



Horizon City holds groundbreaking ceremony for new police headquarters



– Photo by Rick Shrum

A VERY LARGE FLAG – The Horizon Fire Department raised Old Glory during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Horizon City Police annex. More photos on Page 2.

Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program available to El Paso County students

By **Alfredo Vasquez**
Special to the Courier

EL PASO COUNTY – High school students, who want to go to college and are also interested in a career in the armed services, should seriously look into applying for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP).

In Texas, the governor and the lieutenant governor each appoint two students, and the state senators and state representatives each appoint one student every year to participate in the state’s prestigious armed services scholarship program.

TASSP is designed to encourage highly motivated students to complete a baccalaureate degree and become a member of a military organization including the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, and the United States Merchant Marine. Participating students may also choose to become a commissioned officer in any branch of the U.S. armed services.

The state-funded initiative’s aim is to support students who aspire to serve in the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, or the U.S. Armed Forces, according to Senator César J. Blanco, who represents District 29, which encompasses the counties of El Paso, Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves.

The West Texas senator said that the scholarship assists with educational expenses and encourages the next generation of leaders in military service. Selected students can receive up to \$10,000 per year for up to six years.

Blanco, who was raised in El Paso, enlisted in the U.S. Navy after high school. Upon completion of his tour of duty, he graduated from the University of

Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and entered public service by working for three different members of Congress who represented El Paso and West Texas.

Having been elected to the Texas Senate in 2020, Senator Blanco serves on various senate committees including Health & Human Services; Natural Resources & Economic Development; Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs; Veteran Affairs; and Border Security. He also serves as the vice-chairman of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus.

Within his district, Senator Blanco is active in a number of community groups including the American Legion, El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Rio Grande Council of Governments (RCOG), Medical Center of Americas (MCA), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund Board of Directors, and Project

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, Page 3



– Internet

HIGH FLYING OPPORTUNITY – Texas Air National Guard personnel, like the ones in photo above, are the aerial militia of the State of Texas, as well as the United States. The Texas Air National Guard is a reserve of the U.S. Air Force and Texas’ Army National Guard – an element of the larger U.S. National Guard Bureau.

Kamala Harris is no investor

Kamala Harris took a few brief minutes on the campaign trail to answer a couple of questions from reporters and flash her policy chops.

When asked how she is going to pay for her lavish spending plans, the vice president explained that it would be covered via those indispensable fiscal tools – pixie dust and magical thinking.

The expansion of the child tax credit, which will cost \$1.2 trillion? According to Harris, “The return on that investment, in terms of what that will do and what it will pay for, will be tremendous.”

Tax credits generally, including a \$150 billion expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit? “We know that there’s a great return on investment.”

Subsidies for home ownership, costing \$200 billion? “When we increase homeownership in America, what

that means in terms of increasing the tax base, not to mention your property tax base, and what that does to fund schools. Again, return on investment.”

In general, the vice president opined, “I think it’s a mistake for any person who talks about public policy to not critically evaluate how you measure the return on investment.”

Because, she continued, “when you were strengthening neighborhoods, strengthening communities, and in particular the economy of those communities and investing in a broad-based economy, everybody benefits and it pays for itself in that way.”

Clearly, someone mentioned “return on investment” to her in a policy briefing somewhere along the line, and the phrase stuck. Now, Harris thinks she’s the

Warren Buffett of deficit spending.

The concept of investment tends to be inapt in the context of government spending. In the private sector, when someone takes the risk of investing in a business or product and if it doesn’t work, he or she pays the price. This ensures a measure of accountability and rigor that is lacking in government.

There’s a reason that no one ever confuses the Department of Health and Human Services with Apple Inc.

That doesn’t mean that some projects don’t create



See LOWRY, Page 7



– Photos by Rick Shrum

FORMING UP – Horizon City Police Department officers stand on the future site of the new HPD annex in front of the large American flag raised by the Horizon Fire Department.

Quick annex facts

- The annex will house the Horizon City Municipal Courts and Public Works in addition to the Police Department.
- The annex was designed by Exigo Architecture and the contractor is Dantex Construction.
- The project budget is approximately \$10 million.
- The annex is scheduled for completion by Fall 2025.



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READY TO BUILD – Horizon City Police Chief Marco Vargas and Horizon City Mayor Andres “Andy” Renteria both spoke during the ceremony. Just behind them are the ceremonial groundbreaking shovels and hard hats.



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Scholarship

From Page 1

Bravo Board of Directors.

