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The Desert Sun

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

California adults can get vaccine in April

People ages 50 and over eligible April 1; access to 16 and up opens April 15

Maria Sestito

Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

California will expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to people age 50 and older on April 1, Gov. Gavin Newsom an-

nounced Thursday. People age 16 and older will be able to get their shots beginning April 15.

"In just a few weeks, there will be no rules, no limitations in the ability to get a vaccine," Newsom said while speaking at a vaccination site in Orange County.

He also said providers now have flexibility to vaccinate family members accompanying those who are currently eligible, regardless of age or preexisting condition.

More inside

Not sure if you're eligible for vaccine? County doctor weighs in, **2A**

Newsom said the state will continue to target underserved communities by working with labor groups to reach essential workers and letting health providers target vaccinations by ZIP code.

The rate of infection for households making less than \$40,000 per year is

84% higher than that of households with an income of \$120,000 or more, according to the governor's office.

The state's wealthiest residents have received 50% more vaccinations compared to vulnerable populations, his office said.

"Our only constraint is manufactured supply," Newsom said, a sentiment he's expressed in prior weeks. "We're well on

See **VACCINE**, Page **2A**

'Senior Moment'



Christopher Lloyd, left, and William Shatner in "Senior Moment." The film was shot in Palm Springs in 2017 and is being released to streaming platforms on Friday. SARA BERNSTEIN/SCREEN MEDIA

Palm Springs locations recognizable in new film

Brian Blueskye Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

In the beginning of the new film "Senior Moment," William Shatner drives his vintage silver Porsche through Palm Springs.

Coachella Valley viewers will have no trouble recognizing other local spots throughout the movie. Scenes also were filmed at the Mizell Center, Palm Springs Air Museum, Desert Art Center and Jensen's Finest Foods on East Palm Canyon Drive.

See **FILM**, Page **5A**

Southwest launching direct flights to Vegas in early May

Brian Blueskye

Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The wait for flights from Palm Springs to Las Vegas is over.

Southwest Airlines announced Thursday that nonstop service from Palm Springs International Airport will begin May 9 and operate daily from Thursday to Monday before expanding in June to seven days a week.

This will be the fourth destination out of Palm Springs for the airline, which currently operates flights to Denver, Phoenix and Oakland. Southwest first started flying out of the Coachella Valley last November.

"A direct flight from Palm Springs to Las Vegas has been high on the wish list of our residents, tourism and hospitality partners for the last decade," Palm Springs City Manager David Ready said in a prepared statement. "We are delighted Southwest Airlines recognizes that Palm Springs and Las Vegas are two wildly popular resort destinations that should be connected."

Ready didn't have specific figures on the potential economic impact of

See **FLIGHTS**, Page **8A**

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Judges must weigh bail pay

The California Supreme Court ruled Thursday that judges must consider suspects' ability to pay when they set bail, essentially requiring that indigent defendants be freed unless they are deemed too dangerous to be released awaiting trial. REED SAXON/AP FILE

USA TODAY

Numbers alarm experts as US passes 30M cases

The United States passed 30 million COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, and U.S. health officials are expressing concern about the plateauing caseloads and refusing to say the nation has turned the corner on the pandemic. No other nation has as many COVID-19 cases or deaths. The U.S. leads by a large margin in deaths with upward of 545,000. **9A**

AmDocs festival returns

The American Documentary and Animation Film Festival is streaming Friday through April 4 on the app DocsNow+ for \$35.88, which includes a 12-month subscription for all films presented in the program. **3A**

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