

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Peters to finally pays debt to county and residents

A sad chapter in the life of former Jasper County Precinct 6 Constable Fred Peters came to an end this week. He pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the drug.

The embattled constable has seen his life spiral downward last year after he was arrested three times with the final arrest during a drug sweep in Silsbee.

Peters resigned his position as constable soon after his arrest. The residents of precinct 6 were able to move on under the direction of Tommy Ray Robinson.

Peters' supporters say we should look at his many years of service as a constable for the precinct. Those years, though, were clouded when Peters was caught up in the world that he was being paid to protect the public from.

Peters, though, deserves our support as he goes through this time in his life. He faces a possible prison sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison.

Behind the shield, Peters failed to see the difference between right and wrong. Behind the bars of a federal prison, he may finally realize the errors of his ways.

Roses go to....

Glenn Beatty Jr. The Jasper Junior High student who rescued his cousin and family from their burning home.

Jasper County district 4-H participants will travel Nacogdoches Saturday to participate in the District contest.

Thorns go to....

Rain, rain go away. The Texas Forest Country is starting to look like the Seattle area with the continuing rain showers.

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

WWTD?

We can no longer claim that Hollywood is not interested in Christianity: according to several sources the Church of Scientology has decided that Tom Cruise as Christ.

Okay, maybe not The Christ, but rather "like Christ," in a quote attributed to church leader David Miscavige in a London tabloid, The Sun. The newspaper says that, according to Miscavige, "...in future, Cruise...will be worshipped like Jesus."

Well, hey, if Scientology says Tom Cruise is Jesus, who are we to judge? Now the top gun is really, really, really The Top Gun.

And this makes Katie Mrs. Jesus, and being Mrs. Jesus is a bigger deal than Lady Macbeth's ambition merely to be Queen of Scotland.

Certainly this ends a lifetime of existential questioning for all of us: Tom is Lord, and that's the end of it. Now we can wear little plastic bracelets with "WWTD?" molded into them.

Going to see Our Lord in Top Gun counts as church attendance.

New bumper stickers: "HONK IF YOU LOVE XENU" and "MY BODY THETAN CAN WHIP YOUR BODY THETAN."

Newspaper personals: "OTIII would like to meet a Solo NOT with a Mark Super VII Quantum E-meter."

Church schedule: Tomday School at 9:30, Tom Worship at 10:30. Evening Tom Worship at 6:30 P.M., Tom Study on Wednesday at 7:00 P.M.

New versions of the Bible will come



Mack Hall

with marginal notes by Tom, a section on tips for happy and submissive wives by Katie but approved by Tom, and annotated pictures of the entire Star Wars cast.

New hymns: "Are You Cleared in the Circuit-Path of the E-Meter," "A Mighty Fortress is our Tom," "What Descended-From-Space-Aliens Child is This," "Amazing Tom," "The Old Rugged E-Meter," "The Sea Org's One Foundation," "What a Friend We Have in Tom," and "Our Tom is an Awesome

Tom."

New religious movies: The Tom of Toms, Thomas Christ Superstar, Going Tom's Way?, The Bells of Saint Tom's, Song of Tomadette, The Tom Commandments, Brother Tom Sister Tom, A Tom For All Seasons, Chariots of Tom, The Chronicles of Tom, Tom Hur, The Passion of the Tom, Lilies of the Tom, The Gospel of Tom, Tom and Bathsheba, and The Greatest Tom Ever Told.

But perhaps I'm wrong. After all, Tom Cruise is incredibly rich and has lots of teeth. He got married in a castle in Italy, shows up on Oprah often, and is featured on the covers of many magazines. He must be right. Who am I to question E-meters and something-grams and the influence of 75,000-year-old galactic rulers? Or ouija boards. Or mood rings.

Well, that's enough of that; I have to get back to finding my true soul in my enneagram.

Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville

In Jasper County

Singing with one voice...



Newsboy photo/Jimmy Galvan

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Thanks for coverage of Men's Day event

By REV. JOHN D. HARDIN
Jasper

I personally want to thank you for the great coverage of our Men's Day. We had a great day in the Lord. Attendance was good, food good, emcees good, speeches and songs good. Jasper and its people along with *The Jasper Newsboy* are all good. Everyone I know that loves Jasper and this area thinks no differently.

Thank you for a job well done, from Mt. Olive Church, the Brotherhood, and president Jack Lane.

