

IRS FROM PG. 2

similar leeway to taxpayers. There will be plenty of new issues to navigate this year. For example, individuals who are eligible to claim the child tax credit and have gotten advance payments throughout the year may get a smaller refund than they normally would see. People who did not get stimulus checks that they were qualified for as part of

the pandemic relief package might yet be able to claim a “recovery rebate credit” on their taxes. On Thursday, the IRS released a list of “Top 5 Things to Remember,” with suggestions for taxpayers on what documents to pull together and what to do if their 2020 returns still have not been processed. The IRS anticipates that

most taxpayers will receive their refund within 21 days of when they file electronically, barring any issues with processing their return. But plenty of pitfalls remain, in part due to staffing troubles at the IRS. Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union that represents IRS workers, said the agency “has a hard time

recruiting because they’re up against Burger King or McDonald’s,” which offer similar pay without requiring workers to “deal with confusing rules and regulations.” As of Thursday, the agency’s careers website listed at least 180 open jobs, including clerks and tax examiners paid as little as \$11 an hour. Of those, 42 positions were open to the public; most

were available only to internal applicants. A hoped-for \$80 billion infusion for the agency was included in versions of President Joe Biden’s proposed package of social spending programs but that stalled on Capitol Hill. Reardon said the IRS “is in a lot of trouble in terms of how it is effectively able to carry out its mission and

that has to be rectified.” “I think clearly the taxpayer gets the brunt of this,” he said, adding that IRS workers get “the brunt of that blame under horrible circumstances.” — *Associated Press writer Aamer Madhani contributed to this report.*

LBJ FROM PG. 1

it to the boy. And about two weeks later, he gets a letter back from the boy, it says, Dear God, thank you so much for the \$20 but next time you send money don’t send it through Washington, they took 80% of it,” Strong shared to a roar of laughter. Strong shared that he spoke with Doris Kearns Goodwin, who wrote an extensive biography on LBJ, to prepare for Saturday’s event. “[Goodwin] called me. She said, ‘I am so excited that that museum is doing great because I wanted to talk to you and I wanted to send my good wishes to them and tell them that I admire and I’m proud of them for continuing to promote his legacy,’” Strong said. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Museum of San Marcos first opened its doors at 131 N. Guadalupe St. on Dec. 6, 2006. The museum aims to preserve the former president’s legacy by “focusing on his years spent as a student at Southwest Texas State Teachers College, and his teaching experiences in Cotulla. We emphasize the impact of these experiences on his role in the development of landmark legisla-

tion in the areas of education and civil rights.” Wayne Kraemer, LBJ Museum Board of Directors President, said he believes museums are guardians of time that “permit us to treasure, respect and remember the things that are important to our soul.” “I believe that we’ve created a space that honors Lyndon in that way,” Kraemer said. “Interestingly enough, [Saturday marked] the 49th anniversary of his death. He was only 65 when he died. It also makes us mindful of the issues that were important to LBJ’s story that are still being debated today — Civil rights, voting rights, other components of the Great Society — are now being tested and challenged. We stand as guardians on their behalf.” Strong said during Johnson’s presidency that he believed the answer to the nation’s problems came down to a single word: education. “When he spoke to a group of students at his School of Public Affairs in Austin about a month before he died, LBJ told them that a life in public affairs,

one of helping your fellow man, is the most rewarding of all the work that you can undertake in life,” Strong said. “[Johnson] said, ‘The greatest known satisfaction for human beings is knowing, and if you’re the only one that knows it’s there, and that’s what’s important, knowing that you’ve made life more just, more equal and more opportune for your fellow man, that’s what this school is all about.’” With Saturday marking 49 years since Johnson’s death, Tuesday marks the same anniversary of his burial. Reflecting upon Johnson’s legacy, Strong shared words that Texas Gov. John B. Connally and Rev. Billy Graham spoke at the president’s burial. “Mr Graham in his remarks said, ‘Mr. Johnson would stand tall in the history books. His 38 years of public service kept him at the center of events that have shaped our destiny. To him the Great Society was not some wild crazy dream. It was a realistic hope. And it seemed to me those that knew him would agree that the thing nearest his heart was to harness the wealth

and the knowledge and the greatness of this nation and help every poor and every oppressed person in this country,’” Strong said. “Connally said that Johnson’s years of public service added up to, ‘a triumph for the poor, a triumph of the oppressed, a triumph for social justice, and a triumph for mankind’s never ending quest for freedom. Mr. Conway added, ‘along the stream and under these trees that he loved, he will have rest. He saw his first light here. He last felt life here. May he now find peace here,’” Strong added. Saturday’s gala wrapped up with a presentation of an award to Ed Mihalkanin for his work as a founder of the museum and his previous service as past president of the museum’s board of directors and board member. The LBJ Museum will host its 2022 Spring Lecture on Feb. 23 where Texas newsman Neal Spelce will speak. The event will be free and open to the public.

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Pictured above and below, attendees at the LBJ Museum's 15th anniversary gala held at the Holiday Inn San Marcos-Convention Center on Saturday pose for photos during the event. Photos courtesy of Melissa Millicam



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