

FIRST BATCH OF VACCINES ARE HERE • DELICIOUS HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS • *THE ZIP CODE PLAYS* TAKES ON L.A. ONE PIECE AT A TIME

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AMID PANDEMIC AND RACIAL RECKONING, A HIGH PROFILE L.A. HIGH SCHOOL FINDS ITSELF AT A CROSSROADS

GETTING SCHOOLED

BY LINA LECARO

VACCINES ARE HERE AND ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED

After being approved by the FDA for emergency approval, the first batch of Pfizer vaccines were shipped to California. This week also saw the efforts to recall Gov. Newsom intensified, as well as the electoral college certifying president-elect Joe Biden's victory.

BY ISAI ROCHA



The first shipments of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine arrived in California Monday, December 14 with five health care workers at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center taking the first doses.

Los Angeles County received 82,875 of California's 327,600 doses with the intention of vaccinating health care workers such as Kim Taylor, an emergency room nurse at Kaiser Permanente who publicly took a dose on Monday.

"We front-line workers have been working around the clock over the last nine months, sacrificing so much of what we do and love to take care of our patients," Taylor said after taking the vaccine.

More than 17,000 vaccines were distributed to the Los Angeles Kaiser Permanente hospital,

and all of those vaccinated will be scheduled to take a second dose 21 days after the first.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Hilda Solis were in attendance for the first vaccinations, speaking on the vaccine distribution plans both locally and at a state level.

"In the new year we will start vaccinating more broadly with a continued focus on equity, using that equity lens," Solis said. "Los Angeles County will ensure that vaccines are eventually available in every neighborhood and to all people in Los Angeles, regardless of race, insurance status or ability to pay."

A second shipment of vaccines is expected on December 21, with a third by the end of 2020, totaling approximately 500,000 for L.A. County.

Gov. Newsom said that 627,000 additional

vaccines are expected from Moderna Biotechnology as soon as they receive emergency approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with Pfizer confirming that they would send the state an additional 392,000 vaccines that were not originally planned for.

As of Tuesday, December 15, the FDA received a briefing on the Moderna vaccine and will discuss its emergency approval on December 17. If approved, it will join Pfizer as the two primary vaccines being used in the U.S. with others seeking future approval.

NEWSOM AND GARCETTI ADDRESS VACCINE DISTRUST

Newsom addressed the distrust in the vaccines and beliefs that they are being rushed without proper testing, saying that he has full confidence in them.

"We had 11 world class experts – some of the finest scientists, doctors – three of which are working as advisors to the FDA and CDC," Newsom said. "The best of the best independently reviewed, put their reputations on the

more than 4 million COVID-19 tests across the county, with 12 percent of those individuals testing positive. Of those more than 525,000 cases, more than 8,298 have led to COVID-19 related deaths.

THE PUSH TO RECALL GOV. NEWSOM

While past petitions to recall California Gov. Gavin Newsom have failed, there is a current petition that has allegedly gained nearly 60 percent of the required signatures.

While state records show that the "Recall Gavin" campaign has received 300,000 signatures, the campaign's senior adviser Randy Economy told L.A. Weekly that they have collected approximately 840,000 signatures that are still being processed.

If the 840,000 signatures stand, the campaign will need approximately 655,000 signatures to reach the 1,495,709 necessary for a recall to be considered. Economy said he believes enough signatures can be garnered by the end of January, although the campaign has been given until March 17 to reach the threshold.

Economy said the campaign has between 30,000 to 50,000 volunteers who have "pounded the pavement," going door-to-door, gaining signatures at political rallies and setting up booths outside of supermarkets in order to get the current amount of signatures. The campaign also received a \$40,000 from John H. Cox, who ran against Newsom in 2018.

While leaders in the state, including L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, praised Newsom for aggressive action early on in the pandemic, of late, small businesses have been vocal about their displeasure with the governor's orders to shut down.

Those voices grew louder after Newsom was photographed dining at the French Laundry restaurant in Yountville, California on November 6. The dinner appeared to be indoors, although the restaurant claimed it was their outdoor area, and Newsom packed in tightly with several others and no visible masks worn by the patrons. Newsom later apologized for the dinner, saying he felt "uncomfortable" and should have left the moment he noticed there were so many people in attendance.

"To him there's rules for everybody else and then there's rules for him," Economy said about the governor's November dinner. "It's the arrogance of power and he doesn't care for the average person in California. He cares about living in his own political bubble."

PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE BIDEN GETS CONFIRMED BY ELECTORAL COLLEGE

It has been more than a month since the 2020 Presidential Elections saw president-elect Joe Biden and President Donald Trump face-off, and the electoral college has officially confirmed the election for Biden.

Gaining 306 electoral votes over Trump's 232, Biden echoed Trump's 2016 words of the election being a landslide victory for him.

"At the time, President Trump called his electoral college tally a 'landslide,'" Biden said. "By his own standards, these numbers represented a clear victory, then, and I respectfully suggest they do so now."

The electoral college results will now be sent to Washington D.C. for both Congress and Vice President Mike Pence to tally on Jan. 6.

line ... and independently certified, unanimously, the efficacy and safety of this drug. We have all the confidence in the efficacy and safety of this vaccine."

Newsom also said that he would not be "cutting a line" to receive the vaccine, giving way to health care and critical care workers who "are more deserving."

Garcetti echoed Newsom's statements on his trust in the vaccine, saying that they "have not been infected by politics."

"You can trust them," Garcetti said. "I trust them. When my ticket is the right one, I will be ready ... with my family to make sure that I do my part to not only save lives, but to return our economy and our well-being and our prosperity and some normalcy to our lives."

