

Election security still at risk due to cyberattacks

SECOND FRONT ■ B1



Stores pushing scan and go technology

BUSINESS ■ B3



Harvick adds Cup triumph to Atlanta weekend

SPORTS ■ C1



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TODAY'S OUTLOOK



Increasing clouds; chance of rain, snow showers tonight. Highs in 50s. Lows in upper 20s to mid-30s.

WEATHER: C6

LOTTO: B1

NEWS YOU NEED



4 critically injured by blast, blaze in Britain

Four people were hospitalized in critical condition following an explosion that left a building in the English city of Leicester in flames Sunday, local emergency agencies said. Police said about three hours later there was no indication the emergency was terrorist-related. They asked the news media and everyone else not to speculate about the cause. **Page B1**

Microsoft fights US to protect global business

Microsoft has an eye on its international customers as it confronts the Trump administration in a Supreme Court fight about turning over emails to investigators. The justices will hear arguments Tuesday over whether the company, as part of a drug trafficking investigation, must comply with an American warrant for emails stored on a server in Ireland. **Page B1**

5 dead after tornado, flooding in central US

The death toll rose to at least five after severe thunderstorms swept through the central U.S., spanning a tornado that flattened homes and widespread flooding. **Page B1**



Superagers: Seeking clues to sharp memory

It's pretty extraordinary for people in their 80s and 90s to keep the same sharp memory as someone several decades younger, and now scientists are peeking into the brains of these "superagers" to uncover their secret. The work is the flip side of the disappointing hunt for new drugs to fight or prevent Alzheimer's disease. **Page B6**

State auto sales top 2 million for third year

For the third straight year, sales for new cars and trucks in California exceeded 2 million and the forecast for 2018 anticipates the number to top 2 million again — but just barely, as the rate of growth is slowing. **Page B3**

China paves way for leader to stay in power

China's ruling Communist Party has proposed scrapping term limits for the country's president, appearing to lay the groundwork for party leader Xi Jinping to rule as president beyond 2023. The party's Central Committee proposed to remove a two-term limit from the constitution. **Page B2**

Woman shot, killed; suspect jailed

Witnesses say victim was married to shooter

Valley Press

LAKE LOS ANGELES — A woman was shot to death Sunday afternoon at a Lake Los Angeles home and a man was taken into custody.

Authorities did not immediately disclose the circumstances, but neighbors identified the handcuffed man loaded into a patrol car as Michael Mayberry and said they were told the woman who was killed was his wife, Sandy.

The motive for the shooting was unknown.

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services took the couple's children into protective custody.

The death was reported about 3 p.m. Sunday in the 15000 block of Newmont Avenue.

Sheriff's homicide detective were enroute in early evening and deputies at the scene were not allowed to comment. The victim was his wife, Sandy. **See WOMAN on A6**



UNDER ARREST

A man identified by neighbors as Michael Mayberry is taken into custody after a woman was shot to death Sunday afternoon on Newmont Avenue in Lake Los Angeles. **Luis Meza**

High-tech sanitation system

STERILE SPACE

Allen Stuart, director of environmental services at Palmdale Regional Medical Center, discusses the process of a new sanitizer system being used by the hospital. The high-tech system uses ultraviolet light to zap harmful microbes and disinfect operating and patient rooms. **EVELYN KRISTO Valley Press**



By **ALLISON GATLIN**
Valley Press Staff Writer

PALMDALE — The equipment looks like something in a sci-fi movie: tall columns that rotate, shining laser beams and an eerie blue light around the room while lights at the top flash red and green.

But these are no robotic villains. Instead, the equipment is a sophisticated system for disinfecting hospital areas using ultraviolet light to zap harmful microbes.

Palmdale Regional Medical Center recently started using this Surfaceide Helios System to disinfect operating and patient rooms, making them "super clean," in the words of Ruben Estrella, as-

Equipment helps disinfect areas of Palmdale hospital

sistant director of environmental services.

"It's all about patient safety," he said.

