THE DESERT'S BUSINESS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS WEEKLY

The Public Record TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 VOLUME 53 - EDITION #15 PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

\$1.50 - PER SINGLE ISSUE

SERVING ALL OF THE DESERT CITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY



Laura James Named Interim CEO for CVEP

By Staff Reports

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) announced today the appointment of Laura James to Interim Chief Executive Officer. The appointment follows the recent announcement by current CEO and Chief Innovation Officer, Joe Wallace, of his plans to retire in mid-2024.

James has been with CVEP since 2014, and has held the position of Vice President of Innovation for the past five years. During that time, she has been responsible for overseeing a number of CVEP's most innovative projects, includ-

Continued on page 2...

Pioneers of the 'Pet Resort' **Concept Celebrate 20 Years**

By Staff Reports

With backgrounds in various high technology industries, William and Jennifer Hamilton settled in the Coachella Valley with a vision to create a luxury resort - for pets! Today, The Grand Paw Pet Resort in Indio is a dog's dream: a 2.5acre campus with 3 indoor play buildings, swimming pools, multiple outdoor play yards and a grooming salon.

"We wanted to create a place that we would be comfortable taking our own dogs to and there really wasn't anything like it in the desert, so we purchased a property with nothing on it but a small home that was built in 1937 and we built the rest of the campus," said Jennifer Hamilton.

While the Grand Paw primarily serves a canine and feline clientele, the resort has also hosted birds, guinea pigs, turtles and even a gold fish.

The pet owners using The Grand Paw's doggie daycare service are mostly active seniors who play golf, visit with friends and go shopping during the day. "We have dogs that have been with us for 15 years," said Hamilton."When you come to our lobby you'll see lots of scratch marks on the outside of the big wooden door and I think that's our greatest claim to fame — the dogs just can't wait to get inside. And then when the owners come



to pick them up, some pets they lay down in the lobby because they just don't want to leave. It's great for your dog to have its own friends that it visits with every day," she said.

The Grand Paw also provides luxury overnight accommodations for pets. "The suites are large rooms with french doors and televisions with dog-related videos, a nice fluffy bed, and curtains for privacy. Our cabanas are a little more basic but still very nice, with full glass doors so the dog can see everything that's going on. We encourage clients to bring their own bedding, food, treats and toys so their pet feels at home," she said.

"This is our second career and we just want to keep doing what we do really well. We're at an age where we're not really looking to expand to other locations but we want to continue to deliver the best quality and safety for our customers, and delight them in the process."

The Grand Paw is located at 51570 Jackson Street in Indio. Visit TheGrand-Paw.com. TPR

IN THIS ISSUE FEATURES/NEWS DEPARTMENTS

Laura James Named Interim CEO for CVEP

... continued from page 1

ing the Coachella Valley Fast Pitch, spearheading the COVID-19 business impact survey, and launching the monthly Morning Insights event, which brings together entrepreneurs and recently relocated workers. Additionally, James has more than 10 years of experience in economic development strategy. She holds an M.B.A. from Auburn University, an undergraduate degree in education, graduate certificates in economic development, nonprofit management, and information systems management. James is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development institute, and is also a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) from the International Economic Development Council; she is one of only 1,100 active CEcDs in the United States. Her leadership roles throughout the years have been marked by innovation, and a commitment to fostering economic growth in the region.

"I am honored to assume the role of Interim CEO at CVEP during this transition period," says James. "CVEP has played a pivotal role in driving economic prosperity in the Coachella Valley, and I am committed to ensuring a seamless transition as we strive to grow the regional economy in sustainable, meaningful ways."

"We are confident Laura's leadership will provide stability and guidance during this period," says CVEP's Board Chairperson, Deborah McGarrey. "Her wealth of experience in economic development and her deep understanding of the Coachella Valley make her the ideal candidate to assume this interim role."



To publish your FBN call: 760-771-1155 Check us out at www.desertpublicrecord.com

nonprofit 501(c)3 organization

BUSINESS NEWS

PLAZA THEATRE TO HOLD FUNDRAISING EVENT FEATURING EXCLUSIVE PRESCOTT CAR COLLECTION

The Palm Springs Plaza Theatre Foundation announced that theatre supporters will have the opportunity to attend a fundraising event at an exclusive venue that houses more than 100 rare and vintage automobiles. Called 'Drive the Plaza Theatre Into the Future,' the event will offer participants the opportunity to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and live musical entertainment while viewing an amazing vintage auto collection owned by collector Brad Prescott. The event takes place on Friday April 19 from 5-6 pm for the VIP admission and 6-8 pm for general admission. It will be held at The Prescott Collection Hangar in Palm Springs. The address will be provided when guests RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/CarHangar.

