



Cal Thomas

Trump's State of the Union options

Speaker Nancy Pelosi has given President Trump an opportunity to change the dynamic of the State of the Union address, an event that has become predictable and often boring. It has featured members of Congress popping up and down like whack-a-moles, interrupting the president with applause if they agree with him, or stone silence if they don't.

Pelosi claims that because

of the partial government shutdown, the security of the U.S. Capitol cannot be guaranteed. The Department of Homeland Security debunked her claim, saying that the Secret Service and Capitol Police will perform their duties whether or not they are receiving paychecks.

President Trump might consider reverting to the pattern of previous presidents, sending his address to

Congress in writing. Then he might deliver the speech from the Oval Office, or at one of his rallies instead of in the Capitol Building. Democrats wouldn't be able to instantly respond on television, as they did following the president's border wall speech, and even if they did, they would likely look as small as Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) did then.

The truth is that the economic state of the union is good. According to Labor Department data, more people than ever are working and unemployment figures, especially in the African-American and Hispanic communities, are at record, or near record lows. The stock market, after a recent decline, has rebounded, for which retirees are no doubt grateful.

Unfortunately, the political state of the country is anything but unified; not even close. For

decades the media and their Democrat allies have blamed Republicans for dividing the country when they stand on their principles, only praising members of the GOP when they submit to Democrat demands.

The Constitution requires a president to deliver an annual assessment of the state of the union. George Washington delivered the first one before Congress on Jan. 8, 1790 in New York City, which was the new nation's provisional capital. In 1801, Thomas Jefferson, believing an in-person address would have made him look like a king appearing before his subjects, set the precedent of writing his State of the Union address and having it delivered to Congress by a clerk.

Woodrow Wilson re-established the practice of an in-person speech, but the practice was not consistent even during the latter part of the 20th Cen-

tury. Jimmy Carter delivered a written report in January 1981, shortly before Ronald Reagan was inaugurated. Every president since has delivered a State of the Union address before Congress with Reagan adding a twist, the recognition of balcony guests he and his successors wished to honor.

When radio, and especially television, offered an opportunity for presidents to be heard and later seen, most have delivered their remarks in person. The House of Representatives offers an impressive backdrop, but shots of some members of Congress smirking, texting and otherwise not paying much attention, do not demonstrate the respect the speech deserves.

Most people who pay attention to the childish and partisan behavior that characterizes Washington these days can do their own assessment of the state of the union. If they have jobs and are prosper-

ing, they probably think it is pretty good — the pettiness in Washington notwithstanding.

Should President Trump decide to do an alternative report, either in writing, or from the White House, or even a retro address on radio, he is likely to get more attention than he would receive from delivering it in person. He could also go ahead with a speech in the House of Representatives and, by doing so, challenge Democrats and Pelosi's claims of insufficient security. Maybe Pelosi and Schumer would boycott the speech; it would certainly appeal to their liberal base. It would also demonstrate who the real culprits are when it comes to the country's disunity.

(This year marks Cal Thomas' 35th year as a syndicated columnist. Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. ©2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.)

Ely boys hoops on track for postseason

By Gary Curreri

Blanche Ely boys basketball coach Melvin Randall never rebuilds, he just reloads.

He subscribes to that theory as the Tigers have won five of the past seven state championships. Last year, Blanche Ely romped Jacksonville Creekside 77-54 in the Class 8A final.

Before missing out on states in 2017, Ely had won four in five seasons, with 2014 the only year without a ring. The Tigers also won in 2007 and 1993.

Following a heart-breaking, 62-52 early-season loss to the defending Class 5A state champion, University School, Randall said games like that will prepare them for the postseason and tough games down the stretch.

"We fought well, but we made a lot of mistakes," Randall said. "We did some good things, we just have to look at the film and reevaluate some of the things we did well and some of the things that cost us. I don't believe in



Blanche Ely junior forward Malachi Hazelton, right, goes up for two points as University School's Roger McFarlane defends. Blanche Ely fell 62-52 to University School. Photo by Gary Curreri

moral victories. I could care less about a moral victory. It is either win or lose."

