

# Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**PEOPLE WALK** the sands in Laguna Beach as Laguna opens its beaches on weekdays from 6 to 10 a.m. for recreational use.

## Huntington Beach, Laguna begin phased reopening of beaches

H.B. gets approval from the state five days after Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered the beaches closed.

**BY MATT SZABO AND ANDREW TURNER**

The city of Huntington Beach announced Tuesday that it would be opening its beaches and beach bike pathways for active recreational use, effective immediately.

State officials approved plans for beaches reopening in Huntington Beach, Seal Beach and Dana Point on Tuesday.

The news came a day after Laguna Beach and San Clemente each reopened their city's beaches.

Gov. Gavin Newsom had ordered Orange County beaches closed on Thursday.

"We're delighted to be reopening our beaches for active recreation, which will allow our community to once again enjoy the recreational and mental health benefits from spending time at the Pacific Ocean," Huntington

Beach Mayor Lyn Semeta said in a release. "The new active recreation rules that we're instituting will allow for continued beach access in a manner that emphasizes the need to practice safe social distancing."

Tuesday's decision was to reopen Huntington Beach beaches, including Huntington State Beach and Bolsa Chica State Beach but excluding beaches in Huntington Harbour, every day from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. for active recreation.

That includes ocean activities as well as walking, running, hiking and bicycle riding. Beaches and the ocean will be closed to passive games, loitering, sunbathing and any gathering of people outside of those within their immediate household.

The Huntington Beach Pier and all city beach parking lots re-

See **H.B.**, page A4

Laguna city beaches open to active sand and water use for weekdays only, from 6 to 10 a.m.

**BY LILLY NGUYEN AND SARA CARDINE**

Laguna Beach was all set to do a limited reopening of its beaches Monday, following a unanimous vote by its City Council at an April 28 meeting.

Then, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered a "hard close" of all Orange County beaches.

On Monday, state officials announced that the cities of Laguna Beach and San Clemente would be allowed to reopen their beaches.

Both cities submitted their plans on how to safely provide public access to their beaches, which were determined to be consistent with the statewide stay-at-home order.

"We appreciate the governor's willingness to work with us to provide a responsible, gradual approach to reopening all beaches in Laguna Beach for ac-

tive recreation," Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen said in a statement. "This will allow people the opportunity to walk, jog, swim and surf and get some fresh air and exercise on a limited basis, but not congregate or gather in large groups."

A letter sent to Laguna Beach from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California Natural Resources Agency said vigilance would be necessary to support successful implementation of the four-part plan.

City beaches opened Tuesday to active sand and water use and will remain open on weekdays only, from 6 to 10 a.m.

Approximately 5.5 miles of coastline operated by the city of Laguna Beach are open for walking, running, swimming, surfing and other individual wa-

See **Laguna**, page A4

## Muldoon files beach closure lawsuit on his own

Newport councilman, paying legal costs, sues Gov. Gavin Newsom in federal court.

**BY HILLARY DAVIS**

Newport Beach City Councilman Kevin Muldoon individually sued Gov. Gavin Newsom in federal court Monday over Newsom's hard beach closure targeting Orange County.

Muldoon, acting on his own behalf and footing his own legal costs, has been a vocal proponent of lifting the weeks-long lockdown to stem the coronavirus pandemic and re-

starting the flow of California's economy. He called Newsom's directive, handed down on Thursday and put into effect the next day, unconstitutional.

The gubernatorial order only affects Orange County and the reopening date for Newport is unclear, although several neighboring cities have received permission from the state for limited beach reopenings this week.

"Defendants have shown by their actions a willingness to ignore and to violate the fundamental civil rights of California residents," the lawsuit reads. "Their actions ... are persistent and capable of repetition unless they are enjoined by this court."

The suit also lists California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, Governor's Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci and California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot as co-defendants. The suit seeks legal fees and that the closures be blocked.

