



## ShortFest unveils lineup of nearly 300 short films

COACHELLA VALLEY, 3A

# The Desert Sun

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## Coachella, Stagecoach back in 2022

Both music festivals will take place in April; headliners not yet announced

**Brian Blueskye**  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival will return in April 2022, ending a two-year hiatus for the renowned music event amid the COVID-19 pandemic – but dashing hopes held by some fans that they might be heading to the California desert in the fall.

Coachella will take place April 15-17 and 22-24, 2022, while country music counterpart Stagecoach will happen April 29 to May 1, 2022, organizers announced Tuesday.

Los Angeles-based producer Goldenvoice did not announce a lineup for either festival, both of which will take place at the Empire Polo Club in Indio.

Goldenvoice will open an advance sale for Coachella passes at 10 a.m. Fri-

day. Stagecoach advance passes will be announced at a later date. Previously purchased 2020 passes will automatically apply, and passholders will receive new wristbands.

Both weekends of Coachella will be livestreamed on YouTube.

The news comes as popular music festivals such as Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Riot Fest and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival an-

nounced their return in the summer and fall amid declining COVID-19 infection rates and increasing vaccinations, with lineups that feature a mix of prominent modern and older artists.

“We feel April is the right time for us to present the best experience,” Goldenvoice president and CEO Paul Tollett said in an email to The Desert Sun.

Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau president and CEO Scott White said in an email that the or-

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## UNCERTAIN FUTURE



A 3D printed display unit was set up by Palari and Mighty Buildings at the site of the planned 3D printed housing community in Rancho Mirage. The unit has since “closed,” according to Palari CEO Basil Starr.

MIGHTY BUILDINGS

### Plan for 3D homes in Rancho Mirage stalled as building codes are reviewed

**James B. Cutchin and Sherry Barkas**  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

About two months after a Beverly Hills-based development company announced its plans to build “the first in the world” 3D printed housing community in Rancho Mirage, regulatory questions about the building material have become a bottleneck for the project.

The company, Palari, wants to build more than a dozen three-bedroom, two-bath homes in Rancho Mirage using the 3D printing technology. While Palari founder and CEO Basil Starr previously said the company purchased 5 acres for 15 homes at 35-050 Via Josefina – adjacent to an equestrian center – he has since clarified that the company is in escrow and expects to close on the sale in June.

But Rancho Mirage city officials say they don’t believe the homes would currently be allowed under state building codes – and technically, they’re right.

Palari’s manufacturing partner, Mighty Buildings, has previously built smaller 3D units with state approval. Mighty Buildings co-founder Sam Ru-

ben said his Oakland-based company plans to create the Rancho Mirage community – which would comprise larger homes – using an upgraded material that is not yet state-approved.

Mighty Buildings’ units typically use a “light stone material,” which Ruben said consists of a combination of polymers and minerals that undergo a light curing process analogous to modern dental fillings. The company previously installed several accessory dwellings – smaller units like a casita with independent living facilities next to a primary residence – that were made of a similar material and approved by the state, according to Ruben.

See **HOMES**, Page 2A

## Castle Fire may have killed 10% of sequoias

**Joshua Yeager**  
Visalia Times-Delta  
USA TODAY NETWORK

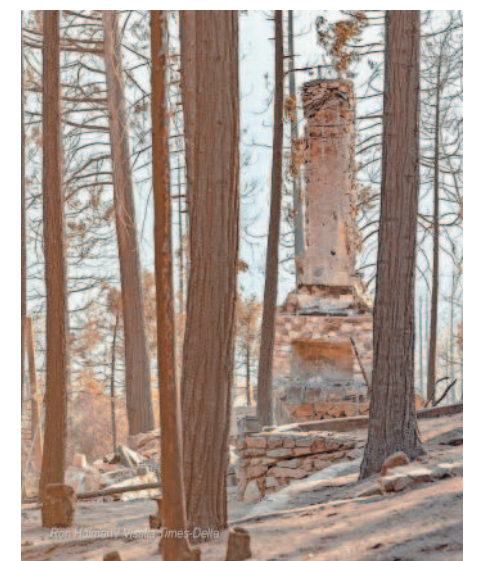
What was once a lush forest is now a “moonscape.”

