

# Daily Pilot

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## The hunt goes on at Fairview Park



**TOP LEFT:**

An American kestrel perches briefly on a dried stalk of mustard at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa on March 4.

**TOP RIGHT:**

A white-tailed kite circles above the open fields at the park.

**CENTER:**

A coyote catches a small rodent in its mouth.

**RIGHT:**

The coyote leaps across the grasses as it hunts for more rodent snacks.

Photos by Raul Roa  
Staff Photographer

## Man shot by Costa Mesa police

The attempt to thwart a commercial robbery results in department's third officer-involved shooting in 40 days.

BY SARA CARDINE

An attempt by Costa Mesa Police Department officers to thwart a commercial robbery involving a suspect armed with a knife early Thursday resulted in an officer-involved shooting — the third such incident to be reported by the department in 40 days.

A male suspect was reportedly receiving medical treatment at an undisclosed location Thursday, according to a release issued by the department hours after the incident occurred.

Police say the man, whose identity is not being released at this time, entered a business on the 2200 block of Fairview Road sometime before 4:45 a.m. and was allegedly assaulting a cashier with a knife when officers arrived on scene.

Exactly how many officers may have discharged their weapons, or how many shots were fired at the suspect, was not being reported by officials later Thursday morning.

Both the victim and the suspect were treated for their injuries by officers and members of Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue and then transported to nearby hospitals, the release stated. The victim had sustained stab wounds and was reported in stable condition. The suspect's condition was still unknown at the time the release was issued.

No other parties were involved, and no officers were reported injured during the incident. A knife was recovered from the scene, according to the release. The Orange County district attorney's office is conducting an investigation of the matter.

This is the third officer-involved shooting reported by the Costa Mesa Police Department since Jan. 31, when at least one officer fired on a man who allegedly brandished a knife and charged at officers when they attempted to interview him.

See **Shooting**, page A2

## Pedestrian killed while crossing the street in F.V.

BY ANDREW TURNER

A Huntington Beach man crossing the street was killed by a moving vehicle in Fountain Valley late Tuesday night, authorities said Thursday.

Fountain Valley police responded to the incident at the intersection of Brookhurst Street and Ellis Avenue at 11:52 p.m., police said.

Timothy Durham, 37, of Huntington Beach was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said that Durham was crossing Ellis Avenue when a white 2014 Jeep Compass heading eastbound hit the pedestrian. The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene and cooperated with police, they reported.

Authorities said that drugs and alcohol were not considered to have factored into the traffic collision following a preliminary investigation. Police also said the incident is still being investigated.

andrew.turner@latimes.com  
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

## Newport reviews potential projects for 2021-22

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach City Council this week got a preview of the projects that could come through the pipeline when they set next fiscal year's budget.

During a study session held Tuesday, city staff presented a short list of projects that could be considered for 2021-22. Projects are selected through a review of the facility finance plan, facility maintenance and management plan, pavement management plan, water master plan and the sewer master plan.

Deputy public works director Jim Houlihan said in his presentation that city staff is proposing a capital improvement program budget of \$69.8 million. About \$30.6 million of that will involve new funding while \$39.2 million will be re-budgeted, although that number is expected to drop in coming months.

Some of the facility projects proposed for the new funding is the Central Library lecture hall, the junior lifeguards headquarters and the rehabilitation of the Cliff Drive Park clubhouse. Other infrastructure projects to be discussed include street rehabilitation and repair.

Also up for deliberation is the Balboa Peninsula summer trolley, which Houlihan said would be discussed at the City Council's March 23 meeting.

About \$5 million in funding is proposed to



**NEWPORT BEACH**

officials saw a preview of the capital improvement projects up for consideration in the upcoming budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

File Photo

come out of the general fund while the remaining \$25.6 million will be allocated from various other funds.

Additionally, five projects — streetlight rehabilitation, median improvement of Balboa Boulevard, pedestrian improvements for Ocean Boulevard, landscaping enhancements and improvements to the oceanfront boardwalk — were brought before City Council as part of the study session. Those are not currently funded.

The general plan update will also need another \$400,000, which City Manager Grace Leung said is primarily for consultant fees,

and a permanent supportive housing project will require \$1 million.