Los Angeles Public Health has recorded

GETTING SCHOOLED

Amid Pandemic and Racial Reckoning, a High Profile L.A. High School Finds Itself at a Crossroads

BY LINA LECARO



When the Fall 2020 school semester arrived this past August, it was a precarious time for parents across the country. Most of us had experienced the transition to remote learning at the end of the previous school year, but we remained hopeful for a return to normalcy for our kids and ourselves. After a long, claustrophobic summer, those hopes quickly faded away as Covid-19 infection rates continued to spike in Los Angeles and we prepared for a whole new year of virtual

schooling. For many parents like myself, covid dangers meant missing out on graduation, as I did with my 8th grader at Thomas Starr King Middle School in Silver Lake.

But the prospect of seeing my daughter attend my beloved alma mater – John Marshall High School – was a bigger deal anyway. Navigating the transition was challenging, though. After a somewhat confusing adjustment period figuring out classes and teachers via emails and the Schoology computer app, and a masked-up drive-thru event to pick up laptops and books for

homeschooling (which was nostalgic for me as I parked in front of the very outdoor locker I used when I went there from 1984-1987), we have settled into the school year. It hasn't been easy for anyone, of course, but parents of freshmen are in a particularly unique situation. Though my daughter is currently a Marshall student, she has yet to walk its halls or see her teachers in a classroom or sit at a lunch table as I did. She's a high school student who doesn't know what high school is actually like.

"I think that we're doing a little better than I would have imagined if you had told me before the pandemic that we would be 100 percent online without having time to prep," Marshall Principal Dr. Gary Garcia tells *L.A. Weekly* about how everyone's adapted. "I think the number one concern is stress levels for students, parents, teachers and staff. Being a high school student is much more stressful these days ... with the pressure to go to college, Advanced Placement classes, in addition to all the other stresses that adolescents have. And everything is exacerbated by the world of social media."

Engaging restless teens, navigating online distractions (socials are indeed more important than ever as a means of expression and connection during pandemic) and pondering when in-person schooling should or shouldn't resume has been on the minds of every parent, and in L.A., regular emails, calls and texts from school superintendent Austin Beutner, along with emails and "Coffee with the Principal" Zoom meetings from Garcia for Marshall families, have been a huge help. The re-opening issue has made for contentious conversations all around the country, but the Marshall community has had another question to consider this semester. Issues related to racial inequity that had been addressed by Black students during the last school year have manifested post George Floyd and thanks to Dr. Garcia, a proposed change of the school's name is on the table, garnering strong reactions that highlight the political divide our country currently faces.

Do Your Homework

In late August, Principal Garcia recorded a "welcome" address YouTube video for students and parents (accompanied by a written version) that was much more than an introductory greeting. It was meant to send "a clear message about race relations at our high school and the plan to address and reduce some of the tension on campus." He saluted Marshall students who participated in peaceful protests against

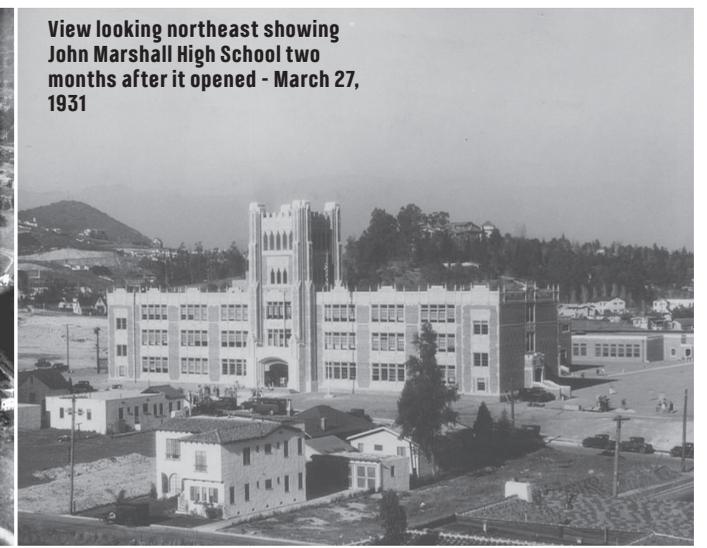
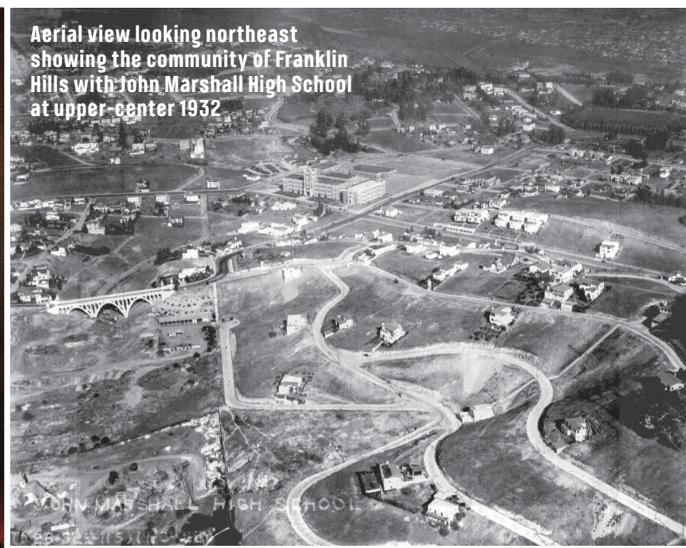
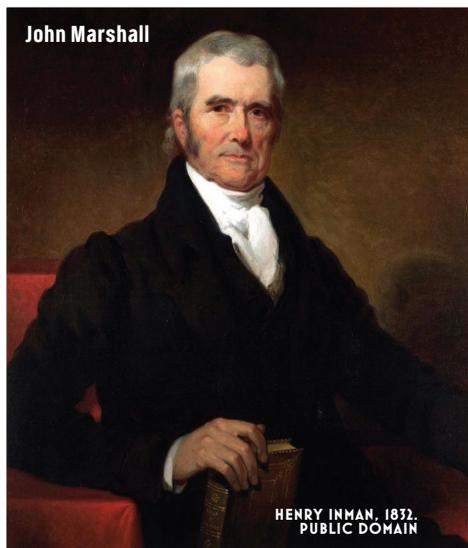
"the long-stand racial discrimination that Black people have faced since the founding of this country," and he identified three areas for parents, students and administrators to focus on including banning the N-word from non-Black student use on campus (and social media) and a more inclusive curriculum with new ethnic studies classes and a literature course focusing on writers of color.

