

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Time to welcome home our newest neighbor

This Monday, March 12 at noon, a new industry will make its presence felt in Jasper County.

Tiger Truck is expected to announce its purchase of the former LP saw mill on U.S. Highway 63 East near Jasper to expand its current facilities.

The event will be held at the Lone Star Youth Community Center and published reports indicate the plant will bring 100 new jobs to Jasper.

Through the hard work of the Jasper Economic Development Corporation and city officials, this plant and its future has come to fruition for Jasper County.

Officials met tirelessly with Tiger Truck representatives until a deal was struck and the expansion project was decided on for the county and city.

Now it is our turn to show representatives of Tiger Truck, a Dallas-based company, that they made the right decision in coming to Jasper. It's time for this company to see why Jasper is called the Jewel of

the Forest.

Let's turn out in strong numbers Monday to welcome the newest company to Jasper and show them a bit of that East Texas hospitality that Jasper is famous for.

Roses go to....

Jasper County Emergency Corps divers, who worked tirelessly Saturday and Sunday searching for the bodies of two men who drowned on Sam Rayburn.

Jasper Volunteer Fire Department members, who held their annual banquet to recognize the efforts by this group of valuable additions to our city.

Thorns go to....

The rash of business robberies in the city of Jasper. Three in the past 30 days is alarming for a small town and all indications point that they are drug-driven.

The people responsible for stealing and/or vandalizing The Jasper Newsboy paper machines. This does not allow people the opportunity to receive valuable information about our community

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

Jesus and the Iceberg

James Cameron, the cinema director who has made the world a better place with computer-generated shots of computer-generated humans screaming as they fall into computer-generated spinning propellers, now blesses us with a documentary purporting to prove that Jesus, Mrs. Jesus, and all the little Jesuses were buried in a big stone box.

And he has the box. With Jesus' name on it.

You know, if someone shows me a an old box with Jesus' name on it, well, hey, that pretty much satisfies me that 2,000 years of faith is bogus. I'm turning in my crucifix for an enneagram and some crystals.

My spies at the Vatican report that Cameron did not report all that was in the box. Agent Sven knocked at my door one dark, foggy night, and as I opened it he fell dying to the floor, clutching in his blood-stained fist a smoldering parchment written in Martian script and bearing the secret seals of the Templars, the Masonic Lodge, and the Girl Scouts.

Deciphering the document with my Sergeant Preston of the Yukon Secret Decoder Pen, I realized that it was a list of other contents of the famous Jesus Family Ossuary. At the risk of incurring the

wrath of the sinister International Jewish / Mormon / Masonic / Knights of Columbus / Tim Horton's scheme to control the papacy through robot Elvis impersonators, I now publish for the first time most of these secrets:

1. The combined secret plan by the CIA and MI5 1/2 to sink the Titanic because it carried the documents detailing the satanic connection between Josephus and Britney Spears' great-grandmother's second cousin.

2. An ancient Greek e-meter programmed to pick up the thought waves of Anna Nicole Smith, who is locked in a soul-stasis on the Planet Freon until the dawning of the Age of Aquarum.

3. A picture book entitled Where's Augustus Caesar?

4. A comic book: Decurion Septimus of the Belgic Frontier, and His Wonder Dog Ursus.

5. Pontius Pilate's discount card to the Jerusalem Kitty-Kat Lounge.

6. An authentic Roman spearhead stamped "Made in China."

7. A Roman Army handbook: Winning the Hearts and Minds of the Jewish People.

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Mack Hall

In Jasper County

Proudly volunteering...



Newsboy photo/ Jimmy Galvan

MEMBERS OF THE JASPER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, work to extinguish a fire on Syvester Street in Jasper Monday morning. The fire dmanaged the kitchen and attic while heat and smoke damage occurred throughout the structure. No one was injured in the blaze and the fire has been ruled accidental.

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Time to stop dumping dogs

By RALPH BEARD
Jasper

I am writing to protest the widespread practice of "dog dumping" in Jasper and Newton counties. There are several alternatives for disposing of unwanted dogs.

Some newspapers publish "free dog" ads at no charge to the owner for as long as it takes to get rid of the animal. There are also animal shelters in Jasper, Beaumont, Vidor and other cities nearby which will accept any dog.

Some nursing homes also will accept a dog as pet therapy for their patients. There are many ads in the newspapers for "dog wanted" by persons who cannot afford to buy a pet.

Although there are laws against "animal endangerment," these are very difficult to enforce because the dog dumping occurs at all hours and happens so quickly that it is almost undetectable. The dog dumper eases his conscience by telling himself, "at least, I'm not killing the animal."

