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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY
02.14.20
Volume 19 Issue 80

Trump Love
It's a four letter word.
Page 6

Metro Crime decline
Crime has dropped on public transit.
Page 11

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City of Santa Monica workers protest stalled pension, healthcare negotiations



Madeleine Pauker

PROTEST: About 100 city workers protested stalled negotiations over healthcare and pensions.

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

City of Santa Monica workers picketed the mayor's annual State of the City address Wednesday over cuts to healthcare and pensions.

About 100 workers represented by the Teamsters union held a demonstration outside of the Soka Gakkai International Ikeda Auditorium in downtown Santa Monica Wednesday evening to protest contract negotiations with the city that have stalled for more than a year.

"This demonstration is how we peacefully express our discontent," said Carlos Rubio, a Teamsters Local 911 negotiator. "We want to be heard and we want city leaders to stand with workers who take care of our city."

As he tries to balance a budget weighed down by a $448 million unfunded pension liability, City Manager Rick Cole is asking 1,800 employees to contribute more of their earnings to their healthcare and pension plans, Rubio said.

CalPERS, the state's public employee retirement system, fell into crisis during the Great Recession and left municipalities around the state with deep gaps between the pensions they had promised workers and the value of CalPERS' assets.

Santa Monica is one of the only cities in California that has

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 11

Three thousand local marijuana convictions dismissed

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Three years after recreational marijuana became legal in California, Santa Monica prosecutors dismissed 3,000 misdemeanor cannabis convictions Thursday as part of a countywide move to bring relief to communities of color who disproportionately suffered the consequences of the state's drug laws.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office this week asked a Los Angeles Superior Court judge to dismiss 62,000 felony cannabis convictions for cases that date back to 1961 as well as about 4,000 misdemeanor cannabis possession cases in 10 cities across the county. The action will impact 53,000 individuals, about 45% of whom are Latino and 32% of whom are Black.

In Santa Monica, 3,000 misdemeanor convictions dating back to the 1940s will be cleared, said city spokesperson Constance Farrell.

"By working with the District Attorney to dismiss misdemeanor cannabis possession cases, the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office joins offices across L.A. County in reducing barriers to housing and employment and continuing steps toward criminal justice policy that truly provides public safety for all," Santa Monica City Attorney Lane Dilg said in a statement.

SEE **CONVICTIONS** PAGE 7

Trump's Western swing to highlight Olympics, 2020 campaign

ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump will be briefed on preparations for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles and raise millions for his reelection campaign next week as part of a three-day, four-state swing to Western states.

The White House says Trump will also discuss water supply and delivery issues in California, and speak at a graduation ceremony for prisoners in Las Vegas. Trump will hold campaign rallies in Phoenix and Colorado Springs, Colorado., as well as fundraisers in Beverly Hills and Rancho Mirage, California.

The trip is his first to the West since his State of the Union address last week. It comes as he is stepping up his campaign activity before the November election and as pro-Trump groups raised a combined $60 million in January, shattering fundraising records.

The rallies will take him to two states with vulnerable Republican senators — Cory Gardner of Colorado and Martha McSally of

SEE **CAMPAIGN** PAGE 11


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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Auditorium – East Wing, (wheelchair accessible)
1855 Main Street, Santa Monica

PROPERTIES:

- 19ARB-0560: 601 Colorado Avenue: Mixed-Use
- 19ARB-0557: 1925 Arizona Avenue: Signs

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):
None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Streamlining the Architectural Review Board Process (Continued from February 3, 2020)

More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail james.combs@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid #10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall and the Civic Auditorium. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize.



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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, February 14

Fireside at the Miles - A Valentines Evening where Dance meets Music
45 minutes of dance choreographed by Angela Todaro and an hour of music presented by Petty Chavez will provide a beautiful evening by the fire. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets available online at https://www.eventbrite.com/o/santa-monica-cultural-affairs-28633534451

Music and Movement at the Library
A musical story time that will have little ones singing and dancing along as they learn important early literacy concepts. Fairview Branch Library, 3:30 - 4 p.m.

LA Law Library QuickLook Legal Research Class
LA Law Library legal research specialists teach free, monthly 45-minute overviews of legal information search tools and techniques as part of their regular "office hours" visits.*www.lalawlibrary.org/CLASSES. Topic: Small Claims. Main Library.

Voter Registration & Election Information
The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica provides on-site voter registration and answers questions about LA County's new voting procedures for the 2020 elections. 12 - 3 p.m. Main Library.

VITA Tax Assistance
UCLA provides free federal and state income tax assistance for low to moderate income, seniors and disabled individuals. Pre-registration is recommended (www.vitaucla.org), assistance is given on a first come basis. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Montana Avenue Branch Library.

Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group
This book group reads and discusses prize-winning fiction. The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 'The Testament of Mary' by Colm Toibin. Ocean Park Branch Library

Get Started with 3D Printing
Learn the basics of 3D printing and design by completing a guided project. To register, email ideashappen@smgov.net at least one week prior to event. For adults and teens. Fairview Branch Library 11 a.m.

Saturday, February 15

Hollywood Revisited
A most glamorous and fun show, Hollywood Revisited, will be performed at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine by the Sea Episcopal Church at 1227 4th Street. Featuring Broadway singers wearing the actual costumes worn by the great stars of Hollywood and singing music from the Golden Age of Hollywood. This promises to be an evening of stunning fashion and great music and lots of humor. Tickets can be purchased at the door for $20 adults/$10 students.

