

# DAILY BREEZE

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

Friday, March 10, 2023 \$2.50

FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYBREEZE TWITTER.COM/DAILYBREEZENews

dailybreeze.com

## WEATHER

# Storm could slow blizzard cleanup

### San Bernardino Mountains still digging out, but snow expected only at higher elevations

By Josh Cain  
jcain@scng.com

Southern California will see wet and cold weather return today and over this weekend, forecasters said, which could lead to more hazards for the region's mountain towns already hit hard with historic amounts of snow. The National Weather Service

in San Diego said the snowfall will not be nearly as intense as last week, when some communities were, quite literally, buried under feet of powder.

But the fact that any amount of precipitation will return to these areas could lead to complications for the ongoing rescue efforts of those residents still trapped or assessing the

damage to their homes. Snow is likely to fall only above 9,000 feet today, well above communities like Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mountains or Crestline and Running Springs in the San Bernardino Mountains.

By Saturday morning, the snow could fall as low as 8,000 feet, still high enough to miss those residential areas, said Stefanie Sullivan, an NWS meteorologist in San Diego.

STORM » PAGE 6



Against the backdrop of the snowcapped San Gabriel Mountains, two hikers in China Hills on Thursday take advantage of a nice day ahead of the next round of storms, which could bring rain to Southern California beginning today. WALTERS/PHOTOGRAPHIC STAFF/PHOTOBANKER

## TORRANCE

# SITE OFFERS VETS PSYCHIATRIC CARE



PHOTOS BY AXEL AGESTER

Veterans Village of San Diego President and CEO Akliah Templeton is joined by fellow officials as she cuts the ribbon for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic, a new clinic providing mental health services to Los Angeles-area veterans, active-duty service members and their families, in Torrance on Thursday.

**Mental health:** The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic is the 23rd to open nationwide as part of the Cohen Veterans Network — and the third in California

By Teresa Liu  
tliu@scng.com

A clinic that provides mental health services to Los Angeles-area veterans, active duty service members and their families, has officially opened its doors in Torrance.

The 7,000 square-foot facility boasts 13 clinical offices, a community room, two family rooms and a large waiting area. It's currently run by a 10-member staff that includes five clinicians, a psychiatrist and a case manager. The clinic offers both in-person and telehealth services, the latter of which is accessible by veterans statewide.

Torrance Mayor George Chen and representatives from the local chamber of commerce were among those who attended the Thursday grand opening.

CLINIC » PAGE 7



U.S. Army color guards open the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic in Torrance on Thursday.

## PORT OF LONG BEACH

# Addition to Pier G extension complete

### Wharf, expanded by 240 feet, will allow larger and cleaner container ships to be offloaded

By Donna Littlejohn  
dlittlejohn@scng.com

The Port of Long Beach's \$55 million Pier G wharf expansion is finished and officials hailing it as a major step in increasing business at the nation's second largest seaport during a Thursday celebration.

The expanded wharf will allow bigger — and cleaner — ships to call at the improved facility. The celebration at the port headquarters included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the signing of a labor pact with unions for future construction projects at the port.

The Pier G Wharf Improvements Project adds 240 feet of wharf, allowing terminal operator International Transportation Service to accommodate container ships capable of carrying up to 16,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units of cargo.

The project, funded by the port, also adds back-

PIER G » PAGE 5

## GRANNY FLATS

# Huntington Beach sued by state over housing decisions

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn  
kschallhorn@scng.com

California is suing Huntington Beach, accusing the city of knowingly violating state housing laws.

In a clear warning to other cities, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta, along with other state officials, lambasted Huntington Beach's recent housing decisions.

California is suing Huntington Beach, they said Thursday, over not processing applications for property owners to build accessory dwelling units, ADUs, commonly called granny flats. And officials warned more action could occur should the City Council continue with its plan to oppose the build-

HOUSING » PAGE 7

## INDEX

Bridge..... B9 Comics..... B9, C7-B8 Obituaries..... A7 Puzzles..... B9,12, C6, B-9  
Business..... A9 Nation-World..... A8,10,12 Opinion..... A11 Ship arrivals..... B12

