



NEWSBRIEFS

SISD, GECU partner up

Socorro Independent School District (SISD) and GECU opened their first SISD student-run credit union this week. The partnership between SISD and GECU will allow students at Pebble Hills High School, which houses the advanced academics program called Sparta Business Academy, opportunities to learn financial literacy, how to budget, operate savings and checking accounts and gain work experience in a financial institution. The branch will be open for students, faculty and staff. Senior students will be able to work during their practicum time at the branch and have opportunities to work at other branch locations. GECU is a valuable partner for Team SISD in helping students to become financially fit and to receive hands-on learning experiences through the branch. "We are thrilled to provide another amazing opportunity for our students to gain real-world experience and skills for a lucrative future in college, careers and life," said SISD Superintendent Dr. José Espinoza.

— Christy Flores-Jones

Pancake breakfast

The Oz Glaze Senior Center Save is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 2 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at 13969 Veny Webb in Horizon City. The fundraising meal is a chance to meet neighbors and support programs at the center. The menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, a choice of bacon or sausage, toast with coffee or iced tea. The cost is a mere \$7.00 per plate. Mark you calendars now!

— Judi Verslype

Canutillo ISD awards

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International has awarded the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD) its *Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting* for having met or exceeded the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. The District was recognized for its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* for the fiscal year ending 2016. The COE award confirms the school business office's commitment to financial accountability and transparency that can help strengthen a district's presentation for bond issuance

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People should all exchange problems. Everybody seems to know how to solve the other person's problem.

— Quips & Quotes

Socorro runoff election set for August 26

By Alfredo Vasquez
Special to the Courier

SOCORRO – The City of Socorro runoff election to decide the next mayor and District 2 representative is heating up, as early voting currently continues through Tuesday, August 22.

The Early Voting polling place is the Socorro City Council Chambers, 860 N. Rio Vista Road, and the hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with August 21 and 22 being from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election officials noted that there will be no early voting on Saturday, August 19 and Sunday, August 20, but that early voting would resume on Monday, August 21.

Election Day voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, August 26.

Election Day polling places include: Precinct 160- H.D. Hilley Elementary School, 693 N. Rio Vista Road; Precinct 161 and 163 – Robert R. Rojas ES, 500 Bauman Road; Precinct 162 – Socorro High School, 10150 Alameda Avenue; Precinct 164- Escontrias ES, 205 Buford Road; and Precinct 165 and 170 – Campestre ES, 113999 Socorro Road.

Candidates in the mayoral race are Ivy Avalos and Elia Garcia. The winner will fill the unexpired term of Gloria Macias Rodriguez, who was elected mayor in the city's election held in November but was ousted out of office this past March by the city's council members.

Candidates for District 2 Representative are Jesus Ruiz, former mayor of Socorro, and Ralph Duran. Socorro's city council is composed of four district representatives, one at-large representative, and a mayor. There is an uneven number of voting members on the council, so the mayor only votes in cases of ties.

The total number of registered voters for the City of Socorro is 16,758, according to El Paso County Election Department's statistics. The city's population is approximately 33,277. The city's proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year is \$8,326,894.

Mayoral candidate Avalos stated on her Facebook page that she may not have experience in politics, but that she does bring other things to the table that are important. She cited that she has studied biology and chemistry and worked in a small engineering firm where she did chemical analysis on soil and water.

Because of her experience in chemical analysis, Avalos stated that that would help her better understand what the city is doing with the ponding areas that are being proposed and the studies that will be required.

"I've also worked most of my life for my parent's small businesses, and as a realtor I know much about business,



Ivy Avalos



Elia Garcia

professionalism, and customer service," Avalos stated. "I was also a listing agent for a builder so I know how to lead a team. These, I believe are quite significant. If elected I'd like to be a hands-on type of mayor. Talk to the community and listen to their needs," she stated.

"Unfortunately, our city doesn't have much funds to do the projects that are necessary and which I would love to give the people, but I think instead of going more into debt with certificates of obligation, we need to target grants to finish projects," Avalos stated.

