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Those stories are about people and places you know or want to know more about. They are about the economy, politics, food, film, cannabis, music, art, theater, sports and everything else that makes Albuquerque, New Mexico the incredibly unique place it is.

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Dateline: Nevada
A Las Vegas man dressed in what witnesses called a “hazmat suit” sprayed a clear liquid on people and products at a Walmart in an attempt to gain internet fame. According to KLAS in Nevada, Aldo Gonzalez was arrested last week after a Walmart was forced to shut down due to the actions of him and an unnamed accomplice. Gonzalez allegedly entered the Walmart store with an unnamed male—described as “juvenile” in the police report—who was wearing a full-body painter’s coveralls. As Gonzalez allegedly filmed, the “juvenile” proceeded to spray customers and grocery items with a clear liquid from a spray bottle. After causing a disturbance, police were called to the store, where witnesses were able to give descriptions of the perpetrators and provide the license plate number of the getaway car. Using the license plate number, officers were led to the home of Gonzalez. As they were arresting the man, officers saw the juvenile exit the house. Officials evacuated the store and investigators took samples of the liquid to test it for dangerous substances. The clear liquid was inspected and declared harmless after it was determined to have a neutral PH and no chemicals, proteins or bio-organisms. Detectives interviewed the juvenile, who said that Gonzalez bought a white painter’s suit, goggles, a dust mask and gloves. The juvenile reportedly found a spray bottle and filled it with water. When asked why the duo had engineered the stunt, the juvenile said he “wants to be famous through Instagram and YouTube by making funny videos.”

Dateline: United States
Americans aren’t just stockpiling toilet paper and hand sanitizer. Experts say a potential condom shortage could lead to another baby boom. The Mercury News reports that some Americans are failing to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 outbreak, as evidenced by increasing condom sales following announcements of outbreaks in the US. As more states adopt shelter-in-place procedures, experts say they will be engaging in more sexual activity.

Television personality Dr. Mehmet Oz actually encouraged couples to have sex while they’re quarantined. “You’ll live longer, get rid of the tension,” he told TMZ. “Maybe you’ll make some babies.” CondomSales reported a shortage of condoms in Singapore and Hong Kong in early March, and it appears the trend is continuing in the US. Dr. Kevin Kathrotia told Fox Business that natural disasters often lead to more babies. “It’s going to happen. It’s probably going to be the biggest baby boom we’ve seen,” said Kathrotia. “Anytime there’s the threat of a hurricane, there’s a little baby boom.” Dr. Renee Wellenstein disagrees on the timeline, however. She told reporters that she predicts a baby boom will come once the pandemic is over. “Stress decreases fertility in men and women,” Wellenstein said.

Dateline: New Mexico
A man turned himself in to police and told them that he’d stolen two television sets while intoxicated—but he doesn’t remember doing it. The Associated Press reports that Sage Aaron Cummins, of Gallup, N.M., was arrested earlier this month after he attempted to return the TVs to the robbery victim. An officer was reportedly investigating the burglary at the home when Cummins approached him and admitted he was the one who stole the TVs. He reportedly told officers that he was “very intoxicated” when he entered the home and allegedly stole the items. He said he remembered knocking on the door and receiving no answer before entering the residence. He told police that he had no memory of what happened after that. “He woke up at 8:30am the next day and noticed he had two TV’s in his room,” the police report says. Two days later, a mutual friend of both Cummins and the victim told Cummins who owned the TVs. The police report states that Cummins told police “he wanted to make things right and return the stolen items.” He was reportedly arrested and charged with receiving stolen property before being released on an unsecured bond of $1,500.

Dateline: India
An India railway company is keeping elephants off the tracks by playing recordings of angry bees. According to UPI, the Northeast Frontier Railway has installed a “honey bee sound system” at locations where elephants are known to frequent. If villagers notice that an elephant has wandered near the train tracks, they can notify officials with the train company and the system can be engaged. The loud sound of bees is said to frighten the elephants and drive them away. The company said the system had to be installed because the number of elephants being killed in train collisions was rising. At least four elephants were reportedly involved in separate accidents in Uttarakhand in 2018. The company has installed the buzzy sound system at the four crossings where the incidents occurred. The system has been in place for two years now, and officials say it has been completely successful. There have reportedly been no animal collisions since its installation.

Compiled by Joshua Lee. Email your weird news to josh@alibi.com.
Absence Absentee Ballots Encouraged

The state has no plans to delay primary elections, but officials are encouraging voters to take advantage of absentee ballots as they practice social distancing.

According to NM Political Report, Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse-Oliver is expecting to see record numbers of absentee ballots during the primaries this year and is encouraging voters to eschew voting in person.

New Mexicans can call their county clerk’s office to request an absentee ballot or download and print an application from the Secretary of State’s website. State officials have opened the nmvote.org portal a month early.

But Toulouse-Oliver is barred from sending absentee ballots out to every registered voter because of state law. While a special legislative session seems likely in light of recent health emergencies, it remains unclear if absentee voting will be addressed at that time. But Toulouse-Oliver told reporters her office is doing “everything that we can do short of a law change” to get voters to apply for their absentee ballots.

New Mexico’s primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 2.

Special Session Likely

Lawmakers are expecting to hold a special legislative session to discuss whether to alter the $7.6 billion budget that was recently signed into law by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that House Speaker Brian Egolf, Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth, Senate President Pro Tem Mary Kay Papen and Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Arthur Smith told reporters that a special session is likely now that the public health emergency surrounding COVID-19 has forced the state to question its prior budgetary decisions.

A dip in the price of oil has also contributed to concerns that the budgetary forecast for 2021 was incorrect. Last week, House Republicans reportedly sent a letter to Gov. Lujan Grisham voicing concerns about the future of the oil and gas industry. They called for the state to save its reserves and enact budget cuts.

Wirth and Egolf are reportedly considering the logistics and constitutionality of holding a “virtual session.”

DOH: Flush Only TP

State health officials say residents could damage New Mexico’s sewer systems by flushing toilet paper alternatives.

According to KOBA, the New Mexico Department of Health is warning people to avoid flushing toilet paper alternatives down the toilet, as the septic sewer systems were not made to successfully handle the strain. Toilet paper is designed to dissolve in water, but paper towels and sanitary napkins are not. By flushing these products, residents could clog the system, which would eventually cause sewage to overflow and spill into the streets.

“In some ways, this can sound humorous. Let’s just admit that,” said Mayor Tim Keller during a recent press conference. “But it’s actually quite serious, because the last thing we need right now is us being all over the city trying to fix clogged-up or burst sewer lines.”

