

COMMUNITY NEWS

MOJAVE

Partner up with the dogs

The Mojave Branch Library, 15555 O St., is teaming with Therapy Dogs, Incorporated and the High Desert Obedience Club to provide a program called Barks & Books at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Once a month, local therapy dogs visit the library so children may read to a furry friend.

LANCASTER

Free Thanksgiving dinner

The Lancaster Knights of Columbus is offering a free Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 719 West Columbia Way.

There will be a warm meal, desserts and music.

For details, call (661) 942-2751.

Monthly quilt meeting

The High Country Quilters Guild will meet on Thursday. Members will be voting on the Board Members for 2016 and offering their HCQG 15th Anniversary Challenge blocks for friendly competition.

The Fat Quarter of the month is patriotic fabrics in honor of Veterans Day.

Bring up to four Fat Quarters of 100% cotton to participate in the raffle.

Doors open for social time at 6:30 and the general meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Sunset Ridge Apartments, Village Community Center 43248 16th St. West.

Visitors will be charged \$3 to participate in the fun.

For details, contact Sheri Peters (661) 406-2683.

Senior singles meetup dinner

The Meet and Mingle Social Club, a group for singles over 50, can enjoy a fun dinner beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday, in the private social room at the Greenhouse Café, 1169 Commerce Center Drive.

For details, call (661) 728-0813.

Beekeepers all abuzz

Antelope Valley Beekeepers will have its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Judy's Café, 43855 Sierra Highway.

The group regularly meets the second Wednesday of the month, but has changed to the third Wednesday for this month only.

Attendees need not be active beekeepers.

The agenda will include winterizing hives, winter activities, basic equipment and protective gear and obtaining bees.

For details, call (661) 942-2822 or visit www.avbeekeepers.com.

QUARTZ HILL

Rummage sale today

The Quartz Hill High School baseball team will host a rummage sale from 7 to 11 a.m. today in the parking lot of Quartz Hill High School, 60th Street West and Ave. L.

There will be clothes, sports bags, and household items available for purchase.

PALMDALE

Parkinson's support to meet

Parkinson's Support Group of Antelope Valley will meet from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday at Legacy Commons for Active Seniors, 920 East Ave. Q-9.

ProCare Hospice Director of Marketing Brandi Wheeler will be the guest speaker.

AARP meeting set

AARP Palmdale Chapter 2195 will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, at Legacy Commons for Active Seniors, 930 East Ave. Q-9.

Members will be able to vote for the new board of directors which will be sworn in at December's membership meeting.

There will be a guest speaker from local law enforcement to speak about senior safety.

AARP National Members are eligible to join the local chapter.

Women's group to meet

The Antelope Valley Republican Women Federated will have a luncheon meeting Tuesday at the Antelope Valley Country Club, 39800 Country Club Drive.

Social time is at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon.

Cost is \$17. Slate of officers will be presented and gifts for Valley Oasis will be collected.

Reservations are requested by calling (661) 274-8533.

To get your news on this page, send e-mail to valleylife@avpress.com or call (661) 267-4136



Jewel by the sea



By **STEPHANIE STRUYCK** Features Editor

It's easy to fall in love with La Jolla. With its dramatic coastlines and breathtaking ocean views, it's no surprise why many consider La Jolla "The Jewel" as it translates in Spanish, of San Diego.

Many treasures await in the Mediterranean-style La Jolla Village. Fifteen minutes north of downtown San Diego, La Jolla has a sophisticated atmosphere with galleries and shops rivaling those on Rodeo Drive coupled with a laid back vibe, complete with shops and eateries that line Prospect Street.

Also on Prospect Street is the stunning four story Grande Colonial Hotel (910 Prospect St.). For more than a century, the Grande Colonial has welcomed visitors. The charming European-style hotel is a favorite amongst travelers as it is steps away from everything there is to do and see in La Jolla. It's also home to the award winning NINE-TEN Restaurant, a highly touted bistro.

Prospect Street is also home to the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in La Jolla (700 Prospect St.). The location was originally built in 1916 as the home of philanthropist Ellen Browning Scripps. Today, the spectacular museum displays an unprecedented variety of contemporary art as interpreted in paintings, sculptures, prints and drawing and comprises nearly three acres of oceanfront property.

