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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 2 THE WEEKENDER 11/15-11/17 smdp.com

Lady Vikings capture CIF flag football crown in monumental season

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Starting the 2024 campaign in a 2-6 slump, the second season of Samohi Lady Vikings flag football may have been a lost one. However, just like starting their own program from scratch last year, the tenacious girls locker room found a way to break through.

That breakthrough is now complete on the state level, as the Lady Vikings are now 2024 CIF Southern Section Division 4 champions. The squad went on a tear after a Sept. 7 loss to Eagle Rock, winning seven straight league games before rolling through the CIF-SS playoff field.

In the first CIF-sanctioned playoffs for girls flag, the team outscored its five opponents 104-41, including a 28-6 trouncing of Fullerton in the championship tilt. Senior Anica Mindes was sparkling in her final game under center,

SEE **FOOTBALL** PAGE 6



Photo Courtesy Ramsey Lambert

FOOTBALL: The Samohi Lady Vikings flag football squad took the CIF Southern Section Division 4 title this past week.

'Slow Shopping' Is Transforming Holiday Spending Habits

MICHAEL DINICH
Wealth of Geeks

Americans are not holding back on holiday spending this year – but they are taking a more deliberate approach to the purchases they make, according to new research.

The study of 2,000 Americans who celebrate a winter holiday, revealed the growing trend of "slow shopping," with nearly three in four respondents (73%) saying they have adopted this approach for the holiday shopping season.

Additionally, three in five respondents (60%) said they're starting earlier, making more frequent, smaller trips and being mindful of what they buy this year.

Conducted by Talker Research on behalf of Affirm, the survey asked why purchasing habits have changed — and respondents

SEE **HABITS** PAGE 5

Vermin-related health code violation closes popular Montana cafe Bardonna

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Popular all-day brunch eatery Bardonna at 1601 Montana Ave has closed in what might be a permanent cessation of commerce because of a pretty significant health code violation.

A report dated November 5, 2024 from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health obtained by the Daily Press, shows that the restaurant incurred penalties for minor violations for food safety certification, proper hot and cold holding temperatures, the sanitization of food contact surfaces and the availability of hot water. Finally, Bardonna incurred a penalty for a major violation, which was a vermin infestation (California

SEE **CAFE** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

BARDONNA: It's not yet known if Bardonna will reopen once this situation has been resolved, or will be permanently closed.


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Trump's proposed tariffs, especially on China and Mexico, could hit California hard



Photo Courtesy CalMatters

TARIFF: Trump tariffs could be bad for California, a range of experts say.

BY LEVI SUMAGAYSAY

A range of experts, from Nobel Prize-winning economists to an internet-famous menswear writer, have a message for Americans who voted for Donald Trump based on his promises to bring down prices: This likely won't go how you want.

Some voters cited the cost of living as a factor in their decision to elect Trump to a second term as president. But with inflation actually starting to ease, his proposed tariffs, which the president-elect has called the "most beautiful word in the dictionary," could actually raise prices again.

While some experts don't think more tariffs are a bad idea, the majority of economists and other experts who spoke with CalMatters echoed 23 Nobel laureates who warned that Trump's policies would be worse for the economy than the ones proposed by Vice President Kamala Harris. Those economists wrote a letter last month calling Harris' economic agenda "vastly superior" to Trump's, and mentioned tariffs as one reason.

"His policies, including high tariffs even on goods from our friends and allies and regressive tax cuts for corporations and individuals, will lead to higher prices, larger deficits, and greater inequality," the economists wrote.

Businesses that import goods into the country must pay the tariffs. They tend to pass on their increased costs to consumers, with some executives recently promising to do just that during their earnings calls. So economists largely view tariffs as a tax, especially on the lowest- and middle-income families in the nation.

While tariffs could raise prices for all U.S. consumers, California could feel the brunt of the impact in part because of the countries Trump singled out during his campaign: China and Mexico. Those two countries accounted for 40% of the state's imports in 2023.

"The port and logistics complex in Southern California is a very important part of the economy, and directly tied to the countries he threatened," said Stephen Levy, an economist and director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, an independent, private research organization in Silicon Valley.

Trump imposed tariffs during his first presidential term, and President Joe Biden maintained some of them. During his campaign this time around, Trump said he intends to impose tariffs of 10% to 20% on all imports, and has mentioned even higher tariffs on goods from China (60%) and Mexico (100% to 200% on cars).

Such tariffs could exacerbate California's already high cost of living and raise the prices of cars, technology and electronic products, medical devices, groceries and more. Also, as the state saw during Trump's first term — which included a trade war, with countries retaliating with their own tariffs on U.S. exports — California's agricultural industry is likely to feel the effects. Trump's proposed tariffs could also have an adverse effect on the state's ports, which are among the nation's busiest.

And all of those outcomes could have a ripple effect on jobs in the state, including those in agriculture, trade and manufacturing.

WHAT THE STATE'S PORTS EXPECT

Trade experts say it's too early to tell how the state's ports could be affected, though some of them also said they expect a near-term surge in activity as businesses brace themselves for tariffs by importing more goods now.

"Long Beach and Los Angeles are two of the largest ports in the U.S.," said Jonathan Aronson, a professor of communication and international relations at the University of Southern California, who studies trade and the international political economy. "Their traffic would presumably slow in both directions" if Trump imposes tariffs, Aronson said. Like other experts, though, he wondered if the president-elect is using the threat of tariffs as a negotiating tactic — say, to pressure Mexico into doing more to limit immigration into the United States.

The most recent available data for the Port of Los Angeles, which is the busiest in North America and handles nearly 10% of all U.S. imports, shows that trade activity rose nearly

SEE **TARIFFS** PAGE 5

Why no one spent more than Google to lobby California officials this summer



Photo by Juliana Yamada, AP Photo

GOOGLE: Audience members gather at Made By Google for new product announcements at Google in Mountain View on Aug. 13, 2024.

BY ALEXEI KOSEFF AND JEREMIA KIMELMAN

Google's payments to influence state government surged to almost $11 million from July through September, nearly 90 times more than the same period last year, making it the highest-spending lobbyist employer in California in the third quarter.

Its lobbying blitz came as the tech giant engaged in a fierce battle at the state Capitol during the final months of the legislative session over whether it would have to pay news outlets for publishing their content.

Google's lobbying expenses never previously topped $1.3 million in a single quarter, according to state records, and are typically far less. During the first two quarters of 2024, Google spent on average of about $261,000 on lobbying — 41 times less than its $10.7 million bombardment this summer.

The company did not respond to questions about its lobbying, which last quarter was ahead of more typical titans of influence in Sacramento, including the Western States Petroleum Association, the California Business Roundtable and the California Hospital Association.

During that period, which included the end of the legislative session in August and the governor's bill signing period in September, Google reached the conclusion of a contentious two-year battle over journalism funding.

The search behemoth could have been on the hook for tens of millions of dollars or more annually under Assembly Bill 886, a proposal to require major tech platforms such as Google to either pay a fee or negotiate with California news outlets for using their work. Introduced by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat, the measure passed the Assembly last year before Wicks shelved it to negotiate directly with the industry.

Instead, in August, she announced a deal for Google to provide $55 million over the next five years for a new fund for local newsrooms and $70 million for an artificial intelligence accelerator. Under the deal, the state will also kick in $70 million over five years for the newsroom fund, while Google will continue $10 million in existing annual grants that the company had threatened to pull if the bill passed.

"That agreement was an escape clause for Google," said state Sen. Steve Glazer, an Orinda Democrat who was pursuing another proposal, approved by the Senate in June, that he estimates would have raised $500 million a year for California news outlets by charging major tech platforms a mitigation fee.

GOOGLE SPENT MORE ON LOBBYING IN 2024 THAN THE LAST 20 YEARS COMBINED

The company spent $6.2 million to persuade state officials between 2005 and 2023. It reported spending nearly $11 million between July 1 and Sept. 30 this year.

Google had to ramp up its lobbying this summer to offset renewed momentum for the journalism funding bills and secure a deal with more favorable terms, said Glazer, who did not support the final agreement. "Their spending was a reflection of the cheaper alternative."