Fireside at the Miles - The Joe & Joshua Show
Joe and Joshua are back to make you laugh! An evening of theater that mixes sketch comedy, music and honest storytelling. Stage Raw calls it, "sharp, satirical, and often incisive, providing both laughs and food for thought." 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets for sale at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-joe-joshua-show-tickets-84653243129

Costumed Movement with Mimi Haddon & Cody Brunelle-Potter
Photographer and Costume Artist Mimi Haddon and Movement and Fiber Artist Cody Brunelle-Potter collaborate on a series of sculptural movement workshops at The Camera Obscura Art Lab. No dance experience required. Materials will be provided. Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear. 1450 Ocean, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. $5

Master Gardeners at the Market
Master Gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to gardening problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. The Master Gardeners of Los Angeles visit the Pico Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month 9:30 am - Noon. Virginia Avenue Park

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

Review: Why wait? 'Sonic the Hedgehog' worth rushing to see

MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

If the Hollywood mantra for making blockbusters is "faster, faster, faster," then the creators of "Sonic the Hedgehog" have wisely ignored it.

The little blue alien who can sprint quicker than the speed of light has ironically benefited from slowing it down, taking a pit stop to retool and emerge this month as a total crowd-pleaser.

Respectful of the rich history of the brand and yet welcoming to newcomers, " Sonic the Hedgehog " is a feel-good buddy movie for both adults and their own little aliens. "Nailed it!" screams Sonic at one point and that might be a fitting summary for the film.

Director Jeff Fowler has been entrusted on his feature film debut with bringing to life the ball of super CGI energy, whose origins lie in Sega video games. But things didn't look too good when a trailer dropped last April that portrayed Sonic as more rat-like with creepy human teeth. . An outcry led to the film being delayed for a reset, resulting in a Sonic with a sleeker design, larger eyes and fewer chompers.

While there's no way to give a side-by-side comparison, the film that emerges portrays Sonic as a cute, naive teenager, prone to saying very 2020 things like "I am living my best life" and "I can't with that guy." He has fled his own planet with a warning to "never stop running" and a twist on the "Spider-Man" proverb: "With great power comes great power-hungry bad guys."

In the script by Pat Casey and Josh Miller, Sonic is naturally attracted to fast things — "Flash" comic books and the movie "Speed" (Keanu Reeves is "a natural treasure," declares our heroic blue guy, one of many lines that will go over your little ones' heads.)

Reeves isn't the only celebrity to get a shout-out: Vin Diesel, Will Smith and Obi-Wan Kenobi are all invoked for laughs. Amazon and Olive Garden also get some love. There's a weird urban-versus-rural tension throughout, with the scriptwriters clearly putting their fingers on the scale against life in the big city. One great sequence ends with everyone agreeing on a common enemy: hipsters.

The plot isn't too far from the classic "ET" or the more modern "Bumblebee" — an alien lands on Earth to hide and soon must team up with a kindly human (James Marsden, in a very Marsden groove) to escape the clutches of evil government scientists who want to dissect it.

In this case, Jim Carrey dons a Civil War mustache and a black full-length leather coat to play the baddie Dr. Robotnik as only he can — ultra-arch, absolutely unhinged and dangerously unpredictable. "You know what I love about machines? They do what they're told," he snarls. Carrey has his own insane dance sequence that will make you spit out your popcorn.

Sonic, voiced by Ben Schwartz, is sweet and funny and self-aware. He does The Floss. He farts. He wears gloves, socks and sneakers but points out "I'm not even wearing pants." He discovers what a bucket list is and instantly wants to do all kinds of stuff, including start a bar fight. "You two are so cute," a woman tells Marsden and Sonic. They protest: They're loose cannons. (OK, very cute loose cannons).

The non-human one goes fast, to be sure. A radar gun clocks him at 300 mph but later in the film he moves so fast he stops time, zipping around while everyone is as still as a statue. The filmmakers have also added an excellent, propulsive soundtrack, which includes X Ambassadors, Queen and the Wiz Khalifa-led "Speed Me Up." (Steal it for your workout playlist.)

There are references to the video game throughout, including a sequence in which Dr. Robotnik chases Sonic through Paris, up the Egyptian pyramids, and along the Great Wall of China. Green Hill is where the creature ends up on Earth — echoing a key level in the game — and we learn he hates mushrooms, a frequent Sonic touchstone.

So much thought has been put into the film that at the very beginning the Paramount logo substitutes its regular stars for Sonic's golden rings. A potential sequel is set-up during the end credits — as well as the glimpse of a familiar creature that fans are sure to get excited about. The filmmakers might not have rushed making this film, but that's no reason for you to press the brakes now.

