We love our readers because, without you, we could never have created a publication that has remained devoted to telling local stories for the past 28 years, stories that may have gone untold without our coverage.

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.

Weekly Alibi needs your support now more than ever, as we are STILL publishing during these turbulent times.
We are STILL free, and would like to stay that way.

Weekly Alibi needs your support now more than ever to create free, independent journalism.
We appreciate your business, and we hope you appreciate ours.

Become a Friend of Weekly Alibi at alibi.com/friends and pick up some cool schwag at any level of donation.

We're in this together.

Staff of Weekly Alibi
LETTERS

Hello Alibi,

I just gave a small donation to become a friend of the Alibi. I really appreciate the Alibi (on a personal level, not just as an advertiser), and wanted in particular to tell you and your colleagues how wonderful the Keep Calm and Wash your Hands issue was. I had been feeling quite overwhelmed and stressed by this whole COVID situation. I sat down with that issue, just to flip through, and ended up reading most of it. By the end, I felt so much better! I’m saving it and will look back through it again when I need another dose of calm.

Please give my thanks and best wishes to your colleagues. You all are doing excellent work, and I hope you all stay safe and well as you help us navigate these uncertain times.

All the best,
Carolyn Simmons, Director Alliance Française School of Abq

First of all, thank you from the bottom of our collective heart for supporting Weekly Alibi.

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Call us sentimental, but we think that in many ways, that makes us all a family. And, we take care of our family. 😊

Letters should be sent with the writer’s name, address and daytime phone number via email to letters@alibi.com. They can also be faxed to (505) 346-0660. Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and may be published in any medium; we regret that owing to the volume of correspondence we cannot reply to every letter. Word count limit for letters is 300 words.
ODDS AND ENDS
WEIRD NEWS

Dateline: South Carolina
A restaurant is accused of reselling frozen pizzas purchased at Costco as homemade gourmet pies. The Post and Courier reports that Coquin—a 5-month-old wine bar located in Charleston, S.C.—began advertising a new pizza program via Instagram and its website. The news menu items were priced at $18 for a cheese pizza and $20 for a pie with meat or vegetable toppings. Last week, reporters from The Post and Courier received reports that the pizzas were not being made from scratch in the restaurant’s kitchen. After making an order by phone, reporters say they watched Coquin chef and owner Chip Grimalda leave the restaurant and drive to his home. He then left his home carrying cardboard boxes that read: “Fresh Pizza, Oven Baked.” The reporters were unable to determine if the pizzas had been baked at the chef’s home or in the restaurant. Upon further investigation, four-pack boxes of Kirkland Signature Cheese Pizza withBreadcrumb Crusts were reportedly discovered inside the restaurant’s trash cans. These frozen supermarket pizzas often sell at Costco for no more than $10 per four-pack. When confronted about the controversy and asked if the pizzas were in fact purchased at Costco, Grimalda denied the accusations. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. It’s definitely not Costco, and that’s all I have to say.” When investigators brought up the discarded pizza boxes in the restaurant’s trash cans, Grimalda said, “There’s a lot of Airbnb’s in the neighborhood.”

Dateline: United Kingdom
Police in England have dyed the “Blue Lagoon of Buxton” black to keep tourists from visiting during a nationwide lockdown. According to CNN, the UK’s prime minister Boris Johnson announced last week that residents were required to stay in their homes to curb the spread of COVID-19. Residents are allowed to leave their homes only to go shopping for basic necessities, performing one form of exercise a day, providing medical services or going to work at critical businesses. But the ban was reportedly not deterring people from visiting the Blue Lagoon, a popular tourist destination in Derbyshire, England. The site is a former lime quarry that was used as a chemical weapons storage depot by the British Royal Air Force during World War II. Over the years, water has flooded the quarry, creating an artificial lake. A number of caustic chemicals have leached into the lake over the years, causing the water to turn a brilliant blue. In the past, police have dyed the water black to keep visitors from swimming in the toxic water. Last week, the Buxton police department made a Facebook post announcing that they had dyed the water black once again. “We have attended the location this morning and used water dye to make the water look less appealing,” it wrote. “Please stay at home.”

Dateline: New York
New York City health officials have warned residents to avoid participating in group sex or performing anal sex. According to BuzzFeed News, New York City citizens have been provided with healthy sex guidelines by city officials. According to the official advisory, “You are your safest sex partner. Masturbation will not spread COVID-19, especially if you wash your hands (and any sex toys) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after sex.” The advisory goes on to say that the “next safest partner is someone you live with.” It then warns against having sex with anyone “outside your household” but says “if you do have sex with other, have as few partners as possible and avoid group sex.” The advisory suggests using “video dates, sexting or chat rooms” as an alternative to in-person sex. It also warns against kissing and “rimming (mouth on anus)” as these practices can spread the virus.

Compiled by Joshua Lee. Email your weird news to josh@alibi.com.

Want to keep getting great reporting from writers like Joshua Lee? Become a Friend of Weekly Alibi, and help keep local, independent journalism alive.
Here to Serve

Serving the public in new ways

With things slipping into semi-dystopian reality local governments are learning to serve the public in new ways. Here are some links, updates and the ‘what’s up’ from our local governments.

All Together Now Stay Home
Bernalillo County and the city of Albuquerque are on the same page when it comes to following the directives set by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for the state of New Mexico to try to stop the spread of the virus. These include physical distancing, stay at home orders and the shut-down of non-essential businesses.

Governor Lujan Grisham’s team set up a webpage to let people know what type of help is available through the state agencies such as how to get unemployment and health care. There is a lot of information here to help guide New Mexicans through the foreseeable future. Here is the link - https://www.newmexico.gov.

