Daily Pilot

Beating coronavirus at 88 and 90: one Newport Beach couple's story

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

DOLORES AND LOUIS AMEN are COVID-19 survivors who were admitted to Hoag Hospital in late March after they tested positive for the coronavirus. Five days later, they were discharged and became friends with nearly the whole staff on the 10th floor for their cheery dispositions.

Dolores, 88, and Louis Amen, 90, recently added overcoming COVID-19 to their list of accomplishments during their 70 years of marriage.

BY FAITH E. PINHO

After 70 years of marriage, what's several days at the hospital with COVID-19?

Dolores, 88, and Louis Amen, 90, recently notched overcoming the coronavirus together to their lengthy list of marital accomplishments.

Dolores has a history of pneumonia. Louis recently suffered from heart problems. But with spirit, characteristic feistiness and five days at Hoag Hospital, the Amens are recovering from the novel disease.

When the couple both tested positive for the

COVID-19 coronavirus at the end of March, their daughter, Mary Amen, 61, immediately drove to their Corona del Mar home and called the paramedics.

As she watched them being whisked away to the Hoag emergency room in Newport Beach, she wondered if that would be the last time she'd see them in person.

"I was terrified," she said.

Hoag's medical director of infection prevention, Dr. Philip Robinson, shared Mary's concerns.

*See **Couple**, page A2*

> "You could just see that it gave everybody that extra needed boost of energy and some hope that we're all going to come through this together."
>
> **— Dr. Philip Robinson**
> Medical director of infection prevention at Hoag Hospital

ORANGE COUNTY HEALTH CARE AGENCY GETTING PREPARED TO EXPAND ITS CORONAVIRUS TESTING

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Orange County is ramping up its coronavirus testing capacity after purchasing thousands of tests and assembling a wider network of public clinics.

The OC Health Care Agency launched the OC COVID-19 Testing Network Tuesday with six clinics and plans to add four more within the next two weeks.

David Souleles, director of public health services for the Health Care Agency, told the county Board of Supervisors Tuesday that the initial capacity will be 100 tests per site per day, or 600 tests per day, to start. The county has placed an initial order of 14,000 tests with Avellino Labs out of Menlo Park.

The tests, which are given by

appointment only, are diagnostic and will determine who is actively ill. They are not antibody tests, which see who has already been infected and recovered.

The tests are a public-private partnership and will augment tests offered by private healthcare providers. They are meant to enhance the safety net for people who are sick but have been unable to get tested for COVID-19, the potentially fatal disease caused by the coronavirus.

"Because of continued challenges of obtaining testing supplies and personal protective equipment for healthcare providers, testing may be restricted at times to high priority groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," county health officer Dr. Nichole

Quick said in a statement.

There is no out-of-pocket cost, but insurance may be billed.

Initially, patients will still need to be symptomatic, but their symptoms can now be milder than potential patients had been previously as public health was forced to ration an even more limited number of tests.

Souleles said he hopes to see 2,000 tests per day by next month.

Initial locations include AltaMed Medical Group at 1325 N. Anaheim Blvd. in Anaheim and 2720 S. Bristol St. #104 in Santa Ana, Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, 7761 Garden Grove Blvd. in Garden Grove, and multiple UCI Health locations.

The AltaMed at 8041 Newman

Ave. in Huntington Beach is set to open its testing clinic on Thursday.

Visit *occovid19.ochealthinfo.com* for more information.

As of Tuesday, 33 people had died of COVID-19 and 1,691 had tested positive out of 19,483 tests. The day-over-day increase was 29 from Monday.

The Health Care Agency also said 148 people were hospitalized with the virus Tuesday, 54 of them in intensive care.

Although the county last reported a new death on Monday, the most recent fatalities were an extension of a deadly spell for Orange County as the health agency reported 14 deaths over five of the last seven days. It was

*See **Testing**, page A2*

Arrest made in threat of journalist

A Costa Mesa man allegedly held a TV reporter at knifepoint during a protest in Huntington Beach.

BY HILLARY DAVIS AND ANDREW J. CAMPA

A Costa Mesa man is behind bars on suspicion of holding a television journalist at knifepoint after Friday's protest in Huntington Beach against coronavirus-driven stay-at-home orders.

Christien Francis Petersen, 36, was arrested just before 8 p.m. Friday for exhibiting a deadly weapon other than a firearm and for kidnapping, according to the Huntington Beach Police Department log. He remained in custody at the Orange County jail Monday on $100,000 bond.

Petersen allegedly approached a cameraman and reporter from Fox 11 News while they were reporting a post-demonstration story in downtown Huntington Beach and demanded they delete any video he might be in, the station reported Monday.