"Sonic the Hedgehog," a Paramount Pictures release, is rated PG for action, some violence, rude humor and brief mild language. Running time: 99 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 32 CALLS ON FEB. 12

EMS 2600blk Main St 12:44 a.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pl 1:07 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 7th St 2:17 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 2900blk 2nd St 3:10 a.m.
EMS 200blk San Vicente Blvd 4:25 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 900blk 2nd St 5:00 a.m.
EMS 400blk San Vicente Blvd 6:18 a.m.
EMS 500blk Pier Ave 8:16 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1700blk 9th St 8:51 a.m.
EMS 900blk Harvard St 9:00 a.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 9:21 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 10:10 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 10:27 a.m.
EMS 600blk Pico Blvd 10:44 a.m.
Lock In/Out 1300blk 6th St 10:58 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:02 p.m.
EMS 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:48 p.m.
EMS 1800blk Wilshire Blvd 1:53 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 2:01 p.m.
Bluff Rescue 1200blk Pacific Coast Hwy 3:39 p.m.
EMS 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 4:00 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 500blk Colorado Ave 4:09 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 4:45 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 7th St 5:16 p.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 Franklin St / Lipton Ave 5:18 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 5:35 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 6:20 p.m.
EMS 400blk Lincoln Blvd 6:30 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:15 p.m.
EMS 2500blk 17th St 7:50 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 8:15 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 11:33 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Malibu Applies for 100-Day Challenge to Receive Funds for Measures to Address Homelessness

The City Council voted to apply for the Governor's 100-Day Challenge, a new program to offer California cities and counties the opportunity to receive funds from the State while incentivizing new initiatives to address homelessness, during the February 10, 2020 Council meeting.

"Homelessness is America's worst humanitarian crisis, and it impacts every city, county and state," said Mayor Karen Farrer. "That means that every community, including Malibu, must contribute to the solutions, and the 100-Day Challenge will offer us incentives and assistance so that we can develop some real measures."

The City will apply for the 100-Day Challenge with a Safe Parking Program location in Malibu, where people would be able to sleep safely overnight in vehicles while being required to be enrolled in services. The site would include security and sanitation services. The City Council voted to explore Safe Parking Program locations during a special meeting on homelessness on January 29, 2020.

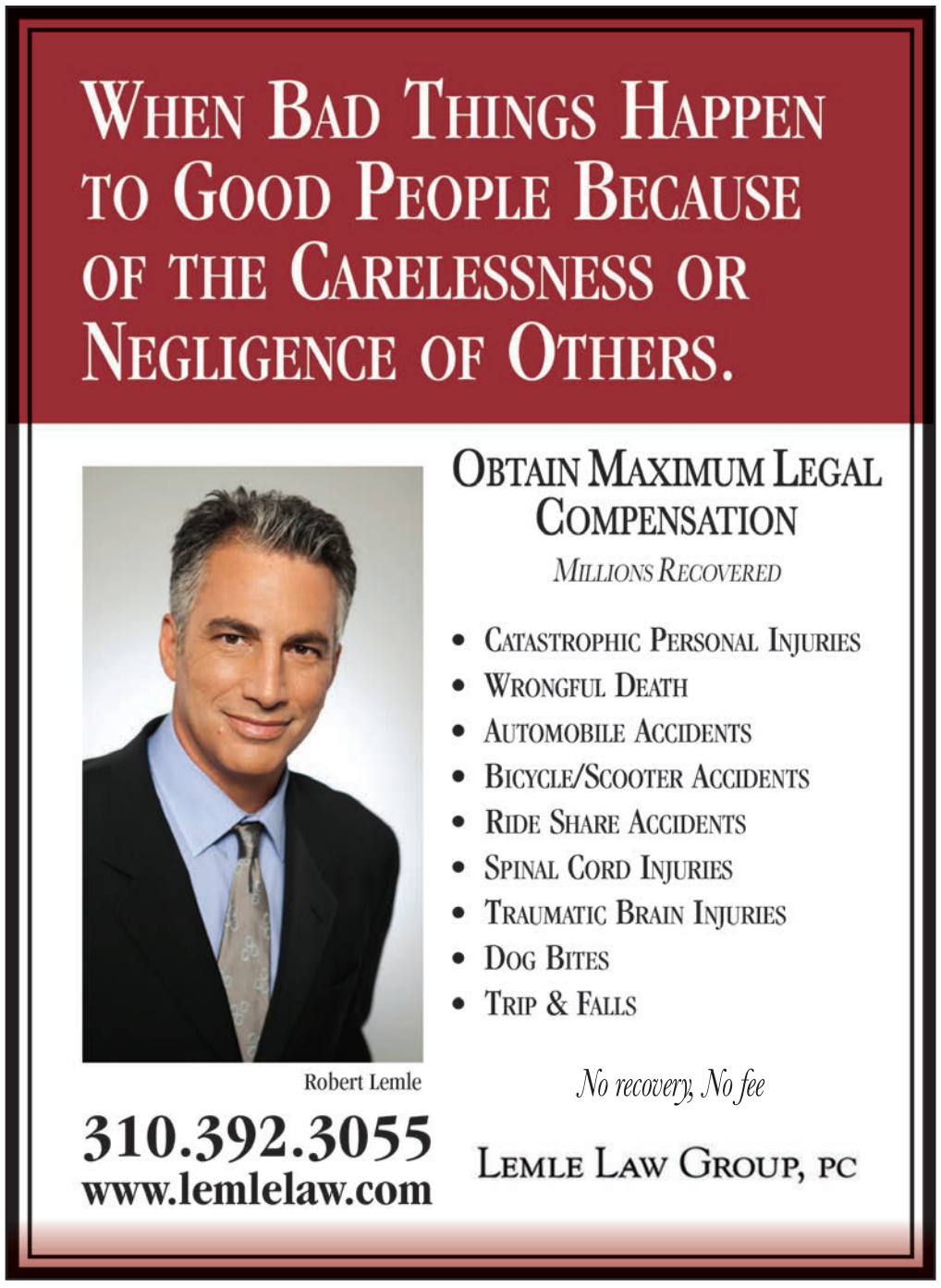
The funding for the 100-Day Challenge comes from Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP), a $650 million one-time block grant that Governor Newsom signed into law in July 2019 that provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination to expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges.

