

DailyPlanet

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Where heroes are born and the story continues

@DailyPlanetDC

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

WHAT 2024 HAS IN STORE FOR US

Here are our goals for the new year

By Zack Benz
Daily Planet Editor-in-chief

2023 was a tumultuous year for me. My employer went through a lot of changes, so my job took a lot out of me. It was demanding, but it did grant me the opportunity to reconnect with my roots and allowed me the chance to better understand myself and where I want the Daily Planet to go in 2024.

We pitched the Daily Planet Proposal to DC Comics one final time before the publishing giant shot us down and started their own fiction based version on their own website. That was a major blow. I took it so personally. I held such hope that they'd work with us considering I was in communications with them since 2020 about establishing our Daily Planet as a legitimate news organization under their publishing umbrella.

We also lost a lot of momentum with contributors. Podcasts were ever abundant, but written submissions saw a steady decline mostly due to my own lack of time during such a turbulent year. I felt like a failure every time someone left. I just was so busy in 2023 and sucked at managing my time. I had very little free time to manage anyway, and most of the time I did possess was spent with loved ones and on healthcare.

All of these feelings of self contempt came back to the surface this year as I worked diligently on the Daily Planet. The publication went through a lot. There was a lot of good, but there was also bad and I almost called it quits on more than one occasion. My therapist pointed out that I slowed my momentum on the Planet because I felt like I didn't deserve it to be real. I was self sabotaging. She was right.

But this year will be different.



The Lumen Technologies Building in Downtown Minneapolis as the proposed Daily Planet Building. Photo morphing by Zack Benz

Up, up, and away: Future goals for the Daily Planet

The first annual business meeting

The publication went through a lot. There was a lot of good, but there was also bad and we almost called it quits on more than one occasion. But this year will be different. Here's what to expect from the Daily Planet in 2024.

The new year kicked off with an historic occasion for the Daily Planet, and for me personally.

A group of 10 people who I care for, of whom I respect and value their opinions, joined me in Downtown Minneapolis at a restaurant called "The News Room" for our first ever annual business meeting. It's nothing groundbreaking. I invited this "Kryptonian Council" together for one simple reason — to figure

out how the hell can I establish the Planet as an actual news organization without DC Comics. I couldn't think of a better group. They don't all know each other, but I have a feeling so much greatness will come from this conversation over dinner. My hopes are high. I want the Daily Planet to be real.

I'm holding onto a lot for this year, and in an effort to hold myself accountable, I'm sharing it all for everyone to see. The added public pressure is reassuring. It helps keep me motivated for the future. We want this to work. I need this to work. So here it is. A complete list of everything we're going to accomplish in this very short year.

Online Edition revival

2023 saw the tenth year for our Online Editions, which were ultimately the birthplace of this website. Due to my own personal issues, I let these digital ones fall out of circulation. They're an iconic form of media that many can recognize as the broadsheet seen in Superman titles.

I'm hoping to publish one Online Edition every week on Sunday's to highlight the past week's headlines, like I have done so in the past. It'll be a fun and visual way to boost the work of our contributors while also immortalizing important words in a historic format.

Seasonal Magazine

Once upon a time we published a bi-annual magazine. Of course, when I say publish, I mean to the website because we are a free enterprise and can't afford to mass publish these ourselves. Anyway, it's my hope to start pushing out seasonal magazines that will encapsulate important cultural events four times a year.

Our first ever Winter Magazine will see the digital news stand in February, so please contribute an article if you feel compelled to share something of significance to you! The Spring Issue will likely be completed in or around April, the Summer one in June, and the Autumn issue in October.

Siegel & Shuster Award of Excellence

One thing that I'm super excited to bring back this year is our Siegel & Shuster Award of Excellence. This reader's choice award celebrated work from contributors nominated by the Editor-in-chief in 2020 and 2021.

I'm hoping to revive this fun community centric experience, but with a twist. The entire Daily Planet Board team, who will attended the aforementioned first annual business meeting, will nominate candidates.

Open to the public digital news room meetings

All constant contributors and collaborators once joined a digital newsroom setting via discord and I hope to get that form of communication up and running again. However, I want it to be public this time. I want people to feel that they are always welcome to come and voice their concerns.

