-style pool party is making waves every Saturday and select Sundays at Hotel Zoso in the heart of Downtown Palm Springs! Funshine Pool Party is where high-energy beats, poolside luxury, and all-day vibes collide for an unforgettable weekend

FOR TICKETS & INFO SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT: EVENTSPALMSPRINGS.COM

PET PLACE

JJ REUNITED WITH FAMILY AFTER HIS HOME ESCAPE!



BY JANET McAFEE



On Sunday morning, July 27, I was driving my dogs to the community park when I saw my neighbor Scott walking his dog. He motioned to me to stop. Scott reported there was a loose Pitbull running down a nearby street. I headed in that direction and spotted the dog with a man crouched down checking his collar. The intact male dog appeared friendly and happily greeted the human. The man told me he didn't live here but was a pet sitter for someone on the block.

There was no engraved ID tag with the dog's owner's phone number on the canine's collar. I snapped some photos and told the pet sitter I would try to find an owner on social media. Scott posted the photo on the Rio Vista Village East www.NextDoor.com. I put him on the Verano Community's Facebook page and my Facebook page, tagging people who lived nearby. The pet sitter mentioned he intended to call Riverside County Animal Control. I was concerned because their Thousand Palms shelter is extremely overcrowded and dogs whose owners don't retrieve them during the stray hold may be euthanized for behavior problems, medical conditions, or lack of space.

Upon checking the comments on www.NextDoor.com we learned that the pet sitter took JJ to the home where he was working and put him in the garage. As the morning and the summer heat progressed, he arranged for the dog to go to the Riverside County shelter in Thousand Palms, the Coachella Valley Animal Campus. An owner named "Judith" had commented that JJ belonged to her. I tracked down her local address on another website and drove to her home late that afternoon. Her daughter's car pulled up at the same time and she had also located her parents' dog on www.rcdas.org.

I met Judith and Marco and heard JJ's story. They are wonderful pet owners, unlike the "careless" stereotype of people whose dogs escape. The couple suspect their gardener may have left their side gate open on Saturday. When they returned home from an errand, their little Chihuahua girl was sitting at the front door. Their other Chihuahua was inside the home. JJ was nowhere in sight. I told them where and when to go on Tuesday to pick up JJ (the shelter is closed Mondays). Their Chihuahuas are spayed. However, they were on a long waiting list at a local vet clinic to get JJ neutered due to the shortage of vets. We discussed how unneutered male dogs will run as far as 5 or more miles seeking female pups in heat.

I arranged to meet Judith and Marco at the shelter on Tuesday where I do a weekly drop off of needed donations (linens, dog beds, pet toys, newspaper, etc.) While they were waiting for JJ's release, Mario inquired about volunteering to help the shelter dogs. JJ was overjoyed to see his humans! Several days later Judith reported, "Everyone is so happy JJ is home! Our entire family missed him. I would like to find out more information on where to get him neutered in the near future." JJ is registered for the upcoming low-cost Coachella Animal Network spay/neuter clinic housed at the Fantasy Springs casino.

What can you do to keep your cat or dog safe in case they ever go missing? Keep an engraved ID tag on their collar or get a collar with your phone number on it. Get your pet microchipped with your current phone number and address. Take current photos that you can use to make flyers and post on social media. There are numerous local Facebook pages including "Lost and Found Pets in the Coachella Valley" where you can post. Get your male dogs and cats neutered! Sterilization helps prevent them from escaping and running away for miles.

Gardeners and other visitors may not be careful about closing gates and front doors. There are many reasons to keep an eye on your pets when they are outdoors in the yard. Cyotes can jump over fences and pose a serious danger. Thieves have been known to steal animals from yards intending to "flip" them for drug money or other evil purposes.

JJ is happy to be back with the family he loves and is on his best behavior. Enjoy the remaining summer days with Fido and Fluffy!

janetmcafee8@gmail.com CV



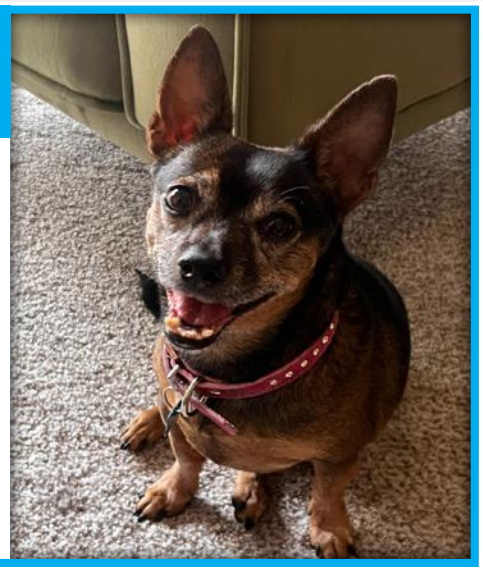
MEET TONI

Precious 5-mo-old Toni is full of fun puppy antics! A Lab mix, she is very smart and already house trained. Call Loving All Animals at (760) 834-7000 to meet this happy girl.



MEET DAISY LOU

Precious Chihuahua girl just wants to be your new best buddy! She's an 8-yr-old cuddle bug waiting for a great home. Call Loving All Animals (760) 834-7000.





