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IT'S A BUYERS MARKET

By Brittany Morgan Williams

Everyone knows by now that marijuana (or cannabis, weed, ganja, etc.) is legal in California. It has been since the beginning of this year. Yet, there are still obstacles farmers are facing to be able to sell their products; obstacles that non-politicians supposedly can't change.

The people of Humboldt County have spoken out and want an easier, less expensive way to be able to sell the very products that fund a large portion of Humboldt County. There are around 12,500 cannabis farmers in Humboldt County, and only 1 in 10 of these are expected to make it into the legal trade. Around 600 growers have already

shelled out thousands upon thousands of dollars to get their county permit, thinking that that would be enough. It never seems to be when it comes to politics and money.

Although the \$20 grams in Los Angeles and the rabid black market still working throughout most of California might tell a story of too little weed to go around, in reality, Humboldt County's 'permitted' weed tops out at almost twice the amount projected to be sold in 2018 in California alone. But because the manufacturing permits are on hold, farmers are just expected to hold on to their slowly crumbling weed until it goes through- or go through the black market as they've always done. Even

there, prices are suffering. It's definitely a buyer's market up here in the Green Triangle. I've seen prices plummet from \$1000 per pound two years ago, to just \$400 per pound last week. This doesn't just affect the farmers, it's estimated that the cannabis industry accounts for one out of every four dollars spent here.

There was a Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting on March 19th where the county's proposal for cannabis land usage was laid out for the public. They want only indoor weed, but light-dep is now considered a mixed lighting, which means it's not allowed to be sold in collectives as 'indoor,' or really at all. The new permit is aiming to cap the amount of

cannabis one can sell, while laying down exactly what the county agricultural commissioner expects; marijuana must meet the organic certification standards, the grower must live on the same site as the cultivation, and the grow area must be less than 3,000 sq. ft., amongst a few others.

Overall, these permits seem excessive and like the government is sticking their hands too deeply into the cash cow that has been the cannabis industry. The legalization process seems to be almost as dangerous as the illegal cannabis world, if not more so to the everyday Humboldtian. Hopefully, the funds from the taxes and rates that farmers have paid will go to the sources that need it the most.

women

GRO





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We High In WeHo

By Benjie Cooper

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YouTube: Lucid's Vlog

As states across the nation continue to enact cannabis legislation, licenses are being awarded to cultivators, processors, distributors, and retailers, but permits to serve marijuana intended for immediate consumption are virtually nonexistent at the moment. But that appears to be changing.

The topic of consuming cannabis at the place of purchase is an issue that legal states such as Alaska, Oregon, and Colorado have tried to tackle, but have yet to reach a solution. Cannabis lounges do exist in those states, but they are almost entirely unlicensed.

In February, a shop in Denver called The Coffee Joint was permitted to allow customers to bring their personal cannabis products to the store and consume them there. The shop was the first in the nation to obtain such a license.

During the marijuana legalization process, it is an often-promoted notion that the plant should be regulated like alcohol; it's also part of the foundation for the cannabis laws in some states. But while the bars in legal states are permitted to pour up alcoholic beverages for

their guests to drink on-site, cannabis consumers aren't generally afforded the same type of option.

The point is also sometimes made that people will be driving from the location high or stoned, thus creating an additional hazard to other drivers on the road. This is in spite of the fact that studies have demonstrated that cannabis consumers tend to be much safer behind the wheel than drunk drivers, while alcohol-related auto accidents continue to claim thousands of lives each year.

It should also be noted that in states where legislators or the voters have passed medicinal or recreational cannabis legislation, alcohol consumption has been shown to decrease.

With all other factors accounted for, the studies that have been conducted so far seem to indicate that there is a negligible risk associated with driving after having consumed marijuana.

Unlike some other states that have legalized marijuana, California cannabis law allows for the licensing of canna-bars.

But while adult-use marijuana lounges can be licensed under Prop 64, it is up to individual cities to determine whether or not they wish to permit them. In the first few months of 2018, the majority of California cities have yet to move ahead with such an op-

tion, though more are considering it as time passes.

In March, the Barbary Coast Dispensary in San Francisco made history by becoming the first in California to open a legal cannabis lounge.

In January, West Hollywood became the first city in Los Angeles County to permit recreational cannabis sales. They are now taking the next logical step by looking to license lounges for on-site consumption of product.

Current plans include the issuance of forty cannabis licenses within West Hollywood, sixteen of which will be locations where guests may enjoy edibles and smoke and vaporize marijuana flower and concentrates.

For those wishing to obtain a license, applications will be screened from May 2 to May 31 and carry a cost of \$9,880.

The first of the two available license types will permit smoking, vaping, and ingestion of marijuana products on-site, and the second will allow edibles to be consumed at locations where cannabis merchandise is sold.

Those with applications that have been reviewed and approved by a five-member panel will need to secure a business license from the City of West Hollywood before finding an actual location and de-

termining if there is any conflict between the permit and existing zoning.

