

Columnist:  
Brand bias  
hurting  
Vanderbilt

SPORTS, 1B



VENTURA COUNTY  
STAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

‘Not one decent cell in his body’

Epstein trashed former friend Trump in emails

Josh Meyer  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – “Dirty.” “(Expletive) crazy.” “Borderline insane.” A Mafia don but with the “great dangerous power” of being America’s president and commander-in-chief.

That’s how the late Jeffrey Epstein described his former longtime friend and confidant Donald Trump, according to a trove of the convicted sex offender’s texts and emails released Nov. 12 by the House Oversight Committee.

But perhaps the most intriguing thing Epstein said about Trump in the 20,000-plus pages of emails provided by his estate was this:

“I am the one able to take him down.” The White House and Trump himself

tried to spin the document release – and a later one by Republicans – as being a giant nothingburger.

On Nov. 14, Trump said on social media he was asking the Department of Justice to investigate Democrats he says “spent large portions of their life” with the disgraced financier: “Bill Clinton, Larry Summers, Reid Hoffman, J.P. Morgan, Chase, and many other people

See EPSTEIN, Page 2A

Evacuation warnings issued in Ventura County

Cheri Carlson  
Ventura County Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the storm neared Ventura County, local authorities issued evacuation warnings and advisories, urging residents to stay alert and prepare for possible heavy downpours.

The forecast called for several days of rain in a storm expected to include two peaks. During the first, local areas were expected to see the bulk of the rainfall through Friday morning.

“I think we’re going to have periods of rain off and on most of the day,” said David Gomberg, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Oxnard, on Nov. 14.

By mid-morning, most local cities had recorded around a half-inch to an inch of rainfall, according to preliminary figures from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. A spot in Matilija Canyon had received closer to 3 inches. The area above Ojai was one expected to see some of the highest totals.

Rainfall intensities were expected to taper off Friday afternoon, before a second peak hits. Officials called late

See WARNINGS, Page 2A

VENTURA COUNTY



Jonathan Cruz of Santa Barbara Lexus hands a turkey to James Olschlager, U.S. Navy service member, during the Drive Out Hunger event at the Port of Hueneme Nov. 13. Organizers from the port and three area dealerships distributed 450 boxes of Thanksgiving food on a first-come, first-served basis to active-duty military and veterans.

Turkeys, meal kits given to military, vets at port event

Ventura County Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hundreds of active military personnel, veterans and their families drove through the Port of Hueneme Nov. 13 to get all the fixings for Thanksgiving.

The Drive Out Hunger event provided turkey, pie, string beans, corn, stuffing and mashed potatoes to the guests. They also received a port staple: bananas.

The meal kit giveaway was hosted by the port and sponsored by Lexus of Oxnard, BMW of Camarillo and Lexus of Santa Barbara. Volunteers from the port, the dealerships and Channel Islands High School in Oxnard helped hand out the food.



Alejandra Gibbs receives a turkey and other goods during the Drive Out Hunger event at the Port of Hueneme Nov. 13 PHOTOS BY JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Justice Dept. challenges California’s Prop. 50 redistricting

James Ward and Sarah D. Wire  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

California’s political landscape is bracing for a high-stakes legal battle after the Justice Department announced it will join a lawsuit challenging Proposition 50, the ballot measure that reshaped the state’s congressional districts. The move comes just days after voters approved the new boundaries in a special election on Nov. 4.

Why is the Trump Administration suing over Prop. 50?

The Trump administration argues California violated the Constitution by using race as a factor in redrawing district lines, allegedly favoring Hispanic voters. In a filing on Nov. 13, federal attorneys asked a judge to block the state from using the new map in future elections.

See PROP. 50, Page 6A

**EMPIRE TODAY**  
CARPET & FLOORING

Get New Floors by Thanksgiving

LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON SAVE UP TO

**50% OFF\***

YOUR ENTIRE PROJECT

Select Installed Styles

Schedule a **FREE** In-Home Estimate!

Call **805-254-3884** or visit **EmpireToday.com/newspaper**

\* Get 15% off plus up to an additional 35% based on project size and service area. Discount is applied to the regular price of select styles of carpet and flooring, basic installation, standard padding, and materials. Excludes upgrades, stairs, take-up of permanently affixed flooring, non-standard furniture moving, other miscellaneous charges, and prior purchases. Product may not be sold separately from installation. Residential installations only. Ends 12/15/2025. Subject to change. Installation provided by independent contractors. Licensure at EmpireToday.com. CSLB 1047108

© 2025 Empire Today, LLC

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [vcstar.com/enewspaper](http://vcstar.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 101 | Issue 130  
Subscribe 844-331-9990  
©2025 \$2.50

