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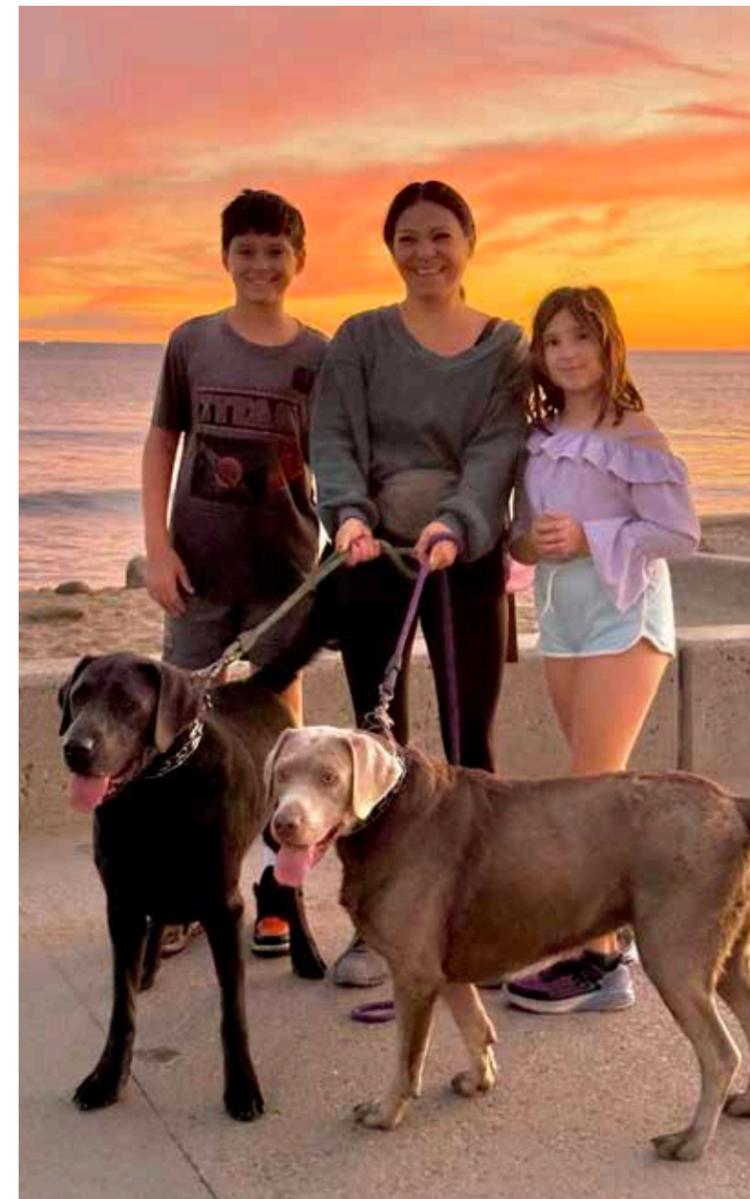
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# GRANDE & GRACIE

## Double the Trouble, Double the Love



**B**orn on June 6, 2021, in Frisco, Texas, Grande and Gracie have been stealing hearts ever since. Now 4 years and 7 months old, this dynamic duo made their way across the country with the Nelson family—an adventure that marked the beginning of a whole lot of joy, laughter, and nonstop energy.

Grande, the charcoal-colored male, and Gracie, his silver sister, truly live up to their reputation as *double the trouble*. Goofy, playful, and full of personality, they bring happiness into every corner of the home. Whether they're strolling proudly through the neighborhood or bouncing around with excitement, they make sure everyone knows they're there.

Their names follow a cherished family tradition, continuing the legacy of naming beloved dogs with "G" names in honor of Gunner. And just like the dogs before them, Grande and Gracie have become protectors of the home and loyal members of the family.

They love the beach, thrive on daily walks, and transform into the biggest cuddling bears when it's time to relax. Sweet, energetic, and endlessly affectionate, they adore the kids—but let's be honest, mommy is their favorite.

Grande and Gracie aren't just pets. They're family, best friends, and a constant source of love wrapped up in fur, paws, and wagging tails.



# ALMOND CAKE

BY LAURA HUFF • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNEMARIE MELONI



Enjoy this quick, 5-ingredient, simple cake that tastes like you toiled in the kitchen for hours. Its slightly crunchy

exterior is a nice contrast to the dense, moist, almond-y interior. This almond cake will take you beyond the perfect weekday treat all the way to that fancy brunch you may be planning. It also travels well in the mail wrapped tight in foil and a Ziploc bag to surprise your college student for their birthday or during finals week. Decorate the top with

culinary lavender, colored sprinkles, or sliced almonds to suit your celebration. Our favorite way is simple: Just as is!