Blanche Ely led 18-14 after the first quarter, before University School outscored the Tigers 19-12 in the second to open up a 3-point lead. The teams tied 14-14 in the third before University School outscored Blanche Ely 15-8 in the fourth quarter to pull

out a 62-52 win.

Blanche Ely junior Aderes Staton-McCray had a team-high 17 points, while junior Tyrecke Francois added 12 points and five rebounds in the loss.

"I have to find a leader," Randall said. "Although I have a person who has been here all four years and supposed to lead, I guess he

wanted to play the childhood game of hide and go seek and he won. I couldn't find him."

Since that time, the Tigers (13-6) have started to roar winning five straight games, including victories over Pembroke Pines Charter, Plantation, Dillard, St. Thomas Aquinas and Western. The team is currently at 5-0 and leading the District 14-8A standings.

Randall said he is counting on Joshua Scott to spearhead of the group. He also cited Francois, junior Lamont Evans and Malachi Hazelton.

"There are quite a few," added Randall, whose team graduated six players from last year's team — including four starters. "We are young, but we still have a little talent. We just have to get on the same accord. We are going to reload and we are going to be alright. We are going to be better than alright. Trust me."

Registration begins for Women in Distress tourney

Registration for the 7th an-

nual Women in Distress golf tournament has begun and will continue until the maximum field of 32 teams are complete.

Once again, the Colony West Women's Golf Group will be producing the tournament, which will be on March 21, however, the tournament will be held at Pompano Beach Municipal Golf Course this year because of construction at the Colony West Golf Club.

"Because the (clubhouse) building is demolished so we could not have a luncheon after golf," said Jan Parke, tournament chair. "We will play the tournament at Pompano Beach and eat at Galuppi's Restaurant which is at the golf course."

For more information, details or the registration form, e-mail janparke@bellsouth.net or the registration chair, Geri Thomas, at gthomas6116@gmail.com.

FuNetiks

Snoozepapers

By Jim Moore

This old world iz filled up with so many beautiful things you'd think it would be hard to find something awful that bad news brings

Not so, say I with tears in my eyes just open up some of today's media and printed there is enough bad news More than enuff to fill an encyclopedia

Wherever you live and the news you read murders, robberies, and rapes prevail in fact, today's news is so bad someone should be thrown in jail

There's only one way to save our world prayer is just the thing that fills the bill And if we find that nobody can save us It doesn't matter... because Jesus will

Is your pup a star?

America's Top Dog Model® seeks a new winner

The canine-savvy creators of the nation's favorite, 15th annual dog-modeling contest are seeking America's

newest pet sensation. The contest theme is "America's Top Pupstar." To support four-legged candidates eve-

rywhere, the America's Top Dog Model® company has expanded to include canine model management and a

Facebook Fan Page with its 2019 search for the most qualified pup star in the U.S.A.

See Top Dog, pg. 13

Observer

Broward's Oldest Weekly Newspaper

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Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
Phone: 954-428-9045

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• Mailed subscriptions are available for \$80 a year; \$45 for 6 mo.

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Peaceful March down MLK Avenue in Deerfield.

March Continued from pg 1

The city previously partnered with Deerfield Beach Middle School (DBMS) in 2016 on a Day Of Service project, she added. District 2 Commissioner and Vice Mayor Gloria Battle thanked former State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, who attended all MLK events, for her past efforts in the state legislature to get grant money allocated for a Day Of Service beyond northern Florida.

Ceremony

At the ceremony, Bishop Patrick Kelly, of Cathedral Church of God, gave the Introduction and Prayer For Unity;

Rev. Marta Rivera, of Center Cristiano, gave the Invocation and Pastor Tony Guadagnino, of Christian Love Fellowship, gave the closing Benediction.

Keynote Speaker Pastor Demetric Ford, of Missionary Baptist Church, shared four key points from Dr. King and the Bible in his MLK Day address:

1) "There has to be community." who will receive the promise. We are all God's children — black, white, Jew, Protestant, Catholic. To find a degree of unity, people must look beyond skin color, race, zip code and even district. The

fact that we are all breathing may do it, [as the common denominator] to create a degree of unity.

