



Mirim Lee remembers thrill of her ANA Inspiration win

SPORTS, 1B

The Desert Sun

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Judge: Halt work on ‘Marilyn’ statue

Palm Springs must stop installation preparation until April 9 hearing

Erin Rode
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Palm Springs must hold off on the installation of the “Forever Marilyn” statue, according to a temporary restraining order issued Monday by a judge.

The judge’s decision to grant the order is the first, incremental step in the Committee to Relocate Marilyn’s lawsuit against the city of Palm Springs, which was officially filed last week. Under the order, the city must stop all work related to the set up of the statue until the outcome of an April 9 hearing in which arguments will be made in the

Committee to Relocate Marilyn’s lawsuit to block the city from placing the statue on Museum Way. Initially, a hearing date had been set for May, but that has since been rescheduled to take place in advance of the statue’s planned unveiling on April 25. According to the Committee to Relocate Marilyn, the TRO is needed to “avoid irreparable harm to the public roadway as well as the public’s access on

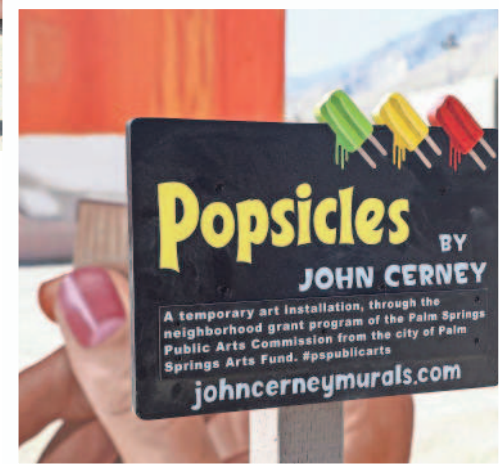
See STATUE, Page 2A

Giant ‘Popsicles’ have popped up in Palm Springs



As temperatures begin to rise, a new public art installation on Sunny Dunes Road is sure to make residents crave a cool, sweet treat. Salinas artist John Cerney’s installation at 605 Sunny Dunes Road, across from Townie Bagels, features five hands holding up different flavors of popsicles. Russell Pritchard, a commissioner of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission, said “Popsicles” cost \$3,500 to install and was funded by the commission’s Neighborhood Grant Program. The piece will be up through December. He said Cerney approached the commission with the concept of doing a group of popsicles. “We thought, ‘What’s better than popsicles in a town during the summertime where it reaches 120 degrees?’” Pritchard said.

— Brian Blueskye



Martha and Jerry McCullough (above) take photographs at the new art installation “Popsicles” by John Cerney at Sunny Dunes Road in Palm Springs on Tuesday. The art installation is part of the Palm Springs Public Arts Commission’s Neighborhood Grant Program and will be on display until December. PHOTOS BY JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Curative employees registered walk-ins to receive the COVID-19 vaccine this week at the Palm Springs Convention Center. Any Riverside County residents or workers had the potential to get a shot onsite Monday and Tuesday to prevent wasting doses that were set to expire.

VICKIE CONNOR/THE DESERT SUN

Eisenhower to become public vaccination site this week

Hospital expects ‘larger’ loads of doses; clinic will operate 5 days

Maria Sestito
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Eisenhower Health will become a public COVID-19 vaccination site when Blueshield of California takes over as the state’s third-party administrator of inoculations this week. Eisenhower Health spokesperson Lee Rice said the change will take effect Friday, opening the Rancho Mirage hospital’s vaccination efforts to all eligible groups. The hospital was previously vaccinating only its oldest, most vulnerable patients, but recently aligned with the state’s expanded tiers of access. Statewide, vaccine eligibility expands to Californians ages 50 and older on Thursday. By next Monday, Eisenhower’s clinic will operate five days a week and have expanded hours, including

More inside

County on track to move to orange tier as early as next week, **3A**

See VACCINES, Page 4A

Some Democratic, independent voters want to recall Newsom

Angela Hart and Samantha Young
California Healthline

California Gov. Gavin Newsom is framing the burgeoning effort to remove him from office as a fringe Republican movement backed by right-wing extremists, Trump supporters and QAnon conspir-

acy theorists. But Newsom isn’t telling the whole story about who supports his recall. Democrats and independent voters — who together dominate the state’s electorate — have also signed

See RECALL, Page 2A

Free admission to museum

The Palm Springs City Council approved annual funding of \$50,000 from the city’s Public Arts Fund to support free admission on Thursday nights to the Palm Springs Art Museum, which is expected to re-open this week. **Coachella Valley, 3A**

MORE INSIDE CALIFORNIA, 13A



Changes at Disneyland

Visitors walk in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle in Disneyland in Anaheim in 2019. Disney recently announced a proposal to overhaul its California resort with new attractions, shops, restaurants and entertainment. **JAY L. CLENDENIN/LOS ANGELES TIMES**

USA TODAY

Health experts fear 4th coronavirus surge **9A**

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County

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100,000 residents, Saruwatari said Tuesday. That’s down from an 8.3 adjusted case rate last week.

