

# 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

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### Our Viewpoint Editorials

## NNO allows us all to give thanks to officers

On Tuesday, Aug. 7, law enforcement personnel will be out in force.

That is the norm for the protectors of society but this Tuesday they will be asking for some assistance from the general public.

That Tuesday will be National Night Out, an evening when law enforcement reaches out to the community in an effort to join forces in the fight against crime in our communities.

The Jasper Police Department will host their festivities at the city's police station with area vendors participating as well. The annual event has been well attended in the past and this year should be no different.

In fact, last year's NNO event was recognized for being one of the tops in the state last year. This year's should be no different.

Residents will be urged to get out of their homes and meet their neighbors. The more eyes on the streets, the better and this night annually focuses the attention on together we can make a difference

in the fight against crime.

But this night also will allow us to show our appreciation for the police officers that defend our community.

These men and women defend our community and for that we should be grateful. Not just on Aug. 7 but every day of the year.

They put their lives on the line daily for our safety and this night allows us to show our true gratitude for what they do.

These are our community heroes and should be commended for the job they do 365 days of the year.

**Roses go to....**

▼ Gary and Paula Fawcett, owners of Fawcett's Black Belt Academy, for offering a free women's self-defense class Friday, Aug. 3.

▼ High school football. Soon, the Friday night lights will be back on. Now, that's pressure.

▼ Tom McClurg on his retirement from JEDCO after seven years of service. Enjoy your time away from the stress of economic development.

## In Jasper County

Recognized at state....



Newsboy photo/Jimmy Galvan

**JASPER POLICE OFFICER Wanda Brister, left, and Jasper Police Chief Todd Hunter show off the plaque honoring the department's tobacco prevention program.**

### Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

## Animal shelter sorely needed

By LOIS LAMBERTY  
Jasper

What are people thinking when they abandon puppies (kittens)? Do they think eight-week old pups will be able to hunt? Find water? Not get run over? Fight off predators? Certainly someone will pick them up and give them a home? Dropping them off in someone else's neighborhood is a good idea?

Again, two pups were abandoned on our county road — not the first and certainly not the last. And, I'm certain this is happening on every county road (and in the towns also). In our seven years in Jasper County we have given a home to six large dogs — we have neutered and spayed them, buy over 200 pounds of dog food a month, plus heartworm, flea and tick medicine. This along with vet calls for snakebite, miscellaneous bumps and scrapes, etc. All in all, a small fortune! We are not alone in this — many people in Jasper County do the same and much more.

If we are unable to capture the two latest orphans they will die a horrible death — malnutrition, dehydration, snake bite, or prey to larger animals. If we do capture them and cannot find them a home they will have to be taken to Angelina County Animal Shelter.

This costs \$16 a dog since we are out-of-county. And they find homes for less than one third of the animals brought to them — so these pups will probably be euthanized (a really nice sounding word for extermination).

What is our county doing to alleviate this burgeoning animal population explosion?

As far as I can see — nothing, zip, zero, nada!!

All I hear is budget this, budget that! Seems like we had plenty of money for catering during the hurricane, plenty of money for computers, and plenty of money for lots of other foolishness.

Now, I understand animal shelters are expensive to operate. Lakes Area Humane Society (formerly Jasper Animal Rescue) has for years put together budgets for building, operating and maintaining a shelter — each time Jasper County declined to participate.

Perhaps the county will have to institute dog licensing to generate funds (overseeing such a program may cost more to operate than it's worth), neuter/spay programs, temporary sales tax increase, grant applications, perhaps a multi-county solution, or an incentive program to cut the dog (and cat) population down. Somehow our county has to solve this problem — the problem is only going to worsen. We elect our officials to solve community problems and work with the community to solve problems. Well, county fathers, this is a problem.

Where are you? What is the solution? When will we hear from you?

The solution is this: start calling the commissioners and the judge, the sheriff's department, and the city manager. Let them know you are sick and tired of stray animals running all over the place — breeding more, posing a danger to humans and other animals, and spreading disease(s).

Let them know you want a solution to this problem sooner than later, let them know you want an animal shelter, let them know you hired them to help solve community problems, let them know you hold the vote.

Here are their numbers — make their phones ring off the hook. Let's solve this problem. In Jasper — Precinct 1: 384-8112 and Precinct 2: 384-5343. In Kirbyville: 423-4791. In Buna: 994-3711. Sheriff's office:

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### Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

## The beast 666 computer

In the 1970s there were many whispered rumors about The Beast 666 Computer that Satan was supposedly constructing in Belgium. Our social security numbers were the Mark of the Beast (I used to date her, by the way), and these would be fed into the 666 Computer and then fluoridated or something, and then Satan would rule the world, mwahahahahahaha-hahaaaaaaa!

The founders of this rumor went on to invent Y2K, and urged us all to buy drums of water and sacks of dried peas because when the End Times come and Captain Kirk beams us up to his space ship as the planet explodes we'll all need drums of water and sacks of dried peas.