TODAY M: 54 L: 54  
SAT. M: 63 L: 54  
SUN. M: 61 L: 54  
Full weather report B4

COLLECT THE NEW CAR OF 2023! NEWS GROUP  
Volume 128, Issue 69  
17023 00001



**BUY ONE GET ONE**  
**50% OFF**  
on Custom Blinds, Shades & Drapery

**CALL TO SCHEDULE**  
**FREE in-home design consultation with no obligation!**  
**(310) 856-9606**

**3 DAY BLINDS**  
YOU'LL LOVE THE TREATMENT

**WE DESIGN, WE MEASURE, WE INSTALL, YOU RELAX!™**

\*Offer valid on 3 Day Blinds brand products only, including shutters and special orders. Buy 1 qualifying window covering and receive the 2nd qualifying window covering of equal or lesser value at 50% off. Offer excludes installation, sales tax, shipping and handling. Not valid on previous purchases or with any other offer or discount. Offer Code 8028. Expires 12/31/23. State Contractor and Home Improvement Licenses: Arizona 12026, California 925966, Connecticut HIC 0644950, New Jersey 10N0389200, Oregon 20981, Pennsylvania PA027608, Tennessee 10000, Washington 52428884202, County License: Nassau County, NY #10271029, Rockland County, NY #10240344-00-00. Licensed through Great Windows Services, LLC, Virginia 27027278, West Virginia #WV00218, Wisconsin 0219. Licensed Installer upon request. © 2023 3 Day Blinds, LLC.

## Housing

FROM PAGE 1

er's remedy process. "Huntington Beach has decided to slam the door in homeowners' faces," Bonta said. "No one gets to pick and choose the laws they want to follow."

"The laws are clear, as is Huntington Beach's willful, intentional refusal to follow them. That's why we're in court," Bonta said.

Starting in 2017, state laws lifted barriers to building secondary units on a single lot. Housing advocates and state officials argue ADUs will help meet housing goals, offering living space for multiple generations of families or much-needed rentals by making use of larger lots that were traditional in many communities.

But Huntington Beach officials said Thursday the city will accept new ADU applications and is processing 100 or so already in the pipeline.

The process for ADUs will be streamlined and Huntington Beach settling out of court, a point state officials harped on when announcing the new legal battle. "They tested us in 2019," Newsom said. "They're testing us again."

While Huntington Beach is taking one of the more extreme stances against state housing policies, municipalities across the state are struggling with huge increases in state homebuilding mandates and stricter planning requirements.

Redondo Beach hasn't outright banned builder's remedy projects but has been slow to update its housing plans to accommodate its allocation, with Mayor Bill Brand a vocal opponent to the state's housing mandates. Redondo Beach has two prominent builder's remedy projects in the works, but both are on track for denials by the City Council, developers said.

Prior to Senate Bill 9's enactment, about 240 cities and the League of California Cities presented Newsom with a letter urging him to veto the bill. Shortly after it became law, four charter cities — Redondo Beach, Torrance, Carson and Whittier — signed on to a lawsuit against the state, asking L.A. Superior Courts to find the law in violation of the California Constitution and ban its enforcement. (Court records show a hearing is scheduled in late April.)

Those four cities said they were in support of building more housing within their bounds — but categorized Senate Bill 9, the now state law that allows duplexes and lot splits in single-family neighborhoods as a "one size fits all" approach that doesn't adequately ensure the development of affordable places to live. Huntington Beach officials say they, too, support reasonable, locally controlled housing development.

"It is flawed legislation that strips our city of local control and residents of their ability to provide input," Torrance Mayor George Chen said Thursday. "What we need instead is for the state to work with us in providing the needed tools and resources to allow cities to streamline local housing approvals in a responsible manner and fund affordable housing."

In Manhattan Beach, where the City Council earlier this year reluctantly approved the development of an apartment complex that fell under the builders' remedy, Mayor Steve Napolitano said he isn't surprised by the lawsuit — as plenty of other cities are with Huntington Beach in spirit on maintaining local control.

And while the state's intentions with these housing laws are good, Napolitano added, legislators don't consider what it takes for cities to abide by them. Cities don't need total control, he said, but they do want balance.

"Huntington is doing what other cities have been thinking, but didn't want to risk themselves," Napolitano said. "We've all been lobbying on local control for years, but that's now falling on deaf ears; the courts are the only thing left for cities as far as local control goes."

Staff writers Jeff Collins, Tyler Shaun Ewins, Kristy Hutchings, Lisa Jacobs and Erika I. Ritchie contributed to this report.

## Clinic

FROM PAGE 1

The Torrance facility is the 23rd to open nationwide as part of a chain of mental health clinics for veterans and their families that's backed by a \$275 million grant provided by Steve Cohen, a hedge fund billionaire and philanthropist who also owns the New York Mets.

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic, 20800 Madrona Ave., Suite C-100, marks the third such facility in California. The first clinic opened in a San Diego home in 2019, followed by another in Oceanside last year.

Dr. Anthony Hassan, president and CEO of Cohen Veterans Network, noted that while ten have trouble getting timely treatment. "Somebody asked me yesterday, 'What keeps me up at night?' He said, 'What keeps me up is that when we have people who finally ask for help and then they call and they're told, 'I can't see you for six months. I can't see you for four months.'"

"Granted, we're not perfect," he added, "but we can see you a lot sooner than that."

There are roughly 18 million veterans and 2.1 million active-duty and reserve service members nationwide, according to the U.S. census. And since 9/11, there have been 2.8 million active-duty American military personnel deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond, leading to increasing numbers of combat veterans among the population.