The connections will be closely monitored by me, and the channel for communication is not quite established yet. However, I hope to hold our first ever meeting on Sunday, January 7, at 7 PM Central US time. I'm hoping to have one every week after that. Keep an eye on our socials for those updates.

More quality content... I mean reporting

When I got to tour the Star Tribune Newsroom for my 30th birthday this past year, I spoke with one of their journalists and friend Kim Hyatt about the word "content." We both absolutely attest the term. It's often used to compel creators and writers to produce something daily. With that pressure comes the lack of quality reporting.

It is my goal for 2024 to achieve quality reports on things that matter around the world. This includes ALL things. Our

multimedia section at the Daily Planet is thriving. We help push phenomenal videos and podcasts almost daily and I'm beyond in love there. I want to establish this same formula elsewhere too.

Our actual written reporting sections have fallen out of orbit and I wish to pull it back in. I want more coverage on news, politics, opinion, culture, food and more and I will strive every day to accomplish this goal.

James Gunn provides production update on 'Superman: Legacy'

"It's going swimmingly. Sets being built, costumes being finished, actors studying roles, prosthetics and VFX models being made, flights booked. Here we go."

—James Gunn on Threads

"Superman: Legacy" is slated for release on July 11, 2025.

By Zack Benz
Daily Planet Editor-in-chief

"Superman: Legacy" director James Gunn has recently given fans an update on the anticipated comic book movie's casting and preproduction.

Earlier this week, Gunn was asked on Threads if he could give any updates the movie's production. The director responded that

the process is going "swimmingly" while also saying sets are being built, costumes are being finished, and so on.

"It's going swimmingly," Gunn stated. "Sets being built, costumes being finished, actors studying roles, prosthetics and VFX models being made, flights booked. Here we go."

The titular role of Clark Kent / Superman in "Superman: Legacy" is being played by David Corenswet ("Pearl," "The Politi-

cian"), while Lois Lane will be played by "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" star Rachel Brosnahan.

They're joined by Nicholas Hoult as Lex Luthor, Skyler Gisondo as Jimmy Olsen, Maria Gabriela De Faria, Sara Sampaio, Isabela Merced as Hawkgirl, Nathan Fillion as Green Lantern, Edi Gathegi as Mister Terrific, Anthony Carrigan as Metamorpho and more. The film is slated to release on July 11, 2025.

Planet finds first board of directors

By Zack Benz
Daily Planet Editor-in-chief

I'm having trouble finding the words, which puts me in quite the sticky wicket when trying to reiterate what took place last night in Downtown Minneapolis.

I've been striving for one major goal for what seems like a lifetime, and that's to make the Daily Planet a legitimate news organization. To summarize: I want the Daily Planet to exist in the real world, and last night it did.

Late last year I asked a few close friends to join me in a roundtable discussion for this past Friday, Jan. 5, 2024. I wanted to hear their thoughts on how to go from here since DC Comics shot down my Daily Planet proposal almost a year ago. That blow hit me hard, and I spiraled into depression and the publication floundered.

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Consider contributing to the Daily Planet

Consider contributing your creations and works with the Planet! DailyPlanetDC.com is modeled to be a multimedia news organization centered on community voices and values the multiverse of subjects, opinions and mediums the world has to offer. Visit our website for more information



USA Hockey selects Twin Cities to host 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship

USA Hockey has selected the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to host the 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship. The 50th anniversary championship is set for Dec. 26, 2025 – Jan. 5, 2026.

