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Some NFL teams show late signs of spark

SPORTS, 1B



VENTURA COUNTY STAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Hurricane Melissa caused storm surge before it reached Jamaica Oct. 28 OCTAVIO JONES/REUTERS

Melissa makes landfall in Jamaica

Category 5 storm likely to devastate infrastructure

Dinah Voyles Pulver, Thao Nguyen and Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

Catastrophic Hurricane Melissa made landfall along the southwestern coast of Jamaica Oct. 28 with dangerous wind speeds of 185 mph and life-threatening storm surge, preparing to leave a wake of destruction across the island before turning its ferocity on southeastern Cuba.

The storm, now the strongest tropical cyclone of 2025 globally, killed at least seven people before it even arrived. Its landfall is one of the most powerful in Atlantic Basin recorded history, the National Hurricane Center said.

At Category 5 – the highest category on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale – Melissa shattered the record for strongest Jamaican hurricane landfall. That was set by Hurricane Gilbert in 1988, which had 130 mph winds.

“Total structural failure is likely,” the

See HURRICANE, Page 2A



Hurricane Melissa threatened Jamaica with potentially deadly rains after rapidly intensifying into a top-level Category 5 storm, as the storm heads for a direct hit and could be the island’s most violent weather on record.
RICARDO MAKYN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Blue states challenge SNAP cutoff

Joey Garrison and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Democratic attorneys generals and governors from 25 states sued the Trump administration on Oct. 28 in a push to stop the White House from ending Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits on Nov. 1 as the government shutdown reached Day 28.

The suit, filed in federal court in Boston, comes after the Agriculture Department in a recent memo said it can’t use contingency funds to pay for SNAP benefits, commonly known as food stamps. About 42 million Americans would lose their SNAP benefits.

The Trump administration’s position contradicts previous USDA guidance that said the money was available “in the event that a lapse occurs in the middle of the fiscal year.”

The lawsuit argues suspending SNAP benefits is avoidable, arbitrary

See SNAP, Page 2A

U.S. kills 14 in strikes on alleged drug boats

Joey Garrison and Davis Winkie
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon on Oct. 28 said it carried out three strikes on four alleged drug-smuggling vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing 14 people.

It’s the most significant wave of attacks so far in President Donald Trump’s military campaign targeting the flow of illegal narcotics.

The assaults brought the total number of air strikes on boats to 13 – and total deaths to at least 57 – in a campaign that has drawn criticism from Democrats who question the legality

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Law provides DA in Ventura County tool against gun violence

Stacie N. Galang
Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new law will allow the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office and its counterparts in three counties to pilot a program described as a tool to battle gun violence.

Authored by Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin, D-Thousand Oaks, and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom Oct. 10, Assembly Bill 1344 allows prosecutors to petition

the court to remove someone’s firearms or prevent them from buying new guns when there are warning signs of a threat.

Already, law enforcement officers, family members, coworkers and roommates, for example, can request these petitions known as gun violence restraining orders, which prohibit a person from possessing or buying a firearm or ammunition for one to five years with an option to renew.

Under the pilot program, prosecutors

in Ventura, Alameda, El Dorado and Santa Clara counties will also be able to seek the specialized restraining orders.

The newly signed law expands the reach of one of the state’s so-called “red flag laws.”

Efforts since tragedy at Borderline

Since the shooting at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Thousand Oaks in 2018, Irwin said she has brainstormed with law

enforcement officials to enact meaningful legislation to address the issues behind mass shootings.

AB 1344 is Irwin’s latest effort. Previous attempts to add prosecutors statewide to existing law died along the way until this year. She said possible distrust of law enforcement and other legislative priorities around gun control seemed to keep the bill from succeeding.

By adding prosecutors — starting

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Volume 101 | Issue 116
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