



TRAVELERS wait in line Friday at a TSA checkpoint at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. MICHAEL NAGLE/Bloomberg

## Social media verdicts signal changes ahead

Companies are likely to face a wave of lawsuits like those in L.A. and New Mexico.

By SONJA SHARP

Two of America's largest tech companies suffered stunning defeats in court this week, sustaining early jolts in what could prove to be a seismic shift in how social media operates amid a new landscape of legal risk.

Meta and Google both vowed to appeal verdicts that were handed down by civil juries in Los Angeles County and Santa Fe, N.M., brushing off the losses as a bit of bad luck. But attorney Mark Lanier framed the surprise victory in L.A. for his client — who alleged Instagram and YouTube were designed to be addictive for young users — as nothing short of a cosmic triumph.

"You've seen the photographs of Atlas with the world on his shoulders — it's like that weight's been set aside," Lanier said. "This is a righteous moment."

Few experts believed the test case would succeed.

Fewer still thought it would spark a reckoning for the tech titans this spring.

But things began to tilt on Feb. 27, the day after 20-year-old plaintiff Kaley G.M. testified in Los Angeles, when a Delaware court ruled insurers were off the hook for the defense of Instagram parent company Meta in her suit and thousands of related cases claiming social media apps hurt kids.

Then, on Tuesday, a New Mexico panel awarded \$375 million in damages against Meta for child engagement. Less than 24 hours after that, 12 Angelinos delivered \$6 million to Kaley G.M.

Now, some predict the constellation of rulings could change the fate of social media and rewrite the future of American tort law.

"This is what we've all been hoping for," said Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist and author of "The Anxious Generation." "If we can win on social media, I think humanity has a chance."

A Jeremiah figure among millennial and Gen X parents for his warnings of impending social media doom and ruin, Haidt didn't mince. [See Verdict, A8]

## Trump signs order to pay TSA workers

President's action comes after House rejects Senate-passed bill to end shutdown.

By LISA MASCARO AND MARY CLARE JALONICK

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Friday signed a promised executive action that will pay Transportation Security Administration employees, after a deal that sought to do the same was approved in the Senate but blocked in the House.

House Republicans rejected a Senate-passed bill to fund most of the Department of Homeland Security, a revolt that risks delaying a long-term resolution to the funding impasse now in its 42nd day that has created long lines at many of the nation's airports.

"This gambit that was done last night is a joke," House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said Friday.

Johnson said that House Republicans instead would seek to pass a bill that would fund the entire department at current levels until May 22. He also said he had spoken with Trump about the House GOP plan and the president "supports it."

House Republicans are angry that the bill passed early Friday by the Senate does not fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol.

"We're going to do something different," Johnson said, challenging the Senate to take up the House's continuing resolution on Monday, assuming it does pass the House, which is uncertain.

Democrats refused to fund those departments without changes to immigration enforcement practices. They had proposed several bills in recent days to fund other parts of the Department of Homeland Security, including TSA. But Republicans had rejected them until relenting in the Senate vote after midnight.

After the House GOP rejected the bill, Trump signed the executive action he had announced a day earlier.

"America's air travel system has reached its breaking point," Trump said in the memo authorizing the payments. He added, "I have determined that these circumstances constitute an emergency situation compromising the Nation's security."

Trump said his administration would use "funds that have a reasonable and logical nexus to TSA opera- [See TSA, A6]

## U.S. investigating bias in med school admissions

Justice Department demands years of racial data from UC San Diego, Stanford.

By JAWEED KALEEM

The Trump administration is investigating whether two prominent California medical schools, UC San Diego and Stanford, engaged in racial discrimination in admissions and has demanded they submit students' personal and academic data in less than a

month or potentially face damaging federal funding cuts.

In letters to the schools as well as to Ohio State University, Department of Justice Assistant Atty. Gen. Harmeet K. Dhillon said investigations "will focus on possible race discrimination in medical school admissions" and said officials have until April 24 to turn over seven years of admissions data.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in research grant funding from the National Institutes of Health is potentially at risk. In 2025, the NIH

allocated about \$36 billion to universities, much of it to medical school researchers. The institute distributed \$575 million to Stanford, \$427 million to UC San Diego and \$210 million to Ohio State University.

