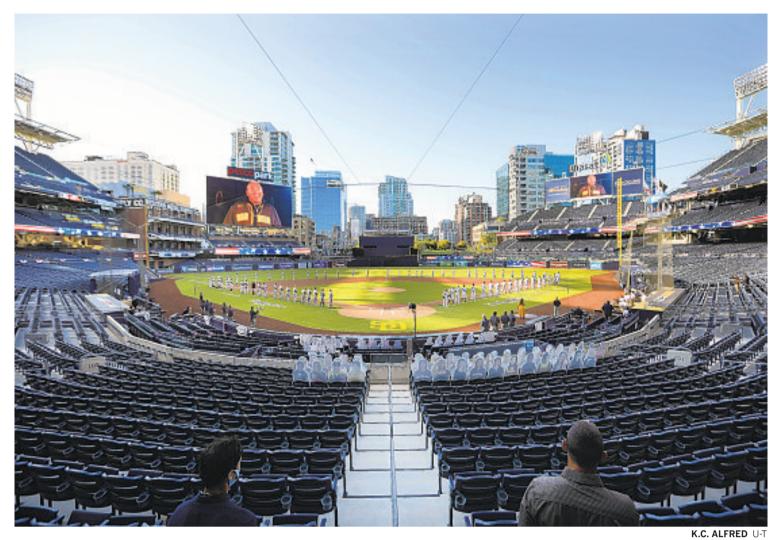


The San Diego Union-Tribune

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SATURDAY • JULY 25, 2020



Amid cutout figures and a few team officials in the seats, Padres and Arizona Diamondbacks players line the infield Friday for the national anthem on opening day at Petco Park. More coverage, D1.

BRYCE MILLER Columnist PADRES OPEN SEASON MISSING SOMETHING

July start in fan-less Petco Park adds another chapter to strange times

aseball returned to Petco Park on Friday, with wrinkles and weirdness and the reassurance of lives inching closer to some sporting normalcy. When the Padres lined up to ay the Diamondbacks for a season opener stalled 120 days by a global health pandemic, the moment offered a time machine ride back to sandlot snapshots from everyone's youth — when the sound off the bat was crisper and conversations rang clear. If you closed your eyes to momentarily erase the \$450-millionor-so stadium, it mimicked baseball in its purest form than any time in our adult lives — before the big contracts, the Jumbotrons and the tsunami of sabermetrics.

closer who watched the opener at home. "There were new uniforms and personnel. It would have been over-the-top great. Selfishly, I know the Pads would have put on a tremendous show.

"That's a big miss, unfortutely with the whole COV



VIRUS SHOWS UNEVEN **EFFECTS** IN STATE

PLUS TAX

Surge in cases continues to have disproportionate impact among Latinos

BY RONG-GONG LIN II, SEAN GREENE, PRISCELLA VEGA & MAURA DOLAN

California reached another bleak coronavirus milestone this week, recording more than 100 daily deaths in the worst fatality numbers since the pandemic began

But just as troubling, health officials and experts say, is how COVID-19 is stalking certain groups, such as essential workers, and those in institutions including nursing homes and prisons, at much greater rates than those who have the ability to stay home.

Californians of color are far more likely to become infected or die from the coronavirus. But the most recent surge in cases is exacerbating those inequities.

'The epidemic in the West is particularly among the Latinx community. They are both in urban, as well as rural, agricultural areas." said Dr. George Rutherford, an epidemiologist and infectious diseases expert at the University of California, San Fran-"There's tremendous cisco. amount of transmission in South-SEE VIRUS • A6

SCHOOLS AWAITING

'What's disappointing is not to be around all the pageantry," said Trevor Hoffman, the Hall of Fame stuff.'

Hoffman had to mine his memory bank to identify the last time he missed a season opener.

"Shoot, pre-1993 Marlins I guess," he said. "I think I've been to every one since I retired. If you go to the minor leagues, it probably goes all the way back to the '80s.

Painted on top of the Padres' dugout, "Thank You Friar Faithful." thanking no one. On the visitors' side, "Welcome to Petco Park," welcoming no one. It was like being at a Marlins game — a SEE MILLER • A8

A man standing on the balcony of his unit waves a Padres flag Friday during the San Diego Padres home opener at Petco Park against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

SDSU TO RECONSIDER EMERITUS POLICY

Proposal would give school right to revoke status of professors

BY GARY ROBBINS

Reacting to sharp criticism, San Diego State University has decided to reconsider a proposal that would give it the right to revoke the emeritus status of professors who harm the school's reputation

SDSU's University Senate said

in an email Thursday that the draft policy had been sent back to a committee "for further discussion and revision."

