

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

Established in 1865

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

Don't waste chance to vote this year

On Tuesday, March 4, voters all across Texas will march to the polls to decide their Democratic and Republican candidates for the November general election.

In Jasper County, it's no different as voters will go to the election booths to take the first step in determining the next sheriff of Jasper County.

Normally during this time of the year, we take this space and urge everyone to get out and cast their ballot for the candidate of their choosing.

Some do so without any coaxing but others, the majority of Jasper County residents, fail to do what is rightfully given to them by the Constitution of the United States of America. They fail to let their voices be heard during elections.

They would rather allow a vocal minority chose their future leaders in the county races instead of making a choice for themselves. They would rather stay at home and watch the election results

roll in and not make an educated choice for offices such sheriff's, commissioners and a constable post.

This year, most promise the turnout will be stronger because of the presidential race. The election experts believe that many more will turn out and vote because we will also be determining our Democratic and Republican nominees for president of the United States as well.

But again, we will take a wait-and-see attitude when it comes to the voting process in Jasper County. We will just wait and see on March 4 and see just how many turned out and made their presence felt in the Jasper County elections.

This is a right that many have died for in wars on foreign lands. You owe it to them and to your children to get out and cast your ballot. Don't waste this golden right that is given to you freely and without conviction.

Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Get out and vote

By JEFF SCOTT
Jasper

With the March primary at hand, I would like to stress to all voters to vote. For too long most blacks have lived with the mentality that their votes don't matter, this isn't true.

The principal of voting that people, both black and white, have paid the price to vote with their lives. First the polls tax in the early fifties, secondly the dogs and fire hoses in the sixties. There's no excuse now for you not to vote. It doesn't matter who you vote for just exercise that right, and perhaps you will take part in the general elections in November and vote for the right party.

Of course, as always in closing let me quote Proverbs 29:18, where there is no vision, the people perish.

Visit the schools

By RETA HUTSON
Jasper

I want to make a challenge to all parents, all people. I challenge you to go to our children's schools. Walk around the schools, pray over our children, schools and all that serve our children.

We need to speak God's word over every situation. Our children should be able to go to school and learn in a loving, peaceful environment. As His people we should not be afraid to show send our children to school.

God did not give us a spirit of fear. God gave us a spirit of love and power. It is a spiritual battle. Let's get to fighting spiritually.

I challenge you to speak love, joy and peace into our lives. God has given us power and authority, let's use it. Thank you. God bless you all.

Family really needs closure

By TAMMY COCHRAN
Jasper

Thanks to our District Judge Joe Bob Golden, Jack Wiley Dotson was granted another trial continuance. Our district judges need to hold both the defendants and their attorneys to trial priorities. If in fact Mr. Dotson's attorney can prove self-defense, why has he not done so prior to now?

If Mr. Dotson is having surgery, not life-threatening, why could the surgery not have been postponed until after Feb. 25? If any attorney can contact a client, while preparing a murder case, for more than a week, would that not raise a "red flag?"

During our continuance hearing, the district judge seemed as concerned with the negative publicity from the previous letter to the editor as he did with the continuance itself. He made a public declaration at the court session, concerning the letter asking for closure and justice.

He stated, "You can write your letters and call me what you want." It would be both unchristian and "unlady-like," to call him what we would like. We are only asking that he use his authority to hold the defendant and his attorney to a set trial date.

All evidence is in, the district attorney's office is ready, and still the judge is not forcing either parties of the defendant's side to be held accountable for this matter.

We just want to settle this matter and put

it behind us.

District, teacher make bad moves

By WILLIE RAWLS
Jasper

In the handbook that Jasper High School gave to the students at the beginning of the year, on page 30, it says: "Students have the right to a well-balanced, appropriate educational program at all levels in elementary, junior and high school."

"Students have a right to study under qualified instructors in an atmosphere free from bias, prejudice, and disruptions."

This is not a black and white issue. It's about the students, and a teacher being professional or unprofessional.

On Feb. 11 a teacher at JHS used a racial name in her class. It doesn't matter what color or what race a teacher may be, teachers are suppose to be professional.

The teacher was suspended for four days for saying this word. Even if a student did ask her a question, being professional and an adult, she could have told that student another answer other than the one she used. When you are a child then you speak like a child, and when you're an adult then you speak like an adult.

This teacher will be allowed to return to school to teach the same students. How can this be a well-balanced atmosphere for these students?

JISD says: "Neither the board nor any district employee shall unlawfully retaliate against any individual bringing a concern or complaint." Some students are concerned that the teacher might retaliate against them in some form or another. The parents of these should be concerned too.

If a teacher is bold enough to say the "n" word in her class, then there's no telling what she might say or do when she returns to school.

This teacher is the only teacher who teaches this class. So these students can not flee from her. These students are between a rock and a hard place. The children are the future.

Maybe this teacher should read the hand book. And if she has read it, then she knew what the policy said. This teacher should be given a test on the hand book.

A person should pray and watch. If a person doesn't stand up for some things then they will fall for anything.

Letters' 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.

