



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

CalRE # 00927151

- 2 **Social Media Sued**
Mental health harms.
- 3 **Economic Growth**
Slows in Q4.



- 4 **Governor's Race**
Silicon Valley flexes financial muscle.
- 5 **Europe's Wealth Tax**
Lessons from abroad.

Volume 25 Issue 68

MONDAY 2/23/26

smdp.com

Church in Ocean Park responds to vandalism with renewed sense of community

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Church in Ocean Park was vandalized on Friday with homophobic graffiti scrawled across its walls and doorway, prompting an outpouring of community support and renewed calls for solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

Church officials discovered the hate-motivated vandalism Friday morning and quickly moved to cover the writing with makeshift paper barriers. The incident came days after the church received a similarly hateful email, suggesting the attack may have been premeditated.

Rather than retreat, church members and officials responded with defiance — with several congregants saying they were now considering expanding the church's existing LGBTQ-themed mural, which features rainbow flag colors across the entryway, to cover the entire building.

"We are not intimidated by cowards who destroy beauty in the middle of the night," said the Rev. Janet Gollery McKeithen, the church's pastor. "Your support strengthens creative spaces

where people in the LGBTQIA+ community can share their stories, express grief and hope through art, and reclaim space together."

McKeithen launched a fundraising campaign to support recovery efforts, with donations directed toward repainting the restored space, hosting community circles and providing a renewed sense of safety for those directly impacted. The campaign can be found at zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/hate-crime-recovery.

Local officials also condemned the attack. Councilman Dan Hall called the vandalism a deliberate act of intimidation.

"This is an attempt to intimidate, to divide, and to push LGBTQ+ people back into the shadows," Hall said. "That attempt will fail. We will not normalize bigotry. Our LGBTQ+ neighbors and our faith community are essential to this city."

Hall added that those responsible were wrong to think hate could silence the community. "We will continue doing the work, in policy and in community, to ensure everyone here feels safe, valued,

SEE CHURCH PAGE 6



SMDP Photos

CHURCH: Officials responded with a sign of their own.

Olympic Cycling Road Race could pass through Santa Monica on way to Hollywood finale

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Despite rejecting the opportunity to host Olympic Volleyball, Santa Monica could serve as an early waypoint on the 2028 Olympic cycling road race course, with competitors traveling

SEE OLYMPICS PAGE 6

Council agenda features support for local restaurants and new option for homeless housing

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Amongst what has become the regular parade of lawsuits and administrative updates, Tuesday's meeting of the Santa Monica City Council features a pair of items to support the local restaurant industry, a \$600,000 study of safety on Santa Monica Blvd, the extension of rules to help streamline openings for new

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 7

Buy Local
SANTA MONICA



Support your community!

TAXES
ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES

BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

KEEP IT MOVING
Professional Movers

You Pick the Location
We will take care of the rest

Call us Now:
(310) 430-3226



Builder's Supply



Since 1947, your local source for a complete selection of Plumbing Supplies, Hardware Supplies and Building Materials.



Bourget Bros. Building Materials

1636 - 11th Street
 Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
 bourgetbros.com



Social media companies face legal reckoning over mental health harms to children

For years, social media companies have disputed allegations that they harm children's mental health through deliberate design choices that addict kids to their platforms and fail to protect them from sexual predators and dangerous content. Now, these tech giants are getting a chance to make their case in courtrooms around the country, including before a jury for the first time.

Some of the biggest players from Meta to TikTok are facing federal and state trials that seek to hold them responsible for harming children's mental health. The lawsuits have come from school districts, local, state and the federal government as well as thousands of families.

Two trials are now underway in Los Angeles and in New Mexico, with more to come. The courtroom showdowns are the culmination of years of scrutiny of the platforms over child safety, and whether deliberate design choices make them addictive and serve up content that leads to depression, eating disorders or suicide.

Experts see the reckoning as reminiscent of cases against tobacco and opioid markets, and the plaintiffs hope that social media platforms will see similar outcomes as cigarette makers and drug companies, pharmacies and distributors.

The outcomes could challenge the companies' First Amendment shield and Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which protects tech companies from liability for material posted on their platforms. They could also be costly in the form of legal fees and settlements. And they could force the companies to change how they operate, potentially losing users and advertising dollars.

Here's a look at the major social media harms cases in the United States.

THE LOS ANGELES CASE CENTERS ON ADDICTION

Jurors in a landmark social media case that seeks to hold tech companies responsible for harms to children got their first glimpse into what will be a lengthy trial characterized by dueling narratives from the plaintiffs and the two remaining defendants, Meta and YouTube.

At the core of the Los Angeles case is a 20-year-old identified only by the initials "KGM," whose case could determine how thousands of similar lawsuits will play out. KGM and the cases of two other plaintiffs have been selected to be bellwether trials — essentially test cases for both sides to see how their arguments play out before a jury.

"This is a monumental inflection point in social media," said Matthew Bergman of the Seattle-based Social Media Victims Law Center, which represents more than 1,000 plaintiffs in lawsuits against social media companies. "When we started doing this four years ago no one said we'd ever get to trial. And here we are trying our case in front of a fair and impartial jury."

On Wednesday Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg testified, mostly sticking to past talking points, including a lengthy back-and-forth about age verification where he said "I don't see why this is so complicated," reiterating that the company's policy restricts users under the age of 13 and that it works to detect users who have lied about their ages to bypass restrictions.

At one point, the plaintiff's attorney, Mark Lanier, asked Zuckerberg if people tend to use something more if it's addictive.

"I'm not sure what to say to that," Zuckerberg said. "I don't think that applies here."

NEW MEXICO GOES AFTER META OVER SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A team led by New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez, who sued Meta in 2023, built their case by posing as children on social media, then documenting sexual solicitations they received as well as Meta's response.

Torrez wants Meta to implement more effective age verification and do more to remove bad actors from its platform.

He also is seeking changes to algorithms that can serve up harmful material, and has criticized the end-to-end encryption that can prevent the monitoring of communications with children for safety. Meta has noted that encrypted messaging is encouraged in general as a privacy and security measure by some

SEE SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE 8

HARDING LARMORE KUTCHER & KOZAL ATTORNEYS AT LAW



WWW.HLKKLAW.COM

Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life



City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
 Cemetery • Mausoleum • Mortuary
 1847 14th Street
 Santa Monica, CA 90404
 (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
 www.woodlawns.com



FD # 2101

CEMETERY & FULL SERVICE FUNERAL HOME

• Traditional Burial • Green Burial • Cremation • Pre-Need Planning

US economic growth weaker than thought in fourth quarter with government shutdown, consumer pullback

U.S. economic growth slowed in the final three months of last year, dragged down by the six-week shutdown of the federal government and a pullback in consumer spending.