"I've seen so many of my friends leave Socorro because there are no good jobs, and the city is unkempt. We need to create and attract jobs and clean up our city to keep them here. I see much potential in our city but no direction, and I hope to change that," Avalos asserted.

Garcia, the other mayoral candidate, stated that she decided to run for mayor in the City of Socorro because she would like to give back to her community. She stated that she was raised in this community, and began to be involved in the city after she returned from law school.

"I served in the Civil Service Commission for a year, and I was the first member appointed to the Ethics Commission. After that, I served as the Municipal Court Judge for three years," Garcia stated. "This position opened my eyes to the needs of the Socorro constituents. Living here all my life, and interacting with the city administrators, as well as the population, as a whole, helped me understand the needs, concerns, and anguishes of the citizens," she added.

Garcia stated that her involvement with the City of Socorro

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Alcohol stings continue through September

By Chris Porter
Special to the Courier

TEXAS – The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) is conducting a series of undercover operations throughout August and September as tens of thousands of college and university students return to class across the state. The operations will identify retailers who illegally sell alcohol to persons under 21.

The undercover operations, known as Minor Stings, will take place at thousands of alcohol retailers located in communities near major colleges or universities. During the operation, a minor-aged

person will attempt to purchase alcohol at a TABC-licensed retail location. If the sale is successful, the business and its employees could face administrative and possible criminal charges.

The stings will take place at a variety of retailers including bars, restaurants, convenience stores and liquor stores. Any location that sells alcohol for on-premise or off-premise consumption could be included in the operation, according to TABC Executive Chief Robert Saenz.

"Our retailers take the lead in preventing alcohol from falling into the hands of minors," said Saenz. "This year, as in years past, we're urging all retailers to make sure their employees have the tools

they need to ensure anyone who purchases alcohol is of legal age to do so."

During last year's back-to-school operation, TABC agents went undercover at 1,337 retail locations and found that more than 90 percent were in compliance with the law. Over the past 12 months, agents conducted a total of 12,327 Minor Stings, finding a total of 1,333 violations for a total compliance rate of 89 percent. Of those operations, 2,380 were at on-premise locations such as bars or restaurants, finding a total of 424 violations. The remaining 9,947 stings targeted off-premise retailers such as convenience stores and found a total of 909 violations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Fabens Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2017 in the Central Office Board Room, 821 NE "G" Avenue, Fabens, Texas 79838. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.287800/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	1.00%	Decrease
Debt Service	19.50%	Increase
Total Expenditures	18.50%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 224,052,326	\$ 266,162,460
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 1,777,391	\$ 11,354,668
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 163,519,863	\$ 194,575,434
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 1,657,943	\$ 8,115,359

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
 ** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
 *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$29,029,000

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.040000	\$ 0.294000*	\$ 1.334000	\$ 978	\$ 8,204
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.051450	\$ 0.294550*	\$ 1.346000	\$ 1,172	\$ 8,739
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.040000	\$ 0.287800*	\$ 1.327800	\$ 1,100	\$ 8,739

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 54,735	\$ 63,527
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 29,735	\$ 38,527
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.334000	\$ 1.327800
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 396.66	\$ 511.56
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 114.90

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.327800. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.327800.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,523,479
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 259,951

Veterans Post By Freddy Groves

New GI Bill boosts benefits

A new GI Bill has been in the works, and now it's here. Dubbed the Forever GI Bill, it corrects many of the problems and inadequacies of previous veteran education-benefits legislation. In an amazing show of cooperation, both the House and Senate pushed through the final bill in only a few weeks. There was snarling along the way, but they got it done.

The biggest change? There will no longer be a 15-year limit on using educational benefits. Veterans who have been out for years and realize they need more education to progress in their careers will now be able to do it.

Here are some other changes:

- The Yellow Ribbon Program, which provides benefits to surviving spouses and dependents of service members who died in the line of duty, are expanded.

- Veterans who were partway through their education when their school abruptly closed will be able to have benefits restored for any credits that don't transfer.

