

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A WORKER directs appointment holders into the new COVID-19 vaccination super POD site at the Orange County fairgrounds on Wednesday.

New COVID-19 super vaccination location opens at O.C. fairgrounds

Officials Wednesday marked the opening of the site. It will increase distribution in Orange County, where at least 1.5 million doses have already been given.

BY SARA CARDINE

County residents have come to Costa Mesa's O.C. fairgrounds for various purposes throughout the pandemic, from drive-through fair food and coronavirus testing to in-vehicle concerts and comedy shows, and now they'll have one more reason to come — COVID-19 vaccines.

Elected officials on Wednesday joined with representatives from the Orange County Health Care Agency and the OC Fair & Event Center to mark the opening of the site as the county's latest super vaccination POD (point of dispensing) site.

It joins others previously opened at Aliso Viejo's Soka University, the Anaheim Convention Center and Disneyland, which has been converted to a drive-through format available for people with disabled placards or license plates.

"Being able to add the O.C. fairgrounds to this list is an hon-

or for the county of Orange," said County Supervisor Chair Andrew Do in a news conference Wednesday. "This site adds to the capacity and infrastructure to allow us to deliver doses as quickly as possible once we receive them."

County leaders have set a goal of vaccinating most residents and employees by a July 1 deadline.

With a slate of inoculation destinations large and small, including mobile clinics, pharmacies and events designed to reach vulnerable populations, the pace is ramping up.

Dr. Clayton Chau, director of the O.C. Health Care Agency and health officer for the county, estimated as of March 29, the county had distributed more than 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

So far, more than 1.1 million residents had received at least

See **Vaccines**, page A4



DR. CLAYTON CHAU, right, director of the Orange County Health Care Agency, and Orange County 2nd District Supervisor Katrina Foley answer questions during the opening of a new COVID-19 vaccination super POD site at the Orange County fairgrounds in Costa Mesa on Wednesday.

"This is our one-way ticket to get out of this pandemic. There is not any other solution whatsoever — we need to do this."

— **Dr. Clayton Chau**

Director of the OC. Health Care Agency and health officer for the county

Council meetings in H.B. to remain virtual

Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz says he would show up maskless, instead of joining his colleagues on Zoom.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach City Council meetings will be staying virtual indefinitely after council members again failed to agree on mask usage during a special meeting Monday night.

The City Council was scheduled to reopen the chambers for the regularly scheduled April 4 meeting and met Monday to discuss COVID-19 protocols put together by City Manager Oliver Chi that would be in place going forward. But as he has since he was elected last November, Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz said he would not wear a mask.

Ortiz logged off from the meeting after an hour at 6 p.m., citing a prior engagement. Councilman Erik Peterson, who also did not wear a mask in the chambers prior to the meetings going virtual, did not attend the meeting at all.

As a result, neither were a part of the 5-0 vote to keep council meetings virtual indefinitely. The

See **Virtual**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

NEWPORT-MESA FAMILY YMCA REOPENS ITS DOORS PAGE A2

EDISON BASEBALL HOLDS ON TO BEAT HUNTINGTON BEACH PAGE A3

Murder conviction in death of 81-year-old Newport man in 2015

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A Carson City man was convicted of murder Wednesday in a Newport Beach case that dates to 2015.

Jurors ruled that Anthony Thomas Garcia, 62, was guilty of first-degree murder, but denied the enhancement charge that alleges Garcia murdered Newport Beach resident Abelardo "Abby" Estacion for financial gain. Garcia will be sentenced on April 28.

This is the second trial held for

Garcia in the Estacion murder case, with the first being declared a mistrial by Orange County Superior Court Judge Sheila Hanson when the jury deadlocked over Garcia's guilt.

He faces 25 years to life with the possibility of parole.

Investigators in the case said that early in the morning on April 11, 2015, someone snuck into Estacion's home on 16th Street and killed Estacion in his

See **Conviction**, page A2

Huntington Beach convicted sex offender faces additional child molestation charges

BY ANDREW TURNER

A Huntington Beach man and convicted sex offender faces new accusations of child molestation and additional criminal charges that go back to his participation in an elementary school literacy program, authorities said Tuesday.

Miguel Angel Pineda, 25, was arrested last week after three

more alleged victims came forward with complaints. Pineda is accused of meeting the girls while participating in a literacy program through the Boys and Girls Club, the Orange County district attorney's office said in a statement.

As part of the program, Pineda would read to students who attended elementary schools in the

See **Charges**, page A2

Local art groups team up to provide a virtual paint together series in April

The Laguna Plein Air Painters Assn. and LOCA Arts Education have come together to provide the community with an opportunity to learn from established artists throughout April.

