



Drummer Barbata recounts life in rock

By Lynn Lieu  
The Desert sun

It seems like every rock star from the 1960s and '70s has written a memoir, and some of them are pretty interesting. Drummer Johnny Barbata penned his autobiography seven years ago. "Johnny Barbata: The Legendary Life of a Rock Star Drummer" outlines the New Jersey native's adventures playing with the Turtles; Crosby Stills, Nash and Young; and Jefferson Airplane/Starship, among others. On Thursday, Barbata will sign copies of the self-published book at Palm Springs Vinyl.

Barbata writes about the time record executive David Geffen called him into his office to tell him about an up-and-coming band he should play with, the Eagles. In another chapter, he recalls playing a 45-minute drum solo at a festival to avoid a riot following a power outage.

Barbata recounted these experiences and more in a recent telephone interview with The Desert Sun.

**TDS: Why did you decide to write the book?**

**BARBATA:** I've done a lot of albums and 28 singles, and my wife said, "You know you're a part of rock 'n' roll history. You really gotta write a book." I started jotting it all down in a notebook: ideas in my head, things that happened in my life. Each story eventually became a chapter and it all eventually became a book.

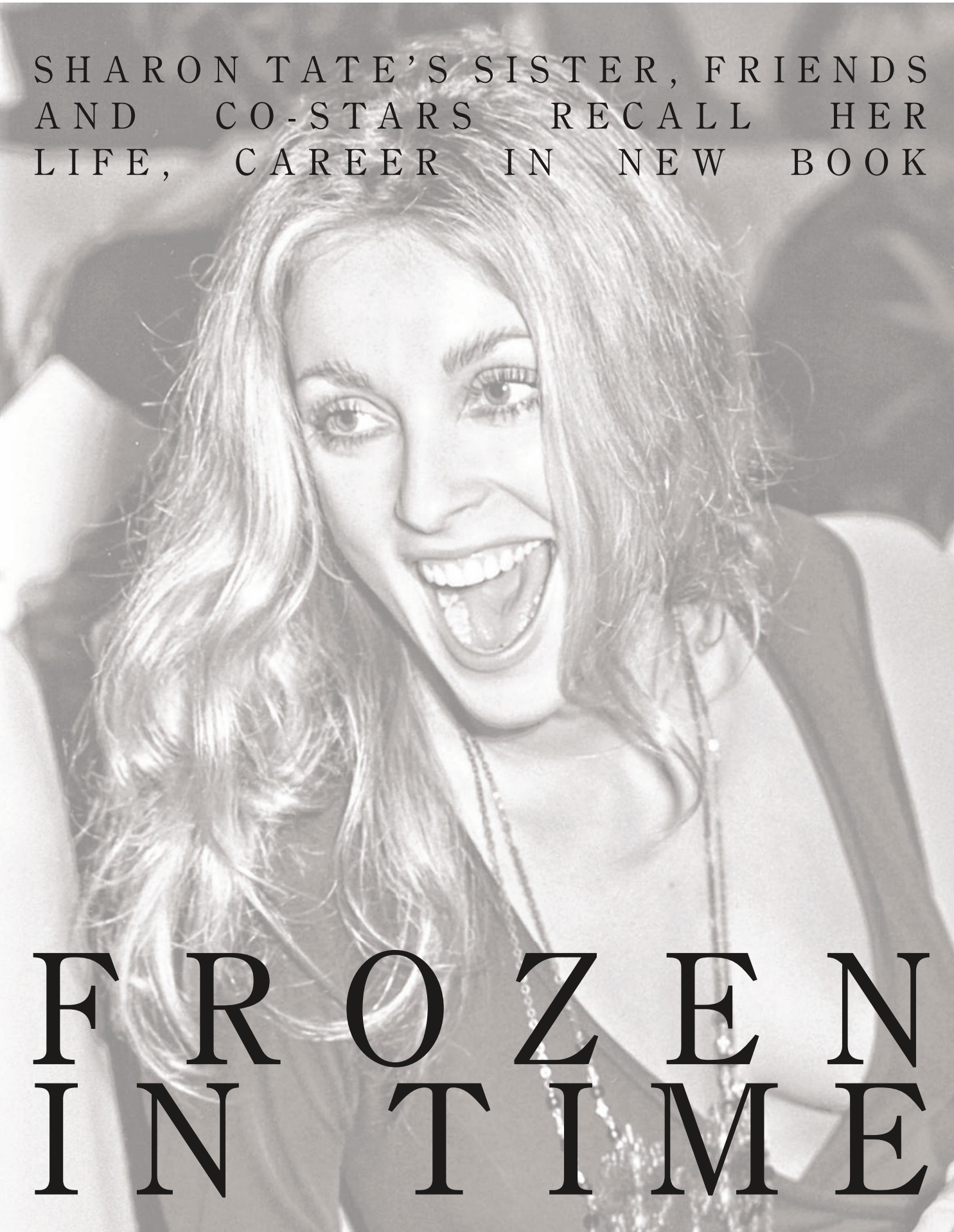
**Tell us one of the stories in your book.**