The UV-C light emitted by the towers kills the DNA of microorganisms.

"Basically, it just eats itself," said Allen Stuart, director of environmental services.

The process is effective on 99.99% of harmful bacteria that may be encountered in a hospital environment, Estrella said.

into the "shade" areas such as beneath furniture and up into the ceiling air vents.

The columns "talk" to each other through a wireless connection. When started up, they each rotate to scan the room using a laser, mapping out the surfaces and obstacles to determine the cleaning pattern and how long it will take to completely sanitize the area.

A standard room in the intensive care unit will take about 24 to 28 minutes to sanitize with the system, Stuart said.

Rooms are cleaned by hand using standard disinfectant methods before the Helios System is brought in to further disinfect **See SANITATION on A6**

People without homes studied

Valley Press

PALMDALE — The city, community organizations and government agencies are launching a study and outreach program aimed at homeless people living in Palmdale.

Funded by a \$50,000 grant through Los Angeles County's quarter-cent sales tax approved last year as Measure H, the outreach program will consist of eight teams starting this week and working through March 22 to make contact with homeless people who are on the streets, in temporary housing or living in RVs and cars, city officials said.

The goal is to interview those individuals and complete comprehensive surveys that will help city officials formulate a plan to combat homelessness in Palmdale, with a goal of reducing local homelessness to zero.

As part of the study, the city is asking residents and businesspeople to complete a survey about their attitudes and beliefs regarding homelessness and homeless people. The survey, available in English and Spanish, is on the city's website, www.cityofpalmdale.org.

Organizations participating in the outreach effort are Advancing Communities Together, Palmdale Victory Outreach, AV YouthBuild, Antelope Valley Partners for Health, Mental Health America, Valley Oasis, the Salvation Army, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, Los Angeles County **See HOMES on A6**

Reward might grow in market murder

Valley Press

LANCASTER — City officials could add another \$10,000 to the \$20,000 reward approved last week by Los Angeles County supervisors for information leading to the arrest and convictions of the killers of a gas station market employee.

The proposed reward is on City Council agenda with Mayor R. Rex Parris listed as the presenter. Parris is put up his own money in the past to offer rewards in Lancaster crimes.

The City Council will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in council chambers at City Hall, 44933 Fern Ave.

John Ruh, 61, was shot about 8:30 a.m.

Feb. 19 during a robbery at the Drive-Thru Dairy in the 44400 block of Division Street.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger suggested the reward at the Board of Supervisors Feb. 20 meeting. Barger, whose district includes the Antelope Valley, had the board meeting adjourned in John Ruh's memory.

"John was a former Marine who was working as a cashier at a convenience store when two robbery suspects shot and killed him," Barger told her board colleagues last week.

Ruh is survived by an adult son who is currently serving in the military, Barger said.

Surveillance camera images show the **See REWARD on A6**



John Meza

DEADLY SCENE — A shattered window shows where a bullet went when a gas station market employee was killed Feb. 19 on Division Street in Lancaster. The reward for information that helps solve the case might be increased to \$30,000 by city officials.

