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Further example of why American health care is broken

Some may recall the *NewsLanc* commentary “**Local examples of why American health care is broken**” in which an Otolaryngologist (hearing doctor) invoiced the insurance company \$145 for a routine examination and then added a charge of \$250 for removing a “*Foreign body removal external ear canal*”, a hair resulting from the patient just coming from a barber appointment.

The good news is that the insurance company rejected the charge for removing the hair and did not pay a cent towards it. The bad news was the patient was billed in its place.

So what is the patient supposed to do? Complain and risk severing a relationship with the specialist? Refuse to pay and risk jeopardizing a credit rating?

In other economically advanced nations, this situation would not occur because of the structure of their universal health plans. Because of the power of hospitals and physicians to charge at will, there is little wonder that American health care is consistently rated the worst among the most industrially advanced nations and yet costs at least 5% more of Gross National Product than the others.

This is a major reason there is little money remaining for investment and education.

(Post script: After the publicity, the medical practice waived charges to the patient.)

McCaskey Tornado's turnaround has deep roots

The *Intelligencer Journal* – *New Era* sports article “*Williams helps red-hot McCaskey sail past York High*” reports the surprising news that “*The team that had won one game over the previous two seasons is suddenly 2-0, its latest success a 45-14 smackdown of York Friday night, in which senior tailback Markeith Williams ran 21 times for 168 yards and three touchdowns.*”

Obviously the players on the Tornado football team and first year coach Rob Monzon deserve much of the credit for a stunning return to competitiveness this year after a virtual decade of disappointing and even disastrous seasons.

There are at least two other heroes who go unnoticed.

One is Jon Mitchell, Athletic Director, who was engaged three years ago and who set forth a multi-

year program to rebuild the dysfunctional athletic program. Mitchell has worked marvels with the selection and motivation of coaches and has brought a winning attitude to the athletic program.

The other is School District of Lancaster Superintendent Pedro Rivera who lost no time in bringing about changes when he arrived in Lancaster. He understood how detrimental teams that constantly lose were to the morale not only of the players but to the school population in general, many who come from circumstances which in themselves result in low self esteem.

Readers of long duration may recall the series of expose's that *NewsLanc* published concerning the abject neglect and dysfunction of the administration of the sports program from the school superintendent's office on down prior to the arrival of Rivera. **[Continued on back]**

Perhaps the biggest challenge ahead for a winning season is whether the players can maintain adequate Grade Point Averages to retain their eligibility.

This has been a big problem for the Tornados in past years.

LETTER: Raising taxes in a recession

“Whether you like the man [George W. Bush] or not, most people would agree that raising taxes in a recession is a bad idea.

If you’re one of the people who thinks it’s fine because it doesn’t affect you, think again. If you have a job (or even if you don’t) it affects you because it affects people that employ people. One way or the other, everyone pays for a tax hike.”

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA:

“New strategies for local libraries, County gets task force’s recommendations” relates

“Declining funding from the state government has libraries reducing hours and services at a time when demand for both is skyrocketing. ‘With the

EDITOR: The Obama Administration agrees with the above, except it would not continue the Bush tax cut for families earning \$250,000 or more.

Opponents of the administration backed bill want to hold hostage continuation of the Bush tax cuts for 99% if taxes are allowed to return to the higher pre-Bush administration levels for the affluent 1%.

funding situation the way it is, this is a time of crisis for libraries,’ *Terry Kauffman, chairman of the Lancaster County Public Library Task Force, told the county commissioners Wednesday.*”

WATCHDOG: A wag of the tail for a well written summary of the Task Force’s recommendations.

LGH STONEWALLS TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT

To qualify as a ‘Public Charity’ under federal law, Lancaster General Health is required to hold a board meeting open to the public and media each year. This is the only opportunity for transparency. Have you never heard about their annual meeting? Small wonder. The following fourth request for information was made earlier this week:

September 13, 2010

To: J. P. Lines, Director of Public Relations and Communications, Lancaster General Hospital

From: Robert Field, NewsLanc.com

Copy: Tom Beeman, President

John:

I have asked you via e-mail three times within the past month whether a day and time has been set for the Lancaster General Hospital annual meeting which is to be open to the public.

I have received no response. The public is entitled to this information.

If I do not receive a response, NewsLanc will print a story that you again refuse to provide the information.

Kind wishes.

Robert

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