Bon Appétit!

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick (½ cup) melted butter
- 1 ¼ cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp. almond extract

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and lightly flour 9" cake, quiche, or pie dish.
2. In a medium bowl, cream together melted butter and sugar.
3. Add eggs one at a time, stirring well after each addition.
4. Mix in flour a little at a time. Add almond extract and stir well.
5. Pour into prepared dish.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes. Top should be golden.
7. Cool and enjoy!

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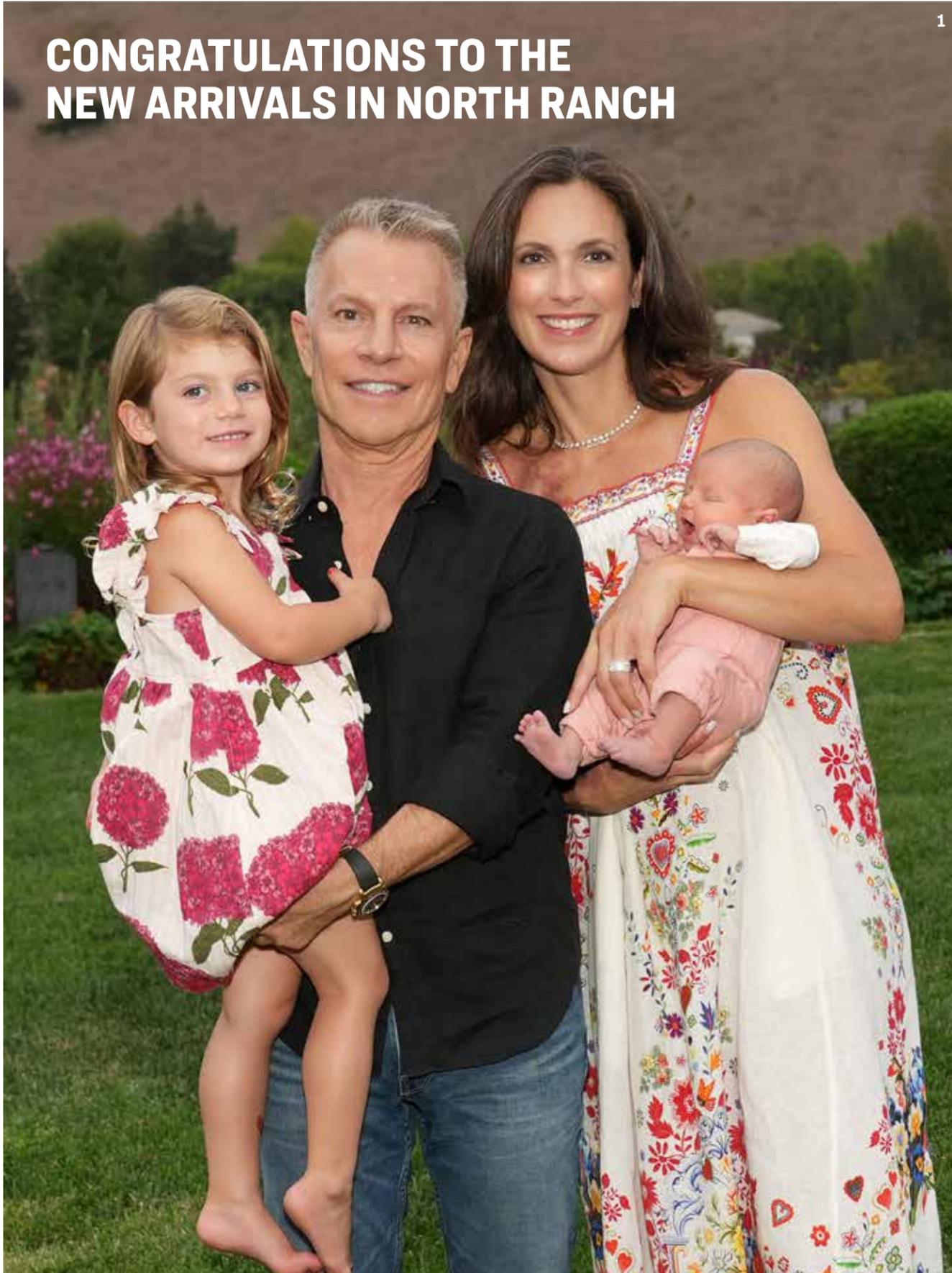
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1



2



3



4

**1-** Eric and Kelsey Anders welcomed Daniela Anders, born September 2025. Shown with Eliana big sister (she's 4 already!)