Demonstrations will allow participants to partake in live-streamed events, during which the artists will take those registered for the program through a step-by-step process to help them replicate the piece they are working on.

The artists may work within their studio or at picturesque Southern California locations such as Crystal Cove, if the weather cooperates.

Events being offered during the month include Laguna Nocturne with Wendy Wirth on Saturday, Treasure Island Beauty with Debra Huse on Tuesday, Iconic Crystal Cove with Mark Fehlman on April 8, Coastal Vistas with Michael Obermeyer on April 13, and Atmospheric Landscapes with Daniel Marshall on April 23.

"This is a very rare opportunity to learn first-hand from Southern California's top landscape painters," LOCA Arts Education spokesperson Mike Tauber said.

Those wishing to participate in the virtual "Paint Together" series are required to register in advance.



Courtesy of Mike Tauber

AN ARTIST paints a landscape portrait of Main Beach in Laguna Beach.

Each session is \$40, which will grant access to a supply list, the event's live stream, as well as a recording that will allow participants to come back to the project at a time of their choosing. For members of LOCA Arts

Education or LPAPA, a discounted rate is available at \$20 per registrant.

Information for the events can be found at locaarts.org/events.

— Andrew Turner

COMMENTARY | MARK DAVIS

Marking Holy Week and Easter in the time of the coronavirus

It is an interesting year for people in the Christian community to celebrate Easter. On the one hand, crowded sanctuaries, full-throated singing and after-parties with children finding and sharing treats seem to be prescriptions for super-spreader events. On the other hand, the encouraging numbers that have moved Orange County into the orange tier this week seem precisely like a kind of rising to new life.

imagine — just what an empire wants to keep protests and liberation movements in check.

When we name it this way, Holy Week offers incisive critiques of the machinations that continue to disturb peace and violate community. The pandemic has also made so many of those disjointed systems among us more evident: Underpaid workers turn out to be essential; healthcare is a public issue, not a concili-

culture of life, after being so long wedded to a culture of death. Can we imagine a community where healthy foods are as accessible in food deserts as they are in exclusive markets? Can we imagine a community where a mixture of affordable housing and living wages ensure shelter for everyone? Can we imagine a community where mental illnesses and addictions are met with care and compassion, where refugees find sanctuary, where people of color have full access?

A culture of life can only rise when what we actually put to death is the violent culture of stigmas and scapegoating.

Throughout this pandemic we have seen nasty episodes of selfish behavior that endanger public health. We have also seen many people push past their own concerns to mask up, wash often and look out for their neighbors in need. So, in this season, as we observe Passover with family, attend or Zoom Easter services with a church or simply welcome the new life that spring offers, may we live in the message that good overcomes evil, life overcomes death and hope overcomes despair.

MARK DAVIS is the pastor of St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

Throughout this pandemic we have seen nasty episodes of selfish behavior that endanger public health. We have also seen many people push past their own concerns to mask up, wash often and look out for their neighbors in need.

erge privilege; and the horrible rise in anti-AAPI violence only sharpens the racism that has bedeviled communities of color and Native Americans throughout U.S. history.

An even sharper image comes to mind when we consider that the immediate cause of death for Jesus — even though he had intoxicants in his system — was asphyxiation. He couldn't breathe.

If Holy Week discloses the power of death that functions at the core of our community, Easter offers the hope that life ultimately overcomes death. The question is whether we, as a community, have the power and courage to imagine a

Scientists, health workers and community servants have the difficult responsibility to lead us in the right balance between caution and courage. I want to use this moment to let our shared experience help us interpret the Easter event as we allow it to help us interpret our shared experience.

Easter loses its meaning if it is separated from the dire events of what Christians call "Holy Week." It is during Holy Week that we hear the story of betrayal, abandonment, mob violence, brutality, justice denied, political pandering and even that harrowing question of theological despair, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Crucifixion itself is gruesome and obscene, the worst kind of political theater and scapegoating that one can

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Edison holds on to top Huntington Beach 9-7

BY ANTHONY CIARDELLI

Edison High School baseball coach Cameron Chinn had his first opportunity to see his team battle their former teammate Caden Aoki Wednesday when the Chargers visited Huntington Beach for a nonleague contest.

Aoki transferred from Edison before the pandemic prematurely ended the 2020 season and never played against his former school until this season.

Chinn's team came out swinging but didn't need any extra motivation on its way to a 9-7 win over Aoki and the Oilers.

"We're not playing against any individuals, we're playing against the team," Chinn said.

"They're the team that's down the street. They're the team that our guys were growing up playing with in youth league. Whenever you're playing your local rival, there's a little extra energy."

Jack Ross, the starting pitcher for Edison (3-2), scattered five hits over four innings, allowing three runs. He walked two and struck out seven in the winning effort.