Prior to being elected to the Texas Senate, Blanco served in the Texas House of Representatives

for 6 years. Blanco noted that he has consistently delivered for El Paso and West Texas by leading initiatives that strengthen the region's workforce, economy, and border to improve the quality of life, to expand access to healthcare, and to increase economic opportunities.

"The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program is a remarkable initiative that supports students committed to a career in the armed services. As we open applications for this year, I am proud to be part of a program that not only helps cover the costs of college but also fosters the development of future leaders who will serve our nation with honor and dedication. Don't miss out on this opportunity!" the state senator declared.

Students interested in applying for a TASSP appointment must meet two of the following four academic criteria: (1) be on track to graduate or have graduated high school with the Distinguished Achievement Program or the International Baccalaureate Program; (2) have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale; (3) have achieved a college readiness score of at least 1070 on the SAT or at least a 23 on the ACT; (4) be ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class.

Contact Senator Blanco's office at Lina.Mendez@senate.texas.gov for more information about the TASSP initiative. Applications are open through August 15, 2025.



- Internet

Each year State Senator César J. Blanco, above, nominates a deserving student from Senate District 29 for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program. It offers an opportunity to further a participant's education while serving in a military organization.

Public Notice Village of Vinton, Texas

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 6:30 p.m., September 17, 2024 at City Hall located at 436 E. Vinton Rd., Vinton, TX 79821 and streamed through the zoom.us platform at the following URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVlJUL3ZLWTB6dz09.
Personal Meeting ID: 252 002 3141 Passcode: 12345

The purpose of the public Hearing is to allow any interested person to appear and testify regarding the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.

Members of the public are invited to attend and participate in the Village Council's September 17th regular council meeting where the public can testify regarding the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.