- Reservists and Purple Heart recipients will now get

their benefits.
 • Veterans who seek degrees in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) will get more benefits, either a lump sum or nine extra months of benefits.
 • Schools will be required to train those who help enroll veterans, and to provide more campus vocation and educational counseling.

One potential glitch: To pay for all this, living stipends will be decreased so they're equal to active-duty service members' housing allowances. None of this happens today. Some changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2018, and some next August. Some might not happen for a few years. But it's there; it's in writing.

If you hear the legislation title The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 and wonder who Colmery is, he was the commander of the American Legion who originally wrote (by hand) the GI Bill... back in 1944. You have him to thank.

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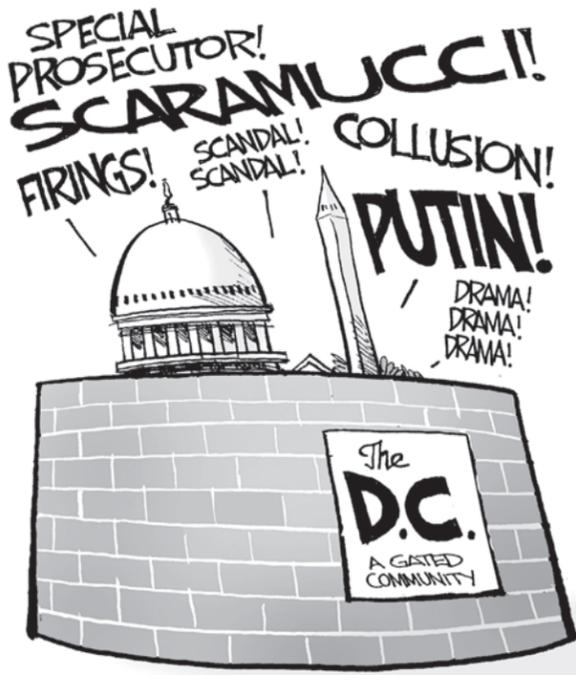
Phone: 852-3235
Fax: 852-0123
E-mail: wtxcc@wtxcc.com
Website: wtxcc.com

Publisher
Rick Shrum

Contributors
Alfredo Vasquez
Steve Escajeda

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View from here By John Grimaldi

North Korea still threatens world peace

Communist nation says it won't give up its nukes

Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has issued a statement praising “the resolve of the U.S. under the leadership of President Trump to neutralize the clear and present threat to world peace posed by North Korea (DPRK). But, it may not be enough to make the country’s strongman Kim Jung Un concede defeat.”

In recent days Kim’s rhetoric has become more belligerent than ever before. He has even threatened to attack the U.S. territory of Guam, home to 160,000 people—the great majority of whom are American citizens, including 7,000 U.S. troops. Just yesterday, the DPRK regime presented a detailed plan to encircle Guam next week with a ring of fire using multiple nuclear-armed missiles.

The solidarity expressed by the international community in condemning bellicose diatribes initiated by Kim should go a long way toward potentially ensuring the war of words does not escalate into a full-fledged nuclear war. China is a particularly important player as Washington Post opinion writer, David Ignatius, recently pointed out, Weber noted.

Ignatius put it this way: “President Trump’s bullying style, even in dealing with trivial matters of domestic politics, obscures the extent to which he has tried to marry U.S. policy on North Korea with that of China. For the most part, he has been surprisingly successful. Beijing and Washington have mostly been aligned, as in this past weekend’s unanimous U.N. Security Council vote in favor of additional sanctions against Pyongyang to punish its continued missile tests.”

Two things are noteworthy about the sanctions the United Nations has imposed on the obstinate Communist nation, Weber pointed out. “The vote to enforce severe economic punishment on North Korea was unanimous. Even China and Russia were on board, although it is hard to know just how far they are willing to go to enforce the sanctions. And, the sanctions, which were proposed and drafted by the US, are designed to deal a devastating blow to the country’s already weak economy by slashing trade revenue by one third. It won’t diminish the lifestyles of the inner circle in Pyongyang. But, how much more can the underfed and undernourished ordinary citizens of North Korea stand.”