The nation's gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — increased at a 1.4% annual rate in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department reported Friday, down from 4.4% in the July-September quarter and 3.8% in the quarter before that.

The figures point to a more modest pace of growth in the coming quarters, as consumers take on more debt and cut back on saving to maintain their spending. Business investment, outside data centers and other equipment dedicated to artificial intelligence, grew at only a moderate pace.

Still, a measure of underlying growth that focuses on consumer and business spending was mostly resilient, economists said. The sharp slowdown in government outlays because of the shutdown shaved a full percentage point from growth.

Consumers and companies spent at a “reasonably solid” pace, said Martha Gimbel, executive director of the Budget Lab at Yale and former economist in the Biden White House. “This is not a disastrous report.”

Consumer spending rose 2.4%, a solid increase but notably below the third quarter's healthy 3.5% gain. Federal government outlays plunged nearly 17% amid the shutdown. That decline should mostly reverse in the coming quarters, however, which may boost growth a bit.

The outsize growth last summer and fall partly reflected sharply lower imports. Companies ramped up imports in the first quarter of last year to get ahead of President Donald Trump's tariffs. After sharply boosting growth in the second and third quarters, trade had little impact at the end of last year.

Early Friday, before the figures were released, Trump attacked congressional Democrats for shutting down the government last fall. He also reiterated his criticism of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell for not cutting interest rates more quickly.

“The Democrat Shutdown cost the U.S.A. at least two points in GDP,” Trump posted on his social media site. “That’s why they are doing it, in mini form, again. No Shutdowns! Also, LOWER INTEREST RATES. “Two Late” Powell is the WORST!!!”

Yet a separate report Friday showed that inflation, according to the Fed's preferred

measure, accelerated in December, as the cost of goods such as furniture, clothes, and groceries picked up.

Earlier this month, Trump predicted a blowout gain in GDP of more than 5% even if the government shutdown was factored into the figures. Trump has been trying to claim that the economy is at its strongest point in history, even though new government data shows that growth slowed, compared with 2024 following his return to the White House.

The week data arrives before Trump delivers the State of the Union address on Tuesday, where he is expected to say that the economy is booming.

The report also underscores an odd aspect of the U.S. economy: It is growing steadily, but without creating many jobs. Growth was a fairly healthy 2.2% in 2025, yet a government report last week showed that employers added less than 200,000 jobs last year — the fewest since COVID struck in 2020.

Economists point to several possible reasons for the gap: The Trump administration's crackdown on immigration has sharply slowed population growth, reducing the number of people available to take jobs. It's one reason that the unemployment rate rose only slightly — to 4.3% from 4% — last year, even with the nearly non-existent hiring.

Some businesses may also be holding back on adding jobs out of uncertainty about whether artificial intelligence will enable them to produce more without finding new employees. And the cost of tariffs has reduced many companies' profits, possibly leading them to cut back on hiring.

The economy is also unusual right now because growth is solid, inflation has slowed a bit, and unemployment is low, but surveys show that Americans are generally gloomy about the economy. In January, a measure of consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since 2014, yet consumers have kept spending, propelling growth.

Some of that spending may be disproportionately driven by upper-income consumers, in a phenomenon known as the “K-shaped” economy. Yet data from many large banks suggests lower-income consumers are still raising their spending, even if by not as much.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and MATT OTT AP Economics Writers. Associated Press Writer Josh Boak contributed to this story.



Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.4

MONDAY SURF: 0-1ft
POOR TO FAIR Shin to knee

Looking like an option get back in the water after all the weather as new WNW swell shows. Decent model agreement on a large low dropping out of the Gulf over the weekend, setting up. Doesn't look all that strong, but its fetch could extend far enough to the south to set up a fairly westerly round of swell. Still small on Mon AM when conditions are best. NW wind protected spots have better size in the afternoon. Otherwise, Tue AM will be the best of it.

TUESDAY SURF: 1-2ft
POOR TO FAIR Knee to thigh

Mellow morning in the cards w/ clean conditions. Getting smaller into the afternoon. Still watching for what our low does as it drops through the Gulf of Alaska over the weekend. Decent confidence at this point in modest to modest WNW swell sticking around for the AM window and conditions look pretty clean at this point. Afternoon onshores look a little lumpy, but not a write off if you can't make the morning window.

Weather

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|------------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------|
| 2026/02/23 | Mon | 12:37 AM | 5.16 | H |
| 2026/02/23 | Mon | 08:16 AM | 0.60 | L |
| 2026/02/23 | Mon | 2:41 PM | 2.42 | H |
| 2026/02/23 | Mon | 6:03 PM | 2.10 | L |
| 2026/02/24 | Tue | 01:42 AM | 5.08 | H |
| 2026/02/24 | Tue | 10:09 AM | 0.26 | L |
| 2026/02/25 | Wed | 03:10 AM | 5.10 | H |
| 2026/02/25 | Wed | 11:30 AM | -0.29 | L |
| 2026/02/25 | Wed | 7:02 PM | 3.08 | H |
| 2026/02/25 | Wed | 10:06 PM | 2.80 | L |
| 2026/02/26 | Thu | 04:35 AM | 5.33 | H |
| 2026/02/26 | Thu | 12:27 PM | -0.79 | L |
| 2026/02/26 | Thu | 7:25 PM | 3.48 | H |
| 2026/02/26 | Thu | 11:36 PM | 2.45 | L |
| 2026/02/27 | Fri | 05:45 AM | 5.67 | H |
| 2026/02/27 | Fri | 1:12 PM | -1.13 | L |
| 2026/02/27 | Fri | 7:51 PM | 3.84 | H |
| 2026/02/28 | Sat | 12:36 AM | 1.94 | L |

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/18
9 33 52 64 66
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 190 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 2/19
3 22 27 31 37

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/17
3 37 44 52 63
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 416 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/19
EVENING: 0 7 3
Draw Date: 2/19
MIDDAY: 3 6 6

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/18
8 9 22 33 44
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 30 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/19
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:42.41

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER

Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION

Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING

legal@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dina Aranita
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION

Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica,
CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913



AWARD WINNER



WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

GET IT DAILY...



