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The Desert Sun

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Demand growing for shared office spaces



Shared office tenant Jim Schmidt of Sun Terra works inside his executive suite office in Old Town La Quinta on Friday. Local commercial real estate agents and property owners have seen a recent uptick in remote workers seeking shared office spaces. TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

Old Town La Quinta, others pivot to offer suites for remote workers

Sherry Barkas Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

As employers and employees become more comfortable with working remotely during the pandemic, finding they can conduct business from just about anywhere, demand for shared office space is gaining momentum as people seek places to hold meetings without interruption of kids or pets.

“More young professionals are buying homes in the desert and work from home but actually want

an office space,” said Wells Marvin, owner of Old Town La Quinta, where two-story buildings offer a mix of retailers, restaurants and bars on the first level and office space on the second.

To answer the new demand for individual office space, he and his property manager, Katy Abel, have been leasing executive suites offering three or four individual private offices with locking doors that share a conference room and kitchenette.

See **OFFICES**, Page 10A

Lawmaker Jerry Lewis dies at 86

Republican represented high desert for decades

Matthew Cabe Victorville Daily Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jerry Lewis — the longtime Southern California Republican who served the high desert and other locales for more than four decades in increasingly influential roles, and who chaired the House Appropriations Committee in the mid-2000s — has died. He was 86.

Lewis’ brother, John, told the Daily Press that Jerry Lewis died at his home in Redlands. The late politician’s housekeeper found him on the floor of

his bedroom sometime after 10 a.m. Thursday, John Lewis said. The official cause of death is not yet known.



Jerry Lewis

“She said he didn’t have any grimace on his face. He looked like he was just sleeping. So he

didn’t die in pain or anything,” John Lewis said in a phone interview Thursday evening.

John Lewis, who lives in Apple Valley and is the youngest of six siblings, said he learned of Jerry Lewis’ passing from their older brother, Ray, 88, who called and said, “It’s just you and me now, kid.”

He described Jerry Lewis as “a good brother,” and “not the guy who’s going to express his feelings very directly.”

“But he called me one time — and he hardly ever called; I called him more often than he called me — and he said, ‘I just want to see how you’re doing,

See **LEWIS**, Page 2A

Court rules in favor of Coachella in growers’ lawsuit over ‘hero pay’

Eliana Perez Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Coachella has fended off a lawsuit targeting a city ordinance mandating “hero pay” to farmworkers who worked throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ordinance went into effect on Feb. 10 and required certain agricultural businesses to pay farmworkers an additional \$4 per hour for at least 120 days.

Several growers associations sued the city and a ruling had been pending since a federal court hearing in May.

U.S. District Judge John W. Holcomb granted the city’s motion to dismiss the cases on Monday and denied the growers’ request for a preliminary injunction, City Attorney Carlos Campos said. He called it “a great win for the city and the community.”

The plaintiffs included the Western Growers Association, California Fresh Fruit Association and Growing Coachella Valley. They argued that the city was not treating companies equally because

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MORE INSIDE PAGE 5A



Dock fire destroys 7 boats

A fire-fighting watercraft is deployed to a fire at a dock at Lake Arrowhead early Friday morning. The blaze destroyed seven boats and damaged five others before it was extinguished, officials said. PROVIDED BY THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

USA TODAY

Canada may soon reopen border to US travelers

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is now saying that Canada could start allowing fully vaccinated Americans into Canada as of mid-August for nonessential travel and visitors from all countries by early September. He noted the border can open if Canada continues on its current positive path of vaccination rates and public health conditions. 19A

Indio woman found dead

A 67-year-old Indio woman reported missing earlier this week was found dead inside a vehicle on Thursday. Deborah Jean Suer was last seen around 11 a.m. Monday in Palm Desert and was reported missing later that evening by family members. 3A

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Offices

Continued from Page 1A

Most are working for different companies and never met before taking the shared office space, she said.

“People are so used to going to work and then going home to relax ... but when you turn that (home) also into your workplace you don’t get that. I think a lot of people realize that,” Abel said. “It’s been exciting and busy, and we have a lot of really great people who are moving here.”

Executive suites — private offices within a larger office with shared conference room and kitchenette — range from 100 square feet to about 300 to 400 square feet. Rent starts at \$450 per month, Abel said. Many have small balconies and views of the surrounding mountains.

They just recently opened four more executive suites and saw two rented right away, Abel said.

Renters are mix of people working in real estate, finance, law and other occupations, including a therapist who now mostly meets with her patients virtually, which allowed her to move to a smaller office, Abel said.

“We even had a teacher who was here that needed to do be able to do her Zoom classes outside of her house ... so she came and rented a space for the whole school year,” Abel said.

