

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

Texas Oldest Weekly Newspaper, Continuously Published Under the Same Name

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

School district needs our support right now

Preliminary figures are in on the school system's TAKS scores and they don't paint a pretty picture.

This probably speaks volumes for the wholesale changes at the campuses near the end of last year's school year.

And while many in the community want to sit back and point fingers at the district with blame, it's time to get to work on the problem.

It's time for action.

It's time for our school administrators to take on this challenge. We need an educational system that produces positive results, not excuses.

The scores are not where we want them, let's hear about the plan that is going to be put in place to improve them. Don't tell us the scores must be improved, show us how and then put this plan in motion.

But the district can't do this alone.

It's time for the community to stand united in leading the school system in the right direction. These students are our future and their education should be a

high priority throughout this community.

Parents need to get more involved in their children's education. Not just when they are young but all through their lives.

The old saying is "it takes a village to raise a child."

No more excuses. Just a community united to work for the betterment of our children and thus our community.

Roses go to....

▼ Keri Ellis, who was named interim director of JEDCO last week. The challenge is now yours, take it and run with it.

Thorns go to....

▼ Tiger Truck. It was somewhat amusing to read the quotes from their arrival in Oklahoma this week. Good luck, Oklahoma, you will need it.

▼ Vandals who slashed tires and broke out car windows in the city last week. Summertime blues have you down — we're sure there's some debris around town that can be cleaned up to help you out to clear away the boredom of summertime.

Carbon hoofprint

"If you want to save the planet let me see you jump."

— Madonna (not the Madonna, but Louise Ciccone Ritchie from Detroit)



Mack Hall

Last year none of us had heard of such an object as a carbon footprint; this year we've all been assigned carbon footprints by our masters, and are told we are evil people for having 'em.

In my simplicity I still don't know what a carbon footprint is, but His Carbonated Highness, Representative John Dingell of Michigan, chairgod of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, proposes that I be taxed for having one.

New Jersey, ever the beacon of progress and civilization, has already passed a state law taxing carbon footprints.

I don't want to be thought a draft dodger in the War Against Hot Air or something, but where can I go to turn in my government-issued carbon footprint?

I didn't ask for one, and I'm being called rude names by Al Gore for having it. So I'd like to give it back, please.

And must I present myself at Pyongyang-style rallies, there to submerge my individuality within the milieu of millions of other Peasants and Workers, there to sing, clap, and wave my hands about rhythmically in order to stroke the egos of our cult leaders?

Is Global Warming our new god?

If so, he / she / it is an angry god, demanding the sacrifice of our nations, autonomy, homes, land, jobs, food, rationality, dignity, and even our very selves at the pagan altars of fear, ignorance, and superstition that St. Paul knocked down

2,000 years ago.

That god, in truth that same old little man behind the curtain, hypnotizes The People (bless them) with his endless chants of carbon offset, carbon credit, carbon emissions, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon tax, carbon law, carbon neutral, carbon certificates, carbon count, carbon cycle, carbon cycle changes, carbon habit, carbon isotope data, carbon isotope ratio, carbon isotopic

records, carbon cycle-climate relationship, carbon cycle dynamics, and carbon, carbon, carbon.

Amen.

The first flaw in current feeling (hardly thinking) about global warming is a failure to understand that reality is not subject to democracy.

A mob may agree that the planet is getting hot, and that you — not them — are at fault because of your perfidious respirations.

But is it true?

The second flaw is the feeling (hardly an idea) that the world can be saved from an imaginary threat if we worship aging white boys with guitars and obey an aging harridan who commands us to jump on her command.

Jump?

I don't think so, lady.

The planet is climatologically healthy; the growing number of sheep, especially jumping sheep, indicates this.

And the sheep might want to remember that their purpose is to be sheared annually by their masters, and in the end slaughtered and eaten.

Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville and does not own an I-Phone; he is still trying to cope with the rotary telephone.

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Tom McClurg

By STEPHAN MYERS
Sam Rayburn

I know I speak on behalf of the majority of local citizens and business owners who view the resignation of Tom McClurg as Executive Director of JEDCO with great sadness. Those who care for the long-term well being of the community have never seen such a hard-working, dedicated and intelligent Executive Director. Considering the hostility toward entrance into the 21st century by an extremely vocal minority of malicious malcontents, the Jasper area most likely won't witness someone of Tom's caliber again operating JEDCO.

