

8 dead as driver mows down bikers on path

SECOND FRONT ■ B1



Dodgers' 3-1 win forces Game 7 in World Series

SPORTS ■ C1



Valley home prices increase in September

BUSINESS ■ C6



Wednesday

November 1, 2017

28 pages, 4 sections

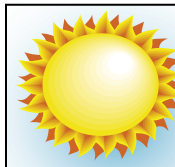
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Antelope Valley Press

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TODAY'S OUTLOOK



Sunny. Highs in 60s to around 70. Lows in mid-40s.

WEATHER: C8 LOTTO: B1

NEWS YOU NEED



California gas tax rises 12 cents a gallon today

California gas prices are going up. Gasoline taxes will rise by 12 cents per gallon today — and diesel taxes by even more — to raise money for fixing roads and highways. It's the first of several tax and fee hikes that will take effect after Democratic lawmakers approved them earlier this year, a vote that Republicans see as a key issue in the 2018 election. **Page B1**

House leaders delay unveiling of tax plan

House Republicans, straining to make last-minute changes to their far-reaching tax proposal, on Tuesday delayed the rollout by a day after they failed to finalize the details. The plan pushed by President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Congress is a top legislative priority. **Page B1**

Teacher rescued after six hours as hostage

Police have rescued a 70-year-old teacher who was held hostage by a parent at a Riverside school for nearly seven hours. A short time later, a man believed to be the parent was brought outside and taken away in an ambulance. **Page B2**



Officials investigating fire at vacant house

A vacant house was a complete loss in a fire early Tuesday morning, California City Fire Department officials said. Firefighters responded to the house fire in the 8300 block of Dogwood Avenue just after 3 a.m., finding the fire threatening the house next door. **Page A2**

Exxon settles pollution case with fine, upgrade

Exxon Mobil settled air pollution violations with the Trump administration by paying a \$2.5 million civil penalty and promising to spend \$300 million on pollution-control technology at several plants along the Gulf Coast. **Page C6**

Mylan execs subjects in drug pricing probe

Mylan's second-ranking executive was named in a civil investigation by dozens of states conducting a multiyear probe into alleged price collusion by makers of generic drugs. State attorneys general said they're seeking to sue Rajiv Malik, Mylan's president and executive director, in an expanded complaint. **Page C6**

A helpful push for mentally ill?

Supes urge increase in social workers' powers

By Valley Press staff and wire services

At the urging of Supervisor Kathryn Barger, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to push for state legislation that would allow social workers and law enforcement officers to detain severely mentally ill individuals who

refuse treatment that could save their lives.

By law, those with mental illness who pose a danger to themselves or others or are "gravely disabled" may be held for involuntary evaluation and treatment in a psychiatric setting. The definition of gravely disabled focuses on an individual's

ability to care for his or her own physical needs, to find shelter and food to survive.

Barger, whose district includes the Antelope Valley, urged her colleagues to consider expanding that definition to include an inability to seek care due to a mental disorder.

At Tuesday's board meeting in Los Angeles, Barger talked about meeting a woman named Deborah who has lived on the streets for 20 years and mistakenly believes her parents live across the street.

"There are predators out on Skid Row and this is a woman who, if not

getting access to care and housing and shelter, is going to die on our streets," Barger said, later telling the board, "She's not going to make it through the winter, she's just not."

Barger and mental health advocates said the resources are available to help the woman and others in desperate need, but that health care workers' hands are tied.

"There are individuals in such dire need that their lives are in jeopardy," said Brittney Weissman, executive director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Los An-

geles County Council. "The limits of the law insist (health care workers) turn away from providing life-saving help."

Supervisor Sheila Kuehl voted no.

"I'm very grateful for the impulse behind this motion ... but I could not disagree more," Kuehl said.