Tickets are \$100 for General Admission, \$250 for VIP Admission (includes early exclusive tour of Brad Prescott's favorite vehicles in his collection, preferred parking, and the option to apply \$250 toward the naming of a seat in the theatre), and Grand Admission at \$1,000 (includes the early exclusive tour of the collection with the owner, preferred parking, and the ability to fully secure the naming of a seat in the theatre).

The Prescott Collection celebrates the postwar American automobile. It comprises more than 100 automobiles, ranging from award-winning restorations to extremely low mileage original examples. It includes renowned luxury marques such as Cadillac, Lincoln and Packard as well as "orphan makes" including Nash, Rambler and Studebaker. They are housed in a series of specially constructed hangars in Palm Springs.

"We are thrilled that renowned car collector Brad Prescott will allow our theatre supporters to view his impressive auto collection at this unique fundraising event," said Foundation Board member Kathy Weremiuk. "Event attendees will be able to view these rare and highly collectable vintage cars and also have the opportunity to credit their donation to name a seat in the theatre. We look forward to providing this fun opportunity to our new and existing donors."

The Foundation is continuing to raise funds to fully restore the Plaza Theatre, one of the most iconic venues in Palm Springs. The Foundation has already raised more than \$15M but must raise at least \$10M more to cover the construction costs and contingencies plus startup expenses. These needed funds will help restore the building to its original splendor and update it to meet the access, technology, and equity needs of today and tomorrow. It is projected that the restoration work will take approximately eighteen months to complete, allowing the Plaza Theatre to open in 2025.

There are many ways in which the public may continue to play a significant role in the Plaza Theatre restoration, including becoming a Founder, securing a Naming Opportunity for seats or other areas of the building, or making a general donation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information visit SaveThePlazaTheatrePS.org

MSWD ANNOUNCES NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Mission Springs Water District is proud to unveil its new strategic plan, which outlines a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing operations and service delivery across seven key areas: Customer Communications, Water Supply, System Reliability, Finan-

Continued on page 3..

THE PUBLIC RECORD (ISSN 0744-205X), is published twice weekly for \$59.95 per year by The Public Record, 13279 Palm Drive Suite 4 & 5, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240, (760) 771-1155, Fax (760) 771-1188. Periodical postage paid at Palm Springs, CA 92262. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Public Record, 13279 Palm Drive Suite 4 & 5, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.

The Public Record assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. The original public records are open to public inspection and should be consulted before any action is taken on information contained herein. The material published in **The Public Record** is compiled at a substantial expense for the exclusive use of subscribers. **The Public Record** is available through UMI in one or more of the following formats: microform, electronic or paper. The material cannot be republished, resold, recorded, or used in any manner, in whole or part, without the consent of the publisher. Any infringement will be subject to legal redress. Opinions expressed in guest editorials are those of the author and do not represent those of The Public Record, its owners, or its employees.

Copyright © 2024 by The Public Record.

BUSINESS NEWS

... continued from page 2

cial Management, Technology and Processes, Environmental Sustainability, and Workforce Excellence.

The new strategic plan represents MSWD's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of its community and ensuring the long-term sustainability of water resources. By focusing on these seven critical areas, MSWD aims to deliver enhanced services, improve efficiency, and promote environmental stewardship.

"Today marks an important milestone for MSWD as we launch our new strategic plan," said Board President Ivan Sewell. "This plan reflects our dedication to providing exceptional water services while addressing the challenges and opportunities facing our District. We believe that by prioritizing customer communications, investing in infrastructure, and fostering a culture of excellence, we can better serve our community and build a sustainable future."

Supporting its strategic plan, MSWD General Manager Brian Macy announced the appointment of Marion Champion as the District's new Assistant General Manager. Champion will play a critical role in helping to oversee the execution of the strategic plan and driving initiatives to advance MSWD's goals.

"Marion's experience and dedication to excellence align perfectly with our strategic goals, and I look forward to working together to achieve the Board's vision for MSWD's future," said Macy. "Her expertise and passion for water conservation, communication, and community engagement make her a valuable part of our leadership team."

