

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Make voice heard on two local fronts

Just what direction the city of Jasper and its school board takes weigh in the balances this Saturday.

Two seats on Jasper's city council and two seats on the Jasper ISD Board of Trustees are available for voters to decide during Saturday's election.

By now, we have all heard the campaign speeches and slogans from all the candidates.

They have promised either change from the present form or to continue down the road presently being taken.

While all the candidates are worthy of consideration, there is one aspect of the election that must be strongly considered.

Participate.

Don't let others decide what direction these two important entities take without making your voice heard as well.

Choose.

People will bicker and complain about the direction these two entities follow but

the only way to really make your voice be heard is at the ballot box.

Elect.

There is no stronger sign of a Democracy than when it is shown during an election and the polling places are full with people making their presence felt.

Vote.

Roses go to....

▼ All the hospital personnel that worked on Jasper's Jaylon Clotiaux and helped make a joyous return home this week following his injury last Monday afternoon.

▼ Kudos to Kenneth "Red" Hayes, who was inducted into the Western Swing Hall of Fame Saturday, May 5.

Thorns go to....

▼ Voter apathy in Jasper. Early voting numbers are half of what they were for the last council election. The direction of two Jasper entities needs to hear your voice at this time. Your last chance during this election season is Saturday.

In Jasper County

Independent studying...



Newsboy photo/Sharon Kerr

JJH STUDENT Caitlyn Dubose performs an original composition during the school independent study fair.

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Evil exists

By JEFFREY SCOTT
Jasper

In the aftermath of the tragedy shooting at Virginia Tech last month, I felt compelled to throw in my two cents in after reading and watching the news media. I listened to the people of the psychology field talk about psychopath people.

What they don't seem to comprehend is that no one is born evil. Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dalmar weren't born evil.

The shooter being ridiculed at Virginia Tech is no excuse for acts of violence that occur at V.T. What doesn't kill you in this life will make you stronger.

I'm a testament to that fact. So often what we fail to realize is that it's not the person, it's not Ted Bundy, it's not the classmates, it's not your ex-wife.

What the young man at Virginia Tech failed to understand is that most people are family and its spirit is what they will have entwined in them.

Don't blame the person — it's what beneath if they aren't a child of God, then they are an easy prey of Satan. Evil exists in this world, true evil and that's a fact.

Let me quote the late great Sigmund Freud, "No one who like me conjures up the most evil of those half-tamed demons that inhabit the human breast can expect to come through the struggle unscathed."

In closing, let me say this soon this life will come to pass only what done in the name of Christ will last, case and point closed.

If the shoe fits

By JOHN H. MATTHEWS
Jasper

Whoever wins the race for Mayor of Jasper, the two city council seats and the two vacancies on Jasper ISD's school board on Saturday, May 12, let it be said that the final tabulated results of the election represented a massive turnout of registered voters at the polls.

It is a damnable, sad commentary that Jasper has had an abysmal history of citizens over 18 who have failed to register to vote in our elections and who fail to exercise that privilege by voting when the opportunity avails itself, as it will on May 12.

People of all races throughout our country's history have died to make sure each generation can exercise this very special privilege. Surely we can honor them by registering to vote and by going to the polls to insure that only the most qualified candidates running for office will be elected to provide the leadership our community must have to sustain itself and prosper.

Go vote!

Racism exists

By TAMMY SALESKY
Jasper

Reading the Jasper Newsboy the past three weeks, I have noticed a new interesting topic going on that being racism. In these past three weeks I have seen the viewpoints of wanting racism reduced, racism isn't such a big deal like people try to portray, and racism does exist and it is seen and heard every day. Racism does exist but it would also be reduced if black individuals, like those from Kier's article, didn't bring it up every five sec-

onds.

Going back and reading the article about Lani Silver I noticed that she had said that if we were to talk about racism it would be reduced. There have been two weeks of talking about racism and it seems that just talking will not do the job. Racism is something that people try to claim too much and that is the action that should be reduced!

I have also noticed these past three weeks that the James Byrd dragging incident has been the whole entire basis of these arguments. Here we have Ms. Silver moving to Jasper in nine months and she obviously has a problem with racism in general and automatically assumes that Jasper is racist just because of the this incident back in 1998. This tragedy (racist or not) should not be drawn out in every single situation that would be trying to claim racism.

I understand what Mr. Kier was saying when he said, "Racism does not exist unless the Reverend Al Sharpton or Jesse Jackson says so." You can clearly see by the end of his article that he doesn't literally mean that racism doesn't exist period, like Mr. Rawls stated. You can tell that Mr. Kier meant that these two gentlemen, being the black American leaders that they are, would indeed claim many situations being racist.

Prom a success

By CARLA DOVER
Jasper

I grew up in Jasper before we were allowed to have proms. Our class was very close and I always regretted we did not experience having a prom.