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





CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND STABLECOINS: THE DIGITAL MONEY REVOLUTION

HADDON LIBBY



BY HADDON LIBBY

Cryptocurrencies, digital assets secured by cryptography and powered by decentralized blockchains, are transforming finance. With a cryptocurrency, a user can complete transactions without government or bank control. Unlike traditional money, the value of a coin stems from its scarcity, utility, and/or market sentiment. Most cryptocurrencies are volatile with steep price swings. All face increased regulatory scrutiny. Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tether, XRP, and Binance Coin lead the crypto market

Stablecoins, a cryptocurrency subset, peg to assets like the U.S. dollar for stability, ideal for trading, liquidity and transactions. Tether and USDC dominate stablecoins.



Unlike fiat currencies like the US Dollar or Japanese Yen, cryptocurrencies operate on blockchains—transparent, immutable ledgers. Bitcoin and Ethereum, for example, fluctuate wildly; Bitcoin hit $119,142.78 in 2025, driven by its 21-million-coin cap, while Ethereum ($4,247.63) powers smart contracts for DeFi (decentralized finance) and NFTs (non-fungible tokens). Stablecoins like Tether (USDT) are pegged at $1 to ensure consistent value. Tether does this by backing each coin with cash or cash-equivalent investments.

The largest cryptocurrency, **Bitcoin (BTC)**, boasts a $2.3 trillion market cap, claiming 55-60% market dominance. Its fixed supply and secure blockchain, untarnished for 16 years, position it as "digital gold," fueled by adoption via Investment Funds and use in crypto casinos. Speculative hype inflates its value. **Ethereum (ETH)** ($450 billion) drives DeFi and NFTs via smart contracts, bolstered by Ethereum 2.0's scalability upgrades, though high fees and rivals like Solana challenge it. **XRP** ($195 billion), is linked to company, Ripple, excels in cross-border payments. **Binance Coin (BNB)** ($110 billion) powers Binance's ecosystem, with token burns (thefts) boosting scarcity, but regulatory limits curb its U.S. reach due to its connection with cross-border money-laundering.

Among stablecoins, **Tether (USDT)** ($160 billion) leads for its peg to the US dollar and trading dominance, though regular audits of the stablecoins reserves are needed. In contrast, **USD Coin (USDC)** ($62 billion) is backed by audited cash and Treasuries and is trusted for DeFi and payments via Visa's network. **Ethena USDe (USDe)** ($7 billion) uses crypto collateral for high DeFi yields but carries risks related to complex hedging strategies. **Dai/Sky Dollar (USDS)** ($6 billion), decentralized and crypto-backed, supports DeFi lending but is volatile.

Safety is a concern for all coins. Bitcoin and Ethereum's decentralized blockchains, using proof-of-work or proof-of-stake, resist attacks, but user errors like wallet hacks persist. Tether, XRP, and BNB, tied to centralized entities, risk manipulation or regulatory action. Volatility plagues BTC, ETH, XRP, and BNB—Bitcoin doubled in 2025, XRP surged rapidly—but Tether's stability hinges on reserves. The four owners of Tether have resisted full audits. Scams, like fake wallets, target all, making hardware wallets (e.g., Ledger) and two-factor authentication vital.

These assets are traded on major exchanges. With $16 billion in daily volume, **Binance** is the largest with a 35% market share. Binance offers the five largest coins by market value yet has its operations in the U.S restricted due to its involvement in illegal payments and money laundering. **Bybit** ($4 billion volume) supports most coins despite a 2025 hack that threatened its solvency as well as the valuation of several coins. **Crypto.com** ($3.6 billion) appeals to beginners due to ts debit card that converts coins into old-fashioned cash. **Coinbase** ($2.5 billion) is U.S.-based and beginner-friendly but has higher fees.

Stablecoins face unique risks, such as reserve transparency, bad actors and/or regulatory scrutiny. Unlike the speculative swings of cryptocurrencies, stablecoins are safer for transactions. That said, these networks are susceptible to hacking that will only get worse as quantum computers learn how to beat the encryption technology of all coins.

For those wanting to own coins directly, consider using Coinbase or Crypto.com for ease and regulatory compliance. Bitcoin and Etherium can also be held via Exchange Traded Funds like IBIT and ETHE. Cryptocurrencies and stablecoins offer innovation but demand caution. With any of these, never invest more than you can afford to lose.

Haddon Libby is the Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Fiduciary RIA firm, Winslow Drake. For more information on our services, please visit www.WinslowDrake.com. Please note that this article is for entertainment purposes and not a recommendation to invest in cryptocurrencies or stablecoins. CV

WINSLOW DRAKE
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

IT'S NOT DRUNK DRIVING? MY .02

DALE GRIBOW ON THE LAW



LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF THE INJURED & CRIMINALLY ACCUSED

1. It's Not "Drunk Driving"

The correct charge is **Driving Under the Influence (DUI)**. You don't need to be "drunk" — you only need a blood alcohol level of **.08 or higher**. In Riverside County, officers will arrest — and the Indio DA may file — at **.07**. Being "under the influence" can happen after just three standard drinks, though factors like weight, food intake, protein, and timing matter. Many think you must be loaded to be guilty. Not true.

2. One Drink ≠ One Drink

It's not about the number of glasses, but the **alcohol inside them**. So, two "glasses" of wine may actually equal **three drinks**.

• 12 oz. beer = 1 oz. hard liquor = 4 oz. wine.