Utilities — including air conditioning — and internet service are covered by Old Town La Quinta. “There is very little overhead,” Abel said.

Among the tenants are employees whose main offices are on the East



Brian Hervey of Fulton Distribution walks in front of a shared office space building in Old Town La Quinta on Friday. Local commercial real estate agents and property owners have seen a recent uptick in remote workers seeking shared office spaces. TAYA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

Coast who decided to create a satellite office, renting some of the executive suites, Abel said.

Other types of tenants include those who might have moved to the valley to care for their elderly parents but want their office out of their home, Abel said.

“This has allowed a lot of people to move into a place or move into a role like a caregiving role, or move their family somewhere they might enjoy better” and not have to leave their jobs, Abel said.

People looking for individual office space “has been our number one request” since she began working for Marvin about three months ago, Abel said.

At first she thought it would be a fleeting thing, but the demand has not waned, she said.

“We’ve filled all of the

executive suites that we had and so now are converting some of our larger office spaces into executive suites,” Abel said. “We’re continuing to make space available.”

A movement toward hybrid workplaces

Recent studies show that what is happening in the Coachella Valley is reflective of how the pandemic has changed how and where corporate America works.

Accenture, a global professional services company that offers a variety of networking services with clients in more than 120 countries, released the findings of its latest research which found that 83% of people prefer a hybrid work model that allows them the ability to work remotely 25% to 75% of the

time.

Similarly, WeWork.com reported in April that it had partnered with independent research firm Workplace Intelligence to conduct a blind survey of 2,000 people.

Sixty-four percent of employees in the study said they would pay for access to an office space and 75% would give up at least one benefit or perk for the freedom to choose their work environment.

The survey also found that businesses intend to support that arrangement because productivity has generally not declined due to remote working, WeWork.com reported.

The results revealed that most workers expect to continue working from home at least a few days a week, and businesses intend to support this arrangement because pro-

ductivity has generally not declined due to remote working. However, people also desperately want to have spaces outside of their home to work from, and companies recognize this need.

“Perhaps most importantly, we learned that when employees gain the flexibility they yearn for, their companies benefit from higher productivity, engagement, and loyalty. Employees’ desire for greater control, flexibility, and freedom in where and when they work is at the very core of hybrid,” WeWork.com reported.

Locally, employees and employers alike are realizing the advantages of shared workspaces, said Emily Falappino, president/CEO of the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce.

“We’re seeing an increase in interest, de-

mand, and creation of shared workspaces across the entire Coachella Valley,” she said.

Shared workspaces offer employers and employees several advantages, including the ability to leverage them for financial gains, efficiency and productivity improvement, as well as to deliver value and benefit to their workforce, Falappino said.

“Employees find convenience, utility, and new connections that often inspire new ideas and a rejuvenated outlook towards their work,” she said.

In many cases, they allow small home-based businesses the opportunity to grow and expand outside their residence, Falappino said. “And, in many cases allow small home-based businesses the opportunity to grow and expand outside of their residence.”

The savings can be huge

Joe Wallace, CEO of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, said he is also fielding requests for employers and employees looking to downsize their office space and move toward hybrid work models.

“Many of the business we speak with are interested in minimizing office space to accommodate hybrid work models where people work two to four days at home and one to three in the office,” Wallace said.

Local businesses have moved out of traditional office spaces into CVEP’s smaller “flex space” offices and into the Palm Springs iHub, he said.

Flex spaces, including offices at CVEP’s headquarters in Palm Springs, are month-to-month so the tenants do not have to commit to a three- or five-year contract.

“They also typically include utilities, parking and some basic office services like copying, Wi-Fi, phones and signing for deliveries,” he said.

“We anticipate the same to happen in the fall as we open up our other iHub locations to in-person working,” Wallace said. In addition to Palm Springs, CVEP also has iHub locations in Palm Desert and Indio.

The savings are directly proportional to the square footage reduction and in any reduced price per square foot that landlords or CVEP may offer, he said. For example, if a business moves from 5,000 square feet at \$1 per square foot per month to 2,000 square feet at 80 cents per square foot they would save \$3,400 per month, Wallace said.

“And this is a typical example,” he said.

Private and safe place to work

Jim Schmidt has been renting shared office space in Old Town La Quinta for 11 years. He has been in different offices, including a 900-square-foot office which didn’t offer a lot of privacy between tenants who worked in pods rather than offices with private walls and doors.

“I had the option of working out of the house or getting an office and I chose to get a little office down here,” Schmidt said. “I love it and it’s a great place for me.”