Wicks, who did not respond to an interview request, has previously called the deal the best of what was possible.

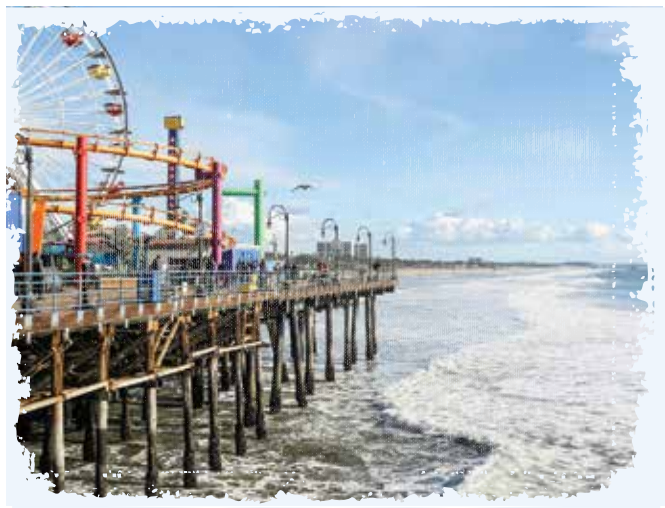
The millions of dollars spent to push Google's point of view was largely funneled through two other organizations, according to its lobbying disclosure report: The tech giant paid $7 million to the Computer and Communications Industry Association and $2.75 million to the California Taxpayers Association during the third quarter. The groups ran advertisements on television and social media opposing the Wicks and Glazer bills.

Both organizations have previously lobbied state officials, but the summer payments from Google resulted in budgets hundreds of times greater than in the spring. Their spending in the third quarter was directed almost entirely to hiring Washington, D.C.-based advertising firms, according to their disclosure reports.

Google's record lobbying payments last quarter far exceeded other major tech companies that would have been forced to pay up under the Wicks and Glazer journalism funding proposals.

Amazon spent more than $918,000 during the third quarter, its largest lobbying quarter on record and triple the amount in the same period last year. Meta, which threatened to remove news posts from its Facebook and Instagram platforms if it had to pay for them,

SEE **GOOGLE** PAGE 5



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+

Will probably be the largest day of the work week but wind looks tough/onshore (possibly breezy WNW). There may be a decent wind window early, but the tide is also very high. New NW swell peaks.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft+

Still some punch with an AM clean up session on watch. Fun surf and improved conditions from Fri with possible AM offshore wind. Holding NW swell in the morning, fading in the afternoon. Keep the deep mid AM high tide in mind.

Weather

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 60. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/10/15	Sun	03:37 AM	1.32	L
2023/10/15	Sun	09:50 AM	5.75	H
2023/10/15	Sun	4:32 PM	0.25	L
2023/10/15	Sun	10:37 PM	4.29	H
2023/10/16	Mon	03:58 AM	1.66	L
2023/10/16	Mon	10:13 AM	5.85	H
2023/10/16	Mon	5:11 PM	0.15	L
2023/10/16	Mon	11:21 PM	3.92	H
2024/11/17	Sun	02:48 AM	2.15	L
2024/11/17	Sun	09:09 AM	6.91	H
2024/11/17	Sun	4:37 PM	-1.28	L
2024/11/17	Sun	11:19 PM	3.71	H
2024/11/18	Mon	03:29 AM	2.50	L
2024/11/18	Mon	09:52 AM	6.52	H
2024/11/18	Mon	5:31 PM	-0.95	L
2024/11/19	Tue	12:29 AM	3.57	H

Daily Lottery

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Powerball
Draw Date: 11/13
9 20 26 43 58
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 130 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 11/12
18 31 33 64 68
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 387 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/13
4 18 36 40 44
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/13
6 10 14 26 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/13
MIDDAY: 3 4 7
Draw Date: 11/13
EVENING: 5 4 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/13
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:43.96

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4492 OVERHAUL & REPAIR OF ALLISON TRANSMISSIONS.
Submission Deadline is December 3, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the City's Online Vendor Portal. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Arcadia Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Roof Replacement
SP2739

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

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Thursday, December 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m., 1228 South Bundy Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90025, Cross Streets are Wilshire Boulevard and Texas Avenue, Street Parking is available on Texas Avenue and South Saltair Avenue

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LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $770 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B or C or C39** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

Bluesky has added 1 million users since the US election as people seek alternatives to X

SARAH PARVINI
AP Technology Writer

Social media site Bluesky has gained 1 million new users in the week since the U.S. election, as some X users look for an alternative platform to post their thoughts and engage with others online.

Bluesky said Wednesday that its total users surged to 15 million, up from roughly 13 million at the end of October.

Championed by former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Bluesky was an invitation-only space until it opened to the public in February. That invite-only period gave the site time to build out moderation tools and other features. The platform resembles Elon Musk's X, with a "discover" feed as well a chronological feed for accounts that users follow. Users can send direct messages and pin posts, as well as find "starter packs" that provide a curated list of people and custom feeds to follow.

The post-election uptick in users isn't the first time that Bluesky has benefited from people leaving X. Bluesky gained 2.6 million users in the week after X was banned in Brazil in August — 85% of them from Brazil, the company said. About 500,000 new users signed up in the span of one day last month, when X signaled that blocked accounts would be able to see a user's public posts.

Despite Bluesky's growth, X posted last week that it had "dominated the global conversation on the U.S. election" and had set new records. The platform saw a 15.5% jump in new-user signups on Election Day, X said, with a record 942 million posts worldwide. Representatives for Bluesky and for X did not respond to requests for comment.

Bluesky has referenced its competitive relationship to X through tongue-in-cheeks comments, including an Election Day post on X referencing Musk watching voting results come in with President-elect Donald Trump.

"I can guarantee that no Bluesky team members will be sitting with a presidential candidate tonight and giving them direct access to control what you see online," Bluesky said.

Across the platform, new users — among of them journalists, left-leaning politicians and celebrities — have posted memes and shared that they were looking forward to using a space free from advertisements and hate speech. Some said it reminded them of the early days of X, when it was still Twitter.

On Wednesday, The Guardian said it would no longer post on X, citing "far right conspiracy theories and racism" on the site as a reason.

Last year, advertisers such as IBM, NBCUniversal and its parent company Comcast fled X over concerns about their ads showing up next to pro-Nazi content and hate speech on the site in general, with Musk inflaming tensions with his own posts endorsing an antisemitic conspiracy theory.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24VECP00500 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Nasim Khonsari for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Nasim Khonsari a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nasim Khonsari to Nasim Khonsari Neshat . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 12/05/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: T Room: 600 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401 . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice of Auction of TitleThis is notice of sale of a title. Any inquiries can be made to phone # 702-530-9812 or to email at yoshiyah1969@gmail.com. Auction to be held on December 2, 2024 at 8:00am at the steps of the county public library located at 601 W Lancaster Blvd, Lancaster, CA

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Santa Monica Daily Press

TARIFFS

FROM PAGE 2

19% at the port in September from the same month a year ago. September imports totaled $27.9 billion, a 20% increase year over year. There's a chance those numbers could head the opposite direction as a result of tariffs.

"Significant increases in tariffs, and the possibility of retaliatory tariffs, could have a significant impact on traffic — and jobs — at the port," said Phillip Sanfield, a spokesperson. "We're monitoring developments closely."

The Port of Los Angeles says nearly 1 million California jobs are related to trade at that port.

The Port of Long Beach handles about 3% of all U.S. imports and has about 575,000 Southern California jobs tied to trade. Chief Executive Mario Cordero said, through a spokesperson, that he is waiting to see what trade policies Trump actually will adopt: "At this point we expect that strong consumer demand will continue to drive cargo shipments upward in the near term."

The Port of Oakland, whose trade-related jobs at both the airport and seaport number about 98,000, also expects a traffic boost at first. Spokesperson Robert Bernardo: "As a West Coast seaport, our primary trading partner is Asia, and what's happening right now is that retailers are expecting a short-term shipping surge in advance of new tariffs."

Mike Jacob is the president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, a not-for-profit maritime trade association whose members facilitate trade. They include ocean carriers, marine terminal operators and more.