Soon after the sanctions were adopted, it became clear that that the DPRK’s leader Kim Jong Un remains determined

to turn his postage-stamp nation into a threatening nuclear power, Weber said.

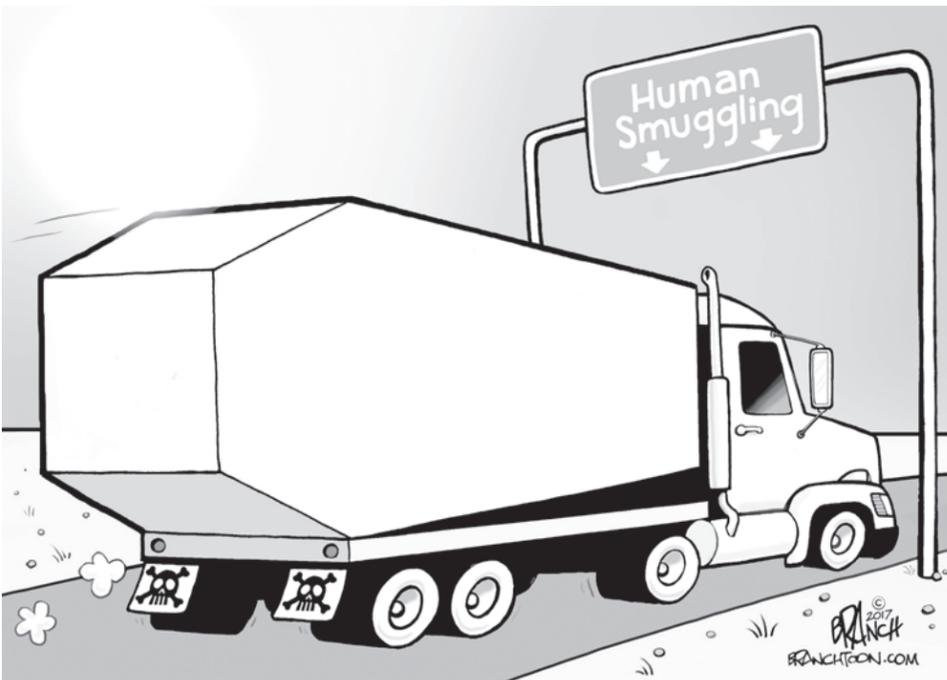
Within a few days of the sanctions being imposed, the North Koreans issued new threats against the U.S. and its allies in the region and backed them up with a mobilization of patrol boats armed with anti-ship cruise missiles. They were spotted by American intelligence agencies and are presumably intended as a warning to U.S. warships in the region.

And, North Korea issued a bizarre statement, saying that “the more desperately the U.S. works to realize its ambition for nuclear dismantlement of the north through maximum pressure and engagement, the more dynamically the DPRK has stepped up diversifying and modernizing the nuclear force before the U.S. and its vassal forces come to their senses.”

Weber said that Kim is a very unstable individual. “He’s like a very dangerous and petulant child. His classmates at boarding school called him unpredictable and explained that he is prone to violence. In fact, he is known to have murdered family members in paranoiac fits of rage. Any reasonable person – friend or foe – would have come to his senses by now and realized that the only choice he has is to put a stop to his war dance. Does he really think that he is dealing with the Obama administration with its timid approach to diplomacy? President Trump has made known that he prefers a peaceful approach to resolving the matter. But, he has shown that he is prepared to deal with the situation in a more forceful manner, if necessary. And, as UN Ambassador Nikki Haley has pointed out, all options are on the table.”

Will the UN sanctions be enough to convince the North Korea to cease and desist? Weber believes that diplomatic pressure is mounting rapidly as evidenced by the 15-0 vote in the UN to enforce strict sanctions on the DPRK. And, he says, if international condemnation of the country’s lawlessness does not move Kim Jung Un to behave, perhaps it might encourage dissidents within the regime to act.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (<http://www.amac.us>) is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today.