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email legal@smdp.com

| CLASSIFICATIONS | Pets | Apartments/Condos | Real Estate Loans | Attorney Services | Wealth and Success |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Announcements | Boats | Rent | Storage Space | Business | Lost and Found |
| Creative | Jewelry | Houses for Rent | Vehicles for Sale | Opportunities | Personals |
| Employment | Wanted | Roommates | Massage | Yard Sales | Psychic |
| For Sale | Travel | Commercial Lease | Services | Health and Beauty | Obituaries |
| Furniture | Vacation Rentals | Real Estate | Computer Services | Fitness | Tutoring |

Summons

SUMMONS(CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24SMCV03059NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CIERRA MASON, an individual; E&S RING MANAGEMENT CORP., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 TO 50YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Victoria Torres, an individualNOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. ¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia

al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Santa Monica Superior Court 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): James R. Doddy, Esq. 21213-B Hawthorne Blvd, #1079, Torrance, CA 90503 Tel. 310-421-8650 DATE (Fecha): 06/24/2024 David W. Slayton, Executive Officer, Clerk (Secretario), by A. Ilieva, Deputy (Adjunto)(SEAL) 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/26 CNS-4000300#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25SMCP00499. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Luanne Smith for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Luanne Smith filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Luanne Smith to Kathy Joy Smith. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/10/2025, Time: 8:30 Am, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 10/10/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/03/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00012. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Mary Lanciotti for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Mary Lanciotti filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Mary Lanciotti to Mary Allison Lana Lanciotti. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 02/28/2026, Time: 8:30 a.m., Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 01/08/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/03/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Silicon Valley flexes financial muscle in governor's race and wealth tax battle

Over the last half-century, digital technology has reshaped the daily lives of people everywhere and created vast new industries. But no spot on the globe has been more affected than its birthplace.

The transformation of the Santa Clara Valley from a bucolic grower of fruit into the technological powerhouse of Silicon Valley — thanks largely to Stanford University's presence — fueled a dramatic evolution of California's economy, growing it into the fourth largest in the world, were it a nation.

Technology isn't just a linchpin of the economy; the immense personal wealth of its creators has — perhaps unfortunately — become a crucial source of revenue for the state. The top 1% of California's taxpayers generate nearly half its personal income taxes or, put another way, nearly a third of the state's general fund revenues.

Despite its importance to California's economy and budget, Silicon Valley has not — compared to other major economic sectors — paid much attention to state government.

While farmers, bankers, medical providers, casino-owning tribes and other segments of the economy have hired lobbyists and doled out campaign money, tech tycoons have assumed their products and services were so obviously valuable to the state, they needn't worry about what was happening in Sacramento.

That attitude is changing fast.

Efforts to regulate artificial intelligence, the industry's hot new product, and to impose new taxes on the business are fueling the creation of campaign war chests — to elect friendlier legislators, oppose hostile legislation and block ballot measures like the one that would impose a new tax on wealth.

Silicon Valley also is doing something it never would have done in past years — trying to elect a tech-friendly governor.

The field of would-be governors is wide, but the two likely to have the most campaign money are billionaire investor Tom Steyer and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, who represent the ideological parameters of the Democratic hopefuls.

Steyer is making an obvious bid for support from the Democrats' left wing, endorsing efforts to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy, while Mahan is counting on his friends in Silicon Valley to supply as much money as he needs to mount a credible run.

The techies are diving into the gubernatorial campaign because Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has generally backed Silicon Valley in policy battles — especially conflicts over taxes and artificial intelligence — will be gone in a year. And as his governorship winds down, the state's Democratic Party seems to be moving leftward.

This week, Steyer said that if elected, he would call a special election to modify California's iconic property tax limit, Proposition 13, so that taxes on commercial property could be increased. That change, dubbed a "split roll" and long sought by public employee unions, was rejected by voters in 2020 but remains a holy grail among unions and other left-leaning groups.

Steyer told Politico that cuts in federal aid to states by President Donald Trump and a Republican-dominated Congress leave a budget hole that must be filled by new taxes on business.

"We really can't wait," Steyer said. "We're on the clock. And so, yes, the only way to pass that is with a special election."

Mahan immediately rejected Steyer's tax plan, calling it "the wrong approach."

Steyer has also endorsed the proposed wealth tax, which would hit Silicon Valley's billionaires and has already resulted in some changes of residence to Florida and other low- or no-income tax states.

Mahan, meanwhile, has joined Newsom in opposing the measure, saying it would backfire by encouraging wealthy people to leave California and take their taxable incomes with them.

This could be the year that Silicon Valley, which has reshaped California's culture and economy, also reshapes its politics.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

MOVIEPOSTERPRINTER.COM

MOVIE POSTER
PRINTER

WE PRINT MOVIE POSTERS

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California can learn from European countries that tried wealth taxes

The proposed California wealth tax has no antecedents in the United States. European countries, by contrast, have spent decades experimenting with wealth taxes and their experience, which has been profoundly negative, can help California avoid repeating their mistakes.

Over the past six decades, 14 European countries have imposed a broad tax on personal wealth. Most repealed them, with officials citing capital flight, disappointing revenue, high administrative costs and revenue losses from other existing taxes.

Today only three European countries still impose broad taxes on net assets: Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

Whereas the California ballot initiative applies only to billionaires, European wealth taxes tend to apply far more broadly. The three currently in effect in Europe kick in when net wealth reaches \$200,000 (in US dollars).

These European wealth taxes are riddled with exemptions, many of which benefit high-net-worth individuals. Notably, they have commonly exempted business ownership interests. This reduces the salience of such taxes for highly mobile, high-net-worth individuals, but also reduces the taxes' potential yield.

A combination of capital flight and wide-ranging exemptions has led to disappointing revenue performance, with these national wealth taxes generating, on average, 0.2% of gross domestic product — one-fiftieth of what the United States raises in federal income taxes.

California's proposed 5%, one-time wealth tax would be much narrower since it only applies to about 200 of the state's wealthiest households, but its application to those taxpayers' net worth would be significantly broader. Therefore some effects — particularly capital flight by the highest-net-worth households — would be magnified. However other impacts, on small business formation, for instance, are likely to be substantially attenuated.

With that in mind, here are four lessons from the European experience.