Jacob, too, said he is expecting trade activity to pick up ahead of whatever tariffs Trump imposes: "Given the lack of understanding of the timing, scope and scale (of the tariffs), you're more likely than not to move cargo earlier."

As a result of tariffs during Trump's first term, Jacob said there was "a small bump in cargo back in 2019 that resulted in additional impacts on our logistics chain." He said after that experience, which was then followed by pandemic-related chaos, the industry might be a little more prepared to deal with possible supply-chain disruptions.

POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON MANUFACTURING

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce is worried about potential tariffs on goods from Mexico. Kenia Zamarripa, a spokesperson for the group, said the CaliBaja region — which includes San Diego and Imperial counties and the Mexican state of Baja California — is interconnected, with a multibillion-dollar supply chain. The region's logistics facilitate 80% of the trade between California and Mexico, she said.

The nation's top imports from Mexico in September — worth at least $2 billion for each category — were petroleum and coal products, computer equipment and motor vehicle parts, according to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Some specific products that are imported into the U.S. from Mexico through California include the Toyota Tacoma. The truck and its components are made in Baja California and elsewhere in Mexico. "Imagine taxing each component before it goes to Mexico and back," Zamarripa said.

She added that the region also leads in producing medical devices, and that the importance of that became apparent during the beginning of the pandemic when "a bunch of companies shut down, not knowing that a little metal piece they were producing was a vital part of a heart monitor, for example."

Mexico's economy minister, Marcelo Ebrard, said this week that he would hit the U.S. with tariffs if Trump imposes tariffs, though President Claudia Sheinbaum has seemed more open to negotiations.

Lance Hastings, chief executive of the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, said he's well aware of the disruption tariffs can cause. When Trump put tariffs on aluminum and steel imports, aluminum prices rose at least 25%, Hastings said. "I was in the beer industry when it was put in, and we felt it," he added.

Hastings also said the anxiety around Trump's proposed tariffs stem in part from the fact that "we're still trying to get the supply chain back to normal" after the pandemic. Because "California is the gateway to Asia, the state would feel the impact of more tariffs first and more than everybody else," he said.

MADE IN THE USA

Yet there is a bit of optimism among those who think some tariffs could actually help California manufacturers.

Sanjiv Malhotra, founder and CEO of Sparkz, a maker of lithium batteries, said tariffs could benefit his company and the rest of the domestic battery industry amid the increasing popularity of electric vehicles.

Sparkz, which will get its materials from West Virginia and make batteries at a plant in Sacramento, "is all U.S.-sourced. Nothing is coming in from China," Malhotra said.

During his campaign, Trump indicated he would try to roll back emission-reduction rules and said he would oppose banning gas-powered vehicles. But Malhotra, who served in the U.S. Energy Department under the first Trump administration, said that as demand for lithium batteries grows, he believes Trump's incoming administration will understand that they "need to be made here in the U.S. so we are not dependent on China for batteries."

Kate Gordon, CEO of California Forward, a nonprofit organization that focuses on the state's economy, said that while it's important to get back some of "what we've lost over the past couple of decades" — the nation once led in solar panels — it "needs to happen deliberately and with attention to where we're really competitive."

"What would be terrible would be tariffs on things where we're no longer competitive, like parts of the solar supply chain, which have been held by China for a long time," she said. All that would do is drive up prices, Gordon said.

Americans may say they want things to be made in the USA, but they also don't want to pay higher prices for them, said Derek Guy, a menswear writer based in San Francisco who has covered the clothing industry for more than a decade. A few years ago, Guy wrote about American Apparel, under new ownership, offering U.S. consumers the option of paying a little bit more for clothing made here vs. similar pieces made overseas.

"Even based on a few dollars, when someone wasn't looking over (their) shoulder, people chose the foreign version," Guy said.

"A lot of manufacturing in the U.S. has long shifted toward the higher-end," Guy said. "The kind of cheaper clothes we're talking about (what most Americans buy) are made elsewhere." Tariffs would raise those prices.

THE PRICE OF ALMONDS

California's top agricultural exports include almonds, wine, dairy products, pistachios and other nuts.

During Trump's first term as China imposed retaliatory tariffs on the U.S., California exports of wine, walnuts, oranges and table grapes to China fell, according to the University of California Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.

In addition, almond prices sank, with the foundation's researchers saying prices fell from $2.50 a pound to $1.40 a pound in 2018. That had a negative impact on an industry that generates $4 billion to $5 billion a year and employs about 110,000 people, according to the website of lobbying group Almond Alliance.

Amanda Russell, a spokesperson for the Almond Alliance, said in an emailed statement: "In previous trade negotiations, President Trump demonstrated a commitment to supporting agriculture, and we are optimistic about continuing this partnership to address the challenges and opportunities facing our growers and stakeholders."

Besides tariffs, another likely action by Trump that could affect the state's agriculture industry is mass deportations — a threat that has immigrants and advocates on edge.

"I can't see any benefit to California if he goes through with mass deportation," said Levy, the economist in Silicon Valley. "Even the threat of deportation will affect the labor pool."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GOOGLE

FROM PAGE 3

spent nearly $366,000.

Google didn't just pour money into persuading lawmakers. It also contributed a small fortune to the campaigns of 40 elected officials on a single day, campaign finance disclosures show. On Sept. 13, two weeks after the Legislature adjourned, the company cut checks totaling $107,500 to 39 legislators, including Wicks, plus Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis — more than a third of the $301,800 that Google contributed to state campaigns since last January.

GOOGLE FUNDED 40 ELECTED OFFICIALS ON THE SAME DAY

On Sept. 13, the company contributed $107,500 to 39 sitting legislators and Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis.

Google's financial disclosure for the third quarter mentions lobbying the Legislature on more than 30 bills, as well the governor's office and several state agencies, without providing a breakdown of its spending.

Another priority this summer was Senate Bill 1047, which would have required testing large-scale AI models to determine whether they harm society. Big tech players, including Google, vocally opposed the regulation and it was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September.

But Sen. Scott Wiener, the San Francisco Democrat who carried the measure, said Google's lobbying appeared to be more focused on the journalism funding legislation. While the company was a leading voice against his AI testing bill, he said, its efforts there seemed to be directed outside of the Capitol.

"It was not a tidal wave of activity," Wiener said. "It was much more online and on social media."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

HABITS

FROM PAGE 1

pointed to value and intention.

THE RISE OF "SLOW SHOPPING" THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

More than one in two of those embracing the "slow shopping" trend (53%) said they're doing so to ensure they're only purchasing items they truly want, and more than one in three (36%) said it helps them take more time to research their purchases in advance and compare different brands and styles.

At the same time, more than half (51%) said they're using "slow shopping" to take advantage of more deals and promotions.

"Every year, we see shoppers starting their holiday shopping earlier, but this time it's different — they're also taking their time. Over 50% plan to finish their purchases on or after Black Friday," shares Vishal Kapoor, Affirm's SVP of Product. "With just 27 days between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, expect consumers to use this time to carefully weigh their options and hunt for the best value from retailers, including more flexible ways to pay offered via longer payment terms and unique credit offers."

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS GAIN POPULARITY AMONG SHOPPERS

Americans may be pacing their holiday spending, but they are not cutting back. Nearly seven in 10 consumers (68%) plan to spend the same or more than they did last year — fully aware of higher costs.

For those planning to spend more this year, over one in three (34%) cite inflation, saying they expect to pay more for the same number of gifts.

Against this backdrop, budgeting and affordability are among respondents' top priorities this holiday season. Results revealed that over half of Americans surveyed (55%) prioritize finding value for money — that's the top thing they're looking for from retailers.

Half of respondents (50%) consider 0% APR financing options to be just as, if not more, valuable than traditional discounts.

And of the subset of respondents planning to use pay over time options this holiday season, over half (53%) of those are doing so as it can make the cost of a purchase more affordable, closely followed by the ability to help them budget (52%).

Survey Methodology:

Talker Research surveyed 2,000 Americans who celebrate a winter holiday; the survey was commissioned by Affirm and administered and conducted online by Talker Research between Sept. 30 and Oct. 2, 2024.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

passing 43 times for 26 completions, 260 yards and four touchdowns. Mindes said that it was "cool to have worked towards something the whole season and actually achieve it," a sentiment shared by her teammates.

