

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA PACKET

JUNE 15, 2022



AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
8 a.m.
Cathedral City Council Chambers
68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

1. Call to Order
2. Board Member Roll Call
3. Approval of May 18, 2022 Minutes
4. Approval of April 20, 2022 Minutes
5. Approval of March 16, 2022 Minutes
6. Executive Committee Report – Jan Harnik
7. Review and Approval of Nominating Slate
8. Business Services Report – Laura James
9. Marketing and Communications Report – Laura James
10. CEO Report – Joe Wallace
11. Board Member Updates/Comments
12. Adjournment

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
Location TBD
8:00 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER



Investor Agency/Organization	Representative(s)	Jul 21	Dark	Sep 15	Oct 20	Dark	Dec 15	Jan 19	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 15
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Todd Hooks	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Calif. Alliance for Renewable Energy Solutions	Patrick Sinclair	X		EXC	EXC		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
Charter Communications/Spectrum	Sandra Cuellar	X		X	X		X	X	X	EXC	X	X	
City of Cathedral City	Mark Carnevale/Ernesto Guitierrez	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	EXC	
City of Desert Hot Springs	Roger Nunez/Russell Betts	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
City of Indian Wells	Greg Sanders	X		X	X		EXC	X	X	X	X	EXC	
City of Indio	Oscar Ortiz/Elaine Holmes	EXC		X	X		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
City of Palm Desert	Jan Harnik/Gina Nestande	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
City of Palm Springs	Lisa Middleton	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	EXC	X	
City of Rancho Mirage	Ted Weill/Charles Townsend	EXC		X	X		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
College of the Desert	Dr. Christina Tafoya	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Desert Care Network	Gary Honts	EXC		EXC	X		EXC	X	X	X	X	X	
Eisenhower Medical Center	Ken Wheat	EXC		EXC	EXC		EXC	EXC	X	X	EXC	EXC	
GCVCC	Emily Falappino/Diana Soto	X		X	EXC		X	X	EXC	X	EXC	EXC	
Gulf California Broadcasting/KESQ	Jerry Upham	EXC		X	X		X	X	X	EXC	X	EXC	
Hunter Johnsen	Chris Hunter	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Imperial Irrigation District	Antonio Ortega/Trinidad Arredondo	X		X	EXC		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
LifeStream	Dr. Rick Axelrod	X		X	X		X	X	EXC	X	EXC	EXC	
Oliphant Enterprises	Richard Oliphant	X		X	X		X	X	EXC	X	X	EXC	
Osborne Rincon	Lee Osborne	EXC		EXC	EXC		EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	
Pacific Western Bank	Tracy Tremblay	EXC		EXC	EXC		EXC	EXC	EXC	X	X	EXC	
Palm Springs Life	Paulina Larson	EXC		X	X		EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	EXC	
Riverside County EDA	Joaquin Tijerina/Bob Wright	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Southern California Edison	Jennifer Cusack	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
Southern California Gas Co.	Deborah McGarrey	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sunrise Company	Phil Smith	X		EXC	EXC		X	X	X	X	X	EXC	
The Desert Sun	Tom Niva	X		X	X		X	EXC	X	X	X	EXC	
University of California, Riverside	Tamara Hedges/Agam Patel	X		X	X		EXC	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
US Bank	Alan Brimmer	X		X	X		X	EXC	EXC	X	EXC	EXC	
Wells Fargo Bank	Amanda Kramer/Moises Aguirre	EXC		EXC	X		EXC	X	X	X	EXC	EXC	
Honorary Board Members													
CSUSB	Dr. Joe Tormey	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MAY 18, 2022

8:00 AM

DHS HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

11750 CHOLLA DRIVE

DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA 92240

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by Board Vice Chair, Todd Hooks.

Staff Members/Guests Present

Joe Wallace

Laura James

Lesla Bodnar

David Robinson

Ian Vos

Greg Middleton

Clifton Cooper

Welcome and Roll Call

Todd Hooks welcomed the board and attendance was noted.

Minutes

Quorum not present – approval of minutes will be forwarded to the June meeting.

Presentation

Greg Middleton and Clifton Cooper from Pocial, a Palm Springs iHub company, gave an update on their business. They are growing, hiring employees and are now renting space in the Palm Springs CVEP office. Lots of discussion and questions from various board members.

Executive Committee

Todd Hooks noted that the Executive Committee met and discussed budget items. Operations and financials were reviewed and discussed – all in good order.

Business Services Report

Laura James gave an update on the activities of the Business Services team – the full report is included in the packet.

CEO Report

Joe Wallace gave an overview of CVEP organizational activities – the full report is included in the packet.

Member Updates

Grace Garner said she has been working with an intern to set up a summer program to help students understand the employment opportunities available at cities.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

8:00 A.M.

PALM DESERT IHUB

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. by Vice Chair, Todd Hooks.

Staff Members/Guests Present

Joe Wallace

Laura James

Ian Vos

Darneisha Beeler

Elizabeth Wong

Welcome and Roll Call

Todd Hooks welcomed the board and guests, and roll call was conducted.

Minutes

Absent a quorum, the minutes of the March 16, 2022 board of directors meeting will be approved at the May meeting.

Guest Speaker

Long-time iHub client Elizabeth Wong, founder of Double Lock Healthcare, Inc., gave a presentation of the history and status of her business. Board members had numerous questions and were very encouraged by Wong's progress.

Executive Committee

Todd Hooks noted that the Executive Committee met via video conference. Deborah McGarrey provided an update on recent industry roundtables to better understand their current challenges and opportunities. McGarrey also noted that the executive committee has been taking a deeper dive into the organization's financials.

Business Services Report

Laura James gave an update on the activities of the Business Services team – the full report is included in the packet.