Macy recently vacated the assistant general manager role and assumed the general manager position in August. This new appointment underscores MSWD's commitment to leadership development and promoting internal talent.

"I am honored to expand my role as we work to implement the District's new strategic plan," said Champion. "I look forward to working alongside the board, staff, and our community to advance our goals as we will build a stronger, more resilient water district for future generations."

For more information about MSWD and its new strategic plan, please visit www. mswd.org

Palm Springs Modernism Show Reports Robust Attendance and Significant Sales

Dolphin Promotions' 24th annual Palm Springs Modernism Show continued to have robust attendance at its annual event, held in Palm Springs during Modernism Week 2024. Nearly 15,000 people attended the popular sale at the Palm Springs Convention Center, on par with the previous year. Additionally, more than 1,300 attendees participated in the opening night event that benefitted Modernism Week. The show will return to Palm Springs later this year for Modernism Week - October and again for its 25th anniversary show in February 2025.

The event is the largest modernism show in the U.S. offering the best in midcentury and modern design items and regularly draws attendees from around the world. More than 130 top-tier national and international exhibitors presented the very best of vintage 20th century design, focusing heavily on mid-century modern, and compelling 21st century design items for the home.

"The Palm Springs Modernism Show is one of the highlights of Modernism Week," said Rosemary Krieger, President of Dolphin Promotions, the show's producer for 24 years. "Our dealers reported strong sales all weekend, including robust sales on the opening night. We are grateful for our Presenting Sponsor First Wave Development along with Silver Sponsor Bidsquare, Supporting Sponsors Abell Auctioneers, Clars Auctions, Freightforwarding.com, and John Moran Auctioneers. Media Sponsors include Atomic Ranch Magazine, California Home & Design Magazine, California Homes, Incollect Magazine, and Palm Springs Life Magazine. These incredible sponsors all helped make this year's show a major success."

"The Palm Springs Modernism Show is one of the founding partners of Modernism Week and continues to impress everyone with the quality of the dealers that are included each year," said Lisa Vossler Smith, Modernism Week CEO. "Many Modernism Week attendees come to Palm Springs specifically to attend this amazing show and interact with dealers from around the country. We are delighted to feature this incredible show-case during our festival, and we are very grateful that the Friday night Preview Party raised funds to support the Modernism Week scholarship program and other initiatives."

The show opened on Friday, February 16 with a festive Preview Party in which attendees enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and an exclusive opportunity to be among the first to see and shop the world-class collections before the show opened to the general public. Ticket proceeds benefited Modernism Week's scholarship, educational, and community grant programs.

Highlights from this year's show included a lecture series on Saturday and Sunday, a vintage airstream trailer from Airstream Inland Empire from Temecula CA, and a vintage piano display in the show lobby. Piedmont Piano Company from Oakland had a variety of vintage 20th century pianos on display and sold one of their most important pianos to a local collector. "We loved the show and plan to return next year," said Jim Callaghan, Piedmont Piano's CEO.

Notable 21st century dealers included Tesselle from Riverside, Tidelli Outdoor Furniture from West Hollywood and Brazil, C.A. Johnson from Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania, Resource Furniture from Ney York, and James Piatt from Los Angeles.

"Participating in the Palm Springs Modernism Show was a fantastic experience for our company," said Lars Triesch of Original in Berlin. "Rosemary's exceptional coordination ensured that everything fell into place effortlessly, allowing us to focus on engaging with the crowd and showcasing our collection. We were thrilled to showcase our collection amidst such a receptive audience, and we thoroughly enjoyed discussing our favorite designs with fellow enthusiasts and industry experts. The fair provided an invaluable platform to connect with like-minded individuals and establish meaningful partnerships, leaving us eager to participate again in the future."

"The show once again proved to be the best modernism show on the continent," said dealer Charles Hollis Jones. "We heard positive comments from interior designers, collectors and repeat clients who thought the quality and content presented was amazing. Sales were strong all weekend. In fact, we even sold some important pieces on Friday night during the Preview Party. Our sales included 6 original bar chairs, a set of four Tennessee Williams wisteria chairs, along with several Lucite sculptures. We will definitely be back next year to help celebrate 25 years of the Palm Springs Modernism Show."