"I feel like it's inspiring for other people, and it also feels great to be a part of a community that (has) women showing what we're made of," senior Amber Havel said. "It feels like it's a weight (that's) lifted after all the practice we put in, and we finally got what we deserved after everything."

Mindes' top target was junior Chloe Sanders, who exploded in the finale for 136 yards and two touchdowns on eight receptions. Mindes also found seniors Kyla Cotton and Jayla Johnson-Lake in the endzone, with the latter capping off her career after two Ocean League Most Outstanding Player honors.

"Everybody was just out there doing their jobs, getting everything done, knowing what they're supposed to do and then executing it," Jayla Johnson-Lake said. "I think there was also a lot of excitement on the field, it just kind of brought up the intensity and the energy and (it) really made my adrenaline pump the whole game through. But it was a lot of fun, because we're also hyping each other up."

That team-wide confidence and support of one another has been apparent since the girls' inaugural 2023 season. Under the leadership of coach Ramsey Lambert, who learned the ins and outs of the flag game alongside his players, the Lady Vikings finished 16-3 overall with an unblemished 8-0 Ocean League record.

Entering 2024 with a CIF championship as a new prize, Lambert and his crew worked together to temper expectations.

"I learned from them a long time ago that they do really, really well with short-term goals, so we never said we want to win the CIF championship," Lambert said. "We said we want to win (Ocean League), get to the playoffs, and from there we just take it one game at a time."

Before the team's CIF dreams could be realized, the Lady Vikings were stuck in the 2-6 hole before Ocean League play, dropping tough contests to top squads like Aliso Niguel and Mira Costa. Mindes said that the locker room had to realize "that it wasn't a piece of cake like last year," and had to become "more dedicated" in order to make a title run.

"We needed (to) get the chemistry back ... in the beginning, we missed some flag pulls because we weren't confident in what we could do," Havel said. "But once we realized that we are the same people we (were) last year, but better ... I think we just needed to get a confident boost and get a couple of wins in there and start the run."

The run started in Ocean League play, where both sides of the ball were on fire, outscoring opponents by a ludicrous 181-12 margin. Not only was Mindes and the passing game in sync, the defense had their back with a bend-don't-break mentality.



Photo Courtesy David E. Hunzicker Photography

FOOTBALL: Coach Ramsey Lambert and his Samohi Lady Vikings have reached the summit of CIF flag football.

"We try to always keep everyone in front of us, and we'll get those small routes first so that we can pull flags instead of having balls go behind us," Havel explained. "We keep everything in front of us ... we practice a lot on working on flag pulling, so that if someone tries to get by us, we can stop them right there."

That defensive effort continued throughout the CIF playoffs into the championship game, where Ramsey said the girls were prepared defensively since the opposition ran a similar fast-break offensive style.

"I think our defense was what really sets us apart," Mindes added. "We worked a lot on how to beat specific teams and ... not let anything past us. I'm biased, we have a good offense, but (the defense) didn't let anything (through)."

Many of the Lady Vikings' top stars are in the senior class, and were given a special send-off during the Samohi Vikings football senior night, another example of increasing equality in the ever-popular game. Ramsey, a native of Hawaii, gave each senior a lei necklace as a symbol of appreciation.

While the center stage treatment is new for the burgeoning program, students are taking notice, as 87 girls tried out for the Samohi squad this year. Aside from a new junior varsity team for 2024, flag football teams are now seen at Lincoln Middle School and John Adams Middle School, which the coach attributes to his crop of trailblazers.

"I think it says a lot about the current girls that we have, and (it's) giving underclassmen and even middle schoolers something to look forward to ... I think the success is just going to breed a bigger desire in our younger girls," Ramsey added.

> "Everybody was just out there doing their jobs, getting everything done, knowing what they're supposed to do and then executing it
>
> - Johnson-Lake



Photo Courtesy David E. Hunzicker Photography

LADY VIKINGS: Samohi quarterback Anica Mindes torched opponents with her arm all season.

The Lady Vikings are well aware of their inspirational status, working with younger peers throughout the season on their skills. Wanting the next generation to experience the thrills of the field, the CIF champions are quickly setting a standard for Samohi athletics in all genders.

"It just makes me so excited thinking about it, I can't believe that just ... about two years ago now, I was contemplating why or (why) not to show up to tryouts and whether or not I really wanted to play this sport, and now we're CIF champions," Johnson-Lake said. "I think it's just so monumental for girls sports, because it's more attention to girls in sports in general and (for) more inclusivity."

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HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader Questions – Can Board Remove A Phantom Director? Can Trustees Serve?

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

QUESTION: OUR BOARD HAS A MEMBER WHOSE PARTICIPATION IS PERFUNCTORY AT BEST. HE RARELY RESPONDS TO EMAILS OR PARTICIPATES IN EMAIL DISCUSSIONS. HE MISSES MEETINGS. WHEN HE DOES ATTEND MEETINGS, HE RARELY PARTICIPATES IN DISCUSSION. MAY THE BOARD VOTE TO REMOVE HIM? WE WOULD LIKE TO OPEN THE POSITION UP TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED. W.E., CARLSBAD

Dear W.E.: There can be many reasons why directors who are not fulfilling their leadership role but won't step aside. Sometimes directors don't resign because they feel they are letting the HOA down, and it can be helpful to tactfully tell such a volunteer that it's OK to resign if they aren't able to do the job. Sometimes volunteers are relieved to know that it's OK if they want to step aside until a future time when they can be more involved. Sometimes marginally involved directors refuse to resign because they are proud of being on their HOA board. Frankly, this kind of director is often a problem for HOAs, because the feeling of achievement is not the best volunteer attitude. Such directors are often defensive instead of acting as servant leaders to their neighbors.

If a director is unable to adequately serve on the board but refuses, sometimes the HOA bylaws will have a provision empowering the board to consider a given number of missed meetings as a resignation by a director.

Otherwise, the only way to remove an otherwise eligible director is to have a vote of the membership to recall the director. Removal elections are often very negative, and sometimes do more harm than good in terms of dividing the HOA community. So, often it is better to simply wait until the director's term expires and then make sure a more committed volunteer is elected.

Best, Kelly

DEAR MR. RICHARDSON: IF SOMEONE IS A TRUSTEE OF A TRUST CAN THEY BE A BOARD MEMBER? N.K., COVINA

Dear N.K.: Entities such as a family trusts, corporations, or limited liability companies (LLCs) owning a property in the HOA are members of the HOA. However, an entity needs a designated representative to act, speak, or vote on behalf of the entity member, or even to serve on behalf of the entity on the HOA board. For a family trust, that person will be the trustee. The trustee is identified in the deed, which normally will say "John Doe, Trustee of the John Doe Family Trust." If the original trustee has been replaced, there may need to be a deed recorded by the trust identifying the current trustee. Corporations may designate an officer to represent the corporation's HOA membership interests, and that person could serve as a director. The corporation will often need to provide the HOA with a corporate resolution confirming the authorization of the representative to speak on behalf of the corporation. A limited liability company ("LLC") will normally have a manager or other officer designated to be the LLC representative. That would also need to be documented to the HOA to confirm the LLC's designation of the person who is entitled to vote or speak on behalf of the LLC.

When this issue arises, check your HOA bylaws and with legal counsel, to avoid mistakes and misunderstandings.

Sincerely, Kelly

Kelly G. Richardson CCAL is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Send column questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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Eric Uller, who volunteered at Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL), masqueraded as a police officer during the late 1980s to early 2000s and *sexually abused hundreds of children.* There may still be time to make a claim.

