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40TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



“ A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE IS WORTH MORE THAN A COLLEGE EDUCATION. ”

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
26TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Dixon's Independent Voice

Vol. 27, No. 07

Dixon's ONLY locally owned hometown newspaper for over 26 years

February 15, 2019

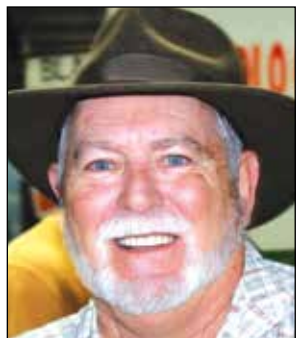
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For the Love of Books



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THAT'S LIFE
By Ted Hickman



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A FILM AND TV REVIEW
By Tim Riley



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City Council Approves Employment Contracts for Police Chief, Community Development Director

By Shirley Humphrey

DIXON, CA (DIV) - The city council approved an Employment Agreement for Police Chief, Robert Thompson, authorizing the City Manager to execute and enter into the agreement on behalf of the City and approving a 2018-2019 budget amendment.

Police Chief. Mr. Thompson has served in the role of Police Chief since March 1, 2017, and has received satisfactory evaluations since then. The City Manager negotiated a new employment agreement with the Police Chief ("Agreement").

The Agreement retains several provisions from the Police Chief's current employment agreement, but also contained changes to the Police Chief's term, and other benefits. The Agreement, as proposed, will take effect on March 1, 2019. These are:

- The Agreement shall expire on March 1, 2022, which shall be three (3) years from March 1, 2019, his employment anniversary date.
- The Police Chiefs salary shall increase by 15% to \$184,000 the first pay period following March 1, 2019. The first pay period following March 1, 2020, his salary shall increase by 5% to \$193,200 per year. The first pay period following March 1, 2021, his salary shall increase by an additional 5% to \$202,860 per year.
- The City shall contribute a five

percent (5%) match of the Police Chiefs base salary into a deferred compensation plan.

- Beginning March 1, 2021, the Police Chief shall accrue 180 hours of vacation leave per year.
- The Police Chief shall receive the same uniform allowance that is provided to the members of the Dixon Police Officers' Association. Once a year, he may elect to receive the uniform allowance on a bi-weekly basis or have the uniform allowance paid to the City's uniform vendor in order to purchase uniforms pre-taxed.
- If the Police Chief receives the Executive Development Certificate through the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission ("POST"), then he will receive 5% of his base as an education incentive.

The city council also approval an Employment Agreement for Community Development Director, Dina Tasini. On February 28, 2017, the City of Dixon City Council approved a three-year employment agreement with Dina Tasini. Ms. Tasini has served in the role of Community Development Director since March 20, 2017, and has received satisfactory evaluations since then. The Community Development Director Agreement contains a salary increase falling within the newly approved salary range. The Agreement includes the

following key provisions:

- The Agreement expires on March 20, 2022, which is (3) years from March 20, 2019, her employment anniversary date.
- The Community Development Director's salary increase to \$153,000 the first pay period following March 20, 2019. The first pay period following March 20, 2020, her salary shall increase by 5% to \$160,650 per year. The first pay period following March 20, 2021, her salary shall increase by an additional 5% to \$168,682.50 per year.
- The City shall contribute a three percent (3%) match of the Community Development Director's base salary into a deferred compensation plan.
- The Community Development Director accrues 160 hours of vacation leave per year.

Both employees are at-will employees under their contract with the city.

The City Council approved submission of grant applications to the Cultural, Community, and Natural Resources and an Urban Greening Grant applications for funding for Phase of the Pardi Market Plaza project. Both grants are administered by the California Natural Resources Agency and are funded with revenues generated by voter-approved Proposition 68. ★

Denise Burris Promoted to Executive Vice President/Chief Information Officer of First Northern Bank



By Kimberly A. DeBra

DIXON, CA (DIV) - First Northern Bank is pleased to announce that Denise Burris has been promoted to Executive Vice President/ Chief Information Officer.

Denise joined the Bank in 1981 as a Financial Services Representative, then in 1987 she took a position as Data Entry Operator with the Information Services Department. Denise progressively advanced to more responsible positions in the Information Services Department over the years. During her career at First Northern, Denise has been at the forefront of advancing the Bank with its digital delivery channels and has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to her role as an innovator, problem solver, and leader.