Such a move isn't unusual. But this time it came as some SDSU faculty publicly described the policy as a threat to free speech. They also said the policy, as drafted, stoked the "cancel culture" that is occurring nationally.

Faculty expressed particular concern that the proposal did not specify what it means to harm the university's reputation and that it could be used to penalize faculty

before or after emeritus status is granted.

Emeritis status can confer many benefits, such as allowing a professor to keep a campus office, use the university's email system and library and participate in research.

"It seems to me that the proposal is an attempt on the part of SDSU to discredit criticism and oppositional voices, and drown out dissent," said Peter Atterton, an SDSU philosophy professor and member of the Senate.

"The focus at a university

should be on what is true, not on what makes the university look better than it is. Again, SDSU is there for the public good, not to further its own interest.'

The proposal also drew criticism on Thursday from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), a nonpartisan faculty and student rights group based in Philadelphia.

"If this language faithfully reflects the proposed policy, the authority it would extend risks chilling the research and extramural SEE SDSU • A8

ON WAIVER CRITERIA

Elementaries may gualify to reopen. but details are unsettled

BY KRISTEN TAKETA

There is a way some schools can get permission to reopen despite a state school closure order, but the exact criteria for getting that permission have yet to be finalized in San Diego County.

Under Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent order, public and private schools in counties on the state's COVID-19 watchlist are not allowed to reopen until their county gets and stays off the list for two consecutive weeks.

Since last Friday, when Newsom announced that rule, the watchlist has grown to include 37 of the state's 58 counties, including San Diego.

San Diego has since made no progress on the health indicator that got it on that list. Its COVID-19 case rate has since grown from 147.2 cases per 100,000 people to 154.8 cases.

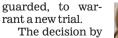
But there is an exception to the SEE SCHOOLS • A6

DA THROWS OUT WOMAN'S MURDER CONVICTION

New DNA evidence casts doubt on guilty verdict for Jane Dorotik in 2001

BY GREG MORAN

A San Diego Superior Court judge wiped out the two-decadeold murder conviction of former Valley Center executive Jane Dorotik on Friday, after San Diego prosecutors conceded new DNA evidence cast enough doubt on a conviction, one they had zealously



Superior Court Judge Harry Elias is not a clear exoneration of Dorotik, who has insisted

she was innocent of Dorotik killing her hus-band, Robert, in February 2000.

She could still face another trial, a possibility that will be discussed at a hearing now set for Oct. 23.

Steve Walker, the director of communications for San Diego



testing, and retesting, on evidence in the case. The outcome of those tests will likely weigh into a final decision on a new trial. A team of lawyers from the Loy-

ola Law School Project for the Innocent, who have worked on Dorotik's case for years, argued in a detailed court filing that DNA testing using new techniques shows that her DNA was not on crucial evidence in the case: her SEE DOROTIK • A8

S.D. YOUTH THEATER LEADERS ACCUSED OF IGNORING ABUSE

BY ALEX RIGGINS

The president of El Cajonbased Christian Youth Theater announced Friday that the San Diego branch of the nonprofit organization has shut down indefinitely amid allegations of sexual abuse by former employees.

At a news conference Friday, Janie Russell Cox, whose parents founded the youth theater in 1981 and grew it into one of the nation's largest youth theater organizations, said she and her staff "are heartbroken and devastated about the experiences of former students of our program that were recently shared via social media."

Allegations of sex abuse, racism and homophobia within Christian Youth Theater have come to light over the past 10 days, particularly on Facebook, where alums and former employees have opened up about their experiences, often using the hashtag SEE THEATER • A8



HOME + GARDEN **MAKING A SPLASH**

Stay-home culture has some diving in for a luxury backyard poolscape. E1

U-T INDEX									
Comics	C5	Editorial	B4	Lottery	A4	Scores	D6		
Crossword	F6	Horoscope	F6	Obituaries	B6	Television	E6	7 35944 00003 7	
Dear Abby	F6	Letters	B4	Stocks	C3	Weather	A11	7 35944 00003 11 7	

County District Attorney Summer Stephan, said in a statement that prosecutors want to conduct DNA