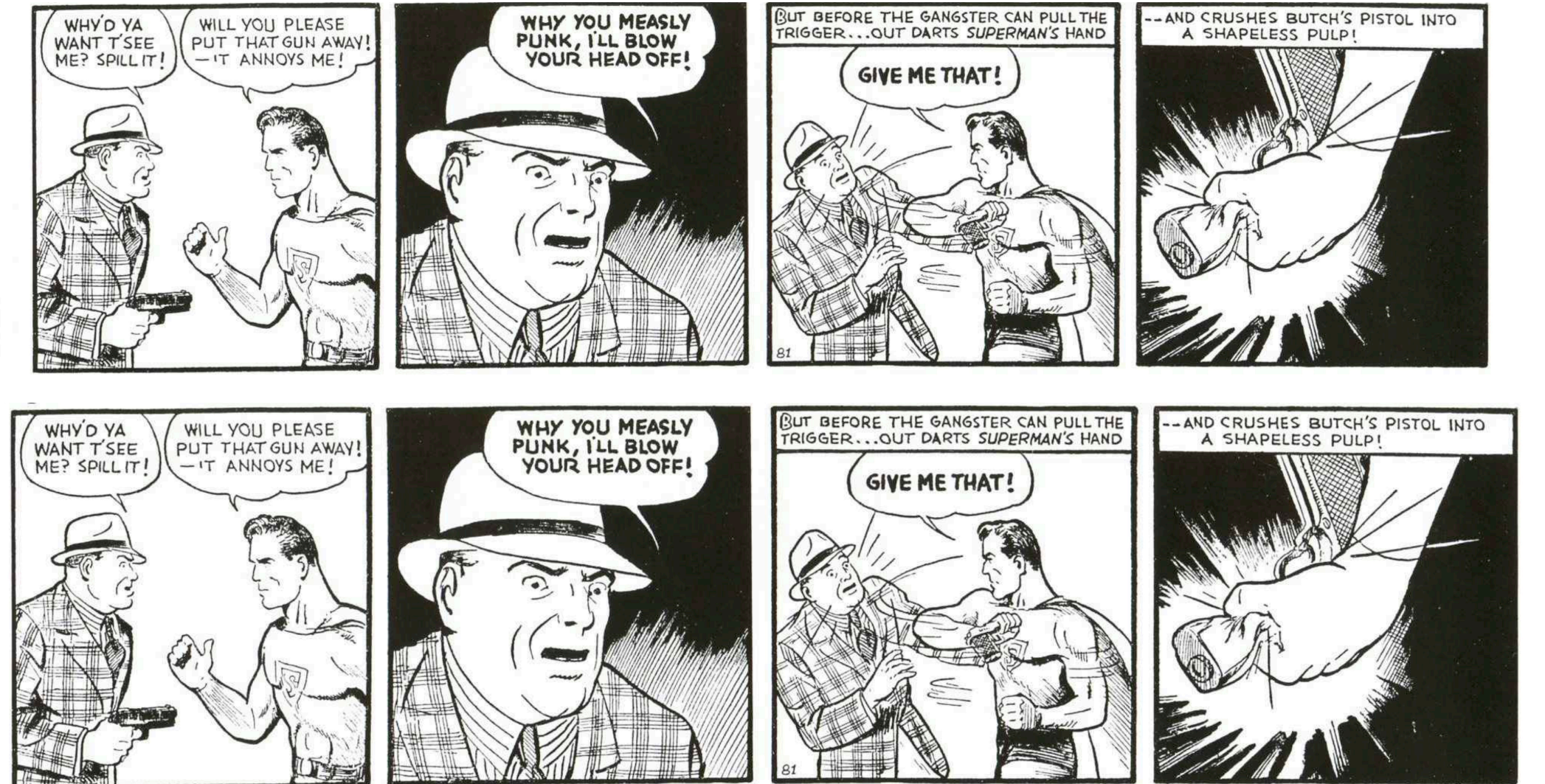
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Japan earthquake death toll exceeds 100, with hundreds still missing

FAA temporarily grounds 170 Boeing 737 Max 9s after Alaska Air panel blows out

Colorado officer sentenced to 14 months in jail in killing of Elijah McClain

The Dailies — By Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster



Continued from last edition.

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Email newsletters and a stronger social media presence

I once took great pride in the Daily Planet's twitter account but neglected all other forms of social media. This past year I've been paid to manage social pages and I've learned a lot.

I'm hoping to push more of what matters, and more of what's submitted to us, out into the digital spectrum. 2024 will be a year of gradual growth and revival for the Daily Planet and this is the way to accomplish that.

Target state: 2025 and beyond

Like the Daily Planet in comics, our goal is to house our headquarters in a beautifully adorned building crowned by an enormous golden globe.

This is the last step in mind because it's ultimately the people that matter. So that's why I thought of this target state for 2025 and beyond.

The Daily Planet Target State is a planned forecast for success. It documents the company's hopes for the future and depicts the course of events that would need to take place in order for that to happen.