First, wealth taxes trigger capital flight. French, Swedish and Irish figures cited outmigration — and a resulting outflow of jobs, investment and entrepreneurial activity — as a rationale for repeal.

In Switzerland, a study found that a 0.1 percentage point increase in a canton's wealth tax reduces taxable wealth by 3.5%. In Norway, an increase in the wealth tax prompted more ultra-wealthy households to depart the country in 2022 than in the prior 13 years combined.

Second, wealth taxes undercut economic activity even among those who remain. Wealth taxes affect entrepreneurial decision-making, reduce returns on investment, introduce economic distortions and undermine job creation and business expansion. A recent

study suggests that losses from behavioral responses are almost 2.5 times those from departing wealth.

Third, wealth taxes deprive governments of revenue from other taxes. Their collections are substantially offset by declines in revenue from income, consumption, property and other taxes driven by wealth-tax-induced capital flight and reduced economic growth.

A study by scholars largely sympathetic to wealth taxation estimated that for every dollar generated by Scandinavian wealth taxes, 76 cents is lost under other taxes: 22 cents directly from migration responses and 54 cents from behavioral responses among those who remain.

Other estimates are far worse. In France an analysis of the now-repealed wealth tax estimated that the government lost twice as much in reductions to other taxes as it generated from the wealth tax.

And fourth, compliance and administrative costs can be extraordinarily high. A study of the now-repealed Irish wealth tax estimated taxpayers' average compliance costs at 18.5% of wealth tax revenue, while government administrative costs were 14% of revenue.

In Germany one estimate put government administrative costs under the wealth tax, repealed in 1996, at 12.3%. Some countries achieved low administrative costs, but they generally exempted businesses and other forms of wealth that are highly valuable and difficult to assess.

CALIFORNIA'S TAX MAY BE MORE AGGRESSIVE

Wealth tax proponents acknowledge some of the shortcomings of European wealth taxes. Gabriel Zucman — a professor at the Paris School of Economics and UC Berkeley and one of the global architects of the wealth tax effort — has bemoaned the exemptions of European wealth taxes and acknowledges that outmigration and capital flight could be higher under the more aggressive wealth tax regimes he recommends (reflected in the California initiative's design).

This would be particularly true of a state-level wealth tax, since expatriating from one's country is far more difficult than moving across state lines. He recommends imposing heavy "exit taxes" — which would likely violate the U.S. Constitution — to prevent an exodus under more aggressive wealth taxes.

That, however, may be the only lesson proponents have drawn from the European experience.

A California wealth tax, at a rate higher than anything in Europe and applied to a far greater share of the wealth of highly mobile billionaires, doubles down on the economic harms that led most European countries to abandon them.

Jared Walczak is a visiting fellow with the California Tax Foundation and president of Walczak Policy Consulting

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!! (BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
\$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES

- *Nitrous Oxide available
- *No interest payment plans
- *Emergencies can be seen today
- *Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

OR
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
\$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

AND OF COURSE WE DO

- Invisalign
- Periodontist on Staff
- Oral Surgeon on Staff
- Cosmetics and Implants
- Zoom bleaching
- and more

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703

(310) 393.8284

WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM



Thank you for voting us your **Most Loved Tires & Auto Parts/Repair Service business in Santa Monica!**

1117 Santa Monica Blvd. • Santa Monica, CA
Mon - Fri 8AM - 5:30PM | Sat 9AM - 2PM

310.393.0767



BURN FITNESS

PROFESSIONAL

BOXING & BURN

DISCOUNT FREE

Improve your boxing skills with intensive training with experienced instructors.

- Every Saturday
- Starting October 11th 12:00pm
- 1233 3rd Street Promenade, Santa Monica CA 90401
- Experienced Trainer
- Complete Facilities
- Structured Exercise Program

Kejo@burnfit.com
310.394.1300



FIX YOUR CREDIT CONSULTING

Better Credit. Better Life.

We are a top rated and fully bonded credit repair consulting company. We are extremely aggressive and also teach you how to maintain good credit. After reviewing your credit report, our Credit Consultants determine a customized fee based on your situation.

5 stars on **yelp**

Give Us A Call Today! (877) 212-2450
fixyourcreditconsulting.com

CHURCH

FROM PAGE 1

and protected," he said.

The attack struck a congregation with one of the longest and most prominent records of LGBTQ advocacy in Santa Monica. The church's commitment to the community stretches back decades, rooted in a history of taking positions that were considered radical for their time.

Former leaders established the church as a bastion of progressive values and McKeithen has built on that legacy. She has performed same-sex marriages since 2008, a direct violation of the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline, which until 2024 penalized clergy who officiated such ceremonies with suspension or permanent expulsion. McKeithen also fought against California's Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure banning same-sex marriage, a campaign that forged a lasting partnership with the Gay-Straight Alliance at Santa Monica High School.

That partnership produced the annual

Queer Prom, a celebration for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 16 to 20, co-sponsored by the church, the school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, and the City of Santa Monica. The church has also partnered with Black TAQ (Transgender and Queer) to hold candlelight vigils memorializing murdered transgender people and has worked with the City of Santa Monica to establish name change grants for transgender individuals.

The Church's strong stance has put it at odds with its own denominational leaders over the years but in recent years, the UMC General Conference voted to remove all LGBTQ restrictions from its governing rules — effectively vindicating the church's practices.

The church has also had its share of non-theological struggles, including a massive repair bill when the ceiling partly collapsed in 2021.

However the church has endured and McKeithen said it remains open to all.

editor@smdp.com

OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 1

through the city's streets on a roughly 106-mile route that begins at Venice Beach and ends at the Griffith Observatory in Hollywood, according to a leaked course plan revealed by former professional racer Phil Gaimon.

According to a video blog posted this week by Gaimon, the route takes riders from the Venice Beach start through Main Street in Santa Monica before heading north on Pacific Coast Highway into Malibu, where the course climbs Mulholland Highway and features multiple laps up Rockstore, a well-known cycling climb in the Santa Monica Mountains. From there, riders travel east along Mulholland Drive through Calabasas and into the Hollywood Hills before a final ascent to the Griffith Observatory.

The approximately 170-kilometer course includes about 3,300 meters of elevation gain. The Rockstore climb segment is expected to serve as the race's primary selection point, with multiple laps anticipated to whittle down the field before the final push into Hollywood. The course's hilly finale at the Griffith Observatory is expected to favor a punchy all-rounder over a pure climber or sprinter.