2) Connection. It is our differences that give us the ability to be connected.

3) Drum major instinct. The sin we are born with causes us to fail in our connections; it is human nature that makes us want to be first, the most important, the drum major. However, we are deliberately different by divine design.

4) Covenant. [In the Bible, a covenant is a way of binding or establishing a relationship between two parties — between people, and God.]

A gifted Praise Band accompanied the pastor and played music at the event. Faith & Power Church dancers performed a powerful worship dance to spoken word and different musical selections, encompassing the highs and lows of life. Dancers Brianna, 9, London, 10, and Cor'mora, 9, dressed in red skirts with red bows in their hair.

2019 Best Church Choir Champion, Cathedral Church of God, led the crowd in the song "Lift Every Voice," before seven local pastors, led by Bishop Kelly, and audience members, were asked to take the hand of the person next to them, in prayer. Both Battle and Ganz also came up to the stage to speak. Battle thanked everyone for coming out on a cold day when they could've stayed in bed, and encouraged those gathered to call their friends and have them meet them over at the Day Of Service.

"What Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was all about was 'service.' If you don't do anything else today, check on a neighbor — that's service," she said.



Pastors and Vice Mayor Gloria Battle at 2019 MLK Ceremony.



The Willie James Ford Sr. family attended the ceremony.

MLK

Continued from pg 1

Marching bands included Deerfield Beach High School, and Deerfield Beach Middle School cheerleaders, as well as Deerfield Park Elementary,

Monarch High School (Cocunut Creek), Blanche Ely High School (Pompano Beach), Northeast High School (Oakland Park) and Dillard High

School (Ft. Lauderdale).

Headlining Deerfield's MLK Parade was new Broward Sheriff Gregory Tony, accompanied by BSO law enforcement and fire-rescue vehicles, and Parade Grand Marshal Broward County Court Judge Phoebe Francois.

Pompano MLK

Continued from pg 1

Many commissioners and local leaders participated in the parade, including former Pompano Beach Mayor

and current Broward County Commissioner Lamar Fisher, Florida Senator Perry Thurston and new Broward County

Sheriff Gregory Tony. Some of the city's civic groups, local sororities and fraternities, and churches, were also part of the parade, as well as school bands like The Blanche Ely High and Pompano Beach High School marching bands, and Ely's Army JROTC.

Top Dog

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The America's Top Dog Model® 2019 winner and finalists will be selected for their winning style, phenomenal stage presence, star qualities, and best thought out photographic portrayal of the contest theme "Pupstar."

Eleven finalists will be featured in America's Top Dog Model® Calendar

along with the Top Dog Model winner. They will also receive a custom piece of jewelry from Li'Jeweled and an autographed copy of *How to Become a Top Dog Model*. The competition is well known for giving pups plenty of prizes.

Contestants can enter on line or via U.S. mail. Contest runs through April 30, with

the final judging to take place the first week of May.

In addition to America's Top Dog Model® Contest, a "Casting Call" will take place at the South Florida Pet Expo in West Palm Beach on Saturday, March 23. Up to three finalists will be selected and featured in their upcoming calendar and included in the running for America's Top Dog Model® 2019.

For information, e-mail Americastopdog@aol.com.

LHP

Continued from pg 3

Public Works Director Chuck Schramm asked for commission approval to waive the bid process and **approve the purchase of one Ford F-550 cab and chassis with dump bed** utilizing the Florida Sheriff's Association contract and declare one public works vehicle as surplus property. Schramm said the current vehicle had operational issues, which was why it needed to be replaced. The vehicle also was an eyesore and would cost too much to replace. Commissioners suggested that staff use local vendors, and Schramm said he and staff would do that. Commissioners approved Schramm's request.

City staff asked for commission approval for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance amending the **Florida Municipal Trust Fund Defined Benefit Plan and Trust for Police and Firefighters**. Commissioners unanimously approved city staff's request.

City Clerk Jennifer Oh asked for commission approval for a resolution **reappointing members to the Code Enforcement Board**. Oh said that staff had contacted the members whose terms had expired, and they all wanted to serve on the boards again. Members who had been contacted said they would agree to serve for a three-year term. Commissioners unanimously approved Oh's request.