CEO Report

Joe Wallace gave an overview of CVEP organizational activities. In addition to the full report included in the board packet, he noted that the executive team had decided that the 2022 Summit should be held as a live event.

Member Updates

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022
8:00 A.M.
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Board Chair, Jan Harnik.

Staff Members/Guests Present

Joe Wallace

Laura James

Lesla Bodnar

Rebecca Martinez

Ian Vos

Welcome and Roll Call

Jan Harnik welcomed the board and attendance was noted. Jan asked two new board representatives to introduce themselves – Dr. Christina Tafoya from COD and Tracy Tremblay from Pacific Western Bank.

Minutes

On a motion by Deborah McGarrey, seconded by Phil Smith, the minutes of the February 16th, 2022 meeting were approved as presented....all in favor.

Executive Committee

Todd Hooks noted that the Executive Committee met via video conference. Operations and financials were reviewed and discussed – all in good order. He reviewed the results of the first industry roundtable [banking] with the board – unanimous amongst attendees was the lack of “soft skills” in prospective employees, amongst other challenges. Discussion followed.

Business Services Report

Laura James gave an update on the activities of the Business Services team – the full report is included in the packet.

Marketing and Communications Report

Laura James gave an overview of the CVEP marketing and communications activities over the last two months.

CEO Report

Joe Wallace gave an overview of CVEP organizational activities – the full report is included in the packet. He also discussed the possibility of doing a live economic summit this year – there are advantages and disadvantages to doing it live vs. virtual.

Member Updates

Oscar Ortiz noted that the City of Indio is swearing in new police officers tonight as well as reviewing the City's strategic plan, notably “big ticket” items such as downtown redevelopment, parks and façade improvements.

Todd Hooks asked whether CVEP board meetings will be resumed in person. Jan Harnik responded that was possible and said that CVEP used to hold their board meetings across the valley in investor cities. Roger Nunez from the City of Desert Hot Springs offered to host the next meeting at their new City Hall building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

DATE: JUNE 13TH, 2022
TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, TODD HOOKS
RE: FY2022-23 CVEP Officers

The duly appointed members of the Nominating Committee [composed of members as dictated by the organization's bylaws]: Committee Chair Todd Hooks, Jan Harnik, Phil Smith and Sandra Cuellar. They reviewed the proposed slate electronically, and responded with their votes via email on June 10th, 2022, and by unanimous approval, make the following recommendations to the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) Board of Directors for FY2022-2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

The officers of the organization sit as the Executive Committee and are elected by the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers:

CVEP BOARD OFFICERS

Chair	Deborah McGarrey
Vice Chair	Todd Hooks
Secretary	Tracy Tremblay
Treasurer	Ivan Aguirre
Immediate Past Chair	Jan Harnik

BUSINESS SERVICES REPORT

JUNE 15, 2022

General Updates

- NFT Workshop for Artists was held at the Palm Desert iHub on Tuesday, May 24.
- Money Matters – Cash Management: The Key to Business Success will be held at the Palm Desert iHub on Thursday, July 14. Held in partnership with Chase.
- CVEP is sponsoring HARC's Workplace Wellness Symposium on June 24. This friend-level sponsorship is a trade for promotional support.
- CVEP has offered GIS services in support of the City of Indio's Transformative Climate Communities Grant.
- The California Department of Public Health has extended an invitation for CVEP to apply for the Vaccinate all 58 Neighborhood Partnership Program Grant. CVEP's proposed project will focus on the economic/small business benefits of vaccination and will be delivered in English and Spanish.
- CVEP participated in the Riverside County Innovation Month recap meeting last week. Dates have been tentatively set for 2023 events: Coachella Valley Fast Pitch on April 6 and Riverside County Fast Pitch Finale on April 27.
- Laura James met with Dr. Tim Gramling, Dean of the Dr. Robert K. Jabs School of Business at Cal Baptist University. Discussed: a plan to place interns with iHub portfolio companies in Palm Springs, Palm Desert, and Indio.
- Business consulting hours for 3C Health (PDiHub); NiftyFed (PDiHub); Eco Helicopters (PSiHub); RE-3 (Indio iHub). Introductory meetings with Gameacon.
- Seven business support inquiries this month through CVEP.com. Appointments pending with four; three have been assisted and/or referred to appropriate organization.

Intelligence Updates

- New **Data Digests** posted to CVEP.com (AAPI Heritage Month; Educational Attainment in CV)
- Finalizing work with University of Redlands graduate student for the soon-to-be-launched CV Data Dashboard and City Story Maps located on a new Dashboard landing page.

Investor Spotlights

- Investor Spotlights:
 - California Alliance for Renewable Energy Solutions (May 20; 1,366 opens)
 - City of Palm Springs (June 2; 1,275 opens)
 - City of Indio (June 15; data not yet available)
- Investor content shared in insights (partial list):
 - **College of the Desert** (Graduation)
 - **UCR Palm Desert** (Hearing and Aging)
 - **Southern California Edison** (Wildfire Mitigation)
 - **Cities of Indio, Palm Desert, Palm Springs** (iHubs)
 - **City of Palm Springs** (Mayor Middleton's White House Invitation)
 - **LifeStream Blood Bank** (Blood Drive Info)
 - **The Desert Sun** (CSUSB-PDC Expansion Article)

A reminder: please add Laura@cvep.com to your media lists!