Socorro

From Page 1

as well as her law practice has enabled her to be a problem solver. “I would like to bring those skills to the residents of Socorro. As an attorney, I have learned to be compassionate, patient, and above all diligent in my duties to my clients. I will be able to bring that passion to the City of Socorro, as mayor,” she affirmed.

Ruiz, District 2 Representative candidate, served as mayor of the City of Socorro from 2013 through November 2016, when he lost his re-election bid

to Macias Rodriguez. Ruiz has lived in Socorro since 2000. He was graduated from Socorro High School in 2006 and earned a Bachelors of Art degree in History from New Mexico State University (NMSU) in 2010.

Duran, the other District 2 Representative candidate, stated that he is a self-employed businessman and farmer. He also was graduated from Socorro HS and studied computer science at Pierce College in California. Duran stated that he has been chairman of the civil service commission for eight years and that he has served on the board of adjustments for the past two years.

Strange But True

By Samantha Weaver

• It was 18th-century American novelist and poet Herman Melville who made the following sage observation: "Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed."

• Dogs can be xenophobic, too – those are the pups that are afraid of strangers.

• You've heard of standing desks, right? These work surfaces – which are designed to allow people to stand rather than sit while accomplishing their tasks – have become quite popular in recent years. Standing desks are not a new invention, however; they reportedly were used by such notable historical figures as Benjamin Franklin, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Woolf, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Winston Churchill.

• According to scientists, time can be measured more accurately than length.

• If you're sick of naysayers, you might want to try becoming a yeasayer for a day. Yep, that's a word – it refers to a person with a confident and positive outlook. (Note: It also can mean a yes-man – someone who agrees uncritically with others – but let's be confident and go with the positive definition.)

• It's been reported that 16th-century English theologian John Wesley, founder of Methodism, never ate an evening meal.

Thought for the Day: "We open our mouths and out flow words whose ancestries we do not even know. We are walking lexicons. In a single sentence of idle chatter we preserve Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse: we carry a museum inside our heads, each day we commemorate peoples of whom we have never heard."

– Penelope Lively

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Moments in Time

The History Channel

• On Aug. 28, 1988, with 100,000 spectators on hand, an air show at the Ramstein Air Base in Germany turns tragic when three Italian fighter jets collide in mid-air and fall into the crowd. Sixty-nine spectators were killed and hundreds more injured.

• On Aug. 29, 1958, pop sensation Michael Jackson is born in Gary, Indiana. Jackson began performing at age 7 with his four brothers in the pop group the Jackson 5, which scored its first No. 1 single in 1969 with "I Want You Back."

• On Aug. 30, 1963, at the height of the Cold War, a 24-hour-a-day "hot line" between Moscow and Washington begins operation. The hot line was designed to speed communication between the U.S. president and Soviet premier and help prevent an accidental nuclear war.

• On Aug. 31, 1886, an earthquake near Charleston, South Carolina, leaves more than 100 people dead and destroys hundreds of buildings. It was the largest recorded earthquake in the history of the southeastern U.S.

• On Sept. 1, 1864, Union Army Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman lays siege to Atlanta, a critical Confederate hub, shelling civilians and cutting off supply lines. On Nov. 15, Sherman ordered that Atlanta's military resources, including munitions factories, clothing mills and railway yards, be burned. The fire got out of control and left Atlanta in ruins.

• On Sept. 2, 1973, J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the best-selling fantasy novels "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" – the source of the award-winning blockbuster movie trilogy – dies at the age of 81 in England.

• On Sept. 3, 1935, Britain's Sir Malcolm Campbell sets a new land-speed record on the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah. With its low-slung, aerodynamic body and 2,500-horsepower engine, the Bluebird averaged 301 mph in two runs over a 1-mile course. Today, the land-speed record stands at 763 mph.