The county’s positivity rate lowered to 2.3% and its healthy equity positivity rate declined to 2.4%, down from 4.1% and 4.2%, respectively, last week.

Riverside County has been in the state’s red “substantial” risk category since mid-March. In the orange “moderate” tier, more indoor operations will be allowed to reopen and those already open will be allowed to let more people in at any one time.

More than 17.6 million vaccine doses have been administered statewide with nearly 1 million administered in Riverside County.

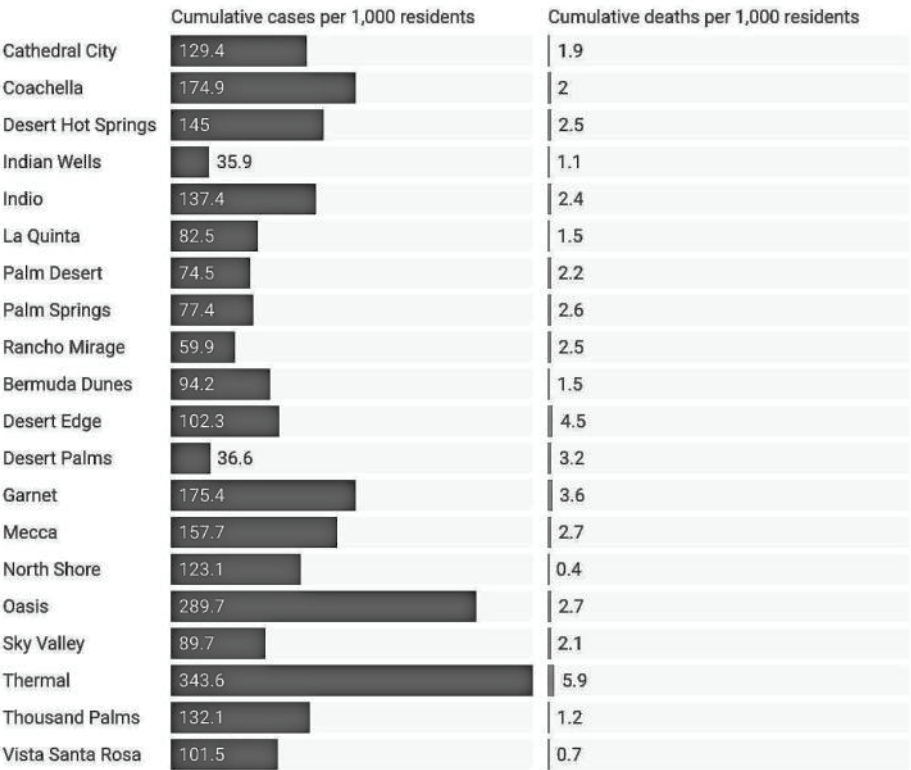
Tier status is updated by the state on Tuesdays.

What changes in the orange tier?

- **Outdoor amusement parks** can reopen to county residents at 25% capacity or 500 people, whichever is fewer
- **Aquariums:** open indoors with modifications, increased capacity from 25% to 50%.
- **Bars** that don’t serve food: open outdoors with modifications
- **Bowling alleys, family entertainment centers and escape rooms:** open indoors at 25% capacity for “naturally distanced activities” with modifications
- **Breweries and distilleries** that don’t serve meals: open outdoors and indoors with modifications, at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is less
- **Churches, mosques, places of worship:** open indoors, increasing ca-

Coachella Valley COVID-19 cases and deaths

The data reflect reported positive cases and virus-related deaths.



This chart is updated as of March 30, 2021.
Chart: Desert Sun staff •
Source: Riverside County, Riverside University Health System-Public Health; population figures from Data USA.

The data reflect reported positive cases and virus-related deaths. CREATED WITH DATAWRAPPR

capacity from 25% to 50% with modifications.

- **Cultural ceremonies:** open indoors, increasing from 25% capacity or 100 people to 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is fewer, with modifications
- **Dance and yoga studios:** open in-

doors, increasing from 10% capacity to 25% capacity with modifications

- **Gyms, fitness centers and indoor pools:** open indoors at 25% capacity with modifications
- **Funeral homes:** open at 50% capacity, increased from 25%, with modifications

- **Higher education institutions:** indoor lectures and student gatherings limited to 50% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. Some courses, including labs and studio arts, may open at regular capacity. Student activities should be conducted virtually when possible, according to state officials.
- **Libraries:** open with modifications; previously limited to 50% capacity
- **Movie theaters:** open indoors, increasing from 25% capacity or 100 people, to 50% or 200 people, whichever is less, with modifications
- **Museums:** open indoors, increasing from 25% capacity to 50%, or 200 people, whichever is less, with modifications
- **Professional sports, race tracks:** open to regional attendees and live audiences at permanent venues at 25% capacity, with reservations and assigned seating, and in-seat concessions only
- **Restaurants:** open indoors, increasing capacity from 25% or 100 people to 50% or 200 people, whichever is less, with modifications
- **Weddings:** Indoor ceremonies are strongly discouraged but permitted with modifications. Outdoor and indoor receptions are permitted for up to three households, including hosts and guests, with 50% capacity.
- **Wineries:** open indoors at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever is less, with modifications

Maria Sestito covers aging and the senior population in Coachella Valley for The Desert Sun. She is also a Report for America corps member and new to the desert. Please say “hello” via maria.sestito@desertsun.com or @RiaSestito.