The mayor went on to say that residents should bag up and throw away the soiled toilet paper alternatives instead of flushing them.

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Balloon Fiesta

With that, our reporter zoomed off to a live press briefing that Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller was slated to give at Balloon Fiesta Park at 11:30am. The ride out to the north side of town was strangely quiet, the freeways uncrowded; occasionally, an 18-wheeler sped by.

At the press conference, only a few other reporters have gathered. It’s clear that the mayor and his company want some distance, which is fine with the small group of people gathered. They are standing awkwardly about 7 feet apart from one another.

Keller spends a few minutes talking about visiting the city parks near one’s home and how important it is to stay close to home. He also makes a clear distinction between the terms “shelter in place” and “stay home order.” He says to be ready for the unexpected, but his tone is optimistic. Even as he reminds those in attendance and streaming the briefing online, in the myth-buster segment of the presser, that warmer weather may not be a solution to the outbreak, as some have claimed, asking citizens to listen to our scientists and leaders.

Home Again

After the press conference, our reporter returned to his home and took a phone call from local health care worker Eva Vasquez.

Vasquez said, “I work at a nonprofit organization called East Central Ministries, located basically on Wyoming and Central. I am a Case Manager / Certified Community Health Worker. My clients include many homeless and sex workers. I spent many hours this last week in alleys and other [similar] spaces [where] I knew I’d find groups of people. I am trying to explain the virus to them.”

Vasquez says she’s concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the way it may impact our city’s fragile homeless citizens because, in her opinion, “APD is not doing enough.” The Elderly

While on the phone with Vasquez, our reporter receives a message from Margie McCurry. McCurry, a Ph.D who retired in Albuquerque, is a former Albuquerque Tribune staffer. She is 85 years old. Here is what she knows so far about the COVID-19 outbreak in Albuquerque.

“I’m extremely impressed how The Montebello on Academy retirement

On the Front Lines

In Burque with the others humans

It’s springtime in New Mexico and our news reporter is up early on Monday, just after the sun rises at 7:05am, to check in on the latest developments in the war against COVID-19.

There are 10 messages awaiting him on Facebook Messenger, seven voicemails waiting to be heard and 50 more emails in his personal account when he finally fell asleep at 1am. He doesn’t even want to check his work email but does and is surprised to find some hopeful news there.

Then he drinks a hot cup of coffee, grabs a couple pairs of surgical gloves and a protective face mask and goes out to his car... where he sprays the front seat interior down with Lysol and wipes it away before fully entering.

He is going to check out reports of closures that cannot be independently confirmed.

Supermarket

One email from a Weekly Alibi reader told about possible closures or long waits at a large grocery store in the southeast quadrant of town. Upon arriving, he notices that there isn’t even a line to get into Ghetto Smith’s, just a friendly clerk waiting at the entrance.

The reporter parks and walks toward the store’s front door, stopping 10 feet in front of the attendant, who looks tired but also enabled by her place on the front lines of this battle going on across America. She tells him, “It’s actually kind of normal here today. There was a small line this morning, but everything was orderly.” From a distance, looking in, it seems this supermarket remains well stocked.

Our reporter flashes that attendant the peace sign and zooms off toward Nob Hill.

The Bank

At first, the drive up Coal Avenue is notable for all the trees blossoming along its edges as one approaches the edge of the university district. Today, the drive is also notable because our reporter is the only one driving this stretch of road on what would normally be a super-busy day in Burque.

Another reader had called our reporter at 8am that morning to tell him that she just got off the phone with her bank and thought it would soon be closed because of an imminent “stay at home order” to be announced in Albuquerque on Monday.

The bank in question, US Bank, was open for drive-thru business on Monday morning, and there were no lines. Our reporter spoke to the teller, a young man wearing pale blue gloves, and asked what he thought might happen. The teller replied, “We’re expecting a stay-home order sometime soon. But banks like this one will continue to be open in a drive-thru capacity. Right now, we’re open from 9:30am until 4pm, Monday through Saturday.”

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community staff here in Albuquerque has quickly stepped into quarantine mode. All 150-plus of us [elders] are ‘sheltering in place’ in our individual apartments. Our beautiful dining room is closed, but the waiters are delivering the delicious meals to our individual apartments.”

As asked about protective matters, the retired journalist and current PR maven told Weekly Alibi that, “Everyone entering our lobby is stopped at the front doors (residents included), temperatures are taken and each [is] questioned regarding travel and possible exposure.”

Despite these restrictions and the possibility of a formal order calling for a “stay at home” message to come from the governor later on Monday afternoon, McCurry seems positive and believes that strict social distancing may help an already dire situation from advancing as it has in Italy and Spain.

In the Neighborhood
Before talking to a local nurse on the phone, our Alibi reporter takes a walk through the country club section of Albuquerque. It’s well after lunch and more than a few citizens are strolling through the neighborhood.

At a home construction site, he runs into a group of workers laying the concrete driveway for a new home. They call out greetings to him in Spanish. Our reporter asks the men how they are faring, and one of them steps a bit forward and while still maintaining a distance of about 10 feet, began by telling August, “No tengas miedo, amigo.”

“Don’t be afraid, my friend,” the construction foreman, whose name is Firpo Gonzales, tells him. The man then lifts his hat, smiles and points to the sun. Otherwise, everyone our reporter meets is distant and quiet. The family of four walking their dogs, the couple dressed in fluorescent green windbreakers, the two teens with bright-blue hair and skateboards all wave and smile, but don’t talk or come any nearer.

The Nurse
Our reporter returns home after walking for 30 minutes. Now it is early afternoon on Monday, March 23, 2020. He dials the number of a nurse he knows. They work at one of this area’s major hospitals.

After a ponderous silence, they finally speak in hushed tones before blurt out, “Look, I’m sorry, I don’t want you to tell people my name. I’m scared. I’m scared for my family. I’ve been putting in 18-hour days now for an entire week.”

After assuring them that I would protect their identity, their voice seemed to relax and they continued: “I do know one thing. It’s so important that people don’t panic. So many of us are already panicking, and that is the thing that is going to make things worse. Look, August, don’t come to the hospital—tell your friends not to come here to the [emergency room] unless they really need to come. If you are symptomatic, please have someone help you contact the New Mexico Department of Health.”

When asked about other advice for citizens involuntarily drafted into this fight—which, by the way, means all of us—they are firm but clear, stating, “Please stay at home. We are here, and we are ready if you need us.”