**2-** Birte Koors' son Dennis and wife Vanessa Koors welcomed Annika Liv Koors, born September 27th, 2025

**3-** Matthew and Amanda Quadrini welcomed Isla June Quadrini, born 7/22/25.

**4-** Devan and Jonathan welcomed a baby girl, born August 2025



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1

Angie with her mom

# Residents Send in Their Most Favorite Pictures

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2



3

**1- Angie Koros-** Ladies Xmas Party 12-12 ornament exchange and potluck.

**2- Michelle and Richard Gallagher** home with kids and grandchildren.

**3- Gavin Family-**Dan, Steph, Brooklyn, Raegan and Grayson - on Christmas morning. The kids just found out through the bone shaped wicker basket that they are getting a puppy the next day! Those are the puppy's photos on the basket. His name is Boston.

**4- Carla, John, Johnny and Olivia Ondrasik** Westlake Village 12/24/25-Our son was born on Christmas Eve... he's our present!!! So every year we wrap him up and put him under the tree. He's 26 years old now, and we all join in on the family pic!



4



4

**5- Jackie Wechsler-**Brooklyn shines on stage! She dances at Protégé Performing Arts right here in North Ranch! Brooklyn brought the Spanish dance to life in this year's Nutcracker performance at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center.

**6- Sydney and Reid Tattersall with their Crew** had a great time this holiday season. First Santa visit for the twins (missing RJ) Names: Morgan, Wylie, Grace, Willow, Walker

**7- Anne Buchanan-** We surprised our family with a trip to Disneyland on Christmas Day. It was so fun!! Anne, Hector, Tatum, Abigale, and Tatum Disneyland Anaheim Christmas Day



Morgan, Wylie, Grace, Willow, Walker

Full Crew

6



6



5



7



Mark Tattersall with Dave who put on lightshow

8



8

**8- Lindsay Tattersall** with daughter (Stevie Rae) and dad (Mark Tattersall). Continuing the tradition. Her Uncle continued the Light Show.

**9- Carolyn Krause's-Bunko Xmas party**

**10- Dave, Jewell, Summer, Sean** Teletubbies!!! Christmas Day



9



10

*Winners to be announce next issue!*

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Senior Concerns President & CEO Andrea Gallagher Recognized by City of Thousand Oaks

Senior Concerns president and CEO Andrea Gallagher was recognized with a City of Thousand Oaks City Council Chambers Seat Dedication during the Dec. 9, 2025, City Council meeting. Outgoing Mayor David Newman presented the prestigious honor.

Gallagher was honored with Seat N9 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza's Scherr Forum Theatre, which also serves as the Andrew P. Fox City Council Chamber.

The recognition highlights Gallagher's years of service at Senior Concerns and her work supporting older adults and family caregivers throughout the Conejo Valley. Under her leadership, Senior Concerns has advanced key programs including Meals On Wheels, the Adult Day Program, Caregiver Support Center, Senior Advocates, and the organization's 50th Anniversary Future Fund.

"This recognition reflects not just my work but the contributions of volunteers, caregivers, donors and staff who support our mission," Gallagher said. "Older adults built

this valley. They deserve to age with dignity, connection and community support."

Gallagher said the dedication underscores the City's partnership and support for its older residents.

"Senior Concerns has been caring for older adults for 50 years — and we are working to ensure this care continues for the next 50," Gallagher said. "I appreciate the City's partnership and am humbled by this recognition."

Senior Concerns provides support and services to over 13,000 seniors and family caregivers each year.

### Senior Concerns

Since 1975, Senior Concerns, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has been a lifeline for over 13,000 seniors and family caregivers in Eastern Ventura and Western Los Angeles counties, providing life-affirming programs and services to improve their health, well-being, and quality of life. Senior Concerns provides vital programs such as Meals On Wheels/Home Delivered Meal program addressing food insecurity with 5,800 meals each month, an Adult Day Program for seniors with cognitive or physical impairment, a Caregiver Support Center, Senior Advocacy Services, In-Home Geriatric Assessments, Pro Bono Legal and Financial Services, and Educational Seminars. Senior Concerns also hosts annual fundraisers such as the Ultimate Dining Experience, Love Run, Boat Bash, and Par and Away Golf Tournament, all made possible by the invaluable support of over 440 community volunteers. For more information, contact Julie Harvey at (805) 497-0189 or [jharvey@seniorconcerns.org](mailto:jharvey@seniorconcerns.org) or visit <https://www.seniorconcerns.org/>.