Armed with a pocketknife, Petersen then allegedly forced the cameraman into his live van to delete the video. Officers found Petersen still holding the cameraman at knifepoint inside the van, the station said. Police described Petersen as intoxicated.

The cameraman and reporter were shaken but unharmed.

Jail records list Petersen's occupation as lawyer, and the State Bar of California lists a Christien Francis Petersen as having an active license since graduating from Costa Mesa's Whittier College law school.

A Christien F. Petersen out of Whittier College law school was

*See **Threat**, page A4*

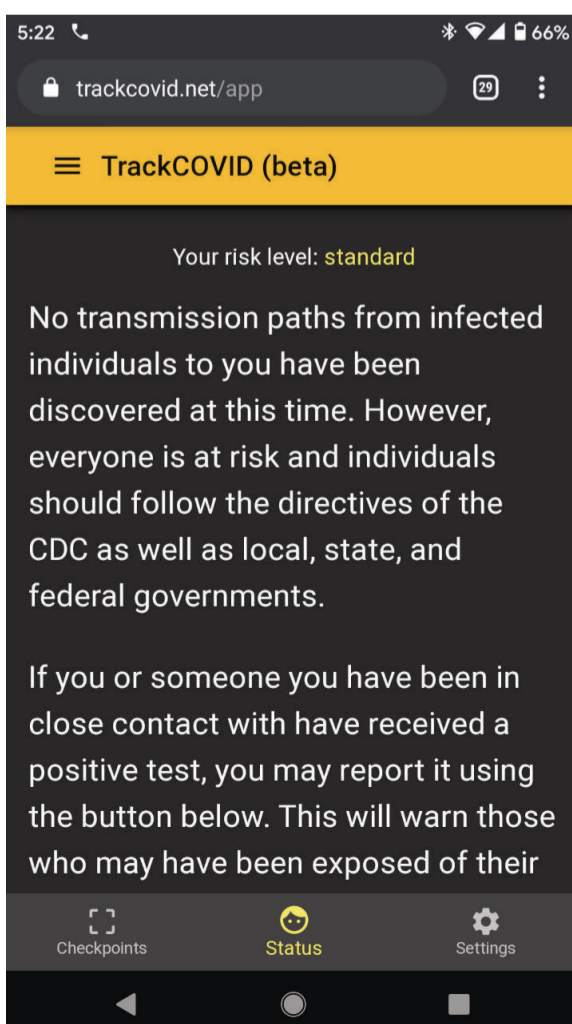
ALSO FORM THE DAILY PILOT:

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH VOTES THROUGH RAISES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES, DESPITE VOCAL OPPOSITION BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PAGE A2

TRACKCOVID is a contact tracing application developed by a team of researchers at UC Irvine. It seeks to track the spread of COVID-19.

Courtesy of Tyler Yasaka and Brandon Lehrich

[Phone screen showing:]

5:22

trackcovid.net/app

≡ TrackCOVID (beta)

Your risk level: standard

No transmission paths from infected individuals to you have been discovered at this time. However, everyone is at risk and individuals should follow the directives of the CDC as well as local, state, and federal governments.

If you or someone you have been in close contact with have received a positive test, you may report it using the button below. This will warn those who may have been exposed of their

Checkpoints   Status   Settings

UC Irvine researchers develop app to help track COVID-19, but will people use it?

BY BEN BRAZIL

UC Irvine researchers have developed a phone application that could potentially help stem the spread of COVID-19 by tracking and isolating people who may have been exposed to the deadly virus.

But activist groups and legal experts are warning of potential privacy encroachments that could occur if tracking technology is widely adopted.

TrackCOVID is a proposed smartphone application for contact tracing, a practice Gov. Gavin Newsom said on Tuesday was needed before the state's economy can reopen. Contact tracing is the process of finding out who has been in contact with a person who has recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Brandon Lehrich, who co-developed TrackCOVID, said contact tracing has traditionally been accomplished manually, with governments hiring hundreds of individuals to go out into the community to track down people who may have been exposed. Provoked by the rapid spread of

COVID-19, institutions like Apple, Google, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have been developing digital methods of contact tracing.

UCI's program uses a novel approach with quick response, or QR, codes.

"The drawback of manual contact tracing is a lot of people just don't remember where they have been and who they have been in contact with, nor how to contact those people," Lehrich said. "However, if you are automating

the process digitally then you hope you can cast as broad a net as possible and inform as many people as possible related to how many people you came in contact with."

The UCI tool requires the public to scan QR codes that would ideally be posted outside of high-traffic areas, like grocery stores or universities. After scanning the code with a phone camera, the application registers that the indi-

*See **App**, page A4*

TYLER YASAKA, a UC Irvine researcher, co-developed a contact tracing application that could help keep track of people exposed to COVID-19.

Don Leach Staff Photographer