Mayor Tim Keller and County Manager Julie Morgas Baca along their teams have closed city and county buildings to the public. But doing business with the clerks, planning and permitting folks, and payment to the local water authority still can be done online or regular mail. City buses are running but on an abbreviated schedule. Senior citizen essential services are continuing. The grocery store plastic bag ban is off for the foreseeable future as reusable bags might be germ bombs.

Bernalillo County links to assistance can be found here – https://www.berncogov .

City of Albuquerque’s pile of helpful information is here - https://www.cabq.gov.

Worker Bee Help
The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has waived the work search requirements for workers who have had their hours reduced or have lost their jobs completely because of COVID-19. Help is also available for those who have had to self-isolate or have immediate family who is isolated. Be patient when you call, because since the pandemic broke out, more than 586,000 calls have rung into the unemployment folks. On the flip side there are jobs and hiring being advertised in the supply chain businesses, medical services and other businesses deemed essential. For more information check out www.jobs.state.nm.us.

Business Help
There will be $500,000 in grant money available for Albuquerque businesses impacted by the COVID-19 virus. The Micro-Business Relief Program will provide working capital grants of up to $5,000 for qualifying businesses. The State of New Mexico has several programs to try to help our small businesses stay afloat. One big chunk is the state’s access to Small Business Disaster Loan Assistance money to provide up to $2 million in relief to small businesses and non-profits in all 33 counties. There are many other programs available on the state, county and city COVID-19 webpages.

Roof Over Heads
The New Mexico Supreme Court ordered a temporary moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Tenants must participate in a hearing via phone and provide evidence of the inability to pay the rent.

The Federal Housing Finance Authority Agency will allow forbearance for an Enterprise-backed single mortgage payment for up to 12 months due to coronavirus hardship. If you have received an eviction notice you can call the state’s COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-551-0518 for more information.

Local gas, electric and water utilities will not be cutting folks off for non-payment at least through April 6. All major internet providers have signed onto the Federal Communications Commission’s Keep America Connected Pledge to not terminate any residential or small business customers who can’t keep up due to the pandemic and to open wi-fi hotspots to any American who needs them. If your internet or cell phone service has been cut off call the state’s COVID-19 hotline at 1-833-551-0518.

Never Going Back To My Old School
Boom just like that school went home. For those parents adjusting to being teachers, the State Department of Education is posting resources daily to keep the state’s nearly half million students learning. Check it out here: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us

Albuquerque Public Schools is trying to stay on top of the changes necessary to keep our students on track. This is not a small task as this is the largest school district in the state with more than 86,000 students. Check out the APS webpage at https://www.aps.edu

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center has opened up its Indigenous Wisdom, Pueblo Based Educational Curriculum to be downloaded for free at - https://www.indianpueblo.org.

Central New Mexico Community College students who have been hooted as well can find information here - https://www.cmn.edu

University of New Mexico students had to abandon campus as COVID 19 threatened to spread. There is vital information for UNM students at - https://www.unm.edu/coronavirus/

Crowded Parks Could Lead to Closures
Authorities are warning that increased use of public spaces could lead to closures.

According to KOBE, Bernalillo County spokesperson Tom Thorpe told reporters that when people congregate at local parks and trails in large groups they are not practicing proper social distancing. He said the crowds that authorities have seen at these outdoor locations could potentially lead to the spread of COVID-19. “And if you can’t do it on your own, believe me, eventually the state, or the courts, or the city will all get together and help you make those decisions,” Thorpe said. Last week Bernalillo County closed all playgrounds amid similar concerns over groups of children potentially spreading the virus.

Residents are being asked to exercise near their homes. “We strongly urge people to stay home, that people can’t live their lives and enjoy a walk with their family,” Thorpe said, “but we do want them to take the necessary precautions.”

GOP: Make Voters Request Ballots
The New Mexico Republican Party has spoken out against proposed new mail-in ballot legislation. The Associated Press reports that 27 county clerks have petitioned the New Mexico Supreme Court to institute mail-in voting procedures that would issue ballots to more addresses—even those which have historically not responded to election mail but are not listed as inactive voters.

But the New Mexico Republican party and a small number of county clerks are requesting that registered voters be asked to submit an application for a ballot before it is mailed or hand delivered. The party wants to convene a special session to discuss the problem.

Want to keep getting great reporting from writers like Carolyn Carlson? Become a Friend of Weekly Alibi, and help keep local, independent journalism alive.

Send your comments about the City Council to carolyn@alibi.com.

The next meeting
Monday, Sept. 17, 5 p.m.
Council Chambers in the basement of City Hall
View it on GOV TV 16 or at cabq.gov/govtv;
Send your comments about the City Council to carolyn@alibi.com.

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NEWS CITY
BY JOSHUA LEE

Trump Promises Hospital
President Donald Trump has promised Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to have an Army hospital built in Albuquerque to help battle the COVID-19 outbreak.

According to KROE, Lujan Grisham discussed the issue with Trump during an hour-long conference call with in which she mentioned that two national laboratories are located in the state. According to the governor, failing to contain the virus near these labs could constitute a national security risk.

Lujan Grisham also brought up the health emergency facing tribal communities as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Navajo Nation reaches more than 100. “We’re seeing incredible spikes in the Navajo Nation, and this is going to be an issue where we’re going to have to figure that out and think about maybe testing and surveillance opportunities,” she told the president. She also said the spread of the virus on tribal lands has produced higher hospital rates than in other places. “And it could wipe out those tribal nations,” she added.