Kuehl asked the head of the county's Department of Mental Health what happens when someone is brought in on a "5150 hold," a reference to the relevant state government code that allows invol-
See MENTALLY ILL on A8

Costumed dogs get in spirit



FURRY FRIGHT

Above, Fergie, a Chihuahua owned by Shelley Guinther of Lancaster, dressed as the Energizer Bunny and placed third at the inaugural Halloween Dog Parade and costume contest Tuesday night at Yellen Park in Palmdale. At right, Chihuahua-miniature pinscher mix Sammy, dressed as a cup of coffee, won. With him is owner Lauren McDermott of Palmdale and companions Honey, as Batgirl, and Vinnie, in camouflage.

CHARLES F. BOSTWICK
Valley Press photos



More than 30 canines come out for contest

Valley Press

PALMDALE — Sammy dressed as a cup of coffee — with a coffee-foam beret on her head — to win first place at the inaugural Halloween Dog Parade and costume

contest at Yellen Park.

The Chihuahua-miniature pinscher mix was there with owner Lauren McDermott of Palmdale and companions Honey, another Chihuahua-mix costumed as Batgirl, and Vinnie, a terrier mix who dressed in camouflage.

Fittingly, as the costume contest winner, Sammy is the only one of McDermott's dogs who likes to wear costumes.

"Vinnie just wears his coats," McDermott said. "Honey just likes to wear collars."

Sammy, Honey and Vinnie were among more than 30 dogs decked out for the gathering, sponsored by Guidance Charter School and Wienerschnitzel, at the city's four-month-old "dog park," Palmdale's first. Chihuahuas, a cocker spaniel, terriers, pit bull dogs, a bulldog, German shepherds, a Siberian husky and mixes were among the entrants.

Bruno, a St. Bernard mix, wore a mane to look like a lion. "He likes it," said Antonio Torrez of Palmdale, who did the

showing duties for Bruno's owner Jessica Wade, Torrez' sister.

Fergie, a Chihuahua, won third place for her costume as the Energizer Bunny, complete with sunglasses and a tiny drum. Fergie, owner Shelley Guinther of Lancaster said, is named for Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, not the singer Fergie, because both are redheads.

"Every year I make her a costume. It's a big thing for her," Guinther said.

See DOGS on A7

PRMC scores 'B', AV Hospital 'F' in survey

By ANDREW CLARK
Valley Press Staff Writer

Palmdale Regional Medical Center scored a "B" grade while Antelope Valley Hospital scored a "F" grade from the Washington-based Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit health care organization that publishes hospital safety grades twice a year.

Data used to rank the hospitals dates from 2013 to 2015.

"Palmdale Medical Regional Center takes great pride in receiving a 'B' from The Leapfrog Group," hospital chief executive officer Richard Allen said in a statement. "The Leapfrog Group performs an important service for the community at large. It gives the patient a reliable sense of the service they will receive at a hospital. It also gives physicians a good indicator of the staff's competency at the hospital. I'm

proud of the physicians and staff for the care and professionalism that distinguishes Palmdale Regional Medical Center as the premier hospital in the Antelope Valley."

Allen added: "Palmdale Regional Medical Center will continue to strive to improve patient safety. While we are proud of receiving a 'B', Palmdale Regional Medical Center will work diligently to receive an 'A' in the spring of 2018."

Palmdale's grade is on par with Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, Kaiser Permanente and Cedars-Sinai hospitals in Los Angeles and three other hospitals in the eastern San Gabriel Valley. Hospitals that earned an A grade in northern Los Angeles County are the Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Panorama City and Woodland Hills, Adventist Health Glendale and Huntington Hospital in Pasadena.

See SURVEY on A7



Valley Press files

HOSPITALS GRADED — Palmdale Regional Medical Center received a "B" grade from the Washington-based Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit health care organization that publishes hospital safety grades twice a year. Antelope Valley Hospital scored a "F."