Muldoon's suit alleged violations of the second-term councilman's freedom to travel, due

See **Muldoon**, page A2

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

**NEWPORT BEACH LIFEGUARDS CLEARED 2,700 BEACHGOERS FROM THE SAND SUNDAY**  
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**COMMENTARY: RELEASE NONVIOLENT JUVENILE OFFENDERS FROM CUSTODY TO PROTECT THEM FROM COVID-19**  
PAGE A3

**COVID-19 UPDATE: ORANGE COUNTY REPORTS 4 DEATHS AND 69 NEW CASES**  
Read online at dailypilot.com



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**LIFEGUARDS PATROL** near the Huntington Beach Pier on Tuesday.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A PERSON** on the beach gives a peace sign to surfers as he runs along Cleo Street in Laguna Beach on Tuesday.

## Hoag seeks to sever ties with Providence healthcare system

**BY HILLARY DAVIS**

Hoag Hospital is taking legal action to dissolve its relationship with the Providence St. Joseph Health system and regain local control.

Hoag, known formally as Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, filed suit Friday in Orange County Superior Court to get out of an eight-year partnership that it says has long not been as fruitful as it had hoped.

Hoag joined forces with the Orange County-based St. Joseph Health System in 2012 to form a regional healthcare delivery system and created the Covenant Health Network, with a seven-member board, to integrate the two nonprofit partners. At the time, St. Joseph had 14 hospitals, five in Southern California.

In 2016, St. Joseph merged with Providence. The Catholic Providence St. Joseph Health, based in

Seattle, has 51 hospitals in six western states.

Hoag Hospital President and Chief Executive Robert Braithwaite said Tuesday that Providence's scale is more regional to national, while Hoag seeks to be intensely local.

He called it a "paradox of scale," where going bigger diluted and constrained local control. The benefits of syncing with a larger network, such as financial, staffing or branding boosts, were never what drew Hoag to join with St. Joseph, but rather a broader but still local "population health management" model, Braithwaite said — a "bold vision" that never got its footing, he said. According to the complaint, officials were frustrated by a lack of progress toward the population health model even before the Providence merger, but Hoag took the acquisition as a renewed opportunity.

### INSIDE

**HOAG ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE RESUMES SOME ELECTIVE SURGERIES USING GUIDANCE FROM FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.** PAGE A2

"Those efforts fared no better than Hoag's prior efforts," the complaint states.

In 2017, the Covenant Health Network executive staff was formally abandoned. Then, this year, "Providence executives declared to Hoag's board that population health was no longer relevant," the complaint reads.

"As time has progressed, moreover, there have been increasing efforts by Providence to homogenize the system and to move focus away from a community-



Courtesy of Miguel Vasconcellos

**DEBORAH PROCTOR**, then-president and CEO of Orange County-based St. Joseph Health System, left, and Dr. Richard Afable, then-president and CEO of Hoag Hospital, announce their partnership in 2012.

management/engagement model, eliminating Orange County as a region and concentrating much of the decision-making in national corporate

management," the complaint says. "These efforts stand in direct contradiction to [the affiliation

See **Hoag**, page A2

Hoag resumes some elective surgeries after postponement for two months

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Hoag Orthopedic Institute resumed some elective surgeries Friday. The institute, which has a specialty hospital in Irvine and outpatient surgery centers in Newport Beach, Mission Viejo, Orange and Marina del Rey, postponed all elective surgeries in March and April in accordance with guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the continuing coronavirus pandemic. The institute said in a statement that it is proceeding "under a thoughtful and judicious protocol" using recent guidance from federal, state and local government agencies and in recommendations by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and other clinical professional organizations. Hoag Orthopedic Institute is one of the largest providers of hip and knee replacements in California. "Many in our community have orthopedic issues that have been deferred for an extended period of time," Jennifer Mitzner, president and chief executive of Hoag Orthopedic Institute, said in the statement. "The conditions today are such that we may now increasingly meet those delayed essential health needs in a careful and safe manner." All patients undergoing elective surgery procedures will be required to obtain COVID-19 testing three days prior to surgery, then quarantine at home prior to arrival at the facility for their surgical procedure. Personnel and visitors will be limited and screened, and limited personnel will be allowed in the operating room. Dr. Robert Gorab, the institute's chief medical officer, said the first patients will primarily be on an outpatient basis and those with fewer health-related issues that might increase surgical risk. "We have an outstanding clinical care team and we are all very excited to resume orthopedic care for our patients, as many are quite limited by their musculoskeletal conditions," he said. For more on the new protocols, visit hoagorthopedicinstitute.com.