A couple months later, Garcia's weekly email noted the name change proposal, citing John Marshall's history with slavery. The fourth Chief Justice of the United States (serving from 1801 to 1835) owned slaves for most of his life and was said to have doubts about emancipation due to fears of a Black revolution. In terms of his rulings, his decisions are often cited but they veered differently case by case, with some serving to emancipate slaves and some not. Historians have noted that Marshall not only owned hundreds of slaves himself, but engaged in buying and selling throughout his life, influencing him to side with slave owners more often in court decisions.

In any case, the suggested name changes would not require much deviation from the school's current moniker. The first option would change it to *Thurgood Marshall*, after the first African-American justice, whose seat was filled by Clarence Thomas after he retired during the Bush administration. The second option would ditch the "John" and change the name to simply "Marshall," referencing no one in particular, but maintaining the school's identity as many call it that anyway.

"I was influenced by the courageous alumni at Jordan High School because they loved their school as much as the Marshall alums love their school," Garcia explains, citing that institution's removal of its original moniker "David Starr" Jordan, due to his racially biased eugenic beliefs. "The Jordan alumni understand that their identity, their history, their experience as Jordan students is not being erased or diminished because they aren't calling it David Starr. In fact, they don't want to be called David Starr. And that's a major fallacy in the argument that some alumni are making – 'I have so many experiences with Marshall from the '60s, '70s, '40s, whatever, and now you're taken away my memory!' Are you kidding me? How does that make sense? Your memories have nothing to do with the name of the school."

Reaction to the proposal was swift. The "Official John Marshall High School Alumni" group on Facebook, consisting of 7.2 thousand members, has been a battleground ever since the





change was announced, with former Marshall students from all eras posting opposing views on the issue daily and threads devolving into name-calling and insults to such an extent that the page's moderators have threatened to shut down the group if it didn't stop. Other Facebook pages covering Silver Lake, Echo Park and Los Feliz (including a neighborhood group with over 11 members) have seen verbal spats about the topic as well. Those against the change have been especially vocal, suggesting, as Garcia referenced, that it would taint their memories and that doing so would be giving in to "cancel culture" and needlessly PC-minded views.

But changing school names is not new. Garcia points to Jordan as well as Johnny Cochran Middle School, formerly known as Mt. Vernon (George Washington's home) in L.A. as examples. And since our first president himself owned slaves, schools across the country are reconsidering being named after him, including San Francisco where it was reported this past October that up to 44 names were being reconsidered following a San Francisco Unified School District panel deemed them problematic, stating that school names should not involve "anyone directly involved in the colonization of people, slave owners or participants in enslavement, perpetrators of genocide or slavery, those who exploit workers/people, or those who directly oppressed or abused women, children, queer or transgender people."

It's become a heated issue across political lines. In general terms, most Democrats tend to be for changing and removing to help right wrongs of the past, while most Republicans tend to be against it, calling it "erasing history" and insisting we can't and shouldn't change everything because of the feelings of some. In recent news, the annual defense spending bill, just passed by Congress last week, includes language about renaming military bases which Donald Trump opposes and was threatening to veto as of this writing. Most Marshall alumni don't seem to be divided by obvious party lines, but ideologies on this issue do mirror the conflicted state of the U.S. after a summer of protest and post-election. As Los Angeles tends to veer liberal on these types of issues, the outrage this proposal has incited has been somewhat surprising but what hasn't is the deep connection to, and pride in, the school itself that so many still feel. To understand this, a bit more background must be provided.

History Class in Session

Constructed in 1930, Marshall opened the

doors to its collegiate gothic style building in January of 1931. The school's mascot, "Johnny Barrister," was meant to reference the now-controversial justice, whose bust stands in the center of the Senior Court. Known as the Great Chief Justice, John Marshall was the principal architect of constitutional law in America.

The school became part of LAUSD in 1961, but 10 years later, it almost didn't survive. After 1971's Sylmar earthquake, parts of it were damaged and condemned leading to a "Save Marshall" effort that involved the local community and took years of structural work to be completed. By 1980, the beautiful landmark was fully back in business and its cathedral-like entrance became a frequent star of TV and film. Due to its convenient vicinity to the major studios it was, and still is, a go-to for location scouts in need of a classy, classic looking campus. Though repairs to the structure have been ongoing in recent years following decay and falling debris in the tower around 2012, a temporary scaffolding was erected and it remained open pre-pandemic.

Marshall has become one of the most recognizable campuses on film. The athletic field was seen in the 1978 classic *Grease* during the iconic carnival scene and climax in which John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John sing to each other on a funhouse ride and later fly off into the sky in a *Grease* Lightning-powered pair of wheels. In the '80s, several more unforgettable projects utilized Marshall's campus to backdrop scholastic life, and I happened to be attending the school during this period. Following the filming of Van Halen's "Hot For Teacher" video which not only featured the school's front entrance as the kiddie rockers exited, but also the library for Eddie Van Halen's solo scene, the entirety of the facility's furniture was rearranged to capture the guitarist's long walk atop a path of tables and desks. I saw the library disarray aftermath firsthand, though I didn't get to see the legendary guitarist (who just passed away last month) himself.