La Jolla is also where Dr. Seuss, a.k.a. Theodor Geisel lived and worked for nearly half a century. Dr. Seuss was one of La Jolla's most famous residents and wrote most of his children's books atop a hill called Mt. Soledad where his fantastical world of "Cat in the Hat" and other whimsical characters came to life. Visitors can view another side of Dr. Seuss, including lesser known paintings and illustrations at the Secret Art of Dr. Seuss at Legends Gallery (1205

Prospect St. Suite B).

Take a stroll through Scripps Park and spot the lone Monterey Cypress, the inspiration for the Truffula trees in Dr. Seuss' book, "The Lorax".

Sunny and 75 degrees seems to be the weather that La Jollans experience year-round, making it the perfect place to sunbathe on picturesque sun-drenched beaches. La Jolla's beaches are considered to be some of the most beautiful settings in the world, and its waters provide endless opportunities for fun.

The perfect place to take a walk is along Coast Boulevard at La Jolla Cove. Spanning 6,000 acres of ocean floor and tidelands, the cove and surrounding beaches teem with marine life above and below the surface of the water.

Famous for its Seven Sea Caves which can be accessed via kayak, swimming or snorkeling, there is one cave that is the only known land access sea cave on the California Coast - Sunny Jim Cave (1325 Cave St.). For only \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids, you can venture down 145 steps via the man made tunnel made over a century ago. The caverns within the cave are rich with earthly mineral deposits and the cave opening resembles W.W. Denslow's character Sunny Jim, a mascot for the British Force Wheat cereal products in the 1920's.

Be it a weekend getaway or a quick day trip, La Jolla is a special place to discover and certainly San Diego's jewel by the sea.

For details, visit www.sandiego.org/lajolla

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Websites that can help holiday travelers

By **KORKY VANN** Tribune News Service

Thanksgiving, one of the busiest travel periods of the year, is a few weeks away and Christmas not far beyond. Although getting together with family and friends is one of the best parts of the holiday season, getting to wherever you're going often is not.

There are travel apps and websites that can help. And although technology can't get you to where you're going on time, it can keep you up to date on delays and changes, and help you find alternative routes when the freeways are backed up — all of which helps cut down on the stress and strain.

Here's some of the best:

- TSA has created a free mobile app, "My TSA," available for iOS and Android. The app includes tips on what's allowed in your luggage, how early to arrive during holiday travel, how to prepare for various airport security lanes.

- Need to rent a car when you arrive at your destination? Check AutoSlash.com. The site has an unusual method of finding you the best rates. After you've booked your car through one of the site's partners, Autoslash searches the Web for discounts and applies them to your bottom line — and continues to monitor rates and coupons until your pickup date, applying any discounts it finds along the way.

- If you're a Costco member, you might want to check www.costcotravel.com/Rental-Cars. The site's "Low Price Finder" function lets you enter your criteria, then shops all coupons, codes and discounts for the lowest prices.

- Hate getting off the highway and then traveling miles out of your way to find a public restroom, gas or food? The iExit app tells you the services available at different U.S.

highway exits, so you can decide whether to get off at the next exit or wait for a better option.

- Did you know that there's a yoga room where you can work out those in-flight kinks at the San Francisco International Airport; a Green Roof area with plants, International Airport or a children's museum and playground called "Kids on the Fly" at Chicago's O'Hare? If you had the GateGuru app, you would.

- Waze, a traffic and navigation app for iOS and Android, posts real-time traffic info from drivers in your area. The app alerts you to any accidents, road hazards, road or bridge closures or traffic jams ahead, posts area gas prices so you can find the cheapest fuel and lets you coordinate arrival and departure times when you're traveling with friends.

ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Seeking couples counseling

Dear Annie: I have a fiancée whom I love and cherish. She has a 2-year-old son from another relationship and I accept and enjoy this child. The boy's father was physically and verbally abusive toward my fiancée, and I believe the guy is still unbalanced from drug use.

A year ago, my fiancée and I were expecting a child, but she miscarried. We separated afterward because I needed time. We eventually got back together, but then I was incarcerated for a short while. While I was in prison, my fiancée admitted that she had been with her ex and was pregnant again. She isn't sure who the father is.

How can I save our relationship and our love if the child turns out not to be mine?

— GI

Dear GI: You already know that you can love a child who is not biologically yours. We don't think that will be a problem for you, as long as you don't blame the child for his mother's indiscretions. A true father is the one who raises the child.

However, we think you should put this engagement on hold. Your concern should be less about the baby and more about your fiancée's ability to fully commit to you. It doesn't mean you should give up on the relationship. It means take your time. Let her show you that she will not go running to the ex whenever there is trouble. You might also consider couples counseling, perhaps through your church. It will help you both feel more secure with your choices.

