

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Lauve left mark

During his five-year career in Jasper, Danny Lauve amassed a 44-21 record while leading the Bulldog football squad.

Including in that was a trip to the Class 3A state finals and trips to the playoffs in four of his five years.

Lauve resigned his position with the district last week to accept a similar position with Elgin High School near Austin.

When we look back at Lauve's tenure with Jasper, even though his record was impressive, it is his body of work with the student athletes off the field that will be missed most.

Lauve brought character to a program and worked just as hard teaching his players the proper way to tackle as well as how to survive in the real world when their playing days end.

He taught his players that playing football was a privilege and not a right that they had earned. Lauve stressed academics and often kept his players focused on what was important — the classroom.

In the world of Texas high school football, winning is often stressed over everything else. With Lauve, winning was important but so was the development of the young men off the field.

To Coach Lauve, good luck in Elgin.

To Jasper ISD administrators, good luck at filling some mighty big shoes.

Roses go to....

▼ Karis Watson. The principal and teacher at First Baptist Academy in Kirbyville was given the Golden Apple Award by KBTB last week.

▼ Jasper officer Wanda Brister and Jasper Fire Marshal Stephen Williamson. Both participated in a program at Few Primary that dealt with safety issues for the students.

Thorns go to....

▼ Michael James Beenan, who was charged with injury to a child after his gun discharged and struck a four-year-old boy. Let this be a reminder to all that safety comes first when handling all weapons.

In Jasper County

Courthouse democracy...



Newsboy photo/Charles Kerr

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Hanel thankful for all the help

By KRISTINA HANEL
Jasper, soon to be Savannah, Ga.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everybody in the Jasper/Lake Sam Rayburn area who has taken care of me over the last three and a half years.

When I first moved to the area, I didn't know a soul. But now, as I'm getting ready to move to Savannah, I'm leaving behind some of the closest relationships I've had in years.

From that first weekend on Rattlesnake Island, I've felt right at home. And to all my "moms" and "dads," I want to say thanks for all the places to sleep, advice, time, love and, best of all, food.

Even through I'm moving across the country, I know that "my hometown" will always be Jasper/Lake Sam Rayburn, Texas.

Hall's column pure fabrication

By CATHY NORMAN
Austin
Church of Scientology

The outrageous rumor David Miscavige, a leader in the Church of Scientology, compares Tom Cruise to Jesus Christ was started by a London tabloid well known for accepting rumors without verifying them in any way, or even just making them up. And the idea is so contrary to the very basis of Scientology that no Scientologist would believe it.

The Church of Scientology International issued a statement, which says in part:

"This is completely, totally and utterly a lie and a total fabrication and has no basis in the theology of Scientology in the slightest. There is no scriptural background for anyone inside or outside of the Church to come up with such a concept. Mr. Miscavige has

never and would never characterize any church member or anyone related to Scientology in such terms, nor has or would Mr. Cruise characterize himself as such...while the Scientology religion was founded by one man, L. Ron Hubbard, he himself insisted that he was just a man. He was the founder and there will only ever be one founder. He was not a prophet, nor is he deified in any way, nor would anyone else be."

It goes on to point out, essentially, that Scientology is now a world wide religious organization with over 7,500 churches, missions and groups in 163 countries, with one of the largest non-governmental anti-drug programs in the world, one of the world's largest human rights education campaigns, and one of the largest global emergency response forces.

Mr. Cruise supports those and other humanitarian endeavors spearheaded by the Church, as do millions of Scientologists from all walks of life. There might reasonably be something to report in all of that.

Instead, we see pieces like the Sun's (and opinion pieces like this one, I might add,) that are based on fabrications and are nothing more than an effort to marginalize Scientology or make its leaders and members seem strange.

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

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Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

Genuises at work

The Cartoon Network's recent promotional scheme blew up in their faces, but only metaphorically. Advertising for a new television show called (I am not kidding) Aqua Teen Hunger Force involved placing curious devices with blinking lights in various places around Boston.

Generally speaking, abandoning unmarked packages with blinking lights is not a good idea in wartime, especially among an exhausted population already battle-stressed and jittery from having to hear Senator Kerry's war stories every day.

The first clue that something was wrong might have been that the mysterious devices were labeled "ACME BOMB COMPANY."