We now know that the whole bit about Satan and his magic laptop was always quite impossible, since within minutes of its completion the computer would have whimsically shut down and refused to do anything but light up.

Satan would have had to call out a Volkswagen-driving 30-something with thick glasses at \$60 an hour to sneer at Satan's outdated hard-drive ("this is soooooo last week") and his dial-up connection.

Satan would also have learned that all the dossiers saved on his previous (hardly old)



Mack Hall

computer in Micro-Blop X-PMS are not compatible with the newer-than-new Micro-Snort Z-Xtream bundled into his new computer, and would have to sacrifice his first-born, Vladimir Putin, to the computer gods to pay for a patch, which would take three hours to work through each time he wanted to look at, say, his MeMeMeSpace downloads.

Imagine if you will, buying a new bookshelf, and as you transfer those favorite volumes from the old shelf to the new shelf your books simply disappear.

Imagine if you will, transferring file folders from an old cabinet to a new, and they simply won't fit into either file cabinet.

Imagine if you will, writing a letter to a friend, and the old pen won't work and the new pen comes with a lengthy instruction manual and then won't work anyway.

Imagine if you will, mailing a letter to a friend, and finding that the postal service no longer accepts envelopes but instead requires a complex new packaging and you must spend a day at a seminar learning this new method.

Yes, I bought a new computer this week. Satan's in the computer business, all right. Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville

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

## Capital city renames lake for Lady Bird Johnson

AUSTIN - The city council on July 26 voted unanimously to rename Austin's Town Lake "Lady Bird Lake."

The name change honors Lady Bird Johnson, who died at age 94 on July 11. She was the widow of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson.

City council members said the renaming is a fitting way to honor the former first lady's life because of her personal efforts to improve the lake, its surrounding trails and greenbelts.

### Weather prompts preparations

Weather experts are saying a 10-year drought appears to be over in all but a few sections of the state. And the rain keeps on falling in areas that have had more than their share.

With Gov. Rick Perry out of state on July 26, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst exercised his official authority to beef up and position Texas military forces in preparation for continuing severe weather and

flooding.

"I will continue to monitor this situation closely and work with the governor's office and state emergency coordinators to ensure the state is doing everything necessary to keep Texans safe," Dewhurst said.

For San Antonio-Martindale Airfield, Dewhurst called for 30 more personnel, 10 more vehicles and three more helicopters and crew.

Also, for Camp Mabry in Austin, he called for 30 more personnel and 10 more vehicles, including Humvees and so-called "high profile vehicles."

Dewhurst asked all Texans to heed the warnings of local officials and take every possible precaution to stay safe.

### Funding veto prompts action

One of Gov. Perry's line-item vetoes in the \$151 billion 2008-2009 state budget was about \$154 million to fund community college employees' group health insurance.

Lt. Gov. Dewhurst on July 25 said lawmakers and college offi-



Ed Sterling  
Texas Press Association

cials across the state had let him know their concerns about the veto.

Dewhurst said he doesn't want community colleges to have to raise tuition or limit enrollment or have local taxes increased as a result of the veto.

In his June 15 veto statement Perry said money appropriated from general revenue may not be expended for employee benefit costs, and that community colleges wrongly have been using such funds to pay the benefits on non-state paid employees.

Dewhurst said he wants the matter addressed right away and plans to bring it up in a fall meeting of the 10-member Legislative Budget Board. The board has the power to reauthorize the vetoed funding.

Meanwhile, Dewhurst said, he plans to meet with Sens. Zaffirini, Hinojosa, Shapiro, Duncan, Ogden, other interested lawmakers, the governor's office and state agencies to work out a solution before the year's end.

### Teen birth rate ranks highest

Texas currently has the highest teen birth rate in the nation: 63 births per 1,000 females ages 15-19.

Nationally, there are 41 births for every 1,000 teens. The data comes from the KIDS COUNT Data Book; a national state-by-state report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and reported July 25 by the Austin think tank, Center for Public Policy Priorities.

CPPP said the report is a precursor to the fall release of The State of Texas Children 2007, which will provide child well-being data for every county in Texas.

### Senate passes border funding

The U.S. Senate on July 25 passed an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill that would provide \$3 billion in emergency fund-

ing for border security.

The amendment includes a provision drafted by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, to allow the money to be used for enforcing immigration laws, including electronic employment verification improvements and increased removal and detention of visa overstays.

### UT Tower lights out for weekend

To control invading crickets, the University of Texas at Austin did not turn on the burnt orange lights that illuminate the UT Tower Friday night July 27 through Sunday night July 29. The insects are attracted to the lights.

### Former health agency chief dies

Dr. Robert Bernstein, who served as head of the Texas Department of Health from 1980 to 1991, died July 23. Bernstein was 87.

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