Stay at Home
Then, at 3pm on Monday afternoon, the governor spoke. Here is what she said. As of Monday, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham told the state, there were 83 COVID-19 cases.

She also clarified the Department of Health’s emergency public health order. It is an instruction to stay home, she said. Residents of the state of New Mexico, unless they are involved in essential business, must stay home. Gatherings larger than five people are also prohibited. “If you don’t take this seriously, we can’t reduce the effects of COVID-19,” the governor said, calmly and firmly.

“The goal is to make sure, as we see more cases—and we have community spread—is to limit that spread. You owe it to your neighbors, your friends and your community, she reminded New Mexicans. “I need New Mexicans to heed this [order]. ... I need New Mexicans to do their part,” Lujan Grisham concluded.

Tuesday Afternoon
Just before finishing up the paper and sending it off to the printer, our newsroom notes the following developments in the ongoing war against COVID-19.

At Tuesday’s press briefing, Mayor Tim Keller announced that city hospitals would no longer allow visitors. Further, all public buildings, including city hall, are now closed. Additionally, golf courses and Headstart Pre-K programs have also been closed. Finally, starting this weekend, city buses will begin running on Saturday schedule every day. On Saturday, March 28, ART service will be stopped until further notice.

• The local daily reports that the New Mexico Supreme Court issued an order today halting evictions of those tenants who face such a circumstance because of inability to pay rent.

• KOB-TV reports that Sandoval County is no longer seeking to release nonviolent inmates from its detention facility in Bernalillo, N.M.
Local Short Fiction by Subscription

Plot Duckies delivers literary goods

Staying in? How about reading a good story from a local author right here in New Mexico? That is the idea behind the new subscription service that brings a new short story by a New Mexican author to the tablet or other such e-reading device every week. Author and publisher Sonja Dewing came up with the concept after working with writers to develop their work for years in workshops and then not seeing it get the attention it deserves. Dewing decided to skip the middleman and bring this work to readers directly. It’s a bold idea, but one that’s perfect in this time of staying home. Weekly Alibi spoke with Dewing from a safe distance about the stories, the subscriptions and a bit about the De Anza Motor Inn. The following is an edited version on that conversation.

Weekly Alibi: How did the stories subscriptions begin? Sonja Dewing: My company Plot Duckies holds an event called the Short Storyathon and idea behind that was to get people to come to an event, write a short story in a weekend and publish to Amazon. I know a lot of people who’ve written a story and they’re concerned about publishing it, like, they don’t want anybody to see it. So, the whole idea is to get people all the way through the process, but it’s not an easy weekend. By Friday night, you have to have your idea. Saturday is writing, editing and then we review each other’s work. We edit again, then it gets sent off to professional editors. Sunday morning, we edit again from what the editors sent us. We either hire a cover artist, though one person usually wins a free cover, or we design our own covers for the stories, and then we publish to Amazon.

I started realizing we have all these great short stories from all these writers. Some of these have made Amazon Hot Reads for weeks, so they’re pretty fantastic stories, but a lot of these writers don’t have their own ability to advertise. They don’t have the time or they don’t know how. I decided it would be great to share their stories to a wider audience by offering this subscription and I would do the advertising for them. The royalty—I’m actually going to be paying them a 50 percent royalty during this month and next month just so hopefully they get a little more income from their stories.

These are all New Mexican authors? Yes, they are.

How long are these stories? Anywhere from 3,000 words to 5,000. It’s a 15-to-30 minute read.

What kind of kind of stories are they? There are all kinds. The first story everyone gets is a fictionalized story, but it came from someone sharing a true story. It’s about two people traveling and deciding to stay in Albuquerque about 10 years ago. They stopped at the De Anza Motor Inn.

That one was fun because it was a conversation between a cover artist and a writer. The cover artist was talking about, “Oh yeah, me and my husband did this thing and we showed up in Albuquerque at midnight at the De Anza. Then we were like, we don’t know if we’re going to stay.” It ended up changing their lives. So, the writer wrote the story. That’s the first one. The next story they get is a roller derby mystery [titled] “Deadly Derby: Heads Will Roll.” It’s a big mix of different genres.

These are delivered once a month? Normally, yes. If they want, they can pay $1.99 a month and they’ll get it once a month. But if they want to and they pay $23 upfront, they’ll get one story a week for 12 weeks. I’m thinking people might want more content right now.

Have you seen subscriptions increase since we’ve been homebound? I have gotten more purchases of the subscription. I emailed those people who purchase the subscription already and most of them do want it weekly. There’s also a gift option if someone wants to gift it to family and friends.

How many authors do you have? I think I have 17 different authors.

So, this is an ongoing process of finding new local authors and stories? Correct. It’s a bit stalled right now.

How do potential authors get involved? If they’re interested, they should follow our Facebook page or sign up for our newsletter on our website. They’ll keep them updated on the next event because they need to come to the Short Storyathon. I know that if they can make it through a Short Storyathon, they can write a great story.

For more information, visit plotduckies.com.

Stuck at home not wanting to get ill from human interaction? Why not read a book? Little Free Libraries are outdoors, open 24/7 and we have plenty of them. There are no librarians and no costs whatsoever. Think of them like those “take a penny, leave a penny” jars they used to have at stores. You can take a book, or leave a book—no human interaction required! There are over 100,000 of them worldwide and quite a few right here in Albuquerque. For more information and a list of Little Free Library locations of this free, all-ages resource, see littlefreelibrary.org.

Tamarind Techniques

Odds are you don’t know as much about lithography as you could. Fortunately, Albuquerque’s own Tamarind Institute has five how-to videos ready for viewing online at tamarind.unm.edu. Narrated by Tamarind Master Printer and Education Director Brandon Gunn, these are a quick way to go behind the scenes at Tamarind and find out a bit more about printing.

Relief

Thankfully, relief funds are springing up to help working artists throughout the world who can’t work during this COVID-19 pandemic. One local group has established a fund to help out Albuquerque artists in need. Arts Hub is providing one-time emergency relief funds of up to $300 per individual and is currently seeking donations. They have partnered with JBIT Tech to match donations made by March 26 of up to $1,000. To find out more, to donate or to apply for relief funds, see abqartshub.com.

