

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

Texas Oldest Weekly Newspaper, Continuously Published Under the Same Name

702 S. Wheeler, Jasper, Texas 75951

USPS 273-140 • ISSN 0764-2824

PHONE:(409) 384-3441 FAX: (409) 384-8803

PUBLISHER

Jeffrey T. Reedy jreedy@hearstnp.com

EDITOR

Jimmy Galvan jgalvan@jaspernewsboy.com

Our Viewpoint Editorials

Joining forces with EastTex a strong move

This week, the Jasper Police Department joined forces once again with EastTex Crime Stoppers in order to solve a recent case of vandalism.

Authorities are searching for information which might lead to the arrest of a suspect or suspects in a tire slashing spree that plagued the town in early July.

Through the program, a recreation of the event will be filmed and broadcast on a Beaumont television station in an effort to reach more viewers that might have information on the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Crime Stoppers number and can remain anonymous.

If the tip turns out to be valid, the caller then will be eligible for a \$1,000 reward if it leads to a conviction.

There lies the key to the program.

To any person that might have witnessed something strange the night of July 5, now is the time to step up and do the right thing and help put an end to this case.

Another factor in the case is we all know there is no honor among thieves. Wiggle some money in front of their eyes and someone will chirp like a canary for the right price.

The people victimized in this incident need restitution and should find justice for this reckless, child-like behavior.

Roses go to....

▼ Alton Booker, for his 20 years of service to the Kirbyville Consolidated School District. Booker died in an automobile accident Sunday and will be missed by the school district and the Kirbyville community.

▼ The members of the TNS gymnastics academy out of Newton for their strong showing at the National Championships.

▼ State Comptroller Susan Combs, for moving the sales tax holiday to the third weekend in August to coincide with the late start in the school year. The sales tax holiday had been traditionally held the first weekend in August.

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

Meet me at the pole — and bring a goat

Last Thursday morning the United States Senate was opened with a prayer by one Rajad Zed of Nevada, said to be a Hindu chaplain. The prayer, briefly interrupted by three folks who were hustled off by the cops, went like this:

"We meditate on the transcendental glory of the deity supreme, who is inside the heart of the Earth, inside the life of the sky and inside the soul of the heaven. May he stimulate and illuminate our minds."

To which one does not respond with an "amen" but rather with a "huh?"

Look, I don't know anything about Hinduism, okay? But I don't think this guy does either.

Is this really a prayer, or a leftover Jethro-meets-some-hippies skit from The Beverly Hillbillies? I mean, "inside the life of the sky?" Does the sky have a life? Says who? Why?

One imagines our august senators assembled pondering this assemblage of words preparatory to dealing soberly and



Mack Hall

judiciously with the nation's business. But one imagines in vain. Only two senators were present, Harry Reid of the Hindu chaplain's home state, and James Inhofe of Oklahoma.

Three protestors, two senators, one Hindu holy person, and an otherwise empty, echoing chamber — our United States Senate in wartime. Sleep secure, America.

In the USA religion enjoys minimal relevance; even the disparate

bands of Christians ("I am of Apollos!" and "I follow Paul!") can't agree on what Christianity means. One group of Christians shows up at the funerals of our war dead to gloat, and last spring another group of Christians felt free to violate that commandment about bearing false witness by altering a Beaumont school document. In my little town some fellow with an Old Testament beard and store-bought clothes occasionally stands on the street corner with signs proclaiming (with his Christian

See Hall, Page 7A

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Vandalism should not be ignored

By JAMES CASHMAN
Jasper

On Thursday (July 5) and early Friday (July 6) at least 30 residents of this city were robbed of \$70-\$400 apiece.

This was done by a few individuals armed with a very sharp knife. They did it by slashing the tires on vehicles parked for the night in front of private homes. The police received many calls from irate citizens, most of whom are likely subscribers of *The Jasper Newsboy*.

Therefore, I was very surprised and shocked that in the July 11 edition of your paper you used only 14 words to report all these crimes. I finally found it in the small print in the Thorns section.

I think that this series of crimes should have been given lots of publicity. There are people out there who know who did it, or who saw something suspicious that night. Remember, they will do it again and you might be the next victim.

It also gives the city a bad name when our newspaper treats crimes like this as "business as usual and no big deal."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Attempts to gain the full information on the incident were made from the Jasper Police Department. A check of the police reports on Monday, July 9 found no updated police reports. Later that day, we received information of the incident and contacted police officials. Until a full report was received, it was hard to formulate a story on the incident. An update on the case and its investigation is provided in this edition.

No sainthood for McClurg just yet

By WINCY WALKER
Jasper

Through my tears, I finished reading Stephan Myers' letter praising his hero, Tom McClurg. Not since reading former City Manager David Douglas' comp-time records and former City Attorney Gary Gatlin's legal opinions have I laughed 'til I cried.

Myers paints poor Tom as a victim of "an extremely vocal minority of malicious mal-contents." HA! Then, ".the Jasper area most likely won't witness someone of Tom's caliber again..." Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

It's not what Myers knows that makes his bellowing so laughable; it's what he knows that just ain't so!

Truth does not serve Myers' agenda so the more false info he spews, the more people he hopes to convince.