On offense, Luke Serven and Zack Marker stood out. Serven had two hits with a double and three runs batted in, while Marker hit a double and drove in two runs.

Huntington Beach (3-2), which went down early but chipped away in the later innings, couldn't quite climb out of the early deficit.

Aiden Espinoza and Aoki both made an impact for Huntington Beach, hitting back-to-back solo home runs. Espinoza also singled in the game.

"It was fun," Aoki said. "Those are my best friends



EDISON HIGH'S Dylan Richardson slides in safely into home in a game against Huntington Beach High.

Raul Roa

over there. They competed today and it was a good win for them, but I'll be on the mound Saturday and I'll be ready to go."

The trouble started early for Huntington Beach starter Jack Smith, who lasted 1 1/2 innings, allowing eight runs on six hits and a walk while striking out two.

Edison's Logan Hamrick led off with a double up the right-field line before Cade Liefer drove him in with a first-pitch double to center.

Then Brandon Winokur pushed Liefer to second on a bunt up the first-base line and evaded the tag for a single.

Serven followed with a sharp single past the shortstop to drive in Liefer for a 2-0 Edison lead.

After Serven and Winokur moved up on a ball in the dirt, Marker drove in Winokur on a sacrifice-fly to center for a 3-0 Edison lead.

Aoki scored on a Ralph Velasquez sacrifice fly in the bottom of the first inning, but Edison added to its lead in the second on runs batted in from Dylan Richardson, Marker, Hamrick and two by Serven. That pushed the Edison lead to 8-1.

The Oilers' bats woke up in the third on back-to-back home runs by Espinoza and Aoki that cut the Edison lead to 8-3.

The Oilers continued to

chip away in the fifth inning with RBIs from Mark Muranaka, Nick Dumesnil and Shane Stafford. Muranaka would come home on an Edison balk, making it 8-7.

Edison would extend its lead late with a two-out, seventh-inning solo home run to center from Evan Knipe for a 9-7 lead.

In the bottom of the seventh, with Cade Hart at second after a double, Stafford hit a soft ground ball to third.

Richardson's throw at third base pulled Knipe off of first, but Knipe found Richardson again, catching Hart in his attempt to take third base.

On a bang-bang play, the umpire ruled in Edison's favor, calling out Hart and ending the game.

Oilers coach Benji Medure argued his case but ultimately put the responsibility on his team for the play.

"It shouldn't have happened," Medure said. "We should've been running right after the throw, so we shouldn't have had to put the umpire in the position to make that call. It was a bang-bang call, and that's what he called. It's a tough way to end the game, but that's all I'll say."

ANTHONY CIARDELLI is a contributor to Times Community News.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS
1 _ for; request
4 Ceases
9 _ up; help to stay in position
13 New Zealander
14 Thief
15 " _ a cock horse to Banbury Cross"
16 Leave out
17 Scolds
19 Suffix for hero or real
20 Honkers
21 Uneasy feeling
22 Internal spies
24 Third Mon. in Jan. honoree
25 Asian island nation
27 _ with; tolerates
30 Possessed
31 Sink stoppers
33 Arrest
35 Dustcloths
36 Jaguars, Tigers & Lions
37 Crumbly cheese
38 Word with motor or olive
39 _ Express; popular restaurant chain
40 Upside-down nines
41 Oppressive ruler
43 Go by, as time
44 Cake ingredient
45 Cruel man
46 _ park; Disneyland, e.g.
49 Street talk
51 Dove's call
54 Western _; USA's location
56 Astound
57 Up in _; irate
58 Bobby of tennis fame
59 In this place
60 Playthings
61 Beginning
62 Linear measures: abbr.
DOWN
1 Aspirations
2 How Mark Spitz

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-62 indicating starting positions for clues.

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 some numbers pre-filled.

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

- 25 Kitchen cabinet
25 Lawn mower brand
26 Hang around for
27 Wild feline
28 Out of the blue
29 Cracker toppers
31 _up rage; unexpressed anger
32 Boy
34 Military installation
36 Zesty flavor
37 Edict; decree
39 Book parts
40 Hit with the fist
42 Negligent in duty
43 Hemingway or Borgnine
45 Cargo boat
46 TV's " _ '70s Show"
47 Medal of Honor recipient
48 Award for "The West Wing"
49 Lower leg part
50 Table supports
52 " _ is not to reason why"
53 "Come _ , come all!"
55 Major leaguer
56 Timid

- 9 Practical jokes
10 Groom's purchase
11 Likelihood
12 Nuisance
13 Backyard pond fish
18 Sweet thick drinks
20 Pleased
23 Has bills to pay
24 Items in a

Tribune Media Services

Advertisement for The Bungalow restaurant featuring an Easter Brunch menu with details on courses, prices, and contact information.