Library Resources

A lot of lists are springing up online that aggregate resources, but one not to overlook is the local library. While Albuquerque’s libraries are closed to the public, their online resources are not. Ebooks, as well as movies, music and classes are there for you at their website. There is a shockingly large array of materials available for the homebound, including young children who may be bouncing off the walls. See them all at abqlibrary.org.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT by Dan Pennington

On Metaphors and Pizza

Dion’s delivery is a welcome change during the end times

I keep hearing that things won’t be the same after all this is done, and in a way, I feel glad. There’s a cause I’ve been advocating for years, something near and dear to my heart. I try not to hold strong opinions when it comes to my section, but in times like these, maybe now is the best opportunity to speak up. If things do need to change now, why not change them for the better? Why not use what we learn from all of this and make improvements for the future? I’m tired of hearing it can’t be done, yet in the course of a week, massive changes were made to accommodate and put in place the systems needed to pull it off. I am, of course, talking about Dion’s offering delivery.

We’ve been told for years that it was logistically impossible. In terms of infrastructure, Dion’s just didn’t have any way to implement a delivery system. Think about it. You need to retrain people on how to take delivery orders, you’d have to build a whole new section of the website and then train and hire drivers to go out and deliver the food itself. There was just no way to make that happen under the old structure. Yet, here in the midst of the storm, Dion’s rolled out the necessary changes to deliver, making sure pizzas got where they needed to be. An online site was put together, rolled out and functioning within a week of deciding social distancing and restaurants didn’t go together. It is amazing what happens when times become desperate.

Another complaint I’ve heard is that it would cost too much. Part of that cost would be rolled into the previous statement, with the training and all. Who would be paying for all these new positions? Do we, the customers and consumers, eat this cost with our pizza? The multitude of questions centered around cost always seem to be the biggest talking point in the argument. Yet, when it became clear that people in need of pizza delivery were a top priority, the organization coalesced, with no changes in pricing or cost, because, at the end of the day, it was more viable than the current system in place. All it took was a national emergency to show that we could pull it off with no problems.

Let’s say you’re one of those people who likes having other delivery choices. Can I be real with you for a second? Are other pizza deliveries really that great? Or have you bought into the idea that you like them even though they’re a struggle to deal with? Sure, upfront, it might seem good. Order a pizza, have it delivered and enjoy, but then you’ve got all the hidden fees. You wanted a cheesy bread with that order? Sure we’ll give you those, but only if you spend $20 on the pizza itself first. But then, someplace like Pizza Hut brings you the food you paid so much for, and it turns out to be only mediocre. We’ve all been there and lived through that struggle. What good is a delivery pizza that tastes average at its best and doesn’t even offer a comprehensive meal for the price you end up paying for it? Ordering Dion’s pizza and a salad fed the lady and I for two days straight and it was fairly reasonable in cost, all while being delicious. You can’t argue that when looking at national chains and their options.

Tell me if you’ve heard this one before! If everyone has delivery, food will take longer to get to us. With apps like Doordash and Postmates, the system doesn’t get overloaded. Turns out that the capacity to handle extra delivery orders was possible all along, and it hasn’t made a significant slowdown in food prep or sales. Additionally, when you look at peak times where their system has been overloaded by regular walk-ins, no one bats an eye. That’s just the way it is, they’ll say. It’s just the nature of things, they scoff. The point is the system will manage if delivery is thrown into the mix, because at the end of the day, Dion’s still manages to pull it all off without falling apart because that’s always been what they do, ensuring the delight of diners with their pizza and reducing wait times will always be top priority, but maintaining quality is just as important for their business. More jobs in pizza making will be created to handle the uptick in business, helping to benefit everyone.

At the end of the day, it all comes down to this, in regard to complaints. None of it matters, because when things went sideways, we made it happen. I have heard the complaints for years now, but when we got down to brass tacks, the answer was, “Just do it for the good of everyone,” which is exactly what happened. Look, everyone is entitled to their opinion’s and, currently, the free market system our country operates on lets growth be decided by who has the best options versus cost, letting consumers make the choice. But we can also be real and say that we’re shocked most of those options are still there. No one happily eats at Domino’s when they could have Dion’s, but when it comes to having it brought straight to your door, up until now, it wasn’t an option. What I’m saying is, now that we’ve seen how well it works, once all this is over, maybe we can keep it? I think the rest of us would prefer it that way.
Home Theater

Global pandemic changes cinema scene

Seems like it was less than three months ago (it was) when I used the mediocre success of Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker’s theatrical release by Walt Disney Studios and the runaway popularity of “The Mandalorian” on Disney+ streaming to demonstrate how television series have taken over the entertainment industry reins from theatrical motion pictures. And now we find ourselves in uncharted territory. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has closed movie theaters nationwide and forced the ailing film industry into a premature coma. A coma from which it may not awaken.

With AMC (8,043 screens nationwide), Regal (7,206 screens) and Cinemark (4,650 screens) closing down their movie theaters and many municipalities across America banning public gatherings larger than 100 people, Hollywood waved the white flag and admitted that the traditional theatrical path for films is gone (at least for the time being). All motion pictures, large and small, have had their viewing screens) closing down their movie theaters and going (at least for the time being). All motion pictures, large and small, have had their pictures, large and small, have had their theatrical releases pulled or postponed. But Hollywood isn’t about to give up on all of its ambitions. Like ya do.

The spread of COVID-19 has closed movie theaters across the United States (and Europe and Asia and Australia) and put the entertainment industry reins from theatrical motion pictures. And now we find ourselves in uncharted territory. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has closed movie theaters altogether? No. A coma from which it may not awaken.

The animated sequel to Disney and Pixar’s Onward (released in theaters earlier this year) is already available on digital streaming (for a mere $19.99, a $4.80 rental). Universal said it would start rolling out its new slate of films as well. The animated sequel to the first of those new films slated to hit home streaming on April 10. Warner Bros., unwilling to be left behind, shunted Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey to streaming as well. Disney/Pixar’s animated feature Onward (released three weeks ago) is already available on digital streaming and will hit Disney+ starting April 3.

On top of the formal theatrical office box office, for what it’s worth (a mere $9.5 million), was Sony Pictures’ Bloodshot. Based on the Valiant comic book of the same name, the films stars Vin Diesel as an American soldier who gets killed and resurrected via nanobots in order to transform him into a near-invincible superhero. In announcing the film’s move to streaming, Sony Pictures Entertainment Motion Picture Group’s chairman Tom Rothman told Variety, “Sony Pictures is firmly committed to theatrical exhibition and we support windowing.” After giving lip service to the status quo, he continued. “This is a unique and exceedingly rare circumstance where theaters have been required to close nationwide for the greater good and Bloodshot is abruptly unavailable in any medium. Audiences will now have the chance to own Bloodshot right away and see it at home, where we are all spending more time. We are confident that—like other businesses hit hard by the virus—movie theaters will bounce back strongly, and we will be there to support them.”