The Business License Commission will review the business license and determine whether or not it should be approved. In addition to the acquisition of standard business operations permits, the applicant will then need to obtain an additional license from the state before they can open their doors.

For those who have questions regarding details about the licensing process, a public meeting is scheduled to take place April 11 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the West Hollywood City Council Chambers located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.



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"With a fondness for Kush-filled vape pens, Mr. Odom is a strong advocate of opioid-free body wellness solutions. On a quest to offer wholesome products that people can trust, Mr. Odom went above and beyond, seeking to establish relationships with the state's highest quality growers of premium Cannabis strains, produced organically, with no harmful chemicals or pesticides."



Humboldt Considers New Retail Permits for Legal Market: Local Level

By Brittany Morgan Williams

Arcata is the home of Humboldt State University, ferns, redwoods, and featured in several films including the original Star Wars

trilogy. Arcata is trying to regain the cannabis tourism that has petered out in recent years. Although there has been very limited media coverage of the steps Arcata has been taking to implement retail recreational cannabis since legalization, I was able to sit down with a member of the Humboldt community who attended the recent City Council Meeting in Arcata. Robert Nichols, a cannabis worker, is a cannabis activist that fights for people's rights in the cannabis industry. He believes that these new ordinances will benefit Arcata, but that Arcata

needs to move fast before Eureka takes over the tourism aspect of the recreational cannabis boom.

The original proposal to the council was for five commercial cannabis businesses in the Arcata Plaza and up to 15 more throughout the city of Arcata. The large amount for a small town like Arcata is because they wanted to make it easier to bike or walk to a cannabis service or outlet (safety!). The decision was made to allow just two in the Arcata Plaza, along with a few others throughout the city of Arcata. As of March 27th, the or-

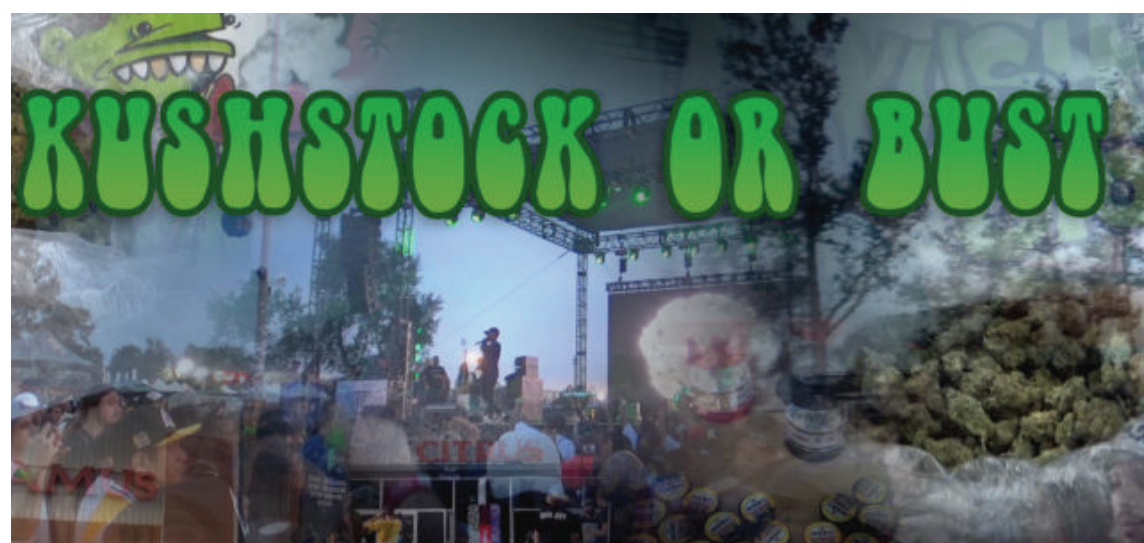
dinance was adopted for Arcata, although citizens can petition it until April 27th.

There were polls sent out by the community development committee to figure out what types of cannabis businesses should be allowed, how far away they must be from each other as well as day-cares, schools, public places, etc. While the people of Arcata mostly support cannabis and the tourism that results from it, city council members didn't want Arcata to become too 'cannabis-centric.' Although, much like Amsterdam, I'm fairly certain that people have been coming from all parts of the world to experience the cannabis culture here for a few decades now.

The benefits of these cannabis retail outlets would be great for everyone in Arcata. Not only would the cannabis tourism mean money for everyone from store owners to workers, there are now a wider variety of benefits. There are already laws against big corporations within Arcata's boundaries, which means all the business owners are locals.

Another part of this permit includes opening up zoning throughout Arcata to attract innovative new business ideas including cannabis-infused or inspired massage parlors, bars, even allowing existing non-cannabis retail outfits to apply for a small shelf space for cannabis products.