PAL SANTA MONICA



"I never wanted to be the last one in the car with him."
- Eric Uller victims

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$1,849,000

404 San Vicente Blvd #101

3 BR, 2 BA 1,597 Sq Ft

Listed by Jane Siegal •DRE #00793259 • Coldwell Banker Realty

SANTA MONICA

$1,298,000

818 6th St #101

2 BR, 2 BA, 1,434 Sq Ft

Listed by Cynthia Ann Festa •DRE #01278999 • Rodeo Realty - Pacific Palisades

SANTA MONICA

$975,000

101 California Ave #805

1 BR, 1 BA, 690 Sq Ft

Listed by Jill Cannella •DRE #01955562 • Compass

SANTA M

$1,495

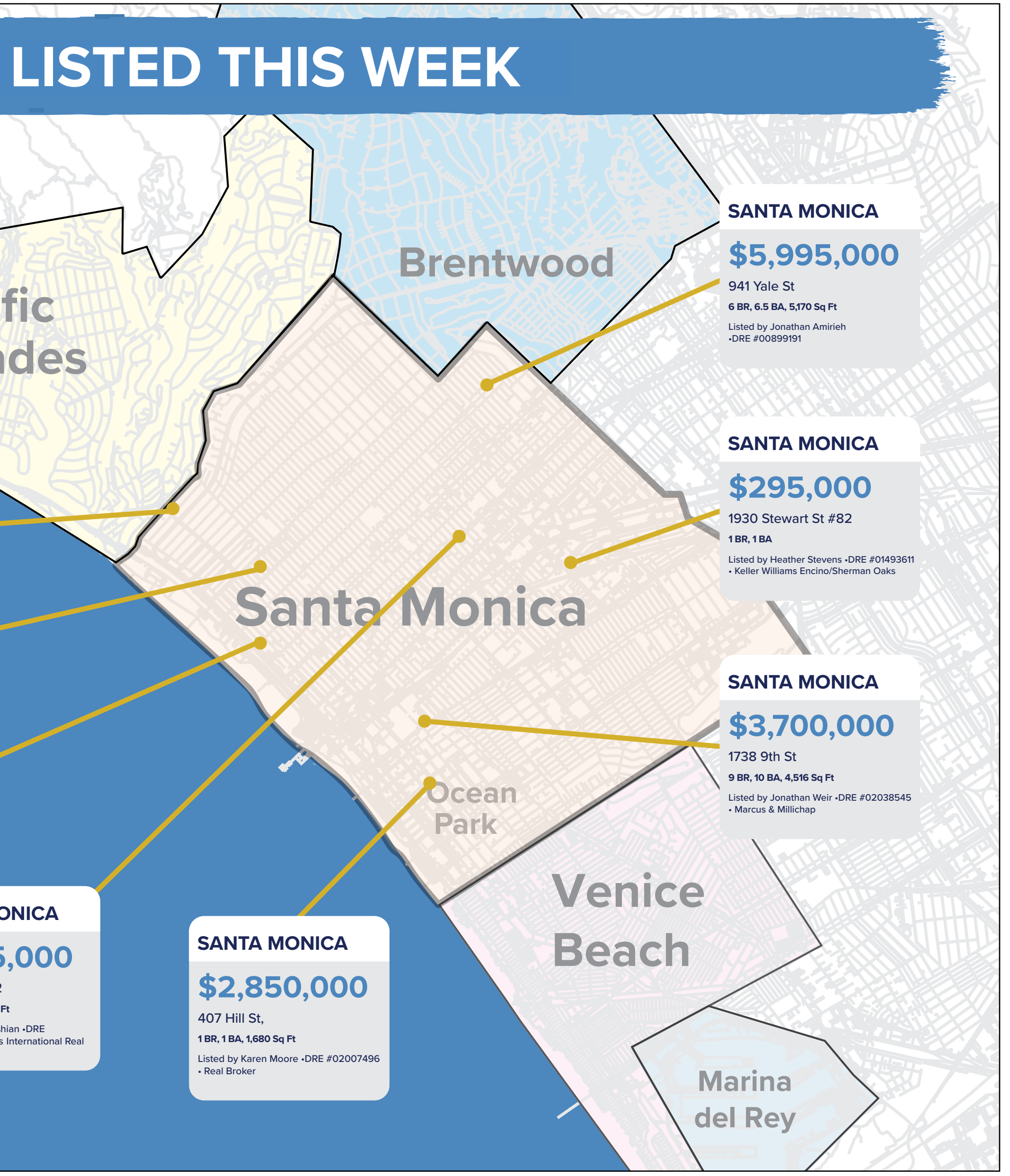
1127 20th St #2

2 BR, 3 BA, 1,432 Sq

Listed by Simon Mas #01776131 • Christie's Estate SoCal

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

LISTED THIS WEEK



SANTA MONICA

$5,995,000

941 Yale St

6 BR, 6.5 BA, 5,170 Sq Ft

Listed by Jonathan Amirieh •DRE #00899191

SANTA MONICA

$295,000

1930 Stewart St #82

1 BR, 1 BA

Listed by Heather Stevens •DRE #01493611 • Keller Williams Encino/Sherman Oaks

SANTA MONICA

$3,700,000

1738 9th St

9 BR, 10 BA, 4,516 Sq Ft

Listed by Jonathan Weir •DRE #02038545 • Marcus & Millichap

SANTA MONICA

$2,850,000

407 Hill St,

1 BR, 1 BA, 1,680 Sq Ft

Listed by Karen Moore •DRE #02007496 • Real Broker

Budget-friendly hacks for a Friendsgiving feast to remember

MARJORY PILLEY
Associated Press

Friendsgiving is a fun, flexible way to gather with friends before the hustle and bustle of the holidays. But with the rising food prices, not to mention other holiday expenses, hosting can seem out of reach. Discover simple, budget-friendly hacks, from affordable menu ideas to DIY decor, to help throw an unforgettable Friendsgiving without breaking the bank.

FRIENDSGIVING EXPLAINED

Friendsgiving is a twist on the traditional Thanksgiving celebration, when friends, rather than family, come together to share a holiday meal, typically in the weeks before or after Thanksgiving Day. It has come to represent a sense of community and connection, emphasizing shared experiences rather than the formality of a traditional family holiday.

According to Merriam-Webster, Friendsgiving first appeared around 2007 in posts on the internet to describe an informal gathering of friends during the Thanksgiving season. It gained momentum in the late 2000s with lifestyle articles and a 2011 Bailey's Irish Cream ad campaign. By 2020, Merriam-Webster added the word to their dictionary, defining it as "a celebration or meal shared among friends on or near Thanksgiving Day."

BUDGETING 101

The key to hosting a cost-effective Friendsgiving is setting a sensible budget and tracking your spending. These simple actions keep expenses in check and prevent overspending. Use a simple spreadsheet or incorporate the event into a budgeting app like EveryDollar. These tools help you organize expenses, plan your shopping list and avoid last-minute splurges.

POTLUCK POWER

A potluck-style Friendsgiving is the ultimate budget hack. By asking guests to contribute dishes can cut your hosting costs significantly. Assign categories, such as appetizers, sides, desserts or drinks, to ensure a well-rounded meal. This approach not only saves money but adds variety to the table. Plus, it fosters a sense of community when everyone contributes their favorite dishes to the feast.

DIGITAL INVITES

Send digital invitations through platforms like Evite or Meta Events Manager to save on paper and postage. Often you can manage RSVPs and coordinate dishes all in one place for free. Choose a design that will set the theme for the celebration, whether it's a cozy fall vibe or a quirky potluck feast.

AFFORDABLE MENU IDEAS

Food is at the heart of any Friendsgiving celebration. Luckily, there are no hard-and-fast rules when it comes to the menu. Whether you prefer a simple main dish or a table full of sides, creating a feast that matches your style and budget is easy.

ONE MAIN DISH

It is common for the host to take charge of the main course, but that does not mean it has to be a whole turkey. Aim for one main course rather than a variety of choices. Also, consider budget-friendly options, such as herb-crusted chicken or a hearty vegetarian dish. These choices are satisfying, yet easier on your wallet.

CROWD-PLEASING SIDES

Plan a variety of side dishes to round out the meal. Using seasonal produce will keep the costs down and add fall flair. From your grandma's viral casseroles on TikTok to maple dijon carrots, side dishes are easy on the wallet and often the highlight of the meal. You may even want to serve only sides and make it an everything-but-the-turkey meal!