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3	9	8	5	4	6	7	2	1
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Tornillo Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 30, 2017 in the Administration Building, 19200 Cobb Ave. Tornillo, Texas 79853. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed tax rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.090100/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	
Approved by Local Voters	\$0.310700/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and Operations	1.91%	Increase
Debt Service	0.21%	Decrease
Total Expenditures	1.33%	Increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 85,977,444	\$ 91,714,950
Total appraised value** of new property**	\$ 4,843,599	\$ 571,264
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 67,040,009	\$ 72,745,845
Total taxable value**** of new property**	\$ 4,394,544	\$ 539,092

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$18,898,540.05

* Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operation	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.310700*	\$ 1.400800	\$ 745	\$ 9,825
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 1.080970	\$ 0.746000*	\$ 1.826970	\$ 1,127	\$10,064
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.090100	\$ 0.310700*	\$ 1.400800	\$ 892	\$10,064

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 49,545	\$ 65,914
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 22,829	\$ 32,543
Last Year's Rate Versus		
Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.400800	\$ 1.400800
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 319.78	\$ 544.86
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 136.08

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in the tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.400800. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.400800.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$6,294,919.00
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 451,376.06

NFL throws the book at Zeke, appeal is in the works

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

Life is filled with its share of highs and lows.

One day you're up, walking around whistling a happy tune, and the next day you're slumped over, feeling like the whole world is against you.

Last week Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was celebrated by his peers, being enshrined into the NFL Hall of Fame.

Jones is loved by some and hated by others, but there's no doubting his impact on the NFL, on the Dallas Cowboys and thanks to "Jerryworld," on sports in general.

Now that he's entering the twilight of his career, it must have been an emotionally satisfying experience to receive the accolades he did during the Hall of Fame festivities.

What a high that must have been.

Then, almost as soon as his bust was placed in its permanent Canton, Ohio home, the smile on Jerry's face faded quickly.

His prized running back Ezekiel Elliott was given a six-game suspension by the league.

To be honest most people thought he would maybe receive a one- or two-game fine. But no one saw six games coming.

Elliott burst onto the scene last year by easily leading the NFL in rushing as a rookie.

Enhancing his popularity was his easy-going, fun-loving nature. But it's also that nature that has brought him a lot of negative press over the last year.

While Elliott hasn't been charged with breaking any laws, right or wrong, his choices and antics are like those of a kid who has just turned 22.

Oh wait, he is a kid who just turned 22. Only thing is, compared to the rest of the youngsters, every single move he makes is recorded by someone just hoping to have that footage that goes viral.

So Elliott has to quickly grow up and learn that his actions, seemingly insignificant or not, have consequences.

The obvious question here is why the NFL went so hard on Elliott.

It was learned over a year ago that his ex-girlfriend filed a physical abuse charge on him.

After an investigation, the Columbus City District Attorney's office declined to pursue the case because of what they

said were "conflicting and inconsistent information."

It also said Elliott was cooperative in the investigation and offered up affidavits and photographs to support his case.

The NFL is within its right to continue investigating an allegation even if the authorities find no reason to do so.

That's exactly what the league did and their investigators said they found enough to issue a big suspension.

This can only mean one of two things, either the league will embarrass itself again by overreaching, or the Columbus DA will be embarrassed by not finding evidence that the NFL did.

I am of the belief that no matter who you are, breaking the law is breaking the law... period. But there better be absolute proof that the accused is guilty.

Remember the Duke lacrosse team?

I wasn't invited to sit in on the NFL's personal conduct meetings on Elliott, but I believe this was a calculated move by the league.

Because the NFL took so much scrutiny by being too lenient on Ray Rice and Josh Brown, it has

decided to throw the book at Elliott, even with the evidence being as sketchy as it is.

They know he'll appeal; the suspension will be reduced to two or three games and the NFL can always say, "hey, don't blame us, we threw the book at him."

As far as Elliott goes, no matter which way this thing plays out, this will hopefully be a good thing for him.

It should scare him straight and prove to him that he could quickly fall into Johnny Manziel territory if he continues on the same path.

Doing the "feed me" sign after a long run and jumping into an oversized Salvation Army kettle is all nice and well, but pulling a woman's blouse up and exposing her breast in public isn't a mature move.

I just can't picture Dak Prescott doing that.

