

THE SUN

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/SBSUN TWITTER.COM/SBSUN

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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



PHOTOS BY 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 from 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
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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 6**

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 7**

WHITE HOUSE

Biden and drugmakers try to speed vaccines

Moderna eyes increasing dosage in vials to up supply

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 the coronavirus: Fill empty space in its vials with as many as 50% more doses.

Moderna produces about half of the nation's vaccine stock. If the change is approved, which could occur in weeks, it could ultimately add tens of millions more doses to vaccine supplies. **BIDEN » PAGE 6**

WASHINGTON

Biden, Yellen say GOP virus aid too small

By Lisa Mascaro and Josh Boak
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » President Joe Biden panned a Republican alternative to his \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue plan as insufficient Tuesday as Senate Democrats pushed ahead, voting to launch a process that could approve his sweeping rescue package on their own, if Republicans refuse to support it.

Also on Tuesday, Biden signed a second spate of orders to undo his predecessor's immigration policies, demonstrating the powers of the White House and its limitations without support from Congress.

Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen joined the Democratic senators for a private **RELIEF » PAGE 7**

CORONAVIRUS

Chinese American Southland resident proud of early informational work to thwart spread

By Steve Scauzillo
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On Feb. 3, 2020, Ken Meng held one of the first news conferences locally to raise awareness of the coronavirus threat and promote efforts to prevent its spread.

In an email to county and state officials, community members and the media, the Chinese

American leader and activist living in Rowland Heights wrote in English and Mandarin: "Disasters know no borders."

Though few people came to his mobile home park clubhouse that day, Meng was not deterred. He sent posts to over 100,000 people across the United States on WeChat, the social media site of choice for the Chinese commu-

nity, warning of the seriousness of the coronavirus outbreak, advising those arriving from China to self-quarantine and urging all to suspend travel.

He and other leaders in the Chinese American community were among the earliest proponents of masks and social distancing guidelines that became the norm

MENG » PAGE 7



Rowland Heights resident Ken Meng, a leader in the Chinese American community, was among the first people in the region to warn others about the dangers of the coronavirus and the need to avoid travel and take other precautions.

PHOTO BY KEITH DURFLINGER

INDEX

Business A10 | Comics A13,14,D1 | Nation+World A8 | Opinion A11
Classifieds D1 | Lottery A2 | Obituaries A4 | Puzzles A12,14,15,D1

TODAY H: 67 L: 43
THU. H: 68 L: 44
FRI. H: 68 L: 45
Full weather report B

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP
Volume 126, Issue 34