Denise replaces Bruce Orris who served in the CIO role for over 17 years. Bruce announced his intention to step down as CIO this past August and is assuming the role of Vice President/ Information Security Officer.

In her new position, Denise will be responsible for the overall management and oversight of the Company's Information Services Department which encompasses the Bank's technology strategies, the expansion of its electronic delivery channels and its internal technology infrastructures to ensure the highest possible level of customer service. Denise is a member of the Bank's Asset/Liability Committee, Information Services Steering Committee, and the Bank's Senior Management Team.

"Denise's experience in banking technology, project management and leadership will serve her well, as she moves the Bank forward in the areas of data warehousing and analysis, digital payments, and artificial intelligence to enhance the customer experience at First Northern Bank," says Louise Walker, President and Chief Executive Officer. ★

Dixon Family Services Will Bring Together Community Service Providers

By Cookie Powell

DIXON, CA (DIV) - On Thursday, February 21 there will be a meeting of local service providers, representatives of churches, medical clinics, schools, library, Solano County programs that provide services in Dixon and others who are interested in sharing with each other. The purpose of the meeting is to share resources with each other so that all can better serve the community and people who ask for help.

Each entity representative will be asked to explain any criteria for their programs and requirements that must be met in order for people to access them. Examples include income limits, family make-up, age, documentation requirements and others.

There are many people in need of basic human services in Dixon. This is at a time when helping organizations are operating with limited budgets and other resources.

Human services needs vary and can include one-time help with rent, utilities, food; assistance in application for medical insurance and government benefit programs; help for senior citizens and



Here's your chance to find the resources you need. Plan to attend on February 21. Photo courtesy Dixon Family Services

homeless adults; services for homeless school children and their families; counseling for those suffering with mental health, substance abuse; depression, anger management, grief and other behavioral health issues; prevention of family violence and child abuse/neglect; employability and life skills development; adult education and literacy; positive parenting and self-care; and tax preparation, credit repair and legal advice. The list of needs is long and these are just some of them.

None of the helping organizations are capable of providing all services for every basic necessity. So it is very important

for all to understand procedures and requirements for accessing help from other local service providers. When assisting people who are in a crisis situation, no one wants to add to their stress by giving them bad information or guidance. It is best to know ahead of time what are the parameters of programs so that a proper referral can be made and avoid confusing or frustrating clients with incorrect information.

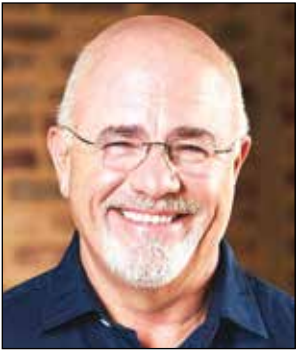
Organizers of the meeting apologize to those who may have been overlooked and to understand that they are also welcome at the meeting. To see the invitation go to www.dixonfamilyservices.org An

RSVP is appreciated.

Dixon Family Services is open to hosting subsequent meetings if there is interest expressed by some of the attendees. Topics could include discussion about community needs, how to increase resources, partnerships that make sense, or any number of other topics that could be explored together.

The February meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21 at 2 PM. If you want to learn more about the community resource sharing meeting or participate please contact Cookie Powell at 707 678-0442 or cookie@dixonfamilyservices.org

Source: Dixon Family Services ★



Dave Ramsey Says

the loans, she'll start getting phone calls looking for the money, too. I don't think you want to subject your mom to the stress and hassle of collector calls or bad marks on her credit, do you?

Believe me, I understand what happened. Your mom loves you, and she wants the best for you. She's willing to do whatever it takes to help her daughter succeed. What I want you both to understand going forward is that the idea you have to borrow money to attend college - or do anything else, really - is a myth. There are many ways to get a great education, and find excellent career opportunities, without borrowing a dime. Scholarships and grants are everywhere these days.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with working before and during college to help cash-flow an education, or you can begin your studies at a community college where the costs are much less.

In addition to four-year schools and community colleges, anyone looking

to further their education shouldn't ignore the possibility of trade or technical schools. At these institutions, you can get valuable training that's highly marketable. Not to mention completing a trade or technical school program usually takes less time and is cheaper than a bachelor's degree.

