

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Fish hatchery will proceed as normal

After months of uncertainty, the Texas Legislature agreed to release stamp money earmarked for the Jasper County fish hatchery so the project can proceed as originally planned.

Lawmakers had threatened to move the money into a general fund to be used on other projects.

Remember, the stamp was originally formed to raise funds for the new fish hatchery to increase bass production in the area.

The fish hatchery will provide an economic shot in the arm for Jasper County when it is completed. The new and improved facility is expected to increase production of bass to three to four million a year.

As it has been well documented, the bass in Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend are already a valuable commodity to this area. Taking this away would have been a sad decision by lawmakers who are

supposed to take care of the best interests on their constituents.

If the stamp money had been taken away, the fish hatchery would have still been built but it would have taken longer to finish the project.

Now we are on target to be completed in two years and that is a good sign for all involved.

Roses go to....

▼ How about them Bulldogs? It took three games but Jasper is moving on to state to take on Abilene Wylie today at 7 p.m. in Round Rock. A victory propels them to Thursday's final.

▼ Woodville's baseball squad was eliminated but the Eagles still showed why they are force in Class 2A baseball.

▼ To all the contestants participating in this weekend's Miss Jasper pageant. Your hard work will pay off this week, win or lose because you took the time to participate in the scholarship pageant.

In Jasper County

On to state....



Newsboy photo/Georgia Purdy

JASPER ASSISTANT Coach Steve Smith hugs Jasper Head Baseball Coach Shawn Mixon following Jasper's 2-1 victory over Bridge City. The victory sends the Bulldogs to the state finals in Round Rock today against Abilene Wylie at 7 p.m.

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Youth should remain our goal

By JAMES E. FOUNTAIN
Brookeland

Recently, my faith in mankind was restored, when before the 2007 youth ball season got underway, some individuals from our area approached me with an apology for the false accusations, and misrepresentations made about our Softball league a couple of years back. A few of our so-called upstanding citizens took it upon themselves to attempt a shut down of our league.

It was a classic case of, if my finger ain't in it, then the pie can't be good for you.

Since then, a lot of things have come to light, that has made a lot of people realize what was done, was wrong, and what was said was just bold faced lies on some people's part.

It did my heart good to know that even in this day and time, some people can still admit when they were wrong. They then approached us with a problem they were having.

Their ball organization was having some difficulty in the purchase of uniforms for the upcoming season, and asked if we could help out. Not being ones to ever turn our back on our youth, our board approved unanimously to assist their little ball group with the purchase of their entire quantity of uniforms for this season. We are not patting ourselves on the back, not by any means.

We just wanted to let people know that we can forgive past wrongs, even though, the main culprit never has apologized. We want everyone to realize that when a need

arises that concerns our youth, no matter where, that everything else can be put aside, and two organizations can work together to achieve a common goal.

To reach out to each other, and promote the best concerning our youth so they may learn, and lead in the future should be that goal.

Letters to editor criteria outlined

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.

Letters endorsing or opposing political candidates are considered political advertising and will be forwarded to the advertising department.

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

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

Doctor Death's alive

Dr. Jack Kervorkian, the skeletal mass-murderer who was never big into that Hippocratic Oath thing, was released from prison this week and was given a big ol' hug by Mike Wallace, who may have asked Doc about his sex life.

Okay, so Doctor Doom is forbidden to practice murder...I mean medicine...again. He said he'll obey, and, by golly, when a creepy old man who's murdered dozens of people gives me his word, well, that's certainly good enough for me.

So what's a retired killer to do? After all, idle hands are the Devil's workshop. I propose the following career options for Dr. Jack:

1. Pet food salesman: "Look, folks, your two-year-old doggie is depressed; I can see it in his eyes. He really wants to die. Give him this made-in-China pet food twice a day and that'll knock the little booger off within a week."

2. Waiter: "We have a special on kidneys today. The terribly depressed assistant chef who used to work here won't be needing 'em any more."

3. Car salesman: "Seatbelts!? Ha! Real men don't need seatbelts!"

4. Bartender: "Name yer poison, pal."

5. Tattoo artist: "Sterile? Of course the needle's sterile! It's the law!"



Mack Hall

Bwahahahahahahaha...!"