The San Diego Union-Tribune



B2 Lederer on Language **B6** Obituaries **B4-5** Editorial & Opinion

DNA LEADS TO ARREST IN '87 MURDER

Woman found sexually assaulted, strangled in La Costa; suspect is man, 54

BY TERI FIGUEROA

CARLSBAD

More than three decades after a woman was found sexually assaulted and strangled, her body left in ivy on an embankment in Carlsbad's La Costa neighborhood, police say DNA helped lead them to her suspected killer.

nounced that they'd arrested a Poway man in the 1987 homi-

cide of 26-vear-old Julia Hernandez Santiago. Police said 54-year-old

James Charles Kingery emerged as a slaying suspect after sheriff's deputies in Poway arrested him in March on suspicion of drug and Julia weapons violations. The fel-Hernandez ony arrest meant Kingery had Santiago

to supply a DNA sample. Two months later, in May, the sheriff's crime lab notified Carlsbad

On Friday, Carlsbad police an- police that Kingery's DNA matched samples collected during the homicide investigation 33 years earlier.

With this information. detectives diligently followed new leads, cross-checked the information and worked with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office to identify Kingery as a suspect in the 1987 murder of Ms. Santiago," Carlsbad police said in a news release.

Kingery was booked into custody Wednesday on one count of murder, and as of Friday remained held in San Diego Central jail without bail. Online jail records indicate he is slated to be arraigned Friday.

In October 1987, a local newspaper reported that a passerby had discovered the victim's partially clothed body on a hillside in the vicinity of Estrella Del Mar Road, near Alga Road and not far east of El Camino Real.

Carlsbad police said Fridav investigators had recovered "several key pieces of evidence at the time" but were unable to identify any suspects.

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SPOTTED PLAYING AROUND





BELL Columnist

Local legend Leon Williams is still making news – at 98

Leon Williams turned 98 this week, bringing him close to being a centenarian. Even at this age, accolades keep fattening the résumé of the retired San Diego politician and civic leader.

In 2016, he was named "Mr. San Diego" by the San Diego Rotary Club.

In 2017, a section of E Street in Golden Hill was given the honorary designation of Leon Williams Drive by the San Diego City Council for his many accomplishments. Thus

> he joined such luminaries as "Star Wars" actor Mark Hamill and oceanographer Walter

Munk in



Leon Williams

having a special San Diego street designation.

Last May, when the county resurrected its Human Relations Commission. the group was named after Leon Williams because its predecessor - defunded in the 1990s and officially dissolved in 2018 — had been created by Williams during his 12 years as a county supervisor, ending in 1994. Williams also created a local Hate Crimes Registry in the wake of racial and religious tensions at that time.

He told me that Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, who re-established the commission, came to his home and discussed the idea with him beforehand. When supervi sors approved it in May, Williams was at home in keeping with COVID-19 health precautions but relayed his thoughts by phone during the meeting. "It has the potential to improve human relations," Williams said Wednesday as we discussed the latest protests and the Black Lives Matter movement, which was déjà vu for him. "San Diego can be a leader in the country and in the state. 'Creating such a group helps us talk about what we can do to help build respect for each other," Williams added. "It's a bigger task than most of us know.' He personally has experienced that difficult journey. When he stepped off a bus in San Diego in 1941 before serving with the Army

SEE DIANE BELL • B3



KEN BOHN SAN DIEGO ZOO GLOBAL

A pair of endangered Amur leopard cubs born April 26 at the San Diego Zoo explore their outdoor habitat this week. The cubs' birth is particularly significant for their species, as fewer than 100 are believed to exist in their historic range in Russia and China.

OCEAN COOLER, BUT WEATHER TO BE NICE

Forecasters say seasonal monsoonal moisture will hold off until next week

BY GARY ROBBINS

The ocean was unusually warm during the early part of last weekend, with temperatures rising to 75 degrees or more at many spots along the San Diego County coastline. It didn't last.

Persistent winds caused upwelling. Colder, deeper water rose to the surface and temperatures dropped to the low-to-mid 60s

The chill will last through this weekend even though there will be plenty of sunshine after the morning marine layer burns off, says the National Weather Service. Sea surface temperatures will generally be in the mid-to-upper 60s.

"The upwelling usually occurs in late spring, but it is happening now," said Adam Roser, a weather service forecaster.

The air will be warmer.

San Diego will hit 75 degrees today and 76 on Sunday. The seasonal high is 75. Ramona will be 87 today, 88 on Sunday. Oceanside will be 68 today and 69 on Sunday.