The video was filmed and released in 1984, which was my freshman year (back then most high school's ran 10th-12th grade versus 9th-12th today). That same year, Marshall was seen in the Tom Hanks hit *Bachelor Party* and the original *Nightmare on Elm Street* starring Johnny Depp. Two years later, it was the setting for John Hughes' 1986 classic *Pretty in Pink*, with both the halls and exterior featured in scenes between star Molly Ringwald (Andie) and arrogant big man on campus James Spader (Lane). Other Marshall

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AAA Travel Alert: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information.

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scenes in movies and film include *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Space Jam*, *Can't Hardly Wait*, *The Wonder Years*, *Masters of Sex*, *Supernatural* and *School of Rock*, to name a few.

The high school is clearly recognized and beloved for its role in pop culture, but for those of us who actually went there, there's a sense of ownership that goes beyond the entertainment industry. Personally, I discovered my love of journalism at Marshall, working as Entertainment Editor, Opinion Editor and ultimately Editor in Chief on the school paper, *The Blue Tide*, before moving on to attend LACC and Cal State Northridge, while interning at *L.A. Weekly* (which had an office just up the street from Marshall on Hyperion Ave). I also loved singing with the school choir and joined the theater department my senior year to perform in the Spring stage production, a daring version of the Tony-nominated Broadway musical called *Runaways*. It was a bold choice at the time, exploring the plight of homeless teens ravaged by prostitution and drug use, using swear words and provocative imagery, but no parents or students protested or objected. Marshall was always a very progressive place.

Two of my fellow theater students and friends, Lola Glaudini (*Sopranos*, *Criminal Minds*) and Autumn de Wilde (recent cover story subject and director of this year's *Emma*), went on to achieve greater success in entertainment thanks to Marshall's creative foundation, and they weren't alone. In terms of successful alumni, the list is long. Leonardo di Caprio is probably the most famous (though he was already acting and attended sporadically), while Hollywood madame Heidi Fleiss was easily the most infamous. Black Eyed Peas members Will.i.am and Apl.de.Ap met while attending summer school at Marshall, while several sports figures and local politicians got their start there as well.

The Great Debate

Marshall graduate Pete Arbogast (class of '72) is best known as the voice of the USC Trojans. The son of late broadcaster Bob Arbogast (who also attended the school), this sports historian has been very active in the Marshall Facebook group since the name change conversation began.

"I think we should have a 'John Marshall day,' or weekend or month, and first teach who he was and what he was really like, then do community service in his name to show how the student body has been taught and learned to become better than our past," he tells *L.A. Weekly*. "Removing the name would not allow for that teaching lesson to be carried forward. Leave it be, and act, as a whole, better because of the lessons he taught us through misdeeds of his life."

Former L.A. City Councilmember Tom LeBonge has equally deep ties to Marshall. "I came from a family of eight sons, me being the seventh. My brothers Chris, Bob and Mark also went to John Marshall," he shares. "For me, John Marshall was a special place. Many of my classmates went from Ivanhoe Elementary, King Junior High, and finally to Marshall, 1968 to 1971."

As far as the name change, LeBonge seems to lean toward a compromise. "I'm a Barrister through and through," he says. "I think the LAUSD should implement a comprehensive ethnic studies class for all students. If there



is a name change, it should be a name addition, possibly: 'John Marshall/Thurgood Marshall High School.' Students should learn the history of these distinguished members of the U.S. Supreme Court and the time they served in our nation's history." He also thinks that "a lesson describing the current focus on American life, including the pandemic but more importantly, the social justice movements with Black Lives Matter," should be implemented.

Though many have praised the potential change, those who oppose it seem to be more vocal as of late. Many simply feel it's a question to address when school is back in session, in person. There is also the question of how much the name change might cost (some estimates indicate it could be as much as \$300,000). Garcia has been the target of a lot of negativity since he announced the proposal, but the native Angeleno, who is in his 13th year as a L.A. principal (he was at Hamilton High School for nine and a half years, was assistant principal at Paul Revere Middle school for six years and has three-and-a-half years at Marshall) is holding steadfast in his belief that it's the right thing to do, right now. "I felt that I had to strike while the iron is hot," he says. "There is a new social conscience in our country and I very strongly believe that if I brought this up pre-George Floyd, I would have had a tougher time getting agreement. If we wait five years, this consciousness might die down."

As for the students themselves, my daughter and her friends - some of whom say they plan to run for student offices - seem to be all for the name change, though a formal student poll has not yet been done. But whose decision is it, really? Garcia says the actual voting should take place near the end of January following a committee formation composed of certain stakeholders who will create a timeline for the process. "The idea is that we reach out to alumni, parents, students and staff. Those four groups are encouraged to vote," he says, though no one will be checking eligibility per se as it will be all online.

In the meantime, Marshall students and parents have other things to focus on, like not catching Covid-19 as we wait for a vaccine, putting food on the table amid layoffs and furloughs, raising final grades before holiday vacation starts and figuring out how to fill the time once it does. Social media will surely be a big part of the latter. I'm frankly glad it didn't exist during my time in high school, and though I'd like to tell my offspring that young people grow out of negativity they currently spew on social media, the discourse that's arisen among grown adults due to the name change discussion has proven that to be false. I still have hope that the diversity of cultural perspectives can find some common ground, and I think my experiences at Marshall high school laid the groundwork for me to hopefully, be part of that.



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Juana Everett



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MUSIC

JUANA EVERETT MOVES ON

Madrid-Born Folkie is Forging a Career in L.A.

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

It's quite a leap, relocating from Madrid, Spain, to Los Angeles. But that's exactly what singer and songwriter Juana Everett did — crossing the Atlantic and altering the course of her life, and her career, forever.

"I've been playing music since I was a little kid," Everett told us over the phone. "I started playing piano when I was a kid, so my music journey started pretty early. But in the first years, it was focused on classical music, and then when I became a teenager, I dropped the piano and picked up the guitar and I was learning all the songs from the '90s that I liked."

Everett says that it was a hobby initially — that her family supported her music but didn't think it could be a serious career. But in her early 20s, she started working in the business side of the music industry, and all that changed.

