

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

City may regret Big Bass decision

There are many things that are quickly related to Jasper and Jasper County. When you talk about good football, you talk about Jasper County's teams. When you talk about bass, you talk about Lake Sam Rayburn. And when you mention McDonald's Big Bass Splash, you think about Jasper.

But the latter may be separated in the coming weeks.

The city of Jasper has cut the hotel-motel funds annually given to McDonald's Big Bass Splash from \$10,000 to this year's offer of \$5,000 and event organizer Bob Sealy said the offer was "a slap in his face."

Sealy is now threatening to take the event, which has called Jasper its home for the past 23 years, to Lufkin or another destination on the upper side of the lake.

The city has countered by saying the tournament, which drew more than 4,600 contestants last year, does not fill the local hotels and motels to their capacity.

That point can be debated for the next few months but one point is definitely clear.

If Jasper loses this tournament, area businesses will pay the price for the lack of revenue that will hit the area during the

scheduled April of 2008 tournament.

Sealy estimated the economic impact of his tournament ranges from \$15-20 million. This includes money spent by his contestants and their families, not only at the hotel and motels, but at restaurants, stores and gas stations.

This tournament was the first in the McDonald's Big Bass Splash series and it will be sad commentary on the city's future if they allow it to leave Jasper.

When the city took over the hotel-motel funds away from the chamber, city officials expressed knowing the importance of fishing tournaments to the city.

Now is the time to prove that wasn't just talk.

Roses go to...

▼ James "Jimmy" Mansour on his appointment to the state's advisory board for economic development. Mansour is married to Jasper's Sarah Stephenson.

▼ Jasper County 4-H as they celebrate 100 years of service to our youth.

Thorns go to....

▼ The senseless death of Matthew LeJuan Scott, 20, who was killed as he argued with another man over \$10. It was the first murder in the city of Jasper in more than two years.

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

Dollar goes looney

The Canadian dollar is worth more than the American dollar for the first time since our invasion of Canada in 1775, which of course we Americans won.

The Canadian dollar is called The Looney because it bears a picture of a loon. The reason why there is a picture of a loon on the Canadian dollar is a state secret wrapped carefully in the skin of a cute widdle baby harp seal and hidden deep in an abandoned gold mine outside Dawson and guarded by Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.

Canadians are celebrating the power of their dollar by crossing the border and buying made-in-China stuff in America instead of buying made-in-China stuff in Canada. Because our funny-money is no longer quite up to the mark, goods are cheaper here in Canada's Back Yard. A gallon of gasoline in Canada, for instance, costs almost five dollars, and that's five sturdy



Mack Hall

Canadian dollars, not our flimsy Yank dollars, and so all those cars bearing patriotic maple leaf bumper stickers nip discreetly across The World's Friendliest Border to buy cheap American petrol.

Being an underdeveloped country could be interesting. This winter Canadians will flee the ice and cold for the warmth of the Gulf of Mexico. We locals might find jobs wearing funny hats and selling

overpriced drinks with umbrellas stuck in them to haughty tourists who will write postcards home about us quaint, colorful Americans in our native peasant garb:

"Dear Neville and Beryl, Having the most amusing time among the natives down here, eh. Charming towel boy named Bubba who was once a great logger or something among his tribe until we

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

State publishes new franchise tax rules, seeks feedback

AUSTIN Businesses can get a clearer idea of how much franchise tax they are going to pay because of tax law revisions, and the state is welcoming feedback on the new rules.

The rules implementing changes mandated by the state Legislature were published in the Sept. 14 edition of the Texas Register, and a 30-day public comment period started.

The 79th Legislature in 2006 and the 80th Legislature in 2007 devised changes to the franchise tax to help pay for a sweeping property tax cut.

"It is important for all franchise taxpayers, especially those who will be required to report franchise tax for the first time, to review these proposed rules," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

The Legislature revised the franchise tax by changing the tax base and the tax rate and extending coverage to most legal entities. About 200,000 new entities will have to file franchise tax reports in 2008.

The rules are expected to be adopted in December, according to

the Comptroller's office. Taxable entities with total revenue of \$434,782 or less and entities that calculate they owe less than \$1,000 in franchise tax will not be required to pay the tax, but will still have to file a report, Combs said.