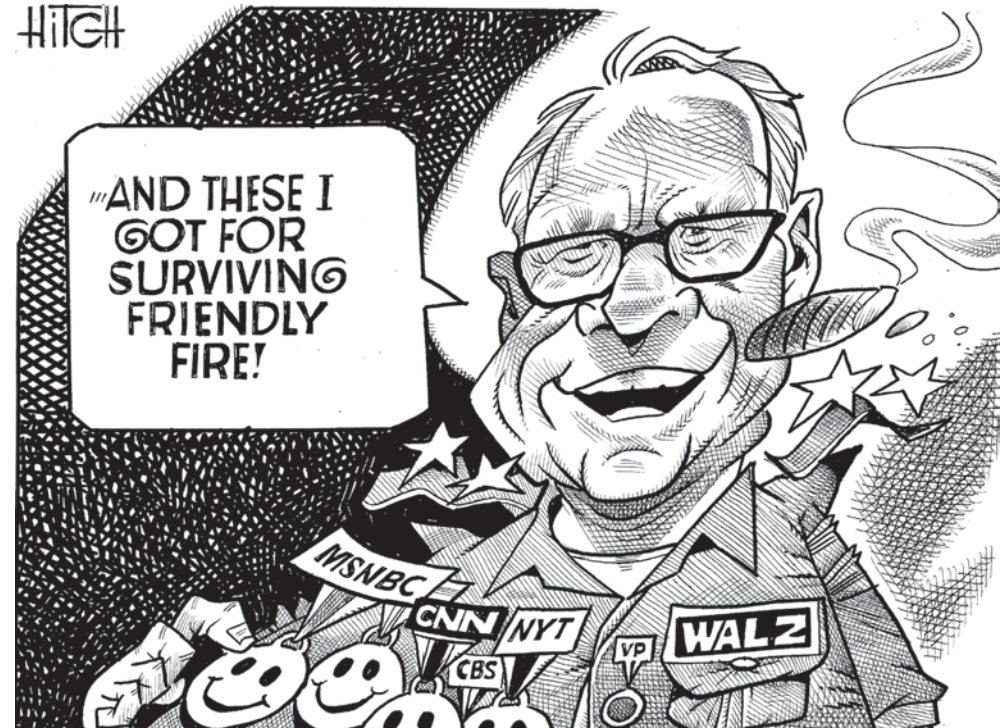
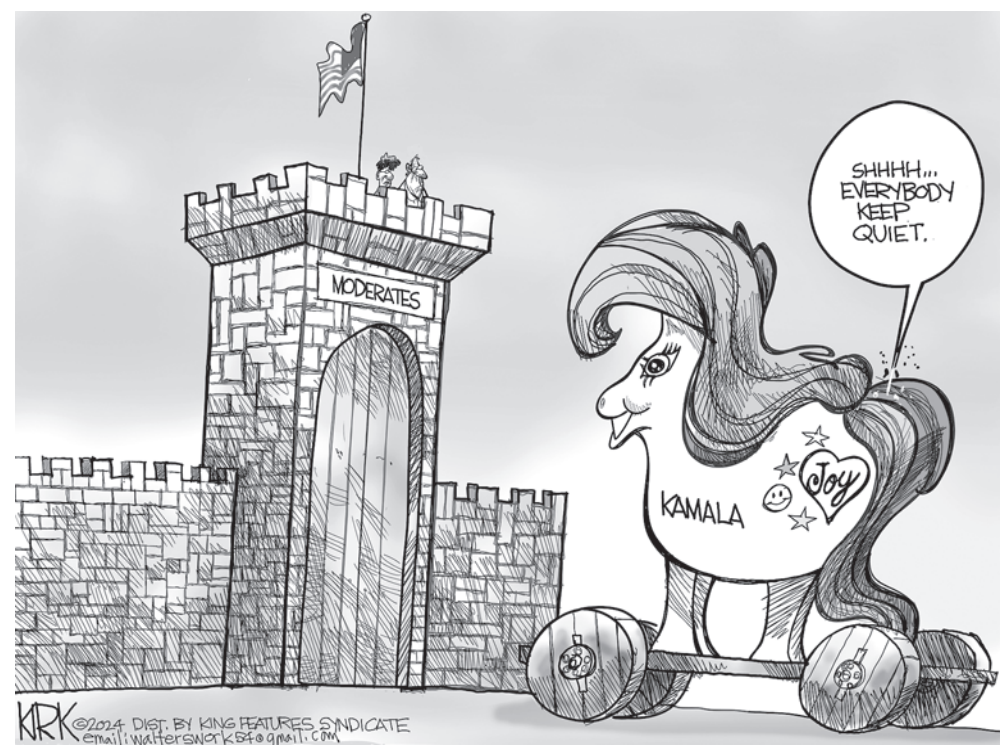
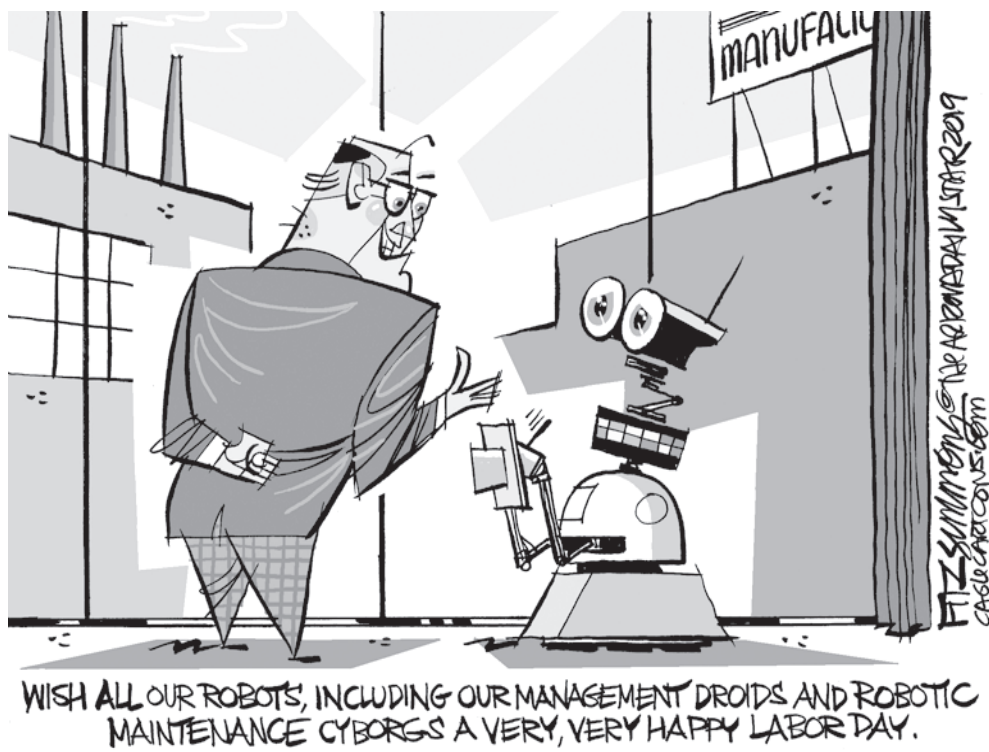
THIS BUDGET WILL RAISE MORE REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES THAN LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BY \$517,197 OR 47.36%, AND OF THAT AMOUNT, \$36,451 IS TAX REVENUE TO BE RAISED FROM NEW PROPERTY ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL THIS YEAR.