"As a long-time attendee of the Palm Springs Modernism Show, it was very exciting to be an exhibitor at this show, said Gary Rubinstein of StudioGRayblue of Palm Springs. "Modernism Week is the highlight of the year in Palm Springs and the Palm Springs Modernism Show is the crown jewel of that week. As a former east coast dealer, it was so cool to have a west coast presence, and I look forward to bringing my brand, StudioGRayblue, back for next year's show."

For more information visit www.palmspringsmodernism.com or email info@dol-phinfairs.com.

SEND YOUR BUSINESS NEWS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD

The Public Record welcomes your press releases, news tips and story ideas. Press releases should conform to AP Style* and contain news that will be of interest to a business audience. Photos, logos and other artwork must be a minimum of 1800x1200 pixels (4x6" @ 300 dpi) or vector .eps files (Adobe Illustrator). Please be sure to include captions for your photos. We can only accept press releases as Microsoft Word documents or your text in the body of the email. Please avoid Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files, HTML emails (such as Constant Contact) and tables formatting in your Word documents. Date-sensitive news should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the publication date. We publish weekly, each Tuesday and Thursday.

While we cannot write your releases for you, please email us if you need a referral to a public relations professional.

Email: editor@desertpublicrecord.com

*We recommend AP StyleGuard, a plug-in for Word that works like the native spelling & grammar checker. It is available at www.apstylebook.com.

PUBLIC SECTOR NEWS

IT'S NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



National Library Week (April 7-13, 2024) is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library," illustrating the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. At the library's author talks, workshops, and book clubs, Americans can connect with fellow enthusiasts

and local experts while building relationships that will last a lifetime. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life's journey—preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family—the library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and observed in libraries across the country each April. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life." With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

Locally, the Palm Springs Library Foundation is working with a group of architects to renovate the main library, bringing it up to date with new technology.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION TO DENY ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 3, which prohibits children under the age of 14 from becoming social media account holders and allows 14- and 15-year-olds to become account holders with parental consent.

"Social media harms children in a variety of ways," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "HB 3 gives parents a greater ability to protect their children. Thank you to Speaker Renner for delivering this landmark legislation."

"The internet has become a dark alley for our children where predators target them and dangerous social media leads to higher rates of depression, self-harm, and even suicide," said House Speaker Paul Renner. "I am proud of the work of all our bill sponsors, Representatives Tyler Sirois, Fiona McFarland, Michele Rayner, Chase Tramont, and Toby Overdorf for delivering a legislative framework that prioritizes keeping our children safe. Thanks to Governor DeSantis' signature, Florida leads the way in protecting children online as states across the country fight to address these dangers."

The bill prevents a minor who is younger than 14 years of age from becoming a social media account holder.

Empowers parents to decide whether 14- and 15-year-olds can have a social media account. Protects the ability of Floridians to remain anonymous online.

In addition to protecting children from the dangers of social media, HB 3 requires adult content websites to use age verification to prevent minors from accessing sites that are inappropriate for children.

Editor's note: Under the new law, social media companies can be found liable for up to \$50,000 per incident. Experts warn that age verification schemes will compromise privacy for adults.

HHS RELEASES WHITE PAPER FOCUSED ON PREVENTING DRUG SHORTAGES

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a white paper highlighting steps HHS has taken to prevent and mitigate drug shortages and proposing additional solutions for policymakers to consider. Drug shortages have occurred in the nation's health care system for several decades, largely due to market failures and misaligned incentives. With today's white paper, HHS offers solutions and stands ready to work with Congress to ensure no patient faces the devastating consequences of drug shortages or goes without needed medicines.

"All across our Department, we are working to ensure that millions of Americans will have access to medication, treatment, and services that save lives and improve health outcomes. That's why advancing and implementing solutions to the nation's drug shortages are so important, and why we want members of Congress and all actors in the supply chain to consider and act on the policy options presented in today's white paper," said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Through the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and others, HHS has been working to improve how the department monitors the pharmaceutical supply chain and responds to disruptions. HHS has established a new Supply Chain Resilience and Shortage Coordinator role to strengthen implementation of strategies to enhance supply chain resilience for pharmaceuticals and other medical products, and has issued guidance to increase supply chain transparency, while continuing to consider additional long and short-term solutions. FDA discloses certain inspection information to provide the public with an understanding of actions the Agency takes to protect public health and is also developing a quality management maturity framework that may support adoption of manufacturing practices that are more resilient. HHS has also collaborated with other government agencies on this critical issue. For example, last month HHS and the Federal Trade Commission jointly issued a Request for Information to better understand the causes - and potential solutions - of generic drug shortages.