The really scary part is that Aqua Teen Hunger Force is aimed (so to speak) at a late-night adult audience. Excuse me, world, but what kind of adult is up in the middle of the night watching something called Aqua Teen Hunger Force? But maybe this is some sort of super-sophisticated Boston thing that the rest of us just don't get.

The cartoon series features characters called mooninites. Boston Mayor Tom Menino is not reported to have said "I got yer mooninite right here," but he was get-



Mack Hall

ting very, very angry.

Cartoon Network spokesperson Wile E. Coyote could not be reached for comment as he was busy falling thousands of feet. However, Elmer Fudd told reporters "Be vewy, vewy quiet; I'm hunting for watings, wascally watings."

An internal source who asked to remain anonymous said "Suffering Succotash," while another would add only "Beep, beep."

The parent company (it is unknown if it is the mother or the long-absent sperm-donor, and just how companies can be parents is a mystery not yet solved by biologists; it probably has something to do with global warming) of The Cartoon Network, Turner Broadcasting, said it plans to take responsibility for its actions. This, as we all know, means that the executives will award each other huge bonuses after throwing some mailroom clerk off the troika to federal prosecutors.

Boston is not new to war alerts, as we know from history. Paul Revere in his famous midnight ride called to every Middlesex (I'm not sure what that means, but it sounds kinda weird) village and

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

House limits flow of legislation in first 60 days on session

AUSTIN - When the Legislature convenes, one of the governor's duties, so says the Texas Constitution, is to recommend to lawmakers "such measures as he may deem expedient."

That means the all-important state budget and the governor's top issues - usually referred to as emergency issues - go to the front of the line.

Other bills can be acted upon quickly too, if a well-oiled procedure is followed: the House simply votes to suspend a constitutional rule that reserves the first 60 days of the legislative session for the passage of bills that top the governor's priority list.

However, as January drew to a close, the House departed from its normal behavior when a motion to suspend the rule, which

required a supermajority (four-fifths) vote to pass, failed.

Thirty-four of the House's 150 members voted "no" despite cries that doing so would create a logjam of bills late in the session and likely prevent many local bills from ever making it out of committee.

So, for the first time since the 1981 legislative session, House bills won't get past the committee level in the first 60 days of the session.

The vote not to suspend has been interpreted as retaliation against House Speaker Tom Craddick, who doled out committee assignments perceived as punitive by some members who supported Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, in his short-lived speaker candidacy.

Despite the vote, there is a movement among Craddick lieutenants and other House members to

vote again on rule suspension.

Child safety program launched

John Walsh, host of the Fox television program "America's Most Wanted," joined Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in a Capitol news conference to announce Dewhurst's "Texas First!" child safety initiative.

The initiative teams the state and private sector in helping kindergarten through second grade students learn how to be safe around strangers and to educate the children about the dangers of predators online, in schools and in neighborhoods.

The Safe Side Company, co-founded by Walsh, is donating more than 1,000 Stranger Safety Resource Kits to Texas school dis-



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

tricts.

Kits include lesson plans and activities for classroom use, and a media library that includes 25 copies of the "Stranger Safety" DVD for take-home use.

Texas is the first state to participate in the program, Dewhurst's office said.

Order issued for vaccination

rules

Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 2 issued an executive order directing the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules requiring girls age 11 and 12 to be vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) before they enter sixth grade.

The rules are to include an opt-out provision for par-

ents who don't want their daughters to be vaccinated.

Perry wants the program to be up and running by September 2008. Certain strains of HPV are known to cause cervical cancer.

TEA publishing expenditures

Gov. Perry is now publishing his office's expenditures online and on Feb. 1 proposed requiring all state agencies to publish their expenditures online as part of his budget reform package.

The Texas Education Agency went ahead and published its check register online. It can be viewed at <http://tea.state.tx.us> by clicking on the "About TEA" button. The check register will be updated at least quarterly, the agency said.

State lottery may be up for sale

Gov. Perry indicated he is thinking about selling the

Texas Lottery to a private firm. Other states are contemplating doing the same in exchange for a chunk of the profits. Perry was to give more details in his Feb. 6 State of the State speech.

Opinion page mainstay dies

Widely read and published syndicated columnist and best-selling author Molly Ivins, 62, died Jan. 31 at her home in Austin after an eight-year recurring battle with breast cancer.

Ivins focused strongly on the Texas Legislature in particular and state politics in general for nearly four decades. In recent years she devoted extra attention to the political career of President George W. Bush.

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.