Parks & Recreation Director Becky Lysengen asked for commission approval for a request for **upgrades to the city's tennis center**. Lysengen explained that the tennis center needed upgraded landscaping, irrigation and other improvements. She said she wanted some modernized landscap-

ing and other improvements to make the members feel welcome and so the center would be an asset for the city. Commissioners unanimously approved Lysengen's request.

Schramm also asked for commission approval for an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement and Sublease between the City of Pompano Beach and the City of Lighthouse Point for **use of the Exchange Club Park property for Dredging Spoils transfer**. Schramm noted that the city had a verbal okay from staff at the Florida Inland Navigational District or FIND.

Schramm also said that the item would be on the agenda of the City of Pompano Beach for their approval, and that residents and commissioners in that city had expressed concerns about the odors the project might cause.

Schramm said that staff would use agricultural lime to cut down on any odors, and that they would keep the communication lines open between the two cities to resolve any issues. Schramm also assured commissioners the property would be kept clean and in compliance. Commissioners unanimously approved Schramm's request.

Under public comments, resident Everett Marshall asked for commission updates on the **batting cages**, an item he had brought up at the last meeting. Mayor Glenn Troast said that Parks Director Becky Lysengen was looking over bids and would come back to the commission at their first meeting in February.

Marshall also asked about the changes that had been approved on the November 2018 ballot, including the **changes in commission**

terms and the **General Obligation Bond**. City Attorney Michael Cirullo said he would meet with staff and go over those changes. Cirullo also noted that, since there was not an election on the March 2019 ballot, he and staff had time to go over the changes and see what needed to be done.

Commissioner Kyle Van Buskirk spoke about the **Pompano Beach/Margate/Lighthouse Point Chamber of Commerce**, and suggested that representatives of that chamber might like to come to a future commission meeting and talk to commissioners about some of their plans. He said he had met with representatives of the chamber, and they had been very interested in working with the city on future issues.

He also spoke about **Kevin Mendez, a diving champion** who lived in the city, and suggested that the city recognize him. Mendez had gotten a lot of publicity recently, he said.

In addition, he mentioned the upcoming **Keepers Day** [see more pg. 5] and the activities that would take place soon within the city and suggested that commissioners and residents get their tickets very soon.

Vice President Earl Maucker spoke warmly of new Broward County Commissioner **Lamar Fisher** and said that Fisher was a go-to type of person and got a lot of things done.

Maucker also brought up the issue of the **bridge replacement** in the city and asked if staff had any sort of update on the issue. City Attorney Michael Cirullo said he and staff were working on that with the county and would update the commission on it at a future meeting. Cirullo said he, and staff, would also include Fisher in the discussions if it was the wish of the commission.

JA

Continued from pg 10

She explained, "It is a four-course picnic dinner on the sand. You get a blanket, lantern, [tote bag] — two appetizers, two salads, two entrees, two desserts and a bottle of wine. We bring the food to you. Tickets are \$195/couple. It is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. **Pre-order by Feb. 10. Visit website at www.oceans234.com or call 954-428-2539.**

Where NYY Steak was carving racks of lamb, Tim Hogans, executive board member for Junior Achievement, could be found.

He said of the event, "It is a fabulous event that gets better every year."

He noted that the champagne lounge, sponsored by Bluegreen Vacations, was a little different this year. It had oysters on the half shell, as well as a three piece band.

In addition, there was an outdoor component this year complete with food trucks and more beverages, as well as cornhole and Jenga, to enjoy in the lounge beneath the moon. The weather was ideal.

Of course, as always, they

had plenty of silent auction items to bid on and people could put on props and get their photos taken by Foto-boyz. They also had a virtual reality experience this year, sponsored by JM Lexus, where people could put on the headset and it looked like they were walking a plank miles up over a city landscape. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino sponsored the live entertainment in the main room.

JA World Uncorked is the Circle of Wise Women's signature culinary event. *To find out more about this annual event and all the wonderful programs it supports, visit www.jasouth-florida.org.*