Communities have used the 100-Day Challenge to empower and support their pursuit of ambitious 100-day goals. For example, in 2017, three communities in the State of Washington launched a 100-Day Challenge focused on youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. At the end of 100 days, 615 youth and young adults had transitioned out of homelessness.

The State's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) will help cities to establish collaborative relationships, identify a target population, and implement the 100-Day Challenge in their communities. In the 100-Day Challenge, the local government sets its own goal, such as getting 100 veterans off the streets or building 100 housing units, and if that goal is met, becomes eligible to receive additional money from the HHAP funds.

To learn more about all of the City of Malibu's efforts to address homelessness, including the Homeless Strategic Plan, monthly reports from the People Concern Outreach Team, results from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Homeless Counts, and a link to sign up for e-notification by text and email to stay up to date on meetings and events related to homelessness https://www.malibucity.org/homelessness.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF





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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 296 CALLS ON FEB. 12

Petty Theft Just Occurred 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 12:42 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2900blk Main St 1:46 a.m.
Encampment 1400blk 2nd St 5:06 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 5:14 a.m.
Silent Burglar Alarm 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:21 a.m.
Elder Abuse 2100blk Oak St 7:03 a.m.
Elder Abuse 1400blk 6th St 7:04 a.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 1500blk 2nd St 7:07 a.m.
Construction Noise 1300blk 19th St 7:08 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:18 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 7:21 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 19th St / Broadway 8:03 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400blk 17th St 8:29 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 9th St / Michigan Ave 8:51 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1100blk 11th St 9:04 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1000blk Wilshire Blvd 9:15 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 9:17 a.m.
Alcohol & Beverage Code Violation 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:27 a.m.
Alcohol & Beverage Code Violation 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 9:28 a.m.
Encampment 16th St / Delaware Ave 9:35 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk The Beach 9:48 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk Berkeley St 10:48 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Pearl St 10:54 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1700blk Pearl St 10:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 11:01 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400blk Wilshire Blvd 11:08 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1700blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:16 a.m.
General Parking Problem 800blk Princeton St 11:28 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 11:29 a.m.
Sexual Assault 4th St / Colorado Ave 11:48 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 400blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:54 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 11:55 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500blk Berkeley St 12:11 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1700blk 21st St 12:24 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1100blk 20th St 12:33 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:06 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 1200blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:17 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2000blk Pier Ave 1:35 p.m.
Stakeout 800blk Pico Blvd 1:37 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:51 p.m.
Identity Theft 2900blk Neilson Way 1:55 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 2:04 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 2:05 p.m.
Fraud Report 1600blk 16th St 2:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 2:19 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Just Occurred 800blk Broadway 2:19 p.m.
Elder Abuse 900blk 17th St 2:22 p.m.
Elder Abuse 900blk 17th St 2:23 p.m.
Lost Property 400blk Santa Monica Pier 2:59 p.m.
Burglary Investigation/Walk Through 1900blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:00 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 3:05 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 300blk Broadway 3:27 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 19th St 3:28 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 600blk Colorado Ave 3:28 p.m.
Smoking Violation 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 3:31 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report 2600blk Main St 3:40 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 21st St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:53 p.m.
Prostitution 800blk Pico Blvd 3:57 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 11th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:58 p.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd E 4:02 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 2000blk Ocean Ave 5:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 19th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:05 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 100blk Bay St 5:12 p.m.
Identity Theft 2900blk Neilson Way 5:13 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1200blk Harvard St 5:21 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 6:06 p.m.
Lost Property 3100blk Pico Blvd 6:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk 20th St 6:17 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 6:22 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 6:40 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk 15th St 6:43 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Pico Blvd 6:49 p.m.
Runaway 700blk 18th St 7:37 p.m.
Fitness Permit Violation 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 8:27 p.m.
Encampment 2200blk 3rd St 8:31 p.m.
Living In A Vehicle 3100blk 6th St 9:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:15 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 11:13 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 11:59 p.m.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To Trump Love is Just a Four Letter Word

With Valentine's Day finally here, you could say love is in the air. Or at least, "Love is trending." Sadly for the country, and perhaps the world, Donald Trump apparently doesn't understand the word "love." Seemingly lacking basic human empathy, mocking the disabled being just one example, Trump appears incapable of giving or receiving love. (Though he's very skilled at doling out vicious nicknames of his perceived enemies.)

Recently Trump hosted a National Prayer Breakfast where the subject of love figured prominently. Convened on the first Thursday in February, the tradition began with Eisenhower in 1953. It's always been a place for the chief executive to talk about his faith and a bipartisan opportunity for new friends and old associates, to break bread and forge fellowship in Jesus' name.

But, as he does with almost everything, Trump turned the Prayer Breakfast into a self-aggrandizing political rally. I don't think he even mentioned Jesus' name. He rarely goes to church and on the few occasions he quotes from the bible, Trump mangles the wording so it's obvious he never reads from the holy book. (Why would he, his name is not in there.)

Remember during a press gaggle on the White House lawn when Trump looked toward heaven, and referred to himself as "the Chosen One?" He was telling us that God had chosen him to be our dear leader. (Given his insatiable ego, I'm surprised Trump gave God first billing.)

Instead of demonstrating genuine faith, Trump repeatedly boasts, "I've done more for Christians than any president in history." Trump calls these grandiose statements "truthful hyperbole." (Though"hyperbole" is by definition not truthful.) Other examples include, "I know more than the Generals," "I'm like really rich," and "I'm a stable genius."

