



QB Garcia helps guide Ventura to state bowl

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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Trump: Oil tanker seized ‘for a very good reason’

Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Joey Garrison USA TODAY

The United States has seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela amid a monthslong buildup of military forces surrounding the country, President Donald Trump confirmed Dec. 10.

“As you probably know, we’ve just seized a tanker on the coast of Venezuela,” Trump said at a meeting at the White House. “Largest one ever seized, actually. And other things are happening.” Trump declined to provide additional details about the tanker to reporters and said the administration would be releasing more information at a later time.

“You see the result, and I guess they probably released the pictures by now – pretty soon,” Trump said. “You’ll discuss that with the appropriate people later on.” The president added, “It was seized for a very good reason.”

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A Venezuelan navy patrol boat escorts Panamanian-flagged crude oil tanker Yoselin on Nov. 11 near the El Palito refinery in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. The U.S. military has launched 22 strikes on boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean, killing at least 87 people, including some Venezuelans. JUAN CARLOS HERNANDEZ/ AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE



Kalani McCarthy, 15, left, singer, and bassist for the Pop Rocks band, gets coached by Aaron Burch, owner of Burch Studio in Ventura on Dec. 2. The studio is putting together a “Burch Studio Presents” event on Dec. 12 at the Majestic Ventura Theater that includes Pop Rocks and other bands. PHOTOS BY JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Ventura’s Burch Studio turns amateur musicians into pros

Wes Woods II Ventura County Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

It’s not enough to just learn to play the guitar. Bands should learn how to write a song, put together a set list and have a photo shoot. That’s what musicians learn at Burch Studio in Ventura and the advent of generative artificial intelligence with music in the last few years haven’t changed a thing. “The purpose is to create community by making music and I want it to function like a record label,” said Burch Studio owner Aaron Burch, 45, who lives in midtown Ventura. “I want to give a young band the experience of being a bigger band.” On Dec. 12, bands that have learned the ropes will showcase their talent in an all-ages concert at the Ventura Majestic Theater. Tickets for the 7 p.m. show at 26 S. Chestnut St. are \$32 with fees.

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Aaron Burch, left, owner of Burch Studio in Ventura, teaches Kassandra Madrid, right, 12, guitarist for the Pop Rocks band, how to control and play back some songs they recorded on Dec. 2.

Judge orders release of Abrego Garcia from jail

Michael Collins and Natalie Neysa Alund USA TODAY

A federal judge has ordered that a high-profile Salvadoran man should be freed from federal immigration custody, saying the Trump administration had no legal basis to expel him from the country and misled her at a November hearing.

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Kilmar Abrego Garcia kisses his wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, as he appears for a check-in at the ICE Baltimore field office in August. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS FILE

Weekly jobless claims up amid holiday season fluctuation

REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits surged last week, but that likely reflected difficulties adjusting the data for seasonal fluctuations around this time of year, rather than a material change in labor market conditions.

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