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
MARCH 14, 2022 TO JUNE 13, 2022

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Thursday, June 9, 2022

DesertSun.com

'Cal State Palm Desert'? Not Yet, But There's a Sign of Hope for a Valley University

Monday, June 6, 2022

DesertSun.com

Ezekiel Bonillas of Indio Joins Desert Sun Editorial Board

Sunday, June 5, 2022

The Desert Sun

Ezekiel Bonillas Joins Desert Sun Editorial Board

Friday, June 3, 2022

The Desert Sun

Budget Proposal: \$59M for CSU Palm Desert Campus

Thursday, June 2, 2022

DesertSun.com

Proposed California Budget Includes \$59 Million For CSU Palm Desert Campus

Friday, April 22, 2022

The Desert Sun and DesertSun.com

'Let's Fight Like Hell!' Mayes, Garcia Ready to Battle for \$79M from State for CSU Palm Desert
(pdf)

April 2022

GrowthForce.com (Blog)

Nonprofit Spotlight: Preparing Today's Youth To Better Tomorrow's Economy

Friday, April 15, 2022

StartEmpireWire.com

The Economic Impact of Coachella Festival Welcomed by Riverside County, but Kanye West Pulls Out

Monday, April 11, 2022

KESQ.com

Palm Springs Technology Entrepreneur is Finalist in Fast Pitch Competition

**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT
MARCH 14, 2022 TO JUNE 13, 2022**

PUBLIC RELATIONS (CONTINUED)

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

NBCPalmSprings.com

Indio City Council Authorizes Free PPE Program

Friday, March 25, 2022

ThePalmSpringsPost.com

Call For Entrepreneurs

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

KESQ-TV and KESQ.com

Affordable Housing Crisis Amplifies as More Luxury Developments Come to the Valley

Monday, March 14, 2022

UkenReport.com

Celebrate Innovation Month with CVEP and Riverside County

To view the links or pdfs of the above coverage, visit <https://cvep.com/press/>

MARKETING / ADVERTISING / PUBLIC RELATIONS / COLLATERAL MATERIALS

- Coachella Valley Fast Pitch (Event Flyer, Sponsorship Flyer, social media/digital assets)
- PowerPoint Presentation for Fast Pitch winner, LIFEID
- NFT Workshop (Event Flyer, social media/digital assets)
- The Summit Planning Meeting and Concept Development
- Investor Benefits Fulfillment (Investor Spotlight, Spotlight Blog, Website Banner Advertising)
- IEDC Awards submission materials
- BOD Packets, Quarterly Reports
- Ongoing Website Updates
- Ongoing Blog Post and Social Media Images
- Online Report and Updates
- CSUSB, City of Palm Desert, CVEP Press Conference, and Name Badges for the Board Members
- Public Relations Assistance on Various (as Noted Above)
- Media Coverage Tracking, and Press Page Updates
- Marketing and Agency Update



La Quinta coach Caleb Gerwin stepping down after 2 years

SPORTS, 1B

The Desert Sun

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022 | DESERTSUN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Budget proposal: \$59M for CSU Palm Desert campus

Allocation approved by legislature, heads to governor's desk for review

Sherry Barkas and Julie Makinen
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

A proposed state budget that includes \$59 million to build a student center at the Cal State University San Bernardino campus in Palm Desert is on its way to California's governor for his input. "This is not a done deal," Assemblymember Chad

Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage, told The Desert Sun. "What it means is that the Senate and Assembly have come to an agreement on what their priorities are and what their budget looks like," Mayes said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom could make revisions — including reducing, increasing or nixing the funds altogether — before sending the proposal back to lawmakers.

There will be additional budget hearings within

the Legislature, which has until June 15 to submit a revised budget for Newsom to sign.

"I'm very, very optimistic, but we can't claim success yet," Mayes said.

Mayes and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella, had requested \$79 million for the student center. The two local legislators were joined by Coachella Valley civic and economic leaders when they held a press conference in April at the CSU Palm Desert campus to announce they were pushing for the

See **BUDGET**, Page 14A



People listen Thursday during a Friends for Frank Bogert press conference to request that the Bogert statue be moved to the Village Green Heritage Center in downtown Palm Springs. PHOTOS BY TAYIA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

A home for Bogert?

Group touts downtown site if bid to halt removal fails

Paul Albani-Burgio
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Members of the Friends of Frank Bogert gathered in downtown Palm Springs on Thursday to call for the controversial statue of the former mayor to be relocated to the city-owned Village Green Heritage Center should a judge decline to block the city's plan to remove it from City Hall.

The press conference came one day before the Riverside County judge is expected to consider whether to bar the city from

See **STATUE**, Page 13A



Members of the group Friends of Frank Bogert gather in downtown Palm Springs for a press conference on Thursday — one day before a Riverside County judge will likely consider whether to bar the city from moving the statue to a storage facility.

Acrisure Arena hits milestone; GM targets Dec. 16 for first concert

Andrew L. John
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The first concert at Acrisure Arena is being targeted for mid- to late-December, with Dec. 16 as a possibility, multiple arena officials said Thursday, amid the latest major milestone of the venue's 18-month construction timeline.

More details on dates and performers are expected to be announced around Labor Day.

"We are shooting for a mid- to late-December opening," Acrisure Arena general manager John Bolton said. "Nothing official to announce yet."

Concrete began pouring into the arena iceplex around 3 a.m., Thursday in what is being described by AECOM Hunt construction as a significant step as the project pushes toward completion later this year.

The iceplex, the adjoining practice rink connected

See **ARENA**, Page 2A



LaRusso Concrete employees pour and smooth concrete for the new iceplex at Acrisure Arena in Thousand Palms on Thursday. The arena may have its first events in December. TAYIA GRAY/THE DESERT SUN

MORE INSIDE PAGE 3A



Lithium deal announced

Electric vehicle maker Stellantis will buy lithium produced at Salton Sea by Controlled Thermal Resources. COURTESY IMAGE

USA TODAY OPEC+ will lift output

The OPEC oil cartel and allied producing countries including Russia will raise production by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August, offering modest relief for a global economy. 16A

desertsun.com
Subscribe: Access to all of our content every day.