INSIDE TODAY	FAMILY RECIPES	B5	OPINION	A5	MARTHA STEWART	B6
BUSINESS	HOROSCOPES	D5	PUBLIC NOTICES	D4	TELEVISION	B4
CLASSIFIED	LETTERS	A5	PUZZLES	D5	TODAY IN HISTORY	A3
COMICS	MONEY & MARKETS	C7	SECOND FRONT	B1	VALLEY LIFE	B5
DEAR ANNIE	OBITUARIES	C8	SPORTS	C1	WEATHER	C8



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER
Mountain climber Fred Beckey, who wrote dozens of books and is credited with nothing more first ascents than any other American mountaineer, has died. **Obituaries C8**

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A special good morning to Valley Press subscriber **Beatriz Madrigal** of Lancaster



DECKED OUT

At right, Honey, a long-haired Chihuahua owned by Cindy Farrow of Littlerock, dressed like a pirate for the inaugural Halloween Dog Parade and costume contest Tuesday night at Yellen Park in Palmdale. Below right, Bruno, a St. Bernard mix dressed as a lion, gets checked out by the judge, City Councilmember Juan Carillo. With Bruno is Antonio Wade of Palmdale, who was showing him for his sister, Jessica Wade, Bruno's owner.

CHARLES F. BOSTWICK
Valley Press photos



DOGS: Prizes included gift cards to local pet store

From A1

Kiwi, a cocker spaniel who dressed as a pirate ship and whose owner identified herself as Karen P., won second place.

City Councilman Juan Carillo had the task of picking the winners. He greeted each dog as the owners paraded them along a park walkway, their costumes described for the crowd by Councilwoman Laura Bettencourt.

"It was a very difficult decision. All the participants were very well dressed up for the occasion, for Halloween," Carillo said.

The first place prize was a \$100 gift certificate donated by Rosita's Pet Store in Palmdale. Second place was a \$75 pet store gift certificate and third place was a \$50 pet store gift certificate, provided by Guidance Charter School.

"We hope we'll be able to do it next year, even better and bigger than what it was," Carillo said.

Guidance Charter School organized the event as a way to promote the school, the park and the school's K-9 security dog, whose duty is to sniff out any weapons or drugs and as a safety precaution to deter any possible attacks on the campus. The K-9 dog was there Tuesday night but wasn't allowed to mingle with the costumed entrants.

"This is a good event," said Guidance Charter executive director Kamal Al-Khatib.

Yellen Dog Park opened in June as part of the new \$3.1 million



Yellen Park. The dog park has two acres designated for dogs to run without their leashes. It is open from sunrise to sunset.

Covering 12 acres in its first phase, the park also contains a playground, fitness zones, a lighted exercise path and a turf area outfitted with sports field lighting. The turf area will double as a catchbasin during storms.

The park is named for Samuel Yellen, who farmed the area from

the 1930s until 1950. In 2001 the Yellen family donated 25 acres for construction of a park named in his memory. The family also donated 12 acres to the Palmdale School District, which built the adjacent Yellen School.

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.

Have you seen news happening?

If you have seen or heard something newsworthy, call the Antelope Valley Press newsroom at (661) 273-2700 between

10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. After office hours, call (661) 267-4163 between 5:00 and 11 p.m. and ask for the editor on duty.

Send in nominations for AV's next class of Future Leaders

Do you know a young person getting ready for college who is gifted and talented? A natural leader? A scholar-athlete or community volunteer who knows it's better to give than receive? Here's your chance to get that person noticed.

Nominations are being sought for the Future Leaders of 2018, those young people whose stories will be told and illustrated in the upcoming Antelope Valley Press special edition. The chief requirement is that your prospective Future Leader be among the Valley's best and brightest.

You are the nominator. You qualify if you are a teacher, counselor, principal or any qualified kind of educator. You also qualify if you are a coach or ROTC adviser, are in law enforcement and fire services or belong to community organizations such as the Kiwanis, Rotary, Elks, Masons, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign



Wars, Boy and Girl Scouts, Toastmasters or a nonprofit that benefits from youth volunteers.