At least a tenth of the world’s mature giant sequoias were destroyed by a single wildfire that tore through the southern Sierra Nevada late last year, according to a draft report prepared by scientists with the National Park Service and shared with the Visalia Times-Delta.

The catastrophic discovery that forest managers called “mind-blowing” comes five months after firefighters contained the Castle Fire – which scorched 175,000 acres across the Sequoia National Park and forest.

Between 7,500 and 10,000 monarchs perished in the wildfire, which equates to 10% to 14% of the world’s

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The SGF Complex Fire burned cabins in the Cedar Slope community.

RON HOLMAN

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### Deputy in shooting dies

San Bernardino County sheriff’s deputy Sgt. Dominic Vaca, 43, who was shot on Memorial Day in Yucca Valley, said Sheriff-Coroner John McMahon. COURTESY OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

USA TODAY

### Vatican law criminalizes abuse by priests

Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office also can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes. The new provisions, released Tuesday, were contained in the revised criminal law section of the Vatican’s Code of Canon Law, the in-house legal system. 12A

### Effort to block ‘Marilyn’ move denied

The Committee to Relocate Marilyn’s latest effort to block PS Resorts and the city of Palm Springs from moving forward with the installation of “Forever Marilyn” while the group fights the statue in court has been denied, according to a court order issued on Friday. 5A

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### Weather

High 108° ■ Low 77°  
Sunny, hot and breezy.  
Forecast, 14A

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# Festivals

Continued from Page 1A

ganization was “excited” to hear about the festivals’ return.

“This event attracts visitors from around the world and we couldn’t imagine a Coachella without the diversity of this audience,” White said. “We feel it is a great decision and applaud Goldenvoice for maintaining the cultural significance this event represents. Both Coachella and Stagecoach are critical for our industry to recover and return to normalcy.”

California is still two weeks away from fully reopening its economy, and large-scale events like Coachella were not part of the plan rolled out by state officials this spring. The state considers an outdoor music festival with more than 10,000 people to be a “mega event,” where all attendees should show proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test, at



**Festival goers walk the grounds at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio on April 19, 2019.** THOMAS HAWTHORNE/USA TODAY NETWORK

least until Oct. 1, according to state rules. If not, attendees “should be asked to wear face coverings,” the state says.

However, large-scale events are already happening in the desert. Country music stars Toby Keith and Jimmie Allen

performed to thousands of fans on May 15 at the new outdoor venue Coachella Crossroads, about 5 miles from the polo grounds. That venue was created by the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians; Native American tribes, as sov-

ereign nations, are not required to follow state health orders.

The festivals have brought tens of thousands of people to Southern California each spring, filling hotels and boosting the local economy. A 2020 report from the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership found the desert will likely lose roughly \$1.4 billion from the cancellations of Coachella and Stagecoach in 2020 and 2021.

The city of Indio lost \$3.5 million in revenue without the festivals in 2020. Indio Mayor Elaine Holmes said the city accounted for the loss this year, anticipating that the festivals would not return amid the pandemic.

Still, she emphasized the difference that the festivals can make, calling Coachella “a financial boon to every large and small business across the Coachella Valley.” The city receives a portion of sales tax when visitors eat at local restaurants, shop in local businesses or stay in local hotels; that money is “used for

roads and general city maintenance,” Holmes said.

“... But the winners here are the businesses themselves,” Holmes added.

Aftab Dada, general manager of the Hilton Palm Springs and chair of the local nonprofit PS Resorts, said he has a “strong feeling” that demand will be high when the festivals return – and “applicable to all our special events.”

Goldenvoice teased the news with a video Monday – the first post from Coachella social media accounts since December – that showed the iconic “Spectra” tower on the polo grounds alongside sounds of screaming fans, with the caption “Do you hear it?”

Both Coachella and Stagecoach were postponed twice before the April 2021 dates were canceled. Some fans hoped the festivals would be rescheduled for October, as the city of Indio has a contract with Goldenvoice that allows for five concerts each year.

## Who will the headliners be?

As live music begins to return across the country, recently announced tours could offer clues as to each festival’s lineup. Here’s what we know about previous headliners:

**Rage Against the Machine:** The band was previously announced as a headliner for Coachella 2020. It has since posted rescheduled tour dates for its “Public Service Announcement Tour” in 2022. The second and third weekends of April are open between stops in Arizona and Oakland.