Although Humboldt has had a long-standing intimate relationship with cannabis, the new legalization has strengthened that bond, and will hopefully increase the cannabis tourism here once again. In Arcata and throughout Humboldt County, citizens have already experienced the positive results from the cannabis industry and will continue if they remain as open-minded as they currently seem to be.



Kushstock Or Bust

By Benjie Cooper

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California cannabis culture has produced a wide variety of events with an even broader spectrum of products for sale within. But among the vast array of product-filled, marijuana-motivated festivals that have popped up over the years, there is one that has established itself as a standout player in the west coast sesh scene.

A hot and slightly hazy San Bernardino Saturday afternoon welcomed hundreds of vendors and around 80,000 cannabis-loving attendees to the fifth installment of Southern California's mammoth marijuana event; Dr. K's

Kushstock Festival.

The Inland Empire's NOS Events Center once again served as host venue for the day-long event filled with music, food, live entertainment, and a wealth of cannabis products in virtually every variety available to the modern marijuana consumer.

Admission to Kushstock is free, but one is not guaranteed access to areas of the event where cannabis products are being sold without a doctor's recommendation. Those who came to the festival without a recommendation were able to obtain one from tables set up inside on the grassy area just inside the festival's front entrance and on the lot between the Citrus and Damus buildings.

The NOS Center's fountain-ed pond greeted people at the front gates in the first general-access

area of the Kushstock event, surrounded by a variety of vendors selling non-medicated items such as artwork and pins. Artists armed with cans of spray paint worked throughout the day, creating a live art wall on a series of blank canvases that hung from the fence separating the area from the outdoor medicating section.

With the Saturday being as warm as it was, many attendees took advantage of the shade beneath the trees near the pond throughout the day. A stage hosted by Cannabis Talk 101 provided music, giveaways, and other entertainment to the crowds relaxing on the grass there.

A ways further into the general-access area, Daz & Kurupt, Baby Bash, Frost, and others performed for the crowds from the main stage for the duration of the festival. Live music acts including

Irie Nationz International, Rootikal Yard, Medusa Mayhem, and Los Munchies also performed on other stages located in the medicating areas.

Mini-performances by various rappers and other musical acts could also be found at some of the individual vendor booths as well.

In the section between Citrus and Damus, skaters could be found rolling up and down quarter-pipes and grinding on rails in a mini pop-up skate park while wrestlers grappled and tossed each other around in a nearby ring.

Just to the left side of the main stage, a row of booths housed numerous glass blowers who showcased their artistic skills with live demonstrations and sold an assortment of decorative pieces as well as other creations intended for cannabis consumption.

Various food vendors set up shop near the Damus building, offering a selection of non-medicated food and drink items while nearby booths sold alcoholic beverages.

A plain tan van sat parked at the entrance to the outdoor medicating section by the main stage. The vehicle's owner revealed that it was an authentic DEA surveillance van that he'd acquired which had also been used in the movie Narcos.

Far-removed from any anti-drug

activities the van might have been a part of in the past, the occupants of the vehicle were dabbing in it Saturday.

Within the confines of the three medicating areas located outside, and in the Citrus and Damus venues, attendees were met with seemingly endless rows of vendors offering an immense selection of cannabis flowers, concentrates, edibles, tinctures, topicals, clothing, and accessories.

A visit to the Kushstock Festival is guaranteed to bring you face to face with familiar faces from the music world both on and off the stage. Sen Dog from Cypress Hill and Pony Boy from Los Marijuanos were in attendance, greeting fans, taking pictures, and promoting their brands.

Johnny Richter from the Kottonmouth Kings/Kingspade also made an appearance in the evening at the Top Krop Pharms booth.

In the evening, Kushstock founder Dr. K along with a group of others joined Las Vegas rapper Dizzy Wright on the main stage during his set with a few product-filled, cannabis leaf piñatas in their hands which were then tossed to the eager waiting crowd below.

The next Kushstock Festival is scheduled to open its gates at noon on October 13 at the NOS Event Center.



WHO Wants To Know More About Cannabis

By Benjie Cooper

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YouTube: Lucid's Vlog

In response to a report that was being compiled by a drug dependence committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reached out to the public for input on the “abuse potential, actual abuse, medical usefulness, trafficking and impact of scheduling changes on availability for medical use of 17 substances.”

Among the substances on the list were the controversial and often-banned synthetic marijuana components 5F-ADB, 5F-PB-22, AB-CHMINACA, AB-PINACA, and UR-144. Also included was the natural cannabinoid, cannabidiol (CBD).

Having signed on to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, the United States is obligated to report any information to the secretary general of the United Nations regarding substances that are believed to necessitate the

implementation or alteration of international controls.

After prompting by WHO, the FDA requested public input on the substances that were under review and submitted the resulting information.

Data from the United States and other countries were compiled into a series of separate pre-review reports for each substance which were then distributed to members of a committee that met November 6-10 in Geneva, Switzerland.