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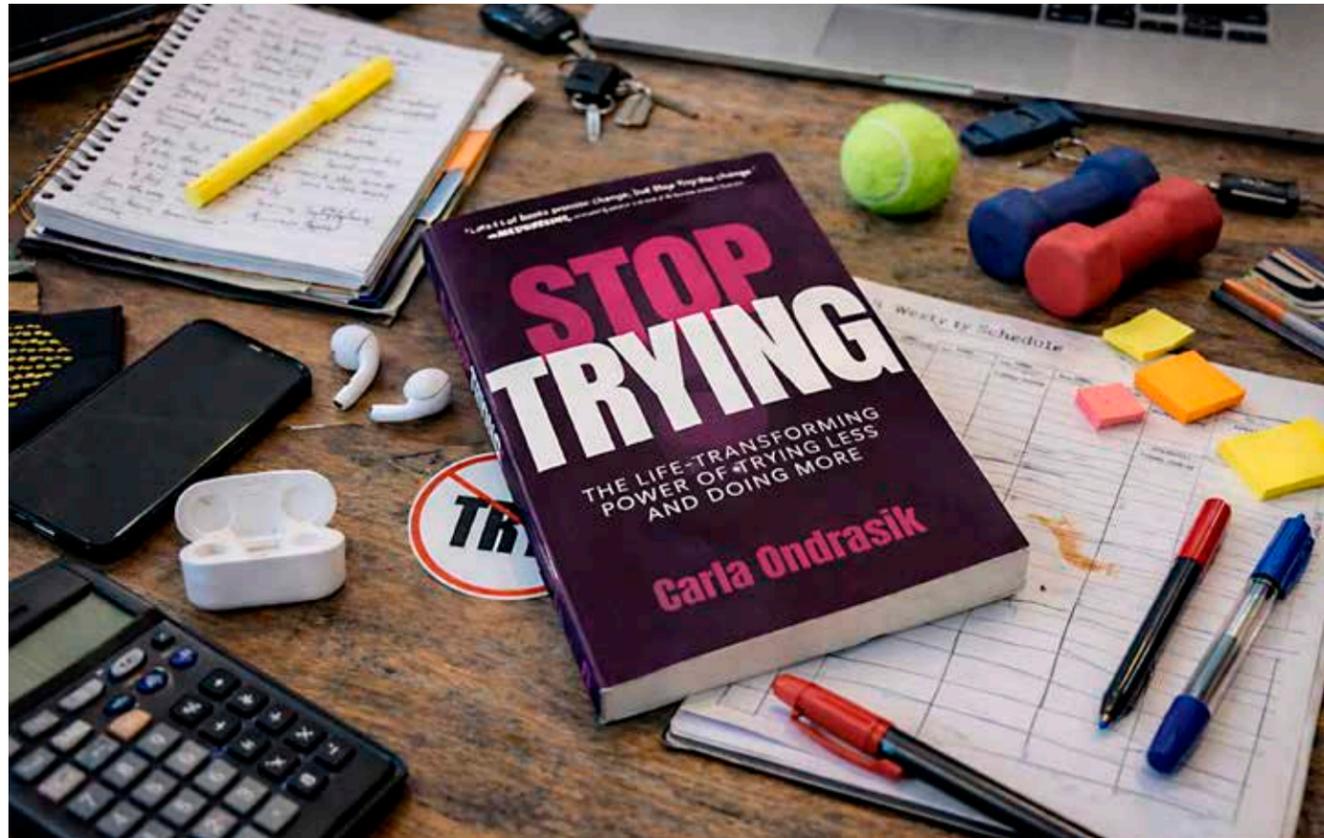


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# Book Review: Stop Trying

BY LEVI JEFFERSON



One of the perks of my role as *Stroll's* youth writer is the opportunity to cover and engage with the creative work of

people in our own community. Recently, I was asked to write about a book written by a North Ranch resident - a reminder that inspiring ideas can come from close to home.

The book is "*Stop Trying*" by Carla Ondrasik. The title alone grabbed my attention because it sounds like the opposite of what every coach and teacher tells you. As a student, an athlete and someone starting a side business, I feel like I'm "trying" constantly. Homework, practices, goals, responsibilities...it never really stops. So the idea that trying might actually be part of the problem made me curious.