When I was with the Turtles, we flew to London. When we got off the plane there was this white Rolls-Royce. We wondered who it was for and we looked at the sign and it said, "Turtles." We all looked at each other and we ran and jumped in, and the guy proceeded to tell us the Beatles rented it out to us for the weekend. ... We went to this club and everybody looked at us and knew we weren't English, so they sat us at this booth in the back. I was looking around and sitting at the bar was Paul McCartney having a drink with Graham

Please see BARBATA, E2

IF YOU GO

**What:** Johnny Barbata signing his memoir  
**When:** 5 p.m. Thursday  
**Where:** Palm Springs Vinyl Records and Collectibles, 220 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs  
**Information:** (760) 778-2636 or www.palmspringsvinylrecords.com



By Beth Roessner  
The Desert Sun

Debra Tate prefers not to discuss Charles Manson. In conversation, she refers to his heinous crimes as "Double M" — as in, the Manson murders.

Her older sister, Sharon Tate, was murdered by his "family" on Aug. 9, 1969. But Debra won't let Sharon's life be forgotten.

In the new book "Sharon Tate: Recollection," Debra dedicates pages to family anecdotes, stories and images showcasing the beauty, talent and personality of the late actress.

"Everybody in the world knows about the final few moments of her life," said Debra, who will appear for a book signing

IF YOU GO

**What:** "Sharon Tate: Recollection," book signing with author Debra Tate  
**When:** 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** Just Fabulous, 515 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs  
**Information:** www.bjustfabulous.com

Saturday at Just Fabulous in Palm Springs. "What they don't know is who and what she was."

Sharon was a hard worker with a gentle soul, said Debra, and that's what she wanted the book to project. Sharon isn't a victim, she's a person, she added.

"She would give you the shirt off her back and make you feel perfectly comfortable in her own home, even to the

point of putting your feet on her coffee table," said Debra with a laugh. "There are a lot of stars you wouldn't dare do that in their house."

Sharon was brutally killed in her home in the Benedict Canyon neighborhood of Los Angeles along with her unborn son and four others by members of the Manson Family. She was 26.

Debra idolized her older sister. Despite a 10-year age gap, the two enjoyed a close bond forged during a childhood of moving around to accommodate their father's Army career.

"When you are a military child the only thing that is consistent in life is each other," Debra said. "So, Sharon was my everything... We had a relationship that was

Please see TATE, E3

Sharon Tate was a rising star in the 1960s. Her sister Debra reveals little-known details of the actress' life in a new book. PHOTOFEST/RUNNING PRESS

DESERT STYLE

Shake a tail feather in a fabulous piece of Follies history



The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, which just completed its final season, will be hosting a blowout sale at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Friday and Saturday. CRYSTAL CHATHAM/THE DESERT SUN

The long-legged ladies and the dancing gentleman of **The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies** were known for their age-defying shows that lasted for 23 years. And although their run at the Plaza Theatre ended last month, their legacy lives on.

On Friday and Saturday, costumes, shoes, fabrics, wigs, computers, hats, lighting and sound equipment, and everything else from the Follies is being sold.

The admission price of \$5 will be donated to the **Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter**.

Whereas it may not be in vogue to parade down Palm Canyon in a 7-foot-tall feath-

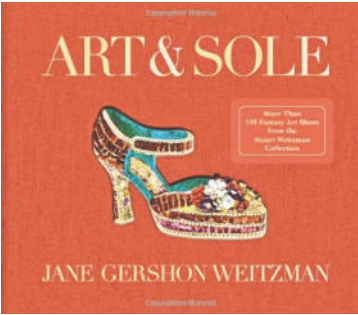
ered headdress, it would be cool to own a part of Palm Springs' history.

**» Palm Springs Follies Blowout Sale**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Oasis Room 4, Palm Springs Convention Center, 277 N. Avenida Caballeros, Palm Springs. \$5 cash only. Information: thefinalhurrah@gmail.com.

Beth Roessner

Dress up your coffee table

A variety of books on all manner of topics not only add visual interest to your living room but offer up an in-depth peek into a wide range of topics. For the person who loves



shoes, "**Art & Sole: A Spectacular Selection of More Than 150 Fantasy Art Shoes from the Stuart Weitzman Collection**" by Jane Weitzman totally satisfies that love.