You can even nominate if you are a family member of a prospective Future Leader.

But the criteria for being chosen are demanding. The annual Valley Press edition of Future Leaders seeks young people whose quest for excellence has

already been demonstrated by tangible achievements.

Look for the Future Leader nomination form online at www.avpress.com and click on "Forms & Nominations."

Selected nominees will be interviewed by Valley Press staff, and their stories and photos will appear in the Future Leaders section, to be published in March in the Valley Press.

Completed applications must arrive at the Valley Press offices by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5. Past Future Leaders are not eligible to be nominated again.

Future Leader candidates must be 16 to 21 years of age, enrolled in high school, college or trade school, display leadership qualities and be on their way to a future of great accomplishments.

Fill out your nomination form now. Be specific about your nominee's activities and achievements. Don't forget your phone number and the nominee's phone number.

SURVEY: AV Hospital CEO — 'F' unacceptable

From A1

Statistics from the Center for Medicare Services were the primary driver of the ratings. Deaths from treatable serious complications at Palmdale Regional Medical Center were 139.36, just above the national average of 137. At Antelope Valley Hospital, they were at 175.67. The data for both hospitals for the category dated from July 2013 to June 2015.

Palmdale Regional Medical Center scored the highest in three process measures: Effective leadership to prevent errors, track and reduce risk to patients and enough qualified nurses. It was the lowest-performing hospital in one process measure: Specially-trained doctors for intensive care

unit patients.

Antelope Valley Hospital "declined to report" in the survey. CEO Michael Wall, who was hired in January, said the facility will take more of a role with the survey in the future.

"We are going to participate in Leapfrog, but I want the data to cover our accountability," he said, referring to the two- to four-year-old Center for Medicare Services data. "We are not going to be an F. An F is unacceptable."

Since 2015, the hospital has had six chief executives, three of whom were interim.

Antelope Valley Hospital joined two other hospitals — Memorial Hospital of Gardena and Olympia Medical Center in West Los

Angeles — as hospitals with F grades. Antelope Valley and Olympia were both managed by Alecto Healthcare Services until last December, when Antelope Valley Hospital board members ousted the management company.

Wall said he, the hospital's board and medical staff are "committed to improving patient quality." His initial goal is to get the hospital to a B grade then aim for an A grade.

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.

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Antelope Valley Press

Christmas design CONTEST

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

Age categories:

- 1st-3rd Grade
- 4th-6th Grade
- 7th-9th Grade
- 10th-12th Grade

Young people are invited to express their holiday spirit on paper in an artistic rendering. Winners in each of the contest categories will be profiled inside the Antelope Valley Press Holiday Gifts section.

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Please include this entry form with your contest entry.
(For additional entry forms visit www.avpress.com and click Forms and Nominations/Christmas Design Form)

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____

MAIL YOUR ENTRY TO
P.O. Box 4050, Palmdale, California 93590-4050/146

OR DELIVER TO THE ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS
Palmdale Office: 37404 Sierra Highway

DEADLINE: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

CONTEST RULES: Art may be rendered in any medium (crayon, paint, colored markers, etc.) PLEASE LIMIT SIZE OF ARTWORK TO 9"x14" OR SMALLER. We suggest that entrants use bright colors. Any entries using established characters (for example, Snoopy, Garfield, The Simpsons, etc.) must be disqualified due to copyright infringements. Entries will be judged on originality, use of color, and design. Do not fold or staple entry. Fill out your entry completely and bring to the Antelope Valley Press offices in Palmdale. All entries must be received no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, November 8, 2017. Employees of the Antelope Valley Press and their families are not eligible. All entries become the property of the Antelope Valley Press. Winners will be notified by Monday, November 13, 2017. Decision of judges is final. For further information contact Alex Burns, at (661) 267-4164.

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