6. Travel agent: "Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Bogdown, Chernobyl is the happening place for a honeymoon!"

7. United States federal airport security screener: "Oh, what a lovely Austrian Glock pistol, Mr., um, Smith, manufactured by our peace-loving European friends! And look at all those fully-loaded extra magazines! By the way, your Junior Federal Sky Marshal Combination Badge and Decoder Ring has a misspelling; you might want to have that checked when you get back."

8. Babysitter: "Now have a nice day at work, Ms. Snarkbarger. Your little children are so cute — I could just eat them up."

9. A Beaumont pastor: "Okay, you little kids, get out there in the street and beg for some money for...uh...God's work."

10. Mayor of New Orleans: "Man, just look at all those poor people suffering down there in the heat and the mud, without food or water. All those people all over the rest of the country shoulda done something. Well, take me to Dallas, pilot."

Jack Kervorkian — he's educated. He's a physician. He kills people. He's moving to a neighborhood near you.

Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville

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

Legislation passes, speaker survives challenges

AUSTIN - The 140 day regular session of the 80th Texas Legislature ended on May 28.

The House and Senate completed the essential task of settling on a budget — \$153 billion — covering fiscal years 2008-2009.

The state budget for 2008-2009 includes a set-aside of \$7.5 billion for property tax relief in 2010-2011. Commanding the bulk of attention, however, was House Speaker Tom Craddick's battle to withstand challenges to his authority in the final days of the session.

Members from both major political parties cited parliamentary precedents and House rules in attempts to be recognized on the House floor so they could move to conduct a vote to vacate the chair.

Had such a motion been recognized and a vote taken, Craddick, R-Midland, might have been forced to step down. Then members could have elected another speaker to serve out the remainder

of the session.

Three days before the session's end, Parliamentarian Denise Davis and Deputy Parliamentarian Chris Griesel, who had advised Craddick all session long, abruptly resigned their posts.

A short time later, Craddick appointed former state Reps. Terry Keel and Ron Wilson as parliamentarian and deputy parliamentarian, respectively. The pair guided Craddick through a maze of questions from the floor.

Craddick, Keel and Wilson ran down the clock, repeatedly responding to members with rulings that it is the speaker's absolute right to choose to recognize or not recognize a member to make a motion. In effect, "You will not be recognized to make that motion," was the pat response. Attempts to be recognized subsided as lawmakers saw the opportunity to pass legislation slipping away.

Craddick said he plans to run for a fourth term as speaker, but he will face competition. The list of



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

House members who have expressed a desire to succeed Craddick includes Republican Reps. Fred Hill of Richardson, Jim Keffer of Eastland, Jim Pitts of Waxahachie, Robert Talton of Pasadena and Brian McCall of Plano, and Democratic Reps. Senfronia Thompson and Speaker Pro Tempore Sylvester Turner, both of Houston.

The 81st Legislature will convene in January 2009. Craddick and challengers will have 18 months to get promises of support from colleagues.

Major legislation gains passage

Despite time lost in efforts to

unseat Craddick, legislators still managed to push through and pass about 1,500 bills. Here are the effects of a few of them:

▼ A water plan benefiting Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and other thirsty metro areas and giving rural areas some control over interbasin water transfers.

▼ A \$425 minimum pay increase for public school teachers and a set of standards that if met can qualify a teacher for an additional raise.

▼ Funding for the Childrens Health Insurance Program will give coverage to an additional 127,000 children.

▼ Enhanced felony charges possible for owners of dogs that attack other people.

▼ Elective Bible education classes for schools that have enough students who express an interest in taking them.

▼ A toll road bill that puts a two-year hold on construction of the Trans Texas Corridor project but allows the planning to continue, while granting local and regional

toll authorities control over their own road projects.

▼ Random steroid testing of Texas high school athletes.

▼ A requirement for all public schools to have at least one automated external defibrillator on campus.

▼ More than \$200 million for additional law enforcement officers and technology to aid in border and homeland security operations.

▼ Constitutional amendment letting voters decide in November if the Legislature should be required to record each member's vote on final passage of substantive bills.

▼ Constitutional amendment letting voters decide in November if the state of Texas should borrow \$3 billion for cancer research over the next decade.

Deadline for the governor to veto bills is June 17.

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