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THANKSGIVING

Shoppers feel the pinch of food prices



Eran Weerekoon holds packages of meat as he leaves the H Mart at 3967 Grand Ave. in Chino on Tuesday. The independent contractor who teaches CPR, basic science and medical courses around the region is cutting back, including the food he eats, because of the high costs. He paid $5 for chicken hearts, roe fish eggs and beef intestines — all of which he says offer nutritional value. **PHOTOS BY PAT MAIO — STAFF**

Ahead of the holiday, SoCal residents say their wallets are feeling lighter

By Pat Maio
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Southern Californians are choosing their groceries carefully as the holiday season kicks off with a surge in food buying.

Shoppers across the region — whether at an Asian market in Chino, the newly opened Vallarta Supermarkets in Rancho Cucamonga, an Aldi in Tustin or a Food 4 Less in Pasadena — say they're feeling the sting of higher food prices caused by tariffs, inflation and gas prices caused by the U.S.-led war in Iran that began nearly nine months ago.

For those already struggling with poverty, rising inflation has only

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Ron Gonzalez decided not to buy soda and other drinks last week at the Just Bargain Price Discount Store in Rancho Cucamonga because the checkout lines were too long. The grocer sells a rotating, treasure-hunt-style selection of discounted groceries, household essentials, cleaning supplies, snacks and pet food.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Sheriff's security detail unusual

Bianco has a full-time unit and official defends practice, but most department chiefs do not

By Jeff Horseman
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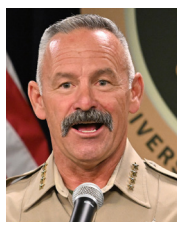

Bianco

Among California's 58 sheriffs, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco stands out for his outspokenness and political activism.

The Republican sheriff, former candidate for governor and Donald Trump ally also stands out for another reason — his security detail. Protection for Bianco cost Riverside County taxpayers $3.19 million over a 12-month span and followed him during campaign events unrelated to his sher-

See **DETAILS** on Page A7

INLAND EMPIRE

Activists allege mistreatment at local dairy farms owned by family

By Rachel Fobar
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Animal activists have leveled cruelty allegations in court and with law enforcement agencies against local dairy farms owned by a seventh-generation farming family with operations in the Inland Empire and throughout the Southwest.

Two unrelated complaints were made against facilities owned by the Hettinga family, which has been in the dairy farming business since 1711 in Holland and has facilities in California, Texas

See **FARMS** on Page A7

CALIFORNIA

Will new rule give some ex-death row inmates parole?

Orange County DA and other critics say 'second look' could allow some condemned to go free

By Sean Emery
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As Gov. Gavin Newsom's move to commute death penalty sentences into life without parole continues to draw pushback from local prosecutors and victim's rights groups, recent changes to California Board of Parole regulations have led critics to claim that some once-condemned prisoners could potentially see a pathway to release.

In announcing what amounted to the largest mass clemency in American history, Newsom wrote that the more than 500 death penalty inmates impacted by his commutations would "die in prison but not by our hand ... We can now let these offenders die in obscurity while we forever remember and honor their victims," the governor added in an open letter.

Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer, along with other critics of the governor's death penalty decision, have sharply questioned whether the commutations ultimately could lead to some who previously sat on death row getting their freedom. Spitzer, during a recent news conference where he was joined by family members of the victims of death row inmates, described life without parole as "absolute nonsense," and pushed back against those he said had been attacking him on social media.

"People are saying, 'Todd, you are fear-mongering, you are lying about the law, you know these people can't get out of prison,'" Spitzer said. "We

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An armed California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation officer stands guard at San Quentin State Prison's death row on Aug. 15, 2016, in San Quentin. **JUSTIN SULLIVAN — GETTY IMAGES**

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