Gaimon said he expects the race would pass through Santa Monica in as little as 20 minutes and that while the route he saw didn't specify if permits had been secured, the impact on the City would be low.

No road closures or additional Olympic negotiations have appeared on Council agendas since the termination of the Volleyball discussions and city officials said they don't have any information to share pertaining to new discussions related to the bicycle race.

Santa Monica's role in the Games would be limited to a pass-through on the cycling course after the city declined to host Olympic beach volleyball. Negotiations

between Santa Monica and LA28 broke down after a financial analysis found that hosting the event would cost the city \$15.54 million against \$14.09 million in revenue, producing a \$1.45 million shortfall. The same analysis found the city stood to net \$10.65 million in tourism revenue simply by virtue of the Games coming to the region, without bearing the cost of hosting a venue.

The original beach volleyball plan called for a temporary 12,000-seat stadium north of the Santa Monica Pier. City officials cited concerns about community benefits, operational details and financial guarantees in declining the deal. Beach volleyball ultimately landed at Long Beach's Alamitos Beach.

While Santa Monica stepped back from Olympic hosting duties, the city has moved to capitalize on the broader wave of international sports events heading to the Los Angeles region. The Santa Monica City Council voted 7-0 in a recent meeting to authorize City Manager Oliver Chi to enter exclusive negotiations with five private entities for activations tied to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Approved proposals include a Michelob Ultra fan experience at the Santa Monica Pier during the June 2026 World Cup, a new annual music festival produced by Goldenvoice beginning in fall 2026, an ESPN fan festival and broadcast presence in February 2027 coinciding with the Super Bowl, and two major Olympic activations in summer 2028. Those Olympic events include Club France, the French National Olympic Committee's official hospitality house, at Annenberg Community Beach House, and a proposed Santa Monica Nations Village and international broadcast hub at Crescent Bay Park.

City officials said none of those events will receive public subsidies.

editor@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

businesses and a potential attempt to secure homeless services outside city limits.

ZONING OVERHAUL

The council will consider the first reading of an ordinance that would permanently adopt Economic Recovery Interim Zoning Ordinance 2825, which has been credited with helping establish new businesses in the downtown area.

Staff are recommending the council approve the changes, which are aimed at simplifying land use processing, easing alcohol-related operating standards and expanding exemptions for alcohol permits throughout the entire downtown area, including the Santa Monica Pier.

The proposed ordinance would also adopt interim zoning provisions providing flexibility for schools, child care facilities and early education centers displaced by last year's Palisades fire, in line with the city's 2025 Regional Fires Emergency Order.

Staff said the changes build on the success of prior economic recovery interim zoning ordinances and are intended to reduce barriers for new businesses while maintaining appropriate oversight.

A separate but related public hearing will address an extension of Interim Zoning Ordinance 2844, which governs resource recovery and recycling room standards. Staff is recommending updated applicability thresholds and revised dimensional standards for recycling rooms to support a Self-Certification Building Permit Pilot Program aimed at further easing the path for new commercial tenants.

SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD SAFETY

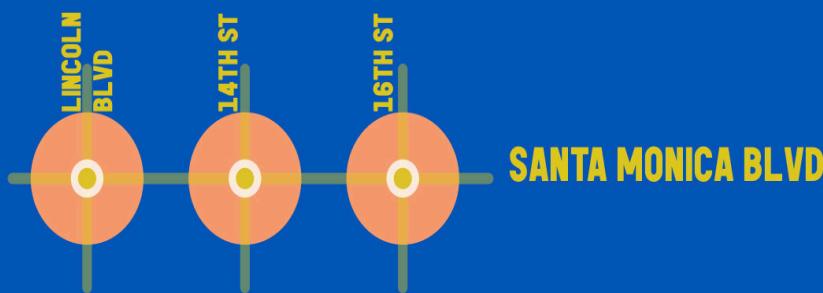
The council will also be asked to receive and adopt the Santa Monica Boulevard Safety Study, a nearly \$590,000 effort funded in part through a California Department of Transportation Sustainable Communities planning grant.

The study, overseen by the Department of Transportation and Mobility and led by Director Anuj Gupta, examined a roughly four-mile stretch of Santa Monica Boulevard from Ocean Avenue east to Centinela Avenue at the city limit. It analyzed 10 years of reported crash data and paired those findings with extensive community input to develop a series of phased safety and transit recommendations.

According to the staff report, Santa

Safety Analysis Summary

Top 3 locations with the HIGHEST CRASH SEVERITY on Santa Monica Blvd



Bicycles & scooters account for (20%) of all collisions and more than half (55%) of all serious crash injuries

Proceeding movement for injury crashes where pedestrians were in a crosswalk:
• vehicle turning left (46%)
• vehicle proceeding straight (32%)
• vehicle turning right (22%)

For injury crashes involving pedestrians & bicyclists, (56%) pedestrian & (59%) bicyclist crashes occurred at signalized intersections

83% of all crashes occur at intersections
17% of all crashes occur at midblock

PRIMARY COLLISION FACTORS

that results in injury crashes at intersections

1. Auto Right of Way Violation
2. Speeding



Pedestrian-involved injury crashes occurring at night (including those under street lighting) account for 22% of all pedestrian-related injury crashes



Courtesy of City of Santa Monica

MAP: Part of the council meeting will cover a traffic safety study along Santa Monica Blvd.

Monica Boulevard has long been identified as a high-priority corridor for safety improvements. A 2017 city analysis found eight fatal or severe injury crashes along the corridor, while a 2022 Local Roadway Safety Plan identified 206 total crashes over a subsequent study period, including one fatality and nine severe injuries.

The city was awarded \$522,327 in grant funds in August 2023, with an additional \$67,673 in matching funds from Transportation Impact Fee revenues bringing the total project budget to \$590,000. The council accepted the grant in November 2023.

Staff conducted a study session with the council in June 2025 and held a public open house at the Santa Monica Family YMCA on Sept. 6, 2025, before finalizing the study's recommendations.

If the council approves the study Tuesday, staff will begin identifying funding for Phase 1 improvements and pursuing larger grant opportunities to support longer-term Phase 2 implementation. The improvements are intended to reduce crashes for pedestrians,

cyclists, motorists and transit riders while better connecting residents to major destinations and employment centers.

The study is part of the city's broader Vision Zero commitment, which the council first adopted Feb. 23, 2016, with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Santa Monica roadways.