"I had a folk band, then I dropped that band and started playing songs on my own," she says. "So it was in my early 20s really when I thought, maybe this could be an option for me."

Around three years ago, Everett made the decision to move to SoCal. She had quit her job and had gotten out of a toxic relationship, and the time was right.

"I had visited California and had always wanted to come here because I was very interested in the music scene and found myself in a place where it's now or never," she says. "I'm glad that I came when I turned 30 instead of my very early 20s because I feel like you need a level of maturity to make things happen around here. I'm glad it took me a minute."

Madrid and Los Angeles are, unsurprisingly, very different cities. Both, though, are culturally rich and gloriously vibrant hotspots. L.A. simply suited Everett better, at least for now.

"I feel like the audience for the type of music that I like is here, and the amount of bands is not as diverse, eclectic and rich as out here," she says. "Madrid does have a folk rock scene, there's some Americana-influenced bands, but the scene is very small compared to here, and by the time I left I felt like I knew everybody. I

really knew every corner of what was going on out there that really interested me. I felt like I needed a challenge."

The results of that challenge are the *Move On* album, out early next year and the long-awaited follow up to the EP she released five years ago. She's naturally very proud of the way it came out.

"I had only put out one EP before this, before I left Spain," Everett says. "I produced it with the guitar player I was friends with at the time, and he knew more about the studio setting and production. I felt a little insecure when making decisions back in that project. When I started working on this album, I really wanted to understand every aspect of the mixes, the recording process and how I wanted things to happen. I've learned so much along the way. I'm a very obsessive person, so it's really taken me a long time to really be like, ok it's done. I can let go of it. But I feel proud because I think it turned out great, and I've been very lucky to work with incredible musicians and engineers. It's been a lot of work but a lot of growth."

The album's themes, she says, cover the transitions she's seen in her life.

"Not only the physical transition of moving from Madrid to L.A., but a way of redefining myself and redesigning who I want to be, how I want to live my life," she says. "So it's all about this intense process of restart and I feel like, in a way, this year is a little bit of that for everybody."

That 2015 EP was great, if a little more definable. The Americana, folk sound was front and center whereas now, she's allowing herself to stretch her wings.

"I feel like with this album, I've been like, how do my songs sound and how can I make music that's not responding to a specific genre?" she says. "Let's just work for the songs. Let's arrange every song in the way that works best to com-

municate whatever the song is about. So I feel like I've been way more open to experiment with different influences that have been part of my upbringing too. I think you can hear some '90s and even '80s within that folk and indie rock sound."

All of this, of course, has been going on during a pandemic. While she understands the severity of the situation, she's been able to make lemonade.

"I've been lucky to get unemployment," she says. "It's been hard, but on the other hand, it's been a blessing in that I've had time to focus on releasing this album and spending some more time making music. I can't complain because me and my people are all healthy. It's just mentally very stressful to be locked in the house. But I can't complain."

With the album set to be released in January and a single, "Drifter of Love," out now, Everett is looking to forge ahead with more singles and videos, and perhaps livestreams.

"I like the social aspect of livestreams, as in it's a way to connect somehow with people that I don't get to see these days," she says in conclusion. "But it's hard for me to obviously feel it as intensely as when it's a real live show. So I have mixed feelings about livestreams, unless they are super good quality and you really can create a level of sound quality that it's gonna be worth it. Those are cool, but there's a lot of Instagram live and things like that, that don't really portray the sound. I don't know how I feel about that. I'm focusing more on the actual recordings, promoting those. Creating videos that have a feeling and communicate something powerful. I'm gonna be releasing a video early in January right before the album that I'm very proud of. Maybe considering a livestream, but still considering my options and making decisions."

Juana Everett's *Move On* album is out January 22. The "Drifter of Love" single is out now.



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DELICIOUS GIFT IDEAS

Throw A Lifeline To Your Favorite Restaurant With These Wonderful Choices

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



While the restaurant community struggles to survive and all of us try to holiday shop and stay safer at home, our appetites continue to grow for more good food. The good news is there has never been a more exciting time for the most diverse selection of foodie gift boxes. Here's our guide to spreading some holiday cheer to your friends and family while throwing a lifeline to local eateries. Gift cards and certificates are also available at most L.A. restaurants for post-pandemic celebrating.

After months of pop-ups, chef Brian Bornemann and partner Leena Culhane have found a small but physical home for Crudo e Nudo – a pandemic-ready space, with al fresco dining and a small indoor footprint that can also operate like a shop and take-away space. In the meantime, they are offering holiday boxes on their website (meals designed for two, with candles, cookie dough, and a custom playlist) together with wines and cocktail kits from Fig Tree Venice, and baguettes from Jyan Isaac Bread. Pre-order two days in advance for the following pick-up dates: 18/19th, 23/24th, 26th/27th, 30/31st.

There are four different meal kits and a coffee-themed gift box available for purchase. The Shuck and Spritz (\$125) includes two dozen Oi-

shi oysters, custom oyster shuckers, limoncello mignonette, organic lemons, farmers market flowers and bees wax candles. For New Year's Eve, there's the Wharf Box (\$135) that includes a new school cioppino with crab cakes, a Jyan Isaac sourdough baguette, frozen brown butter cookie dough, flowers and candles.

"In the future we envision Crudo as a long, gorgeous bar where oysters, crudos and spritzes are shucked, sliced and stirred quickly before being slid across to the guest," Bornemann tells *L.A. Weekly*.

Sky's Gourmet Tacos, founded by Los Angeles trailblazer Barbara "Sky" Burrell, has launched a line of four sauces, including her signature *Sassy Sauce*, and *Sky's Original All-Purpose Seasoning* blend, available for delivery nationwide. Sky's has been a beacon for inclusivity since its founding on Pico in mid-city Los Angeles in 1992 and Burrell has sought to bring the community together with a menu that served the neighborhood's tastes.