Last week, the governor requested that a staffed 24/7 bed US Army hospital be built in Albuquerque under the operational control of New Mexico National Guard Brigadier General Michele K. LaMontagne. During the conference call with Trump, the president told Lujan Grisham: “We’ll build you that hospital as quickly as we can.”

The president said the hospital will be built by April 10.

 теперь
Trump Finally Stimulating Citizens’ Packages

What you need to know about the COVID-19 stimulus package

On Wednesday, March 25, the unthinkable happened. Congress agreed to help average American citizens. How will they be doing that? By giving us money! The entire stimulus package totals $2 trillion in rescue funding, and on March 28, President Trump signed the bill into effect. This would be his first time providing any stimulus for someone who’s not himself, so I wonder what that must feel like for him.

How much will we each receive out of that incomprehensible sum though? Most adults will receive $1,200 each, but that amount is determined by adjusted gross income. The full amount will go to those making $75,000 or less annually ($150,000 for married couples). For individuals making $75,000-$99,000 annually ($150,000-$198,000 for married couples), the payment steadily dwindles down to nothing. If you make more than $100,000 annually, your pleas for help will fall upon deaf ears.

An exciting tidbit for those of us who were foolishly optimistic enough to reproduce at one time or another: each child under the age of 16 will qualify you for an additional $500. That’s 351 rolls of toilet paper on Amazon per child! Who needs a meal ticket these days? Let your kid be your TP ticket.

On the subject of profiting off of spawn, a few things to note about stimulus: If the company you work for laid you off, the government will now be paying you. How much will we each receive out of this $2 trillion package? Well, $1,200, right? Wrong! This stimulus bill will not match or exceed our old salaries before COVID-19 swooped through. I don’t know whether to be grateful that I’m used to having no money or mad that I’m used to having no money. Check New Mexico’s UI COVID-19 page (dws.state.nm.us/COVID-19-Info) for updates on whether you qualify.

For one, you don’t have to do anything to receive help from the government (if you’ve been good, that is). The IRS will systematically go through every social security number on file, determine your annual income and plop that money right into your bank account within the next three weeks. What if you didn’t file 2018 taxes? You need only find a social security statement from 2019 showing what your employer filed as your income. The IRS urges you to give them a call if you haven’t filed for a few years due to possibly owing them large amounts of money. It’s fine! Nothing bad can happen!*

Many people’s income didn’t qualify last year but definitely will this year with COVID-19 related cutbacks and layoffs. What if that’s you? Is there hope? Oh, you sweet summer child. You will probably be more disappointed than Stormy Daniels staring down a mushroom tip after this is all over, with the only difference being this pandemic will make you suffer for far longer than 90 seconds.

In fact, those who don’t qualify with 2019 income—will have to meet the requirements with their 2020 income—which will finally taste some reward once they receive their 2020 tax return… next year. By receiving this gift from above, most of us are just kicking the can of suffering down the road. There’s no such thing as a free lunch and this stimulus package is no different. In reality, the money is an advance on our tax credit throughout the entire year of 2020. If you were planning on finally getting a used jet ski with next year’s tax return, you probably need to put that dream back up on the shelf.

What about the elderly? The disabled? Veterans? As long as you make less than $75,000 annually, our orange leader shall allegedly provide for you. If that doesn’t fill you with the utmost sense of confidence, I don’t know what will.

Additionally, subsidized student loans are automatically suspended for six months with no interest or late fees to be charged during that period. Do you have good credit? Me neither, but anyway, if you choose to take advantage of any payment federal loan deferment, your credit will remain exactly as bad as it was before. Congratulations! As reliable as our president, legislative body and financial institutions all are, it’s incredibly important to double-check your accounts over the next several months to make sure the credit bureaus aren’t reporting any delinquencies that are supposed to be forgiven during this time.

There are already talks about having to provide another stimulus package should our current predicament continue for too long, but that means congress will have to figure out a more creative way to extort the American people and get that money back.

I assume they’re hoping we die off before they have to try and agree on something again.

*We make no promises on this statement.

Want to keep getting great reporting from writers like Missy Sweetwillow? Become a Friend of Weekly Alibi, and help keep local, independent journalism alive.
# List of Essential Businesses

**HEALTHCARE / PUBLIC HEALTH**
- Hospitals
- Walk-in-care health facilities
- Emergency veterinary and livestock services
- Pharmacies
- Medical and wholesale and distribution
- Home health care workers for the elderly
- Emergency dental facilities
- Nursing homes
- Residential health care facilities

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**
- Research facilities
- Congregate care facilities
- Intermediate care facilities for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- Supportive living homes
- Home health care providers
- Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers
- Medical cannabis

**CHILD CARE**
- Facilities necessary to provide services to those workers employed by essential businesses.

**INFRASTRUCTURE OPERATIONS**
- Public works construction
- Commercial and residential construction and maintenance
- Utilities, including their contractors and suppliers, involved in water and waste-water supply
- Sewer, trash and recycling collection, processing and disposal
- Road and highway repair and construction

**INDIGENT CARE**
- Homeless shelters
- Food banks
- Other services providing care to indigent or needy populations

**DEFENSE RESEARCH**
- Laboratories
- National security-related operations supporting the U.S. government or a U.S. government contractor

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**
- Farms, ranches and any food cultivation, processing or packaging operations
- Grocery stores and supermarkets
- All food and beverage stores
- Food banks
- Farmers’ markets
- Vendors who sell food
- Convenience stores