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HOAG

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and] Hoag's mission." Erik G. Wexler, chief executive for the Covenant Health Network and Providence St. Joseph Health in Southern California, said in a statement that Providence is disappointed by the "misguided and potentially costly legal actions by the Hoag leaders." Hoag's reasons for severing ties are "unclear," especially as healthcare systems are fighting the coronavirus pandemic. "Our relationship has been strong since 2012. The Hoag leaders' so-called 'realignment' plan would negatively impact patient care [and] diminish resources and medical expertise available to Orange County," Wexler stated. "In fact, this move could undo nearly a decade's worth of enhanced access to high quality, dependable, affordable and compassionate care to the communities we serve, especially to our most vulnerable members." Hoag Hospital opened atop a bluff in West Newport in 1952, the product of a Presbyterian minister, several church members, and a doctor, and the largesse of the Hoag family, whose patriarchs amassed a fortune as early investors in the J.C. Penney Co. department store chain and eventually moved to Newport Beach.

The Hoag Family Foundation and the Assn. of Presbyterian Members of Hoag, known collectively as the founders, have been extensively involved in hospital affairs ever since. "My grandmother, Grace Hoag, and my father, George Hoag II, had a vision, in collaboration with local Presbyterian leaders, for creating outstanding local healthcare in Orange County," said Melinda Hoag Smith, president and chief executive of the George Hoag Family Foundation, in a statement. "Our family has carried that legacy of meeting the needs of this amazing community over the last 70 years. It is time to ensure we continue that work as Orange County grows and residents' healthcare needs continue to evolve. Full independence is the best path toward a sustainable and thriving Hoag." In addition to the 434-bed flagship campus in Newport, Hoag has an 84-bed hospital in Irvine, 13 urgent care centers and nine health centers around Orange County along with a well-honed local identity. The continuing coronavirus pandemic underscored Hoag's desire for independence and agility, Braithwaite said. "I think the pandemic actually highlighted for Hoag and for the board and certainly for our physicians and nurses the need for very timely decision-making and unique decision-making," he

said. Last year, the Hoag hospital board attempted unsuccessfully to realign its relationship with Providence by breaking apart formally but maintaining a voluntary collaboration. Braithwaite said he sees the value in collaboration, noting a relationship Hoag has with the pediatricians at Children's Hospital of Orange County. But neither Hoag nor CHOC cedes control, he said. The Roman Catholic Providence and the Presbyterian Hoag also have "some fundamental and growing differences in values. Those differences directly impact the care of patients within the two systems," the complaint adds. Hoag's fiduciary board, executive leadership team, physician leadership and founders agreed to keep pressing for independence. The litigation is a "last resort" to keep Hoag from being a "captive affiliate," the complaint says, although Braithwaite said he wants a split to be as amicable as possible. The hospital says patients will not be impacted. Braithwaite acknowledged that the pandemic's impacts on the courts will extend the case's time frame, which could go as long as two years, he estimated.



Wally Skalik | Los Angeles Times

NEWPORT BEACH lifeguards and police clear the beach Saturday.