The most publicized mental health challenges facing veterans service members are post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. At some point in their life, seven out of every 10 Veterans (or 7%) will have PTSD, according to an estimate by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

More than 52,000 post-

## Clinic

FROM PAGE 1

The Torrance facility is the 23rd to open nationwide as part of a chain of mental health clinics for veterans and their families that's backed by a \$275 million grant provided by Steve Cohen, a hedge fund billionaire and philanthropist who also owns the New York Mets.

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic, 20800 Madrona Ave., Suite C-100, marks the third such facility in California. The first clinic opened in a San Diego home in 2019, followed by another in Oceanside last year.

Dr. Anthony Hassan, president and CEO of Cohen Veterans Network, noted that while ten have trouble getting timely treatment. "Somebody asked me yesterday, 'What keeps me up at night?' He said, 'What keeps me up is that when we have people who finally ask for help and then they call and they're told, 'I can't see you for six months. I can't see you for four months.'"

"Granted, we're not perfect," he added, "but we can see you a lot sooner than that."

There are roughly 18 million veterans and 2.1 million active-duty and reserve service members nationwide, according to the U.S. census. And since 9/11, there have been 2.8 million active-duty American military personnel deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and beyond, leading to increasing numbers of combat veterans among the population.

The most publicized mental health challenges facing veterans service members are post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. At some point in their life, seven out of every 10 Veterans (or 7%) will have PTSD, according to an estimate by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

More than 52,000 post-



Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts, Medal of Honor Recipient and Cohen Veterans Network ambassador, speaks at the Steven Cohen Military Family Clinic on Thursday.

9/11 veterans, 6,000 active-duty service members and 10,000 military family members in Los Angeles County are eligible for the services offered by trained clinicians at the Torrance facility, the CVN estimates.

The clinic will provide mental health services in the form of individual therapy, family therapy, couples sessions and group sessions. It takes all major forms of health insurance. If a patient doesn't have insurance, the case manager will step in to provide connection to financial services, said clinic Director Jolene Balanico.

The key difference between the Cohen clinics and others that serve veterans, Hassan said, is that they're staffed by family members of veterans or active duty members.

This includes parents, siblings, spouses or partners, children, caretakers and other who might also deal with mental health challenges.

The catalyst for the network was Cohen's son, Robert, who joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2009 and served in Afghanistan from August 2010 to February 2011, Hassan said.

When the younger Cohen returned to the U.S.,

he urged his father to start the network — because he saw the need for mental health care in the military population.

Since its inception in 2016, the CVN clinics have seen 50,000 clients, out of which 53% were veterans or active duty, and 47% were family members.

Sgt. Ryan Pitts, a Medal of Honor recipient and an ambassador for CVN, said during the grand opening that "it's a hard lifestyle for people who've ever worn the uniform, as well as for those who are connected to people who have worn the uniform."

In 2003, the then-17-year-old Pitts joined the Army under the delayed entry program.

During his time in service, Pitts was deployed twice to Afghanistan, in 2005 for 12 months and in 2007 for 15 months. In 2014, he received the Medal of Honor for his heroic act during the Battle of Wanat in 2008.

Pitts recalled getting to the medical clinic after he was wounded and looking for a friend for his battle buddies, noticing who wasn't there.

"I can tell you, the invisible wounds have taken a far greater toll on me than the physical ones," he said. "You know, there's a lot of things, even without the stress of your own

mental health challenges, (such as) worrying about other people and service members in uniform, you know, just being in that community."

The transition from military service to college wasn't difficult, Pitts said, but he started to experience challenges when he joined the corporate world.

"As time went on, I could see that there were impacts at home," he said. "I was distant, I was never present. Even with my wife and kids, I wasn't happy to come home. I didn't enjoy being a dad. And I saw that (having an effect) in my family."

It wasn't until nine months after Pitts told his family about his mental health challenges — about five or six years after leaving the military — that he decided to seek treatment, he said.

Mental health care, especially among the veteran population, can often be stigmatized, Balanico said.

"We can be apprehensive to receive treatment and get care," she said "so by being available and open for services, we're hoping that it can make getting care a lot easier and help break barriers down and make care more accessible."

# OBITUARIES

AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Lives & Legacies

Visit [dailybreeze.com](http://dailybreeze.com) and sign the online registry expressing condolences for friends and loved ones who have passed away.

### Sheila Sullivan Banken

Jan 18, 1932 - Feb 24, 2023

Sheila Sullivan Banken passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on February 24, 2023. Sheila was born in Los Angeles on January 18, 1932 to William and Mary Kelly Sullivan, who immigrated from County Cork and County Galway, Ireland to the United States. Along with her sister, Margaret Sullivan, they were raised by their parents together in the city of Los Angeles.