**ENERGY**
- Gas and oil drilling and refining
- Electrical production and distribution
- Natural resources extraction or mining operations
- Utilities, including their contractors and suppliers, engaged in power generation, fuel supply and transmission

**SERVICE SECTOR**
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Security services
- Custodial services
- Other trades necessary to maintaining the safety and sanitation of residences
- Businesses providing mailing and shipping services, including post office boxes

**TRANSPORTATION**
- Airport operations
- Airlines
- Taxi and other private transportation providers
- Gas stations
- Automobile repair facilities
- Retailers who generate most of their revenue from the sale of automobile repair products

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**
- Banks and credit unions
- Insurance providers
- Payroll services
- Brokerage services
- Investment management firms

**MANUFACTURE**
- Food processing
- Chemicals
- Fertilizer
- Pharmaceuticals
- Sanitary products
- Household paper products
- Telecommunications
- Microelectronics/semiconductors
- Primary metals

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Machinery
- Electrical equipment
- Appliance
- Components
- Transportation equipment
- Hardware stores, nurseries and businesses that generate their revenue from home-improvement goods
- Laundromats and dry cleaner services
- Funeral homes, crematoriums and cemeteries
- Real estate services including brokers, title companies and related services

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**
- Legal services/Accounting services as necessary to assist in compliance with legally mandated activities
Kindness In The Time Of Coronavirus

In the hard times we face, the community has found ways to come together

Day 8
Going out has become a matter of life or death, as I fight against an unseen enemy. I don’t have any real supplies to protect myself, so I was dressed in an excessively puffy jacket, ski gloves and have worn a plastic bag around my head. I was in need of food in my house, so I ventured to the smallest market I could find to scrounge for supplies. I managed to find a bag of potatoes, a quarter pound of ground beef, and 13 boxes of Jell-O. I don’t know what I will use the Jell-O for yet, but I do have a recipe book from the ’50s that calls for Jell-O extensively, so perhaps this was a good find.

Day 9
It turns out that the Jell-O you’re supposed to use is to be unflavored, as my grape variant does not in fact pair well with beef in any capacity. I offered it to the dogs, and they refused. In requiring contact with other people, I have now dressed my cats up in hand-sewn Victorian-era outfits, choosing new names for them based on characters from the musical Cats. Rum Tum Tugger and Bustapher Jones have immense disdain for me, as their collars do not allow them to lick themselves. I’ve reminded them that licking themselves during dinner, which tonight was a mayonnaise and onion sandwich, is rude, especially at the table. They clawed me in protest. I continue to eat in the dark, undeterred.

Day 10
I managed to finally repair one of the light fixtures I ruined. Six hours on Google gave me the knowledge to work with copper wiring. The now singular working light fixture in my home looks like eyes, staring out across the layout of the house, always watching. Its brightness causes me fear during the usually dark nights I have now become so accustomed to. I woke from a fitful slumber and destroyed it, as I could no longer handle it watching me.

Day 11
Drank some beer on the roof. Got a tan. No big complaints.

Day 12
I discovered that food can be “delivered” to your door. Tonight, I ate like a king. Perhaps I shall survive this after all.

Day 13
It turns out, I can still talk to people on the outside after all. 6 feet of distance is all I need. I began to socialize and speak with neighbors, all standing in our driveways and chatting in a big communal meeting where no one was near each other. I felt a sense of community and understanding, and am beginning to feel whole again. Maybe after all this is over, one of them can help me repair the lights in my home and teach me how to make my cats less angry.

Gobble This Old Town Cafe

Gobble This, a fantastic Old Town eatery, has been offering trade for food as of late. Knowing checkbooks are tight, this system of bartering has allowed both parties to find benefit in times of financial stress. The best part is, their food is unmatched in taste. We covered them last year during our Taco Week, and found the offerings they brought to the table to be some of the best in the city. They have been working to support locals as best they can, and if you have the means to support them back in any capacity, it is worth reaching out.

Millie Bobby Brown

The star of Stranger Things donated $20,000 worth of meals to The Food Depot in Santa Fe. With Santa Fe being the location of filming for their next season, it makes a lot of sense for the donation to come from Millie Bobby Brown, as she’ll be spending a lot of her time there in the coming months once quarantine time is done. It’s great to see that she’s taken a step up to help locations everywhere that are being affected, and if anything, has given us another reason to continue watching and supporting the show.

Gobble This Old Town Cafe

Nick & Jimmy’s, Kap’s Coffee Shop

For both restaurants of the Kapinson family, outreach to the community became a priority for them as they began offering free boxed lunches to those in need. Knowing how ingrained they have become in the food side of things in the city, it’s been amazing to see them step up and offer this right now, and is a fantastic sign of things to come to them in the future. Their food has always been amazing at both locations, offering variety with high-end ingredients to satisfy almost every food desire you have.

Chisolm Trail RV

Chisolm Trail RV, a local business in both Albuquerque and Aztec, NM has dug into their own pockets to create care packages for those in need. Initially doing their work to create boxed lunches, they ended up deciding that more help was needed and began making full on care packages instead. Filling the boxes with toilet paper, snacks, water and food, they’ve managed to make over 50 boxes for people in need, and plan to continue doing so until things are back to normal. If you want to assist them in helping compile these boxes, you’re encouraged to reach out to them at 296-1800.

Millie Bobby Brown
The Danger of Mainstream Media Infections with Viral and Fake Information

Information is freedom, but false information can be deadly. The free press is one of the prime disseminators of information in the US, and its role is even more important in the time of ingrained social media and the global crisis of the coronavirus. While the world reels from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, mainstream media, from national news outlets to local publications, are vulnerable to infection from viral, false information.