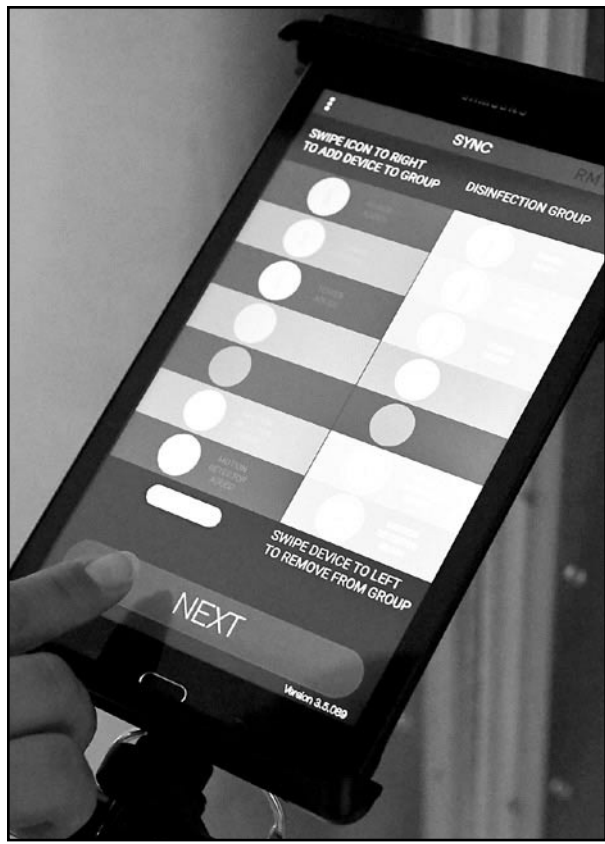
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FATEFUL PITCHER
Jack Hamilton, whose errant inside pitch damaged the eyesight of Boston's Tony Conigliaro in 1967, prematurely ending his career, has died. **Obituaries C6**

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EVELYN KRISTO/Valley Press photos

CLEAN ROOMS — Zenny Salas, right, an environmental services lead for Palmdale Regional Medical Center, programs a new sanitizing system, using the above control pad, outside a room to be cleaned at the hospital, Wednesday. The new system will be used for operating rooms as well as rooms isolated with contagious diseases.



SANITATION: Palmdale hospital buys equipment for \$120,000

From A1

the area. "This makes us perfect," Stuart said. "The light is more thorough than hand-cleaning in that it can reach into all the cracks and crevices and doesn't miss any spots, whether its beneath the bed, under the chair or in the hinges."

"This is an extra kick," he said. "Nobody's perfect. You're not going to get every nook and cranny."

The hospital purchased one set of three towers and the associated control pad, stands and other equipment for use, an investment of \$120,000, officials said.

For now, the system is being used to clean operating rooms and patient rooms with a high probability of highly contagious bacteria.

The operating rooms will each be "zapped" with the system at least once a week, in addition to the regular cleaning.

Eventually, the plan is to use the system

to clean all seven operating rooms each night, Estrella said.

The larger operating rooms require running the system twice, a half at a time, to ensure full coverage within the seven-foot radius of the light.

The UV-C light is harmful to humans as well as microbes, so areas are off-limits to hospital staffers while the system is at work. To prevent unintended entry, the doors are secured with motion sensors both on the latch and on a stand just inside the door. If either is jostled in the slightest, it immediately shuts down the system.

The harmful rays do not pass through glass, though, so it is possible to watch the system at work through a window.

During a recent demonstration at a patient room in the intensive care unit, the room lit up with a pale blue glow while the columns were at work. It was evident where they were concentrating the light, shining on one place longer

for areas that had more objects and uneven surfaces to be cleaned.

A computer tablet controls the system. Once the towers are set up and plugged in and they scan the room, the operator presses the start button and can walk away while the system does its job.

While the set-up takes time, this ability to be hands-off while it is working helps make it efficient.

"That's the nice part about it," said Zenny Salas, day lead for environmental services who has trained on using the system. Eventually, all 36 members of the department, staffed by contractor Crothall Healthcare, will be trained on its use.

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agatlin@avpress.com

Tribes cut out of pot market may grow their own

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — American Indian tribes that say they have been cut out of California's legal marijuana market have raised the possibility of going their own way by establishing pot businesses outside the state-regulated system that is less than two months old.

The tribes floated the idea of setting up rival farms and sales shops on reservations after concluding that rules requiring them to be licensed by the state would strip them of authority over their own lands and their right to self-governance.

The possibility of the tribes breaking away from the state-run system is one more challenge for California as it attempts to transform its longstanding medicinal and illegal marijuana markets into a unified, multibillion-dollar industry.

For tribes to participate in the state-run market, "they have to give up their rights to act as governments, with regard to cannabis," said Mark Levitan, a tribal attorney.