Weather
High 102° | Low 73°
Breezy. Forecast, 22A

COVID hospitalizations surpass 100 in county

Riverside County hospitalizations have returned to the triple digits once again for the first time since mid-March. There were 104 patients reported on Wednesday, up 13 from Friday. That number also includes eight individuals in intensive care. 2A

Volume 95 | No. 213
SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927 \$3.50



5 New Neighborhoods
20 FLOOR PLANS TO CHOOSE FROM

GHA COMMUNITIES

GHASALES.COM

Oil wells

Continued from Page 11A

was hissing and emitting high levels of methane over Memorial Day weekend was safely depressurized on May 30.

The agency has identified another well owned by the company showing high pressure readings, and is working to gain access to the site where the well is located.

Six other wells are showing low-level methane leaks, and CalGEM is evaluating options to ensure the leaks are

quickly fixed. Over the weekend, the company appealed CalGEM's emergency order to permanently plug and decommission these wells and 17 others. Sunray has also appealed a CalGEM order to address problems at five oil fields across central California, saying in a letter that it has addressed many of the problems.

Idle wells are a burgeoning problem in California's century-old oil fields. A state study concluded two years ago that taxpayers could be saddled with more than \$1 billion in cleanup costs if operators walk away from their responsibilities to properly plug and abandon

them.

A report released Thursday by a consumer advocacy group and a coalition of environmental justice groups concludes costs associated with the industry to the state could top \$10 trillion by 2045. Industry advocates say locally produced oil is vital, and is done under some of the strictest regulations in the world.

Janet Wilson is senior environment reporter for *The Desert Sun*, and co-author USA Today's Climate Point newsletter. She can be reached at janet@desertsun.com or [@janetwilson66](https://twitter.com/janetwilson66) on Twitter



Leaking and idle oil wells near homes and an elementary school in the Morning Star neighborhood in Bakersfield. KYLE FERRAR/FRACTURER/CALGEM WELLFINDER

Budget

Continued from Page 1A

appropriation of funds in the 2022-23 state budget.

"Let's fight like hell" to get these funds, Mayes said during the event, emphasizing that getting the student center funded was his top priority.

Garcia said there is still time to advocate for the full \$79 million, and the two assembly members will continue their fight. "I think that it's not done until it's done," Garcia said.

"Given that we have a small window to continue to advocate for the rest of the money, that's what we'll do in the coming days," Garcia said, and encouraged local leaders and residents to help by continuing to call and email their support to him and Mayes.

"I feel very good that leadership in both houses, the Senate and the Assembly, have listened to our outcry that we need this investment for our region and for purposes of greater access to education and economic development diversity," Garcia said.

Campus would be a 'game-changer'

Palm Desert and Coachella Valley

leaders have been working toward a standalone campus for more than 25 years on 168 acres of land donated to the state by the city.

Palm Desert Mayor Jan Harnik was excited to hear the proposed budget includes \$59 million for a student center, and now hopes the appropriation will win the governor's support, as well.

"This is a game-changer," Harnik said. "This is a future changer for our valley."

Elected officials from throughout the Coachella Valley have long said a standalone campus would mean a greater ability to serve historically under-represented minorities, low-income and first-generation students.

The nearest four-year campuses are at least 40 miles away, including the home campus of Cal State San Bernardino.

A standalone campus also would help to build a diversified economy, said Joe Wallace, president and CEO of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership.

In 2020, CVEP and the City of Palm Desert created a partnership to advocate for expanding the CSU San Bernardino campus in Palm Desert. The nonprofit organization Priority One Coachella Valley was formed and seeded with \$100,000(?) from the City of Palm Desert to continue the push for a

standalone campus.

"This is a perfect example of how focused regional actions can make things happen that have profoundly positive impacts," Wallace said.

"Securing the funding for a student center will transform the CSU Palm Desert campus into a fully functional college campus that can accommodate 4,000 students," Wallace said.

A vision started 36 years ago

Cal State San Bernardino classes were first offered in Palm Desert starting in 1986 in temporary classrooms on the College of the Desert campus.

In 2002, classes were moved to 168 acres of land donated to the state by the City of Palm Desert with the intention that a standalone Cal State University Palm Desert would one day be built.

To date just 39 acres of the site have been built out to include three academic buildings and a 300-seat theater, all constructed with local philanthropic dollars.

The infrastructure is in place and environment impact report completed years ago, making the site build-ready for expansion.

The planned two-story 23,700-square-foot student center can hold up to 4,000 students and will include a tutoring/mentoring center, career center,

expanded campus library, group study space, cross cultural center, bookstore, food services, student health center and a recreation and wellness center.

With costs rising, it is unknown how much the center will cost to build, and what additional funds will be needed, but Harnik said she will do all she can to find that money.

"What it is to me is motivation, and it's a start," she said to getting the rest of the money needed and the center built.

"With everything that has happened with costs and prices and labor in these last couple of years, I'm not sure anyone knows what the actual cost will be. But I know \$59 million is well on the way to where we need to go," Harnik said.

Mayes can be reached through his district office at 41608 Indian Trail Road, Suite D-1, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, (760) 346-6342.

Garcia's offices are at 48220 Jackson St., Suite A3, Coachella, CA 92236, (760) 347-2360, and 1101 Airport Road, Suite D, Imperial, CA 92251, (760) 355-8656.

Desert Sun reporter Sherry Barkas covers the cities of La Quinta, Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert. She can be reached at sherrybarkas@thedesertsun.com.

Follow her on Twitter @TDSsherryBarkas

Obituaries

Robert Leon Lehow

INDIAN WELLS - Robert Leon Lehow, 85, was born on January 19, 1937, and passed away on May 18, 2022. He resided in Palm Desert, California and was preceded in death by his wife Patricia Ann Lehow. They were married for 58 years.

TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES			
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date Arrangements
*Lehow, Robert Leon	85	Indian Wells	18-May Forest Lawn Mortuary
*Rasmussen, John Dennis	84	Palm Desert	20-May Ridgecrest Society

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



Goodbyes hurt the most when the story was not finished.

John Dennis Rasmussen



PALM DESERT - Our most beloved John Dennis Rasmussen, known as Jack to friends and family, peacefully passed surrounded by his family on May 20, 2022. He fought the hard fight against a cancer that eventually took him from us but it never took the sparkle from his eyes, his charm, his intellect, his enduring adoration of his wife, or his love of family, and friends.

Jack is survived by his wife Janet (Jan) and their children Elizabeth, Karen, Abigail (h. Jeffrey), Sarah, and Benjamin (w. Milissa); grandchildren Kirstin (h. Daniel), Andrew, Jack, Jessica, Tyler, Trevor, and Sydney; and great-grandchildren Avery and Elise. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Blanche Rasmussen, siblings Dale Rasmussen and Lois Leaverton, and grandson Matthew Puckett.

Born to John and Blanche Rasmussen in Goldfield, Iowa, on August 20, 1937, Jack's brother Dale and sister Lois were raised on the family farm. He attended elementary school in a one room schoolhouse and told stories of riding to school on the handlebars of Dale's bike. He graduated valedictorian from Renwick High School in 1955.

Jack graduated with honors from the University of Iowa in three years and then on to medical school. He met and married Janet Foster in 1958 and soon started their family. After completing his internship in 1963, he and Jan quickly moved to San Pedro, CA, where Jack served his country for two years in the Public Health Service. Then back to Iowa with Jan and their now 4 daughters to set up his medical practice in Fort Dodge. He served this community as a general practitioner for 6 years. In 1971, Jack, Jan, and family relocated to Seattle for a two-year anesthesia residency where they also welcomed the birth of their last child and most cherished son, Ben. Then to Sacramento, CA, where he practiced anesthesia at Mercy San Juan Hospital for 15 years. In 1987, Jack expanded his medical practice by completing a

fellowship in Pain Management at the University of Washington. Jack, Jan, and Ben relocated to Palm Desert, CA in 1989, where he practiced Anesthesia and Pain Management at Eisenhower Medical Center. Dr. John Rasmussen completed his 40-year medical career in 2002.

An adventurous soul, he and Jan had many good times over the years with their family; skiing, sailing, biking, hiking, camping, golfing, and traveling the world. One highlight and personal achievement was climbing Mount Rainier in 1974. A voracious reader and lifelong learner he studied history and languages (Latin, French, German, Spanish, Danish). He shared a love for knitting with his daughters, enjoyed birding, and cheering for the University of Iowa Hawkeye football team. In 2022 he fulfilled a lifelong dream of viewing California Condors flying free in the wild. His retirement years in Palm Desert included frequent contributions to the editorial page of the Desert Sun, support for Desert ARC where both his son (Ben) and Ben's wife (Milissa) attended program, trips to Idyllwild, hiking San Jacinto with Ben, relaxing in the pool, lots of golf and Desert life with Jan and friends.

Blessed with a wicked sense of humor, Jack loved to tweak and shock family, friends, and coworkers. He loved a big laugh, loved to tell stories, and loved to find the humor in everyday life. He leaves behind a lifetime of memories filled with laughs and adventures.

At the core of Jack were his values to love, care and protect his family. He worked hard to provide and show his love for all. His altruistic nature and desire for social equality moved him to champion the under-represented and underserved. He instilled these values into his children; love and care for family, help those who are in need, and belief that each individual has value to be protected and loved.

Jack's life will be celebrated with family and friends Fall 2022. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the For Your Independence (FYI) Supported Living Services at Desert ARC (Desertarc.org), in Memory of John Rasmussen).

THE LAW OFFICE OF NANCY NOEL
SERVING THE DESERT FOR OVER 25 YEARS
WILLS • TRUSTS • PROBATE
CALL FOR
Free Trust Review
760-346-8817
44694 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA 92260
(Across from Westfield Mall)

DAMAGED OVERLAY DIRTY TRAVERTINE?
CLEAN & SEAL
EXPERT CLEANING, MAINTENANCE, AND RESTORATION OF STONE, TILE/GROUT, CONCRETE, AND MUCH MORE!
CALL JEFF FAIRFIELD
760-275-7866
www.cleandandsealonline.com

CABINET PAINTING & REFINISHING SERVICES BY PICASSO
CONTACT US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
(760) 835-2421
picassorefinishing@yahoo.com

OPINION

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



BEN FISHEL

Red flag laws can help prevent the next mass shooting

Reps. Salud Carbajal and Lucy McBath
Special to USA TODAY

Before the recent mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, there were warning signs. Before the attack in Parkland, Florida, there was a dangerous YouTube channel and multiple FBI tips from friends and strangers alike. Before Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech and Columbine, there were prior threats against family members and students.

And beyond these most infamous attacks on our schools, research shows that time and time again, a shooter has told someone their plans before they carry them out. Someone knows the shooter has weapons. Someone knows the shooter was filled with violent thoughts, or even that a person is thinking of taking their own life. But too often, despite someone knowing, families and law enforcement officers are powerless to do anything about it.

That is why, in the wake of another tragic shooting of schoolchildren in our nation, the House will vote to advance measures we've written that promote a bipartisan and data-backed solution that can curb gun violence and keep our communities safe: extreme risk protection orders, otherwise known as red flag laws.

What are red flag laws?