Social media is a breeding ground for viral, and in the time of the coronavirus, potentially deadly false information. In the time of the internet and social media, false information and memes propagate like a deadly pandemic. Local newspapers, TV stations, radio, and podcasts need to be extra vigilant to wash their news thoroughly (with soap) to make sure they don’t spread fake information.

In France, a viral post suggested that snorting cocaine kills the coronavirus. Hopefully, most people would not take that seriously and rush out to buy a bunch of cocaine, pile it on their desk, and tell the coronavirus to “Say hello to my little friend.” But the post was spread widely enough – and taken seriously enough – that the French health ministry had to issue a statement that cocaine does not actually kill the virus.

Imagine if an article was published about someone who had recovered from COVID-19 and stated they had snorted cocaine daily as part of their home treatment. For one, a journalist should probably not put that in the article. And if they did, they should clarify, distinctly, that cocaine does not kill the virus. It’s the combined responsibility of the journalist and the publication’s editor to ensure that snorting cocaine to kill the coronavirus does not get presented as truth.

Another viral post in the US had a bunch of “tips” to test and protect oneself from the coronavirus supposedly from a member of the Stanford Hospital Board. While not as extreme as the cocaine post, the tips included gurgling water and salt as a preventative measure and testing one’s lungs by holding your breath for 10 seconds. Stanford University issued a statement about the post, and multiple national media outlets covered, and corrected, the myths in the post.

Still, the post simmers and is currently being spread on blogs, social media, and has even infected mainstream media. For example, if an article quotes one of the false tips from a COVID-19 patient who has recovered, it’s the responsibility of the publication to not present it as fact.

Ideally, any publication of false information by any media outlet should only be to refute it. Quotes from sources that repeat any myth shouldn’t be published. Media consumers notoriously have short attention spans and may not fully absorb that the paragraph following a quote of fake information disputes that information.

Media consumers also do not necessarily have the training to cognitively question and verify information published by the media they ingest. If they see a post “from” Stanford, a name that inherently establishes credibility, they typically do not actually go to the Stanford website to check if it is valid. If the fake information is published as truth by another source they trust – a local newspaper, for example – it further ingrains the infection of fake information into their psyche.

Locally, the post surfaced on Nextdoor, the social media platform to connect neighbors and neighborhoods. Fortunately, the post was disputed in comments and flagged by users enough that it was deleted. Some social media and blogs can be self-correcting by users, although there may be lingering damage from the initial post.

More mainstream media – local newspapers, TV news, radio, etc. – must rely more on the firewall of their journalists and editors. Feedback does happen through letters to the editor or contacting the journalist/editor directly. But often that’s too late. While some may read/watch/listen to a retraction of previously published false information, many will not see it, potentially perpetuating the myth. And sometimes, there’s no response from the publication at all.

While media outlets inherently should be vigilant in publishing accurate information, it’s extremely important now. It’s important during the crisis to not pack the news with “if it bleeds, it leads” stories. While those are important, stories of hope, recovery, and goodwill can bolster communities under stress. Regardless of the angle, journalists should check every piece of information from their sources. To not do so is irresponsible journalism in normal times. In the time of the coronavirus, it can be deadly.
To All Our Friends, Past, Present and Future

Your support means the world to us

You might have seen a couple of the ads bouncing around in our paper, or heard word of it online, but I personally wanted to talk to you, the reader, about what Friends of Weekly Alibi is. Weekly Alibi has been publishing since 1992, a friendly guide to the city and it's going-ons. What started as a small publication meant to help highlight all the things that make the city so enjoyable grew into the second largest paper in the state. We've grown and changed throughout those years, and it's been the help of you that it has been possible.

Right now, things have gotten tight. We've managed to hold things together through thick and thin and continue doing what we do best: Highlighting the impact businesses and events have on our day to day lives. We want to continue that tradition, even if right now, it's not necessarily possible because of quarantine. That's where FOWA comes into play.

Our advertisers are hurting more than they ever have before, and some may not come back at all. We've put together a way to help support us so we can continue to support them in the future. You can donate, either on a recurring subscription basis or through a one-time offering, and allow us to support the staff that come together to make the magic happen every week. These funds go to ensuring the people who bleed and sweat over keyboards continue to be compensated for the work they do. Our writers, our production staff, our web team and our oversight team all play different key roles in getting a paper into your hands week to week.

As the most junior of writers on staff, I know that it might seem that maybe my insight and love for this doesn't come from a place as deeply held as someone who has been on staff and writing for decades. Maybe that is true. But I hold a different space for Weekly Alibi in my heart than others on staff. I'm young (maybe too young, some might argue), and was born 3 years before the paper began. For as long as I've been alive, the paper has been in my eye. How could you not want to stop and read the colorful pages that stood out, offering you to grab a free copy? It was an obsession of mine from the youngest ages I could remember. It was different, it wasn't stuffy, it was fun and unique, especially compared to the paper my parents would read. Sure, I couldn't attend most of the events written in it, but I could hear about them and pretend I could.

It was an integral piece of my life, and most likely yours too, if you're reading this. As I grew older with it, I remember ravenously reading the movie section and idolizing my current boss, Devin D. O'Leary. I was starstruck during my interview with him, finally meeting the person who had written so much of the content I consumed growing up. I was even more awestruck that I was entrusted to write about food, to help create that culture that I engaged in for so many years. I shared an office with the August March, man about town who covered news, music and life. I had found a home with the writers who defined the alternative culture coverage of the city, and I felt a sense of pride in my work unlike anything I'd ever done before.