But ask yourself, does Warren Buffet crow about his billions? Did Einstein boast about his I.Q.? (I suspect part of Trump's refusal to show his tax returns is he's not the multi-billionaire he claims he is.)

The National Prayer Breakfast has grown steadily over the years – from 400 attendees to close to 4,000. By custom it's a respite from partisan bickering but Trump shattered that tradition with red meat remarks he tossed allies but, in so doing, justifiably offended some prominent faith leaders.

"The Prayer Breakfast is the last place for political attacks on opponents," said Rev. Tom Lambrecht, of the United Methodist magazine Good News. "Our country would benefit from a return to the civility and grace reflected in Jesus' words." (Trump, civility and grace?! Good luck.)

Actually, Trump set the partisan tone even before speaking - holding up two newspapers with the headline "ACQUITTED." (Even though he's the only POTUS in history to have been voted guilty by a member of his own party.)



Courtesy image

LOVE: Trump's Valentine's message to the country.

The breakfast began with an invocation of sorts from Arthur Brooks, a distinguished Harvard professor and president of a conservative think tank. He decried a "crisis of contempt and polarization" and urged attendees to "love your enemies." Almost immediately, Trump turned his back on Brooks.

When Trump spoke to the group he not only disagreed with Brooks, he essentially disagreed with Jesus. Far from love, he raged against Nancy Pelosi and Mitt Romney. He mocked Romney's emotional explanation that it was his oath sworn to God that prompted his vote to find Trump guilty in the first ever "no witnesses" Senate impeachment trial. He said self-righteously, "I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what they know is wrong."

Rather ironic that it was at a prayer breakfast, Trump then attacked Pelosi for... praying! "Nor do I like people who say 'I pray for you' when they know that's not so." Later, Pelosi countered, "I don't know if the president understands prayer or people who pray."

It's well documented that Trump doesn't follow a basic tenet of Christianity, praying to God for forgiveness for one's sins. "Why would I pray? If I make a mistake, I just fix it," says the POTUS who seemingly violates at least half the Ten Commandments on a daily basis.

In typical Trump incoherence, he leapfrogged to the subject of Republican Congressman Steve Scalise who, in 2017, was shot and almost killed during practice for the annual Congressional Baseball Game. Trump recounted going to the hospital and was amazed at how inconsolable Scalise's wife was. "Most wives wouldn't give a damn,"

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 11

CONVICTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

The county joined four other counties to complete a Clear My Record pilot program to clear marijuana convictions eligible for relief under Proposition 64, or the Adult Use of Marijuana Act.

The other counties in the pilot include San Francisco, Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin. 85,000 convictions will be reduced or dismissed across all five counties. A 2018 law requires all counties in California to do the same by July.

Proposition 64 allows individuals convicted of possession of marijuana, cultivation of marijuana, possession for sale of marijuana and sales and/or transport of marijuana to be resentenced.

L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey also included individuals who are 50 years or older, haven't had a felony conviction in the past 10 years or have successfully completed probation for cannabis convictions.

Based on these criteria, Code for America created an algorithm to analyze eligibility for thousands of convictions, alleviating the need for District Attorney staff to go through state criminal records one by one.

The process to clear marijuana convictions before the Clear My Record pilot was convoluted, expensive and time-consuming, officials said. Only 3% of Californians eligible for relief have received it.

To find out if your record has been cleared by the Clear My Record pilot, contact the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office by phone at (323) 760-6763 or visit pubdef.lacounty.gov.

madeleine@smdp.com

CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



File photo

TODD WINIC

ON JANUARY 29, AT APPROXIMATELY 12:25 P.M.

Officers responded to the Salvation Army, 1658 11th Street, regarding a theft that just occurred. Officers learned that a subject entered the store, selected merchandise, and walked out without paying. The subject also punched and broke two signs on his way out the door. The subject was located nearby and placed under private person's arrest without incident. Todd Winic, 47, homeless, was arrested for shoplifting and vandalism. Bail was set at $5,000.

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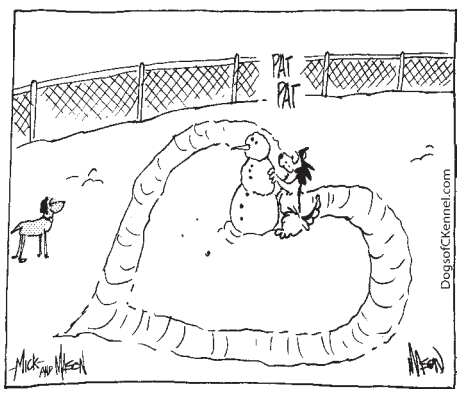
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