• Many restaurants pour **6–9 oz. wines** or **3 oz. shots** of liquor.

A teen client once swore he had "just one." Turned out it was a 16 oz. Costco cup, two-thirds vodka. That's **12 drinks** in one. Even wine "top-offs" at dinner add up fast — count every ounce.

3. Alcohol + Prescription Drugs = Danger (Potentiation)

When your RX says *"don't operate heavy machinery,"* it means cars, not tractors. We need clearer labeling so patients understand, mixing alcohol and prescriptions is especially dangerous. This is because of **Potentiation** — the drug multiplies the effect of alcohol. One drink with certain meds can equal several. Add in illegal drugs, and it's worse. Today's marijuana, for example, is often **13 times stronger** than the 60s/70s variety. The public rarely realizes this.

4. Repeat Offenders face five years' probation**. Courts may also mandate** refresher DUI classes annually **until probation ends — on top of DMV and court-ordered programs.**

Bottom Line: Don't Drink and Drive | Impaired Driving = Drunk Driving | Uber is cheaper than me.

Why The Lawyer You Choose Matters

Billboards don't win cases — lawyers do. Avoid the TV/Billboard, and 1-800 lawyers with jingles. With Jacoby & Myers, one is deceased, as is Larry H. Parker, and the other retired. You don't need a lawyer — until you do…much like a placekicker in football. Save my number next to your plumber and electrician for that DUI/PI rainy day: **760-837-7500**. And note: A **DUI is a Felony in Canada,** and can bar you from entry. Call me for direction, if this affects you.

CUT & KEEP THIS DUI CARD. Understanding what is Voluntary during a traffic stop, is the Declaration of Independence applied to a DUI

Give this card with your license, registration, and insurance to the officer. Explain, upon the advice of attorney, Dale Gribow, I exercise my right to remain silent until he is contacted at 760-837-7500 or dale@dalegribowlaw.com. He advises, "It's not what you say — it's what the officer and insurance company *think* you said." I understand the **Field Sobriety Tests (FSTs)** and **Preliminary Breath Test (PAS),** at the scene, are ***Optional***- unless on probation… thus, "I **Elect** not to take them. I will cooperate fully and request a blood test instead."

About Dale Gribow

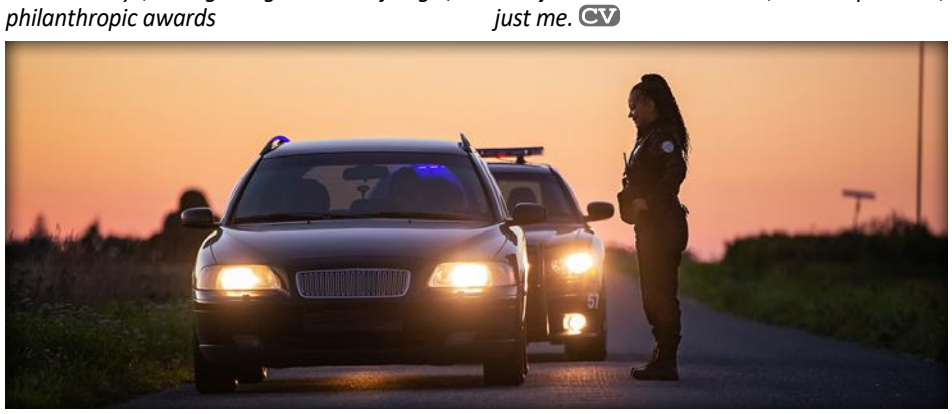
• ***37-Time "Top Lawyer" DUI/PI Career Honoree***

• ***10.0/5-Star Ratings:*** *Google | Avvo Superb | Martindale AV Pre-eminent/Client Choice Award 2025 | Justia | Nolo | Lawyers.com*

• ***Awards:*** *Palm Springs Life 14X | 9× Man of the Year | 4× Dale Gribow Day | "Mr. Charity", recognizing dozens of legal/philanthropic awards*

• *Confidentially recognized for both **legal ability,** and **ethical trustworthiness,** by judges and peers in the most respected legal directory for 150 years*

*You don't earn 37-Top Lawyer career awards without standing on the shoulders of thousands of past clients. I'm grateful to each one. Cases are limited. **I personally handle every call** — no secretaries, no receptionists, just me.* CV



EVENTS

THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER OF THE DESERT ANNOUNCES CENTER STAGE HONOREES



The LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert announces Center Stage honorees as gala celebrates 'Creating Impact Together' COACHELLA VALLEY – The LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert is proud to announce Jeff Weyant and Marty Massiello will receive the Legacy Award at its annual Center Stage gala presented by Eisenhower Health. The award honors those who have made a lasting impact to the Coachella Valley's LGBTQ+ community.

As longtime supporters of The Center, Weyant and Massiello have contributed significantly to building the thriving and expansive organization The Center is today. "Jeff and Marty have been instrumental in the establishment and continued growth of The Center Coachella," said The Center's CEO Mike Thompson. "They generously helped us secure a physical space in downtown Coachella, underwrote our internship program to develop young, new leaders, and are supporting the continued expansion of The Center's Eastern Coachella Valley programs."

The Center Coachella is a safe, affirming space for LGBTQ+ youth living in the Eastern Coachella Valley and a source of culturally competent support for their family members. Interactions with community members at The Center Coachella more than doubled in the last year thanks to a variety of programming that bring people together and connects the community.