It remains to be seen if other studios will jump on this bandwagon, dumping big budget summer tentpoles like Wonder Woman 1984 (in theaters now) and Top Gun: Maverick (theoretically set to open May 27) to streaming. Sony’s The Love Witch and Onward, Sonic the Hedgehog and many others are now available for viewing on Amazon, Apple, Comcast, Vudu, Google, YouTube, Fandango, DirecTV, Charter, Dish, Cox, Altime, Verizon, Sony and Frontier TV.

**WEEKEND**

**THURSDAY 26**

“Unorthodox” (Netflix streaming anytime) A Hasidic Jewish woman in Brooklyn flees to Berlin to escape an arranged marriage and is taken in by a group of musicians in this four-part German miniseries based on the 2012 memoir by Deborah Feldman. Kill Chain: The Cyber War on America’s Election (HBO 7pm) closes down their movie theaters and many municipalities across America banning public gatherings larger than 100 people, Hollywood waved the white flag and admitted that the traditional theatrical path for films is gone (at least for the time being). All motion pictures, large and small, have had their theatrical releases pulled or postponed. But Hollywood isn’t about to give up on all of its ambitions. Like ya do.

**FRIDAY 27**

“Vagrant Queen” (Syfy 9pm) Based on the comic book by Magdalene Visaggio and Jason Smith, this sci-fi saga is about a femaleandering queen (Ariyan Rae, “Light As a Feather”) who refuses to accept her true title and jumps on a spacecraft to save her people from falling into their generation. The survival of her generation. The survival of her species. In the end, she presented challenges. So, yeah, “Project Runway.”

**SATURDAY 28**

“Sadbad Central” (Hulu streaming anytime) The British-made, Middle East-set crime drama from Stephen Butcher’s “The Last Kingdom. “House of Saddam” comes to America. In the wake of the American invasion of Iraq—back in 2003—an Iraqi ex-polician (Waleed Zuaiter) teams up with a British cop (Bertie Carvel) to solve the murder for the coalition forces. The animated sequel to the first of those new films slated to hit home streaming on April 10. Warner Bros., unwilling to be left behind, shunted Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey to streaming as well. Disney/Pixar’s animated feature Onward (released three weeks ago) is already available on digital streaming and will hit Disney+ starting April 3.

**REEL WORLD**

**Cinematic Takeout**

With social distancing a top priority in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, movie theaters have closed their doors nationwide. Albuquerque is no exception. But that doesn’t mean you can’t support your local theaters and catch some cool films anywhere. Even as we speak, distributors are coming up with ingenious new ways of getting films in front of appreciative eyeballs. Albuquerque’s locally owned arthouse theater Guild Cinema has hooked up with a number of distributors who are now providing “theatrical at home” screenings. You stream the film in the privacy and safety of your own home on your computer/TV/iPad/etc. and the theater of your choice gets a portion of the rental fee. A total win-win! Writer-director Gary Lundgren’s genial indie comedy Phoenix, Oregon was supposed to open at Guild Cinema on March 20. Now, thanks to distributor Joma Films, it’s opening online and sharing part of its profits with the theater. The indie comedy tells the story of a middle-aged pals who quit their jobs to live out their dreams of restoring an old bowling alley and serving “the world’s greatest pizza.” The film costs a mere $8.50 to watch at home and can be accessed for 48 hours. (Be sure to click “Guild Cinema” on the “Choose Theater to Support” tab—that ensures that a portion of the profits flows back to Albuquerque’s locally owned arthouse theater Guild Cinema.

**Poster Child**

With the curtains of the Guild Cinema closed and the projector dark, the theater has found its movie poster boxes somewhat underused. Owner Kaif Henley has come up with a novel way to fill those empty display cases at 3405 Central Ave. NE—he’s offering them up to any “local graphic artists, weirdo picture makers, writers, directors, and artists (or friends of the like).” If you’ve got something you’d like to contribute for temporary display, Henley will be rotating local art and artwork in his three outdoor movie poster frames until the theater reopens. All artwork needs to be between 24" wide x 35" tall and 27" wide x 40" tall. The suggested “bio” for the poster should be “南通/下行/跟风/导演/你爱谁/喜欢谁/喜欢你/喜欢你/喜欢你.” Contact the theater at info@guildcinema.com for more info.
While the COVID-19 pandemic wreaks havoc on the music and entertainment industry, the people behind the whole schmeck—the artists, musicians, technicians and a wide assortment of service workers—continue to suffer economically as well as perhaps emotionally and psychologically.

So we were pleasantly surprised to see the friendly, fancy and familiar faces of Entourage Jazz lighting up the social media world this week with a photo they took at St. John’s United Methodist Church. They were there to shoot a video in a venue that is welcoming musicians to come play under their roof at a time when most of the gigs in town have dried up and blown away thanks to a worldwide event that is still shocking our entire world daily.

The two best things about that photographic record of Albuquerque musicians making a go of it—during one of the roughest times our city has ever endured—are easily visible when one glances at the picture.

The people in front of the lens are happy, giving off an optimistic vibe that speaks to their strength as Burqueños. What’s more, take a look at the object that headline leader Emerson Corley is holding in his hands.

That’s right folks, it’s the good ol’ Weekly Alibi, held out for all to see as yet another testament to how we all plan to proceed in times of the deepest struggle, we have an incredible opportunity to help each other in different ways that we could have never, never have imagined. This is the time to create those moments. It’s an opportunity to come together for new purposes. And for repurposing, too. And we should begin looking at relationships in different ways, because, hello, we need each other.

Our music editor wondered about what that image meant—to Emerson, to her esteemed ensemble of collaborators and innovators and to the city as a whole.

So, in order to get the lowdown on the local scene—at least according to one of the city’s most recognizable awesome musicians—we let our fingers do the walking. It was easy enough to reach out to Corley via telephone. We talked all about the music community and how we can come out of a very intense situation largely intact, if we have music and each other to count on.

Weekly Alibi: Hey, Emerson! How’s it going?

Emerson Corley: Oh, man! It’s going, man. How about yourself?

I tell you. It seems like it starts at about 7am for me every day and I don’t let go until 1am the next morning.

I know, right? Man, what a ride this is.

I hope you and yours are okay.

We are. We’re glad to be working, because I have a good job. I’m very, very busy. People want to talk to their therapist right now. [Disclosure: By day, Emerson Corley is a mental health provider].