My goal here isn't to fuss at you or beat you up, Terri. It's just very important you understand what's at stake - now and in the future. My hope is to give you and your mom some good information that will help each of you make smarter, more informed financial decisions down the road!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

Fatal Collision on Weber Road

CHP Special Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV) - Incident Summary: On February 10, 2019, at approximately 0511 hours, an unknown person (P-2) was driving an unknown vehicle (V-2) on I-80 EB, west of Weber Road in the number three lane. For unknown reasons, Party #1 (P-1) was in the #3 lane of EB I-80 west of

Weber Road when V-2 struck P-1. Immediately after the Collision P-2 fled the scene of the Collision in V-2. It is unknown if alcohol and/or drugs are a factor in this Collision.

Any person with information pertinent to this investigation is asked to contact the CHP at our non-emergency line 1-800-TELL-CHP (1-800-835-5247) or the CHP Solano Area Officer Walter

who is handling this investigation. Any information obtained in regards to this collision will be greatly appreciated.

Collision Type: Fatal
Date: 2/10/2019 Time: 05:11 AM Location: I-80 EB W/ of Weber Road Investigating Officer: Walter#21027. Involved Parties: Fatal victim information is releasable only through the Coroner's Office. ★

A teachable moment

Dear Dave,
My mom is single, and she co-signed on my student loans for college. Would it affect her credit if I couldn't or didn't make the payments?
—Terri

Dear Terri,
Yes, it would. The truth is, your mom shouldn't have co-signed for you in the first place. There's only one reason lenders want a co-signer, and that's because they're afraid the person taking out the loan won't be able to pay back what's owed.

You'll be trashing your and your mom's credit if you don't pay the bills on time. If she co-signed for you, and you don't do the right thing and pay back

Marijuana Revenues in California Fall Short

According to an article in a San Francisco Chronicle in early January 2019, marijuana sales fell in California. Around \$2.5 billion of legal cannabis was sold in California in 2018, half a billion dollars less than in 2017 when only medical marijuana was legal,

according to GreenEdge, a sales tracking company.

"The easy part of legalization was persuading people to vote for it, industry analysts say. The hard part, now that it's legal, is persuading people to stop buying from the black market."

"The most recent official

estimates of California's cannabis production, a report published a year ago by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, showed the state producing as much as 15.5 million pounds of cannabis and consuming just 2.5 million pounds." ★

FFA Week February 19-22

Dixon high school students enrolled in agricultural education programs are planning a host of activities for national FFA Week. FFA is one leg of the stool that supports the agricultural education programs in high schools across the nation. Initiated over a century ago the program is classroom based, with supervised agricultural experiences, and FFA activities that develop essential skills in leadership, communication, teamwork, and personal development. The program offers real lessons for real life.

A full page of FFA activities will be showcased in the next issue of the Independent Voice. ★



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Fear Conquering Faith | Selected Scriptures

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Small Groups meet throughout the week.
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Parochial Administrator

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Bob Ikelman, Daniel Blanton,
Feliz Lupercio

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Mass Schedule
Saturday
5 pm English - 7 pm Spanish
Sunday
7:00 am, 1:00 & 7:00 pm Spanish
8:30 & 11 am English
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Bilingual
Thursday 7:00 pm

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"That's Life" Columns go to
www.tedhickman.com



Remember these Signs?

Remember the results of petitioning city hall? Many say: "Let the people vote on the water rate increases (plural). Elected officials say: "We can't let the people vote on every little thing that comes up that's why they

elected us... I said, "Yep, If we did then we'd have we'd have what? (A Democracy?) Perish the thought of the people actually having as say on how their tax dollars are spent on actions by their "elected officials". The true

colors of those you elected are now coming to light, hope you enjoy the costly show. They're gonna let you vote on the rate increases or the \$3,000,000 (that's 3 million) parking lot downtown? No! I'll explain why next week. ★

