



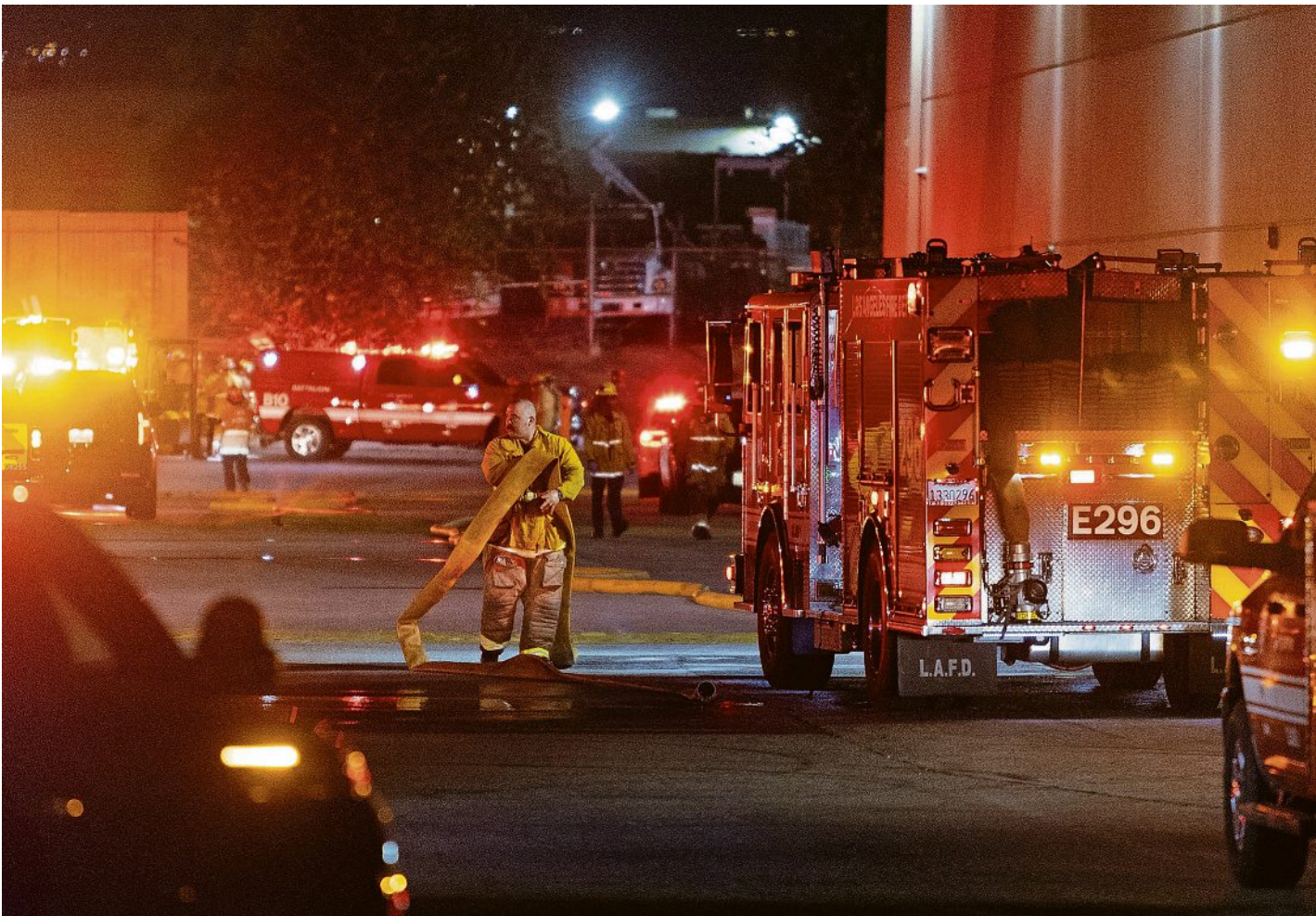
Free-falling Rams make way for new No. 1 team

SPORTS, 1C

The Desert Sun

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 | DESERTSUN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



NewsChopper4, operated by Angel City Air, crashed on Sept. 15 in a suburban neighborhood in Los Angeles County.
BLAKE FAGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

3 killed in Los Angeles news helicopter crash

Pilot and journalist ID'd as victims; bystander on the ground also dies

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

The Sept. 15 news helicopter crash in Los Angeles killed a journalist and a pilot affiliated with NBC 4, plus a pedestrian on the ground.

The helicopter, NewsChopper4 operated by Angel City Air, crashed just before 7 p.m. local time between two commercial buildings in the suburban neighborhood of Chatsworth in Los Angeles County. It then burst into flames, authorities said.

Journalist Eliana Moreno reported from the air for NBC 4 Los Angeles and Telemundo 52. She had been flying with pilot George Marciniw since 2023, according to NBC 4.

The pedestrian's identity had not been released at the time of reporting.

Two additional people were taken to the hospital. USA TODAY reached out to the Los Angeles Fire Department for information on their conditions.

Vehicles on the ground also caught fire. Four vehicles and two storage con-

tainers were damaged, but no buildings were impacted, authorities said.

Moreno was in her late 30s and was born in Orange County, California, according to NBC. She had worked for Angel City Air since 2010 as a journalist and reported for multiple news outlets from the air, becoming what NBC called a "familiar" voice for NBC 4 and Telemundo 52 viewers.

Marciniw is also from Southern California, NBC 4 said.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the helicopter was a Eurocopter AS350. It was at

See **HELICOPTER CRASH**, Page 2A

Conflict of interest questions raised by campaign

Palm Springs hospital's support of overseeing officials criticized

Paul Albani-Burgio
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

The company that operates Palm Springs' publicly owned hospital is taking sides in the campaign for the elected board that owns the hospital. An opponent of one candidate the company is backing criticized the move, saying it's inappropriate for the people operating the hospital to try to pick the public officials who ultimately oversee it.

Desert Regional Medical Center is listed as a sponsor of a campaign committee that is fundraising to support three candidates for seats on the elected board of the Desert Healthcare District, the public agency that owns Desert Regional Medical Center.

The hospital is managed by a branch of Tenet Health under a lease with the Desert Healthcare District.

See **CAMPAIGN**, Page 2A



Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs on July 17.
JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

Costco limits oil purchases as Iran war hits supply

Sarah Moore and
Ernesto Centeno Araujo
USA TODAY NETWORK

Costco has restricted how much quantity of an item can be purchased at one time, including toilet paper during the pandemic and eggs during the egg shortages. Motor oil has recently been

added to the list.

The warehouse surprised its members last week by increasing the cost of its 2-pack full-synthetic motor oil by about \$30 — and placing a weekly purchasing limit on the lubricant.

Costco now lists its 10-quart case of Kirkland Signature full-synthetic motor oil at \$58, which previously sold at

around \$30 for years, according to Costco's website and automotive publications, The Auto Wire and The Drive, which reported the price change as early as Sept. 10. The higher cost applies to the motor oil grade SAE 5W-30 and the high mileage version.

Costco increased the cost of its motor oil to counteract a supply shortage cou-

pled with higher demand, MotorBiscuit said, due to the nearly 7-month Iran-U.S. War and the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz, which has disrupted oil imports to the U.S.

"That matters most for anyone doing their own oil changes to save money,"

See **COSTCO**, Page 4A

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