I’m used to working a lot, August, in my day job. But this is really getting crazy. I’m exhausted.

Now’s the time when we have to keep our strength up.

We have to keep it stepped up and going.

Speaking of keeping things up and going, I saw this fantastic photo on Facebook and Instagram that you took with the EJazz Ensemble this past week.

[Emerson laughs heartily.]

Can you tell our readers the story behind that photo?

Sure. That morning I went to Java Joe’s because I’m trying to help local businesses stay in business during these hard times. I used to go to Java Joe’s three or four times a week to get my coffee. I think they have the best coffee in all of Albuquerque. Anyway, I went and I saw the Alibi out there in front of Java Joe’s.

Then what?

Then I saw the cover and thought to myself, “My gosh, this is the best cover ever!”

Why?

Because I love all things British, August. Like right now, I’m sitting in my home office looking at this huge Union Jack flag and that cover reminded me of something straight out of British culture.

How so?

I saw the whole Keep Calm message as something something the Queen might have proclaimed. Keep calm and wash your hands has got to be the best message ever; it’s the best cover ever, too. It’s reserved yet positive.

Tell me more.

That morning, after Java Joe’s, I was on my way to a video shoot at St. John’s United Methodist Church. We were going to do a video shoot with the band and so, Matt Grier, the music director over there at St. John’s, had this great idea to help pay struggling musicians right now by doing music videos at the church.

I hadn’t heard about that!

Yeah, he came up with this great idea. They did a spot on one of the local television stations and he put it out on Facebook, too. The message was if you’re a local musician and want to do a music video, we’ll pay your people $100 per person to do this.

That’s amazing and wonderful.

Yeah! And for only about 15 minutes’ worth of work. I’m like, “Oh yeah, we’re down for that!” So I got in touch with him right away. And we were in there in, like, two days. And there were six of us.

Did you have to bring in all of the equipment and instruments?

I own all of the equipment, so I just took it all into the church and set it up just like I would for a normal gig. We wiped all of our stuff down before we loaded in. Of course Roger [Baker] got to play on a different grand piano [than the one he’s used to]. The church has a great grand piano. And, of course, Marren [Hatch] brought her own bass. But I brought in all of the sound equipment and the drums—microphones and stuff.

What song did you perform?

We did “Deed I Do.” It should be out sometime this week. It’s a jazz standard that we always do and is very popular with our audiences. I haven’t seen it yet. But the video will be on the “Music From St. John’s” site [musicatstjohns.org]. It used to be “Music at St. John’s,” but they changed it because of the outbreak. One of the things I noticed on the St. John’s videos that I was seeing—because the series crosses genres—is the diversity of local talent. You know, Jim Ahrends, he’s the pianist at St. John’s now. He’s been hanging there and did a really cool version of “Nearer, My God, to Thee” for the series. It’s all really chill and that’s the feeling we wanted to go into the video session.

So that’s what you were thinking when you got the idea ...

Yeah and I told them that I had this great idea. I said let’s take this picture in the sanctuary while practicing social distancing while I hold the Alibi. We wanted something that would get people dancing in the house. I thought, let’s get people dancing in their kitchen. If they’re at home, let’s get them up. And I knew that “Deed I Do” was the best tune to do that. You just can’t sit still to this 1926 tune by Fred Rose and Walter Hirsch.

Could you tell our readers what you’re facing as a musician in Albuquerque?

Many of our performances have been canceled or postponed. We’re trying to reschedule, we’re looking at hopefully August.

I reckon it might be until the end of summer too. I think the next few weeks are going to determine the direction this will go.

Right. We just don’t know. But the things that worry me the most about these times, August, is not having music for the fans. That’s important. But the other thing that’s important to know is that musicians rely on gigs. There are a lot of musicians out of work in this town right now. I’m very worried about that. I’m very worried about how to help them get through these troubled times.

I know a lot of them depend on music lessons or instruction, too.

Several of our full-time musicians, people in the ensemble, are also music teachers. I’m worried about that; I’m trying to make a commitment to help them through this very difficult time. We’re all in this together.

What are you doing to help right now?

I came up with this hashtag that I’ve been trying to put everywhere, in our emails, on our social media pages. The hashtag is #BetterTogether, you know? We are all better together, August.

I hear you and I think it’s important to stress community right now. We should all be working together to take care of each other as much as possible.

That makes me go into my therapist mode right. That’s what this is. In troubling times, in times of the deepest struggle, we have an incredible opportunity to help each other in different ways that we could have never, never have imagined. This is the time to create those moments. It’s an opportunity to come together for new purposes. And for repurposing, too. And we should begin looking at relationships in different ways, because, hello, we need each other.

How does that work?

Whether it’s for music, whether it’s in friendship or in relationships, we are all connected.

How does music fit in?

Thank God we have the technology to share music like we do now. Can you imagine if this happened in the 1980s? Online music is seen all over the world. It’s important to be as creative as possible. Another thing is you can send the city a video and they’ll put it up on GOV TV. How cool is that?

*Music Editor’s Note: To find our more about the GOV TV video program, contact Diego Lucero, Media Resources Manager at ABQ Cultural Services via email to dllucero@cabq.gov.
Nowhere To Go
Social distancing and dispensaries

It’s turning into a ghost town out there, and you’ve likely gone to ground avoiding contact with the new novel coronavirus. The good news is you still have access to cannabis and there seems to be no shortage in sight. Phew.

Last week we talked about the possibility of facing medical cannabis shortages as public health measures in New Mexico continue to become more stringent. Some of the state’s licensed producers were attempting to fan the flames of panic and pointed out that if everybody bought a month’s worth of cannabis at once, we’d likely go dry.

Luckily, New Mexicans have been smart enough not to lose their minds and blow out the state’s supply (if only the toilet paper hoarders were as conscientious as the weed smokers). But COVID-19 is still changing the way we consume cannabis. For one thing, sharing pipes has become an absolute no-no. According to the state’s medical cannabis law, sharing your medical cannabis is already illegal, so we know nobody’s doing that. But let’s say you’ve finished smoking, you’ve thoroughly emptied the bowl … Is it okay to then pass it to your neighbor (to fill with their own medical cannabis, of course) so they can then use it? We’re not super-sure about the legality of it, but as far as communicable disease protocol, it’s absolutely a no-no.

For those of us who are used to at least hanging out with fellow patients in close quarters to share company as we smoke: *Rolling Stone* recommends using social media and telecommunication apps to stay connected while maintaining a safe distance, instead.