It appears that seasonal monsoonal moisture won't drift into the county's mountains until Wednesday or Thursday.

The surf will mostly be below three feet tall along the entire coastline through Saturday, the weather service says.

This week's sea surface temperatures: Oceanside: 70.3 degrees; Carlsbad: 68.5; Encinitas: 66.6; Del Mar: 64.4; Scripps Pier: 65.7; Mission Bay: 69.8; Chula Vista: 68.7; and Imperial Beach: 68.4.

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MUSIC APPLIES HEALING BALM

Hospitalized COVID-19 patients soothed by 1-on-1 virtual concerts

BY PAM KRAGEN

Pharmaceutical companies worldwide are scrambling to develop drugs and a vaccine for COVID-19. But for dozens of San Diego patients now hospitalized with the disease, music is proving to be a soothing treatment for worn-down spirits, agitation and fatigue.

Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego in Hillcrest and UC San Diego Health facilities are among a growing number of hospitals nationwide offering COVID-19 patients free, one-on-one private concerts played virtually via iPad by string musicians all over the country.

The concerts are presented through Project: Music Heals Us, a 6-year-old nonprofit in New York that produces classical concerts in nontraditional locations such as nursing homes, homeless centers and correctional facilities. Since they launched the COVID-19 concert program on April 7, 88 musicians have presented 140 hours of music for 545



Cellist Andrew Janss, Project: Music Heals Us co-artistic director, performs a virtual concert for a patient.

listeners at a dozen hospitals in eight cities from San Diego to Boston, according to Andrew Janss, co-artistic director of PMHU and a professional cellist.

Truong-Giang Huynh, the Intensive Care Unit manager at Scripps Mercy, has seen the therapeutic results of these 15- to 20minute concerts firsthand. He is also a musician, having played violin for several concert organizations in San Diego over the past 20 years. He said he's watched with admiration how the brief musical

interactions affect the COVID-19 patients.

"I watch the professional musicians playing for them and literally before my eyes I see the (patients) doze off," Huynh said. "It's really beneficial for the patient because these patients need to rest. A lot of them are agitated because of many medications, and we're in their room constantly, so they lose sense of what's day and what's night.'

Huynh said he has seen re-SEE MUSIC • B6

Comic-Con without the crowds is a walk on the lonely side



KARLA PETERSON Columnist

wonderland with no lines and un-

limited front-row seating. A place

where I could show up at the last

minute and still get a seat for the

"Avengers" panel in Hall H. A place

where I could revel in news scoops,

celebrity sightings and swag while

luxury of subsisting on something

other than smashed peanut-butter

I would have been very excited

When Comic-Con International

announced in May that Comic-Con

2020 — which was canceled in April

due to the coronavirus - would be

re-imagined as the totally virtual

Comic-Con@Home, I did a little

about the hypothetical joys of my

own private Comic-Con, and I

would have been very wrong.

sandwiches and lukewarm Diet

Coke

still having room to breathe and the

asked me last summer (or any of the 14 sum mers before that) to paint you a picture of my perfect Comic-Con, I would have spun a mag-

ical tale of a

pop-culture

If you had

fist-bump with my computer screen. First, because any Comic-Con is better than no Comic-Con. and a Con pulled out of the coronavirus chaos is a miracle. Second, because the online version would be free and accessible to anyone with a computer and an Internet connection. And third, because after 15 years of stress, sweat and Doritos breath, my dream Comic-Con was here.

So on Thursday, I showed up one hour late for Marvel Entertainment's panel for "The New Mutants," the long-delayed horrorthriller starring Maisie Williams of "Game of Thrones," Charlie Heaton of "Stranger Things" and Blu Hunt of the CW's "The Originals." The stars were all waiting for me on Comic-Con International's YouTube channel, beamed in from their respective lock-down bubbles and looking pretty happy to be out and about, if only virtually. The panel also included a sneak peek of the film's nail-biting opening scene, an on-screen collection of fan art and a contest for Con-exclusive giveaways.

And as I sat back with a healthy salad while the cast and writer/ director Josh Boonetraded in-SEE PETERSON • B3

COURTESY OF ANDREW JANSS

EL CAJON BUSINESSES HAVE WEEK TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

BY KAREN PEARLMAN

EL CAJON

El Cajon will be doling out nearly \$2.4 million in CARES Act funding to businesses that have suffered during the COVID-19 health emergency and will be accepting requests through Friday.