I know that currently, we're facing tough times, but ultimately, we'll be back and bigger than ever. What more could people want after isolation than to go out and enjoy the company of others again? To stand in a room with others, all part of a single experience and celebrating the joy of human interaction. We'll be there to cover that. We'll be there to tell you which restaurant is back in action with new and interesting choices to delight your taste buds after you've spent a month eating ramen and PB&J sandwiches. We'll highlight the art your eyes have missed experiencing in person, the stories you've yearned to hear told, and the shows you've longed to see. We hope you'll be able to support us in our time of need, with the promise that when this is all just a dark memory, we can continue supporting you and the city. For more information on how to support independent journalism, visit us at alibi.com and click on our “Friends of Weekly Alibi” banner.

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A Quarantine Must-Watch

Tiger documentary is Meth Fueled Madness

There’s no proper way to introduce this. Not in a million years could anyone have properly prepared us for what Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness was going to be. Yet here we are, trapped at home and waiting for any kind of good news, and Netflix—kings of streaming—decide to drop the documentary that proves things can always be worse. Maybe you’ve seen the memes and been on the fence. Maybe you’ve had a friend tell you that you’ve got to see it and they can’t tell you why. Maybe seeing Joe Exotic literally everywhere has piqued your interest enough to just lose a whole work day of viewing time to see what the mullet is about. Here’s why you need to watch Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness.

There’s never been a more easy sell to a network for funding before, that I know of at least, other than saying you want to make a documentary about three different people who own tigers in the USA but that they are all complete deranged psychopaths, almost mirroring different aspects of what you can point to as wrong in society. Joe Exotic, the gay, gun-toting, mullet-wearing, couple hundred tiger-owning, country music-singing, web celebrity magician is our sin of vanity and ego. I know, mulllets and vanity shouldn’t ever be in a sentence together, but that’s just how it goes. Carole Baskin, a woman of ill-repute and our protagonist (or antagonized?) has a few skeletons in her closet, representing hubris and pride. Finally, we have Dr. Baghavan Antle, the sex-crazed cult leader who is our lust. These three form a foundation of bizarre interactions in the wild world of the tiger industry in the United States, one many of us were blissfully unaware of until last week. It’s hard to tell you why you should watch this. At the end of the day, it doesn’t improve our lives. We don’t become more aware of a problem we can actively fix or change in the world. We just know that three people are out there, being pure trash and yet it is the most welcome thing right now.

Directed by Eric Goode and Rebecca Chaiklin, we are taken through the lives of these three owners who prove that money can’t buy happiness, but it can buy tigers, which is equivalent. The goal of the filmmakers isn’t ever explicitly clear. It’s a welcome approach, as we’re not told what to think or feel, but rather given a laundry list of events about how their lives have interceded, mostly focused around Joe Exotic. By the time we reach our big turn, the surprise hidden at the end of the documentary, the audience isn’t sure what to feel or think. Not a single character featured is what would be considered a good person, and the ones you want to root for are all minor pieces in the backdrop of the three and their drama. You’ll pick sides, no doubt, but you will question what part of you had to be given up to back them in reasonably good faith. Even moreso, it leaves you with a larger overall question on morality. Are these sanctuaries, whose “mission” is to protect tigers, doing more harm than good? At what point is exploitation more damaging than protection? Do more tigers living in captivity in North America than in the wild in their natural habitat show an abuse of a system? It’s an underlying message that is slily strewn throughout the documentary, yet never really coalesces as a thought until the end. In a documentary about tigers, they feel like props compared to the story being told about their owners, mirroring their treatment within these sanctuaries.

Would Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness be a success without the self-isolation we’ve been in? It’s hard to say, but ultimately, it doesn’t feel like the kind of thing that would be relevant if life was going on as normal. Watching trashy people do trashy things was a highlight of early aughts television, but has faded into obscurity as better media has been made available. But right now, at this moment, the world needs Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness. One of the most important things you get out of watching anything is to be taken away from the here and now, to live a different story for a short period of time. The story that covers this seven episode documentary is so drastically different from anything you’ve ever seen before that it’s hard not to let it take you in. It’s the perfect distraction from the chaos around us.
Don’t Stand So Close To Me
Take advantage of curbside service

W
ell, this is a weird spot we’ve found ourselves in. The surreal flavor in the air is turning every mundane act of normalcy into an oasis of comfort. The air is thick with nervous anxiety. The streets are quiet. Crime is down. The country is holding its breath.

While the Great Quarantine of 2020 attempts to drain your bank account, threaten your livelihood, cut you off from your community and turn you into a frothing hoarder—it has yet to take away your access to cannabis. There are still some small reliefs—even during the apocalypse.

Near the end of March, the Medical Cannabis Program Director Dr. Dominick Zurlo reportedly wrote a letter to the state’s licensed medical cannabis producers assuring them that dispensaries were considered “essential” businesses and were exempt from the recent emergency health order that directed most businesses to shutter their operations. But the order also instructed “essential businesses” to “adhere to social distancing protocol and maintain at least six-foot social distancing from other individuals, avoid person-to-person contact and direct employees to wash their hands frequently.”

As we reported last week, many dispensaries have stopped using their lobbies altogether, insisting on phone orders and curbside pickups. But some are still operating with an open lobby. Under current restrictions, this is absolutely permissible—but it might not be the best move, socially speaking.

The number of COVID-19 cases in New Mexico are a drop in the bucket compared to the numbers coming out of New York (67,000) and New Jersey (16,000). If we want to keep it that way, we should be stringently practicing social distancing. For dispensaries, the best practice would probably be to limit services to curbside pickup or through a window.