And if you’re used to going into a dispensary and jangling the ‘tender’s ear off and being all social and friendly, you’re in for some changes.

As of this writing, most dispensaries in Albuquerque are continuing to operate normally—although most are encouraging patients to call in their orders before visiting and to take advantage of curbside service to practice social distancing.

But *Urban Wellness*, *Southwest Organic Producers* and *Sacred Garden* have closed their lobbies and are serving customers who line up outside the door. *Grassroots RX* is offering curbside service only. *Southwest Wellness* will only be taking two patients at a time and will be serving these customers through the window.

The policies will likely change by the time you read this, so make sure to call ahead if you’re unsure. The good news is that almost every dispensary in town is offering curbside service if patients ask.

**California Stocked Up**

As for cannabis consumers who can’t keep their heads, Californians are reportedly stockpiling marijuana alongside toilet paper and face masks. According to KRCW radio in Santa Monica, Calif., cannabis delivery services and dispensaries in California are strained to the limits.

David Downs, the California Bureau Chief for *Leafly*, told reporters that the state’s supply is doing fine and isn’t in any danger of being depleted anytime soon. The COVID-19 strain is being felt by industry workers, however, and many dispensaries are reportedly turning customers away due to high demand.

According to *Headset*, the cannabis markets in California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington have all seen record sales since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles residents who were worried about being cut off from their supply while much of California goes into lockdown can breathe a sigh of relief. While the state has ordered all “non-essential businesses and areas” to close, the City of Los Angeles has declared cannabis dispensaries “essential businesses,” allowing them to continue operating.

There are over 1,000 cases of COVID-19 cases in California at the time of this writing.

**Cannabis Industry Seeks Aid**

Despite the record-breaking sales reported in all the nation’s marijuana hot spots, cannabis industry leaders are reportedly asking the federal government for a bailout.

*Marijuana Moment* reports that a coalition of marijuana industry trade groups sent a letter to leaders of the House and Senate, asking that restrictions that keep cannabis businesses from accessing emergency relief funds be removed. The letter was signed by the National Cannabis Industry Association, National Cannabis Roundtable, Minority Cannabis Business Association, Global Alliance for Cannabis Commerce and Cannabis Trade Federation.

“Our members follow strict regulations, create jobs, generate billions of dollars in tax revenue … The ineligibility of cannabis businesses for disaster assistance loans is especially inequitable given that these same cannabis businesses are required to comply with other coronavirus-related measures, such as paid sick leave coverage,” the organizations wrote. “We are not seeking special treatment for state-legal cannabis businesses. We only seek to have them treated on an equal level as all other job-generating, tax-paying companies in this country.”

Last week, cannabis lobbyist NORML made an announcement that it was reaching out to lawmakers to ensure that cannabis employees have access to unemployment benefits. The group also said the congressional Families First Coronavirus Response Act would give states the discretion to choose how some relief funds were dispersed among businesses without federal input.

It’s unclear if any lawmakers have responded.
RESCHEDULED
May 16, 2020
Santa Fe Community Convention Center

New Mexico Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel issued an order Thursday, March 12, 2020 temporarily prohibiting mass gatherings in New Mexico in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weekly Alibi has decided to postpone the New Mexico Cannabis Expo scheduled for April 4, 2020. The new date of the event will be Saturday, May 16 at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to that date.

Thank you all for supporting the event, and we look forward to seeing you in May.

STAY SAFE!
-Weekly Alibi Staff
"Indoor Activities"—where everything is in doors.

by Matt Jones
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Across

1 "Knives Out" sleuth Benoit (6 1/8 of a fluid ounce) (Mystery)
10 MTW: mainstay Loder who turns 75 soon (Theological)
14 Jasmine’s pet tiger in "Aladdin" (Animal)
15 Tabula ___ (blank slate) (Latin)
16 Abbr. on egg cartons (Garden)
17 Best effort, slangily (1/2 a Oklahoma town near Vance AFB)
19 Benefit of time off (Activity)
20 Request that’s asking a lot (School)
23 Prefix with laryngologist (Medical)
24 Fire starter? (Residential)
25 Bio., chem., or biochem. (Academic)
28 Overachieving college student’s quest (Literary)
35 " ___ Can Cook" (former cooking show) (Longsinger)
36 Bobbing necessities (Household)
37 Film segue, perhaps (Reminiscence)
39 "He’s nuts!" (Opening line)
40 Carrere who sang in "Wayne’s World" (Music)
41 New ___, Conn. (home of Yale) (Geography)
42 0’s (cookie-based cereal) (Cooking)
43 Britton in season 1 of "American Horror Story" (Television)
45 "Able was ___ ... I saw Elba" (Literary)

46 Job for a resident assistant (Occupation)
48 It has teeth but no mouth (Organ)
49 Do mild exercise (Activity)
50 Edinburgh cap (Fashion)
52 Something you can’t take up at the mall (Retail)
59 Dear ___ Hansen (Literary)
61 Military no-show, briefly (Military)
62 "CSI" or "NCIS" (Legal)
63 Seconds, e.g. (Units of time)
64 Jolt, for one (Material)
65 Charismatic hit parodied by Weird Al (Comedy)
66 Has claim to ___ (Former)
67 Bend out of shape (Activity)
68 "Byzantium" poet (Literary)

Down

1 Garrett of "Everybody Loves Raymond" (Television)
2 Loch: Scottish :: ___ : Spanish (Anagram)
3 In (stuck) (Climbing)
4 ... and Bingo was his ___ (Board game)
5 Allowed" time to go off a regimen (Medical)
6 Number of e’s in Heidelberg (Geography)
7 Tried to get hold of (Communication)
8 "Oh, right!" (Exclamatory)
9 Butterfly and Bovary, for two (Literary)
10 "Seven Samurai" director Akira (Film)
11 Password typer, maybe (Computer)
12 Satnav suggestions (Technology)
13 Inky artwork (Art)
21 "I touched your nose!" sound (Sound)
22 Energetic spirit (Character trait)
23 Assembly of clergy (Religious)
26 Capital near the Great Sphinx (Location)
27 Conclude from evidence (Reasoning)
29 "Oft!" author Sinclair (Literary)
30 Pancakes sometimes served with caviar (Food)
31 Inclined (Posture)
32 Swing dances (Pastime)
33 Nightly streaming offering from the Met (Online)
34 Sign up again for an online subscription (Communication)
39 "It’s Not Unusual" singer (Music)
41 Field involving coats-of-arms (Arms)
43 Courvoisier and (Wine)
47 Do a yard job (Gardening)
52 "Well, heck" (Episode)
53 "Star Wars" series creature (Science fiction)
54 Kind of proprietor (Business)
55 Attack, like a kitty while (Action)
56 "Look what I did!" (Statement)
57 Leave out (Communication)
58 Also ___ (election conceders)
59 Moody music genre (Music)
60 Altar words (Religious)

Answers to this week’s puzzle are available online at alibi.com.