Phony Phone Calls Part 2

I know we are not the only one getting them, those annoying Robo calls, solicitors calling your home at all hours trying to sell you stuff. With caller I.D. you'd think it would be easier to put a stop to this illegal scamming. But the bad schmucks are always on step ahead of the good guys it seems. The latest waltz around the law is to "pirate" (steal) phone numbers so your caller I.D. shows a local 678 phone number calling or at least the call is coming from our area code (707) prefix... sorry but it is no longer a true gauge of from whence the call is coming. I like to call the person whose number has been stolen but half the time there's

no name. If the call starts with "don't hang up" HANG UP! "Capital One", CC companies and at the solar butt heads are the top culprits... What caller I.D. shows we've had lately is: Brian Watson, 678-8970 (thanks but don't want solar) Social Security in Fairfield, Microsoft, U. S Government 707-562-8998. First Northern Bank 678-7795 and FNB 678-7890 (no, don't want credit card protection or solar) 707's#: 379-7073, 557-8559, 678-3251, 249-3554, 249-6780, and 678-2341. If you see your number here know that you are being thought poorly of by folks receiving a call from "your" number. I returned calls to most but I mostly get

a recording saying there is no such number. Can't someone do something? As an update for those of you who missed this last week we've had calls from the Dixon School District(not) Golden One Credit Union (not) and more from First Northern Bank (not) etc.

Anyone know what to do about this? We're at wits end. They start as early as 7:30 am. and go until 10 p.m. Couldn't get an answer from Verizon for the cell phone crap or AT&T about the land line. I keep calling the numbers back and telling them they've been "pirated" and basically just get either a "huh?" or "What?" response. ★

Yearly Fund Raiser "Crab Feed"

The Dixon Game and Conservation Club's annual only yearly fund raiser "Crab Feed" as held last week was again sold out way in advance. I warn you all each year to get your tickets early. It's usually the first of the season and serves prawns and Crab. Literally all you can eat. We had 650 people packed



People at the Game Clubs recent Sold Out Crab Feed. Photo by Ted Hickman.

into Madden and served the food by 60 FFA members plus 30 club volunteers handling the rest. We, (are members)

the club, bought 650 pounds of prawns and 1900 pounds of crab and none went to waste! ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

Special Interest

Genealogy Club - The ABCs of DNA On Tuesday, February 19 at 1:00 pm.

The Davis Genealogy Club invites you to hear first time speaker Linda Okazaki. Her presentation, *The ABCs of DNA: What Test Should I Take and Why?* is an excellent primer on DNA, appropriate for seekers at every level of experience. Future DNA presentations will be given this year, so this lecture is a great way to prepare.

Which genetic test you order has a lot to do with what you want to learn from it. Do you want to find cousins? Learn what ethnicities are in your profile? See how much DNA you have in common with a Neanderthal? Learn about all this and more as we sort out which testing firm to use and what tests to take with this highly acclaimed speaker.

The Davis Genealogy Club library, staffed by volunteers, is open to the public **Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00-3:30 pm.** Guests are always welcome at meetings, and annual membership is \$10. Your membership renewal can be collected at the meeting. To learn more about the Davis Genealogy Club and Library, visit www.davisgenealogy.org or call Lisa Henderson at 916-508-4966.

Upcoming Events

Dixon Gun Show Saturday, February 16, 2019 Sunday, February 17, 2019 (Hours Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 pm. & Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) <https://www.dixon-gun-show.com/>

Dixon May Fair, 655 South First St, Dixon, CA 95620.

Biodiversity Museum Day at UC Davis Saturday, February 16 - 9 am - 4 pm

Thousands of visitors are expected on the University of California, Davis, campus for the eighth annual Biodiversity Museum Day, a **free family-friendly event** on Saturday, Feb. 16 exploring the diversity of life.

Visitors will see everything from a chocolate tree loaded with fruit to a golden eagle named Sullivan to a Humboldt squid to a stick insect (walking stick). Hours range from 9 a.m. to noon and from noon to 4 p.m. New this year is the Marine Invertebrate

Collection in the Sciences Laboratory Building, off Kleiber Hall Drive. "Visitors can expect to see specimens collected from Oahu and Baja California, and live corals," said spokesperson Ivani Li. "There will be a touch tank. At some point there will be a brief presentation about squids where we will be showing off our Humboldt Squid or jumbo squid."

The UC Davis Biodiversity Museum Day, always held the Saturday of Presidents' Day weekend, is billed as a "free, educational event for the community where visitors get to meet and talk with UC Davis scientists from undergraduate students to staff to emeritus professors and see amazing objects and organisms from the world around us." Parking is also free. Maps are available on the Biodiversity Museum Day website at <http://biodiversitymuseumday.ucdavis.edu/>.

