

## Border Patrol releases migrants in Blythe; county is 'first responder'

Riverside staff, religious group help new arrivals with next step

Rebecca Plevin Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Just before 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning, three U.S. Border Patrol vans pulled up to the Greyhound bus stop in Blythe, located on the side of a gas station. The border agents unlatched the back doors of the vans, allowing 28 Central American parents and kids to pour out.

"Hola," said several Riverside County employees, all in blue T-shirts, as they shook the migrants hands. "Buenos días," they said, wishing the families a good morning.

The employees swiftly ushered the parents, many grasping their children's hands, into county vehicles. Within minutes, county staff pulled out of the gas station parking lot and headed toward Blythe's Seventh-day Adventist Church, where church members provided people with a warm breakfast, clean clothing and showers.

This unofficial hand-off of migrants and asylum seekers has occurred nearly every day for the past three weeks, as agents with the Border Patrol's Yuma sector drop migrant families off at the Greyhound stop in Blythe, just west of the California-Arizona border, and county staff receive them. County leaders said they are committed to providing humanitarian aid to families, but they said they're reaching a breaking point.

On March 28, Yuma sector Border Patrol officials

See **MIGRANTS**, Page 16A



Guatemalan migrants who seek asylum in the U.S. are dropped off by Custom and Border Protection agents in Blythe Thursday. The migrants were then picked up by a religious group to help them reach families and friends. OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN



David Turpin, 57, breaks down as he reads a statement to his children during his sentencing on Friday in Riverside. OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

## Life in prison

### David and Louise Turpin sentenced for torturing children for dozens of years

Colin Atagi, Shane Newell, Christopher Damien and Joseph Hong

Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Southern California couple who pleaded guilty in February to torture, false imprisonment and endangering, their children — some for dozens of years — were sentenced Friday to life in prison with the possibility of parole only after 25 years for crimes involving 12 of their 13 children.

David and Louise Turpin of Perris, about 70 miles east of Los Angeles, appeared in court Friday morning in Riverside about three months after pleading guilty to 14 felony counts. The charges didn't apply to their youngest child, who was 2 years old when investigators found the victims.

Their sentencing caps a saga that publicly played out for nearly 16 months after being concealed for sev-

See **TURPIN**, Page 5A



In this screenshot from the AP courtroom livestream, Louise Turpin, 50, wipes away tears as one of her children describes how the family lived.

Inside:

- Read emotional moments from the sentencing. **4A**
- See a timeline of events in the Turpin case. **5A**

### EXCLUSIVE

## Coachella portrait photographer Andrew Haagen reveals festival history

Bruce Fessier Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Andrew Haagen won't be spending this second Coachella weekend lounging on the Empire Polo Club fields watching some of the world's best contemporary music or trying to figure out what those crazy art installations mean.

Haagen, 47 of Los Angeles, is the son of the Empire Polo Club owner. But Haagen's Coachella experience is working two photography tents in the Artists Village, behind the main Coachella stage. The tents are sandwiched between Coachella co-founder Paul Tollett's RV and a serene, almost Jap-



anese-style lake. A YouTube guest relations patio is located across a grass pathway. But Haagen rests onsite in a trailer.

Haagen is an art photographer who has taken unique portraits of Coachella performers and festivalgoers for the past 20 years. One of his tents features

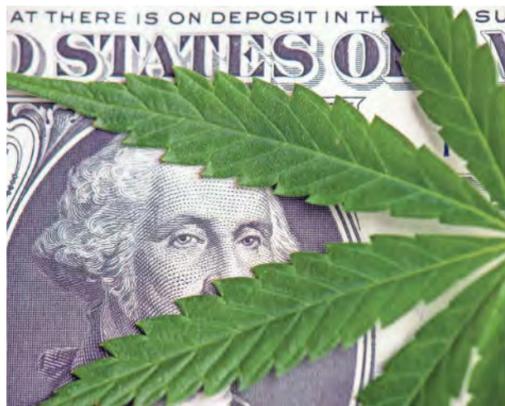
Andrew Haagen is a longtime photographer of Coachella artists. VICKIE CONNOR/THE DESERT SUN

carpets and sofas amid a gallery of images he photographed of Coachella subjects like Oasis, Questlove of The Roots, Café Tacvba from Mexico and 88-year-old Coachella fan Clint Eastwood.

The other tent is his lair, where Haagen and his team of assistants check in guests. They set the mood with curated music, lighting, incense and cold air blowing from giant fans. Subjects pose for Haagen's cameras on at least two sets occasionally adorned with props to create ever-changing fantasy worlds to realize Haagen's visions.

See **HAAGEN**, Page 10A

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT CALIFORNIA, 19A



#### Cashing in on 420 marketing

Potheads have for decades celebrated their love of marijuana on April 20, but the once counterculture celebration now is so mainstream Corporate America is starting to embrace it. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

### USA TODAY

#### House Democrats seek unredacted Mueller report

While special counsel Robert Mueller declined to prosecute President Donald Trump on obstruction of justice charges, he did not exonerate the president, all but leaving the question to Congress. Republicans are eager to move beyond what Trump calls the "witch hunt" that has overshadowed the party and the presidency, while Democrats say Mueller's findings are far more serious than initially indicated in Attorney General William Barr's four-page summary last month. **27A**

#### Tourism drives Indian Wells economy

Tourism is up in Indian Wells, bringing with it more money and a bright outlook, highlighted by the pending development of the valley's first Delano luxury hotel. **3A**

### Attend a FREE Reverse Mortgage Seminar

If you are age 62 or older, come see how a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) may help improve the quality of your retirement.

#### Comfort Suites

39585 Washington St.  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Wednesday

May  
**15**  
at 10 am

RSVP by calling TODAY!  
**760.501.1279**



Clay Behm  
Certified Reverse Mortgage Professional  
cbehm@rfslend.com  
NMLS #582971



RETIREMENT FUNDING SOLUTIONS  
A Mutual of Omaha Bank Company

Borrowers must occupy home as their primary residence, keep up with property maintenance, and stay current on paying property taxes, required insurance and homeowner's fees.  
Synergy One Lending Inc. d/b/a Retirement Funding Solutions, NMLS 1025894, 3131 Camino Del Rio N 190, San Diego, CA 92108. Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act - California License 4131356. These materials are not from, and were not approved by, HUD or FHA. Subject to credit approval.  
www.rfsconsumeraccess.org  
DS-TDS0007939-29 RFS.0419.66

desertsun.com

Subscribe: Access to all of our content every day.

#### Weather

High 90° ■ Low 59°  
Sunny. Forecast, **30A**

Volume 92 | No. 186  
SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927