Thousands of people cleared from Newport Beach's sands

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Newport Beach lifeguards cleared 2,700 beachgoers from the sand Sunday as state-mandated hard closures continued, city officials said. Lifeguards, with backup from police, reminded visitors who slipped around barriers of the pandemic-driven closure in a coordinated sweep starting at around 1:45 p.m. The operation stretched from the Newport Pier to the Santa Ana River jetty. Police made no arrests or citations. That's not to say that every beachgoer was asked to turn back: Lifeguards estimated an overall beach attendance of 4,500 people throughout the day on all seven miles of Newport shoreline from Corona del Mar to the Huntington Beach border, according to city spokesman John Pope. Pope said the majority of the 2,700 people that lifeguards contacted complied after being told via public address systems, helicopters, boats and lifeguards and police officers on the sand.

Pope said crowds were lighter on Friday and Saturday but those beachgoers also mostly left after being told. The beaches closed Friday on the order of Gov. Gavin Newsom, who targeted Orange County beaches after a bump in visitation the prior weekend, which he said threatened continuing efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Two lawsuits have already been filed challenging the closure — one by the cities of Huntington Beach and Dana Point along with four businesses in Huntington and Newport, and one by Newport Beach City Councilman Kevin Muldoon, acting as an individual. Meanwhile, Laguna Beach, which was early to adopt a city beach closure in March and was about to allow limited use before Newsom's directive, and San Clemente received state clearance Monday to reopen to limited "active use" only.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS 1 Road \_\_; selfish driver 4 Actress Moorehead 9 "Father Knows" 13 Goofs 15 1 of 7 deadly sins 16 Disgusting 17 Judge's order 18 Sudden extreme fear 19 Part of the leg 20 Deadlock 22 Catch \_\_ z's; sleep 23 Ivory or Dial 24 Perish 26 19th-century U.S. president 29 \_\_ with; making a pass at 34 Astonished 35 Pencil sharpener handle 36 By way of 37 Matures 38 Hauling into court 39 Bakery display 40 Feel sorry about 41 Destined 42 Jigsaw puzzle bit 43 Blow-by-blow 45 \_\_ out; eliminates gradually 46 Prefix for heat or med 47 Appendicitis symptom 48 Command to a horse 51 Lad 56 Check for the landlord 57 Northeastern state 58 Zoom skyward 60 Foot part 61 Toothed-leaved birch 62 Oz visitor 63 \_\_ on; victimize 64 Has to have 65 \_\_ lime pie

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and black squares indicating non-letter positions.

SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

Sudoku grid with pre-filled numbers and bold borders for 3x3 boxes.

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- 2 Family of hockey's Bobby 3 "True \_\_"; John Wayne film 4 Come into view 5 Dad's dad 6 One of Columbus' ships 7 Correct a manuscript 8 Withdrawing from a group 9 Actress Jacqueline 10 Repeated sound 11 Quickly glance through a book 12 Sharon's "Cagney & Lacey"

- costar 14 Stows away 21 Deafening 25 Rile 26 Blue ribbon 27 Scoundrel 28 Twitter post 29 Cooked in oil 30 Come to shore 31 Crawling vines 32 Family tree member 33 Krypton & radon 35 Like anybody's grandbaby 38 Company rep 39 Liberace or Elton John 41 Christmas tree, often 42 Donahue or Hartman 44 Indifference 45 AKC dog's proof 47 Earned 48 Envelop 49 Munich señor 50 \_\_ in Love With Amy 52 "A \_\_ of Two Cities" 53 Hitchhiker's hope 54 Alcove 55 Fence opening 59 Trigger's rider

Tribune Media Services

MULDOON

Continued from page A1

process, equal protection, right to liberty and a state-protected right to access navigable waters — even though Orange County has relatively low numbers of cases of COVID-19, the potentially fatal respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, and related deaths, particularly compared to other coastal Southern California counties both where beaches are open and closed. It is separate of a lawsuit the cities of Huntington Beach and Dana Point, along with four Huntington and Newport businesses, filed within hours of Newsom's announcement. Newport did not join that case, filed in Orange County Superior Court, but the City Council, Muldoon included, voted Saturday to file a brief in support. Muldoon's own suit argues there is "no rational scientific basis for the beach closures," citing studies on the virus' behavior and disease statistics from regional public health departments. "Since the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States in February and March 2020, the federal government's projections of the anticipated national death toll related to the virus has decreased substantially, by an order of magnitude," the complaint reads. "Despite such revisions, defendants have increasingly restricted — where not outright banned — plaintiff's engagement in constitutionally-protected activities." The governor's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest lawsuit. Beaches have become a flashpoint in sweeping statewide stay-at-home orders handed down in mid-March.