At issue are legally thorny questions about who governs whom, taxation and the intersection of state marijuana laws with tribes that the federal government recognizes as sovereign nations within the U.S.

Under regulations issued last year, California would retain full control over licensing. Tribes would have to follow state rules, including "submission to all enforcement,"

to obtain a license to grow or sell marijuana. Any application must include a waiver of "sovereign immunity," a sort of legal firewall that protects tribal interests.

Without state licenses, businesses cannot take part in the legal state pot market. California has over 100 federally recognized tribes, the most of any state, and estimates of the number either growing and selling pot or eager to do so varies, from a handful to over 20.

Unlike those that have prospered from casino gambling, some are in struggling rural areas and would welcome a new source of cash to improve schools and pave roads.

After long-running negotiations between tribes and state officials failed to produce an agreement before broad legal sales began Jan. 1, the California Native American Cannabis Association warned state officials that tribes "may engage in commercial cannabis activities through our own inherent sovereign authority."

If tribes choose to step away from California's market, "the state will have no jurisdiction to enforce its cannabis laws and regulations on tribal lands," the group said in a sharply worded letter to Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown's administration in December.

Tribes "just want to be able to do business in the state of California and elsewhere, just like anybody else," said Paul Chavez, former chairman of the Bishop Paiute tribe.

WOMAN

From A1

pronounced dead at the scene.

Neighbors said Michael Mayberry was a truck driver and the

couple had several children.

To share your opinion on this article or any other article, write a letter to the editor and email it to editor@avpress.com or mail it to Letters to Editor, PO Box 4050, Palmdale CA 93590-4050.

Show your pets in photo contest!

You love your pets — dogs, cats, reptiles, horses, birds, and yes, even ferrets. And you've no doubt taken wonderful and entertaining photos of them. Get those pictures seen! Enter the Pet Photo Contest and be featured in the April Lifestyle magazine.

- The six categories are:
- Best Action Shot.
 - Best Buddies.
 - Best Costume/Dressed.
 - Best Pet/Owner Look-alike.
 - Best Pet Smooch.
 - Funniest Pet.

Email entries by March 1 to Andrew Shackley at ashackley@avpress.com, or call him at (661) 267-4159. Put "Pet Photo Contest" in the subject line.

Only digital images or digital copies of film images will be accepted. Photos should be a minimum of 300 dpi in jpeg format. State the category, your pet's name, and your name, and provide a phone number or email address where you can be reached.



REWARD

From A1

robbery involved two men, who had clothing over their faces to conceal their identity, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide Lt. Joe Mendoza told reporters at the scene.

"It appears that at one point the clerk turns toward to one of those individuals and that's when the suspect open fire on the person who was working behind the counter. Then those two males fled the scene in an unknown direction on foot," Mendoza said.

Multiple shots were fired and

at least one hit the clerk, Mendoza said. One bullet is believed to have shattered a plate-glass window at the store.

Lancaster Sheriff's Station deputies were dispatched to the business after a call reporting a gunshot victim. They found the man suffering from at least one gunshot wound to the upper torso, Sheriff's Information Bureau spokeswoman Deputy Guillermina Saldana said. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Anyone with information about the crime was asked to call the Lancaster Sheriff's Station at (661)

948-8466 or the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500. Information can be provided anonymously by calling the "Crime Stoppers" hotline at (800) 222-TIPS (8477), by using a smartphone by downloading the "P3 Tips" mobile app on Google play or the Apple App Store or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

To share your opinion on this article or any other article, write a letter to the editor and email it to editor@avpress.com or mail it to Letters to Editor, PO Box 4050, Palmdale CA 93590-4050.

HOMES

From A1

Sheriff's Department and South Antelope Valley Emergency Services, or SAVES.

The consulting firm of LDM and Associates will provide technical assistance in the preparation of the plan.

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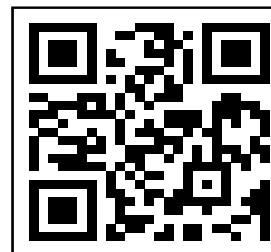
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