This year I had the privilege and pleasure to work on the Jasper High Junior-Senior prom. Lots of hard work was tackled by the junior class, their parents, friends and an aunt. Under the watchful eye of the prom chairman, Martha Morian, Dr. John and Lee Kahla's magnificent new events center was transformed into glittering Las Vegas.

But what glittd more than Vegas were the students that attended. You could not have asked for a more well-behaved, polite and beautiful group of young people whose parents should be extremely proud. All had a good time in Vegas and not the first bit of trouble occurred.

Congratulations to Jacob Coleman and Summer Jones who were voted Prom King and Queen.

But most of all, thank you to the juniors and seniors for letting me go to the prom with

Letters welcomed

you. It was a blast!

The Jasper Newsboy would like to publish your thoughts and concerns about issues that are important to you. All Letters to the Editor should be accompanied with the writer's name and daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

Phone numbers will not be published, but the author's name will be. Under no circumstances will the author's name be withheld.

All letters are subject to editing for newspaper style and clarity, without changing the meaning of the content. Letters should be limited to 300 words.

Deadline for letters is 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the following Wednesday's publication.

Mail letters to:

The Jasper Newsboy P.O. Box 1419 Jasper, Texas 75951-1419 or e-mail to: jgalvan@jaspernewsboy.com

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

Tax cut for seniors, disabled reaches governor

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation reducing the amount of property tax that a school district may impose on the home residence of Texans who are over 65 or disabled.

The legislation, HB 5 by Rep. Leo Berman, R-Tyler, is a one-time tax cut that expires on Sept. 1, 2008. HB 5 stipulates that the state will make up the revenue school districts will lose to the tax cut, estimated at \$15 billion.

The money to make up the lost revenue would come from HB 1, the general appropriations bill, but HB 1 has not passed.

A conference committee of 10 lawmakers must work out a final version of HB 1 agreeable to both the House and Senate. Conferees are Reps. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa; Dan Gattis, R-Georgetown; Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City; Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; and Sylvester Turner, D-Houston; and Sens. Steve Ogden, R-College Station; Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; John Whitmire, D-Houston; and Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands.

Jessica's Law goes to conference

The House and Senate did not agree on elements of HB 8, the Jessica's Law legislation championed by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and authored by Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Houston, five joint authors and 23 cosponsors.

Dewhurst named conferees to meet with House members in a conference committee: Sens. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville; Kim Brimer, R-Arlington; Juan Chuy Hinojosa, D-McAllen; Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, and Florence Shapiro, R-Plano. House conferees are Reps. Riddle; Gattis; Aaron Pena, D-Edinburg; Jerry Madden, R-Richardson; and Joe Deshotel, D-Beaumont.

"This legislation is one of my highest priorities and I have full confidence that the conferees will craft a final bill that sends a strong message to child predators: Don't mess with kids in Texas," Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst wants tougher penalties for child predators, including the option of the death penalty or life in prison without parole for per-



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

sons twice convicted of aggravated sexual assault against a child under 14.

Combs offers limited tax amnesty
S t a t e Comptroller Susan Combs announced she is offering a 60-day tax amnesty to businesses with overdue state taxes and those that may be operating without required tax permits.

From June 15 through Aug. 15 taxpayers can come forward, file past-due tax reports and pay their taxes in full, and the comptroller will waive penalty and interest charges normally added to delinquent taxes, according to a news release from Combs' office.

The tax amnesty applies to taxes and tax reports originally due before April 1, 2007.

"We're calling the amnesty period 'Project Fresh Start' because tax-

payers have a unique, limited-time opportunity to clear up unpaid, unreported or overdue taxes without fear of penalty or interest and get a fresh start with the state," Combs said.

The amnesty does not apply to assessments already identified by the comptroller, taxpayers currently under audit or review, and taxpayers the comptroller has already contacted about an audit or possible tax deficiency, Combs said.

House passes 'Under God' bill

The House voted 124-5 to put the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance to the state flag. HB 1034, authored by Rep. Riddle, would change the wording to "I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God and indivisible." The current language is "I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible." The Senate has yet to consider the measure.

Before the bill came to a final vote, Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, asked Riddle if she would accept an amendment adding the words "and justice for all" to the bill, because if the intent was to mir-

ror the U.S. pledge of allegiance, it would include those additional words.

Riddle declined.

Smoking debate to continue

The House spent hours in debate May 4 over HB 9, legislation to ban smoking in all workplaces and public places, authored by Rep. Myra Crownover, R-Denton.

Debate was interrupted many times by points of order charging that parts of the official analysis of the bill were inaccurate. Further consideration was postponed to May 9.

Casino gambling measure fails

A bill to allow casino gambling on the federally recognized Tigua and Alabama-Coushatta Indian reservations narrowly failed in a House vote on May 4.

The vote was a tie at 66-66. One more vote would have sent the measure, HB 10 by Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, to the Senate for consideration.

Ed Sterling is director of member services for the Texas Press Association in Austin.