In fact, he is killing the animal, he has merely shifted the responsibility to someone else. Dogs dumped in the wilderness seldom survive; it usually starves to death, which is less humane than shooting or euthanizing it.

Dogs dumped onto private property have to be dumped by the owner of the property, who already has all the pets that he can take care of. Dog dumping spawns more dumping, in other words.

Almost as serious is the common practice of trash dumping. In addition to the destruction of the landscape, it also poses a health

hazard.

Children and/or alcoholics will often drink from beer and liquor containers on the roadside, most of which have some liquid in them when dumped.

If we can stop these two common practices, Newton and Jasper counties will be better places to live for those of us who have chosen to reside here.

Election vital in helping elderly

By ANGEL MCCROSKEY
Jasper

I am writing you to make the public aware of the upcoming Constitutional Amendment election that will be held May 12. When I first learned about this election, I called the Jasper County Clerk's office and asked if they could explain it to me.

I was told the memo they received was in ballot language and they did not know what it meant. I then called State Representative Berman's office and spoke with Patrick Dudley, Berman's assistant.

In simple terms this election is being held in every county in Texas to decide the fate of taxes for elderly and disabled. Last session, Congress voted to reduce the taxes for property owners but the taxes for elderly and disabled stayed the same.

The reason for this is that their taxes are frozen at a certain rate.

This election is being held to give or not to give the legislature permission to give a property tax break to the elderly and dis-

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

Perry names special master to investigate Youth Commission

AUSTIN - Rather than place the troubled Texas Youth Commission in conservatorship at the urging of the lieutenant governor and a committee of lawmakers, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Jay Kimbrough as special master to get the agency back in line.

Kimbrough's job will be to investigate sexual abuse of detainees reported at facilities in Giddings, Brownwood and Pyote.

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, the state's ethics prosecutor, is conducting his own investigation into allegations that reports of sexual abuse in TYC facilities were altered by state officials.

A former assistant Texas attorney general, Kimbrough also is a former chief of staff for Perry and formerly served as the state's director of homeland security.

AG abates opinion on documents

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott took action to help prevent

identity theft on Feb. 21 by issuing an opinion saying that county clerks should remove Social Security numbers from copies of documents on file before releasing them to the public.

Abbott's opinion said failure to comply would result in criminal charges. So clerks found themselves in a tough spot when citizens showed up the next day to get courthouse records needed to conduct routine business.

County clerks across Texas had to slow down or shut down all or part of their public information operations, because so many types of documents contain Social Security numbers.

Complaints from far and wide flew in, prompting Abbott to abate his opinion for 60 days — supposedly enough time for counties to adjust to the practice of redacting Social Security numbers.

House slows down Jessica's Law

The Texas House on Feb. 28 postponed further deliberation on House Bill 8, a "Jessica's Law" bill



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

Dewhurst on Feb. 14 announced the filing of SB 5, the Senate version of Jessica's Law.

Differences between the two bills would have to be reconciled in a final version, but as presently written, the legislation would do the following:

▼ Require mandatory 25 years to life sentences for a first-time violent sexual offense against a child under age 14;

▼ Require lifetime GPS moni-

toring for child sex offenders;

▼ Allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty for a second sexual-

ly violent offense against a child

under age 14; and

▼ Double the statute of limita-

tions on sexual crimes against

children from 10 to 20 years.

Jessica's Law is named for 9-

year-old Floridian Jessica

Lunsford. In March 2005, the child

was abducted from her Florida

home, raped and murdered by a

convicted sex offender.

Since then, more than two

dozen states have enacted tough-

ened sex offender laws.

Organic farming bills are filed

Rep. Doc Anderson, R-Waco,

and Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin,

filed House and Senate versions of

legislation to create an 11-member

Texas Organic Agricultural

Advisory Board.

The board would:

▼ meet at least once a year;

▼ assist the Texas Department

of Agriculture in assessing the

organic produce industry;

▼ find ways to promote and

expand the industry;

▼ work on getting grants and

gifts to nurture the industry;

▼ help to develop an organic

agricultural products education

and awareness campaign.

Agency would redraw districts

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San

Antonio, filed SB 1068, legislation

to create a Texas Congressional

Redistricting Commission.

The highly politicized task of

redrawing U.S. congressional dis-

trict boundaries is normally done

by the Texas Senate every 10

years.

Wentworth's bill would give

the job to a nine-member, bal-

anced, bipartisan commission of

Texas residents.

Eight members (four from each

major party) would elect a non-

voting member to preside.

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.