

Opinions

Mayor's Corner

by Mayor Becky Norris

The Interactive Mayor's List

It is already known that I am a list maker. I have told you before that I have encyclopedias of lists and that there is hardly any better feeling than marking something off one of my lists. Today I present you with a different kind of list—an interactive list between you, the readers and citizens, and me. (Written just like I would jot it down on a note pad so don't grade me for writing skills.) This list will contain both information and questions that I hope you will not only answer, but also offer to become involved. Contact information will be furnished at the end of this article. So here we go:

1. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Saturday May 12th is Election Day so if you have not already voted, please remember to vote on Saturday. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is a privilege we have as citizens of the United States to be able to vote and a privilege that many ignore. Please seriously consider who you will elect to hold office on the Dublin School Board and on the City Council. Both of these groups have very serious decisions ahead of them in the next two years.

2. OPERATION FACELIFT PHASE II. I would very much like to begin phase two of the Operation Facelift project that we started last summer. I have two buildings that I would like to make more attractive. I have contacted and secured the permission of one owner and will be talking to the other owner this week. I will also be contacting Keep Dublin Beautiful to get an update on the planters to be placed downtown. Last year I headed up this project but I am going to need to delegate some of those responsibilities to someone else because of my health issues. I will still be very involved. This is hard work that a group must commit to but it is also very satisfying and only lasts a few Saturday mornings. Please contact me immediately if you can participate in this project.

3. MAINTENANCE. I would like to have a few people that can commit to very easy maintenance on the Operation Facelift buildings that we have already finished. I notice grass growing in the sidewalk cracks and little jobs like this that can just be done as you notice them while driving down the street, stop and take care of it at that moment. No set times to meet. Let me know if you can help.

4. DO WE HAVE A COMMUNITY GARDEN? I have no idea

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In Review

New book required reading for class

There have been a number of great sports books on the market in the past decade, many reviewed in these pages.

Sports is a very inspirational subject and another new book, "Our Time: A High School Baseball Coach's Journey" by Scott Illiano is one such fascinating work.

This is a true story - one of miracles - that has become required reading in the classes of a sports psychologist at Montclair State University (New Jersey).

The book is best summarized in a statement by the author: "Take twenty kids and four coaches, share a dream and a whole lot of heart and have a journey of victory and defeat, struggle and success and a coach who finally realizes when he actually became a coach."

In writing about the book, the publisher notes that "with it's 'David and Goliath' feel, Our Time is unique in the fact that it delves into many different aspects of coaching, educating, leading young men and developing character while learning to overcome obstacles by working as a team."

Probably one of the most interesting parts of the book - at least for those who have coaches - is how to effectively deal with the disgruntled sports parent.

And for a newspaper person, another particularly interesting topic is in the opening chapter about "a tiny three-by-one inch ad can alter your life forever." We in the newspaper business like to hear that kind of comment.

That ad was for a school seeking a baseball coach. And the rest, as they say, is history you can read about it in this book available online and at most major book stores in paperback. It makes for good reading.

-Mac B. McKinnon
-Editor & Publisher

Observations

By Mac B. McKinnon

Why?

Do you believe that maybe you take yourself too seriously. I do that a lot.

Then, I run across an e-mail or something in a newspaper or magazine that helps lighten the load.

That's what this e-mail did for me. Hope it makes you smile.

Why, Why, Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe, you believe them but, if they tell you there is wet paint, you have to touch it to check?

Why do they use sterilized needles for lethal injections?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that, no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people run over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance? (I do that).

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the first end you try?

How do those dead bugs get into enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart, then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right"? Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, "That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?"

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

Why, in winter, do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

Do you ever wonder why you gave me your e-mail address in the first place?

And my FAVORITE...

The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends.

If they're OK, then it's you.

A day without a smile is like a day without sunshine! And a day without sunshine is, like, night.**

Hope this make you chuckle.

Thanks for reading.
(McKinnon can be contacted by e-mail, publisher@dublincitizen.com).

STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Merits trial ordered

Three movements occurred last week in a legal battle over whether the state of Texas will allow health services to be rendered by Planned Parenthood affiliate clinics under the federal and state funded Women's Health Program.

- On April 30, Austin U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel granted an injunction requested by the clinics to prevent the state from stopping them from serving enrollees — low-income women who do not have health insurance.

- Later on April 30, U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Jerry Smith granted the state's request for a stay of the district court's injunction.

- And on May 4, a three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based Fifth Circuit lifted Judge Smith's stay of the injunction until a trial on merits can be heard.