For example, he wrote that St. Tom, "Despite the chronic slander and vicious rumors spread by those who fear community advancement... could have done better than working for the Jasper area...many have wondered why...he would have wanted to work in such a hostile place, but he did and that ... is one of the earmarks of a truly devoted and courageous man."

Sob! Sob!

One wonders if a good salary, plus \$700 per month car allowance, good benefits, all expenses paid trips, and unlimited credit card had something to do with Tom's sac-

rifice of toiling in misery. McClurg should have been gone when he and his job became more important to a small group of supporters than JEDCO and Jasper's economic development!

I've seen JEDCO bank statements, their ignored contracts and empty files and am aware of how incompetent and less than honest McClurg has been. ("Platinum Silk made a shipment") Exposure of McClurg's wrong-doing is what Myers resents; slander and malicious rumors are his weapons.

Myers' attack on certain city council people started last year when they removed the McClurg enablers from the JEDCO board.

The current board has been more lenient with McClurg than he deserved and that he was with his HUDCO assistant in Marshall!

Why have Myers and his wife, Janet Edwards, been overly concerned about City Hall's business when they don't live in Jasper?

It's all about McClurg. Myers opened a website to attack certain council members.

Edwards asked for public information from Jasper City Hall — was she being fed info from Jenny Page, Douglas' secretary here and now in Dayton — for receipts submitted by Mayor Barber after Rita. (was reimbursed \$303 for gas; paid zero for his time/use of his truck.)

She asked for "proof of competitive bids" for purchases from Gold.Etc. — "competitive bids" for watches? Dumb! She inquired about Gayle Meigs' garbage cans!

They made a big issue if Mike Lout reimbursed the city \$60 for gasoline provided to KJAS — Jasper's first responder — to stay on air after Rita.

They put Edwards' requests on Myers' website — with her name blacked out! But they totally ignored that McClurg gave two additional \$50,000 checks to a man who ignored JEDCO's contract with the first \$50,000.

Myers gushed to McClurg: "You possess the qualities that we all aspire for." IMO, Myers has already reached that less than lofty aspiration.

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

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

Lady Bird Johnson is laid to rest in Stonewall

AUSTIN - Lady Bird Johnson, 94, died of natural causes July 11 at her home in West Lake Hills with her daughters Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson and her grandchildren at her side.

On July 12, Gov. Rick Perry ordered flags to half-staff in Mrs. Johnson's honor. Mrs. Johnson's body lay in repose July 13 to 14 at the LBJ Library and Museum on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. More than 11,000 people filed past her casket in the library's great hall.

About 1,800 people attended a private memorial service at Riverbend Church on July 14.

Among the many dignitaries in attendance at the memorial service were First Lady Laura Bush, President Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Clinton, President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush, Nancy Reagan, President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Gov. and Mrs. Perry, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Susan Ford

Bales, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and Maria Shriver.

On July 15, crowds of people lined Congress Avenue between the Capitol and Town Lake to pay last respects as the funeral motorcade proceeded south, then west, enroute to Johnson City.

In the early afternoon of the 15th, Mrs. Johnson was buried alongside her husband in the Johnson family cemetery in Stonewall, about 70 miles west of Austin. The cemetery is part of the LBJ National Historical Park.

Born Claudia Alta Taylor in Karnack, a small town in East Texas in 1912, Mrs. Johnson is remembered as the trusted adviser and devoted wife of the 36th president of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson.

President Johnson died at age 64 on Jan. 22, 1973, four years after leaving office. Mrs. Johnson outlived her husband by more than 34 years.

During her more than five years as first lady, Mrs. Johnson became



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

bring attention to poverty and unmet health and education needs in rural and urban America helped President Johnson forward his agenda in the "War on Poverty."

After President Johnson's term of office ended in January 1969, the Johnsons returned to Texas, and Mrs. Johnson set to work on beautifying state highways with wildflowers and other native

plants.

Mrs. Johnson and her friend, actress Helen Hayes, worked together to found the National Wildflower Research Center in 1982. Mrs. Johnson downplayed her own efforts, but the complex and sprawling grounds in South Austin were renamed the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center because others wanted to honor her work in promoting, building, maintaining and improving the institution over many years.

Mrs. Johnson's work to build and improve Austin's Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail also is noteworthy.

Mrs. Johnson suffered a stroke in 2002, compromising her vision and ability to speak, but she remained active until relatively recently.

Former chief justice Hill dies

Another native of East Texas, Kilgore-born John L. Hill Jr., died July 9. He was 83.

Gov. Perry ordered flags to half-staff in Hill's honor. Hill was the

only Texan to have served in all of these state offices: as secretary of state, attorney general and chief justice of the Supreme Court.

After graduating from the University of Texas law school in 1947, Hill became a masterful lawyer, winning high-profile cases. He worked in Harris County on John Connally's 1964 gubernatorial campaign.

Hill served as secretary of state from 1966-68 under Gov. Connally. He was elected attorney general in 1972 and served in that role until 1979.

Hill ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1978, losing to Bill Clements. Hill was elected chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court in 1984 and resigned in 1988.

In 1997, then-Gov. George W. Bush appointed Hill to a post on the Texas Lottery Commission.

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