

Viewpoint

The Jasper Newsboy

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Our Viewpoint Editorials

If you didn't vote, please don't gripe

The voters of Jasper and Jasper County chose our political direction Saturday, May 10.

Those who went to the ballot box chose our leaders for city and school board as well as made crucial decisions on alcohol sales and economic development within Jasper's city limits.

They decided that Jasper's next city council should include incumbents Tommy Adams, Gloria Monzingo and Terrya Norsworthy.

They decided that James Riley, Carolyn Armitage and Tommy Street would represent the community on the Jasper ISD board of trustees.

They also decided that it is alright for local stores to sell beer and wine as well as restaurants be allowed to sell beer and wine and mixed drinks.

A decision by the voters was that better streets should come before economic development. Or, better streets are equal to economic development, depending on who's opinion you gathered.

In the end, voters decided the future of

these issues and entities. For those who got out and participated in the process — congratulations.

You did your civic duty and you should be proud that you cast your vote. You now also have the right to complain, gripe and exercise your right to applaud and show disdain for decisions that these new leaders may make during their upcoming terms in office.

For those who failed to vote, and there were quite a few of you who did not exercise your civic duty, you gain the right to be quiet on city issues. You can't complain about school issues and if your street is not the first one fixed, well, don't complain about it.

You didn't vote and really should have no say in the matter. You didn't take the time to get out and make your voice heard so why should we pay attention to you after the fact.

There was one time to make your opinion known on these issues and that was Saturday at the ballot box. Speaking after the fact, well, your voice just doesn't carry the same weight.

In Jasper County

Mothers and rodeos...



Your Viewpoint Letters to the Editor

Thanks for help

By TERRI CHEELEY
Jasper

I would like to thank the Jasper community for supporting our fundraiser breakfast at Elijah's on April 25th. The funds will be used for supplies for a mission trip to Honduras. What a joy it is to be a part of such a giving and supportive community.

Thanks, also, to Robby and Rachel Lovett and the staff of Elijah's restaurant for the food and labor provided for the breakfast. The Lovetts and Elijah's are strong supporters of the Jasper community. I would like to encourage you to support them as often as possible. Thanks again!

Dr. Joe deserves better treatment

By JIM A. STOTT
Beaumont

As a Jasper native, I hate to hear that Dr. Joe has been forced to leave the only life he has known for over 60 years. It's really a sad day in the history of Jasper.

Dr. Joe delivered me 55 years ago, and took care of me until I graduated from college in the 70's. I know for a fact that his legacy will never be equaled.

From my father, I heard more Dr. Joe stories than I can remember, as he and Joe were lifelong friends. I will never forget the compassion and friendship he so willingly provided my family when we had to place Dad in a nursing home, suffering

from Alzheimer's.

The transition in Dad's life would have not been possible without the intervention of Dr. Joe.

I know the decision was as devastating to him as it was to my own family. There are not many people, in Texas especially, who have not heard remarkable stories of the Jasper doctor who can remember making house calls, and charging people what he felt they could afford.

I hope sincerely hope this works out, and Dr. Joe can continue to serve Jasper until God calls him home. He deserves no less.

Jasper won during Saturday's election

By WINCY WALKER
Jasper

Did March Coffield, who wrote about having to clean his own gutter, finally earn some of the \$500 per month he and other city council members gave themselves for "serving" on city council years ago?

Local lore is that those council members slipped \$500 payments to themselves into the city budget in order to hide from the public that they were taking money for "serving" on city council; \$500 thirteen times a year!

Recalling three former city managers, March would seem to prefer "the good ole' boys" over squeaky-clean city government. Voting in this election was VERY important!

The people spoke and the "Do you know who I am?" buddy system got stomped; Jasper won!

Guest Commentary One person's viewpoint

But I'm a college graduate

This is an old wheeze; this version is from the 'blog Happy Catholic:

A young man hired by a supermarket reported for his first day of work. The manager greeted him with a warm handshake and a smile, gave him a broom, and said, "Your first job will be to sweep out the store. Work from the front to the back."

"But I'm a college graduate," the young man replied indignantly.

"Oh, I'm sorry, son. I didn't know that," said the manager. "Here, give me the broom - I'll show you how."

This is the season when schools turn 'em loose, the "'em" being graduates of high school or university. The camera-hogs often appear minimally articulate; the ambitious ones probably left early for job interviews.

With degrees in interpretive-kinesio-psychology, piercings and tattoos from Mama Bluto's downtown, and cellphones-to-the-ear by Verizon, like, you know, totally, dog-dude, the graduates are eager to change the world, save the planet, and make a difference.