The information requested Wednesday includes information about students' race, Medical College Admission Test scores, undergraduate grade point averages, home address, ZIP Codes, citizenship status, admission essays, and whether they are legacy admits or have family who do- [See Probe, A6]

## Cartel violence south, deportation fears north

Californians anxiously track relatives in Jalisco state

By RUBEN VIVES

Two days after Mexican forces killed the leader of the Jalisco New Generation cartel last month, Gladys Uribe was in her California home, anxiously tracking her parents' movements in Mexico.

The capture and death of the world's most wanted drug trafficker — Nemesio Rubén "El Mencho" Osaguera Cervantes — triggered a violent retaliation that spread from Jalisco to other states, leaving highways blocked, businesses

and vehicles burned, and 25 members of the Mexican national guard dead.

The eruption of violence lasted little more than a day, but it rattled much of Los Angeles, where ties run deep to Jalisco, and many Jaliscienses and their descendants are bracing for more chaos in their homeland as rivals in the fractured cartel vie for power.

Tens of thousands of Angelenos worry about family in Jalisco, while those in the U.S. without documentation fear getting swept up in President Trump's immigration crackdown and sent

back to a place where deportees are often targets of the cartels.

Uribe frantically monitored the uprising on Feb. 22 through texts, video calls and social media.

Her parents, aunt and uncle, who were in Jalisco, have since returned to the U.S., but she and other families dread a bloody power struggle in the cartel like the one that claimed many civilian lives when the Sinaloa cartel fractured in 2024.

"In the short term, I do think that things will grow more violent," Uribe said. "In [See Jalisco, A7]

## Sighting of 8-foot great white is just the start

As El Niño nears, get ready for a 'very sharky summer,' expert says

By Clara Harter



ERIC MAILANDER

A JUVENILE great white swims in Monterey Bay in June 2024. Warmer climes affect shark behavior.

An 8-foot great white shark was spotted circling a surfer in Newport Beach on Thursday afternoon, triggering an immediate shutdown of the nearby shoreline, authorities said.

With unseasonably warm weather and the start of an El Niño cycle, Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab Director Chris Lowe predicts this sighting is just the start of a "very sharky summer."

Lifeguards with the Newport Beach Fire Department spotted the sizable — though still juvenile — shark in the waters off 35th Street around 1:15 p.m. and ordered everyone out of the water within a two-mile range. The Newport Beach Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Department were notified, and a surveillance vessel was requested. The beach was reopened by 5:45 p.m.

"Shark sightings are rare along our coastline," the Fire Department said in a statement before the beach was reopened. "When observed, these animals are typically transiting through the area. [See Sharks, A8]



KAYLA BARTKOWSKI/Los Angeles Times

MARY RODEE, second from left, calls family to update them on Wednesday's verdict in Los Angeles.

## More ballots seized by Riverside sheriff

GOP gubernatorial hopeful Chad Bianco escalates a fight with state attorney general.

By GRACE TOOHEY

The Riverside County sheriff, who is a leading Republican candidate for governor, this week seized even more ballots from last November's election, part of an escalating crusade to look into unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud — much to the alarm of state law enforcement officials and election integrity watchdogs.

According to the new court filings, Sheriff Chad Bianco seized an additional 426 boxes of ballot materials from county elections offi-

cials on Tuesday, expanding the cache of election materials the sheriff plans to review in what he has called a "fact-finding mission" to determine if votes were fraudulently counted. Last month, his department seized more than 650,000 ballots — from about 1,000 boxes — cast in Riverside County in the November election for Proposition 50, which temporarily redrew the state's congressional districts to favor Democrats.

The move pits Bianco at further odds with California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, who has called on the sheriff to halt the investigation, citing legal and ethical concerns, including how the probe "sets a dangerous precedent and will only sow distrust in our elections."

In a new lawsuit related [See Bianco, A7]

### As war rages, Trump regales

President strikes a flip-pant tone as Iran conflict enters fifth week. Ten more U.S. troops are injured. **WORLD, A3**

### LAUSD staffer accused of scam

Worker took millions in kickbacks in biggest such scheme in district history, prosecutors allege. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
Partly sunny; warm.  
L.A. Basin: 83/60. **B8**

**Markets** ..... **A11**



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JAMES GILBERT/TGL Golf

### Woods arrested after car crash

The golf icon is held on suspicion of DUI and property damage near his Florida home. He is unhurt. **SPORTS, B9**

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