RETAIL-TO-RESTAURANT CONVERSIONS

In councilmember discussion items, Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick and Councilmember Lana Negrete are asking the council to direct the city manager and city attorney to analyze options for supporting the conversion of vacant retail spaces into restaurants and hospitality businesses.

The proposal calls for a review of potential pilot program options that could waive, reduce or defer fees for qualifying conversion projects, including fees related to outdoor dining and wastewater and sewer connections. The analysis would also look at financial incentives and support for tenant improvements such as grease interceptors, ventilation systems, ADA upgrades, fire and

life safety modifications, and utility changes — costs that have been cited as significant barriers to restaurant conversions.

HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS

Santa Monica has held negotiations with several property owners in the Pico neighborhood for new homeless housing and service opportunities. During the closed session of Tuesday's meeting a new piece of property will be added to the negotiation list, this time in the City of Bell. According to the agenda, City Manager Oliver Chi is in talks with the Salvation Army about uses for their shelter at 5600 Rickenbacker Rd. No details are available regarding the potential terms of use for the property but if a decision is made in closed session, Council will make a public report.

Tuesday's meeting is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

editor@smdp.com

SAVE THE KITTENS

NKLA ANIMAL SERVICES

#SAVETHEKITTENS NKLA.ORG/KITTENS

Get the local news that matters to you!

Sign up for *The* **CURRENT**

SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!

POWERED BY **smdp** Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email legal@smdp.com

| CLASSIFICATIONS | Pets | Apartments/Condos | Real Estate Loans | Attorney Services | Wealth and Success |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Announcements | Boats | Rent | Storage Space | Business | Lost and Found |
| Creative | Jewelry | Houses for Rent | Vehicles for Sale | Opportunities | Personals |
| Employment | Wanted | Roommates | Massage | Yard Sales | Psychic |
| For Sale | Travel | Commercial Lease | Services | Health and Beauty | Obituaries |
| Furniture | Vacation Rentals | Real Estate | Computer Services | Fitness | Tutoring |

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026015311. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LNW CREATIVE, 1148 9TH ST APT 19, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LINDSAY WONG, 1148 9TH ST APT 19, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not

to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ LINDSAY WONG, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 01/22/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 02/2/2026, 02/09/2026, 02/16/2026, 02/23/2026

Housing

SHARED RENTALS M APT, 6th St. N of Wilshire. Private bedroom, bathroom. Pets ok. \$1,750/month + Deposits.(424) 877-2737

CALL TODAY AND PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED

office (310) 458-7737

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401



INSIDE THE DAILY PRESS PODCAST

smdp.com/pod

ALSO AVAILABLE ON

SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM PAGE 2

state and federal authorities.

The trial kicked off in early February. In his opening statement, prosecuting attorney Donald Migliori said Meta has misrepresented the safety of its platforms, choosing to engineer its algorithms to keep young people online while knowing that children are at risk of sexual exploitation.

“Meta clearly knew that youth safety was not its corporate priority ... that youth safety was less important than growth and engagement,” Migliori told the jury.

Meta attorney Kevin Huff pushed back on those assertions in his opening statement, highlighting an array of efforts by the company to weed out harmful content from its platforms while warning users that some dangerous content still gets past its safety net.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS HEAD TO TRIAL

A trial scheduled for this summer pits school districts against social media companies before U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in Oakland, California. Called a multidistrict litigation, it names six public school districts from around the country as the bellwethers.

Jayne Conroy, a lawyer on plaintiffs’ trial team, was also an attorney for plaintiffs seeking to hold pharmaceutical companies responsible for the opioid epidemic. She said the cornerstone of both cases is the same: addiction.

“With the social media case, we’re focused primarily on children and their developing brains and how addiction is such a threat to their well-being and ... the harms that are caused to children — how much they’re watching and what kind of targeting is being done,” she said.

The medical science, she added, “is not really all that different, surprisingly, from an opioid or a heroin addiction. We are all talking about the dopamine reaction.”

Both the social media and the opioid cases claim negligence on the part of the defendants.

“What we were able to prove in the opioid cases is the manufacturers, the distributors, the pharmacies, they knew about the risks, they downplayed them, they oversupplied, and people died,” Conroy said. “Here, it is very much the same thing. These companies knew about the risks, they have disregarded the risks, they doubled down to get profits from advertisers over the safety of kids. And kids were harmed and kids died.”

RESOLUTION COULD TAKE YEARS AMID DUELING NARRATIVES

Social media companies have disputed that their products are addictive. During questioning Wednesday by the plaintiff’s lawyer during the Los Angeles trial, Zuckerberg said he still agrees with a previous statement he made that the existing body of scientific work has not proven that social media causes mental health harms.

Some researchers do indeed question whether addiction is the appropriate term

to describe heavy use of social media. Social media addiction is not recognized as an official disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the authority within the psychiatric community.

But the companies face increasing pushback on the issue of social media’s effects on children’s mental health, not only among academics but also parents, schools and lawmakers.

“While Meta has doubled down in this



While Meta has doubled down in this area to address mounting concerns by rolling out safety features, several recent reports suggest that the company continues to aggressively prioritize teens as a user base and doesn’t always adhere to its own rules

- Minda Smiley, Emarketer analyst

area to address mounting concerns by rolling out safety features, several recent reports suggest that the company continues to aggressively prioritize teens as a user base and doesn’t always adhere to its own rules,” said Emarketer analyst Minda Smiley.

With appeals and any settlement discussions, the cases against social media companies could take years to resolve. And unlike in Europe and Australia, tech regulation in the U.S. is moving at a glacial pace.

“Parents, education, and other stakeholders are increasingly hoping lawmakers will do more,” Smiley said. “While there is momentum at the state and federal level, Big Tech lobbying, enforcement challenges, and lawmaker disagreements over how to best regular social media have slowed meaningful progress.”

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer. AP Technology Writer Kaitlyn Huamani contributed to this story.