Extreme risk protection orders allow judges, via a petition from loved ones or law enforcement, to restrict individuals from acquiring or possessing a firearm when these warning signs constitute a threat to themselves or others.

This isn't a new idea. Federal law already prevents individuals with certain criminal convictions or histories of mental illness from purchasing firearms. But there are well-documented loopholes to those restrictions, and they do not take into account crises that could develop after a purchase.

That is why we have both proposed legislation — which the House will vote on this week — to create a process for extreme risk protection orders at the federal level, incentivize states without these laws to set them up and support the 19 states and Washington, D.C., that already have them on the books to ensure their existing laws are protecting their citizens.

There is a history of support from both parties on these solutions to protect communities from violent attacks and reduce rates of suicide — with Republican and Democratic states, from Florida to California, implementing red flag laws after attacks on their schools.

The club no family ever wants to be a part of

Gun violence affects every family in every community. No one is immune to this, and we are no different.

One of us lost a son to gun violence. Jordan Davis was just 17 years old when he was murdered by a man with hate in his heart who didn't like the "loud music" that he and his friends were playing. And across the country, far too many parents are being forced to bury their babies. It is the club no family ever wants to be a part of.

The other, at age 12, found his older sister, Carmen Carbajal, after she took her own life using a firearm owned by their family — one of the tens of thousands of Americans who die by suicide using a gun every year, making up more than half of all U.S. gun deaths in recent decades.

As advocates in our communities, we've seen veterans, active-duty military service members and others whose support networks have known they were struggling but remained powerless to help.

That's why we have championed extreme risk protection orders in Congress — because we know the devastating loss that gun violence can have on any family in America, and we know that red flag laws can help prevent it.

After the Parkland school shooting in 2018, Florida's Republican legislature implemented its red flag law. And law enforcement officials have used extreme risk laws more than 8,000 times to restrict and remove firearms from dangerous situations with known threats of violence and suicide, undoubtedly saving countless lives in the process.

For the sake of thousands of lives

After a man with a wide range of warning signs killed at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2014, California implemented a red flag law that has since been used to prevent mass shootings at workplaces and in hundreds of other instances of threatened violence. And in other states, like Indiana and Connecticut, passage of a red flag law was followed by a notable decline in suicide by firearm.

That is why red flag laws have received support from Senate Republicans, law enforcement officials, teachers, doctors and gun safety advocates.

The vast majority of Americans support these measures that have already been shown to reduce gun violence. And by getting these measures signed into law, we can increase awareness of these emergency orders that can help more families and officers intervene to prevent tragedy.

For the sake of the thousands of lives that we have lost to gun violence, including those in our own lives, we fight to get these measures to President Joe Biden's desk.

Salud Carbajal is the U.S. representative for California's 24th Congressional District. Lucy McBath is the U.S. representative for Georgia's 6th Congressional District.

EDITORIAL THE DESERT SUN

Finally, a new sign of hope for the valley's own university

For decades, community leaders across the valley have been pushing for our own four-year university.

We don't have one yet, but a deal just reached by state lawmakers is a big step toward that dream, and one we're glad to see.

Senate and Assembly members said last week they've agreed to budget \$59 million to build a long-sought 23,000-square-foot student center at Cal State San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus.

Assuming it survives review by Gov. Gavin Newsom and final tinkering by lawmakers, the center would help make the case even stronger for a true Cal State Palm Desert. (Or Cal State Coachella Valley, anyone?)

Any decision on a standalone university is still years away.

Regardless, the student center would be good news for the valley and make for a better college experience at that Palm Desert campus — whatever it's eventually called.

Up until now, four-year higher education in the valley has been a do-it-yourself affair, quite literally: According to CSUSB's own history, the first Palm Desert campus dean registered students out of the trunk of her car.

That was in the 1980s, when the campus started on land leased from College of the Desert.

In 1994, the city of Palm Desert donated 55 acres so CSUSB could have its own desert campus. Another 114 acres from the city came in 2015.

Over 30 years after this mission began, most of that land is still empty. And the four things built so far, a theater and three classroom buildings, were paid for with millions of dollars raised from community donors.

Now the governor and Legislature could finally be starting to do their part.

And if the state doesn't make this kind of commitment this year, when it has a budget surplus nearing \$100 billion, when will it ever?

CSUSB Palm Desert has about 1,900 full-time students, and the new center could help get that number to 4,000, supporters have said. It would include an expanded library, a bookstore and room for tutoring, mentoring, studying and more.

Having a strong four-year university is important to the desert for two related reasons. First and most importantly, it provides more educational opportunities for residents, especially those from lower-income families and communities of color. Students at CSUSB's Palm Desert Campus are almost 70% Latino and just 10% white.

Second, it could help keep people in the valley, contributing to the educated workforce of the future. A significant number of young people leave the valley for college, and some never move back.

Assuming it wins the funding, the opening of the student center is likely still years away, given the usual slow pace of planning, review and construction at a public college. And while we're pleased at this news, it remains frustrating that progress on a valley university has been so slow and halting.

The two Assembly members who've most vocally pushed the student center, independent Chad Maves and Democrat Eduardo Garcia, also tried to win funding last year. First they asked for \$100 million — then \$40 million — but they got nothing.

During an April kickoff for the latest funding push, Maves said he's been trying to get state money for a standalone valley campus for his entire eight years in the Legislature.

One of the major differences this year, he and Garcia said, is that CSUSB's top leaders are fully on board in the request for student center funding.

It also can't hurt that two years ago, the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership and the city of Palm Desert created a new nonprofit, Priority One Coachella Valley, to push for a standalone campus.

That kind of unified front is what officials across the valley need to keep presenting if they want to win a desert university one day. One day soon, we hope.

ers in Texas are just as guilty of murder as that 18-year-old. Listening to Abbott's press conference sickened me as they all talked around the reason such tragedies happen.