**Eric Church, Carrie Underwood:** Stagecoach 2020 headliners Eric Church and Carrie Underwood also show open dates in their upcoming tours through next April. Church has no scheduled shows April 16-29, 2022. Underwood has a handful of shows this summer and fall before she starts her “Reflection” residency in December at the Theatre at Resorts World in Las Vegas. But it ends in early April.

*Previous reporting by Desert Sun staffer James Cutchin was used in this story.*

*Desert Sun reporter Brian Blueskye covers arts and entertainment. He can be reached at [brian.blueskye@desertsun.com](mailto:brian.blueskye@desertsun.com) or on Twitter at [@bblueskye](https://twitter.com/@bblueskye). Support local news, subscribe to The Desert Sun.*

# Obituaries

## TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Funtas, Rose	104	-	20-May	Eternal Hills Funeral Home
*Rodney, Gary Lee	80	Rancho Mirage	17-May	Wiefels
*Rossi, Robert Richard	85	-	09-May	-
*Valle, Dalia	26	-	15-May	Casillas Funeral Home

**\* Additional information in display obituaries**

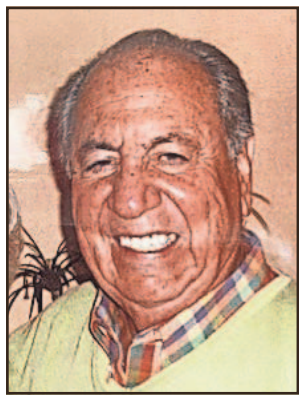
Obituaries appear in print and online at [www.DesertSun.com/Obituaries](http://www.DesertSun.com/Obituaries)

### Robert Richard Rossi

Robert Richard Rossi (85) passed away peacefully on May 9, 2021 in Palm Desert, CA. He is survived by his wife Georgia, his children Ronda and Patrick, two granddaughters Lexi and Bridget, his sister, Christine, and his former wife, Susan.

Robert was born March 20, 1936 and raised in Los Angeles. Upon graduating Cathedral High School, he was drafted into the Army at 18 years old and proudly served his country while stationed in Europe. Upon his return, Bob became an insurance agent with Pacific Mutual and then joined Republic National. He started his own general agency with Transamerica in 1989 and retired in 2008. Bob moved to the Coachella Valley during the 1980’s and was active in various business, community, and social organizations. He took great pride in his part in the development and construction of the Rancho Mirage Library. Bob was active in the Catholic Church throughout his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the City of Hope to help fund cancer research and treatment.



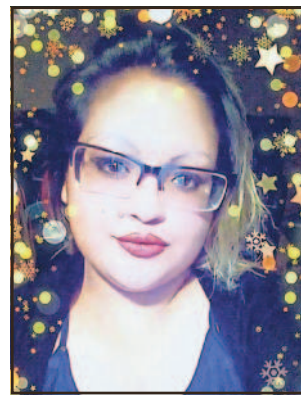
### Dalia Valle

Her life came to an abrupt end on the morning of May 15th, 2021 from injuries sustained from a motor vehicle accident.

Dalia was born on August 18th, 1994 in the City of Rancho Mirage, CA, the daughter of Veronica Valle and Dionicio Valle. She was the mother of Daniel Vincente Barajas Valle (age 6).

With great sadness Dalia is survived by her mother Veronica Valle and her father Dionicio Valle and her son Daniel Vicente Barajas Valle at the young age of only 6 years old along with her sister Deyanira Llamas and her grandmother Rosalina Barrios and grandfather Vicente Valle including a number of aunts and uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her grandmother Maria Barrios, grandfather Miguel Valle and her aunt Lucia Valle and her cousin Daniel Valle.

Dalia will be laid to rest on June 1st following her mass services which will be held at Saint Louis Church in Cathedral City at 9am. Her viewing will be held at Casillas Funeral Home in Cathedral City on the evening of May 31st from 4p-9p.



### Rose Funtas

Rose Funtas our beautiful beloved Mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great great grandmother, and aunt passed away on May 20, 2021, at the age of 104 years young in Palm Springs, California.

Born in Whitinsville, Massachusetts on August 31, 1916, the third of five children. In 1945 Rose came to California with her sister Mary to visit an uncle in San Diego and never went back east. On a trip to San Francisco to see relatives she met her husband Gus and they had two boys Gary and Michael. In 1949 they moved to La Quinta from Los Angeles to start a new venture, the La Quinta Café and Market.