BYOB BEVERAGES

Alcohol can be one of the most expensive parts of Friendsgiving hosting. Bella Bucchiotti, a foodie at xoxoBella, says, "Consider setting up a DIY drink station with a few signature cocktails or mocktails to keep things lively and give everyone a chance to get creative." You can also make it a BYOB affair, encouraging guests to bring their favorite drinks.

SEE **FRIENDSGIVING** PAGE 12

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CAFE

FROM PAGE 1

Health and Safety Code Section 114259.1).

What makes this worse, is that this isn't the first time Bardonna has gotten into trouble with the Dept of Public Health. Reddit user u/beaniebella posted about how the eatery had scored a C-rating just three months ago and the comments underneath are not particularly positive to say the least, with many being unfavorable and some just unforgiving.

"Me and my sister visited a few months back and the food quality is completely transformed for the absolute worse. the cups weren't clean (+ hair) and everything felt so unsanitized," wrote u/snowrosie45.

"Yeah they served me moldy gluten free bed one time and I never went back," said u/sector9love.

The Daily Press was also able to obtain that earlier report from July 30, 2024 and while there was one less violation, the following minor infractions were still listed, food safety, adequate hand washing facilities and food contact surface, it also received a major penalty also for a vermin infestation.

Consequently, with two C-ratings in less than 100 days, the restaurant was deemed a health hazard and closed. Their last social media engagements on Instagram and Facebook were dated just a day prior to the report, on November 4, 20024 and there are no more posts after this. The Daily Press attempted to reach out to the owners, but at the time of publication, had received no reply.

News of these unfortunate proceedings clearly hadn't traveled very far very quickly as hungry customers were still arriving on the actual day of closure only to find a locked door, with patio umbrellas seemingly strategically stacked against the front door in an effort to obscure the Dept of Public Health notice.

"I haven't been here for a little while, but when my kids come back into town, we go here frequently. So I'd say we were here maybe two months ago, two and a half months ago," said Richard, a resident from the area.

"I've always enjoyed eating here. The food has always been satisfactory. And last time we were here, I think I saw a lower rating on the door. Maybe it was a B or a C, which surprised me, but it appeared to be a well run restaurant, so I'm kind of surprised," he said.

"I've been here many times because I live on the other block. I remember not long ago they had like, a C, right? So, that caught my attention," said Paulo, a resident of the Montana area.

It's not yet known if Bardonna will reopen once this situation has been resolved and the restaurant is reassessed, or will be permanently closed. We will keep you posted as soon as more information is available.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION VACANCY

Human Services Commission:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2027.
Applicants must be Santa Monica residents.

Applications are due by noon, Tuesday, January 21st.
Appointment to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 28th.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

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FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 15

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POETRY FESTIVAL 2024 -
7:00pm-10:00pm Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd Venice Beach. The 6th annual Southern California Poetry festival kicks things off with thrilling performances by poet, lyricist, and musician Camae Ayewa, known for her exceptional work as Moor Mother. Her groundbreaking poetry collection American Equations in Black Classical Music (Hat & Beard Press) illuminates the stark realities and poignant struggles of the past and present. The evening will feature a fusion of spoken word and music, with alchemic verses hailing from San Francisco's Eighth Poet Laureate (2021-2023), Tongo Eisen-Martin and Linda Albertano Fellow, abbi page, in the Wanda Coleman Theater. Performances in the theater will be followed by a set in the Poets' Garden with one of L.A's most eccentric voices in Alternative Hip-Hop, Rhys Langston. $12
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/southern-california-poetry-festival-2024-friday-nov-15-tickets-1047730950477

RON GALLO (SOLO)
11:00pm The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, $15. This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund.
https://www.ticketweb.com/event/ron-gallo-solo-the-venice-west-tickets/13834023

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 16

RECYCLING EVENT
9:00am-2:00pm City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave
The City is hosting a FREE recycling event Saturday, November 16th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Santa Monica residents only. Bring your used mattresses, box springs, electronic waste, and up to five boxes of paper for shredding! Shredding will happen on-site and the paper will be recycled. Questions? Call (866) 311-7266
Accepted items: Up to 5 banker boxes of paper, Phones, laptops, and tablets,DVD & VHS players, Radios & stereo equipment, printers (please remove ink cartridges), Batteries, CRT, LCD, OLED, and plasma screen TVs and monitors, Mattresses and box springs
Prohibited items: Microwaves & blenders, Coffee pots & Keurigs, Ink cartridges, Washing machines, Bread makers, Waffle irons, Refrigerators and mini-fridges, Household hazardous waste (including paint).
For household hazardous waste please call Clean Earth at (877) 443-2371 or to go cleanearthinc.com for complimentary residential household hazardous waste and e-waste collection.

FRIENDSGIVING AT ISHIHARA PARK LEARNING GARDEN
9:00am-11:00am Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. During this season of thanks, come help organizers decorate the Tree of Thanks by putting in writing what you are thankful for. Garden Pancakes on the griddle, Kids Crafts under the Oak Tree, compost to take home, cool season veggie seeds and more. Feel free to bring a dish to share.

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 17

PUPSGIVING PLAY DATE
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Healthy Spot, 1110 Wilshire Boulevard. The perfect Thanksgiving event for pups is back again! Join us for off leash play, puppucino drinking contest, Turkey Trot competition, a photo op and, of course, pie for everyone. Plus, you'll also receive special offers and a goodie bag and just for attending. In partnership with Stella & Chewy's. $10 donation per person benefiting L.A. Love & Leashes.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 18

POLICE STORYTIME
10:30 - 11 a.m. Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice. Meet Senior Lead Officer Contreras for a special story time program. Listen to stories and learn how local police help the community.

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
6:30 - 8:30 p.m., DTSM Conference Room, 1351 Third Street Promenade, Suite 201. City art and culture programs are guided by the 9-member Santa Monica Arts Commission, which was formally established in 1982 to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of art programs in the City. Appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, Arts Commissioners advise the Council on matters of policy, and strive to encourage the flow of art into the City and stimulate art activity here.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
7 - 10 p.m. SMI Room, Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. The Commission closely monitors the Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan and advises the Council on plan implementation.

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
7 - 8:30 p.m. Virtual. Join a community-led online discussion of a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's selection is "The History of Love" by Nicole Krauss.

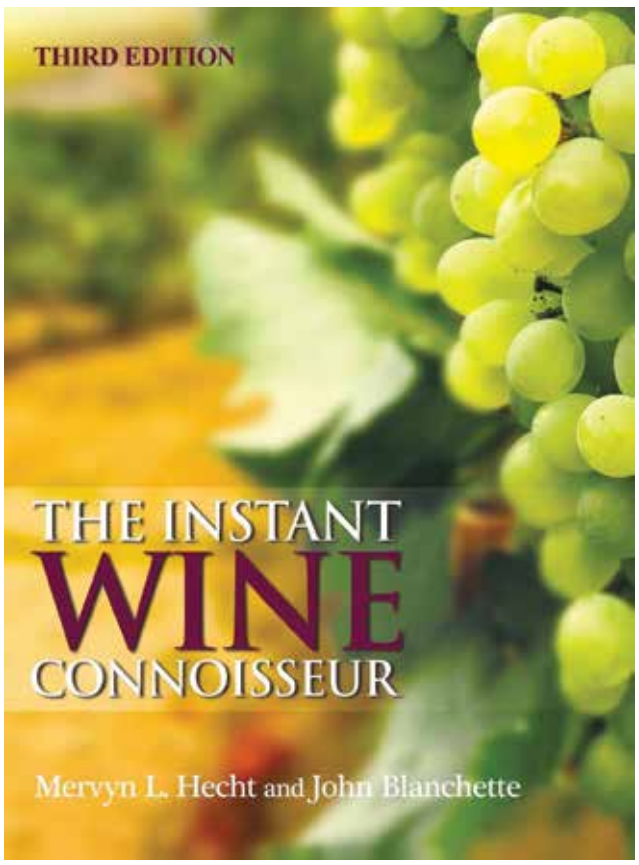
LANDMARKS COMMISSION
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people."