When the WHO completed their deliberations, they found that there was, “no evidence of recreational use of CBD or any public health related problems associated with the use of pure CBD.”

“CBD has been demonstrated as an effective treatment of epilepsy in several clinical trials, with one pure CBD product (Epidiolex®) currently in Phase III trials,” wrote the authors of the report. “There is also preliminary evidence that CBD may be a useful treatment for a number of other medical conditions.”

Authors noted that some countries have adjusted their laws to allow citizens to use CBD medically and that it was usually well

tolerated and possessed a “good safety profile” in animal discrimination models and human interactions. They stated that any reported adverse reactions to CBD might be a result of how the cannabinoid interacts with another medication that a patient might be taking.

In light of the information presented by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) report, WHO ended up deciding that CBD should not be considered a controlled substance on the international stage.

In an article posted on December 13, 2017, WHO wrote that due to increased interest in medical cannabis from Member States, they had been able to compile more comprehensive research regarding the medicinal use of marijuana and possible side-effects.

“Current evidence also shows that cannabidiol is not likely to be abused or create dependence as for other cannabinoids (such as Tetra Hydro Cannabinol (THC), for instance),” the article states. “The ECDD therefore concluded that current information does not justify the scheduling of cannabidiol and postponed a fuller review of cannabidiol preparations to May 2018 when the committee will undertake a comprehensive

review of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.”

Ahead of WHO's upcoming, more-comprehensive review of international cannabis classification, the FDA is once again requesting the American public's input on medical marijuana.

Associate Commissioner for Policy, Leslie Kux penned a notice on April 4; “The FDA is requesting interested persons to submit comments concerning abuse potential, actual abuse, medical usefulness, trafficking, and impact of scheduling changes on availability for medical use of five drug substances.”

“These comments will be considered in preparing a response from the United States to the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the abuse liability and diversion of these drugs,” writes Kux. “WHO will use this information to consider whether to recommend that certain international restrictions be placed on these drugs.”

Those wishing to contribute experiences and relevant information can do so by filling out the online form or by sending paper submissions to the FDA Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305) at:

5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Comments made online will be publicly visible, but submissions sent through the hand delivery will be kept confidential.

For those submitting their confidential comments by mail, the FDA requests that two copies be sent. The first copy should include a heading or cover that states “THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION,” and the second

one should have any sensitive information redacted/blacked out.

Submissions must include the docket number: FDA-2018-N-1072 for “International Drug Scheduling; Convention on Psychotropic Substances; Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs; Cannabis Plant and Resin; Extracts and Tinctures of Cannabis; Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC); Stereoisomers of THC; Cannabidiol; Request for Comments.”

For further information, contact James R. Hunter or controlled substance staff at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research:

10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 51, Rm. 5150

Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

301-796-3156

james.hunter@fda.hhs.gov

Electronic submissions must be received by the FDA by midnight Eastern Time on April 23. Hand-delivered comments will be considered if they are postmarked before the 23rd. Late entries via either route will be rejected.

The 40th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) will convene June 4-8 in Geneva where they will review the compiled cannabis data from the U.S. and others to assess the potential dependency, abuse, and potential therapeutic applications for cannabis and cannabis-derived products.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) does not plan to make any recommendations regarding international controls until WHO has reviewed all of the information and decided whether or not to change restrictions on cannabis.





Cannabis Business Landlord Sues San Bernardino

By Jason Marcuz

A landlady in San Bernardino, California, has used the city because of its pot regulation ordinance. The woman, who claims to be California's largest landlord for the pot industry wants the city

compelled to overturn its marijuana ordinance as it essentially bars her from the industry. A lawsuit filed by Stephanie Smith of Bubba Likes Tortillas in San Bernardino County Superior Court claims that the city prevents her from leasing her properties to marijuana growers and other operators in the sector. She also claims that the new law could create monopolies.

In December last year, one of the fortified buildings she owns was

raided, plants seized, and operations shut down. However, since she is not directly involved in pot growing, she was not arrested. This is according to her attorney, Ben Eilenberg. While marijuana continues to be legalized and decriminalized in many states, it remains a highly regulated sector and some businesses, wrongly or rightly, feel like some laws are unfair and biased against them. According to the lawsuit, the ordinance passed by the city violates the provisions of Proposition 64

and a couple of other relevant California laws.

California voters passed a law in 2016, Measure O, that demanded the city to permit the establishment of marijuana dispensaries at certain locations. Because of this, three permits were awarded. However, the new law passed by California residents was challenged in a court of law. In December of the same year, the city passed laws that barred anyone from legal marijuana business if in the past they had violated state or local laws pertaining to the marijuana industry or if they had withheld income reporting on it.

According to Stephanie, the new laws passed by the city could apply to tenants and even to companies such as hers since the businesses that were raided were all in the process of being licensed. The companies all received approval letters that allowed them to undertake marijuana business yet the new law renders them ineligible. In essence, anyone who ever had anything to do with cannabis in the past is indeed barred from the business for life. This, according to her, is illegal and goes against the wishes of the residents of California. It appears like the city of San Bernardino is trying to ensure that everyone who operated marijuana in the past is now confined to the black market.