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



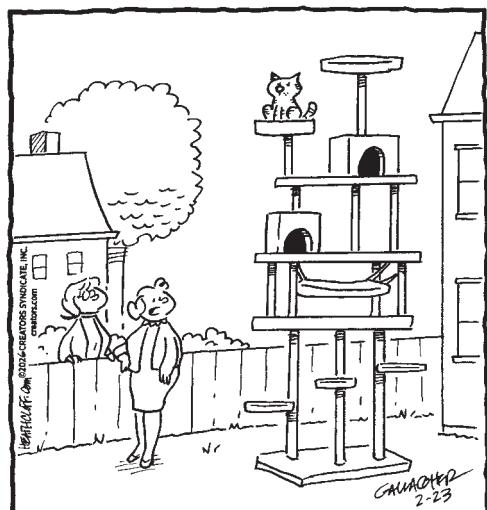
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6860

In and around Melbourne

B A S K C O D C A P I T A L C
 I E T V E T H G I R B A R S A
 R S N E D R A G Y O R Z T I F
 R S P H R R E S L X L P T P E
 A A Y U T G W Y P O A R S B S
 R D N A C U M E O R A S A G D
 U L L E B P O C K M A L D L K
 N L I I I N M S S B L W O E O
 G G A C K A L A K E S C L N O
 M R S R H T G A T U M S U H Y
 A B U T A E S S E N D O N U O
 R W L L N E W P O R T U R N N
 R E A O F O O T S C R A Y T G
 Y M A I D S T O N E Y K S L B
 E M A C L E O D L A L O R Y S

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Ballet | Eltham | Lurg |
| Bars | Essendon | Macleod |
| Bass | Fitzroy Gardens | Maidstone |
| Bays | Footscray | Newport |
| Bell | Gatum | Olympics |
| Birrarung Marr | Genoa | Parks |
| Bright | Glenhuntly | Rye |
| Cafes | Greta | Skye |
| Capital | Kew | South |
| Cold | Kooyong | Sprawl |
| Cool | Lakes | St Kilda |
| Cup | Lalor | Trams |
| Docks | Lara | Wail |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Fresh is always best

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.

To advertise, email legal@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737





TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 23)

Welcome to your Year of Shooting Stars, sometimes imagined but no less potent as omens of wish fulfillment. Practical desires are delivered in a timely manner and impractical ones are granted, too, growing your faith and wonder. More highlights: Ideas, travel and love come in flashes you can't predict but always delight in. A project takes off, paying you to help many. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 20, 1, 11 and 14.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Experience has taught you exactly what you need and how to go about getting it. And though the order has been fulfilled, you still hunger for more. This keeps you curious and in motion. Rather than wrestling your appetite, let it guide you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't reveal too much. Hold back and assess. Keep resources hidden. Make no deals. If your entire effort goes into learning what others need and want, you'll soon know the exact right next move.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, you may catch yourself thinking, "Wow, this is my mom/dad energy showing up in someone else." The good news is, you're not stuck in the old script. You get to respond like the grown-up you are now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). They'll say you're creative. You'll say you're just solving a problem. Your needs are unique, so of course your reaction must be, too. Your creativity is a response to your environment that brings about a very special and unusual circumstance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Passion makes the stakes higher so that getting what you want is a glorious validation and not getting what you want feels devastating. The amplified emotion is the trade-off built into caring deeply. You accept it because a muted life costs more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A sommelier calls a wine's color the robe. And if you were a wine, your robe would be rosy today, breathing free and grateful to be released from a bottled-up state. Someone finds you intoxicating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). "Yes" has been the default lately. You're so capable! But one small agreement at a time and you may be gradually headed toward overextension. It only takes one word to successfully avoid spreading yourself too thin, and that word is "no."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You get a rush from helping people - an actual chemical high similar to the one that comes with a roller coaster ride, an uplifting media encounter or a heartfelt hug. Giving to others makes you feel like you're the one being gifted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Friends and loved ones may be all around, and still, you may find yourself craving your own company. That's because you know how to make yourself happy. Time alone can be exactly the right choice today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll think you know and then, suddenly, you'll see the holes in your knowledge - bespoke opportunities to become even stronger, more capable and more integrated into the fabric of this world. An open mind is your best asset.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're allowed to exit early if something feels off. Stepping away can save everyone's time. Trust that what's meant for you won't require you to compromise much. A good fit will be an easy fit, and it's out there for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Why do you think more about what you have than what you don't have? You're one of those people who orient their attention toward what's working instead of what's missing - a happy habit that makes gratitude your default.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | L | O | D | J | A | M | B | C | H | A | O | S | | |
| S | E | M | I | I | D | E | A | D | U | N | C | E | | |
| H | I | N | D | F | A | S | T | A | S | L | E | E | P | |
| A | C | I | N | G | A | I | R | A | C | A | I | | | |
| W | A | S | T | E | B | A | S | K | E | T | D | N | A | |
| | | C | L | E | O | S | E | G | O | | | | | |
| T | R | O | U | A | R | A | B | L | O | T | U | S | | |
| L | A | S | T | B | U | T | N | O | T | L | E | A | S | T |
| C | E | C | I | L | A | G | A | R | S | L | A | Y | | |
| | A | T | O | P | S | A | G | A | | | | | | |
| P | A | R | T | O | A | S | T | M | A | S | T | E | R | |
| A | C | H | Y | G | N | U | S | T | E | N | O | | | |
| T | H | O | M | A | S | N | A | S | T | R | A | D | S | |
| T | O | S | C | A | O | V | I | D | A | S | A | S | | |
| I | O | T | A | S | Y | E | N | S | Y | E | T | I | | |

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Course of mixed greens
- 6 Airport safety agency: Abbr.
- 9 ___-addressed stamped envelope
- 13 Liable (to)
- 14 Liquids for frying
- 16 Black-and-white cookie
- 17 In a group of
- 18 Three-person band
- 19 Strong craving
- 20 Auto parts that flash a lane change
- 23 Hawaiian floral necklace
- 24 Minor complaint
- 25 Slangy refusal
- 28 Omelet ingredients
- 31 Photographer's device
- 36 Phone app image
- 38 Syringe, for short
- 40 Evaluates
- 41 Holiday tree's glowing hangings
- 44 Reddish hair dye
- 45 Window ledge
- 46 Kingly title
- 47 Newspaper's opinion pieces
- 49 Biblical ark builder
- 51 Foldaway bed
- 52 Feeling blue
- 54 *Simpsons* bartender
- 56 Fire detectors on ceilings
- 61 Make angry
- 63 Bounce back, as a sound

- 64 Angry look
- 67 Elongated circle
- 68 Any minute now
- 69 Spooky
- 70 Had shed tears
- 71 Sandwich bread
- 72 Take care of