There's the *Sassy Sauce Original*, *Sweet & Spicy* and *Hot* versions made with both traditional and nontraditional spices, fresh tomatoes, chili powder, white pepper, apple cider vinegar, cumin and sage. The *Habanero Hot Sauce* and *Supper Hot Sauce* are a combination of slow roasted habanero chilies, jalapeno peppers, and serrano peppers.

The *Salsa Verde, Fresh & Mild* is made from local tomatillos, tomatoes, cilantro, onions, garlic and salt and is a great topper for carnitas tacos as well as fish.

Sky's Original All-Purpose Seasoning is mild and slightly spicy which includes chili powder, salt, garlic, cumin seed and cayenne pepper. Gift sets and bundles are also available.

Santa Monica's gluten-free bakery Breadblok has composed a holiday gift basket featuring gluten-free holiday goods, freshly baked and festively packed in a large crate. The holiday gift basket is available for pick-up as well as nationwide delivery, and includes:

- Snackables: 15 Almond Butter Thins, 35 cheddar crackers, 20 shortbread, 20 walnut crackers
- Vanilla Buckwheat Granola

- Breadblok's new Organic Jams: Fig Jam, Raspberry Jam and Strawberry Chamomile Jam
 - Breadblok Keep Cup
 - Breadblok's Provençal Olive Oil
- Price per box: \$149.99 + tax + shipping (if delivered)

Sourced Craft Cocktails is delivering custom cocktail kits prepared by local L.A. bartenders. The Holiday Gift Boxes include three different options: A *Bulleit Bourbon & Ketel One Kit* with the Pecan Old Fashioned and the Berry Mule, the *Tanqueray & Johnnie Walker Kit* with the Cosmopolitan and the Lemon Highball and the *Don Julio Tequila Kit* with the El Diablo and the Añejo Old Fashioned. Each kit comes with all the ingredients and tools needed to make up to 16 individual cocktails. Price per box: \$100 (\$6.25/drink)

Piccalilli Culver City's art-inspired dining concept with southeastern Asian influences has developed a festive holiday DIY culinary box exclusively available for pickup on December 18 and 19. The festive box includes Guava Reaper hot sauce, house made pickles, benne wafer cookie dough, sugar cookie dough, as well as an Old Fashioned Kit featuring one bottle of Rittenhouse Rye, one bottle of Angostura Bitters, sugar cubes, Luxardo cherries and an orange. The kit also includes baking instructions for

the benne wafer (cheese) crackers and sugar cookies, as well as a recipe for making Piccalilli's Old Fashioned. Price per box: \$100

Order here.

Destroyer, Chef Jordan Kahn's minimalist breakfast and lunch spot in Culver City, has these options at the online store available for pickup and delivery, unless otherwise noted:

- Whiskey Glazed Almond Biscotti (\$8) – Dip these seasonal, crisp almond cookies with a Macallan 15 Year glaze into your hot coffee or by itself. This 16 oz sealed jar includes 5 cookies.
 - Organic Spelt Pancake Mix (\$6.25) – Destroyer's Pancake Mix includes a mixture of organic spelt flour, cane sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt.
 - Handmade Pastry Box (\$36) – For a sweet treat, gift a mix of a dozen assorted pastries, from Butter Croissant and Salted Almond-Frangipane Pastry to Cinnamon-Demerara Sugar Spirals, Destroyer Dark Chocolate-Almond Cookies, and more.
 - Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (\$12) – Made with 55% dark chocolate, organic coconut oil and almond milk, Destroyer's signature vegan chocolate chip cookie dough makes a great gift for the baker on your list. Available by the pound with all baking instructions included.
 - Cinnamon Almond Rolls (\$12.75) – Take and bake Destroyer's cinnamon almond rolls at home. Satisfy your sweet tooth with these six rolls with baking instructions included.
- For the agave obsessed, Madre Restaurant & Mezcaleria has Mezcal Gift Boxes available online or at any of Madre's locations. Also available for shipping across the country for an additional charge based on distance.

Curated by owner Ivan Vasquez and hand crafted copitas from Oaxacan native Omar Hernandez, Madre is offering two boxes: The "Pachita" Box (\$130) includes two mezcal copitas (Sal De Gusano and Chapulines) and choice of two Madre exclusive mezcales. The 3 Mezcalitos (\$85) includes three three-ounce mezcalitos (Real Minerero Largo, Espadin, Largo; Amormata Bicuixe; Rezipiral Mexicano and Tepezatate) one copita, Sal De Gusano and Chapulines.

You probably can't make it to Italy right now, but you can bring a taste of it home from Eataly Los Angeles with these gift boxes:

TASTE OF EATALY: Enjoy everything from pasta di Gragnano IGP and extra virgin olive oil to regional wine and artisanal coffee all made with ingredients from regional farmers across Italy.

WHEN IN TOSCANA: Take a trip to the heart of Italy with a box filled with regional specialties from Tuscany. This box is filled with classic cantucci cookies for a sweet treat, traditional pici pasta for a rustic meal and a bottle of wine to pair.

PANETTONE: The marketplace is filled with over a dozen varieties of this Italian holiday bread, from the traditional candied orange and raisin to flavors like chocolate, pear, Amarena cherry and more.

You can build your own gift box with the help of the experts at the in-store Holiday Mercato or find specialty ingredients like fresh white truffles and sustainable caviar. Available online and in-store with the full guide here.

THE ZIP CODE PLAYS DELIVERS LOS ANGELES TO YOUR LAPTOP

Antaeus Playwright's Lab takes on the city one piece at a time

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

In an enchanting and original response to the pandemic era's lack of live, in-theater experiences, the Antaeus Theater has released 'The Zip Code Plays, a suite of six new radio pieces, each set in a different L.A. neighborhood. These short (10-25 minutes each) works were written with audio-only performances in mind by members of the outfit's Playwrights Lab, and while the stories do not all take place in the present day, each in its own way speaks directly to the current social and political moment.