While nearly all businesses have been adversely affected by COVID-19, the city said it recognizes that those classified as "non-essential" and were forced to shut down may have suffered the greatest

For those businesses, El Cajon is allowing requests of up to \$30,000. Businesses deemed essential that were able to stay open can request a maximum \$15,000. Restaurants, which have had varying degrees of requirements in order to stay open, will be able to ask for up to \$10,000.

To qualify, businesses must be physically located within the city limits; they must have a city-issued business license with an effective date of March 19, 2020 or ear-

lier: the business owner must be a resident of San Diego County; the business must have between two and 25 employees; and the business could not have been in violation of any zoning, building or code violations as of March 19.

Assistant City Manager Vince DiMaggio said the city had received more than 75 applications through Tuesday. He said he wasn't sure of the exact amount of affected businesses and restaurants in El Cajon but that the city would likely have to cut off applications if the amount reaches 250 or possibly 300 applicants.

DiMaggio said a nineperson group chosen by Mayor Bill Wells and Vice Mayor Phil Ortiz has been tasked with going through the applications. The new **Business Grant Committee** includes business owners, faith-based leaders, and a former city manager, all of whom will select business recipients and appropriate award amounts.

DiMaggio said the city did not want to share the names of those on the committee to "preserve the integrity of the process, so that people don't call them and ask for favorable consideration."

The city must issue the funds no later than Sept. 1 and those receiving money must let the city know what the money is spent on by Sept. 15.

The city has stipulated that funds may be used to rehire employees, cover overdue rent or utility bills, pay debt service, cover business costs related to conforming to new public health requirements, or cover other business-related expenses.

Complete information is available online at https:// www.cityofelcajon.us/resident-services/public-safety/ coronavirus-covid-19-information/business-resources/ el-cajon-business-grant-application

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DIANE BELL

FROM **B1**

Corps of Engineers, he immediately encountered racism at the former Hotel Pickwick downtown. When he tried to check in. he was informed "We don't serve your kind," and he ended up staying at a friend's house, Williams said.

As a San Diego city councilman, he once was parked near Balboa Park while reviewing the council agenda when a police officer approached with his gun drawn and demanded to know what he was doing in that neighborhood. On another occasion, Williams was pulled over by an officer who said his taillight wasn't working, but it was.

These and other revelations came out in his memoir. "Together We Can Do More: The Leon Williams Story," written with Lynne Carrier. The 2015 publication of his biography was yet another accomplishment by Williams while in his 90s.

The oldest of 15 children born on an Oklahoma farm, Williams has racked up a series of "firsts." He became the first Black homeowner in his San Diego neighborhood when he purchased his E Street home in 1947, defying a whites-only restriction.

He became the first Black person elected to the San Diego City Council in 1969, and the first Black person elected to the county Board of Supervisors in 1982. He was president of the California State Association of Counties in 1993 and a board member of the National Association of Counties.

Williams helped start the

Southeast Economic Development Corp. He created the Centre City Development Corp. and went on to chair the Metropolitan Transit District for 13 years. Today, like many San

Diegans, he spends most of his time at home, but he still regularly drives to Balboa Park to take walks. "My health is good. ... I

can drive, and I can see, and I can hear.... Life is great." Williams said after celebrating his 98th birthday Tuesday. Longevity runs in his genes, he notes. After all, his dad lived to age 99.

Nearly 250 people sent "happy birthday" wishes and notes, including state Assemblyman Todd Gloria, state Sen. Ben Hueso, motivational author Ken Blanchard, 2020 "Mr. San Diego' Michael Brunker. Vanderbilt University Dean Emerita Connie Vinita Dowell, UCSD Associate Vice Chancellor Mary Walshok, baseball legend Randy Jones and former San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman, to mention a few.

One of the most touching greetings, however, was from Rancho La Puerta health spa founder Deborah Szekely, who turned 98 on May 3. She proposed that they begin planning a joint celebration of their 99th birthdays. "Your friends and my friends together in a giant picnic in a park," Szekely suggested. "That would be great fun."

Meanwhile, members of Williams' family had a Zoom session with him on his birthday and are organizing a surprise home drive-by $celebration\,from\,2\,p.m.\,to\,4$ p.m. today.

Penny McNeil, one of

Williams' nine children and stepchildren, explained: "We are trying to keep my dad physically distanced but not ially distanced.'