How to pay for it is the question

Texas transportation officials announced plans to form a working group to figure out how to pay for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor road-building project.

Ports-to-Plains is a proposed divided highway running from Laredo through West Texas to Denver, Colo. Designated as a High Priority Corridor by Congress in 1998, planners intend Ports-to-Plains to expand economic opportunity and serve international trade from Mexico to Canada.

Despite the congressional designation, adequate federal funding has not been provided to cover the cost of the project, officials said.

In addition to economic devel-



Ed Sterling
Texas Press
Association

opment and job creation, officials said the corridor could provide a way to transfer energy generated by wind turbines in West Texas to other parts of Texas and the Southwest.

Amnesty program brings in bucks

Comptroller Combs' tax amnesty program, Project Fresh Start, brought in more than \$100 million in unpaid taxes from June 15 through Aug. 16.

The amount included more than \$90 million in state taxes and more than \$10 million owed to local governments, Combs said.

A total of 1,258 businesses reported and paid delinquent taxes.

Between three percent and five percent of those were new taxpayers operating businesses without required tax permits and without paying state taxes.

In exchange for their cooperation and payment, the comptroller waived penalty and interest

In Jasper County

Remembering Rita....



Newsboy file photo

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Parents need to 'train up a child' Representation needed on board

By DAVID HARIGLE
Jasper

We hear about youth having no respect for authority and more.

We hear it blamed on music, TV, internet, and so on. What about the role models at home and church?

Do they see parents, teachers, pastors and others walking a Godly spirit-filled life or conformed to the world?

Are they being taught about repentance, walking a spirit-filled life, separated from the world?

Or are they taught they can have the world and Jesus?

Don't matter how you look or act, God looks on the heart. Yes, but if our heart is right and we are spirit filled, all else will be different.

Many are getting their directions from 'new' Christianity, with its substitution of riches for righteousness, a crown for a cross, and imitation for a new creation, is a direct result of the wording in new versions.

New versions will prepare the apostate churches of these last days to accept the religion of the Antichrist.

Jesus said, "I am the way." Not church membership, not church attendance, not good works, not teaching our minds to think different and so on. The only way to Jesus is repent and be born again.

Look at the presidential election; hatred, wrath, variance, strife, seditions—all this and more with their own party.

Are these qualities for a leader? Through it all what type of message are we sending the youth?

Plus, rather it be morality, drugs, dress code, and so on, parents must do as the Bible says, "Train up a child."

Not someone else, but the parents.

By MARY TAYLOR
Sam Rayburn

The Region I Board member's expression of outrage at being left off the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council is certainly justified.

However, the fact that Jasper County is not represented on the Region I Water Development Board should be even more cause for concern and outrage by anyone having an interest in preserving Sam Rayburn's recreational assets.

There is no other community within the state whose economy is more dependent upon the recreational assets of Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend, yet Jasper County is not even represented on the Region I Water Development Board or the ANRA Water Quality Steering Committee.

Conservationist organizations typically provide strong arguments against the construction of new reservoirs but many of their constituency view all water reservoirs negatively while ignoring indisputable positive benefits, and they promote the inter-basin transfer of East Texas waters to support Dallas and Houston metroplexes.

The "conservationist" organizations comments submitted during the preceding Texas Water Development Board Planning session actually promoted the interbasin transfer of Toledo Bend Water while business and real estate values dependent upon the reservoir were plummeting as a consequence of drought and draw down of T-Bend to levels that could not support recreation.

The placement of the well written article on page 3 of the 9/13 issues of the Lufkin Daily News (LDN) concerning the lack of representation by Region I Water gurus on the Texas Water Advisory Council indicates a poor overall assess-

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garten through 12th grade classes.

Karen Loonam, director of educator standards at the Texas Education Agency, said "These five new certificates were created to be responsive to the needs of multicultural communities and to prepare students for increasing globalization of the economy."

Institute releases traffic report

Austin is considered a high-congestion city, traffic-wise, and a new report has numbers (mobility data) to prove it.

Texas Transportation Institute, a division of the Texas A&M University

System, published its 2007 Annual Urban Mobility Report for cities across the nation, including Austin, Beaumont, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Laredo and San Antonio.

To read the report, go to <http://mobility.tamu.edu/ums/>.

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