Sure, okay, fine, but let's not forget the story of King Alfred letting the bread burn. There is a time to plan the salvation of the nation and a time to watch the bread baking and make sure it isn't ruined.

This is not to deny the world of ideas, quite the opposite, actually. If a man learns electricity he can use his knowledge to help install MRI machines or to electrify the perimeters of death camps. Ideas, critical thinking, and



Mack Hall

value systems help him decide what to do with the electricity.

Work, as in cobbling shoes or welding pipe or roofing a house, is pretty much discredited at present. Even a casual glance at popular entertainment indicates that the only careers at present are law enforcement (with much careless discharging of firearms), detective work (in shiny laboratories with unlimited budgets), or vaguely hanging around luxurious offices not doing much except anticipating a laugh-track.

In the 1950s good ol' Charlie Brown was very proud of his father the barber, but he would now expect ol' dad to be a cool CIS dude.

The presidential candidates may spat with each other on talk shows, but they are in sweet accord on this: people who actually work with their hands are but a background of unwashed commoners to the candidates' mighty passions of ambition. We are faced with the prospect of being ruled by law school graduates who have never held real jobs and never wondered how they are going to feed the kids, and who yet think they are victims of oppression.

Is not the purpose of a university to teach its graduates how to think better than that?

In sum, the story of the college graduate and the broom (we are not speaking of Hillary's mode of transportation) may be a layered comment on the pretensions of college graduates, but more than that it may be an observation on the inadequate perceptions of reality in those who would presume to rule us.

Mack Hall is a resident of Kirbyville

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

Perry again says he wants to 'three-peat' as governor

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry was in Fredericksburg on May 9 to help break ground in a ceremony to begin construction of a 40,000 square foot expansion of the National Museum of the Pacific War.

While there, Perry spoke to reporters and repeated his assertion that he plans to seek a third full term as governor in 2010. In April, he made public his desire to retain the office.

"If Texas were a corporation - and we would be one of the most efficient, most successful corporations in the world - and if you're a stockholder in that corporation, why in the world would you want to change your CEO when things are going well?" Perry said.

Perry has served as governor since 2000. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst are regarded as potential rivals to Perry for the GOP nomination in 2010.

Energy report looks to future

Texas leads in the nation in energy production and consumption, so what do the years ahead hold for our state's plentiful sources of energy?

Clues may be found in "The Energy Report," a publication released May 7 by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

The report, now available at www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/, considers economic impact, viability, availability and more regarding various energy sources, such as crude oil, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, coal and uranium, solar energy, wind, ethanol, biodiesel, wood, feedlot waste, landfill gas, municipal solid waste, hydropower, ocean power, geothermal energy and hydrogen. Federal, state and local government subsidies of fuels also are examined.

"Texas has the opportunity to influence the expanding public debate over energy use and production, and our choices can set a



Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

new direction for the nation," Combs said.

"The Energy Report is intended as a reference tool for anyone seeking a better understanding of the Texas energy landscape and the potential impact of new energy policies."

Site shows health care options

About one in four Texans lacks health care coverage, the Department of Insurance says.

So, during "Carry the Uninsured Week" April 27 through May 3, the Texas Department of Insurance launched a way to help more uninsured Texans find health care.

Of course, it's via the Web at www.texashealthoptions.com, a site where companies provide information about their health care plans.

Consumers who visit the site may choose from 26 policy types and clicking "submit" to receive a

list of specific information about carriers' policies.

Dam oversight not up to par

The Office of the State Auditor says the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's dam safety program is not able to accomplish its statutory mandate to ensure the safe construction, maintenance, repair and removal of dams in the state of Texas.

In a report released May 7, the State Auditor said that although management has made improvements to the dam safety program over the past four years, the TCEQ still is not able to perform timely inspections of all hazardous dams, ensure that deficiencies identified in inspection reports are corrected, or obtain key information needed to assess the risk posed by many of the state's dams.

There are 7,603 state-regulated dams, according to the report.

Demand rises for gun permits

In a May 8 copyright story by the Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau, it was reported that the number of people seeking concealed handgun

permits in Texas is up by 40 percent.

The number of requests is slowing the turnaround time. It's taking the Texas Department of Public Safety up to a month longer than the 60 days the law allows for the processing of applications.

State, moms file YFZ briefs

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The Third Court of Appeals in Austin on May 9 received documents from state Child Protective Services and from 48 mothers of children removed from the YFZ Ranch near Eldorado in April.

The mothers explain why they believe the state had no call to take their children, and the state tells why it had no choice but to take the action it did.

Meanwhile, on May 19, state district courts in San Angelo will begin to conduct hearings for YFZ families who wish to retrieve their children from foster care.

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