Starting in late March, Newport officials closed several coastal amenities, including its piers, boardwalks and beach parking, but were hesitant to close the beach itself. Then, on the weekend of April 24-26, a heat wave enticed lockdown-weary residents to beaches around Orange County, where most cities had left the sand accessible and the Board of Supervisors had just reopened county-run beaches. The turnout was well-documented. Widely circulated photos and videos of the shore in Newport and Huntington Beach appeared to show dense throngs not practicing physical distancing or wearing face coverings. Los Angeles County's beaches remain closed. San Diego and Ventura counties, which had been closed until the same weekend, remain open with some restrictions. Newport officials countered press images with their own taken by police from a helicopter during Saturday's peak appearing to show much looser crowds, and at Tuesday's City Council meeting, lifeguards said Friday and Saturday drew about 40,000 people each day. By contrast, the Fourth of July draws between 100,000 and 130,000. The suit also posits that studies show "that the closure of public beaches would not only be of no benefit to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 or death from it — it could actually be detrimental to such efforts." This cites a Chinese study of COVID-19 clusters in Wuhan, China, the outbreak's epicenter, that concluded outdoor transmissions were few and rare and a U.S. Department of Homeland Security claim that sunlight and high temperatures could rapidly destroy a

COVID-19 particle. It also suggests that being cooped up can harm physical and mental health. Further, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official mitigation guidelines for COVID-19 make no mention of closing public parks or beaches, and World Health Organization and European CDC guidelines also advise against "internal travel restrictions" during a pandemic because they have little effect on reducing transmission, while imposing major social and economic costs. At the same Newport council meeting Tuesday — where the council considered but on a split vote rejected fully closing its beaches in response to the prior weekend's visitation — Mayor Will O'Neill cited Los Angeles County Department of Public Health figures showing that Malibu had 216 known cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 residents at the time and Santa Monica had 167 per 100,000 people. Newport had about 108 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents; neighboring Huntington Beach had 89 per 100,000 people, according to the OC Health Care Agency. Similarly, Muldoon's suit points to death rates for Los Angeles, San Diego and Ventura counties out of populations overall — .0131% for Los Angeles, .0043% for San Diego and .0022% for Ventura as of Tuesday. For Orange County, the rate is .0019% for 61 deaths out of 3.2 million residents. Meanwhile, Huntington Beach faced an early setback Friday when a Superior Court judge denied its immediate request to block the closure. That case is set to return to court May 11 for another crack at lifting the restrictions.

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## forum

COMMENTARY | **ELIZABETH CAUFFMAN, LAURENCE STEINBERG**

# Release nonviolent juvenile offenders from custody to protect them from COVID-19

**S**ocial distancing in places like nursing homes, cruise ships and jails is difficult if not impossible. And knowingly sending thousands of people into such dangerously cramped environments for several weeks, and then returning them to their communities, should be unthinkable.

Yet, this is exactly what is happening to juvenile offenders nationwide. On any given day, tens of thousands of juveniles are held in detention facilities across the country. Many are held for nonviolent offenses.

Given the growing number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in correctional facilities, a few weeks in a detention center is more than enough time for a young person awaiting a hearing to become infected, only to carry this infection back into the community upon his or her release.

The arguments for keeping children locked up for weeks, in virtual petri dishes, for drug possession, truancy, vandalism and other nonviolent offenses, are suspect.