HHS has also taken steps to increase resilience and redundancy within the market. This work includes supporting domestic manufacturing of key ingredients and drugs to address various vulnerabilities. ASPR has invested \$500 million to date to support active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturing, and is exploring how it can utilize new authorities authorized by the President last year to promote the onshoring of essential medicines, medical countermeasures, and their critical ingredients. Moreover, HHS is developing policies to foster resiliency by considering Medicare payments, and additional requirements, to support a more diverse supply chain.

While the above progress is important, HHS concludes that effective longer-term solutions may require additional authorities and resources to align market incentives in order to reward investment in supply chain resilience. Developing and implementing a Manufacturer Resiliency Assessment Program and a Hospital Resilient Supply Program will advance us toward these goals.

Today's white paper outlines how these programs could operate and help address the broader market issues that lead to drug shortages. The white paper focuses on the generic sterile injectable (GSI) drugs that form the basic layer of hospital care and make up the majority of shortages – which occur across therapeutic areas. However, HHS recognizes that these challenges affect other medical products, and expects the concepts and solutions that this white paper discusses may be relevant for other markets as well.



Wrong Statements About "Toxic Mold" Panicking Residents [Part 1]

In 2000, a new panic swept the country- "toxic mold." Twenty-four years of lawsuits and untold billions of dollars later, major mold myths continue to frighten residents and cause exaggerated repairs and unnecessary conflict. On one side of the debate is the mold industry- testers, consultants, and mold clean-up contractors. On the other side are the federal and state governmental health agencies. The mold industry has a major reason to

fund advertising, while the government has little funding to distribute its information. This column and the next address some of the misstatements misleading homeowners, HOA boards, and managers, because overreaction is expensive.

Mold is new. Mold, one of the earliest and simplest life forms, has existed for more than tens of thousands of years. Mold is ever-present, like dust or pollen, and only became a cause of fear in 2000.

Mainstream scientific research confirms mold's many serious dangers. In 2004, the National Institute of Medicine published its comprehensive study on indoor mold

exposure, in a book called "Damp Indoor Spaces and Health." The study's central finding was: "Scientific evidence links mold ... to asthma symptoms in some people with the chronic disorder, as well as to coughing, wheezing, and upper respiratory tract symptoms in otherwise healthy people... However, the available evidence does not support



Journalism & Content Creation Professional Voiceovers Video and Audio Editing Advertising & Public Relations Counsel

KEN MEDIA

+1 (760) 808-6189 Ken@KenAlanMedia.Com an association between ... mold and the wide range of other health complaints that have been ascribed." That sounds like mold is no more dangerous to most people than dust or pollen. The book received little media attention – stories of frightened people living in tents are more interesting.

One must know what kind of mold it is. The mold industry typically describes

some molds as worse than others. Their star is Stachybotrys Chartarum, a black mold reported to produce infinitesimal quantities of a toxin similar to botulism. However, the scientific community long ago debunked the myth that mold was poisonous to breathe. For example, read the National Institute of Health Fact Sheet on Mold, https://www.niehs.nih. gov/health/topics/agents/mold, the EPA site www.epa.gov/ mold, or the CDC site https://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm. The mold industry ignores all this and continues to call mold "toxic."

California's Toxic Mold Protection Act of 2001 cre-

ated mold exposure standards. In 2001, a new Health and Safety Code 26100 instructed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop "Permissible Exposure Limits" regarding the various mold strains. However, in 2005 and 2008, the CDPH reported to the legislature that the task could not be completed with the scientific information available. According to the CDPH, "To date, no federal or state policies set safe exposure limits or quantify the health risks from dampness and mold in buildings." (CDPH Statement on Building Dampness, Mold, and Health, 2016 update).

Mold tests are important. The EPA and California DPH recommend against mold testing. The reason is simple- Per the CDPH, there is no standard as to how much of a given airborne mold is "unhealthy," and indoor air sampling tests are extremely vulnerable to recent events in the home such as a recent shower, window opening, or carpet cleaning. Mold tests mainly serve to unnecessarily frighten the home's occupants with disembodied meaningless spore counts. There is rarely a legitimate reason to spend money on a mold test.

[Part 2 will address more mold myths]

Kelly G. Richardson Esq., CCAL, is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and a Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved [®]. TPE