Synthetic Cannabis Linked to Third Death in Midwest

By Andy Wagner

A Chicago man in his 40's became the latest victim of synthetic cannabis that has been causing severe illnesses throughout the Midwest. There have been over 100 reported cases of symptoms such as bleeding gums, coughing up blood, blood in urine, severe bloody nose, and internal bleeding. The ingredient added to these synthetic cannabinoids is brodifacoum, an anti-coagulant often found in rat poison.

An anti-coagulant is an agent that prevents the body from stopping itself from bleeding when injured. In other words, things started bleeding a lot, and the bleeding could not be stopped.

With cannabis legalization on the rise, despite opposition from US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, why would anyone risk their lives on such a deadly synthetic product?

Unlike here in California, Illinois has decriminalized cannabis, but not legalized cannabis. The difference may seem like an insignificant play on words, but in legal terms, it is significant. The penalties for possession in California are vastly different from those in Illinois.

Other Midwest states, such as Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana, have taken similar steps toward decriminalization, but not legalization. These states have seen spikes in emergency room visits for symptoms of synthetic cannabis use.

This means that the average consumer is going to try to find the cheap, easy way around the system. They're attracted to synthetic knock-offs that promise

similar effects but deliver few, if any. These synthetic cannabinoids can be found in gas stations and convenience stores, usually at the counter next to the male enhancement supplements and stimulants used by truckers to stay awake for days at a time.

These synthetic cannabinoids, often referred to as "fake weed," are usually sold as "Spice," "K-2," or "Herbal Potpourri." The only similarities they have to actual cannabis is that it's often made from dried leaves. Synthetic THC, which includes the chemical found in rat poison, is then sprayed onto the leaves, which are packaged for sale.

While the quick and easy option often seems tempting, it's hardly worth the kind of risk synthetic cannabinoids present. It's important to know where your cannabis is grown, how it's cultivated, and how it's distributed. A little bit of Google research can save you from potentially massive side effects.



MENDOCINO GENERATIONS



Eddie Zuko

By Nate Whitsell

IG: @SDlovesHipHop

As a grown man in the culture, I am learning not to be skeptical of suggestions I get from younger fans, but it can be difficult to trust others' tastes when I am so in tune with what I like, and what I don't. Recently, one of San Diego State University's KCR Radio DJs/personalities, Daniel, suggested I listen to "a kid in Barrio Logan named Eddie Zuko." In such situations, somehow the salty old 90's purist in me has remained humble, and has discovered a trove of hip hop music worth writing about as a result. Eddie Zuko is among the upper echelon of artists I have come across in the last couple of years, deserving the to-be-used-sparingly descriptor, unique. But really, he is. Raised on corridos and rancheras in the Imperial Valley, and exposed to hip hop culture by his father via Beat Street, Zuko has been brewing a sound that reflects the rich cultures he is a part of, and has found a perfect blend of legacy-honoring, sample-based production, melody, and powerful, witty lyricism, topped with soul-stirring singing that hip hop culture has been missing since the disappearance of Kid Cudi. My first few listens, Zuko's music, message and delivery reminded me so much of my former students in Compton, California, that I couldn't get through "Wanna" and "Tamales" (which you'll have a chance to hear as you read on) without a couple of tears welling up in my eyes as I saw their faces as Eddie Zuko channeled their essence perfectly and put it into sounds and words. Eddie's music and story are both powerful, and worth the minutes you set aside to spend with SDL-HH and Eddie Zuko for today's #WestCoastWednesday interview. Read. Listen. Enjoy. Share.

Nate Whitsell: Who is Eddie Zuko?

Eddie Zuko: Rapper, singer, musician, from Imperial, CA.

Nate Whitsell: Can you tell us a story about how hip hop has changed your life?

Eddie Zuko: My dad showed me the movie "Beat Street" real young, and my love for hip hop took off.

Nate Whitsell: I have to give credit where it's due; Daniel over at KCR on SDSU's campus put me up on game, telling me, "Eddie Zuko down in Logan is who I'm bumpin' a lot lately." Funny enough, I had already added Rossi Rock's "Could Be Nice" featuring you to the January 2018 Spotify Playlist. That then led me to adding "El Tiempo" to the playlist as well. Small world. That's all leading somewhere, I promise – first, what's it mean for you to be heavily associated with San Diego's hip hop scene? And second, how did the collaboration with Rossi Rock

come about?

Eddie Zuko: I appreciate the entire SD hip-hop scene for welcoming me with open arms, so much support, especially since I'm not technically a "local" – growing up in the Imperial Valley about an hour and some east. I met Rossi through Richie Moon, who's been making all of my artwork and branding. I knew of Rossi before I met Richie, and loved his music, so it was only right to eventually work on something together.