Sheila attended Saint Michael's Elementary School where she met Glen in the first grade, who later in life would become her husband. Sheila attended Saint Mary's Academy High School and went onto Mt. Saint Mary's University where she graduated in 1963 with an English major. She became a teacher at El Segundo Elementary School where she taught first and fourth grade until 1962.

Sheila and Glen Banken married in June of 1957. By 1962 the family began to grow with the arrival of Steve, Nancy in 1963 and Anne in 1968. They enjoyed many family vacations together.

Sheila was active in many organizations throughout her life. She supported Mt. Saint Mary's as a Regent for 25 years. She served on the Grand Jury of Los Angeles. She was a docent at Olvera Street and was a CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Sheila had a wonderful Irish wit, great sense of humor, and enjoyed conversations with family and friends on a daily basis. She was a vibrant personality, a lively spirit which will never be forgotten.

Sheila is survived by her children: Steve (Maria Alvarez), Nancy, Anne, Emmanuel. Pay tribute to her grandchildren, Benjamin and Marissa, and beloved pets, Daisy and Hershey. She is pre-deceased by her husband of 55 years, Glen, who passed away in 2012.

Memorial Mass will be held at Saint Lawrence Martyr Church on Friday, March 31st at 2pm. Reception to follow in Lieu of flowers, please donate to Providence Trinity Care Hospice or a charity close to your heart.

Visit <https://funeral.com/obits/sheila-sullivan-banken/>

Please sign the guestbook at [dailybreeze.com/obits](http://dailybreeze.com/obits)

**Lighthouse**  
Funeral Home  
(310) 792-7375

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

McNerney's Mortuary  
570 W. 5th St., San Pedro  
(310) 832-8331 FD419  
[www.mcnerneymortuary.com](http://www.mcnerneymortuary.com)

**GREEN HILLS MORTUARY**  
27501 S. Western Ave (FD 1175)  
Rancho Palms Verdes (310) 831-0311

To place an obituary or funeral notice in the newspaper and online, please call 310-540-5622, fax 562-499-1391 or email: [obits@dailybreeze.com](mailto:obits@dailybreeze.com)

### Joseph Edward Lenihan

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joseph Edward Lenihan, who left us on February 18, 2023, just days after his 60th birthday.

Joe was born on February 8, 1963, in Los Angeles to James and Mary Lenihan. He grew up in Redondo Beach where he attended grammar school at St. Lawrence Martyr. He went on to attend Loyola High School where he played varsity soccer, football, and volleyball. He then matriculated to Loyola Marymount University where he played on the men's soccer team.

After graduation, Joe pursued a career in the golf industry, developing, acquiring, and managing golf courses. He spent 13 years at American Golf before moving to Tokyo where he assumed the role of CEO at Pacific Golf Management. After five years overseas, Joe returned back to Los Angeles.

In 2010, a new project caught Joe's eye: a 600,000 square foot, century-old, abandoned textile mill located in Gaston County, North Carolina. Joe spent the next 12 years of his life developing the historic Lory Mill into a mixed-use development consisting of nearly 200 units and almost 100,000 square feet of commercial space. Today, the Lory Mill represents a unique blend of the historic and contemporary South. Its redevelopment injected new life into the town of Gastonia.

Joe's exceptional work ethic, dedication, and appreciation of history earned him the respect and admiration of residents, community members, and local leaders alike.

Joe had a remarkable sense of adventure. He visited China and Europe the summer after his high school graduation, traveled East and Southeast Asia while living in Tokyo, and after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, bought a one way flight to Poland to provide school supplies to Ukrainian refugees. He cherished his yearly fishing trip to Alaska and appreciated a good beach vacation, almost as much as a good cigar.

Joe was known for his great sense of humor and infectious laugh. He had a knack for making every moment one to remember, and his legacy will live on in the plethora of memories and stories shared by his friends and family. Joe is survived by his three children, James, Jack, and Claire Lenihan; his parents Dick and Mary Lenihan; his sister Corinne Maners; his niece Sydney Maners and nephew William Maners.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00am on Friday, March 17th at St. Lawrence Church. In keeping with Joe's love of all things Hawaiian and Irish, please wear your favorite Aloha shirt or a splash of green to celebrate.

Rest in peace, Joe. You will be forever loved and missed. Please sign the guestbook at [dailybreeze.com/obits](http://dailybreeze.com/obits).

**Lighthouse**  
Funeral Home  
(310) 792-7375

### For Assistance in placing an obituary in the Daily Breeze

Please call (310) 540-5622 Option #3 or send an email to: [obits@dailybreeze.com](mailto:obits@dailybreeze.com)

Create a living memorial on [dailybreeze.com](http://dailybreeze.com)  
Send Flowers • Sign Guest Book  
Share Photos & Video • Make a Charitable Donation