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 19

TUESDAY TALES- A TRAVELING STORYTIME
10:30 - 11 a.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. New to Ocean Park, this fun and engaging weekly series features stories, songs and rhymes. Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

TEEN LITERARY LOUNGE
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for a social reading party just for teens. Pick up a free copy of "Braiding Sweetgrass" or bring a book of your own to discuss. Light refreshments will be served. For ages 12-18.

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★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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FRIENDSGIVING

FROM PAGE 10

SMART PLANNING

Planning is key to hosting a memorable Friendsgiving without overspending. Set financial boundaries, organize ahead of time and encourage guests to contribute. With a little preparation, you can create a festive, enjoyable gathering that everyone will remember.

MAKE-AHEAD DESSERTS

Desserts do not need to be extravagant to be delicious, and making them ahead of time allows you to buy ingredients on sale. Add fall sprinkles to simple, low-cost treats like peanut butter blossoms or brownies. You can also make dessert part of a potluck sign-up.

DECOR ON A DIME

When decorating, keeping to a consistent theme will have the biggest impact on your Friendsgiving celebration. Coordinate your decor with the tone of the invitations and food selections to create a seamless, inviting atmosphere.

DIY TABLE DECORATIONS

When it comes to decor, think rustic and homemade. Gather natural items like pumpkins, pinecones and fall leaves from your yard to create a festive tablescape. Add a few candles for a cozy vibe, or repurpose mason jars and string lights to elevate the ambiance. These inexpensive DIY decorations give your gathering a personal, handcrafted touch.

THRIFT STORE FINDS

Are you short on plates or serving dishes? Your local thrift store or dollar store has budget-friendly options. Mismatched plates and cutlery can add a charming, eclectic feel to your table. Plus, you can find inexpensive seasonal items like tablecloths and napkins to bring the look together without spending a fortune.

COZY OUTDOOR LOUNGE

If you're hosting outdoors or have extra space, set up a cozy lounge area with blankets, pillows and string lights. Use old blankets or inexpensive throws to drape over chairs, and bring out pillows from inside to make the space comfortable. Add a few lanterns or candles for soft lighting, and if you have a fire pit, light it up to create a warm, inviting spot where guests can gather after dinner.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY FUN

Friendsgiving is a chance to focus on what your friend group loves and values to create a shared experience. Whether it's a game night full of laughs, a meaningful gratitude circle or a DIY photo booth, these budget-friendly activities are the perfect way to celebrate and make lasting memories together.

FRIENDSGIVING GAME NIGHT

Add a playful touch to your gathering by including a game night. Bring out classic board or card games that everyone can enjoy, from charades to Pictionary. You can quickly create Friendsgiving-themed trivia games using free artificial intelligence tools with questions about Thanksgiving traditions, food or funny memories.

GRATITUDE CIRCLE

For a heartfelt Friendsgiving tradition, have each guest share something they are thankful for. Provide small cards for guests to write their gratitude statements, which can be read aloud or exchanged during the meal. This simple yet meaningful activity is a low-cost way to remind everyone of the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

PHOTO BOOTH

Creating a photo booth is a free way to capture the joy of the night and gives everyone a keepsake to remember the gathering. Assemble a simple backdrop using fall-themed items like plaid blankets, string lights, pumpkins or autumn leaves. Print themed signs with catchy phrases like "gobble, gobble" or "feast time." Guests can snap photos throughout the night with their phones.

CELEBRATE WITH HEART

Friendsgiving is about celebrating friendship and gratitude, not how much you spend. With a little planning and creativity, you can host a budget-friendly, festive and fun Friendsgiving. After all, the best part of Friendsgiving is spending quality time with the people you care about and sharing food and laughter.

Marjory Pilley owned two make-ahead meal assembly stores that helped busy families prepare healthy dinners with less stress. Since 2013, she has been sharing popular dishes from her stores and other easy recipes on her blog Dinner-Mom.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



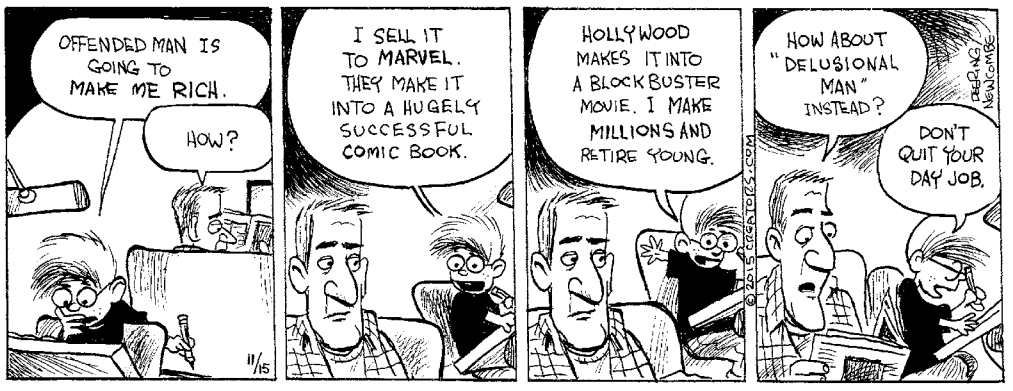
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



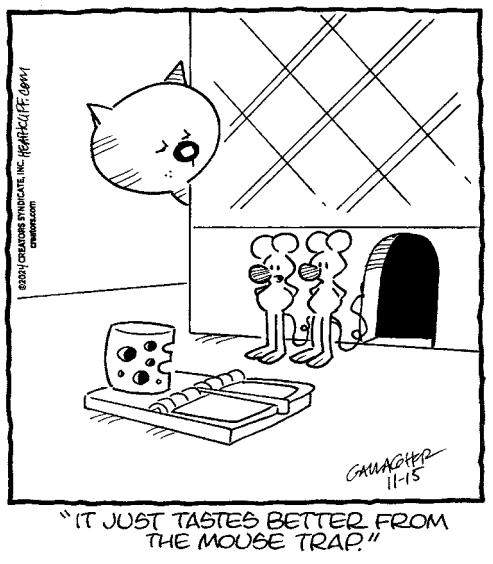
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6395

Family holiday

K	O	A	L	A	S	E	A	G	U	L	L	S	O	T
T	L	O	B	R	E	D	N	U	H	T	H	P	E	M
E	I	E	M	E	R	M	A	I	D	B	E	A	C	H
D	M	N	F	R	I	G	H	T	E	N	I	N	G	I
N	A	T	D	P	E	E	X	H	A	U	S	T	E	D
A	R	E	A	U	Z	D	A	W	N	B	A	Y	S	E
S	I	R	R	A	L	P	B	B	R	O	W	N	U	A
H	N	T	L	O	P	G	R	A	K	K	E	P	N	W
O	A	A	T	Y	S	A	E	T	R	R	I	B	S	A
P	Y	I	U	W	F	A	S	N	A	O	O	R	C	Y
S	O	N	I	T	S	I	R	N	C	A	N	L	R	N
N	I	M	N	O	R	B	G	E	T	E	F	O	E	A
T	A	E	O	U	S	I	S	S	L	R	E	O	E	E
K	E	N	O	S	F	K	P	D	U	A	R	C	N	C
J	E	T	S	K	I	E	I	S	E	A	X	D	Y	O

Bays	Happy	Marina	Sand
Bike	Hideaway	Mermaid	Seagulls
Boats	Idle	Beach	Shops
Brown	Indulgence	Nerang	Sunscreen
Cool	Jet ski	Noosa	Surf
Dawn	Keno	Ocean	Swim
Entertainment	Kirra	Open	Thunderbolt
Exhausted	Koalas	Raft	Tourist
Frightening	Laze	Red Baron	Trips
Funny	Lotion	Relax	Unit

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 15)