Center Stage will take place Friday, October 17, at the Palm Springs Air Museum, with the theme "Creating Impact Together." Tickets and sponsorship information are available online through The Center's website at thecentercv.org/centerstage.

Honorary co-chairs of Center Stage will be Andy Mills, the Palm Springs Chief of Police, and his wife, Cathy Mills. "Andy and Cathy's commitment to fostering a safer, more inclusive community aligns beautifully with the mission of The Center," said The Center's Chief Development Officer James Lindquist. "As advocates for connection, understanding, and service, they exemplify leadership that uplifts everyone." The evening will also feature a silent and live auction and a live performance by the talented and powerful singer Marisa Corvo.

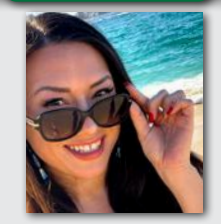
All funds raised through Center Stage benefit The Center. Event Details: Date: Friday, October 17, 2025 Time: 5:30-9 p.m. Location: The Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs Tickets available at thecentercv.org/centerstage.

Presenting Sponsor: Eisenhower Heath Magic Maker Sponsors (as of August 12, 2025): David Hood and George Sellers / Harold Matzner.

With a mission of creating vibrant community by helping LGBTQ+ people along their way, The Center's work stretches across the Coachella Valley. From its McDonald/ Wright Building in Palm Springs to The Center Coachella, the Scott Hines Behavioral Health Clinic, and the Community Food Bank, The Center offers an astounding range of programs and services. With a talented staff, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and clients with diverse ages, races, and identities, The Center focuses its work on ending isolation and loneliness, connecting people to resources and community, and enriching our individual and collective experiences. More information is at thecentercv.org or on social media @ thecentercv and @thecentercoachella. CV

TRAVEL

LUCAS MUSEUM OF NARRATIVE ART SET TO OPEN IN 2026



BY MARISSA WILLMAN

Famed filmmaker George Lucas may be best known for *Star Wars*, the sci-fi space opera that has defined a genre for nearly 50 years, but his legacy is set to enshrine the power of storytelling in the upcoming Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, an 11-acre campus set to open in Los Angeles in 2026.

Lucas made his first-ever appearance at San Diego Comic Con in July to talk about the project, alongside fellow filmmaker Guillermo Del Toro and production designer Doug Chiang, who worked with Lucas on the *Star Wars* prequel films. The star-studded Hall H panel was moderated by Queen Latifah, bringing an extra layer of excitement to this highly anticipating opening.

Cofounded by Lucas and his wife, Mellody Hobson, the Lucas Museum is designed to be a space that celebrates all forms of narrative art, from the well-known to the underappreciated.

"The museum is dedicated to the idea that stories, mythology, any kind of story that is written to affect people and to build community is extremely important to society…and creating community," Lucas said during the panel. "You'll always have a story that people believe. It's mythology."

The filmmaker explained that the museum will shine a light on such mythologies and while also creating emotional connections. Lucas described the project as "a temple to the people's art," emphasizing how art and storytelling shape our emotional experiences and cultural connections. The museum will house an extraordinary collection of over 40,000 pieces, which Lucas has gathered over five decades. The collection includes works by celebrated artists such as Frida Kahlo, Charles M. Schulz, Jack Kirby, and Normal Rockwell, as well as iconic *Star Wars* memorabilia.

In addition to showcasing fine art and illustrations, the museum will feature original comic strips, including early *Peanuts* sketches and *Flash Gordon* comics, as well as the first-ever *Iron Man* cover. For *Star Wars* fans, the museum will also house a selection of artifacts from the iconic film series, adding a personal touch from Lucas' own cinematic legacy.

Designed by Ma Yansong of MAD Architects, the museum's distinct, futuristic building will be located in Exposition Park in L.A. With immersive spaces, galleries, and public areas, the *Lucas Museum of Narrative Art* is set to become not only a tribute to George Lucas' legacy but also a love letter to the universal power of storytelling across all mediums.

Comic Con Photo Credit: Photo by Eric Charbonneau / Lucas Museum of Narrative Art via Getty Images)

Museum Rendering credit: Lucas Museum of Narrative Art aerial view rendering, courtesy of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. CV





WISDOM COACHING



BY MICHELLE MCLAUGHLIN

THE GIFT OF YOUR OWN COMPANY

There's a big difference between being alone and being lonely. One feels like emptiness, the other like freedom. Have you ever noticed that some of the most meaningful growth in life happens in the quiet moments when it's just you, your thoughts, and the space you choose to create?

We live in a world that celebrates busyness. Noise is everywhere with texts buzzing, calendars full and social media shouting for attention. But when all of that fades away, you're left with the most important relationship you'll ever have: *the one with yourself*. If that relationship feels uncomfortable being alone can be difficult. If you learn to nurture it, solitude becomes a gift.

So how do you start to enjoy your own company?

First, **make space for stillness**. Sit outside in the morning with your coffee, watch the sunrise, listen to the birds, or simply take 10 minutes without rushing to the next thing. These pauses remind you about the simplicity of life and slow down your roll.

Second, **do things that light you up without anyone watching**. Play your favorite music and dance. Read the book you've been putting off or take yourself on a "solo date" for coffee, a hike, or even the movies. When you stop waiting for someone else to join, you tune into yourself.