The laws in Texas allow some people to buy guns without background checks, and they allow most adults to carry a gun openly.

How in God's name can anyone justify those types of laws? Unfortunately, we also have problems here in California. We need tougher gun laws that will not allow anyone to purchase an assault weapon, no matter what age.

The NRA was established to promote good marksmanship, but somewhere along the way they became an organization that throws money at politicians to keep guns in the hands of anyone just for profit.

The only way to stop this is to stop electing officials that support these ridiculous laws.

Roxie Biotinetti, Palm Desert

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Talking around the real answer

The media is filled with suggestions from many so-called experts about raising age limits and requiring background checks before anyone can purchase a firearm.

No doubt these changes would partially mitigate mass killings and other homicides. But they would not have enough effect to substantially make us reasonably safe from mass shooters. Too few reports articulate the real remedy we need: Make it extremely difficult to acquire assault weapons.

Except for military and policing forces, possession of assault weapons should be eliminated from society as much as possible. Congress needs to get its act together, pass legislation as follows and overcome the influence of the NRA, which by payment to legislators

and lobbying has resisted gun control for decades.

1 Request assault weapon owners to voluntarily surrender their assault weapons and pay them a reasonable sum for a period of one year.

2 Thereafter, make possession of assault weapons by anyone other than military and policing agencies illegal, punishable to confiscation of the weapons, a suitable fine and, if constitutionally appropriate, criminal sanction of incarceration.

Stan Sanoff, Palm Desert

They're just as guilty

Do not think for one minute that Republican lawmakers can just talk their way out of the carnage that took place in Texas. Twenty-two killed at the hands of an 18-year-old that was allowed to purchase an assault rifle.

Gov. Greg Abbott and all those Republican lawmakers

CEO REPORT
JUNE 14, 2022

Operational Highlights May 2022

1. The executive committee and staff did not have any further meetings with target business sectors during the past month, but the effort will continue as they are available.
2. P1CV has learned that \$59 million will be approved for the expansion of the CSU Palm Desert Campus by the California Assembly and Senate budget revision that will be signed by June 15, 2022. Governor Newsom has until June 30, 2022, to approve the budget submitted; our lobbyist believes that this will be signed by the Governor.
3. The PDC Advancement Board was briefed on next steps and schedules, assuming the Governor signs the budget. Design will begin immediately and take roughly a year. The approvals and authorizations that must be granted by the State of California are expected to take another year. The construction should take between 2.5 and 3 years, for a projected opening of fall 2027. An additional \$21 million will need to be raised according to the building person for CSUSB.
4. The CVEP nominating committee has presented candidates for consideration for appointment to the CVEP executive committee. Dr. Rick Axelrod is finishing his term and the vacancy created by Dr. Kinnamon's departure will also be filled.
5. The 2022 CVEP Economic Summit has been set for Halloween (10-31-2022).
6. CVEP continues to solicit the city investors for clarity on what our allocation will be in this year's budgets. I requested to be authorized to spend at last year's approved levels through the end of Q1 (September).
7. A facilitator has been secured for a CVEP Board Retreat in October.
8. CVEP is now in communication with three banks to join the CVEP Board of Directors.
9. Joe Wallace answered questions from the COD Board of Trustees and they approved funding for FY 22-23.
10. Speaking Engagements included the COD Board of Trustees, the Rancho Mirage Rotary Club and Leadership Coachella Valley is on for Friday.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT JUNE 13, 2022

Cash Positions

Cash on Deposit:	\$ 476,759
Cash Expectations thru EOM:	\$ 60,000 (AR + new billings)
Total Cash & AR:	\$ 536,769
Less Projected Ops :	\$ 40,000 (through 6/31)
Projected Cash & AR End of June	\$ 496,769 (approx. 5 months)

Performance to Budget FY 21-22 through May 31, 2022

COST CENTER	REVENUE BUDGET	EXPENSE BUDGET	NET BUDGET
Operations	\$907,065	\$670,905	\$236,160
iHub Accelerator	\$510,850	\$520,751	-\$9,901
Totals	\$1,417,915	\$1,191,656	\$226,259

COST CENTER	YTD ACTUAL REVENUE	YTD ACTUAL EXPENSE	YTD ACT. PERFORMANCE
Operations	\$710,505	\$679,179	\$31,326
iHub Accelerator	\$477,986	\$431,651	\$46,335
Totals	\$1,188,491	\$1,110,830	\$77,661

COST CENTER	REVENUE VARIANCE	EXPENSE VARIANCE	NET VARIANCE
Operations	-\$196,560 (-21.7%)	\$8,274 (-1.2%)	-\$204,834
iHub Accelerator	-\$32,864 (-6.6%)	-\$89,100 (-17.1%)	\$56,236
Totals	-\$229,424 (-16.2%)	-\$80,826 (-6.8%)	-\$148,598

1. Excludes depreciation and interest
2. Taken from Osborne & Rincon Report for May 31, 2022

Cash projection for end of FY is strong, but revenue reductions need to be backfilled going forward. Staying in survival mode is not favorable for efficacy or a sustainable future.