I really hope Jerry enjoyed the high of his HOF induction week, because with all the suspensions, he and his Cowboys could be in for a long season of lows.

A sporting view By Mark Vasto

A Rose by any other game

If ever there was a more relevant irrelevant athlete in the history of sports, it is Pete Rose.

Everyone remembers that kid in class when we were growing up who just couldn't seem to control himself or stay out of trouble but was the first guy you'd pick for your kickball team. Wherever Pete Rose went to school, he was that guy.

Pete Rose manages to stay in the news, and he does it better than any other player with the exception of Jackie Robinson. Nobody sits around these days and talks about, say, Walter Johnson, George Sisler, Johnny Mize or Nap Lajoie. But we still

talk about Pete Rose. The kid stays in the picture.

The Philadelphia Phillies wanted to induct Rose into their hall of fame a week ago, and they had planned on passing out little bobbleheads of his likeness to all the fans in attendance. As per the norm, the deal didn't go down because Rose has some alleged NSFW issues. The Phillies had good intentions, but if there's anything Pete Rose does better than hitting a ball with a bat, it's staying out of halls of fame.

I love Philadelphia, and I love Philadelphia fans. I can relate a story about the time I was in a very famous resort town in New Jersey, and one day, over ice-cream sodas, conversation occurred with a few darling tourists from Dallas.

Texas and New Jersey have some sort of kindred spirit. We don't ever care about the price of gas, we don't mind talking loud, and you have to presume that we're packing heat. The person across the way started talking smack about Eli Manning and the Giants, and the Giant fans, in turn, returned fire about Tony Romo and Gov. Chris Christie, whom everyone in New Jersey hates. (There were no Jets fans in attendance because nobody ever talks about the Jets.)

For dangerous fun, I pointed out one of the patrons in an Eagles hat and said to the Dallas fans to pay close attention.

"At least we're not EAGLE fans," I said with exaggeration, and like clockwork, within a

microsecond, the Eagle fan's head shot up.

"DON'T EVEN GO THERE!" In context, it wasn't a very genial reply, but it did beg my next question.

"Go where? The Super Bowl? Where the Eagles will never go in your lifetime?"

The barstool screeched across the floor. He tried to make a rush, but just like the Eagles front line he was subdued with ease, and the staff quickly punted him out the door.

"See?" I said to the Dallas fan. "That's a Philadelphia fan. Half of that city will literally fight you if you talk smack about their team." And this is the town that won't stand by Pete Rose and toss around a little doll?

I'm not in any way suggesting that the allegations regarding Rose are something to make light of, but they are just that — allegations. We don't know what happened in his private life, but I think we all know far too much about Pete Rose's life anyway. And seriously, Pete... Philadelphia didn't back you up? That's hall of fame stuff right there.

We know you're the hit king, but after a while you have to admit that you've taken too many hits, too. Sooner or later you have to call the game.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter who lives in New Jersey. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

Briefs

From Page 1

statements. CISD also earned the *Certificate of Achievement (COA) for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA of the United States and Canada awarded the COA to CISD for its comprehensive annual financial report. The COA is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. It represents a significant accomplishment by the District and its management. "Our mission of excellence extends beyond the classroom and encompasses all departments within our organization," Canutillo Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pedro Galaviz said. The District is the first in Region 19 to be awarded either of these awards.

— Liza M. Rodriguez

Scenic Drive

Scenic Drive, from Wheeling Avenue to Alabama, will be closed to all traffic for several weeks to complete the next phase of the Kentucky Dam stormwater improvement project. Additionally, small portions of neighboring streets will be restricted to local traffic during construction:

- Streets between Scenic Drive and Alabama; and
- Streets between Wheeling Avenue and Altura Avenue.

Drivers will still be able to enter and exit Scenic Drive by detouring around the closure on Alabama Street and turning north onto Wheeling Avenue. The \$3.9 million project will help reduce flooding in

Central El Paso. The project will increase the capacity of nearby ponds and add piping that keeps water off the streets by directing stormwater into the dam. Additionally, the project will improve service in the area by replacing water and wastewater lines.