Third, **talk to yourself kindly**. We all have that inner critic, but when you're alone, you get to decide which voice you amplify. Try writing down things you appreciate about yourself and think healing thoughts and reassure yourself that all is well. You are right where you're meant to be. If your thoughts take you to the future, tell yourself it will be good. If you tend to look back or ruminate focus on letting go of regrets.

Finally, **treat your alone time as practice for self-trust**. If you can sit with your own silence, you can face life with more calm. If you can enjoy your own company you show up in other areas of your life like (relationships, work, friendships) differently and from a place of acceptance rather than discomfort.

Solo Date Ideas to Try

Here are some great ideas to spend time with yourself. Alone doesn't mean lonely. Here are some ways to celebrate your own company:

Coffee Shop Morning – Take your journal or just yourself to your favorite coffee shop and enjoy being unhurried.

Take Yourself to the Movies – Pick the film you want to see, indulge in popcorn or your favorite treat, and sit back and enjoy the movie!

Solo Hike or Nature Walk – Let the beauty



of nature remind you that you're never truly disconnected.

Bookstore or Library Adventure – Get lost in the discovery and find a story that sparks something in you.

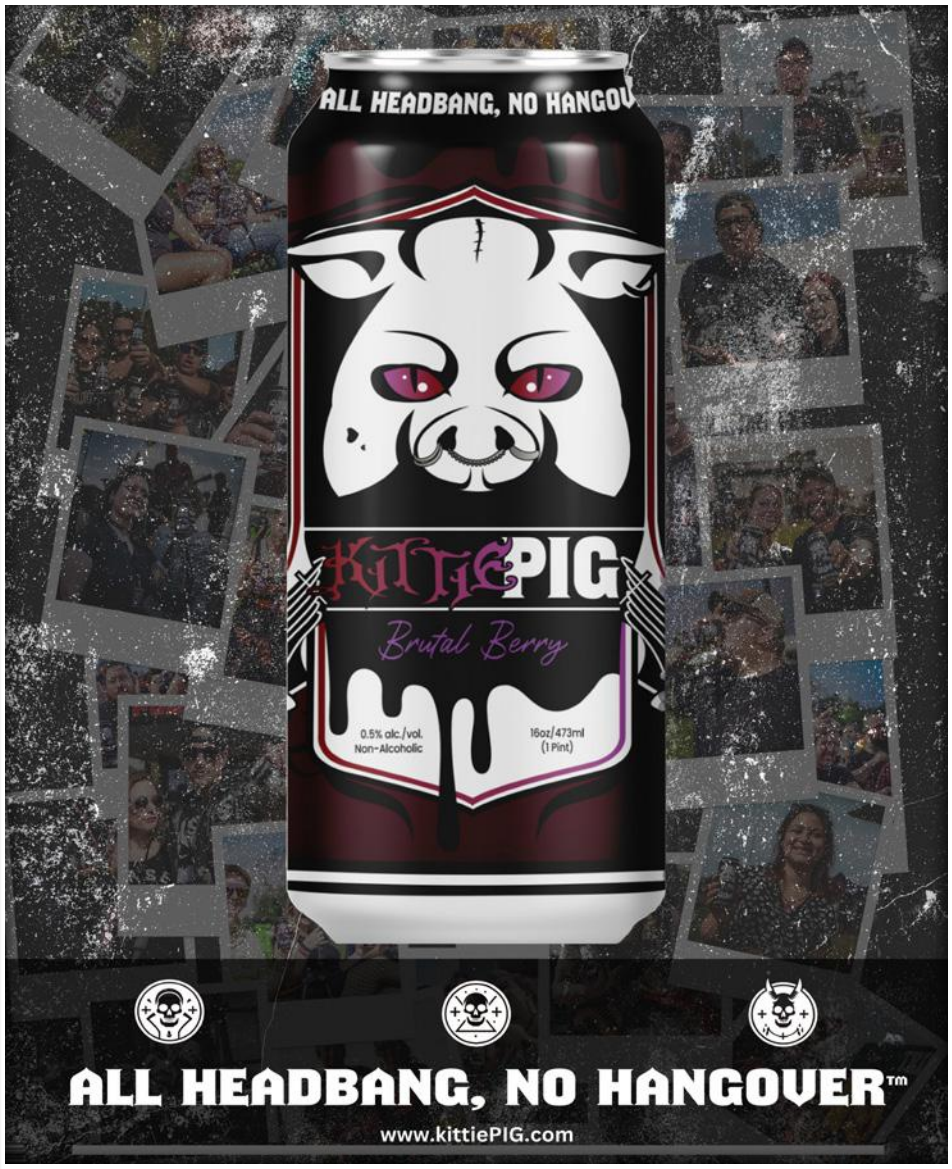
Creative Night In – Paint, write, or craft without worrying about perfection. Yes, I said relax and get lost in the process and don't focus on the outcome.

Day Trip – Explore a new town you've never been to and see what you discover.

Spa at Home – Bubble bath, calming music, and a little self-care ritual to remind yourself you matter.

Alone doesn't have to mean empty or sad. It can mean free, strong, creative and at peace. The more you learn to love your own company, the less you'll need outside noise to feel complete and that's when the best unexpected connections tend to find you.