Phase 1: Project Planet

Phase 1 is simple. The Daily Planet is already built, so phase one consists of making the multimedia organization financially self-sustaining. This would be accomplished through publication permissions from DC Comics, or through other means. After completing all the legalities, the Daily Planet will begin accepting ad revenue and generate an income.

Phase 1 would start with a handful of full-time employees. The Editor-in-chief, Executive Editor, Executive Producer, Creative Director and Chief Financial Officer. These employees would become the Daily Planet's executive team.

Phase 2: Welcome to the Planet

Phase 2 would commence after a successful phase 1. After a time of garnered financial stability, the Daily Planet Executive Board would branch out their individual

teams to accomplish further growth.

Each team would grow organically and on their own merits, but the growth would not be permitted without the Editor-in-chief and Publisher's permission.

Phase 3: Where heroes are born and the story continues

Phase 3 is the final step before complete success. In this phase growth would continue to commence, but respect and reputation is the main focal point. Our growing team would generate such quality content that the Daily Planet would become a respected and reputable news source for the world.

Phase 4: The Daily Planet Building

This is possibly the most difficult phase in this plan. The Daily Planet Building would be the final step in complete success. Of course the Planet would continue to grow and strive for the best after this, just as any organization does, but for the founding phase plan, this is the end.

For years the Daily Planet Building has stood as a symbol of truth for the fans of DC Comics, and having a physical attraction in the real world reflect that would be a huge gain for the Daily Planet and DC Comics.

Thanks to all for the continued support as we continue to grow. This dream of mine has meant a lot to me, to my family, to strangers and I'm forever grateful. See you tomorrow.

USA Hockey selects Twin Cities to host 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship

USA Hockey announced Friday that the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, will serve as host of the 2026 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Hockey Championship. The 10-nation tournament features the best men's players in the world under 20 years of age, and the 29 games of the championship take place over 10 days.

The 2026 event marks the 50th anniversary of the IIHF World Junior Championship. Xcel Energy Center, home of the NHL's Minnesota Wild in Saint Paul, and 3M Arena at Mariucci on the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis, will serve as the competition venues.

"We're excited to bring this 50th anniversary edition of the World Juniors to the state of hockey," said Pat Kelleher, executive director of USA Hockey. "We know the teams and fans are in for a first-class experience at world-class venues. I'd also like to publicly thank the other finalist cities for the significant time they spent in putting together proposals. In the end, it was an extremely difficult decision."

"We're grateful to USA Hockey and the organizers from Minnesota," said Luc Tardif, presi-

dent of the International Ice Hockey Federation. "Minnesota is rich with hockey history, and it will be a most appropriate setting to host the 50th anniversary of this great championship."

"Minnesota is thrilled to host the 2026 World Junior Hockey Championship – another major sporting event that brings excitement and an economic boost to the state," said Tim Walz, Governor of the state of Minnesota. "We look forward to welcoming teams and fans from across the globe and showing everyone what it means to be the State of Hockey."

"It's really an honor to be selected," said Wendy Blackshaw, president and CEO of Minnesota Sports and Events, who along with the Minnesota Wild, University of Minnesota and Xcel Energy Center partnered to bring the event to Minnesota. "We're excited about welcoming the world to the Twin Cities and to showcase the players in the event, many who will go on to star in the NHL. Our goal is very simple and that's to stage the best World Juniors ever held in the United States."

The 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship will mark just the seventh time the U.S. has hosted the event.



The first official *Daily Planet* meeting took place in Downtown Minneapolis at the newspaper themed restaurant, The News Room. In attendance from left to right: Morgan Campbell, Rachel Frederiksen, Abbie Wells, Zack Benz, Kasey Schlichte, Suenary Philavanh, Brianna Taggart, Ellie Gerst, and Emmalee Rabe.

BOARD
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I had been frequently contacting DC Comics since 2020 about my idea for a while in which they'd respond stating the idea was interesting and they'd look it over, but they finally said no right before creating their own version based in the comic book world. But I digress.

I found myself in an extremely emotional state as I discussed my Daily Planet proposal in front of some of my closest friends Friday night at the News Room restaurant in Minneapolis. They each brought something special to the table. They also each brought insightful ideas that I wasn't expecting but definitely appreciated.