Leisure news: Meanwhile, Rancho La Puerta, founded in 1940 by Szekely and her late husband just across the border in Tecate. was named the No. 1 international destination spa by Travel + Leisure readers in the magazine's 2020 'World's Best Awards."

That's fabulous news. but, unfortunately, it comes while the wellness spa is temporarily on hiatus in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions and the Tecate border being closed to nonessential traffic. This is the spa's 80th anniversary, and the pandemic has postponed many of its special events.

However, it launched its first Inner Fitness Online program this summer to bring the resort experience into guests' homes with a personal growth and life transformation workshop. And its fitness staff created an online 80th anniversary at-home workout, which includes holding a plank position for 80 seconds and doing 80 pushups a week in celebration of the spa's banner year.

Meanwhile, two other local wellness retreats were ranked by T+L among the top 15 domestic U.S. spas: Cal-a-vie in Vista and the Golden Door in San Marcos.

Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa also received good news. It ranked No. 11 on T+L's award list of top 15 resort hotels in the continental United States. Kudos to all.

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FROM **B1**

PETERSON

jokes about the film's longgestation period; shared secrets from the set (Like the time Henry Zaga stopped drinking water so he would look good in a shirtless scene); and geeked-out over their new character emojis, I realized that I was getting the Comic-Con experience I always wanted, and it didn't feel right at all.

Here I was, at a Comic-Con panel for a Marvel movie, and I was comfortable. My feet were not throbbing, my back was not aching, and my view of the stage was not blocked by a massive man with a giant Thor hammer. I was relaxed, hydrated and within 10 steps of a very nice bathroom.

And I was so alone. So very alone.

Whether it was the amped-up masses congregating for the star-studded Hall H extravaganzas or the dedicated cosplayers, socialjustice warriors and popculture scholars who gathered for lively discussions on costume construction. diversity in comics or the power of storytelling in young-adult novels, I have always had a deep respect and love for the people of Comic-Con. I admired their unflagging energy, their jaw-dropping creativity, and their cheerful patience in the face of endless lines and crushing crowds.

But while I was forever grateful for the kindness of these strangers who were always willing to save my



HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T FILE

Comic-Con is known for packing the convention center, but this year the convention went virtual.

seat, help me find my dropped pens and provide me with so many wonderful quotes, I didn't realize the most important thing of all. These fellow Con-goers were not strangers; they were friends

And I miss them. I realized this within the first minute or so of the "New Mutants" panel, when a silver-haired Williams popped up on my computer screen, and there was a strange silence where the shrieking should have been. (Because it was Maisie Williams! From "Game of Thrones"! And she was right here!) There was no oohing and cheering over the fan art and no wave of delirious applause over the muchanticipated on-screen relationship between Wolfsbane (Williams) and Mirage (Hunt).

I felt that emptiness again as I watched the panel celebrating Bugs Bunny's 80th anniversary, and I had to giggle over Elmer Fudd

Help find

whispering "Be vewy, vewy quiet, I'm hunting wabbits" all by myself. And when I emerged from the virtual sprawl of the online Exhibit Hall having ordered a nifty Hall H pin from the Yesterdays "booth," and there no one was around to appreciate the pin or the victory.

In these days of TV on our phones and movies on our laptops, entertainment can be very solitary. But as my experience reminded me, fandom is a group activity. So as thrilled as I am that Comic-Con@Home is bringing the fun, the stars and the merch to our shut-in lives, I am miffed with myself for ever thinking I could have my Con without my people.

And if I ever complain about the smell of nachos and the roar of the crowd ever again, I invite a large man to hit me over the head with his Thor hammer. Because I will deserve it.

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MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO HATE CRIME

BY TERI FIGUEROA

A Carlsbad man who police said shot out the window of an Oceanside tea room that had a sign signaling it was a Black-owned business pleaded not guilty Friday to a felony vandalism charge

and a hate crime allegation. Defendant Steve Soto was charged in the June 4 incident

gun in late May, a felony. The complaint also contains two misdemeanor charges accusing Soto of discharging a BB gun in a grossly negligent manner in late June and then again in mid-July.

at the tea room and with

shooting a man with a pellet sign posted in the window

If convicted of all charges, Soto faces up to nine years in custody, Deputy District Attorney Leonard Trinh said.

reading "Black owned. We stand with you" when someone shot it out using a BB gun on the evening of June 4.

Bliss Tea & Treats had a

Oceanside police Sgt. John McKean said Soto said he had shot the window because he thought the sign was a lie.

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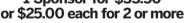
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