Over the past two decades, we have co-directed two large-scale studies designed to determine how variations in the way we respond to juvenile offending affect adolescents' likelihood of recidivating. Both studies

clearly show that releasing most juvenile offenders from institutional placement would protect public health without jeopardizing public safety.

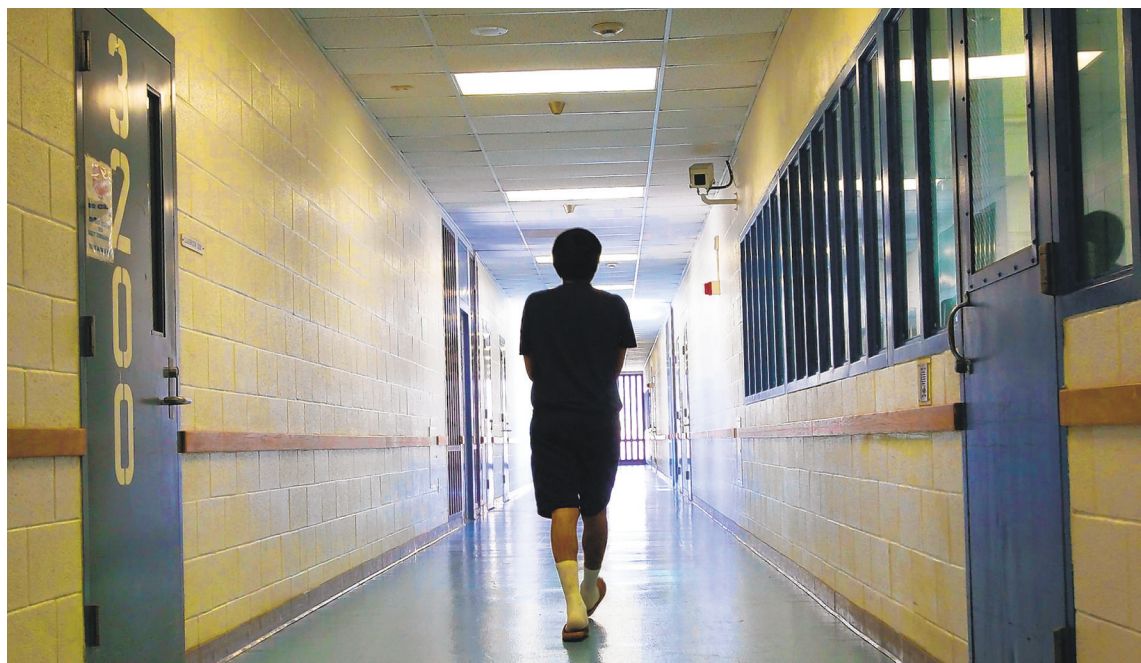
Indeed, our ongoing research study, "Crossroads," has followed more than 1,200 male, first-time juvenile offenders who committed minor violations, such as theft, vandalism, drug possession and fighting for five years.

Our findings indicate that punitive responses to juvenile offending actually increase rates of repeated offending, compared with more forgiving ones (such as diversion or supervised probation).

In other words, there is research to support that diverting offenders away from the justice system (and, presumably, from settings in which they might be exposed to coronavirus) is safer for the juveniles, their families and the public.

Under the best of circumstances, the widespread detention of nonviolent juvenile offenders is bad public policy that in the long run makes our communities more, not less, dangerous.

But in the throes of a global pandemic, the unnecessary confinement of these youth in settings where they are likely to be exposed to COVID-19 com-



Nelvin C. Cepeda | San Diego Union-Tribune

**THE JUVENILE DETENTION** facility in the Kearny Mesa neighborhood of San Diego, as shown in this 2012 photo.

pounds the public safety risk by exacerbating the spread of the virus.

In the face of the current COVID-19 threat, states should immediately move all but the most dangerous juveniles out of the facilities that now house them, and place them in at-home quarantine, under GPS monitoring in their communi-

ties.