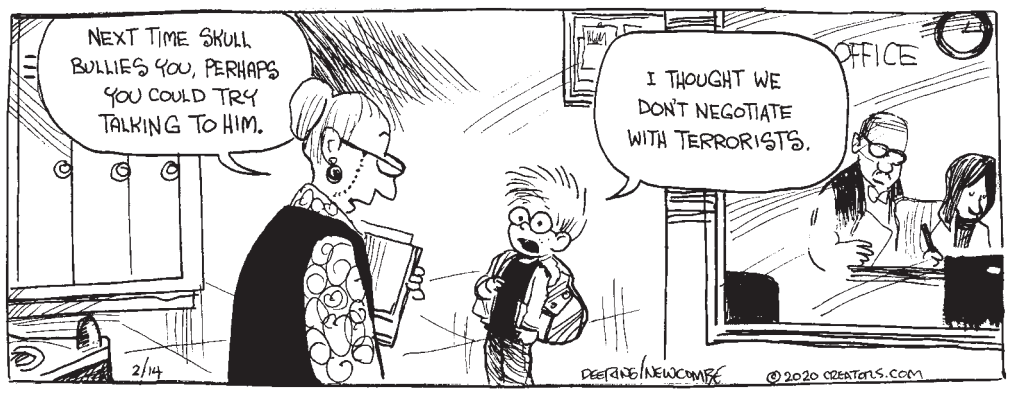
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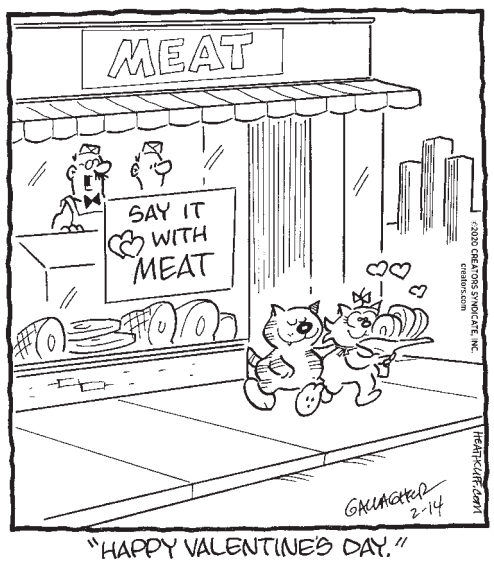
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 60.3°

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
Modest SSW swell. NW swell lingers then eases in PM.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft knee to waist high
New modest NW swell fills in. SSW swell lingers.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 64. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Patchy fog after 4am. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 51. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Saturday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day of the Week	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/02/14	Fri	01:00 AM	4.90	H
2020/02/14	Fri	07:31 AM	1.02	L
2020/02/14	Fri	1:20 PM	3.47	H
2020/02/14	Fri	7:02 PM	1.18	L
2020/02/15	Sat	01:58 AM	4.92	H
2020/02/15	Sat	09:13 AM	0.85	L
2020/02/15	Sat	3:12 PM	2.89	H
2020/02/15	Sat	8:01 PM	1.85	L
2020/02/16	Sun	03:07 AM	4.97	H
2020/02/16	Sun	10:49 AM	0.39	L
2020/02/23	Sun	3:39 PM	-0.60	L
2020/02/23	Sun	9:53 PM	4.17	H
2020/02/24	Mon	03:16 AM	1.31	L
2020/02/24	Mon	09:19 AM	5.35	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:02/08
35 49 50 59 66
Power#: 67
Jackpot: 70 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 02/11
4 6 32 52 64
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 40 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 02/08
6 24 26 28 32
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 02/11
4 17 18 27 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 02/11
Evening: 1 0 1
Draw Date: 02/11
Midday: 1 3 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 02/11
1st: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
2nd: 6 - WHIRL WIN
3rd: 2 - LUCKY STAR
RACE TIME: 1:48.50

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (FEBRUARY 14)

You harmonize in concert with people of different talents, making beautiful music of the year. You'll also get the chance to step up and take a solo. You may even win an award for this, though the best part is the surprise you feel at what you're able to accomplish with consistent work and a supportive team. Pisces and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 33, 38 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your story is yours to tell and yours to style, too. Embellish, edit, light it differently, play with the music — experiment with the way you see it. Telling your story is as much for you as it is for them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The best way to have fun with another person is to loosen the reigns on control a bit. Do the things you think are fun, and then leave room, without attaching yourself to the other person's reactions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Each person has a bit of chaos inside — that's the storm of humanity. Sometimes the internal weather is more severe. Whether you run from or chase the condition, it's not hard to see the remarkable beauty in it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's pretty simple really; the more you focus on enjoying people, the more you enjoy them. The trick is in being unselfconscious enough to lose yourself in the experience of another person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The most touching exchanges happen when busy people make time for each other. This means more than expensive gifts ever could. Money is a renewable expense; time isn't.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes people don't fall in love at all. Rather, they walk into love fully aware that the next step is going to get them deeper into it, but not as deep as the one after that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your mind will wander. When it does, know this is not a random or uncharted path. Your thoughts are following the map that was drawn up and laid out by your heart.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "I love you" is like the waterway of the Zen saying, "You can never step in the same river twice." You could say those three words a million times, and they would still mean something different with each utterance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Attraction isn't strictly about the essence of two people. Circumstances matter. Environments matter. This is why filmmakers employ set and lighting designers. These vibes don't conjure themselves!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Friendship, romance, compassion — you've a form to match any of love's many forms. Honestly, there's not one that's better than the other for you. You wear them all wonderfully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can be thoughtful in the moment because you took the time to consider the moment long before it arrived. The earlier work set you up to relax and enjoy a mighty fine plan.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While you don't exactly believe that love is a single soul in two bodies, you cannot deny the uncanny connections you feel with certain people. On this holiday, you'll celebrate love's depth.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