Balance Sheet Changes Post June 30, 2021

- Cash increased to \$491,106 from \$429,622
- Total Assets decreased to \$710,557 from \$806,993
- Liabilities increased to \$581,156 from \$445,594 (short term liability is \$296,353)
- Total Net Assets decreased to \$129,401 from \$361,400

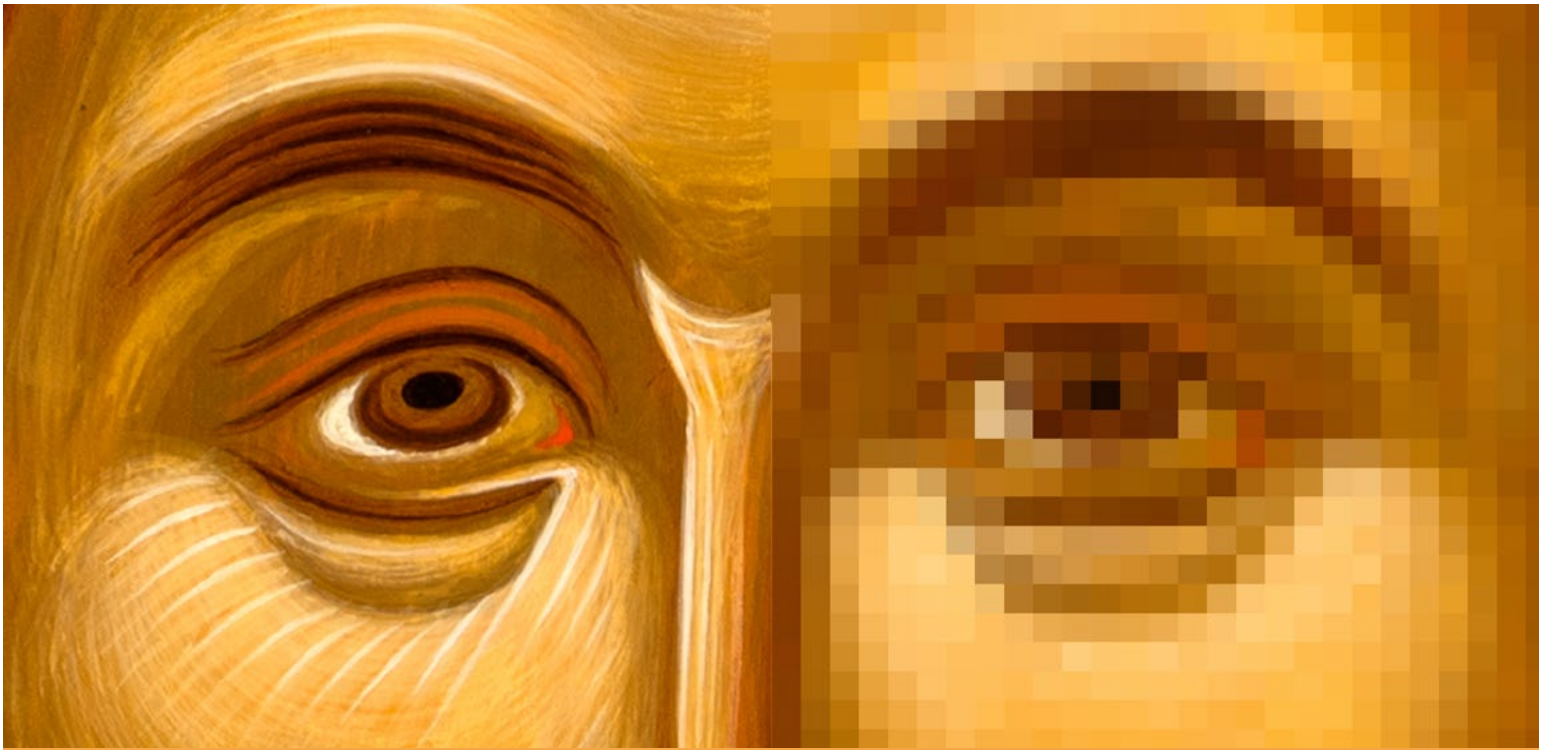
IN MEMORIUM

E. Ted Daniels

On May 13, 2022, CVEP lost a valuable member of our team of consultants when Ted Daniels passed away unexpectedly of natural causes. Just two weeks prior Ted was playing his favorite role, challenging the enthusiasm and assumptions of another one of our hopeful future unicorns. As only Ted could, he would probe the depths of assumptions in a way that helped our aspiring entrepreneurs be stronger and more resilient. Ted was a proponent of offering practical advice that works. His strongest talent was in teaching our entrepreneurs to develop a reasonable proforma to use in raising investment dollars.



Ted is pictured above with CVEP CEO Joe Wallace in 2016, when they attended the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Awards held annually by the CSU Center for Entrepreneurship. Coachella Valley businesses coached by Ted and Joe have brought home eight (8) of the awards and many others. The CVEP team lost a great friend and supporter with Ted's passing, and we shall all remember the positive influence he had on us and the companies that we mentor.



NFT WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS

How to Register and Market Your NFT Art

Tuesday, May 24
9:00 am – 10:30 am

Palm Desert iHub
37023 Cook Street, Suite 102
Palm Desert, CA 92211

This Free Workshop will help take your art to the next level: to the world of NFTs.

We'll address:

- What is an NFT?
- How do I create an NFT?
- Where do I register an NFT?
- Which marketplace do I display an NFT?
- How do I market my NFT?

Presenters:

- Debra Mumm, CREATE
- Wally Baker, NFTsn.TV

Coffee and pastries will be served.

RSVP to Ian Vos at ian@cvep.com
or 760.898.0489





MONEY MATTERS

Cash Management: The Key to Business Success

Thursday, July 14, 2022

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Palm Desert iHub

37023 Cook Street, Suite 102
Palm Desert, CA 92211

This Free Business Workshop
and Networking Event will cover
the financial fundamentals of
any business:

- Budgeting
- Cash Flow

Coffee and Pastries will be served.

RSVP at the link below:

<https://jpmc.surveymonkey.com/r/CVEPJuly14>

For more information, call the
Palm Desert iHub at 760.898.0489.





3111 EAST TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY • PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92262
PH: 760.340.1575 • FX: 760.548.0370 • WEB: CVEP.COM