



SANTA BARBARA Police Det. Bryce Ford helps a woman out of her car on a flooded street. Fire officials in Ventura County reported that 911 dispatchers received more than 275 calls for help over a five-hour period.

Record rain in Ventura County

Experts are stunned by the downpour, which brings flooding to many areas

BY NATHAN SOLIS,
CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ
AND HAYLEY SMITH

Ventura County was inundated Thursday with what forecasters described as a once-in-a-millennium rainfall that stunned experts and brought flooding to roadways and homes in several communities.

Preliminary data suggest that Oxnard experienced one of the heaviest downpours ever seen in the area, with rainfall rates of 3 inches an hour sustained for over an hour.

That amounts to a month's worth of rain in less than an hour, officials said.

"The frequency of this kind of event is on the order of once in every thousand years," meteorologist Mike Woford with the National Weather Service in Oxnard said of the storm. In addition to the deluge in Oxnard, more than [See Downpour, A7]



CARLOS FLORES said about 10 inches of water entered his home on Hemlock Street in Oxnard. Wet Christmas gifts sit on a counter, left.

Ruling puts limits on new California gun control law

Ban on licensed carry of firearms in many public places won't go into effect on Jan. 1.

BY KEVIN RECTOR

A new California law that would bar licensed gun holders from carrying their firearms into an array of public places will not go into full effect on Jan. 1 as scheduled, after a federal judge blocked major parts of it as unconstitutional Wednesday.

The law, Senate Bill 2, was part of a slate of new gun control measures passed this year by California

Democrats in response to two things: a sweeping U.S. Supreme Court ruling that reined in gun control measures nationally last year, and several high-profile mass shootings in the state this year — including in Half Moon Bay and Monterey Park.

In his decision to block the law Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney wrote that the law's "coverage is sweeping, repugnant to the 2nd Amendment, and openly defiant of the Supreme Court."

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who signed the bill into law and has called for tougher gun restrictions in the state and at the national level, im-

[See Ruling, A7]

Supporting those who speak out

UC faculty members organize to defend pro-Palestinian advocates



A RALLY on the UCLA campus. Faculty across the UC system are organizing to defend campus advocates for Palestinian rights who feel unsupported.

University of California faculty members across the system have launched an unprecedented organizing effort to defend campus advocates for Palestinian rights who feel unsupported after reporting widespread harassment and threats triggered by the Israel-Hamas war.

The effort to form Faculty for Justice in Palestine groups is part of a national movement that has taken off at nine of the 10 UC campuses, along with Princeton, New York University and Rutgers, among others. Faculty organizers said they were propelled to act by what many described as a singularly dangerous time for academic freedom and

[See Faculty, A10]

Hopes for the post-'Barbenheimer' future

BY J. CLARA CHAN
AND CHRISTI CARRAS

During a theatrical decade best defined by its franchises and interconnected superhero epics, 2023 offered some hope for (semi-) original filmmaking — and was the year that "Barbenheimer" entered the lexicon.

But enthusiasm for the ongoing box office rebound was dampened by dual strikes in Hollywood that

delayed a handful of high-profile movies and hobbled studios' promotional efforts, delivering a blow to overall sales.

Thanks in part to strong showings over the summer (hi, Barbie!), the domestic box office continued its gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada are expected to near \$9 billion for 2023, according to studio and analyst estimates. Year-end totals are

estimated to be up 22% from total sales in 2022.

However, revenue remains down 21% from the levels reached in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Yes, several megabudget franchise installments faltered, including "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," "The Flash" and "The Marvels." But much of the broader revenue shortfall is explained by a lower total number of major theatrical movies compared with 2019,

when studios put out 105 films in wide release, according to Comscore. This year's total of 86 wide releases is down about 18% from 2019.

Multiple planned 2023 releases (Warner Bros.' "Dune: Part Two," MGM's "Challengers," Sony Pictures' "Kraven the Hunter" and the next "Ghostbusters" entry) were delayed as writers and actors hit the picket lines in pursuit of increased pay, benefits and job protection.

[See Box office, A5]

Prague gunman kills at least 14
Czech Republic's worst shooting injures 25 at a university. The attacker, reportedly a student, also died. **WORLD, A3**

Giuliani files for bankruptcy
Ex-New York mayor feeling financial strain after huge defamation verdict. **NATION, A4**

Weather
Morning rain.
L.A. Basin: 66/54. **B6**

Thieves darken 6th Street Bridge
The lights are out across a third of the photogenic viaduct after copper wiring is ripped out. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Package stolen from your porch?
Sellers and others may be able to help. Here's what to do. **BUSINESS, A6**