***About Michelle McLaughlin**: Michelle is a compassionate and intuitive coach who believes that everyone has a unique story waiting to be shared. With a gift for helping others see their own worth and potential, Michelle guides women to uncover their authentic values, strengths, and passions. Her approach is empathetic, creating a safe and supportive space for women to explore who they truly are and how they want to show up in the world. Are you ready to take back your power and start creating the life you were meant to live? Connect with Michelle (im4letitbe@gmail.com) to ask questions or start a chat. She is available for free 30-minute coaching sessions to dive into your personal journey, ignite your vision and heal yourself!* CV









DO ANIMALS KNOW HOW TO SELF-MEDICATE?

CANNABIS CORNER





BY RUTH HILL R.N.

Recently published studies have shown the sophisticated side of the endocannabinoid system (ECS) in our sister animals. The ECS is present throughout the animal kingdom, the only exceptions being Protozoa (single-celled organisms) and insects. Some animals, like zebrafish, lobsters, tobacco hornworms, and caterpillars, lack CB1 and CB2 cannabinoid receptors. Studies show that endocannabinoids bind to four other key receptors – TRPV1, TRPA1A, TRPA1B, and GPR55.

The zebrafish, a freshwater minnow native to Southeast Asia with narrow black and white stripes running the length of its body, has served as an essential tool in human health research since the 1980s for the screening of novel drugs and environmental pollutants. Because it develops rapidly, reproduces abundantly, and is hardy and easy to care for, it shares crucial organs, tissues, and genetics with humans. Zebrafish serve as a non-mammalian animal model in toxicology, pharmacology, and behavioral neuroscience research.

Most animal research into ECS function involves mice; scientists have also studied cannabinoids and their receptors in cats, dogs, and in less obvious species like sea urchins, sea squirts, zebrafish, and zebra finches.

Bees use sap with antibiotic properties that kill fungi and other microbes. They mix their own secreted oils from plants to make a substance called Propolis. A study found that bees bring in 45% more Propolis when the hive is infected with a dangerous fungus. Somehow, they can prioritize the importance of bringing in more Propolis. In addition, bees kill larvae that have been infected by fungal spores, which also takes considerable time and energy. When harmless spores were placed in the hive, the bees removed the spores but did not spread Propolis.

One well-known study involved a chimpanzee who became ill. The Chimp left her infant with a friend and built a special nest in a tree. She broke branches off a plant called Vernonia amygdalina, which is found to have many medicinal chemicals against parasites. She sucked juice from the tips of a plant that could be poisonous in a higher doses. The plant is a potent medicine for stomach problems and parasites, taking 24 hours to work. The Chimp was sick and weak for a day, resting in the isolated nest she had built for the occasion, and then felt better and caught up to the troop and her child. It helped with the most dangerous parasite they faced, Oesophagostonum stephanostonum. They demonstrated skill in using the right amount that was almost dangerous, but killed the parasites. They also used this plant as a prevention during seasons with the most parasites.

Recent research shows that many other animals and insects self-medicate.

Caterpillars eat particular plants that are toxic to kill parasitic flies.

Ants use special sap from spruce trees to ward off particular microbes, including the antimicrobial terpenes.

Parrots eat clay when their stomach are upset.

Monkeys have special repellents for insects, including citrus juices, and poisonous insects.

A sick porcupine ate a toxic plant, and this was observed by a local healer who learned about the medical properties. His tribe then began to use the herb for stomach ailments.

Early hominids showed knowledge of particular medicinal plants that would repel dangerous insects.

Monarch butterflies infected with parasites protect their children by laying eggs on milkweed that kills parasites.

It is hard to believe that non-mammal animals have the level of cognition to learn from the environment and pass it on to their offspring, or if this information is hardwired in the brain structures. Perhaps, individual bee intelligence is most surprising, with the ability to have symbolic language and abstract symbols. It raises the question of whether farms should plant medicinal plants to avoid using so many antibiotics. How bees know that Propolis is a fungal antibiotic and how to differentiate between dangerous and harmless fungi is a mystery. Unfortunately, bees now have more difficulty finding the trees they need for their medicine.