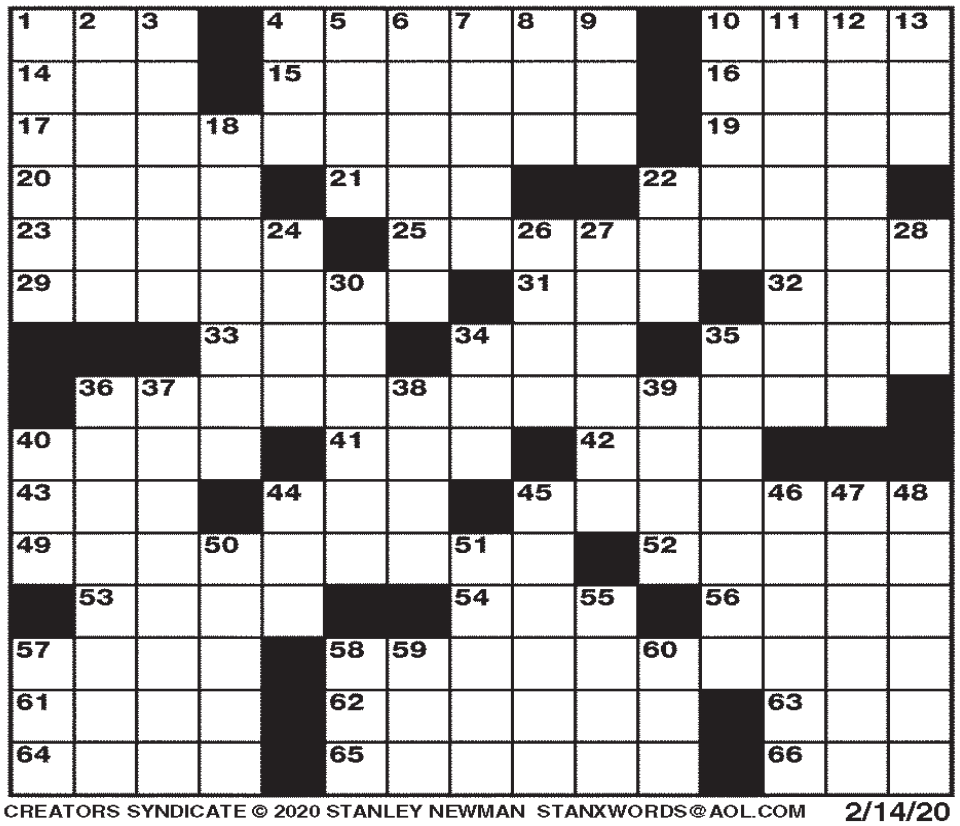
8					9			
		9		1			2	5
4		5			2	3		
6		4						1
	9		5		3		6	
7						2		3
		3	1			5		6
9	7			4		1		
			7					2

Newsday Crossword

SEE 36 ACROSS by Greg Johnson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Member of the 700 Club?
4 Racetrack service area
10 Four starters
14 Expression of discovery
15 Word from the Arabic for "desert"
16 Juice name prefix
17 Ruler measure
19 Dance done to klezmer music
20 ". . . for __ know"
21 GPS heading
22 Hauls away
23 Quark-binding particle
25 It's not earning interest
29 Sports "encore" network
31 Early Cronkite employer
32 Stale, say
33 Friend of Fidel
34 Common Muslim name
35 Food that may be rolled
36 Title of the puzzle
40 Hunk of marble
41 Wire __ glasses
42 Lines of admiration
43 Result of electron loss
44 *Law and Order* VIPs
45 Hurried tempo
49 Aerial battles
52 Donated
53 Bank (on)
54 Halloween costume accessory
56 Ornery
57 Julius Caesar adversary
58 City center second home
61 Showing great enthusiasm
62 Nothing-to-it task
63 Chromosome determinant
64 Perks (up)
65 Latter-day nomads
66 It ends for RI in mid-fall

DOWN
1 Cost, so to speak
2 Calms down
3 Evoke
4 Inflation stat.
5 Purina alternative
6 Proposition to be proven
7 Appraised
8 Beryllium bearer
9 49 Across setting
10 Explosive exclamation
11 It might have lunch
12 Places for traveling toddlers
13 Chain letters
18 Den member
22 "That's enough!" text message
24 Dr Pepper retro brand
26 Slow time
27 Dramatic postscript
28 Upholsterer's amt.
30 Weak-willed one
34 Aspiration
35 Not to be repeated
36 Building's square feet
37 Kitchen cooker
38 Londoner's fast food
39 Old-style "Got it, dude"
40 Science Kid of TV
44 Cable channel for renovators
45 Dramatic digressions
46 Disinclined
47 Got emotional, with "up"
48 Right after this program
50 Publicizes or criticizes
51 Birds do it
55 Steady look
57 Tube top
58 It might be lunch
59 Angry feeling
60 Vietnamese New Year



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PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

started making payments on its liability over an accelerated timeline. Combined with rising pension costs and flattening revenues, paying off the liability will result in a budget shortfall of $20 to $50 million over the next decade.

Now, Cole is trying to reduce the city's contribution to employee pensions to bring the budget back into the black.

"These negotiations are particularly tough because we must tackle pension reform to maintain long term financial health," the city said in a statement. "We are fortunate to have tremendously talented and dedicated staff who provide exceptional service to the community. We continue to hope to reach agreement on a path that matches the realities of the day."

Under a pension plan that dates back decades, workers hired before July 1, 2012 — who make up about two-thirds of the city's workforce — received 2.7% of their highest annual earnings times the number of years of service upon retirement and contributed 6.7% of their earnings toward their pension. Those hired after 2012 received 2% of their monthly salary and contributed 7% of their earnings.