Please see STYLE, E3



# Tate

Continued from E1

extremely close from beginning to end.” Sharon’s film career spanned only about six years and included the now cult-classics “Eye of the Devil,” “The Fearless Vampire Killers” and “Valley of the Dolls.” Debra is convinced that had she lived she would have become “a super nova” in the industry. “She’s frozen in time for me,” said Debra. “I can hear her voice. I can hear her laugh. I can see her and my memories will never be dusty because they can be refreshed through the cinema and her body of work.”



Included in the memoir are rarely seen photographs of Sharon’s childhood and her modeling career. There are photos of Sharon smoking in between takes and stills from her films. Candid shots of her everyday life and glamorous head shots are also included. Chapters focus

on her time at Twentieth Century Fox and MGM, as well as her marriage to director Roman Polanski. Throughout the book are memories from Sharon’s friends, including “Valley of the Dolls” co-stars Patty Duke and Lee Grant, film critic Rex Reed, actress Jane Fonda and actor Yul Brynner. Sharon was known for her beauty and figure, but she had a modest view of her own looks. She instead wanted to be known for her determination and work ethic. “It was important to her that she didn’t give up self,” continued Debra. “She remained close with people from all stages of her walk through life.” It’s that depth of character that Debra hopes a

younger generation can learn from. Thanks to the Internet there’s a renewed interest in Sharon’s career, particularly from those 25 to 35 years old. Debra wants her sister’s story to be accessible for them. “These young people have a right to know who she was, and remove the two ‘M words’ from the equation,” Debra added. “The message to them is that if you work hard and have diligence, you don’t have to sacrifice who you are for what you want. You can have it all. You can do it all.”

**Sharon Tate was a rising star in Hollywood during the 1960s. Her sister Debra reveals details of the actress’ life in a new book.**  
 REX USA/RUNNING PRESS



# Style

Continued from E1

**“Avedon: Women” by Joan Juliet Buck and Abigail Solomon-Godeau** spans the 60-year career of photographer **Richard Avedon**. \$65.79 at Books-A-Million. Director **Wes Anderson** is known for his visual artistry, and **“The Wes Anderson Collection” by Matt Zoller Seitz** is filled with images and interviews that weave together the spirit of his films. \$40 at abramsbooks.com. **“Hummingbirds: A Life-size Guide to Every Species” by Michael Fogden, Marianne Taylor and Sheri L. Williamson** features brilliantly colored life-size images of all 338 known species of hummingbirds. \$23.33 at Barnes & Noble. Bring a little bit of rustic charm to your home with **“Country Style: Home Décor and Rustic Crafts from Chandeliers to Coffee Tables, Bedcovers to Bulletin Boards” by Anna Örnberg**. \$15.16 at overstock.com.

Gannett News Service

**Class up dad’s mobile gear** Dads like to ruggedize everything in huge, obtuse rubbery cases. A better-looking alternative are some iPhone cases handcrafted from Oregon black walnut. If dad is rocking an iPhone 5 or 5s, he may like the full **Grovmade** case for \$99. The sides and the back of the two-piece slide-on case are made of hand-finished walnut. If he wants something light for an iPhone 5c, he can opt for the less-expensive walnut bumper, at \$39. It offers protection around the edges of the phone. Both cases allow access to all the buttons, ports and camera lenses on the phones.

The Associated Press



**A leather wrap bracelet by Chan Luu is widely copied, partly because the supplies don’t cost much.** AP

**Bracelet is widely copied** The bracelet is ubiquitous: Small gemstones or silver beads are woven with thread between two lengths of leather cording, and the finished piece wraps around the wrist three to five times. The mixture of earthy and bling has made it a top seller for **Chan Luu**, who is credited among

many jewelry artists with originating the design. It’s also made her handmade bracelets widely copied. They are easy to duplicate, so **Chan Luu Wrap Bracelets**, which sell for \$170 to more than \$300 at her online shop and in high-end catalogs such as Sundance, also are a fast, do-it-yourself project offered in bead shops and online tutorials. “I’ve been in the fashion business long enough. It’s part of the game,” says Luu, who lives in Los Angeles and has designed jewelry, accessories and clothing for more than 15 years. “Most of the time we think it’s a flattering thing. At times, it’s annoying. People use my name to sell their mer-

chandise, and that’s not right.”  
 The Associated Press

**‘Normcore’ term gains traction** What do you call an a la carte, mix-and-match, label-agnostic approach to style, an anti-fashion fashion trend and a conscious effort to look effortless? If you answered **“normcore,”** then you’ve at least heard the fashion world’s biggest buzzword yet of 2014 — even if you don’t know it when you’re seeing it. “Oh, I think it’s very real,” says author and Barneys creative ambassador **Simon Doonan**, who penned a column about the phenomenon earlier this year for slate.com. “I think there’s a

whole generation of younger hipster dudes, whether they’re in Brooklyn or Silver Lake, who are very much against obvious designer prestige signifiers — sort of anti-designer in a way — and they like the look of super-anonymous clothing that sort of fetishizes the look of a guidance counselor from 1982.” To Doonan, the message is clear: “What it’s saying is: ‘I’m so young and groovy I can wear these sort of super-anonymous made-in-Romania windbreakers’ — that sort of thing.”  
 Los Angeles Times