Those unable to attend are invited to submit their views in writing to the Village of Vinton, Attn: Mayor Rachel Quintana, 436 E. Vinton Road. City Hall is accessible for handicapped persons in need of special assistance to attend the hearing are encouraged to contact the Village Administrator at (915) 886-5104, forty-eight (48) hours prior to this meeting. A copy of the proposed budget is available for review on the Village of Vinton website and at the Village Hall located at 436 E. Vinton Road, Vinton, Texas 79821.

Andrea N. Carrillo
Village Administrator

WTCC: 08-29-24

Archives: www.wtxcc.com



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

A tax rate of \$0.911567 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of VILLAGE OF VINTON.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.911567 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.632815 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.688226 per \$100
DE MINIMIS RATE	\$0.911567 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for VILLAGE OF VINTON from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that VILLAGE OF VINTON may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate, unless the de minimis rate for VILLAGE OF VINTON exceeds the voter-approval rate for VILLAGE OF VINTON.

The de minimis rate is the rate equal to the sum of the no-new-revenue maintenance and operations rate for VILLAGE OF VINTON, the rate that will raise \$500,000, and the current debt rate for VILLAGE OF VINTON.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that VILLAGE OF VINTON is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 17, 2024 AT 6:30 PM AT City Hall 436 E. Vinton Rd, Vinton, TX, 79821 and streamed through zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2520023141?pwd=WVRDZDIFR3ZHR3FJVlJuL3ZLWTB6dz09; Personal Meeting ID 252 002 3141 and Passcode 12345>.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the voter-approval tax rate but not greater than the de minimis rate. However, the proposed tax rate exceeds the rate that allows voters to petition for an election under Section 26.075, Tax Code. If VILLAGE OF VINTON adopts the proposed tax rate, the qualified voters of the VILLAGE OF VINTON may petition the VILLAGE OF VINTON to require an election to be held to determine whether to reduce the proposed tax rate. If a majority of the voters reject the proposed tax rate, the tax rate of the VILLAGE OF VINTON will be the voter-approval tax rate of the VILLAGE OF VINTON.

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

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

- FOR the proposal:** Victor Carrejo, Perry Duby, Paula Monrreal, Lourdes Cloud, Santos Lucero
- AGAINST the proposal:** None
- PRESENT and not voting:** Rachel Quintana, Mayor
- ABSENT:** None

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by VILLAGE OF VINTON last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by VILLAGE OF VINTON this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.663916	\$0.911567	increase of 0.247651 per \$100, or 37.30%
Average homestead taxable value	\$123,073	\$133,962	increase of 8.85%
Tax on average homestead	\$817.10	\$1,221.15	increase of 404.05, or 49.45%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$1,092,080	\$1,609,277	increase of 517,197, or 47.36%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for VILLAGE OF VINTON at (915) 212-0106 or citytaxoffice@elpasotexas.gov, or visit vintontx.gov/office2.com for more information.



Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Aug. 26, 1791, John Fitch and James Rumsey were each granted a federal patent for the steamboat. The men were rivals who devised different systems for, and battled over claims to, the invention.

- On Aug. 27, 1976, the United States Tennis Association barred transgender athlete Renée Richards (born Richard Raskind) from competing in the U.S. Open as a woman, stating she needed to pass a chromosomal test. Richards failed the test, sued the USTA, and a year later was granted the right to compete following a New York Supreme Court ruling in her favor.

- On Aug. 28, 2003, pop singers Britney Spears and Madonna shared a kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards, delighting some viewers and offending others. MTV received hate mail "from the older generation," according to network president Van Toffler, who said: "I think the beauty of the VMAs was the combustibility. You wanted to make it fun and semi-chaotic. That's what we did."

- On Aug. 29, 1982, Swedish-born actress and three-time Academy Award winner Ingrid Bergman died of cancer on her 67th birthday. Bergman was best known for her role as Ilsa Lund in "Casablanca" alongside Humphrey Bogart, as well as the international scandal she sparked in 1950 when she had a son with Italian director Roberto Rossellini, to whom she was not married at the time.