Send comments to hilruth@gmail.com. CV



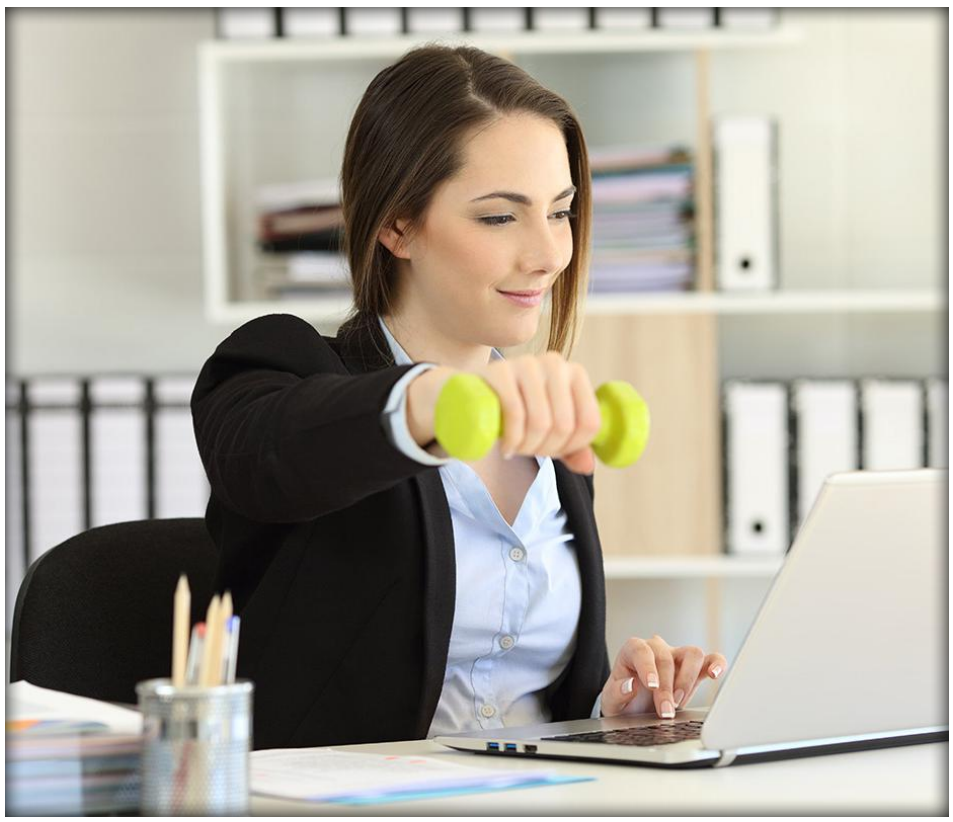


THE LONG GAME OF WELLNESS: HOW BUSY PROFESSIONALS STAY ON TOP

SEND ME A TRAINER

BY COACH NADIA POPOVA, PRESENTER OF THE HOLLYWOOD NATURAL BODYBUILDING & FITNESS AWARDS, RESIDENT OF COACHELLA VALLEY





For the driven professional in Palm Springs, Beverly Hills, or Chicago, a successful career isn't just a sprint—it's a marathon. You're constantly pushing limits, but sustainable success requires a new kind of strategy. It's not about temporary fixes or fleeting trends; it's about making a lifelong commitment to your health. At Wellness Resources Group Inc., we believe that long-term wellness is the ultimate lifestyle that fuels professional longevity and peak performance. It's the difference between a career that burns bright and a career that burns out.

Beyond the Fad: A Lifestyle for Lasting Success

In a world filled with detoxes and quick-fix workouts, it's easy to get sidetracked. True, lasting wellness is a holistic approach built on three core pillars: consistent physical movement, intelligent nutrition, and a resilient mindset. This is a lifestyle, not a trend, and it's essential for anyone serious about a high-performance career.

Physical Movement: This isn't just about intense workouts; it's about making movement a daily habit. We design programs that fit seamlessly into your schedule, whether it's a brisk walk around your Palm Springs neighborhood, a quick session in your Beverly Hills home gym, or a power workout in a Chicago high-rise. Regular physical activity builds physical and mental stamina, reduces stress, and improves focus—all critical for navigating a demanding work environment.

Intelligent Nutrition: Your body is a high-performance machine. The food you put in it directly affects your energy levels, mental clarity, and mood. We work with you to develop sustainable nutrition plans that fit your lifestyle, from business lunches to travel. We teach you to make smart choices that provide sustained energy and optimal brain function, helping you avoid midday crashes and stay sharp for every meeting.

A Resilient Mindset: A truly healthy lifestyle also requires mental fortitude. We help you cultivate a mindset that embraces challenges, values rest, and understands that recovery is just as important as the effort itself. This includes incorporating practices like mindful movement, strategic rest, and professional massage therapy to ensure your mind is as strong and agile as your body.

Your Partner in the Long Run

At Wellness Resources Group Inc., we are your partners in this journey. Our expert trainers and therapists in Palm Springs, Beverly Hills, and Chicago are dedicated to helping you build and maintain a wellness lifestyle that supports your professional ambitions.

We understand that every professional is unique. That's why we create personalized plans that adapt to your body, your goals, and your schedule. Our approach is designed to be a seamless part of your life, not an added burden.

Ready to transform your health from a trend into a long-term lifestyle? Visit our website wellnessresourcesgroup.com. CV



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SAFETY TIPS



BY FIRE CHIEF SAM DIGIOVANNA

THIS IS NO SHOT IN THE DARK

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH!

Viruses and bacteria that cause illness and death still exist and can be passed on to those who are not properly vaccinated reminds Fire Chief Sam DiGiovanna. The Center for Disease Control recognizes August as National Immunization month.

Infants and the elderly are at greater risk for serious infections and complications, but vaccine-preventable diseases can strike anyone. Approximately 50,000 adults die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases in the US.