Nate Whitsell: While we're already here, I'd like to ask about one of my favorites so far, "El Tiempo" (I love "Wanna", "Made", and "Tamales" as well). This line is in my head and I'd love for you to just break it down:

"...on my way up, wanna be Curry hit the three, but I (ll) take the lay up..."



Eddie Zuko: Basically, this is my way of saying, I want to do amazing things, but can't necessarily get there with one right move, but rather many smaller but smart moves, staying consistent. Nothing happens overnight; real success takes hard work, day in day out.

Nate Whitsell: Okay, let's back up a little. I get ahead of myself sometimes when I get super excited. Take us back. Back to the day that you realized you loved music, that day when music gripped you. What song was on? Where were you? What did you think to yourself as the song played?

Eddie Zuko: I've loved music my whole life, some of my earliest memories are of me singing my heart out to some Rancheras or corridos at family parties.

Nate Whitsell: That's dope, and it's rad how that has definitely helped to carve out your very unique lane in hip hop. From there, when did you begin taking a stab at rapping and singing yourself? Do you remember a few bars from your first verse? If so, what were they? Which came first, rapping or singing?

Eddie Zuko: I was probably about 10. My dad bought me an instrumental CD at Kobey's swapmeet with like 18 instrumentals on it, all west coast type beats and the more I played it, I eventually got the urge to write something to it. So my cousins and I wrote our first song to one of those beats. Never recorded though, just written on paper. A few years later, around age 13, is when I actually got into recording and one of the first real songs I made with my cousins was called "Lowrider". I started my verse like "I like my

rap/sing about?"

Eddie Zuko: It's a very unique experience growing up in the Imperial Valley. So many different things that are specific to the area. Growing up in The Valley, most people share the same sentiment, that they want to leave one day because it's too hot or because there's no opportunities, no jobs, what have you. I guess that built up a drive in me to make it out, and then come back and face some issues head on. That's something I've always known, I want to give back to my community and do what I can to help it flourish.

Nate Whitsell: That's powerful. As you began moving forward with your music, when/what was the moment when you and your circle went, "oh man, it's happening"?

Eddie Zuko: I'd say when I

gan for the past year and a half I think it really served me well creatively. Just walking to Chicano Park can get all the creative juices flowing. Honestly I could go on forever about San Diego, so many things I love about this place. Big city with a laid back vibe.

Nate Whitsell: Okay, I wanna spend some time diving into your music now if that's cool. Let's start with "Wanna". Which outside forces were you feeling imposing their will on you/your music when you wrote this song? And since I'm diving in here, let's talk about what you wanna do. What's the ideal future, whether this year, five years, or indefinitely, look like to Eddie Zuko?

Eddie Zuko: You know, I've just noticed since things have started taking off for me, every now and then someone all of a sudden has an opinion on what they think your next move should be, or what you shouldn't be doing. It's always the most random people too. Of course when it's people from within my camp, or others who's opinions hold weight to me, then I'm all ears taking everything into consideration. My ideal future is to continue to create, release another project this year, more visuals. As far as for the next five years or the rest of my life, I'm shooting for the stars, trying to take this as far as I can. Really want to leave a mark when it's all said and done.

Nate Whitsell: Excited to watch all of that continue to take place for you. You feature Neptune on that track. How did you two link up? Was he part of the crew that moved to SD with you? I was just wondering if you were one of the "f***in' friends" he was referring to in the song.

Eddie Zuko: I've known Neptune since I was like 14. He's from The Valley as well, El Centro. Yes I am one of those "f***in friends" lol, he was living in Oklahoma for a while, but finally decided to come back west!

Nate Whitsell: This is the perfect segue for us to talk a little bit more about "El Tiempo". This song bears the weight of the artist who feels the sands of time speedily slipping between his fingers. What was going on that pulled you out of your "zone" and had you contemplating the possibility of your "time runnin' out"?

Eddie Zuko: At a certain point I became very distracted when it came to making music. I was not focused enough to establish goals and did not have a clear vision. I kept telling myself "tomorrow I'll write," or "next week I'll record," constantly making excuses. I was creating every day still, just not piecing it all together. Then I would go through moments where I would doubt if I was even cut out for this.

Nate Whitsell: What did/does it take to snap you out of a head-

lowrider nice and clean, when I roll down the street I feel like a king" – I did not have a lowrider lol. I'd say singing came super early, but when I started writing, it was strictly rapping until I figured out I could actually sing years later.

Nate Whitsell: At that point, who were your inspirations, both emcees and singers?

Eddie Zuko: This was like '06, so I was definitely listening to a lot of Kanye and Lil Wayne; I really liked Akon and T-Pain.