Rose was so many things to us, our guiding light with an immeasurable energy who taught us to love and respect everyone. She was an acute businessperson and believed in family and the importance of responsibility.

With pride in her Armenian heritage, she was one of the original Godfathers of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Rancho Mirage. She was also on the Parish Council and a charter member of the Ladies Society established in 1978. Rose received many awards for her distinctive service over her many years of dedication and volunteer work to the La Quinta Senior Wellness Center by the Mayor and City Council.

Survived by sons Gary (Judith) Funtas and Michael (Christine) Funtas, grandchildren Larissa (David) Coe, Jennifer (Russell) Sasaki, Nicole Funtas Brady, James Funtas, Stephanie Funtas Olds, great grandchildren, Alyssa Olds, Gavin Olds, Kyra Coe, Sophia Coe, Elias Coe, Tessa Coe, Lexi Sasaki Lee, Noah Sasaki, Sam Sasaki, Benjamin Sasaki, Zoe Brady and one great great grandchild Finn Lee. Also survived by niece Susan Sarkisian and nephew Richard Sarkisian and her brother Ronald Sarkisian and his family.

Preceded in death by her loving husband Gus, brothers Harry, Peter, and sister Mary Sarkisian and her loving parents Abraham and Manushag Sarkisian. Thank you to all who cared for our beloved Mother and a special thanks to Pat Clapp a dear good friend. Love of life did not come to an end for our Mother, her loved ones will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

Private services will be held at her request. To friends and family, In lieu of flowers donations can be made in her name to the Armenian Apostolic Church, 38990 Vista Dunes, Rancho Mirage, California 92270.

A raindrop  
landing on  
your cheek  
is a kiss  
from  
someone  
that lives in  
Heaven  
and is  
watching  
over you



### Gary Lee Rodney

#### RANCHO MIRAGE -

Gary Lee Rodney, age 80, Rancho Mirage, California, passed away May, 18th, 2021 at his home in Rancho Mirage, after a long battle TIA and with his loved ones, Watson C. Rodney, and his friends, Bonnie, Lynn, and Hassan at his side. Gary was born on Dec 24th 1940 to John Rodney and Martha Miller in Rochester, New York. He received a bachelor’s degree in Geology from the University of Buffalo. His fondest memories were derived from his years of enjoying working as the director of Kaiser Permanent medical group. He had been enjoying his retirement life, living with his spouse and friends both domestically and abroad, especially his wonderful times in Europe and Thailand. He is survived by his spouse, Watson Rodney for many years. There will be small informal services at the church of St. Paul, Palm Springs, on June 3rd, 2021 at 0430 PM, where his ashes will be interred at the Colum at St. Paul Church. A celebration of life will be held at a later date yet to be determined. His family wishes to especially thank all friends, Dr. Joseph Van Gilder his caregivers, Eisenhower Health nursing staff, and Kindred Hospice staff who cared for him during his difficult times.



## Deputy

Continued from Page 3A

said deputies “attempted a traffic stop” near Paxton Road and Imperial Drive, and the driver “failed to yield.”

McMahon said deputies attempted to stop the motorcycle but the driver took off and a pursuit ensued. The suspect “bailed out of the vehicle” in the area near Dumosa Avenue and Sunnyslope Drive, and “ran into the desert,” the department said.

A short while later, deputies located the motorcycle, with no rider. As they searched, “the rider started firing at the responding deputies. One of our deputies was struck by the gunfire,” McMahon said.

“A short time later the suspect was located and he started shooting at the additional deputies,” McMahon said. “They returned fire and the suspect is deceased and a handgun was located.”

He added the deputy – later identified as Vaca – “was airlifted to a local hospital, where he is receiving medical care for his injuries, and he remains in serious condition.”

The identity of the deceased suspect has not been released. A sheriff’s dispatcher said no further information could be released “because the investigation is ongoing.”

“On behalf of the entire Yucca Valley Town Council and Town staff, our thoughts and prayers go out to the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy and his family,” Yucca Valley Mayor Merl Abel said in a prepared statement. “We ask for the community’s support during this difficult time.”

*Contributing: Daily Press Managing Editor Matthew Cabe.*

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