Here’s the thing: This virus has legs, and it isn’t safe to keep pretending that it doesn’t. Earlier this week, reports surfaced of a Washington church choir that decided to meet and practice prior to the state enacting stringent social distancing orders. According to those who attended, no one showed signs of being ill. But more importantly: No one remembers hearing any coughs or sneezes.

According to the Los Angeles Times, this case and others have alerted health officials to the possibility that COVID-19 can be transmitted through aerosols. The World Health Organization has admitted that aerosols—particles smaller than five micrometers—play a part in spreading the virus, but are quick to point out that “in an analysis of 75,465 COVID-19 cases in China, airborne transmission was not reported.” They’ve been focusing on transmission through “respiratory droplets,” which are produced through coughs and sneezes. The possibility of transmission through aerosol makes this a completely different battle. A study published last month in The New England Journal of Medicine found that COVID-19 remained infectious for three hours when dispensed as an aerosol. While this was in strict lab conditions, imagine the conditions of a small dispensary lobby cut off from the fresh air coming in at the front door. These places were designed to trap the delicious aroma of cannabis in a small space. At this moment, that also means they were designed to trap the virus, too.

Now, whether a business decides to close the lobby or not is up to it. As said before, current health orders don’t require the dispensaries to close their doors. And in reality, it’s not really the dispensaries’ responsibility to keep you out of their lobbies. It’s your responsibility. Call in orders ahead of time at your favorite dispensary and take advantage of curbside service. From what I can tell, nearly every place in town is offering it.

When it really comes down to it, it’s the responsibility of every person reading this to do their part to curb the spread of this disease.

Scientists Sue DEA
A group of scientists is suing the Drug Enforcement Agency, requesting a “secret” document that they allege proves the agency purposefully delayed licensing growers to produce cannabis for research.

Marijuana Moment reports that the Scottsdale Research Institute filed a Freedom of Information (FOIA) complaint to address delays in the process following a 2016 decision to expand cannabis research by allowing more than one producer to grow marijuana specifically for scientific purposes. According to the suit, the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel secretly issued a document stating that the new rule could not be acted upon, because it conflicted with international treaty obligations. The SRI is accusing the Justice Department of illegally hiding the document and is demanding the release of any records related to the case. It hopes to shed light on any instructions that might have been provided in relation to the alleged document.

If the allegations are proven true, this could blow the cover off of the forces that have been blocking cannabis research over the last few years.

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A-1 SELF STORAGE AUCTION

A-1 Self Storage New Mexico Auction Ad Notice of Public Sale Pursuant to NEW MEXICO STATUTES § 48-11-1-48-11-9; Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of April, 2020 At that time open Bids will be accepted, and the Entirety of the Following Storage Units will be sold to satisfy storage liens claimed by A-1 Self Storage. The terms at the time of the sales will be Cash only, and all goods must be removed from the facility within 48 hours. A-1 Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids or cancel sale without notice. Owners of the units may pay lien amounts by 5:00 pm April 8, 2020, to avoid sale. The following units are scheduled for auction. Sale will begin at 09:00 am April 9, 2020 at 116 Industrial Park Pl NE Unit#F19 Chassie Bowannie 4515 Arrowhead Dr SE #915, Rio Rancho, NM 87124; Furniture, tote. Unit#M1 Kim Kethly 8825 Ina Dr NE, Abq, NM 87207; Furniture, boxes, microwave. Unit#A29 Omar Vigil 3248 Fritzie St NW, Rio Rancho, NM 87120; Ladder, bowflex, fan, scooter, pots/pans, appliances. Followed By A-1 Self Storage 9181 Coors Blvd NE Unit#2616 Erica Moore 10512 Olympic St NW, Abq, NM 87114; Boxes, furniture, Christmas tree, black lights. Unit#2608 Diana Brown 4325 Hillsbire Ave NW, Abq, NM 87120; Bike, boxes, totes, vacuum, pet cage, furniture, plastic fencing. Followed By A-1 Self Storage 5419 Academy Rd NE Unit#G70 Nathan Largo 1016 Truman #A, Abq, NM 87108; Boxes, tote, cooler, end table. Unit#G3 Anthony Amico 1909 Silver Whisper, Las Vegas, NV 89187; Mattress, suitcase, boxes, tv. Unit#D28 Stephen Willis 4121 Ellison,Abq,NM 87109; dolly Microwave, totes, boxe, ladder, furniture. Followed By A-1 Self Storage 4700 Osuna Rd NE Unit#L030 Candi Wauneka 5600 Gibson #376, Abq, NM 87108; Books, rocking chair, tv, computer. Unit#P093 Aaron Wauneka 5600 Gibson #376, Abq, NM 87108; Boxes, totes, vacuum, pet cage, furniture, plastic fencing.

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“Bowl Games”—I’m busy reading the back.