— Josh Moniz

Texas tough

With drunk driving resulting in roughly 1 million arrests, 10,000 deaths and \$44 billion in economic damage each year, WalletHub (a personal-finance website) has released an in-depth report on 2017's *Strictest & Most Lenient States on DUI*. In the interest of underscoring the financial downsides of driving drunk, WalletHub compared the penalties in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 15 key metrics, ranging from fines and minimum jail time to "ignition interlock device" requirements. Below, you can find an overview of the strictest and most lenient states, followed by some additional highlights from the report. Texas ranked 13th (1 being the strictest) out of 51:

- 6th – Minimum Jail Time (1st offense);
- 7th – Minimum Jail Time (2nd offense);
- 1st – How Long Old DUI Factors into Penalties;
- 9th – Administrative License Suspension;
- 18th – Minimum Fine (1st offense);
- 19th – Minimum Fine (2nd offense); and
- 15th – Average Insurance Rate Increase After DUI.

Visit <https://wallethub.com/edu/dui-penalties-by-state/13549/> for the full report.

— Diana Popa

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MOORE TEXAS

by Roger Todd Moore

Aug. 19 ,1886: Indianola is totally destroyed for the second time by a hurricane . It was never rebuilt .



Finances

From Page 4

of financing is relatively new to most drivers and the terminology (<http://www.cars.com/advice/>) can be daunting. But generally, the best deals depend on two major factors – negotiating the lowest price on the vehicle going in and making sure it’s a vehicle that has a high estimated post-lease value. In short, the lessor’s ability to keep making money on a high-value leased vehicle allows a lower monthly payment at the start.

Bottom line: If you need a vehicle, it pays to evaluate whether lease or purchase makes the most sense for you. Know your needs and get advice so you can make the most affordable choice for you.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered health, legal, tax or financial advice. It’s always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

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Health

From Page 7

cigarettes. These chemicals can be inhaled by nonsmokers if close enough and possibly absorbed through the skin.

Electronic cigarettes, also called vaporizers, may help people quit smoking. That’s the only use for them that I would recommend, after which they should be eliminated.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. To view and order health pamphlets, visit www.rbmamall.com, or write to Good Health, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. (c) 2017 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Haciendas del Norte Water Improvement District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Haciendas Del Norte Water Improvement District will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2017 on August 24, 2017 at 13931 Sagebrush Circle, El Paso, Texas 79938 at 6:30 pm. Your individual taxes may increase or decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

- FOR** the proposal: **Joseph McCandless, Daniel Diaz, Ed Brown and David Lincoln**
- AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**
- PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**
- ABSENT:** **NONE**

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year	This Year
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.219710/\$100	0.219710/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		(\$0.00)
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$ 203,418	\$ 203,290
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 203,418	\$ 203,290
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 446.94	\$ 446.66
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		– \$ 0.28 – 0.06%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS’ RIGHT TO ROLLBACK ELECTION

If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code.

Notice of 2017 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate for Town of Anthony, TX

A tax rate of \$0.663664 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of TOWN OF ANTHONY, TX. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

The governing body of TOWN OF ANTHONY proposes to use revenue attributable to the tax rate increase for the purpose of funding increased debt service requirements.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.663664 per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR’S TAX RATE	\$0.568433 per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$0.571187 per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE	\$0.663664 per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for TOWN OF ANTHONY from the same properties in both the 2016 tax year and the 2017 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that TOWN OF ANTHONY may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

property tax amount= (rate) x (taxable value of your property)/100

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

Maria O. Pasillas, RTA
 CITY OF EL PASO Tax Assessor-Collector
 221 N. Kansas, Suite 300
 El Paso, TX 79901
 915-212-0106
citytaxoffice@elpasotexas.gov
www.elpasotexas.gov/tax-office

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: August 28, 2017 at 6:00 PM at 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821.

Second Hearing: September 11, 2017 at 6:00 PM at 401 Wildcat Drive, Anthony, Texas 79821.

WTCC: 08-17-17