**Desert Style** appears every Sunday. Send tips and questions to [style@thedesertsun.com](mailto:style@thedesertsun.com).



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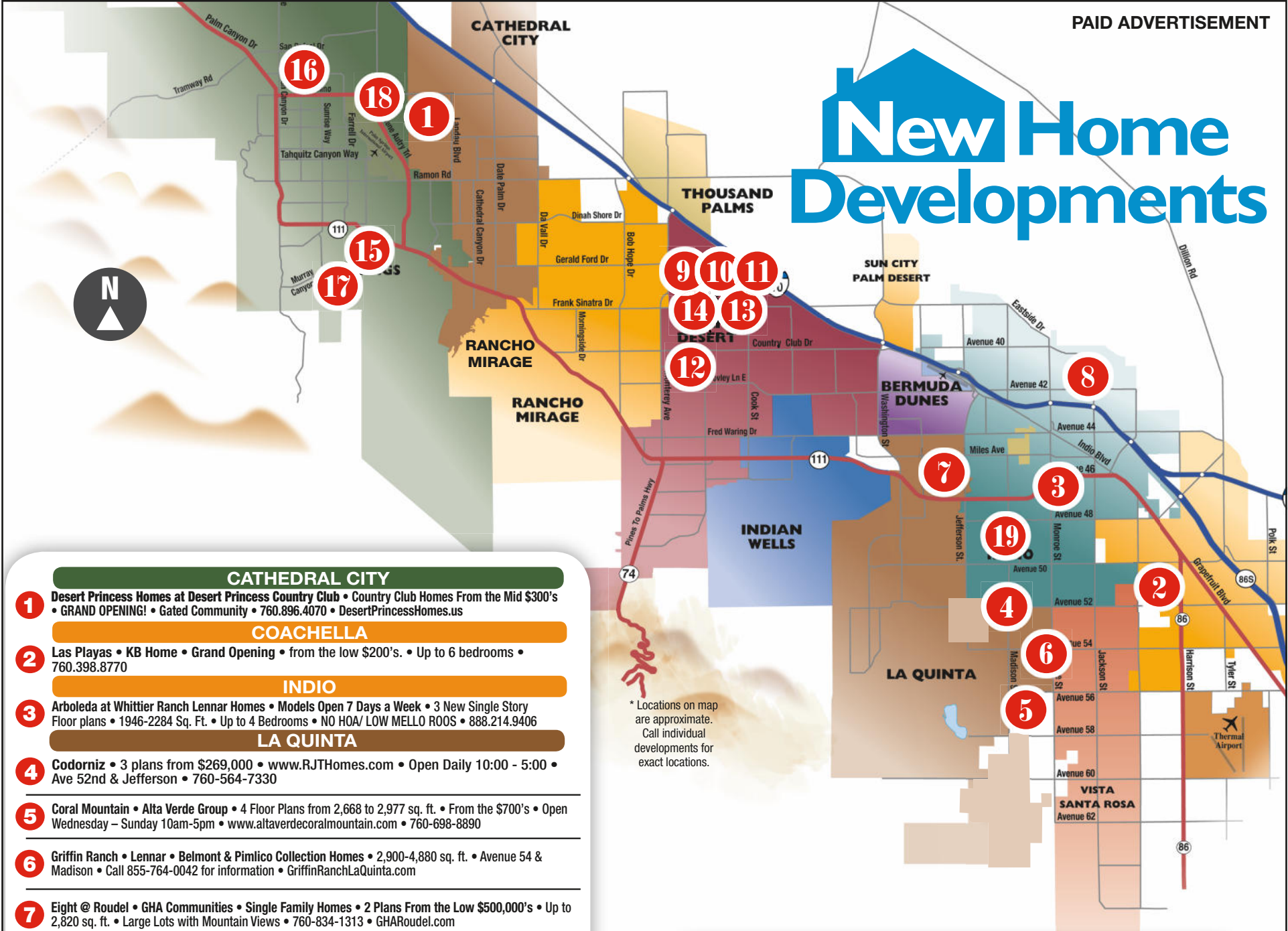
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