FREEWILL ASTROLOGY | Horoscopes by Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): “If all the world’s a stage, where the hell is the teleprompter?” asks aphorist Sami Feiring. In my astrological opinion, you Aries are the least likely of all the signs to identify with that perspective. While everyone else might wish they could be better prepared for the nonstop improvisational tests of everyday life, most of you tend to prefer what I call the “naked spontaneity” approach. If you were indeed given the chance to use a teleprompter, you’d probably ignore it. Everything I just said is especially and intensely true for you right now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When Nobel Prize-winning Norwegian author Knut Hamsun was 25 years old, a doctor told him that the tuberculosis he had contracted would kill him within three months. But in fact, Hamsun lived 67 more years, till the age of 92. I suspect there’s an equally erroneous prophecy or unwarranted expectation impacting your life right now. A certain process or phenomenon that seems to be nearing an end may in fact reinvent or resurface itself, going on to last for quite some time. I suggest you clear away any misapprehensions you or others might have about it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I invite you to remember what you were thinking and feeling around your birthday in 2019. Were there specific goals you hoped to accomplish between then and your birthday in 2020? Were there bad old habits you aimed to dissolve and good new habits you proposed to instigate? Was there a lingering wound you aspire to heal or a debilitating memory you longed to conquer? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to take inventory of your progress in projects like those. And if you find that you have achieved less than you had hoped, I trust you will dedicate yourself to playing catch-up in the weeks between now and your birthday. You may be amazed at how much ground you can cover.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I can’t swim. Why? There was a good reason when I was a kid: I’m allergic to chlorine and my mom wouldn’t let me take swimming lessons at the local chlorine-treated pool. Since then, the failure to learn is excusable and I’m embarrassed about it. Is there an equivalent phenomenon in your life, my fellow Cancerian? The coming weeks might be an excellent time to meditate on how to correct the problem. Now excuse me while I head out to my solo self-administered swim lesson at Bass Lake, buoyed by the instructions I got from a Youtube video.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Is William Shakespeare the greatest writer ever? I claim yes, and here’s why. Ever since Voltaire didn’t think so, calling him “an amiable barbarian,” Russian superstar author Leo Tolstoy claimed The Bard had “a complete absence of aesthetic feeling.” England’s first Poet Laureate John Dryden called Shakespeare’s language “scarcely intelligible.” T.E. Lawrence, a.k.a Lawrence of Arabia, declared The Bard had a second-rate mind. Lord Byron said, “Shakespeare’s name stands too absurdly high and will go down.” His contemporary, the poet and playwright Ben Johnson, asserted that he “never had six lines together without a fault.” I offer these checky views to encourage you Leo to enjoy your own idol-topping and authority-questioning activities in the coming weeks. You have license to be an irrepressible iconoclast.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo-born Jack Ma is China’s richest person and one of the world’s most powerful businessmen. He co-founded Alibaba, the Chinese version of Amazon.com. He likes his employees to work hard, but also thinks they should cultivate a healthy balance between work and life. In his opinion, they should have six to seven days a week, or 312 times a year. Some observers have suggested that’s too much—especially if you labor 12 hours a day, six days a week, as Jack Ma prefers—but it may not be excessive for you Virgo. The coming months could be a very erotic time. But please practice safe sex in every way imaginable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): How hard are you willing to work on your most important relationships? How might your life change for the better if you gave them your most potent resourcefulness and panache? The next eight weeks will be a favorable time for you to attend to these matters, Libra. During this fertile time, you will have unprecedented power to reinvigorate togetherness with imaginative innovations. I propose you undertake the following task. Treat your intimate alliances as creative art projects that warrant your superior ingenuity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “I make mistakes,” confessed author Jean Kerr. “I’ll be the second to admit it.” She was making a joke, contrasting her tepid sense of responsibility with the humbler and more common version of the idiom, which is “I make mistakes; I’ll be the first to admit it.” In the coming weeks, I’ll be fine if you merely match her mild level of apology—just as long as you do indeed acknowledge some culpability in what has gone amiss or awry or off-kilter. One way or another, you need to be involved in atonement and correction—for your own sake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you have been thinking of adopting a child or getting pregnant with a new child, the coming weeks will be a favorable time to enter a new phase of rumination about that possibility. If you’ve been dreaming off and on about a big project that could activate your dormant creative powers and captivate your imagination for a long time to come, now would be a perfect moment to get more practical about it. If you have fantasized about finding a new role that would allow you to express even more of your beauty and intelligence, you have arrived at a fertile phase to move to the next stage of that fantasy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I suggest you make room in your life for a time of sacred reprieve. Here are activities you might try. Recall your favorite events of the past. Reconnect with your roots. Research your genetic heritage. Send prayers to your ancestors, and ask them to converse with you in your dreams. Have fun feeling what it must have been like when you were in your mother’s womb. Get a phone consultation with a past life regression therapist who can help you recover scenes from your previous incarnations. Feel reverence and gratitude for traditions that are still meaningful to you. Reaffirm your core values—the principles that serve as your lodestar. And here’s the number one task I recommend: Find a place of refuge in your imagination and memories; use your power of visualization to create an inner sanctuary.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Are we just being poetic and fanciful when we say that wonder is a survival skill? Not according to the eugenicist and political philosopher H.G. Wells, who assembled the collection of essays gathered in a book called Wonder and Other Survival Skills. They propose that a capacity to feel awe and reverence can help us to be vital and vigorous, that an appreciation for marvelous things makes us smart and resilient; that it’s in our selfish interests to develop a humble longing for sublime beauty and an attraction to sacred experiences. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to dive deep into these healing pleasures, dear Aquarius.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): For decades, the city of Sacramento, California suffered from severe floods when the Sacramento and American Rivers overflowed their banks. Residents authorized a series of measures to prevent these disasters, culminating in the construction of a 59,000-acre floodplain that solved the problem. According to my analysis, the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to plan an equally systematic transformation. It could address a big ongoing problem like Sacramento’s floods, or it could be a strategy for reorganizing and recreating your life so as to gloriously serve your long-term dreams.

Homework: It’s a good time to think about basics. Go to readastrol.com to check out Bob 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.

April 2-8, 2020

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