- On Aug. 30, 1859, Edwin L. Drake successfully drilled the first oil well near Titusville, Pennsylvania, ushering in the modern petroleum industry. His discovery of an efficient way to extract oil from the ground revolutionized energy production and would help transform the global economy.

- On Aug. 31, 1989, England's Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, publicly announced her separation from her husband, Mark Phillips, but the couple stated they were not intending to divorce.

- On Sept. 1, 1928, groups of Boy Scouts placed approximately 2,400 concrete markers at sites along the Lincoln Highway to officially mark and dedicate it to the memory of President Abraham Lincoln.

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By Lucie Winborne

- After 10 minutes of looking at yourself in a mirror in a dimly lit room, your bored brain may distort your reflection, triggering the appearance of imaginary monsters such as "Bloody Mary."

- Sologamy is the act of marrying yourself.

- In 1895, there were only two cars in the entire state of Ohio... and they still ended up crashing into each other.

- The record for most passengers on an airplane was set in 1991 when 1,086 Ethiopian Jews were evacuated to Jerusalem on a Boeing 747. However, the plane landed with 1,088 passengers, as two babies made their earthly debut during the flight.

- Pineapples were a status symbol in 18th century England. In fact, they were so expensive that you could rent them by the night and take them to parties with you.

- In the first quarter after Covid lockdowns, lipstick sales shot up nearly 50%.

- The Apollo 11 astronauts had to go through customs upon their return to Earth and declare moon rocks, moon dust and other lunar samples, according to the form signed by all three and filed at the Honolulu Airport in Hawaii on July 24, 1969.

- Mary, Queen of Scots, was history's youngest monarch, ascending to the throne at a mere 6 days old. Coming in at second place was Emperor Shang of China's Han Dynasty, who in 105 A.D. assumed his royal position at 100 days old.

- Bella and Edward's relationship in the "Twilight" book and film series meets all 15 criteria set by the National Domestic Violence Hotline for being in an abusive relationship.

- Jim Carrey was the first actor to have three number one movies in one year.

- An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague.

Thought for the Day: "It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about."

- Dale Carnegie

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Lower Valley Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The LOWER VALLEY WATER DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 5, 2024 at 5:30 PM at District Office, 1557 FM 1110, Clint, TX 79836. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

- FOR** the proposal: **David Carrasco, Rosalinda Vigil, David Estrada, Henry Trujillo and Rodrigo Chavez**
- 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
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	\$0.150266/\$100	\$0.144716/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	- \$0.005550	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)	- 3.69%	
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$ 143,935	\$ 155,621
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 143,935	\$ 155,621
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 216.28	\$ 225.21
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	+ \$ 8.93 + 4.13%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing 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 voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Paseo del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The Paseo Del Este Municipal Utility District No. 11 of El Paso County will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., in person at the offices of TRE & Associates, LLC, 110 Mesa Park Drive, Suite 200, El Paso, Texas 79912; via means of a toll-free conference number 1 (888) 599-1357; Access Code: 8529; and via Zoom videoconference Meeting ID: 886 6934 5067; Passcode: 870273. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

- FOR** the proposal: **Directors Jose R. Soto, Cynthia Ruiz, Jon Muir, and Marcela Quintana**
- AGAINST** the proposal: **NONE**
- PRESENT** and not voting: **NONE**
- ABSENT:** **Director Alexandra Treviño**

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
	Adopted	Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 value)	0.7387/\$100	0.7423/\$100
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$ 0.0036	
Percentage increase / decrease in rates (+/-)	+ 0.49%	
Average appraised value	\$ 213,114	\$ 229,040
General exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ -	\$ -
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$ 213,114	\$ 229,040
Tax on average residence homestead	\$ 1,574.27	\$ 1,700.16
Annual increase / decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)	+ \$ 125.89 + 8.00%	

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the District adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing 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 voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

CryptoQuip Answer

Do you think the dry-erase whiteboard was a really marvelous invention? It's re-markable.

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First year of the 12-team playoff should be wild

By Steve Escajeda
Special to the Courier

UTEP's football season, and the first game under new coach Scotty Walden, gets underway this Saturday at Nebraska.

For the Miners, it'll be a year of a new offense, a new philosophy, a new system and a new attitude.

And the same can be said about all of college football in general.

This will be the first year of the new expanded 12-team playoff, which gives more teams a chance at an NCAA championship.

Usually, it was the same few teams that would participate in the 4-team playoff they've had for the last 10 years. Every year it was either Ohio State or Alabama or Georgia or Oklahoma or Michigan or Clemson. And things started to get boring.