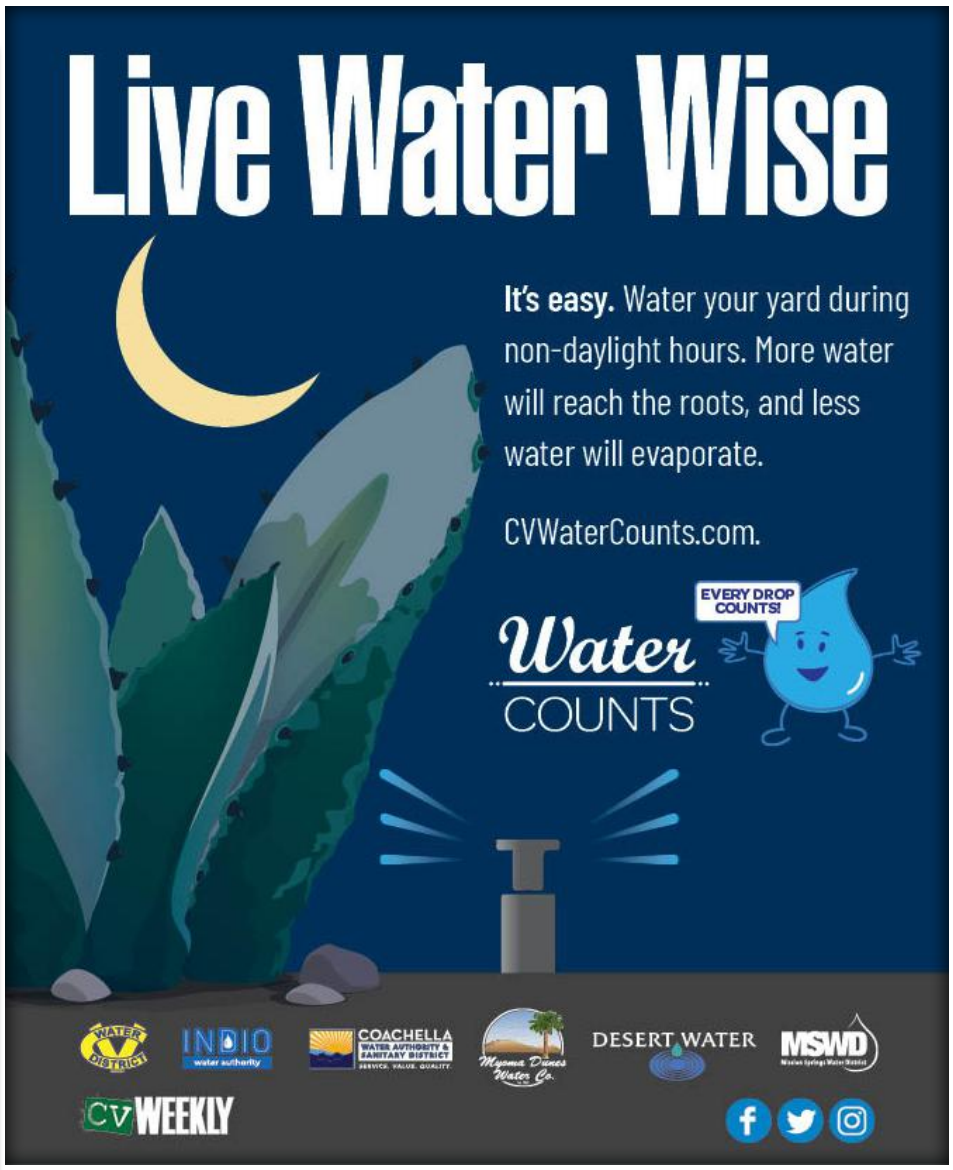
Make sure your children are up to date on vaccines before sending them back to school. School-age children, from preschoolers to college students, need vaccines. Shots may hurt a little, but the diseases they can prevent are a lot worse says Chief DiGiovanna.

It's important to remember handwashing is like a "do-it-yourself" vaccine – it involves five simple and effective steps (think Wet, Lather, Scrub, Rinse, Dry) so you can stay healthy. Regular handwashing, particularly before and after certain activities, is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others.

Contact your local health department or physician for more information.

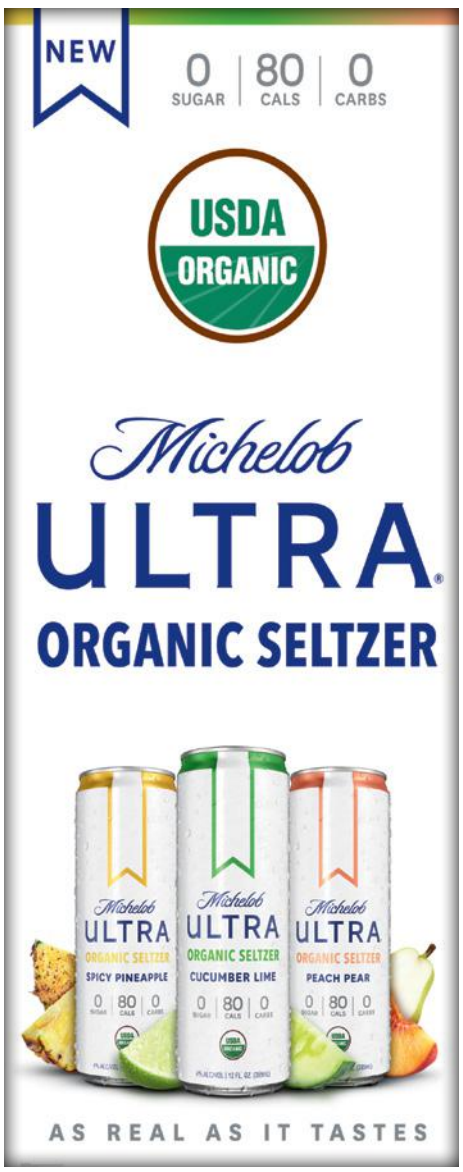
aai.org/About/National-Immunization-Awareness-Month. CV











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