So, now, the stay of the injunction is in effect, meaning the state Department of Health and Human Services may not enforce its rule banning affiliates of abortion providers from the Women's Health Program.

New licensing requirements

New proof of residency requirements to obtain Texas driver licenses or identification cards took effect on May 7.

To meet the residency requirement for an original identification card or driver license, an applicant must:

- Reside in Texas for at least 30 days prior to application; and

- Present two acceptable documents establishing proof of residency, one of which must demonstrate the applicant has lived in Texas at least 30 days.

Test to screen for SCID

The Texas Department of State Health Services on May 3 announced it is adding severe combined immunodeficiency, SCID, to the list of diseases that all newborns in Texas are screened for at birth.

The DSHS laboratory plans to begin screening for SCID in September using the same newborn screening specimens already collected to test for 28 other rare disorders.

Blood to be tested is drawn by a heel stick within 48 hours of birth and again at one to two weeks of age, the agency said.

Combs to lead task force

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs will lead a new "Child Identity Protection Task Force" managed by The Center for Identity at The University of Texas at Austin.

Among task force members are individuals with the FBI, Secret Service, TransUnion, LexisNexis and Internet safety group WiredSafety.org.

Permian proposes \$10K degree

A "Texas Science Scholar" undergraduate degree to be offered by the Odessa-based University of Texas of the Permian Basin beginning in the fall is the first answer to a call by Gov. Rick Perry for institutions of higher learning to adopt a \$10,000 four-year undergraduate degree.

Announced at a May 2 UT System board of regents meeting by UT-Permian Basin President David Watts, the bachelor of science degree program will offer majors in chemistry, computer science, geology, information systems and mathematics on the UTPB campus.

Education chief resigns

Texas Commissioner of Education Robert Scott on May 3 announced his intent to resign from office effective July 2, five years after his appointment to the state's highest public education post.



Dublin Doin's

an Event Calendar for Dublin and its surrounding communities

Friday, May 11

- Muffins With Mom 7:30 a.m.- Dublin Intermediate
- Dublin Annex Open House 10 a.m.-Noon
- DHS Academic Awards 1 p.m.- Dublin High School

Monday, May 14

- City Council Meeting 7 p.m. - 111 S. Patrick/City Hall

Tuesday, May 15

- FFA Banquet 7 p.m. - DHS Cafeteria

Thursday, May 17

- Athletic Banquet 7 p.m. - DHS Cafeteria

Send Us Your Events
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ACROSS

- Muslim leader
- TXism: "I couldn't buy hay for a night- (broke)"
- cattle
- TXism: "pay ___ never mind"
- on the Gulf: "Sea State Park"
- "Cowboys" is located in Arlington
- Oklahoma town
- TX county & city: San
- first "K" of KKK
- TXism: "in this ___ of the woods"
- Gonzales h.s. class beats up in England
- TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- this Kyle was SMU and Giants RB (init.)
- TX-born Melora Hardin was in '02 comedy film "___ Chick"
- Fort Worth country radio station
- TX country singer, Gabbie
- "___ Park" is near Lake Abilene
- he leads the way
- TXism: "sweet ___-mowed grass"
- "The Tyler Rose" football RB (init.)
- TX Willie's "On the ___ Again"
- Caribbean cattle breed
- real TX chili (2 wds.)

DOWN

- UT's William H. Goetzmann won Pulitzer for book "Exploration and ___" ('66)
- Stanton is seat of this county
- nickname of Ditka who was Cowboy player & coach
- perform the task again
- "Alamo City" abbr. filament in a light bulb
- this Tommie was Daryl Johnston's backup in early '90s
- redneck tool kit: ___ tape
- "cash ___" in business
- Austin univ.
- this Farrow was in "A Wedding" with TX-born Carol Burnett
- what Mavs, Spurs, & Rockets like to do at the net (2 wds.)
- TXism: "___ a scalded hog"
- "E" of Ranger or Astro stat ERA
- ___ Hedwig, TX
- TXism: "mucha ___" (girl)
- country singer McEntire
- snake sound (2 wds.)
- TX Kenny Rogers sang "I Don't ___ You" ('81)
- clairvoyance (abbr.)
- environmental TX company
- TX-based TV film starring Susan Dey: "Bed of ___" ('92)
- TX mythical cowboy "Pecos ___"
- TXism: "I'm at the red in TX flag ___ of my rope"
- Beaumont Univ.
- TXism: "hair raisin" (scary)

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