DOWN

- 1 Resort with hot tubs
- 2 Jacket's sleeve
- 3 Stolen property
- 4 Declare void
- 5 Master's or doctorate
- 6 Little kids
- 7 Voice of Apple devices
- 8 Adjust, as auto wheels

- 9 Nary a ___ (no one)
- 10 Makes a mistake
- 11 Lower limb
- 12 Opponent
- 15 ___ boom (jet sound)
- 21 Period after sunset
- 22 Video game pioneer
- 25 Specialized market segment
- 26 Has painful muscles
- 27 Trumpets or tubas
- 29 Workout locations
- 30 Madrid's country
- 32 Newsstand periodicals, for short
- 33 Moral principle
- 34 Back-in-style fashion
- 35 Balance-sheet plus
- 37 Ship of 1492

BLINKERS by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 39 Capital of Norway
- 42 Authority to decide
- 43 Camel's Peruvian cousin
- 48 "For goodness ___!"
- 50 Racetrack runners
- 53 Home's interior design
- 55 Banquet host
- 56 High-five sound
- 57 Begin to thaw
- 58 Sailor's greeting
- 59 ___ Star State (Texas)
- 60 In an angry mood
- 61 Line of movie seats
- 62 "___ changed my mind"
- 65 Clever humor
- 66 Feline zodiac sign

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 9 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 |

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | | | 4 | |
| | 5 | | | 4 | | | | 6 |
| 1 | | | 7 | | | 3 | | 5 |
| 6 | | 5 | | 4 | | | 3 | |
| | 3 | | | 2 | | | 7 | |
| | 4 | | | 7 | | 5 | | 1 |
| 3 | | 6 | | | 2 | | | 8 |
| 5 | | | 3 | | | | | 6 |
| | 2 | | | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | |
| 13 | | | | | | 14 | | 15 | | 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | | | |
| | | 20 | | | 21 | | | | | 22 | | | | | |
| | | | 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | 28 | | 29 | 30 | | 31 | | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | |
| 36 | | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | | 40 | | | | | |
| 41 | | | | 42 | | | | | 43 | | | | | | |
| 44 | | | | | | 45 | | | | | 46 | | | | |
| 47 | | | | | | 48 | | 49 | | | 50 | | 51 | | |
| | | | | | 52 | | 53 | | | 54 | | 55 | | | |
| | | | 56 | 57 | | | | 58 | 59 | | | | 60 | | |
| 61 | 62 | | | | | 63 | | | | | 64 | | | 65 | 66 |
| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | | 69 | | | | |
| 70 | | | | | | | | 71 | | | | | 72 | | |

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 02/23/26

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords



MONDAY | FEBRUARY 23

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-02-23T18>

AIRPORT COMMISSION

7:00 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street Santa Monica. The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. The Airport Commission meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/airport-commission/14046465/2026-02-23T19>

KARAOKE MONDAYS AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Monday night karaoke at Whale. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/karaoke-mondays-at-the-whaler/17408730/2026-02-23T00>

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 24

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-02-24T10>

AUTHOR TALK WITH TOM D. CROUCH

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. om D. Crouch, a Smithsonian veteran of almost 45 years, paints a robust picture of a unique American establishment and its lasting legacies in his book *Smithson's Gamble*. Follow the fascinating growth and development of the world's largest museum and research complex during its first 60 years. Told in rich detail, *Smithson's Gamble* reveals how, as it defined a role rooted in curiosity and exploration, the Smithsonian helped to shape the nation's developing identity. The Smithsonian evolved from a small, narrowly focused organization into an institution leading the way in fields from astrophysics to zoology. Smithsonian researchers, and the hundreds of citizen scientists who they recruited, created a collection that documented the natural and human history of a continent. The American conservation

movement and a national weather service are rooted at the Smithsonian. *Smithson's Gamble* is filled with fascinating characters, twists and turns, and moments of triumph and tragedy, complete with political machinations, a bit of backstabbing, accusations of murder, and the occasional scandal. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-tom-d-crouch/18044829/2026-02-24T11>

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-02-24T17>

8PM FREE "ROXY'S GOT BALLS" BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY'S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny's Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS "Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny's Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-14857154/2026-02-24T20>

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-02-24T22>

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 25

BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 24 2400 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. Developing mindfulness doesn't have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet.. Let's practice meditation in motion while creating a potent wellness experience that enhances mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. We'll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 24 -see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions

we'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline at a natural pace from tower 24 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-02-25T08>

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-02-25T08>

FLORAL DESIGN 101 MASTERCLASS

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Viola Floral Studios 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Calling all budding florists, event planners and creatives/hobbyists! Join us for a Floral Design 101 Masterclass! This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. This comprehensive one-day workshop blends hands-on floral design with foundational skills, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their craft, grow their hosting toolkit, or explore a career as a florist. Space is limited to 8 people, and early booking is encouraged. Choose from two dates above. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/floral-design-101-masterclass/17600937/2026-02-25T09>

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-17751141/2026-02-25T12>

WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. \$15 wine flights & half off bottles of wine all day every Wednesday. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-02-25T00>

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 26

FRIEZE LOS ANGELES

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Frieze Los Angeles returns to Santa Monica Airport from February 26 - March 1, 2026! Discover art from emerging stars to acclaimed icons, curated sections, ambitious programming, delicious food pop-ups, and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/frieze-los-angeles/17921206/2026-02-26T10>

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-02-26T11>

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2026-02-26T11>

NAOMI HUTCHINSON - DANCING WELL: EMBODYING WELLNESS THROUGH MOVEMENT AND MINDFULNESS

12:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Room 216 Core Performance Center, SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Naomi Hutchinson will lead an immersive wellness masterclass designed to help dancers explore the intersection of physical, emotional, and mental well-being through the lens of their artistry. Participants are invited to experience dance as a healing art that not only refines technique, but also nourishes the whole self. Through a blend of somatic and yoga-inspired movement, guided breathwork, meditation, and reflective discussion, dancers will learn how to connect their life experiences to their creative expression, build body awareness, and develop sustainable practices for balance and longevity in their craft. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/naomi-hutchinson-dancing-well-embodiment-wellness-through-movement-and-mindfulness/18044837/2026-02-26T12>



THE MOST LOVED CONTEST IS NOW LIVE!

Voting runs

February 9th - March 13th!

- Free for Santa Monica businesses to participate.
 - Powered by real community votes.
- Citywide recognition across print & digital.

For more information on the contest, please contact:

dina@smdp.com & maya@smdp.com

