

# Redlands Daily Facts

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## BUSINESS

# Amazon's Bezos to step down

### CEO says he plans to remain with massive company he founded as executive chairman

By Karen Weise  
*The New York Times*

When Jeff Bezos founded an online bookseller named Amazon in 1994, he said the question that he was asked most frequently was, "What's the internet?" Bezos answered by building

Amazon into a \$1.7 trillion behemoth that sold so many different items online it became known as "the everything store." In the process, he upended the retail industry, turned Amazon into a logistics giant and expanded into cloud computing, streaming entertainment and artificial intelli-

gence-powered devices. For a time, he was the world's richest person.

Tuesday, Bezos, 57, said his run at the top of the Seattle-based company was over.

As Amazon reported its latest set of blockbuster financial results, Bezos said he planned to hand over the



Bezos

reins this summer and transition into the role of executive chairman. Andy Jassy, 53, CEO of Amazon's cloud computing division, will be promoted to run the company. The change will be effective in the third quarter, which starts in July.

"As much as I still tap dance into the office, I'm excited about this transition," Bezos said in an email to Amazon's employees. As executive chairman, he said,

he intends "to focus my energies and attention on new products and early initiatives."

The changing of the guard is set to ripple out beyond Amazon, which Bezos has personified for more than two decades. His impact on corporate America and his remaking of the way that goods are sold turned him into one of the world's most influential technology and business leaders. **BEZOS » PAGE 6**

## PANDEMIC

# Traffic piles up as 3,500 receive COVID-19 vaccine



WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chino resident Tom Connelly, 70, sits in his Mustang on Tuesday as he receives his initial dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by licensed vocational nurse Tracy Fairley at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana. Medical workers, first responders and people over 65 were eligible.

### Fontana: San Bernardino County launches first site for mass coronavirus inoculations at Auto Club Speedway

By Ryan Hagen  
*rhagen@scng.com*

Traffic was heavy as San Bernardino County's first coronavirus vaccination supersite got underway Tuesday with plans to vaccinate 3,500 people.

The Auto Club Speedway in Fontana booked all 3,500 appointments within 17 minutes, with people over 65, medical workers and first responders eligible for the vaccine.

By noon, a traffic backup had developed north of the site, beyond Foothill Boulevard, county spokesman David Wert said.

County employees then worked with the California Highway Patrol to create more vehicle capacity within



Vehicles sit in a long line Tuesday at Auto Club Speedway as people wait to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

the speedway to move waiting vehicles off Cherry Avenue, he said. The move helped and officials were considering other adjustments, Wert

said shortly after 4 p.m. "The county will serve all those with an appointment and will stay open past 6 p.m.

**SPEEDWAY » PAGE 5**

### Inland Empire: Several key coronavirus metrics improve, but case positivity rates among state's highest

By Brian Whitehead  
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As the Inland Empire ramps up vaccination efforts, the three key metrics state officials use to track the risk of transmitting the coronavirus improved in Riverside and San Bernardino counties from last week, according to Tuesday's data.

Even with successive week-over-week drops, however the counties' adjusted case rates, positivity rates and health equity metrics — or positivity rates in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities — for the week ending Jan. 23 lead the state or rank near the top.

While Riverside County's latest adjusted case rate of 70.7 outpaces all California counties for which such data is

**COVID-19 » PAGE 6**

## REDLANDS UNIFIED

# Ex-teacher's sex abuse accuser sues district

### Former Redlands High student says school failed to report Whitehurst's actions

By Joe Nelson  
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A former Redlands High School student has filed a lawsuit alleging he was sexually abused by former teacher Laura Whitehurst in 2007 and that teachers, counselors and administrators failed to report it to police.

In the second lawsuit filed on behalf of one of Whitehurst's accusers, the first of which resulted in a \$6 million settlement in 2016, attorneys allege more than a half-dozen Redlands Unified School District and Redlands High School administrators, counselors and teachers were aware of allegations that Whitehurst was having sexual relations with students, but failed in their obliga-

**WHITEHURST » PAGE 5**



## WHITE HOUSE

# President and drugmakers look to speed vaccine rollout

By Sharon LaFraniere, Noah Weiland and Rebecca Robbins  
*The New York Times*

**WASHINGTON »** As President Joe Biden winds up his second week in office, a flurry of developments in vaccine production and distribution could mean a bigger boost to coronavirus vaccine supplies than was expected even just days ago.

Moderna, one of two developers of federally authorized coronavirus vaccines, is asking U.S. regulators to approve what it says could be a remarkably simple proposal to speed up the immunization of Americans against

**BIDEN » PAGE 5**

## INDEX

Bridge..... B5 | Classifieds..... B3 | Inland..... A3 | Opinion..... A9  
Business..... AB | Comics..... B3-4 | Nation+World..... A10 | Puzzles..... B2,4-5

**TODAY** H: 66 L: 40  
**THU** H: 66 L: 40  
**FRI** H: 67 L: 42  
Full weather report B6

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