Honesty is the best policy

I believe being perfectly candid during this entire process is absolutely essential. Our transparency equates to honesty and we want a complete record of things going forward. What better place to keep said record than right here on the Daily Planet website?

This will be the first of many articles highlighting the progress the Daily Planet makes.

Quarterly meetings

The Daily Planet Board of Directors, which was established at Friday night's meeting, will meet quarterly or once every season. We'll continue discussing the process of establishment and share progress made throughout the previous quarter.

Seek out legal advice

One of the first steps discussed was seeking out legal

advice. I have to find ways to maintain the Daily Planet's name and feel that I've already established since I didn't get official permission to monetize from DC Comics, who is the proposed copyright holder for the Planet.

I did get written confirmation from DC legal head Jay Kogen to continue to publish as long as I reiterate that we are not affiliated with the comic book powerhouse nor its parent company Warner Bros. Discovery.

I have no idea the implications associated with such a response so everyone present at the Daily Planet's meeting on Friday agreed that this was the necessary first step before anything else.

Research copyright process

I've researched who owns copyright of the Daily Planet name in the past and I'm honestly confused by my results. According to the U.S. Copyright Office's online database, there are over 50 copyrighted materials associated with the title of Daily Planet, and not all of them are owned by DC Comics.

I am in no way a legal expert, and I am in no way copyright inclined, so my best bet going forward is asking for help from someone who is. I could also contact the copyright office directly to learn straight from the source.

Honesty is the best policy

This suggestion really stung. The current brand for the Daily Planet is heavily influenced by "Smallville" and "Superman: The Movie." It's officially the logo for Zack Snyder's DC Comics Cinematic Universe as it's derived from "Batman vs Superman" with some not-so-subtle tweaks. I'm obsessed with the ribbon

clad globe. So any thought of having to develop a new look cuts me to my core.

However, in doing so we would differentiate ourselves from DC Comics. They don't own Engraver's Old English font, so the masthead text would stay the same. I want it to. But the logo would have to go unless we're publishing under DC's umbrella.

I will be developing a brand and marketing study in the coming months to better figure out what to create. Articles will be coming in the near future with polls and suggestion opportunities where the public can weigh in on this opportunity. I'm reluctant but hopeful as hell.

Content plan, strategy, and volume

A strategic plan of action was thought up by all involved in Friday night's meeting. Here are some of the highlights.

Social media

A highlight from the Daily Planet's first official business meeting, which I will now be referring to as the first ever Board of Directors meeting, was the need for better social media posts.

TikToks and Reels are the name of the game in this day and age, and we need to be more present in order to get our story and mission out there.

I am in no way an extrovert, so I'm partnering with a few members of the board to better establish this online presence. We've also decided to reach out to a few other influencers who report the news to learn all we can from them. This is important to me because there's no competition when it comes to news. In an age of instant information, being the first to a story can sometimes mean that you fumble the ball. What news organiza-

tions should do is boost each other up, use each other as sources rather than bog each other down by trying to be the first.

Community outreach

This will be difficult for this introvert but I'm willing to push through it for the Daily Planet. For the first few years of inception for the Daily Planet, we did not have a base of operations. This also meant we had no communal identity to better personalize us. In some ways this was beneficial. It helped give people around the world a way to connect with the Planet. But now that we've grown, we need a home base and that's Minneapolis.

In an effort to have more of a presence, I will be conducting different outreach programs to connect with the community the Daily Planet is a part of. I'll not only be doing on the street reports, but I'll also be applying to be a part of community events like Pride and art fairs.

Continuing to publish

The Daily Planet has had no difficulties in this area. We publish stories, editorials, opinions and so much more in the form of podcasts, videos and articles. I want to continue this commitment while also bringing back some pieces from the past.

Like I said in our 2024 commitment article, we'll be reviving our digital "print" (you print at home) section with consistent online editions and seasonal magazines. We're also going to bring back the Siegel & Shuster Awards for our collaborators and contributors.

Interested in being a part of this project? Consider joining us by contributing articles, ideas and your own creations! Visit our contribution page to see how you can get involved. You can also contact us here.