A year of fleshing out the visions, which will appear to you often and vividly. Others assist until you're all living in the dream. Though you don't focus on the financial aspect of a job, that piece naturally flourishes as you pursue your passion. More highlights: buying and selling property, work involving animals and an educational achievement. Capricorn and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 6, 13 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll have a sense of flow that connects you to the world beyond, where secret knowledge is imparted and creativity runs strong. You'll reach a certain speed; insights effervesce.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Financial exchange is energetic exchange. A good deal will lift both parties one way or another. Today the numbers will matter much less than the feelings involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You will find yourself underestimated, which gives you a distinct advantage. You can quietly work to improve, developing your potential and growing your power until eventually you are ready to rule.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Whether or not you know which way to go, it will pay to move as though you do. It's decisive action that gets the attention and respect of others. Whether you have confidence or just pretend to, choose quickly and commit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your gentle nurturing will be helpful in the development and healing of others. People are more creative, generous and benevolent around you, for obvious reasons.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The people who never lose are the same ones who never play the game. Your courage is something to celebrate, even when it's not ending up with the trophy or the treasure. You're still better off for daring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Free up mental energy by delegating or finding new financial opportunities that fit your skill set and interests. Thinking about side hustles, passive income ideas and the restructuring of financial priorities will help you inch toward a goal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Let someone shoulder some of the emotional weight you're carrying right now. Talk with a person who can just hold space for what you're going through - without trying to fix it, add more or ask anything from you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stick with your plan, and be more mysterious about it, too. With added measures of privacy and discretion, you can invest your resources wisely without the pressures that come with too much attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Expansive emotions like love and curiosity let in the world, whereas restrictive emotions like fear, frustration and sadness close the gates to new input. Neither is wrong, just more or less appropriate to the circumstance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can be simultaneously effective and comfortable, but you can't be simultaneously growing and comfortable. Growth is inherently awkward, which you learned long ago to embrace. You'll traverse new territories today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This newly developing project will be a marathon, not a sprint. Call on your powers of endurance and anything else that goes with a slow burn. Consider the usefulness of music, a coach or a cheering squad.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	K	I	T	■	C	R	A	G	S	■	B	A	B	A
L	I	T	E	■	H	O	L	L	Y	■	E	L	O	N
C	L	O	T	H	E	S	P	I	N	■	R	I	S	K
■	N	O	R	E	A	S	O	N	■	F	L	E	S	H
■	■	■	A	N	T	■	■	D	A	R	I	N	■	■
M	I	N	■	C	O	N	G	A	D	A	N	C	E	R
O	R	O	■	E	N	Y	A	■	A	T	E	R	R	E
T	A	P	S	■	■	E	V	A	■	■	R	A	R	E
I	Q	U	O	T	E	■	E	S	P	N	■	F	E	D
F	I	S	H	I	N	G	L	U	R	E	■	T	D	S
■	■	H	E	A	V	E	■	■	A	R	M	■	■	■
T	O	O	L	S	■	A	C	T	I	V	I	S	M	■
R	S	V	P	■	C	R	U	I	S	E	S	H	I	P
E	L	E	M	■	B	U	B	L	E	■	T	O	N	E
Y	O	R	E	■	S	P	A	T	S	■	Y	O	G	A

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

8	4	3	5	6	2	7	1	9
9	7	6	8	4	1	5	3	2
1	5	2	9	3	7	8	6	4
5	6	4	1	9	3	2	8	7
3	9	7	6	2	8	4	5	1
2	8	1	7	5	4	3	9	6
4	3	8	2	1	6	9	7	5
7	1	9	4	8	5	6	2	3
6	2	5	3	7	9	1	4	8

	3	9	2	4			5	
	6				5			3
2			1			4		6
3		6		5			4	
	4						1	
	5			1		6		2
4		3			8			7
6			4				3	
	8			3	7	2	6	

Newsday Crossword

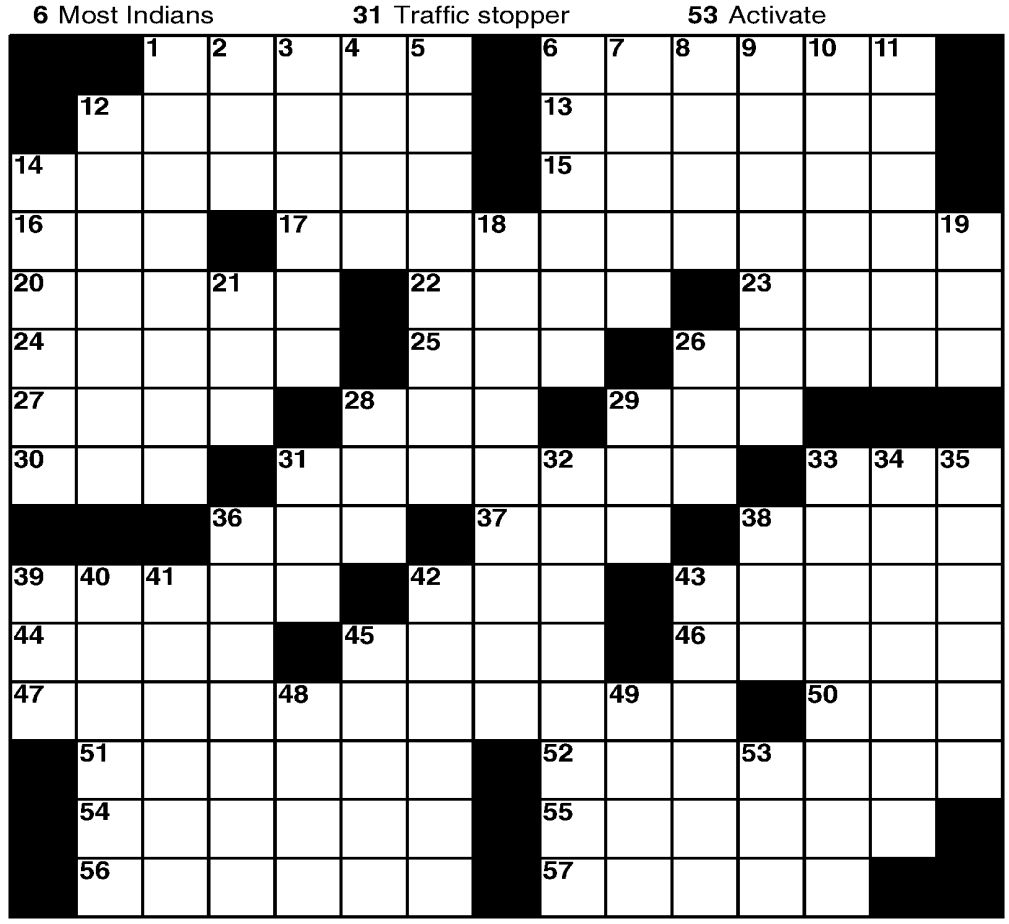
WORTH NOTING by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 *Jungle Book* title
6 Rap rhythms
12 Window dressing
13 Consistent (with)
14 Start of a quote
15 Better organized
16 Any individual
17 Part 2 of quote
20 Spinning machine
22 Fully extended
23 Writer Wiesel
24 Dally (with)
25 "__ yours!"
26 Major faith
27 Shade sources
28 Top dog's title
29 Start of Grafton's *Alibi* title
30 Pocketful of rhyme
31 Composer source of the quote
33 Major stretch
36 Chaps
37 Possible blowup cause
38 Skipped town
39 Flew like a flyball
42 Plan, with "out"
43 Vibrant
44 Something to dry or dye
45 In __ (where found)
46 Swimming cap material
47 Part three of quote
50 Exasperation
51 Sailor's assignment
52 End of quote
54 Kraft Heinz brand
55 Recyclable cellphones, e.g.
56 Southern Hemisphere's "Harbour City"
57 3-Down and family

DOWN

1 Take a shortcut, say
2 Virtuosic
3 Bard's brooder
4 Creative formation
5 They're gorgeous
6 Most Indians
7 Not stirring
8 Have fun
9 Having not gotten on
10 *Anna Christie* dramatist
11 A Genghis Khan conquest
12 Cry of relief
14 Pro seen on a green
18 Sweden, as of March 2024
19 Pro follower
21 Pay stub abbr.
26 Sundial numeral
28 Deceive
29 Small six-footer
31 Traffic stopper
32 Keyboarded
33 Snobby sorts
34 Pipe dream
35 Spot writer
36 Was worthy of
38 #3 in US population
39 "Bingo!"
40 Total strangers, these days
41 Fruit processing plant
42 Lose for a while
43 *Gosford Park* director
45 Decline gradually
48 Placed down
49 Home of the Hawkeyes
53 Activate



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