This is not just common sense but also a scientifically-informed policy that would enhance public safety and reduce the number of young people infected with COVID-19, which, in turn, will diminish the likelihood that they will transmit the virus from a detention facility into the community,

endangering their families and neighbors. Doing so is consistent with both sound public health practice and juvenile justice policy.

**ELIZABETH CAUFFMAN** is a psychological science professor at UC Irvine. **LAURENCE STEINBERG** is a psychology professor at Temple University.

## MAILBAG

## Thank you to our Hoag staff, who successfully treated state's first documented COVID-19 case

We want to express how proud we are of all our colleagues at Hoag Hospital.

Our team has been working tirelessly — and under extremely stressful and challenging circumstances — and we continue to provide the same compassionate and high-quality care for the Orange County community during the COVID-19 pandemic as we have always provided.

It was not widely known at the time, but back in January the Orange County Health Care Agency selected Hoag to care for California's first COVID-19 patient, who has since fully recovered.

OCHCA chose us for a simple reason: We were prepared. We were ready to provide comprehensive, lifesaving care for that first patient — and we remain prepared now.

But as we provide top-tier care for our COVID-19 patients, we cannot emphasize enough that Hoag's facilities are safe, orderly and well-prepared to provide exceptional emergency care for all patients.

Sheltering in place does not apply to those with potentially life-threatening medical conditions, such as strokes and heart attacks, and we stand ready and able to safely care for any-

one who comes through our doors.

Since our very first COVID-19 patient, our command center has meticulously tracked the number of available beds, ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE), pharmaceuticals and more, on a daily basis.

Keeping a close accounting of all available resources — including the human ones, the remarkable men and women of Hoag who provide such skilled and compassionate care — ensures that we are prepared if and when a surge arrives here in our community.

Hoag's readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic includes daily communication with OCHCA authorities in order to stay abreast of rapidly evolving best practices. This guidance allows us to ensure that we are keeping our patients and our healthcare workers safe as we face this challenge.

Our mission — to provide the highest-quality healthcare to the communities we serve — manifests itself in innumerable ways. For example, Hoag is one of very few hospitals selected as a clinical trial site for remdesivir, a possible therapeutic option for COVID-19.



Los Angeles Times

**HOAG TREATED** California's first COVID-19 patient.

We are also among the first hospitals to obtain Food and Drug Administration permission to use convalescent plasma in critically ill COVID-19 patients. As new testing and treatment options are deployed in the fight against COVID-19, we will deliver on our promise to make them available to our community.

Our passion, and our ability, to dare is made possible by the extraordinary men and women who belong to what we call the "Hoag family."

We take extra steps to make sure they are physically and emotionally healthy — from employee health clinics for staff and their families, to quality childcare, and with a deeply ingrained culture of esprit de corps.

This in turn permeates the care they provide our patients, and the touching interactions and genuine affinity that develop be-

tween staff and patients.

This powerful phenomenon was on full display this past Monday as members of our staff watched proudly — and with more than a few tears of happiness — as a married couple in their 90s left Hoag after being successfully treated for COVID-19.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we couldn't be prouder of our staff's commitment to confront this public health crisis rationally, proactively and skillfully, united in a common goal of providing the best care possible to our community.

Hoag pride runs deep, and it makes a difference.

**Robert T. Braithwaite**  
President & CEO,  
Hoag Hospital

**Michael B. Hurwitz**  
M.D. Chief of Staff, Hoag

**George H. Wood**  
Chairman, Hoag board  
of directors

## Respond to friends who live alone

I'd like to remind my married friends that when you receive a text, an email or see a Facebook post from a single neighbor or relative, try to reply in a timely manner.

Sometimes a simple yes or no is all it takes. Other times, a sentence or two is necessary. Either way, your response is one more way we all can remain connected in these trying times.

If everyone does his or her part, then making lemonade out of lemons will be one of the easiest things we do during this unprecedented, national health crisis.

**Denny Freidenrich**  
Laguna Beach

## Daily Pilot

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