Additionally, the online experience comes with both a downloadable program and a whole ancillary site hosting audio and visual tours of each neighborhood's historical landmarks and some present-day attractions. Not only does this ground the "true" part of the "based on a true story" notation in some of the plays in real history, but it offers an educational companion for both more meaningfully understanding and potentially physically exploring the works' settings.

For example, 90272: *Pacific Palisades -- Annexing the Palisades* (written by Alex Goldberg, directed by Ann Noble, and starring Nike Doukas, Harry Groener and Adrian LaTourelle) takes place at the Murphy Ranch in 1939. It imagines a scene in which a craftsman arrives at the home of a wealthy couple who turn out to be Nazi sympathizers (that

part is true) and things go rather badly. This nefarious part of the Murphy Ranch story was in fact a major scandal after the war, and the piece does a brilliant job of linking it to more recent political actions as well as Los Angeles mythology. It often contains this gem of dialogue: "Before Europe falls, we need a proper balustrade!"

Likewise, 90011: *South Central Los Angeles -- Speakeasy* (written by Khari Wyatt, directed by Bernadette Speakes, and starring Bernard K. Addison, Lloyd Roberson III, and Marlow Wyatt) is set in the past but speaks to tensions of our day. In 1956, an African American writer comes home from an expat stint in Paris, planning to wrap up their life in our violent, oppressive culture and head back to the humanist pursuits and relative peace of life in Europe. His wife, who has been making her own way just fine thank you and feels committed to her community, does not like this idea at all. The question of whether to escape evil or stay and fight it is salient and perennial.

Now, 90012: *DTLA -- Clara and Serra and The Talking Bear* (written by Angela J. Davis, directed by Steven Robman, and starring Tony Amendola, Luis Kelly-Duarte and Abby Marks) takes place both in the distant past and the near future and actually more like in a dream. A comet makes bronze statues come to life and a merry trio of historical figures grapple with their own roles in



the current state of society. It's both a bit ridiculous and unexpectedly moving, as its allegorical framework outlines convincing links between the best and worst impulses of California's historical legacies, set against the specific backdrop of questioning the authority of the past. As an aside, while all the plays open with a land acknowledgment, this one makes it clearest why the custom is necessary.

90024: *Westwood -- ALL INFORMATION HEREIN IS CLASSIFIED* (written by Deb Hiatt, directed by Carolyn Ratteray, and starring Dawn Didawick, Bo Foxworth and Catia Ojeda) shares a setting of political protest with DTLA, but this one has all the hallmarks of a detective show, complete with surveillance and lowkey double agent action. Its central character is a sweet old lady that did not

come to play, and its perspective on BLM protests is a unique one.

90403: *Santa Monica - Plucker* (written by Nayana Agrawal, directed by Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx, and starring Verilyn Jones, Kavi Ramachandran Ladnier and Marcelo Tubert) has something to say about political allegiances and justice in public spaces too, but its take on antifa is delivered in a basket of adorable.

91352: *Sun Valley -- Salvager* (written by Steve Serpas, directed by Julia Fletcher, and starring Gigi Bermingham and Jon Chaffin) is the most romantic, the most intimate of the pieces, with a surprising pivot from darkness to light that reminds each and every one of us that magic is always potentially close at hand and the vulnerability is the key to joy.

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CANNABIS

THE BEST CANNABIS STOCKING STUFFERS OF 2020

Fight the rush with these last-minute gift ideas

BY JIMI DEVINE

There are limited days of lockdown shopping left this holiday season, and we've got the last-minute cannabis stocking stuffers sure to pop your product up a notch.

While you likely won't be able to give your family the gift of your presence this year, you can still mail them drugs and sweet weed accessories. And by "mail drugs" we mean order them from a delivery service and tell grandma they're coming.

We're going to save most of the weed for *The 12 Strains of Christmas* next week, but here is a last-minute spread of fantastic gear any cannabis enthusiast is sure to love:

THC Design: Cultivation Methods and Practices Hardcover First Edition

While names like Ed Rosenthal and Jorge Cervantes have dominated the cannabis cultivation guide space for decades, teaching millions to grow their own weed in the process, THC Design's new book is an extremely refreshing offering for those that prefer the

written word to Google when trying to figure out how to grow their pot. At the core of the book, it's a solid guide. But the presentation puts it over the top. The blacked-out matte cover offers no branding besides a pinch on the binding – they saved it all for the inside! The book is one of the finest

large-format cannabis coffee table books in recent memory.

Within the unassuming exterior you'll find gorgeous shots of strains like Royal Kush and the whole 84-day life cycle of one plant going from a rooted clone to finished plant.

Myster High End – Magnetic Rolling Tray Kit

One of the worst parts about pot accessories is there can be a lot to organize. Jar, weed, papers, pipes – where does it end? Well, the team at Myster High End has attempted to simplify that process at least a little bit. Their new magnetic rolling stashtrays and jars are a perfect solution for keeping things looking a bit cleaner at home or on the road. Most of the time, when you keep your jars on your tray, they would slide around what not. With the magnetic tray, it's a smoother process to take your





whole rolling station from room to room.

Stashlogix Extra Large

Over the years, few companies have been there more for people who wanted to hide their weed from their kids and others. While one of those hollowed-out Mountain Dew cans in the fridge would probably create some trust issues with your offspring, Stashlogix's clean and classy lineup continues to evolve. We'd been using the originals for years. While the old lockable weed lunchbox vibe was cool, the new hard cases feel and look a lot nicer. They still have all the modular options on the inside, but on the newest medium size edition you can take all the padding out and stuff it with six eighth jars and a mini rolling tray.