FREEWILL ASTROLOGY | Horoscopes by Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your oracle comes from Aries poet Octavio Paz. “The path of the ancestors cleared is overgrown, unused. The other path, smooth and broad, is crowded with travelers. It goes nowhere. There’s a third path: mine. Before me, no one. Behind me, no one. Alone, I find my way.” APRIL FOOL! Although the passage by Octavio Paz is mostly accurate for your destiny during the rest of 2020, it’s off-kilter in one way: It’s too ponderously serious and melodramatic. You should find a way to carry out its advice with meditative grace and effervescent calm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A century ago, fiery writer Maxim Gorky and hard-ass Taurus politician Vladimir Lenin were listening to a Beethoven sonata together. “I can’t listen to music too often,” Lenin told his companion. “It affects your nerves, makes you want to say stupid, nice things.” This is crucial advice for you to heed in the coming weeks, Taurus. You need to be as smart and tough as possible, so don’t you dare listen to music. APRIL FOOL! Lenin was half-mistaken, and I half- lied. The Taurus music makes you wiser and nicer, and those will be key assets for you to cultivate in the coming weeks. So, yes, do listen to a lot of music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): By the time he was 55 years old, Gemini author Thomas Hardy had written 18 novels and many poems. His stuff was good enough to win him two separate nominations for a Nobel Prize in Literature. But during the last 32 years of his life, he never wrote another novel. According to one theory, it was because he was discouraged by the negative reviews he got for his last novel. I suspect you may be at a similar juncture in your life, Gemini. Maybe it’s time to give up on a beloved activity that hasn’t garnered the level of success you’d hoped for. APRIL FOOL! The truth is it is most definitely NOT time to lose hope and faith. Don’t be like Hardy. Rededicate yourself to your passionate quests.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian theologian John Wesley (1703–1791) was a Christian who embodied the liberal values that Christ actually taught. He advocated for the abolition of slavery and the ordination of women priests, and a vegetarian diet. He gave away a lot of his money for prison reform, the ordination of women priests, and preached 40,000 sermons. Let’s make him your role model for the coming weeks. Be inspired by his life as you vividly express your care and compassion. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Although most of what I just recommended is a good idea, the part about traveling long distances, either on horseback or by other means, is not.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The neurotic but talented French novelist Marcel Proust observed, “Everything vital in the world comes from rumor. They alone have founded religions and composed our masterpieces.” With that in mind, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I urge you to cultivate your own neurotic qualities in their extreme forms of expression during the coming weeks. You’re due for some major creative breakthroughs. APRIL FOOL! I was kidding. The fact is you can generate creative breakthroughs in the coming weeks by being obsessed and posed—non extra neurotic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo author Leon Edel wrote a five-volume biography of renowned author Henry James. In the course of his research, he read 15,000 letters that were written by James. He came to have a profound familiarity with the great man. In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you choose a worthy character about whom you will become equally knowledgeable. APRIL FOOL! I lied. It’s true that now is an excellent time to deepen your understanding of people you care about. But don’t get as obsessed as Edel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): About 2,000 years ago, a Roman woman named Sulpicia wrote six short love poems—a total of 40 lines—that are still being analyzed and discussed by literary scholars today. I bring her to your attention because I think that in the next four weeks you, too, could generate a small burst of beauty that will still be appreciated 2,000 years from now. APRIL FOOL! I lied about the "small" part. The burst of beauty you create in the immediate future could actually be quite large, as well as enduring.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): French poet Louis Aragon (1897–1982) was an influential novelist and a pioneer of surrealistic poetry. Much of his writing had a lyrical quality, and many of his poems were set to music. He also had a belligerent streak. Before the publication of one of his books, he announced that he would thrash any writer who dared to review it in print. Success! There were no critical reviews at all. I recommend his approach to you in the coming weeks. Make it impossible for everyone to criticize you, APRIL FOOL! I lied. I would never suggest that you use violence to accomplish your aims. Besides that, the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to solicit feedback of all varieties, even the critical kind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I hesitate to be so blunt, but it’s my duty to report the facts. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you should have as many orgasms as possible in the next 15 days. You need to tap into the transformative psychological power that’s available through monomaniacal eruptions of pleasure and releases of tension. (PS: Spiritual orgasms will be just as effective as physical orgasms.) APRIL FOOL! What I just said is true, but I left out an important component of your assignment: Be loving and responsible as you pursue your sexual climaxes, never manipulative or exploitative or insensitive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ancient Greek orator Demosthenes was renowned for his skill at delivering powerful, charismatic speeches. While he was still learning his craft, he resorted to extreme measures to improve. For example, there was a time when he shaved just half of his head. It made him ashamed to go out in public, forcing him to spend all of his time indoors practicing his speeches. Would you consider a similar strategy right now? APRIL FOOL! I was juggling with you. It’s true that the coming weeks will be a good time to minimize your socializing and devote yourself to hard work in behalf of a beloved dream. But shaving half your head isn’t the best way to accomplish that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to tell as many lies as possible so everyone does you more good than harm. I hereby authorize you to engage in massive deceptions, misrepresentations and manipulative messages so you seek to impose your will on everyone in your orbit. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, everything I just said was the exact opposite of your actual horoscope, which is as follows: You have a sacred duty to tell more of the truth than you have ever been able to tell before. As you dig deeper, you will discover more and more of what’s essential for you to understand and express, dedicate your efforts to the goal of gliding along with the most beautiful and interesting flow you can find.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fifteen minutes before the Big Bang occurred, was the matter that now constitutes your body and my body? And if, as seems to be true, the Big Bang was the beginning of time, what time was it 15 minutes earlier? Questions like these are crucial for you to ponder in the next two weeks. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The questions I articulated should be fact be very low priority for you. In the immediate future, you’ll be wise to be as concrete and specific and pragmatic as you possibly can be. Focus on up-close personal questions that you can actually solve, not abstract, unsolvable riddles.

Go to realastrolgy.com to check out Rob Brezsny’s expanded weekly audio horoscopes and daily text message horoscopes. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at (877) 873-4888 or (900) 950-7700.
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