"As part of the COVID budgeting that we did last year, we deferred projects. There are a set of projects that, whether we found additional funding or the project got recalibrated, we were able to absorb it into the annual \$5-million budget we put for a baseline [capital improvement program]," Leung said.

About \$21 million in capital improvement projects were deferred last year as part of efforts to balance the budget ahead of the un-

See **Projects**, page A3



PROJECTS

Continued from page A1

known potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Those were the top deferred projects that we knew we needed to move forward on. Those are in and proposed as new projects, but this group right here," said Leung of the five unfunded projects, "are projects that we do feel should move forward."

"Could they wait a little bit? We could do that if we needed to, but they are kind of the next in line of priority that we'd want to move off of deferral and we think with our surpluses that we've had that these would be good candidates to be funded with those funds. We're just holding right now as we continue to look at what our budget picture looks like to feel comfortable enough with that," she said.

Councilman Will O'Neill asked city staff to move the streetlight rehabilitation project — about \$416,000 — back into the capital improvement program.

The council will be providing direction on which projects should be funded during their budget adoption process in June.

About \$14.9 million in projects were completed in the current fiscal year. Some of those projects tackled were median landscaping for West Coast Highway, parks improvement, street reconstruction, a remodel of the police station gun range and replacement of a water main in the area near Newport Pier.

Another \$28.4 million still remains in significant projects currently still under construction, such as a new fire station to replace the Lido Fire Station No. 2 on 32nd Street, which broke ground in January.

lillynguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds

Orange and L.A. counties will reopen faster than Ventura, Riverside, San Diego counties

BY LUKE MONEY, RONG-GONG LIN II, PAUL SISSON

Southern California is poised to reopen a wider swath of its economy in a matter of days. But as often has been the case throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the pace will be uneven — with some counties moving forward more quickly than others.

In the long run, that probably won't be a major issue, particularly if newly confirmed infections continue to fall and more Californians are vaccinated.

But the near term could see a patchwork where three of the state's large urban counties — Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino — are able to begin a wider reopening before neighboring Ventura, Riverside and San Diego counties.

THE FIRST PHASE

According to state data released Tuesday, Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties recorded coronavirus case rates low enough to position them to escape the strictest, or purple, tier of California's further reopening roadmap.

The timing of when they can officially progress to the less restrictive red category, however, hinges on how quickly providers give vaccines to those living in California's most disadvantaged areas.

In a bid to address inequities in vaccine administration, California is now devoting 40% of its available supplies to residents in targeted communities — those in the lowest quartile of a socioeconomic measurement tool called the California Healthy Places index.

Once 2 million doses have been dispensed in those areas, the state will relax the criteria for coun-



Christina House | Los Angeles Times

DISNEY CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE in Anaheim could be open again, with some restrictions, within weeks, as confirmed coronavirus infections continue to fall.

ties to move from the purple to the red tier.

As it stands now, counties must have an adjusted rate at or below 7.0 new coronavirus cases per day per 100,000 people to move into the red tier. When the state hits its 2-million dose goal, counties with a case rate of up to 10 new cases per day per 100,000 people would become eligible to move forward.

California is about 73,000 doses short of 2 million, according to the latest available state data, meaning that goal is already within striking distance.

The state consistently receives more than 1 million total vaccine doses per week. And officials are hopeful supplies will continue to gradually increase as shipments of vaccines manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna increase and the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine arrives.

Under the existing reopening framework, Orange, L.A. and San Bernardino counties would not be

in position to advance from the purple tier this week. However, since all three have logged adjusted case rates of fewer than 10 new coronavirus cases per day per 100,000 people for the last two weeks, it appears they will be allowed to progress to the less restrictive category soon after the state clears its vaccination hurdle.

The latest state-released average coronavirus case rates, which are adjusted based on the number of tests performed in a particular county, were 5.2 in L.A., 6.0 in Orange County and 6.7 in San Bernardino.

NEXT STEPS

After the goal of 2-million doses is reached in low-income communities, the California Department of Public Health will move quickly on county tier reassignments. They'll "be announced the next day and will then be effective the day following that announcement," the agency said in an email Monday.