All participating museums and collections have active education and outreach programs, Yang said, but the collections are not always accessible to the public.

Rotary Club Annual Crab Feed

February 23, bar at 6, dinner 7:00 to 8 pm. Tickets \$55, <https://dixon.rotary.crab-feed.eventbrite.com>

DWIC welcomes John Lescroart Tuesday, February 20

John Lescroart will be speaking at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at 1:00 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church. John has released a new novel in his Dismas Hardy series, titled *Rule of Law: A Novel* (Dismas Hardy). Representatives from the Avid Reader in Davis will attend the event and have copies of his newest release as well as other books John has written available for sale. The road to becoming a best selling author is not always smooth, but the journey is fascinating! John will share some of his life experiences that have contributed to his writing and propelled his books to the top of the best seller lists. Guests are welcome to attend the presentation. Contact Vice President Donna Armstrong at 707-678-9550 to reserve a space. ★



Happy Valentine's
to my wife Jazzy

Love Ted

*Happy 25th Anniversary
Dave and Pat Scholl*

Kevin, Marie, Patrick and Cat

Happy Valentine's
to my Cheryl



Love Ken

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For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

Email: amy-shane@att.net
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Love is in the Air

Love is in the air this Valentine's Day, and what is a better way to share your love than with a great book? From children to adults, everyone loves a great story that you can get caught up in. Whether it's taking a little time for yourself, or curling up with that little one you love, falling into a good book can spark wonderful feelings of love and happiness. For 70 years, Harlequin Publishing has been the icon for romance titles, publishing stories of lost love, hope, secret rendezvous, and deep passionate love.

Fatal Reckoning by Marie Force

Washington DC, is its own city of scandals, investigations and even cover-ups, but when Sam's father was shot in the line of duty, four years prior, everything hit home. Happily married to the Vice President, Sam's life was complete, until the recent news of her father's death sent shock waves, shattering life as she knew it. Now, Sam combined with Metro PD and the FBI, must all unite to finally bring the justice she always sought. With the cold case opening up its own deadly consequences, can Sam handle the truth in order to break free, or is it finally enough to break her?

Fatal Reckoning, is the perfect blending of scandals, lies, detective skills, and deep passionate romance. Marie Force's writing is easy to fall into, as she takes readers along her gripping storyline, along with a marriage so strong that it is a testament of love and support. Not just filled with passion and emotional angst, this book takes readers on a mystery filled with deep rooted betrayal, and new unyielding love.

Stroke of Luck, by B.J. Daniels

When Poppy Carmichael agrees to help Will Sterling with his ranch's lodge full of guests, she never expected it to turn deadly. Hoping for a chance at rekindled romance, horse rides and evenings under the Montana sky, her week quickly turns into one of survival.

B.J. Daniels takes her readers on a heart pounding ride of suspense and rekindled love, in the first installment of Sterling's Montana series. Suspense and romance rocket through the snow-covered Sterling Ranch, as two childhood friends discover their unrelenting desire for one another as they seek refuge from a killer. Drawing readers into tense moments of interrupted passion, B.J.

Daniels creates a storyline that leaves readers plunging through the chapters, rooting for a couple to discover the safety of each other's embrace.

Corpse & Crown by Alisa Kwitney

If it's true anatomical hearts you love, maybe Bio-mechanicals of the 1800's will fill your Valentines with reanimated love. Inkyard Press', newest release, Corpse and Crown is the much-anticipated continuation to the Cadaver and Queen duology. Corpse and Crown takes readers alongside Agatha's story, a nursing student at Ingold, who's focus is more on the patients that need her help over, the very-important Biomedical program that the University desires.

Constant twists and turns, with new medical advancements still keep readers on the edge, while they follow a new character, the boy she falls for, and a horrible accident that takes her sight. Now, as a part of the experimental bio-mechanical program, Agatha's view on life and the program changes forever. Alisa Kwitney's strong voice and powerful story is the perfect dark continuation of a storyline that is wonderful dark, intense and full of medical oddities. ★



Riley Reviews

"WHAT MEN WANT" FLIPS THE SCRIPT; WINTER-SPRING ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"What Men Want" Rated R

Flipping the gender in Hollywood remakes is nothing new. Think of the female versions of "Ghostbusters" and "Ocean's 8," notable as more recent examples that herald either an enduring trend or a fad of the moment.