Now in a corner office with a shared conference room, supply room and kitchenette, Schmidt said the advantages of shared office space is low overhead and getting out of the house to go to work.

There has been a mix of people, mostly real estate agents and independent companies, Schmidt

Obituaries

TODAY’S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
*Heckenlively, John Wesley “Jack”	91	Indian Wells	02-Jul	-
*Smith, Edward Raymond	68	Cathedral City	23-Jun	Wiefels

* Additional information in display obituaries

Obituaries appear in print and online at www.desertsun.com/obituaries

John Wesley “Jack” Heckenlively

INDIAN WELLS - 1929 - 2021

John Wesley Heckenlively, known to family and friends as “Jack”, passed away on Friday, July 2, 2021, in Indian Wells, California at the age of 91.

Jack was born in Kearney, Nebraska on November 12, 1929, to father Clive Heckenlively and mother Lyda Margaret Heckenlively. As a young Nebraskan, Jack was involved in track, football, and golf, in addition to spending his high-school summers working as a lifeguard.

Jack graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with a degree in business, which cemented his life-time love (not always) as a “Husker” fan. During the Korean War, he proudly served in the Army and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, where he also played for the Army golf team.

After leaving the Army, he went to Houston, Texas, to work in mortgage banking with T.J. Bettis Mortgage Company, then after six months transferred to San Francisco, California. While at the 1956 Republican Convention in San Francisco, he met Josephine Noble who was working as the Head of Ushers for the Convention. So began a wonderful life with his marriage to Josephine on July 25, 1959.

Jack and Josephine had two sons, John “Jay” Joseph Noble Heckenlively and Kent Frances Noble Heckenlively. They lived in Orinda, Sacramento, and Alamo, California.

Jack, at age forty, left mortgage banking to finish law school at University of San Francisco and passed the California Bar. He spent time as Of Counsel with Miller, Star and Regalia in Oakland, before working for several years in private practice with his son, Kent. At this same time, Jack and Josephine built and ran seven El Taco Mexican restaurants, which (our family still believes) served the best chips, cheese and chili in the Bay Area!

Second only to family and faith, Jack’s love of his life was the game of golf. It embodied character, integrity, camaraderie, effort and, most importantly, being a gentleman — traits which he lived by and are his legacy for future generations. Spending time with Jack on the golf course was an uncluttered time to bond and share - as long as you played quick and didn’t talk too much! Jack’s passion for the game took his family to beautiful courses throughout USA and Europe and finding a top 100 course in a particular area was always the starting point for vacation planning. Over the years, he loved his times at North Ridge Country Club, Roundhill Country Club, Olympic Club and Monterey Peninsula County Club and cherished the camaraderie with his fellow players. After Josephine’s passing in the spring of 1994, he relocated to Indian Wells, California, and finished his golfing chapter at El Dorado Country Club with wonderful friends.

In addition to his sons, Jay and Kent, their wives, Andrea and Linda, he leaves behind five grandchildren, Anna Heckenlively, John Heckenlively, Laura Heckenlively, Jacqueline Heckenlively, and Ben Heckenlively.

A family memorial service is planned in Omaha, Nebraska, for the fall of 2021. In lieu of flowers, any donation to Jack’s preferred charity, the American Diabetes Association, would be meaningful.

Edward Raymond Smith

CATHEDRAL CITY - Edward Raymond Smith of Cathedral City, CA and formerly of Erie, PA died June 23, 2021 at his home. Edward was the son of Gordon C. Smith and Marie D. Smith and was born February 23, 1953.

Ed graduated from Technical Memorial HS and enlisted in the US Navy where he served on the USS NEWPORT NEWS. He took the vows of Brotherhood in the Congregation Sancta Cruxia and served as a Brother for 2 years. Ed earned his nursing degree at University of Bridgeport, CT and worked as an ICU and Cardiac Care nurse in New Haven, CT and San Francisco, CA. He also earned his Masters Degree in Spirituality at Holy Names University, Oakland, CA.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents. Ed is survived by his 5 brothers and sisters; Charles Smith (Sylvia), Eleanor Walker, Elaine Smith, Margaret Williams (John Welsbacher) and William Smith (Cassandra), all of the Erie, PA area. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Ed had many friends across the country.

A Mass of Celebration of Life will be held at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 2800 Ramon Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92264 on July 21 at 10 AM.

Memorials may be made, in lieu of flowers, to Dignity USA at DignityUSA.org. Ed will be interred in Trinity Cemetery in Erie, PA.



Gone from us, but leaving memories death can never take away, memories that will always linger while upon this earth we stay.

source: The Book of Memoriams