Despite the chronic slander and vicious rumors spread by those who fear community advancement, Tom marched on, selflessly promoting Jasper as a great place to build a business and new life. Those who know Tom best, recognize that he could have done better than working for the Jasper area, with its resistance to growth and decent jobs. There are many, who have wondered why in the world he would have wanted to work in such a hostile place, but he did and that battle against adversity is one of the earmarks of a truly devoted and courageous man.

Tom, the vast majority of us deeply appreciate your dedication and wish you the best in

your future endeavors. You possess the qualities that we all aspire for. Thank you for your seven years of dedicated service and encouragement.

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

In Jasper County

County government sits....



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

Governor issues state disaster for 44 counties

AUSTIN - Rainy weather hasn't let up here in central Texas. Lakes and dams are full and river systems saturated.

Central Texas hasn't been alone, weatherwise, with severe storms and flooding continuing to hit just about every zone from the Rio Grande Valley to the Oklahoma border.

Gov. Rick Perry, has dispatched relief agencies to many scenes. In the process, he said, "Rather than celebrating Independence Day at backyard barbecues with families and friends, many Texans spent the Fourth of July holiday battling the dangerous weather events that continue to impact their communities."

"We will continue to help local communities respond to emergencies and recover from the heavy storms and rains that have saturated a large part of our state and we will make sure the necessary

resources are in place if the situation worsens."

Perry also urged Texans "to heed the warnings of their local leaders and take all possible precautions to stay out of dangerous situations as this severe weather continues."

Since mid-June, Perry has issued a state disaster declaration for 44 counties, namely: Archer, Baylor, Bell, Blanco, Bosque, Brown, Burnet, Callahan, Coleman, Collin, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Denton, Eastland, Ellis, Fannin, Gillespie, Grayson, Hamilton, Hood and Hunt.

Also, Jones, Lamar, Lampasas, Lipscomb, Llano, Mason, McLennan, Menard, Mills, Ochiltree, Parker, Runnels, San Saba, Starr, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Webb, Wichita, Williamson, Wise and Young.

President George W. Bush approved federal disaster declarations for Cooke, Coryell, Denton, Grayson, Lampasas and Tarrant



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

apply for assistance in the form of financial aid, temporary housing, tax relief, legal services, crisis counseling and disaster unemployment assistance.

Tax penalty waivers available

There is still time left for certain folks to take advantage of Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' offer of a limited-time waiver of penal-

ties and interest on unpaid taxes. U.S. Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, who toured stricken areas, co-announced President Bush's d i s a s t e r approval.

Among things the disaster approval does is allow uninsured individuals and families in eligible counties to

apply for assistance in the form of financial aid, temporary housing, tax relief, legal services, crisis counseling and disaster unemployment assistance.

There is still time left for certain folks to take advantage of Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' offer of a limited-time waiver of penal-

ties and interest on unpaid taxes.

The waiver, which expires Aug. 15, is available for all state taxes administered by the comptroller, except unclaimed property and the Public Utility Commission gross receipts assessment. Eligible liabilities can relate to sales or purchases of taxable items.

Reports originally due before April 1 are eligible. But the waiver does not apply to assessments already identified by the comptroller, to taxpayers under audit or review, or to taxpayers the comptroller has already contacted about an audit or possible deficiency, the Office of the Comptroller said.

New tax law takes effect

Legislation redefining "occasional sale" took effect July 1, and it has an impact on people who sell their personal property.

HB 373 by Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, amends the tax code to allow non-business sellers to sell up to \$3,000 in a calendar year

in certain merchandise without paying state tax if their items are purchased by Texas buyers.

DPS addresses new law hoax

The Texas Department of Public Safety responded to false information about "new traffic laws" spreading quickly on the Internet and other media.

"There are no new traffic laws going into effect in July," the DPS said. "More specifically, there are no new laws going into effect in July related to cell phones, seat belts or carpooling. No cell phone bills were passed this Legislative session."

Parks and wildlife chief is named

Gov. Perry named Peter Holt, CEO of the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs, as chair of the nine-member Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission.

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