Vaccines

Continued from Page 1A

two days that it will run until 6:30 p.m. to accommodate more workers.

“We expect to receive larger shipments more consistently to be able to provide for these expanded vaccine appointments, and are already starting to see improved vaccine allocations from the county,” Lee said.

Blue Shield has been communicating with Riverside County and its vaccine

providers leading up to this transition, county Public Health Officer Dr. Geoffrey Leung told reporters last week.

He said Blue Shield has been collecting information from state-approved providers the last few weeks in order to prepare for the change and know, for example, how many doses each provider is capable of administering each week.

“We’ve been trying to plan for this for a long time, and Blue Shield has made it an important point they definitely do not want to disrupt any vaccine efforts,” Leung said.

There will be a transition period, but

residents should not notice a difference between March 31 and April 1, Leung said. The biggest change will expanded eligibility, he added.

“We are reassured Blue Shield has been working very closely with us to ensure the county has input into how vaccine will be allocated,” Leung said.

Tenet Healthcare, which operates Desert Regional in Palm Springs and JFK Memorial in Indio, has been receiving consistent allocations, according to spokesperson Todd Burke.

Burke said that the hospital system expects a “smooth transition” sometime in April.

As part of a memorandum of understanding with the state, county officials agreed last week to continue administering doses at their existing vaccination sites. The responsibility for distributing doses to community providers — like Eisenhower — will fall to Blue Shield.

The state’s registration and appointment system, My Turn, will become the main hub for appointments; however, Riverside County residents can still visit the website rivcoph.org/covid-19-vaccine to view available appointment dates and times.

For those needing assistance, the California COVID-19 Hotline is 1-833-422-4255.

5 vaccination sites take walk-ins

The transition comes as Riverside County has seen a surplus in vaccine appointments stemming from increased supply of doses.

Five COVID-19 vaccination sites across the county, including the Palm Springs Convention Center, have taken walk-ins this week.

At some of the sites, the walk-in slots were only open to residents who are currently eligible under current state rules. That meant healthcare workers, seniors age 65 and up, and certain essential workers. Clinics in Beaumont, Moreno Valley, Menifee and Hemet took these walk-ins Tuesday.

However, Palm Springs city officials said Tuesday the convention center would book slots for any residents who live or work in Riverside County, and who are age 16 and up.

Riverside County residents had already rushed to the Palm Springs Con-

vention Center Monday as the vaccination site opened to walk-ins in an effort to prevent wasting doses that were set to expire, city officials said.

The last-minute slots, which were open to any county resident or worker regardless of eligibility, were filled just after 3 p.m. after dozens of people without an appointment formed a line down the block to receive either a first or second Pfizer dose.

Amanda Pierceall, age 43 and not yet eligible, said she got a notification from The Desert Sun about the vaccines expiring Tuesday.

“I clicked on the article and quickly thought, ‘Let’s go,’” she said.

Everything happened so fast, Pierceall said, that she hasn’t had a chance to fully take in the momentousness of the occasion after more than a year of the pandemic.

“I still can’t quite process that I’m here,” she said.

Eligibility didn’t matter as long as people were age 16 and older, and lived or worked in the county. At the four sites listed Tuesday, eligibility is required, according to county spokesperson Brooke Federico.

Two lines had formed at the Palm Springs site by 3 p.m. Tuesday — one with about 30 people with appointments and one for those without, which comprised about 60 people and wound around Avenida Caballeros.

Nearly halfway through the line by 4 p.m., Richard Saucedo, 18, said that, though he’s eligible as an agricultural worker, he hasn’t been able to find the time to get vaccinated. His typical shift lasts from 5:30 a.m. until the afternoon.

“If it means a return to normal and it’s safe, I have no problem helping out in that effort, especially if it takes minimal effort for me,” he said.

Riverside County began seeing a surplus of vaccines last week due to what county officials said was an increase in supply.

The surplus is expected to be temporary as statewide eligibility expands this week.

Maria Sestito covers aging and the senior population in Coachella Valley for The Desert Sun. She is also a Report for America corps member and new to the desert. Please say “hello” via maria.sestito@desertsun.com or @RiaSestito.



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People wait in a line outside of Palm Springs Convention Center to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on Monday in Palm Springs. Palm Springs city officials said Tuesday the convention center would book slots for any residents who live or work in Riverside County, and who are age 16 and up. VICKIE CONNOR/THE DESERT SUN