Dear Annie: I have had a best friend for 20 years. We were in the same civic group for many years, played sports together, and my wife and I traveled with him and his wife.

His wife is a domineering, opinionated woman who always has to be right. When my wife and I came home, I told her that I was finished going anywhere with this woman.

I am sure my friend is curious about why we don't ask them to travel with us anymore. Do I dare tell him that I'm tired of butting heads with his wife?

— Frustrated

Dear Frustrated: We wouldn't volunteer this information. Your friend may already have his suspicions. Should he ask you directly, however, we recommend diplomacy. It will do no good to criticize his wife. He isn't going to divorce her over these trips. Say that you find these trips to be too exhausting. We hope you can maintain the friendship in other ways, and if there is a trip you and he can take without spouses, that might be one solution.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Ann Landers* column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 Third St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

LARRY VASS

Good morning, let's get this meeting started

The sun had not yet risen, but the parking lot was full at the venerable "Polyhedron Unlimited" facility. The mechanics were in the cafeteria, taking in their light breakfast and coffee as their bosses were rushing to their morning meeting.

It was a full thirteen minutes before the meeting was to begin, but the Squirrel, the Fox, and the Moose were already there. They were always there before the others. They didn't speak to each other unless spoken to, so for the most part, by default, their reticence became a comfortable silence.

The Kangaroo Rat and the Weasel slid in next and silently took their seats. They were prompt to say "Good Morning" to the Boar when he came in and sat down. The Boar was in a good mood that morning — everyone could tell. That was good.

Then, the Vulture came in and took his place. He was always light hearted and happy and the others enjoyed the pleasures his congeniality afforded. He loved to start a conversation in the morning about something, anything, other than work. He teased out his co-worker's interests and brought them forth for morning stimulations. The others were drawn to the vulture because his easy way naturally eased the

tensions in a meeting room.

The Raccoon heavily plopped down. He did not say anything, but everyone could see he was grumpy. They avoided him when he was moody because he could become unruly. This was a day to leave him alone.

More of them filed in quickly, searching for open seats. At the last, the Eagle, the Dog, and the Wolf filed in and took their places. No one ever dared to sit in their seats.

The meeting hadn't started yet, but the Kangaroo Rat started running his mouth anyway. He jumped on the Raccoon and asked if he had worked on his unit during the last shift. The Raccoon was cautious and asked, "239 or 412?"

The K-rat was irritated and did not mind showing it, "412, of course, that's the one we've been having trouble with, all along."

"What was your problem?" "Same as yours, the "L" face is oversized."



Larry Vass

"Why don't you just trim it down?" "You know as well as I do, Raccoon, those edges are machined down to the ten-thousandth of an inch and we just cannot take a file to them."

"It isn't a new procedure," growled the Raccoon.

"Let's get started, gentlemen." The Eagle took control and started the meeting. Everyone's fur and feathers began to lie down and they all came to a respectful silence. "Put it up on the screen, Baldy, and let's get rolling." It was one bird of prey needling another, for the Vulture didn't have much for feathers on his head and the Eagle delighted in reminding him of it every chance he got.

The Vulture good-naturedly ignored it and brought up the screen.

The Eagle paused a moment before he began. His lightning eyes scanned the room and his astounding clarity of insight arrested his own thoughts. At that moment, he knew it was time for him to re-focus his crew.

He raised his voice and said, "Perhaps it is time to remind you gentlemen what we do here at Polyhedron Unlimited. We are in charge of one of the Platonic Solids, the Pentagonal Dodecahedron. It is a convex

regular dodecahedron with twelve faces, each of which is a perfect pentagon. It is imperative we maintain the highest standards for these mathematical purities. Are you with me?"

"Yes, Sir!" they roared together.

The Eagle knew the noise had penetrated the walls. He grinned. "Before we study our scheduling today, I will introduce a new team member. Dog, go outside and bring him in."

The dog dutifully sprung up. He returned with a bright-eyed young one who teetered slightly inside the door.

The Eagle spoke, "Gentlemen, this young one has earned a B.S. in Micro Marine Biology from Funz U., an M.S. in Musicology from the University of Things, and he has just completed his on-line Doctorate in Business Administration at the Nasal Academy. He has worked three years on irregulars, so he brings transferable work experience."

The Fox leaned over and whispered to the Weasel, "He's a Penguin, isn't he?"

The Weasel completely lost it — he snorted and tears of laughter ran down his face.

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