Two decades later, one has to ponder the appeal of turning Mel Gibson's "What Women Want" into a female empowerment statement with Taraji P. Henson playing the tough cookie in "What Men Want."

Playing strong is what Henson does well, if you take note of her role of Cookie Lyon in the TV series "Empire." Here, as sports agent Ali Davis, she's equally sharp, fierce, relentless, fearless and unstoppable.

The trouble for Ali is that she's pigeonholed as doing her best work representing female athletes that are Olympic medalists and trophy winners. She's need to break the glass ceiling in a business dominated by males.

Poised to be made a partner at the sports management firm, Ali anticipates securing the position at a company meeting only to be humiliated by her boss (Brian Bosworth) who gives the promotion to an unqualified male junior executive.

Grabbing the brass ring won't come easy until she lands a big-time football, baseball or basketball star. Setting her sights on signing top NBA draft prospect Jamal Barry (Shane Paul McGhie), Ali finds his dad Joe "Dolla" Barry (Tracy Morgan) might be her biggest hurdle.

Meanwhile, following a party with her tight-knit girlfriends, Ali has an accident that puts her in the hospital. She wakes up to find that a concussion has rendered her with the ability to hear men's thoughts.

With only her brow-beaten, nerdy assistant Brandon (Josh Brener) remotely on her side, Ali unlocks the mysteries of the male-dominated business to navigate the corporate minefield.

Meanwhile, a one-night stand with bartender Will (Aldis Hodge) turns into something more when Ali uses the widowed father and his young son to fool Jamal's father into thinking that she's in a stable family situation that enhances her ability to handle a superstar client.

"What Men Want" doesn't move the needle in any big way on the scale of generic romantic comedy, nor does it hold much surprise in how a female dynamo gets the upper hand in the workplace.

Taraji P. Henson, of course, steals the show with her blazing ball of energy that shows she has mastered the ruthless corporate culture on an equal plane with her male peers.

Winter-Spring Preview On TV

The winter television critics press tour brings news of many midseason new shows on the networks, cable channels and a plethora of streaming services. It's getting harder to keep up with all the options.

Among the big four networks, ABC appears to have the busiest upcoming season. Marcia Clark, the prosecutor in the O.J. Simpson murder, is one of the executive producers behind "The Fix," about a Los Angeles prosecutor taking a second chance in a high-profile murder trial.

ABC's "Whiskey Cavalier" dives into the international spy business with a mix of heroic action and wacky humor, while "Grand Hotel" explores family intrigue and scandal in the backdrop of a ritzy hotel in Miami Beach.

The catastrophic 1986 nuclear accident in Chernobyl gets the small screen treatment by HBO in a miniseries of the same name. Preview clips of

"Chernobyl" reveal the sacrifices of the brave men and women saving Europe from unimaginable disaster.

Fans of the DC Comics are probably aware that Warner Bros. and DC Universe have teamed up for a streaming service that provides access to older DC live-action films and animated films and series.

"Doom Patrol" re-imagines DC's beloved group of outcast super heroes, including Robotman, Negative Man, Elasti-Woman and Crazy Jane, led by mad scientist Dr. Niles Caulder. This band of freaks fights for a world that wants nothing to do with them.

The National Geographic Channel's "The Hot Zone," starring Julianna Margulies as a heroic U.S. Army scientist, dramatizes the high-stakes operation to head off an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus from the central African rain forest that arrived on U.S. soil in 1989.

"The Rook," a Starz original series, tells the story of a woman waking up in the rain beside London's Millennium Bridge with no memory, who turns out to be a high-ranking official in Britain's secret service for people with paranormal abilities.

Acorn TV's streaming service delivers the best in British entertainment. Derived by the memoirs of a London police detective, "Manhunt" is a gripping miniseries based on the true story of a murder investigation that riveted a nation's attention and defined a detective's career.

Ovation TV is a channel dedicated to the arts so it is only fitting that Julia Stiles stars as an art curator in "Riviera" whose husband is killed in a yacht explosion, causing her to figure who in his family she can trust to uncover if his death was an accident or murder.