The healthcare agreement for city employees represented by unions such as the Teamsters, Municipal Employees Association and Public Attorneys Union, as well as those covered by the city's executive pay plan, was executed in January 2015 and expired in December 2018.

Under the agreement, workers covered 6% to 7% of their monthly healthcare premiums. In 2015, an individual contributed between $30 and $50 per month and a family contributed between $80 and $130 per month.

The pension and healthcare plans have been under negotiation since December 2018. While neither the unions nor the city were able to discuss the terms of the negotiations, Rubio said he believes the contracts that Cole has proposed put too much onus on workers to cover the costs of retirement and medical care.

"I understand that we need to address pension reform and medical insurance cost reform, but not on the backs of the workers," Rubio said.

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CAMPAIGN

FROM PAGE 1

Arizona. Both stood by Trump during the Senate's impeachment trial.

Trump's visit to California will also test his relationship with the state's Democratic leaders. They have sparred on infrastructure spending, fuel mileage standards and so-called sanctuary cities policies.

Trump will depart Tuesday for Los Angeles, where he will meet the LA28 Olympic Committee "for an update on their efforts to prepare for the 2028 Summer Olympic Games," the White House said. He is scheduled to attend a campaign fundraiser in the area, before continuing to Las Vegas.

On Wednesday, Trump will appear in Bakersfield, California, the hometown of House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, "to speak with hardworking farmers in the Central Valley about efforts to dramatically improve the supply and delivery of water in California and other Western states," the White House said.

The president will travel to billionaire Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison's Rancho Mirage estate, which includes a private golf club, where his campaign his hosting a golf outing and fundraiser. Ellison previously hosted President Barack Obama at the course, which, like others in the arid Coachella Valley, has faced scrutiny for high water usage.

Trump will then hold a rally in Phoenix before returning to Las Vegas. Trump owns a hotel just off the Las Vegas strip.

Next Thursday, Trump will speak at the Hope for Prisoners Graduation Ceremony held at the Las Vegas police headquarters, the White House said, adding that the president intends to focus on efforts "to provide previously incarcerated Americans with second chances." He will hold another rally in Colorado before flying back to Washington.

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Trump said flippantly. Disturbingly, many in this evangelical crowd, actually laughed. (Then again, many at Jonestown drank the Kool-Aid.)

So, at a Prayer Breakfast, Trump mocked those who pray and swear an oath to God. And he says most wives wouldn't give a damn if their husbands died. Shameless. Unless of course, Trump was talking about his wives, in which case, it's probably true. Given his monstrous ego, if Trump sent out a Valentine's card, my guess is it was probably to himself.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Crime Down on L.A. Metro System Over Past Five Years

Crime on L.A. County's Metro Bus and Rail system has decreased 17 percent over the last five years, according to new crime figures released by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Between 2015 and 2019, total Part 1 and Part 2 crimes, known respectively as "serious" and "less serious" crimes, have both fallen on the Metro system. Part 1 crimes have decreased nearly 23 percent and Part 2 crimes have decreased nearly 11 percent. Crime reductions have been observed in all major crime categories, including crimes against persons, crimes against properties and crimes against society. Statistics are reported to Metro regularly by multiple law enforcement partners now patrolling the transit system, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Long Beach Police Departments.

Overall, there are approximately 3.9 crimes per million transit rides, a relatively low number that is consistent with that of other major transit agencies across the United States and the rate of crime associated with many local municipalities.

The multi-year trend identified in the crime data reveals a steady but significant drop in total crimes due primarily to Metro's intense focus on improving safety and security for its customers and employees. The agency has implemented several important safety and security initiatives in recent years to improve the customer experience, retain current transit riders and attract new riders to the system.

"The Metro system is safe, and we're making it safer," said city of Inglewood Mayor and Metro Board Chair James T. Butts. "As a former law enforcement officer myself, I know that deterring crime takes a long-term commitment and focus. That's what Metro is now doing. I applaud the agency for putting its customers' safety first."

Metro instituted a new, multi-agency policing plan in mid-2017. The plan employs a combination of a law enforcement agencies, Metro transit security, private security and in-house fare compliance officers to better protect the Metro system. Since this new plan was implemented, Metro has substantially increased the "felt presence" of law enforcement on the system, which serves as a proven method of deterrence. Metro has also shortened law enforcement response times to reported incidents to about five minutes. The agency has also deployed "surge" operations as needed targeting specific crime trends and suspicious activity inside Metro stations.

"Our transit system is certainly not immune from some of the issues found in the rest of L.A. County, but we are now beginning to see the tangible benefits of our multi-agency law enforcement model," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "A single crime on our system is one too many, but we are clearly moving in the right direction. We will remain committed to working toward a future where all of our riders and employee can travel safely on our system 100 percent of the time."

On the security front, Metro continues to build a very robust and collaborative and intelligence-led training and exercise program with multiple stakeholders to train and prevent, mitigate and prepare for hazards in the transit environment. As a complement to law enforcement presence, this advance training methodology allows Metro to increase its ability to deter, detect, delay and deny significant threats. As a result, Metro's resiliency and strategies for effective response and recovery have increased and underpin the agency's successful reductions in crime.

Metro has regularly deployed its new Thruvision explosive detection system randomly throughout the system to augment its counter-terrorism measures. Riders can also anonymously report safety and security concerns with their smart phones using Metro's Transit Watch app.

For more information about Metro's safety and security efforts, please visit https://www.metro.net/riding/safety-security/

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