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nothing or next to nothing of a residual affect for the business owners and the city itself. I understand that this organization will bring 4-5 events to the lake and draw roughly 250 teams per event. I also understand that if I use the commutative properties of addition I can add the economic impact of all of the tournaments and still reach a balance of zero or nearly zero. Now please understand that I am not bashing this trail in any way, it a great tournament trail run by fantastic people, producing the best payback for the fishermen, and I enjoy fishing it myself. I am just looking for the rationalization.

I understand and expect that we will see a true dichotomy of opinions on this subject. Mr. Grindstaff is certainly entitled to his own opinion, but opinion should not make the difference in whether this tournament receives the funding it deserves. Two years ago, over 20,000 people walked through the gates of the Big Bass Splash. Do we have another event here that can boast those numbers? Why should we as a community allow another city to benefit from our homegrown event? Bob Sealy doesn't WANT to contract with another venue, he simply wants to be wanted at this one.

Mr. Grindstaff has taken the position that we do not have the money to pay for this event and the money needs to be spent elsewhere. Simply stated, we absolutely cannot afford NOT to pay for this event. The thought that a classic car show brings more revenue to the community and fills more rooms than this event is ludicrous at best. Please publish the results of the study that proved this to be true. The affects of this current decision could be long lasting and severe. I don't understand how the current staff can take such a myopic view of this situation and not look at the long-term ramifications of running the Big Bass Splash off to benefit another community.

I have no affiliation with Sealy Outdoors in any way, and stand to gain nothing from anything stated in this letter to the editor. I just put on paper what many others are talking about.

Business leaders need to step up, save tournies

By HELEN CHAPMAN
Brookeland

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read the Newsboy this week. Bob Sealy is moving the site of the Big Bass Splash to Lufkin.

This is a result of city manager Alan Grindstaff's decision to cut funding to this tournament. This decision (whom ever makes these decision besides Grindstaff) will effect every business in Jasper and the East Texas area.

Anyone with knowledge of business would understand that Lake Sam Rayburn is what is keeping Jasper's economy alive.

I lived in Jasper when it was just a sawmill town. When the big mill burned in 1958 Jasper almost died on the vine. Then, in the early 60's, Lake Sam Rayburn was impounded. This started the influx of tourists in this area. We have never looked back.

While I understand that this is not the only attraction of

this beautiful town, this draws the highest volume of consistent visitors to our area. When tournaments come to the lake, these visitors not only come to fish, they make this their family vacations.

They stay in our rooms, camp in our parks, and shop in our stores for sometimes a week at a time. We have lost the Tracy Byrd Tournament and numerous other tournaments that helped to boost our economy, now we might lose the McDonalds tournament.

Merchants, stand up and be heard. These kinds of losses will impact our economy severely.

When the Chamber of Commerce was in charge of distributing the hotel/motel tax money and promoting tourism, we never had this problem. While hotel/motel tax money is collected in the city of Jasper it helps to promote the area as a whole.

Hotel and motel owners want to keep their rooms full and merchants want their businesses to prosper.

I urge every merchant to insist that we not lose this very important event.

How much is too much for Sealy's tournament?

By ROGER KLINOFF
Jasper

Seems there's just a mite of controversy over the Big Splash issue. It boils down to just how much the City of Jasper should pay Bob Sealy, or anyone, for promoting the McDonalds tournament.

There are some interesting questions that haven't been addressed in the public forum.

Like how much money does Sealy pocket for organizing the tournament? Was the city reimbursing Sealy at the on-set because it wasn't very profitable to start?

Could the city's money be better spent sponsoring something else that would last longer than just part of a week? Does the city know enough about promoting tourism?

Doesn't the sponsor, McDonalds, have any say in where it is held? Would someone besides Sealy be interested in organizing the tournament, or does Sealy have exclusive right to it?

I've been told that when Bob Sealy started fishing local tournaments he had to buy his tackle on credit. Seems like he's come an awfully long way financially for a businessman whose livelihood is based on public assets; ie. lake and boat ramps.

Did the city do their homework in getting answers to these questions before they laid down their ultimatum?

You will recall some people said the city had no business taking this function away from the Chamber of Commerce because they didn't know the tourism industry.

Doesn't Mr. Sealy owe some kind of allegiance to the community of people who got him started in a very profitable business?

There's a lot more here than meets the eye from the account given in the Sept. 26 issue of the Jasper Newsboy.

Disappointed with small pageant turnout

By CONNIE GREEN
Jasper

This letter is to all chamber members and the Jasper community. We just completed the annual Miss Fall Fest pageant.

The girls were beautiful, but the attendance was disappointing. We can always count on family and friends supporting the contestants, but where are our leaders today that could be looking at future leaders tomorrow.

This contest was not a beauty pageant, but was a scholarship pageant and these winners will participate in community affairs during their reign.

The support needs to be there at all times. These are busy times and many decisions are made daily, but supporting our young people should not have to be one of the hard ones.

I was privileged to be asked to be pageant director for Miss Fall Fest. I have worked and judged pageants, but never have I directed one. I know I made mistakes, but believe me, I learned from them.

We 'pageant committee' know what to do and what not to do next time. it is my sincere wish that during the course of the pageant and days prior to the pageant that I did not offend anyone, if I did please accept my apology.

As I told moms and daughters alike, this was their girls pageant, not mine or their moms. I do believe all had fun, and that was the main purpose.

I would like to thank three people big time for all their help and advice; Liz Street, Mary Ann McCoy and Amber Stroman. All at the chamber, if you have not met these outstanding women, that work for the benefit and betterment of Jasper, please go by.

It will be worth the time and trip. Again thank you for helping make Jasper a better place to live and raise our children and help put more sparkle in the Jewel of the Forest.

Letters to editor criteria

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.

Deadline for letters is 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the following Wednesday's publication.

Mail letters to:
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