This column will eventually explore in greater detail many new series in the coming months. ★

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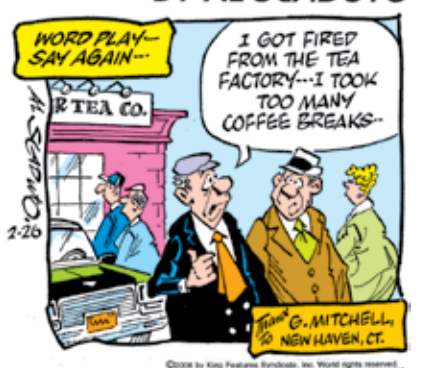
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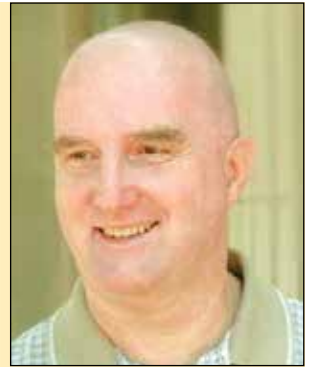
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MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



The Real State of The Union

This was the first time I actually listened to an entire speech by a president of the United States. Generally speaking, I find the content boring at best and a demonstration of the weakness of intellect if not knowledge about subjects under the person's control.

I was not so much interested in the topics Trump addressed as I was in the expected reaction from those involved. The "tribalism" exhibited by those present, the ladies in the white garb, and both parties disparate responses to contentious items is symptomatic of combative ideologies which are mutually exclusive. Free market capitalism and communism are polar opposites.

Once again Trump proved he plays his opponents like the fiddle. How do you make people look foolish? By exposing them for who they are and for what they really stand. It should be obvious to all now that the Democrats wouldn't pass legislation for their most dear projects if it is Trump promoting them.

We all know that border security to a Democrat is a wide open border secure from the interference of government agents in allowing new voters from joining the ranks of their party. At best, the Democrats want an incomplete wall which they voted for twice, once in 2006 and again in 2013.

Trump allowed the Democrats to show they are sexist and racist despite their best attempts to put that moniker on him and Republicans. It shows how far

we have come as a country when we celebrate the gender of the person rather than her qualifications to hold office. The topic of sentencing reform held up two people, both of whom were black.

I heard some commentators put down those present for singing Happy Birthday to the veteran who saved prison camp Jews. The spontaneity of the situation and people being and acting human rather than as rulers was not lost on me. This was a break from the usual scripted nature of the event with applause erupting whenever key points are made. Canned laughter has met its match and both are boring.

What I took away from this speech was the rejected civility and collegial approach by a non-politician. It is no surprise that the Democrats don't want to work with the other side and they made it quite apparent. It is a one way street, a childish path, where you only do what you want to do and never give an inch to the other side.

Probably the highlight of the speech was when Trump stated that the US will never be a socialist country. Trump is wrong. The progressive agenda has been promoted by Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, his cousin FDR, Carter and Obama. The progressive income tax is a Marxist mechanism, Social Security is the government taking over personal responsibility, and Obama-Care is destructive to the free market providing a cheaper and more efficient solution for health care.

What Trump really means is

he will push the US back toward capitalism even if he uses government for infrastructure.

We are in dangerous times in the United States. If the Mueller investigation was real and not a politically motivated witch hunt, Hillary Clinton and the DNC would be facing charges.

To show you the depths of depravity of the new and current Democrat party, one only has to look at the current headlines. Murdering live born babies is now legal in Virginia with New York wanting to join this sick club.

Then we have the black face scandals. Al Jolson introduced black jazz music to white audiences who weren't receptive to entertainers of that ethnicity. Jolson's exaggerated caricature of facial features was quite different than simply darkening your skin with black shoe polish but it was not intended to demean.

All of this is just more of the same in distractions. Now it is the Left being caught up in their own game of the Me Too movement.

Working together can't be done when all we focus on is our dissimilarities. This is the rejected message of Trump's speech. When one party is governed by children, including Nancy Pelosi who must be in her second childhood, it is on those of us who still remain rational and logical to reject these politicians.

The bottom line is these types of people are the majority in all age groups. I am happy to have a true leader who proceeds without being drug down by them. ★

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