"Thank You" letters will not be published and will be transferred the the advertising department for an advertisement. 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

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

House, nursing assistant

House is a reasonably intelligent television show featuring the eponymous lead as a Byronic hero who is never sacked despite his drug abuse, ill manners, television watching, and video gaming, all on the job, because he develops brilliant solutions to apparently impossible medical problems.

Where House breaks down is its unreality, which is not a criticism because this is a television show. In House the few nurses do things on computer screens and are never seen giving patient care. Patients suffer seizures or coronary occlusions only when a team of physicians happens to be in the room. The hospital in which House works has no admissions staff, nursing assistants, cleaner-uppers, security guards, or bulletin boards. Each fictional doctor enjoys a spacious, glass-walled office, which any real-life physician can only envy, and when said physician needs a crash cart, a suture tray, or a specific medicine it is immediately available.

What if House were more like a real hospital?

House, Nursing Assistant. House is fired for having a drug problem, even though he saves lives.

House, Pharmacist. House is fired for being rude, although he saves lives.

House, Cleaning Staff. House is fired



Mack Hall

for pausing thirty seconds to watch a bit of soap opera on a patient's television while tidying his fiftieth or so room of his shift, even though skilled and science-based hygiene and maintenance save lives.

House, Hospital Security. House, after wrestling with drunks most of his shift, is fired for playing a video game on his watch at four in the morning although his presence in a creepy world saves lives.

House, R.N. House, after helping deliver a baby in E.R., giving resuscitation to a heart-attack victim, getting coughed on by 'flu patients, barfed on by someone with food poisoning, and supervising the care of dozens of other patients, all without lunch or even a potty break, is fired for telling a career FEMA recipient complaining about the formaldehyde in his free trailer that he doesn't even know what formaldehyde is and why doesn't he just open the windows if he doesn't like the new-car smell?

House, Admissions Clerk. House, after years of loyal service to the same hospital doing his part to help save lives, is fired for not learning Spanish rapidly enough.

Short season, huh? And now, back to Flipping Homezillas Off the Island.

Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville

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

Democratic candidates debate in capital city

AUSTIN - Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Clinton of New York met at the University of Texas to debate in a nationally televised forum on Feb. 21.

The two United States senators, vying to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee, answered questions posed by Jorge Ramos, a reporter for Univision, the Spanish-language television network, and CNN reporter John King.

Among many topics were:

- ▼ universal health care
- ▼ economy/trade/jobs
- ▼ immigration policy
- ▼ federal taxation
- ▼ Iraq strategy
- ▼ care for wounded veterans
- ▼ care for military families

Clinton suggested her experience should make her the clear choice for Democratic voters. Obama asked for voters' help in his effort to change the nation's capital from a place "where good ideas go to die" and work with him to help

America "live up to its promise" of liberty and justice for all.

Forty-thousand people applied to attend the debate in the UT recreation center, but admittance was limited to 1,000. Pro-Hillary and Pro-Barack crowds gathered outside the building and engaged in loud but peaceful volleys of chants.

Thousands more attended political rallies and debate watches were held at Sholz Garten, the Austin Music Hall and the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

To cap the debate, an Obama rally the following evening in downtown Austin drew a crowd estimated at 30,000. The city of Austin closed off streets near the rally to vehicular traffic.

Meanwhile, Republican candidates U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Clute scheduled appear-



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

ances in various cities in advance of the Texas GOP primary.

Party primaries are set for March 4, and early voting ends Feb. 29.

SMU chosen as Bush library site

The future site of the George W. Bush Presidential Library will be Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

The SMU board of trustees announced Feb. 22 it had reached an agreement with the George W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation.

SMU is first lady Laura Bush's alma mater. Yale University, President Bush's alma mater, was in the running among eight potential sites.

A "Presidential Center," to be built on SMU's main campus, will consist of the presidential library containing Bush administration documents and artifacts, a museum with permanent and traveling

exhibits and an independent public policy institute.

The library and museum will be operated by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Bush was elected to two consecutive terms as governor of Texas and served from 1995 until 2000, when he resigned to run for president.

City considers owning wind farm

The City of Austin's utility company, Austin Energy, is looking into renewable or "greener" energy solutions for the future.

Michael McCluskey, deputy general manager of Austin Energy, said the utility company might consider buying West Texas land on which to build its own wind farm.

Owning wind turbines instead of contracting for power would guarantee a supply of wind power into the future and give the utility more cost control, McCluskey said.

Currently, much of Austin's energy supply comes from coal-burning power plants.

'Own Your Own Future' launched

The Texas Education Agency on Feb. 22 launched a program to encourage youth to stay in school, graduate and pursue a career.

The program, "Own Your Own Future," comes through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Education Commissioner Robert Scott said the program "provides at-risk youth with career options tied to their passions and desires, all while reiterating the need to finish high school to make these achievements a reality."

The program is accessed via www.ownyourownfuture.com, a Web site that moves the user through a series of question-and-answer sections that help the student chart a clear path to goals and objectives and participate in the decision-making process.

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