Nate Whitsell: It's super interesting to see the melody as a thread that is woven through your influences and definitely in your music as well. You came up in the Valley right? How did life in Imperial Valley shape your music, your sound, and what you choose to

dropped "Tamales" that was a bit of a precursor. I knew it felt a little different this time. But as soon as "Made" dropped, I knew it was gonna be something special, the plays took off like I never expected.

Nate Whitsell: What brought you to San Diego? Now that this is your home away from home, how do you feel the life of the city is helping to shape and refine your sound and style?

Eddie Zuko: I've always loved San Diego growing up, so it was a no brainer coming out here, plus I wanted to get away from The Valley. San Diego really inspires me artistically. Moving from The Valley, which is very open, flat, and fields that go on forever, to City Heights, where it's very dense and hilly, it was a complete change for me, and now living in Barrio Lo-

Continued on next page...

"Eddie Zuko" continued..

space like this and get you back on your path to, what I believe to be inevitable, success?

Eddie Zuko: It really took a lot of self-reflection and realization to finally kick myself in the ass and really start working. I think that's the way you grow.

Nate Whitsell: Okay, let's talk the El Zuko EP. The project dropped last year. It is well rounded, yet seamlessly unified project. Was there a single producer on the project? Or did you just select beats so well that it feels like a single producer? (if multiple producers worked on the project, please shout 'em all out).

Eddie Zuko: The whole EP was produced by homie Anomeric with the exception of Made, that one was produced by me.

Nate Whitsell: What is the statement you sought to make with the El Zuko EP? Did it translate the way you had hoped? How has the listener/fan reception been?

Eddie Zuko: The EP really exceeded all of my expectations. It was just for me to showcase my work on an actual project; I've been making music since I was 11, but never made a solo project. The reception has been amazing; people really connected to it so for that I am truly grateful.

Nate Whitsell: Have you played the EP in its entirety in a live setting? It's so dynamic and creates a world of its own, so I'd imagine the live show to be entrancing and super engaging. What's the energy been like as you play it live?

Eddie Zuko: I've played it in its entirety twice before and I'd say both times the energy was great. It also helped because most people knew the words and sang along with me. I do, however, want to

perform with a live band in the future; I think that'll give the music a whole different vibe for a live setting.

Nate Whitsell: Can we catch you live in San Diego anytime soon?

Eddie Zuko: Apr 14 at the Centro Cultural de la Raza in Balboa Park. Event is from 4-10pm

Nate Whitsell: I'll definitely make it out to that! What are you currently working on?

Eddie Zuko: New visuals for the El Zuko EP and lots of new music. New project will be announced soon, so expect that!

Nate Whitsell: As we begin wrapping up, what's something you'd like to share with San Diego's hip hop scene?

Eddie Zuko: I'd like to say thank you, for welcoming and embracing me. So many talented artists in the scene, I'm proud to be a part of that group.

Nate Whitsell: One emphasis of these interviews is to see a heightened level of unity in the San Diego hip hop community. Can you point to some other artists who you see as comrades and who you also see as helping to progress the scene?

Eddie Zuko: Man there are literally so many people to watch right now it's crazy; Rossi, Amon, TC Doe, the list goes on and on. I think San Diego is in a great place right now, so much good art coming out.

Nate Whitsell: Finally, where should readers go to connect with you?

Eddie Zuko: My instagram @eddiezuko, and Twitter @spagheddiexavi those are probably the two socials I'm most active on.



3rd Annual 420 Games Los Angeles

By Matthew Lopez

Cannabis and athleticism are not typically associated with each other, but with new laws permitting recreational use in California, there is a growing number of active Californians who are both curious and anxious to learn about emerging cannabis products that will be made available. Taking place over a two-day span this year (March 31-April 1st, 2018), the Santa Monica Pier saw the return of the 3rd annual Los Angeles 420 Games (Presented by Native OG Moonrocks). Containing a variety of outdoor activities, the event began early at 8am, with participants preparing for the ceremonial 4.20 march in which joggers, power walkers, rollerbladers, bicyclists, and skateboarders, indeed all 'walks' of life, could partake in the 4.20 mile course towards the Venice Beach Boardwalk, then back to the 420 village.

While there, event-goers were

able to check out a list of over 80 different booth attendees, CBD products, and various informers providing a plethora of product knowledge. Booth attendees included Advanced Nutrients, MedMen, Willie's Reserve, Lola Lola, THC Design, Jambo Superfoods, Vape Dank, Hot Nife, Dr. Norms, Cannakids, Magical Budder, The Werc Shop, Papa & Barkley, Treat Yourself Inc., Quality Concentrates, and so many more. Various activities included (but weren't limited to) a pre/post run yoga session, an arm wrestling contest hosted by Frank Shamrock & Bas Rutten, live music, beer tasting with Lagunitas Brew Co., BMX shows featuring several extreme riders, podium speaking from NFL players Eben Britton & Reggie Williams, Jiu-Jitsu tournaments, and skate contests at the Venice Skate Bowl. As the Saturday event drew to a close, special ticket holders were able to participate in the customary 420 Games afterparty.