Letters to editor criteria outlined

Letters to the editor of *The Jasper Newsboy* must meet the following criteria:

- Should be of general or specific interest to the readership of *The Jasper Newsboy*
- Should be limited to about 300 words
- Must contain a valid signature, a valid mailing address and valid day and evening telephone numbers where the writer may be reached
- Names of persons writing letters will not be withheld
- Unsigned letters will not be published
- Letters endorsing or opposing political candidates are considered political advertising and should be taken to the advertising department
- Letters containing personal attacks on individuals, public figures or elected

officials will be edited or sent back to the writer. Criticism of how a public figure or elected official votes or on actions taken with regard to performance of his/her job are acceptable as long as the comments are not personally derisive

• Letters of complaint about private businesses will be forwarded to the business in question and will not be published

• Thank you letters with long lists of names are considered advertising and should go to the advertising department

• Deadline for letters is 10 a.m. Monday for inclusion in the following Wednesday's edition

• Letters may be edited for length, libel, grammar, clarity and newspaper style, without changing the meaning and intent of the letter

• To ensure diversity and variety of viewpoints, letter writers are limited to one letter each 30 days

• *The Newsboy* will not publish poetry, anonymous letters, "open" or "third party" letters written to someone else, letters that constitute advertisements, letters concerning private legal disputes or conflicts between individuals, letters that are part of organized writing campaigns and letters that include previously published material

Mail letters to:
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The Your Viewpoint columns are primarily for *Newsboy* readers and subscribers in the four-county Jasper Retail Trade Area of Jasper, Newton, Sabine and Tyler counties. First consideration will be given to letters from those residents.

"Fraud and falsehood only dread examination. Truth invites it."

— Thomas Cooper (1759-1839)

Capital Highlights A summary of the week's significant events in Austin

Speaker picks chairs, members for House committees

AUSTIN - It took a couple of weeks to see how House Speaker Tom Craddick's somewhat contentious re-election would play out.

Craddick announced his picks for chairs and committee assignments on Jan. 26.

The Midland Republican survived a challenge that vaporized on Jan. 10, the second day of the 80th Texas Legislature, and was elected to a third term.

Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, made a run against Craddick but bowed out in the 11th hour, before a final vote. Craddick re-assigned Pitts and rewarded loyalists. Pitts served at

Craddick's pleasure in the 2005 session as chairman of the state budget-writing House

Appropriations Committee. Craddick named Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, to replace Pitts as chair and kept Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, as chairman of House Ways & Means, the committee charged with raising revenue.

Without Craddick's post-challenge support, Pitts used his own seniority to secure a non-leadership post on Ways & Means.

Here are a few of Craddick's other chair appointments:

▼ Beverly Woolley, R-Houston, Calendars, the committee that serves as gatekeeper for bills to move to the House floor;

▼ David Swinford, R-Amarillo, State Affairs;

▼ John Smithee, R-Amarillo, Insurance;

▼ Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, Public Education;

▼ Mike Krusee, R-Round Rock; Transportation;

▼ Aaron Pena, D-Edinburg, Criminal Jurisprudence; and

▼ Patrick Rose, D - D r i p p i n g Springs, Human Services.

Perry applauds appraisal ideas

Gov. Rick Perry on Jan. 23 praised his Task Force on Appraisal Reform on the release of its report recommending that lawmakers pass five statutory changes and two constitutional changes to fix what some have called a "broken system."

The recommendations, from a governor's office news release:

▼ Require voter approval



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

for any local taxing entity (excluding schools) to charge or collect revenues from ad valorem taxes in excess of the approved prior year's budgeted tax revenue, plus five percent;

▼ Improve fairness and consistency in the appraisal process. Appraisal boards would be comprised of five members, including two taxpayer representatives, and taxpayers would have new options in challenging property valuations.

▼ Change the comptroller's property valuation study, which is used to equitably distribute state funding to schools and provide uniformity in local property appraisal practices.

▼ Prohibit the state from passing unfunded mandates to local governments.

▼ Require sales price disclosure.

▼ Pass legislation to change the state constitution to allow taxpayers the option of calculating their property taxes using a five-year rolling average of the property's appraised value.

▼ Pass legislation to change the state constitution to lower the residential appraisal cap on city and county taxes from 10 percent to five percent, double the local property tax home-stead exemption to \$6,000, and allow local governments the option of conducting an election to enact a half-cent countywide sales tax constitutionally dedicated to property tax reduction. The appraisal cap could be lowered to five percent only in counties that

vote for a half-cent county-wide sales tax increase.

More from governor's office

Gov. Perry announced Jan. 22 that FEMA will extend by six months the housing aid deadline for people displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The aid was due to expire in February.

Also on Jan. 22, Perry announced the expansion of Operation Wrangler, a border law enforcement project teaming local, state and federal law enforcement. Perry said the effort is structured to stem crime, illegal international drug trafficking and human trafficking.

The full report is available online at window.state.tx.us. Ed Sterling is director of member services for the Texas Press Association in Austin.