Surely enough of a supply for a solid afternoon. In the past, we've recommended the medium version, but the holiday season

falls right after the harvest! Go with a large and you'll be able to securely store up to an ounce and a half!



Puffco Peak Pro - Charging Base

So the dabber in your life already has the hottest new dabbing technology on the planet we premiered here on *L.A. Weekly* for its launch? Fantastic. But one of the coolest editions to the new Puffco Peak Pro besides the rebuilt atomizer is the fantastic charging base accessory you can get your hands on. You just plug it in, leave it on your desk and your Peak is ready to go all the time. Even more fun, the base holds a few charges so you can take it camping and really get lifted before you hit the trail or just stare at the campfire! Remember, this only works on the new Peak Pro and not the original, but if you're trying to get the dabber in your life to upgrade anyway, just buy them one to inspire the move.

Terp Timer by Octave

One of the hottest products in the hash space for those still picking up a torch, Octave's Terp Timer is a thermometer designed to allow you to take the perfect dab. Temperature is everything with a good dab. If it's too hot you're going to waste your dabs and possibly damage your quartz. If the bucket is too cool, you'll end up with a puddle that isn't producing any vape. Octave's special sensor that works effectively between 400 and 700 degrees is the perfect answer to those problems. The idea is catching on quick. According to their website they've moved 22,000 units in the last 45 days.

Doctor Greenthumb's Christmas Lights and Holiday Toy Drive at the Drive-in

Dr. Greenthumb dispensaries are inviting



folks to join them for an evening of gratitude and giving. In addition to screening Jumanji, Dr. Greenthumb is organizing a Toy Drive for foster care youth in the West San Fernando Valley. The event takes place the

evening of December 21 in Woodland Hills.

You can also swing by one of the Dr. Greenthumb's dispensaries to get your hands on some Christmas Lights. The strain is a blend of an Afghan and a Purple Thai.

LA WEEKLY Classifieds

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Marketing Manager sought by TrueCar Inc. in Santa Monica, CA to drive business outcomes by supporting social media and brand marketing strategy. Req 2yrs exp w/ integrated marketing, Khoros, Clision, digital paid media & experiential marketing channels. Apply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com #18426

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Data Scientist for Taboola, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA). Analyze Big Data to find patterns and features to be used in machine learning models. Build machine learning pipelines. Research, design, build and validate machine learning models based on business use cases and KPI given. Responsible for problem formulation and KPIs with the products team; data gathering and feature selection; Jupyter notebook POC, validation and ablation study; and deployment of Python, Java, TensorFlow and Spark pipelines to production. Find out the appropriate end-to-end data science and engineering solutions. Requires: Master's degree or foreign equivalent Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or a closely related field, plus academic training or experience in each of the following tools/technologies: machine learning; deep learning; optimization; python; Pytorch and TensorFlow. Submit resumes to Taboola,

Attn: Karen Warner, Ref#AN, 16 Madison Square West, New York, NY 10010.

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Team Lead, R&D for Taboola, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA). Manage 4-6 Data Scientists and Software Engineers responsible for designing and implementing Big Data machine learning pipelines. Requires a Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or closely related field, plus three years of experience in the offered position or closely related role. Must have experience in project management. Experience must include: conducting research on data mining, machine learning, and databases; performing information retrieval; and evaluating and recommending systems, machine learning, and data mining processes / systems. Must have experience with the following tools/technologies/methodologies: machine learning; Python, Pytorch, TensorFlow, Spark, Airflow, K8s, Docker, Jenkins, Java, MySQL, BigQuery, HBase, Kafka, and Hadoop. Send resume to Taboola, Attn: Karen Warner, Ref#AW, 16 Madison Square West, New York, NY 10010.

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: PORSHÉ PATRICE WILLSON a.k.a PORSHÉ P. WILLSON a.k.a PORSHÉ WILSON, an individual; DELORES GROUND, an individual; CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, an Agency of the State of California; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Veros Credit, LLC NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/se/fhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Division, 350 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101 Case Number: 37-2020-00004949- CU-NP-CTL The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without an attorney, is: Robert M Tennant, Esq./Raymond J Naples, Esq (Bar # 254513/293298), Sadaf Djavadi, Esq. SBN 319440; Veros Credit, LLC, 2333 N Broadway, Suite 400, Santa Ana, CA 92701, Phone Number: 714-210-6952, Fax Number: 714-415-6154. Date: 01/29/2019 M. Diethenhofer, Clerk of the Court

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT 2020195416
The following person is doing business as Fit Fat & Happy 15740 Sherman Way #218 Van Nuys, CA 91406. REGISTERED OWNER(S): ROSALIND JOYCE BAKER 15740 Sherman Way #218 Van Nuys, CA 91406. This business is conducted by an individual. The date registrant started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above: 10/2020. NOTICE- IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBDIVISION (A) OF SECTION 17920. A FICTITIOUS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE I WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (b) OF SECTION 17920. WHERE IT EXPIRES 40 DAYS AFTER ANY CHANGE IN THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 17913 OTHER THAN A CHANGE IN RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF A REGISTERED OWNER. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014. THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE AFFIDAVIT OF IDENTITY FORM. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.) Publish 12/18, 12/24, 12/31/20, 01/08/21 LA Weekly

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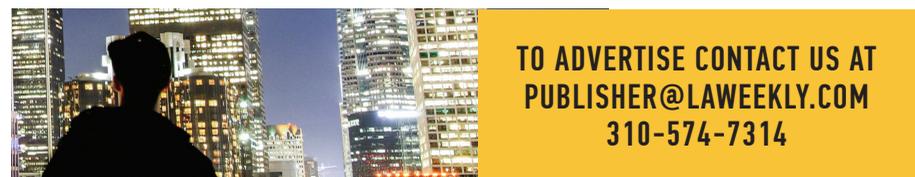
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Thank you Saint Jude, Saint of the Impossible, EC



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