"We're extremely delighted to be back in LA hosting the 420 games over the two-day span this year; it has been an interesting and invigorating experience seeing California progress into this newly

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formed recreational market. We hope that next year host an even greater success and look forward to continuing our country tour across the country."

The 420 Games will be hosting additional events throughout the year, for more information on upcoming event locations, tickets, and general inquiries, you can visit their website, 420games.org



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John Boehner And Former Governor Join Cannabis Company

By Benjie Cooper

IG: @nuglifenews

YouTube: Lucid's Vlog

In a press release posted to their website on April 11, Acreage Holdings announced the appointment of former Speaker of the House, John Boehner [R], and former Massachusetts governor Bill Weld [R] to their Board of Advisers. Acreage is a New York-based cannabis company with medicinal and adult use licenses for cultivation, processing, and dispensing operations in eleven states.

"I'm joining the board of #AcreageHoldings because my thinking on cannabis has evolved," tweeted Boehner on the 11th. "I'm convinced de-scheduling the drug is needed so we can do research, help our veterans, and reverse the opioid epidemic ravaging our communities."

But the two new appointments are somewhat out-of-step with positions that both Boehner

and Weld have previously held regarding cannabis. In the past, the pair has demonstrated a long history of opposition to marijuana on both personal and professional levels.

In addition to holding the office of governor from 1991-1997, Weld also served as United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 1981-1986, and United States Attorney General for the Criminal Division from 1986-1988 under President Ronald Reagan.

During his service under the Reagan Administration in the midst of the United States' war on drugs, Weld managed seven-hundred employees and oversaw the entirety of federal prosecutions, including marijuana cases brought by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

But only a few years after his term as Attorney General, Weld changed his mind and was in favor of medical marijuana by 1992 and supported the measure that legalized adult-use marijuana in Massachusetts in 2016.

Weld was registered as a Republican throughout his political career until 2016 when he switched his party affiliation to Libertarian.

John Boehner served as the House Majority Leader (2006-2007) and then-House Minority Leader (2007-2011) before stepping into the role of Speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 2011 to 2015. After retiring from his position as speaker, Boehner joined the board of directors at the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company in 2016.

When Boehner retired and vacated his office, the incoming House Representative Paul Ryan had the carpets replaced and the room repainted due to the strong smell of cigarettes that the former Speaker freely consumed within.

While known to be an alcohol drinker and a heavy cigarette smoker, Boehner's traditional stance on cannabis has been in-line with that of the federal government's official narrative and Schedule I status.

"I am unalterably opposed to the legalization or any other FDA Schedule I drug," stated Boehner in 2011. "I remain concerned that legalization will result in increased abuse of all varieties of drugs, including alcohol."

But since witnessing how medicinal cannabis helped a good

friend manage their debilitating back pain, and after seeing marijuana's potential as a beneficial treatment for military veterans, Boehner changed his mind on how he felt about the plant. The years he spent studying the criminal justice system also helped alter his mindset.

"When you look at the number of people in our state and federal penitentiaries, who are there for possession of small amounts of cannabis, you begin to really scratch your head," said Boehner in a recent interview with Bloomberg. "We have literally filled up our jails with people who are nonviolent and frankly do not belong there."

And while Weld has supported medicinal cannabis since the early nineties, neither he nor Boehner has tried marijuana. Though in reality, whether or not a supporter has actually experienced the ingestion of the plant is of less importance than the support itself.

"While we come at this issue from different perspectives and track records, we both believe the time has come for serious consideration of a shift in federal marijuana policy," wrote Weld and Boehner in the Acreage press release. "Over the past 20 years a growing number of states have experimented with

their right to offer cannabis programs under the protection of the 10th amendment. During that period, those rights have lived somewhat in a state of conflict with federal policy."

They continue by pointing out how federal policy is a real problem for legal states and is causing more harm than good.

"While the Tenth Amendment has allowed much to occur at the state level, there are still many negative implications of the Federal policy to schedule cannabis as a Class 1 drug," they write. "Most notably the lack of research, the ambiguity around financial services and the refusal of the VA to offer it as an alternative to the harmful opioids that are ravishing our communities."

They conclude their statement by saying that they are, "excited to join the team at Acreage in pursuit of their missions to bring safe, consistent and reliable products to patients and consumers who could benefit. We have the full confidence in their management team and believe this is the team that will transform the debate, policy and landscape around this issue."

"Acreage has a mission to make cannabis available to any patient who can benefit from safe and reliable access," said the company's founder and CEO Kevin Murphy in regards to the new appointments. "The addition of Speaker Boehner and Governor Weld to our Board will lead to even greater access for patients by changing the conversation overnight. These men have shaped the political course of our country for decades and now they will help shape the course of this nascent but ascendant industry."

According to the release, both Boehner and Weld will also be joining the company's Board of Directors when it is formed and other positions are filled.



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