Ondrasik's main argument is simple but uncomfortable: when we say we'll "try," we often leave ourselves an escape route. "I'll try to get that done" sounds

responsible, but it keeps us thinking instead of acting. The book challenges that habit and pushes readers to replace vague effort with clear decisions. Reading this reminded me of Yoda's famous line from *Star Wars*: "Do or do not. There is no try." That idea captures the heart of the book - choosing action over hesitation.

The author explains that living in "try mode" leads to stress, procrastination and the constant feeling of being behind. Instead, she encourages a "do or don't" mindset where you make a clear decision and follow through. You either commit or you don't - but you stop pretending that thinking about something is the same as taking action.

What I appreciated most is that the book isn't loud or cheesy. It explains how habits work and why it's easy to stay stuck even when you genuinely want to change. Through short stories and practical exercises, Ondrasik addresses common issues like fear of failure,

perfectionism and waiting to feel fully prepared before starting. She doesn't pretend those feelings disappear; she shows how to move forward anyway.

My biggest takeaway was removing the word "try" from everyday language. Instead of saying, "I'll try to work out," you say, "I'm working out Tuesday and Thursday at four." Instead of, "I'll try to study more," you say, "I'm doing one practice test tonight." When I tested this approach, I got more done in one week than usual - mostly because I stopped negotiating with myself.

Would I recommend this book to other teens? Honestly, yes, especially if you feel overwhelmed or stuck. Some examples are clearly written for adults, but the main message fits student life, too. We all say we're "trying our best," but this book quietly asks what we're actually doing. After reading it, I'm done "trying" to be more organized. I'm just doing it - one decision at a time.



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# From Patron to Podium

*David Wayne Danfifer conducts New West Symphony*



David Wayne Danfifer recently stepped into the spotlight in a way few music lovers ever get to experience. He was one of the winners of the New West Symphony's exclusive "Be a Conductor for a Day" auction item, which was offered during a Sponsors-Only Thank You dinner held by the Symphony. The coveted experience was won jointly by Danfifer and fellow supporter Jewel Powell, making for a memorable highlight of the evening.

Following the win, Danfifer immersed himself in the world of orchestral conducting under the guidance of Michael Christie, Artistic



Michael Christie with Jewell and David

Director and Conductor of the New West Symphony. Over the course of about a month, Christie personally trained Danfifer at his home in Westlake Village, offering hands-on instruction and insight into the art and discipline of leading a professional orchestra.

That preparation culminated in an onstage debut when Danfifer conducted the New West Symphony during "Happy 250th Birthday America," part of the 2026 Masterpiece Series. The concert took place on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo. Led overall by Michael Christie, the program featured iconic American compositions in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary—made even more special by Danfifer's once-in-a-lifetime turn on the conductor's podium.

### About New West Symphony

Founded in 1995 and celebrating its 30th Anniversary season, the New West Symphony (NWS) is a professional orchestra that draws players from the rich talent pool of professional LA-area musicians. NWS is guided by the artistic direction of GRAMMY®-winning Maestro Michael Christie and CEO Natalia Staneva, recipient of the ACSO 2023 Executive Director of the Year award. NWS is the resident company of the Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks and also performs at the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center in Camarillo. The organization presents six Masterpiece Series concerts annually, performing major works from the symphonic repertoire with internationally-acclaimed guest artists.

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**North Ranch Housing Market Update**

NEIGHBORHOOD	# OF SALES	AVG SALE \$	AVG LIST \$	SALE/LIST	PPSF	DOM
<b>Single Family</b>						
Ben Johnson Fairway	0					
Braemar Single Family	0					
Country Club Estates	0					
Crescent Oaks	0					
Custom Estates	1	\$2,114,000	\$2,210,000	95.7%	\$549	0
Emerald Forest	0					
Estates at North Ranch	0					
Fairway Estates	0					
Fairway Oaks	0					
High Country	0					
Island Forest	0					
Master Series	0					
Meadows	0					
North Pointe	0					
Oak Glen	0					
Oak Place	0					
Signature Collection	0					
Tiffany Oaks	0					
Whitehawk	0					
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$2,114,000</b>	<b>\$2,210,000</b>	<b>95.7%</b>	<b>\$549</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Townhomes</b>						
Ben Johnson Townhouse	0					
Braemar Townhouse	0					
Club View Townhouse	2	\$1,065,000	\$1,052,500	101.2%	\$513	17
Fairgreens Townhouse	0					
Kensington Park Townhouse	0					
Meadow Oaks Townhouse	0					
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$1,065,000</b>	<b>\$1,052,500</b>	<b>101.2%</b>	<b>\$513</b>	<b>17</b>

Date Range: December 17, 2025 to January 27, 2026



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