"Our understanding is

that, within 48 hours of the state announcing the vaccine trigger has been met, L.A. County, along with other counties with qualifying case rates, would move into the red tier," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Tuesday.

So by the time the state publishes its routine tier report next Tuesday — the day of the week tier assignments have typically been announced — the relaxed red-tier threshold should already be in place, enabling L.A., Orange, San Bernardino and some other counties to further reopen their economies.

Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, however, would need at least another week to move into the red tier. The latest state-tabulated adjusted case rates were 8.3 for Riverside County, 8.8 for San Diego County, 9.7 for Santa Barbara County and 9.1 for Ventura County. Two consecutive weeks of case rates below 10 are required to exit the

purple tier.

WHAT BEING IN THE RED MEANS

Counties in the red tier can allow indoor restaurant dining and movie theaters to reopen at 25% capacity or up to 100 people, whichever is less. In-person classes also would be allowed to resume for students in grades seven through 12.

Indoor gyms and dance and yoga studios can open at 10% capacity. Museums, zoos and aquariums can open indoor activities at 25% capacity, and non-sentimental stores and libraries can open at 50% capacity, up from 25%.

State officials also announced last week that amusement parks would be eligible to reopen, with restrictions, in red-tier counties starting April 1 — meaning long-closed attractions such as Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Southern California could be mere weeks away from once again welcoming visitors.

Capacity will be limited to 15% for parks in counties that are in the red tier, with the cap rising to 25% once a county progresses to orange, and 35% upon reaching the most lenient tier, yellow. Attendance will be limited to in-state visitors.

The state's rules serve only as a benchmark, though. Counties have the power to impose additional restrictions — meaning it's not a given that a region will immediately reopen fully after it meets state requirements.

Money and Lin are reporters for the Los Angeles Times. Sisson writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS
1 Slangy refusal
5 \_ pie
10 Troubles
14 All \_; listening
15 Embarrass
16 Flood survivor
17 Send a package
18 Make difficult
20 Nearest star
21 Reasonable bedtime
22 Like a capitol's roof
23 Old friend
25 Male animal
26 Imitation; fake
28 Joint beneficiary
31 Boots out
32 Common greeting
34 Do an outdoor chore
36 \_ out at; attack verbally
37 Not well-defined
38 \_ on; goad
39 12/24, for one
40 Funeral hymn
41 Special talent
42 Put on a pedestal
44 Swerve wildly
45 "Humpty Dumpty \_ a great fall"
46 Worth & Lauderdale
47 Distressed
50 Grand \_; batter's delight
51 Weep
54 Spouse finder
57 Citrus fruit
58 Vicinity
59 Fictitious name
60 Gung ho
61 Six months from now: abbr.
62 Wash off soapsuds
63 Plays the ponies
DOWN
1 Scottish monster's lake
2 "Magnum P.I."

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63.

SUDOKU

By The Mephram 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 puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

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

- setting
3 Beatrice & Eugenie
4 Sixth sense, for short
5 Actor Al
6 Costly black wood
7 Showed up
8 Biting critter
9 Org. for Ducks & Sharks
10 Form 1040 info
11 Rich soil
12 Tardy
13 Cast off
19 "The Gem State"
21 Assents silently
24 Biblical book
25 Film part
26 Bialystok native

- 27 Shampoo brand
28 Helpful hint
29 Awe-inspiring
30 Mailman's beat
32 Do damage to
33 \_ McMuffin; fast-food breakfast
35 Architect Christopher
37 Competed
38 Put papers in order
40 \_ Valley, CA; hottest U.S. spot
41 Old MacDonald's place
43 Seuss' "\_ in the Hat"
44 Uncouth; ill-mannered
46 Canine problem
47 Thurman's namesakes
48 Apple pie recipe verb
49 Ladder rung
50 Outer layer
52 Forget to include
53 Pieces of
55 Deface
56 Late ring king
57 Blood analysis site

Tribune Media Services

AAA Travel Tropical Escapes advertisement featuring destinations like O'ahu, Maui, and Riviera Maya, with offers up to \$300 in value per booking.