But with 12 teams, many others have a chance.

This year, teams like Washington and Texas and Notre Dame and LSU and Florida State and Oregon and Mississippi and Penn State and Missouri and Utah and Tennessee and Miami and many others have a legitimate shot at making the playoffs.

And all that is good for college football and college football fans.

But just like we don't know which teams will make the playoffs, a lot of people don't have a clue how the 12-team format will work.

Well, I'll try to explain it without it sounding like a trigonometry problem.

First of all, a 13-member selection committee will be formed to make the

final team choices.

The teams will be chosen this way: there will be many conference champions, but only the top five ranked league champs will qualify automatically. Heck, UTEP may win Conference USA, but they can only qualify if they are among the top five ranked champions.

In other words, there are four major conferences, the Big Ten, ACC, SEC and Big 12. If the next highest conference champion is ranked 17th in the country, they get to go because they were one of the top five league champs.

The next seven highest-ranked teams will take up the remaining slots.

Of the 12 teams that qualify, the top four ranked teams will get an opening-round bye.

The other eight teams will be ranked by the committee as #'s 5 thru 12. The first four teams, ranked 5, 6, 7 and 8, will play their opening-round games at home.

That means that team #12 will play

at #5, #11 will be at #6, #10 will travel to #7, and #9 will be at #8.

Those four winners will advance to the quarterfinal round against the teams that took the first week off.

The top-ranked overall team in the playoffs will meet the #8 vs. #9 winner, the second-ranked team will meet the winner of #7 vs. #10, the third-ranked team will take on the #6 vs. #11 winner, and the fourth-ranked team will face the winner of #5 vs. #12.

These four quarterfinal games will be played at four different Bowl sites, the Sugar Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl, the Rose Bowl and the Peach Bowl. Where the teams will play will be determined by the committee.

That takes us to the NCAA semifinals.

The four quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals where the fourth-highest ranked team remaining will play the highest ranked, while the second- and third-ranked teams take on one another.

These two games will be played in the Cotton Bowl and the Orange Bowl.

Then, on Monday, Jan. 20, the two semifinal winners will face off at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta for the national championship.

This 12-team format may have a lot of moving parts, but it's a heck of a lot better than watching the same old four teams every year.

Also, the smaller schools that would never get a chance, will now have that opportunity to pull a major upset.

Just like when the little schools occasionally knock off a national power during March Madness, fans would go nuts over that.

Of course, teams that finish the season ranked 13th or 14th and miss out on the playoffs will complain, but that will always be the case.

Now that the NCAA has finally improved on its playoff system, let's start working on cleaning up that transfer portal and NIL money situations.

Senior moment By Matilda Charles

Finding senior discounts

There are more senior discounts available than we might have expected. We only have to find them!

Check AARP if you are a member. This is where I discovered that the Walmart Plus membership I use for delivery of groceries could be had for \$20 less per year, because of my AARP membership.

Look through the AARP list by putting discounts in the search box. You'll get over 2,300 results. Use the dropdown menu on the left side and click the ones that apply to you. Look for 50% off at LensCrafters and discounts at The UPS Store.

Elsewhere, visit The Senior List (www.theseniorlist.com/senior-discounts) and scroll through the offerings, which includes grocery stores, retail, restaurants and more.

Amazon Prime (amazon.com) offers 50% off if you receive government assistance such as Medicaid and SSI.

Check the National Park Service (www.nps.gov) for a \$20 senior annual pass or the \$80 senior lifetime pass.

Look at Goodwill for weekly discount days that can save as much as 25% off your purchase.

See T-Mobile for their 55+ two-line phone plans.

Living on the Cheap (livingonthecheap.com) has several categories for reduced-price shopping, travel, entertainment and more. Check their listings by state.

Don't forget free goodies on your birthday! "Birthday freebies" are available in many places, such as a scoop of ice cream from Baskin-Robbins, a Grand Slam breakfast at Denny's and pancakes at IHOP.

Do a search for "senior discounts 2024," and you'll find hundreds of possibilities. Add the name of your state to narrow it down even more. Look for discounts on travel, cellphone plans, restaurants, movie theaters, groceries, pet supplies – everything you need or want. You never know what you'll find!

Call before you go to any location to be sure the expected discount is still being offered.

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| | 102 D.C. ballplayer | 101 Spanish national hero | 61 Paper bundle | |
| | 103 D.C. ballplayer | 102 Spanish national hero | 62 _ instant (very quickly) | |
| | 104 D.C. ballplayer | 103 Spanish national hero | 63 Some NCOs | |
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| | 129 D.C. ballplayer | 128 Spanish national hero | | |
| | 130 D.C. ballplayer | 129 Spanish national hero | | |
| | 131 D.C. ballplayer | 130 Spanish national hero | | |

Comix

OUT ON A LIMB By Gary Kopervas



AMBER WAVES By Dave T. Phipps



THE SPATS By Jeff Pickering



TIGER By Bud Blake



Lowry

From Page 2

real returns. By making New York the country's most commercially vibrant city, opening up the West to settlement and drastically reducing transportation costs, the Erie Canal was indeed a great investment. Spending \$330 billion during World War II to defeat the Axis powers and to make the United States the world's preeminent power was worth it by any measure.

These are the exceptions, though. There's been so much so-called investment by the federal government in general and the Biden administration in particular, that it's a wonder that the budget hasn't already balanced itself. Instead, the deficit is nearly \$2 trillion a year, and the debt is \$34 trillion.

Where's the return? There is some, no doubt, but it is overwhelmed by the geyser of spending on every priority, from the Administration for Children and Families to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Harris is proposing to layer on another \$1.7 trillion in deficit spending.

It's not just that there will be no return to

almost all of it, government intervention often has the opposite of its intended effect by driving up prices. There's a reason that health care, higher education and housing cost so much. Regardless, the answer from the likes of Kamala Harris is always more intervention. An element of her program is more subsidies "to help Americans afford health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace." Wasn't that what the ACA itself was supposed to do?

So, no, the Harris spending program won't pay for itself any more than the Biden program did, or for that matter, the Trump, Obama or Bush program did. Magical realism—or magical unreality—in budgeting is an entrenched, bipartisan phenomenon in Washington. That's why we've gotten so much "investing" with so little return, except an ever-escalating debt and a series of worthless pledges about impending fiscal probity.

Like any huckster working in a boiler room, Harris is hoping to find people credulous enough to believe what's too good to be true.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. ©2024 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Botox injections used to treat overactive bladder

DEAR DR. ROACH: In two weeks, I am supposed to get Botox injections for my overactive bladder (OAB) and my frequent need to urinate at nighttime. Are these injections safe? Are there any bad side effects? How long do they work? – D.J.



The initial treatment for OAB symptoms usually consists of lifestyle changes (i.e., quitting smoking and avoiding medications that worsen symptoms at night), pelvic floor muscle exercises, and bladder training. If these are ineffective, medication is often used. If medications don't work or cannot be tolerated, additional treatments are considered, such as Botox.

The underlying problem with an OAB are uncontrolled bladder spasms. Botox is a powerful suppressor of muscle activity. If just the right amount is used, the excess muscle spasms are reduced, and the person gets good results. However, if too much is used, the person may not be able to urinate spontaneously at all, so your urologist will be giving you instructions on how to self-catheterize, in case you are unable to void your bladder after the injection.

If you note that the leakage has worsened a week or so after the procedure, this is a big clue that the bladder is not functioning after the injection. This can last for months, but typically no more than three months. Fortunately, this complication happens uncommonly, in about 2%-7% of people. Other complications include infections and bleeding, but these are not common. Antibiotics are given to reduce the risk of infection. Very rarely, muscles outside of the bladder are affected, including generalized weakness and eye muscle weakness.

When it works well, most people start noticing benefit in a week or so, and relief typically lasts 9-12 months before another injection is given.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have been a registered nurse in a hospital for many years. I worked with a urologist who mentioned something that kept him very busy: improperly inserted Foley catheters. When the balloon is inflated, these catheters can damage the urethra. Of course, a catheter is supposed to be inserted into the correct spot before the balloon inflates. I found out that nursing schools are teaching their students to inflate the balloon when urine is seen, but sometimes there can be urine in the urethra. The catheter can also get stuck in the prostate, where there can be urine as well. Can you help me get the word out about this? I also like to let male patients know about transurethral lidocaine use to anesthetize the urethra for a catheter insertion. It is cruelly to catheterize a man without it! – S.H.

I appreciate your writing. I am seeing a downward trend in hospitals using Foley catheters, which are plastic tubes to drain the bladder. In men, these are inserted in the penis and have a balloon to prevent the catheter from falling out. The balloon is supposed to be inflated when the tip of the catheter is safely inserted into the bladder. Inflating the balloon in the urethra is very dangerous.

During my fellowship, I read that Foley catheters are the most likely of all lines (IVs and central lines, among others) to cause harm to patients. Not only can they cause damage to the urethra (estimates range from 0.3%-25% of inpatient hospital visits for men), prolonged placement of these catheters may cause infection and scarring.

There are new low-friction catheters that do not require lubrication, but they still have the potential for complications and discomfort.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. ©2024 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved.



Moore Texas by Roger Moore

September 2, 1862: New Confederate conscription law includes all males 18-45.

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals R

CAL'S VAZ SKPLF SKB CXV-
 BXMEB RKPSBOAMXC RME M
 XBMDDV NMXJBDAZE PLJBLSPAL?
 PS'E XB-NMXFMO DB.

Answer Page 5

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

Answer Page 4

◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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The new burn pit registry



by Freddy Groves

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is launching again with a new design. Also known as the Burn Pit Registry and AHOBPR 2.0, the database will be open for study by epidemiologists and researchers with the goal of identifying the health problems veterans suffer after being exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits, and to improve treatment. It's expected that 4.7 million veterans will be included in the registry.

Being listed in the registry won't have any impact on your benefits and health care (no personal medical information will be included), but the information gleaned from veterans and their experiences will go a long way to creating new and better treatments. And you don't even have to sign up. All veterans who served

in specific locations during specific time periods will automatically be entered into the registry.

The information about each veteran will include demographics such as race and gender, as well as dates and locations of deployments. If for some reason you don't want to participate and want to opt out, go to vethome.va.gov/BurnPitRegistryOptOut. Or if you previously opted out and want back in, you can do that at vethome.va.gov/inquiry. Use this link as well if you discover that you're not in the new registry. You can request a manual eligibility review via that link.

To see the locations and dates for participation eligibility, or to read more in depth about the redesigned registry, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.

A new VA program, as of June 2024, VET-HOME, uses free telehealth medical evaluations to help veterans who've had environmental exposures. Go online to

vethome.va.gov and review the six registry programs to see if you're eligible, or call 833-633-8846 for more information. If you have a DS Logon, ID.me or Login.gov account, you can sign in and chat with someone or schedule your free telehealth evaluation. Remember that many veterans are eligible for more than one registry.

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• Repair enlarged screw holes with a wooden golf tee. Use a hack saw to saw it flush, sand and finish!

• Punch holes in paint can rims with a nail so the paint that gets sloshed on the rim will drain back into the can. To seal the can, wipe the rim with a damp cloth, and rub it with a little petroleum jelly and cover with a piece of plastic wrap and tap the lid back into place.

• Here's a back-to-flu-season tip: If you have a fever over 100.4, a sore throat without cough or congestion, if you're sick for more than a week, have one-sided facial pain or dark-colored mucus or any nausea or vomiting, you should not only stay home from work or school (so you don't infect your friends), but also consider making an appointment with your doc or urgent care facility.

• "Keep baby wipes at your bedside table for those nights when you are just too tired to take your makeup off properly. A little is better than nothing. If you're guilty of this more than you care to admit, invest in a packet of eye makeup remover wipes." – E.S.D. in Texas

• Sun protection shouldn't stop when the summer is over; the sun is still shining! If you have trouble putting sunscreen on your face, try this trick: Spray or smear it on a paper towel, then apply to your face. Use twice as much as you think you should, as some will get lost in the paper towel.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803. ©2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		-	7	=	6		
+		+		+				
	-		×		=	24		
÷		-		-				
	+		×		=	24		
=		=		=				
9		8		9				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

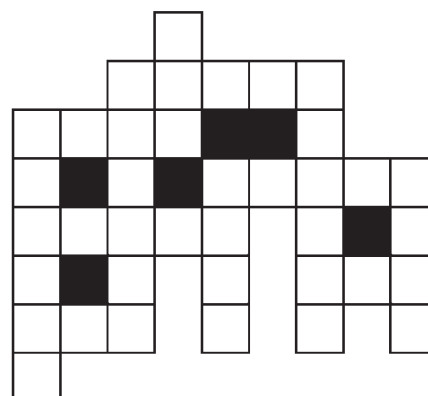
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

Answer Page 4

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- CPA
- VENICO
- RUENT
- ♥VREO
- TRODLE
- UND
- ♥APPLE
- ♥AVLEN
- ♥ELE
- PRIUNT
- OATPI
- UNNO



Answer Page 4

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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