

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Governor To Focus On Education For Coming Legislative Session

AUSTIN - Aides for Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick - addressed a small group of newspaper editorial writers and publishers in a small forum Dec. 7 in Austin.

The three took turns talking about their bosses' goals for the upcoming legislative session, which begins Jan. 9.

Kathy Walt, Perry's special assistant for communications, said the governor is pleased that the outgoing 79th Texas Legislature's handling of school finance and property tax reform takes those issues off the back of the incoming 80th Legislature.

Education continues to be Perry's highest priority, so he'll be working with the Legislature to increase higher education accessibility and affordability, Walt said.

Other Perry priorities:

- ¥ Increase border security and reduce crime.
- ¥ Simplify the state's spending limit formula, which presently is tied to growth in citizens' personal income. Perry believes the formula should be based on population growth, instead, Walt said.
- ¥ Require state agencies to post detailed budgets online.

¥ Amend the state constitution so that surplus tax dollars would be returned to taxpayers.

¥ Require the state comptroller to publish the methodology for making revenue estimates.

¥ Require universities and other state-supported institutions of higher learning to publish detailed cost breakdowns for instruction and maintenance and operations.

¥ Deliver on promise of property tax cuts.

¥ Solicit more citizen input on ways to accomplish property tax appraisal reform.

Dewhurst to hit child predators

Rick Parsons of Lt. Gov. Dewhurst's office said his boss is calling the next session "the children's session" because of plans to lower the boom on adults who commit sexual offenses against children by passing tougher laws.

Dewhurst wants to pass a Texas version of "Jessica's Law" - a Florida law that increased penalties against sex offenders whose victims are children.

Dewhurst is proposing that a first-time offender convicted of a sexual assault against a child under age 14 would get a 25-year sentence and lifetime monitoring after release. A second-time offender would be subject to the death penalty.

Parsons said the 200,000 teachers and 300,000 support personnel in Texas' public school system would be subject to background checks under Dewhurst's child-protection agenda.

Speaker's rep focuses on budget

Appropriations bills must originate in the House, so Don Green, speaker Craddick's director of budget and policy, focused on money issues.

Green said Craddick believes the estimated \$15 billion surplus projected by outgoing Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn is more like \$7 billion.

Green briefed the audience on the list of the state constitution's spending controls. He pointed out the overlapping mandates that budget writers must consider, such as those based on the state's economic growth, the pay-as-you-go imperative, the welfare budget minimum and the debt service spending limit.

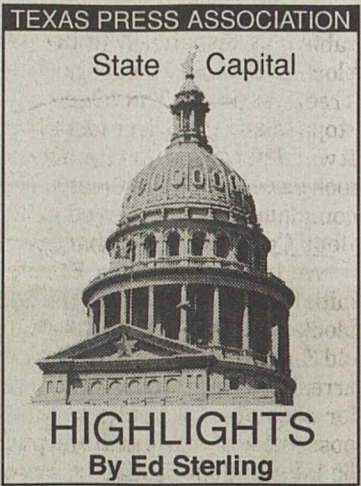
Adding to the complicated task of coordinating the many mandates, Green said, is the fact that the writers of the state constitution could not have anticipated the Legislature's recent shifting of \$13 billion to \$14 billion in funding responsibility from local government to back to the state.

Green said the increased need for Medicaid spending as the state population grows and as medical costs increase presents another conundrum to be solved.

Teacher union releases report

The American Federation of Teachers released a report titled "Building Minds, Minding Buildings - Turning Crumbling Schools into Environments for Learning."

The Texas Federation of Teachers endorsed the report. Findings assert that such conditions as mold, high temperatures, overcrowding, poor air quality and vermin infestation in too many public schools must be addressed immediately as a top educational priority.



TFT president Linda Bridges said the AFT's comprehensive report on schools across the nation "confirms that the problem is widespread and needs to be addressed sooner rather than later."

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Kris Kringle Cash

Giveaway

Count the number of symbols in advertisements in this edition and submit your guess in writing to the Headlight by Monday, Dec. 18

(including symbol on this entry form)

A drawing of all the correct entries will be held to determine the winner

Two winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any one of the businesses advertising in this edition.

Kris Kringle Cash Entry Form

(Return to The Headlight by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec.18)

PO Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434

My Guess Is _____ (including symbol on this entry form)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I'd like to use my certificate at _____ (Must be business advertising in this week's Headlight)

One Entry Per Person

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the calls and cases for the period ending Nov. 23.

Saturday, November 11

At 8:15 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence near Eagle Lake in reference to a death investigation. Justice of the Peace Pct. 4 George Cason arrived to conduct an Inquest. The investigation was initiated and an Autopsy was ordered to determine cause of death. Case is pending results from Medical Examiner.

At 3:30 pm, Deputy Hudson responded to a disturbance. An investigation was initiated and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect. Case is pending apprehension of suspect.

At 6:04 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to New Ulm Road in reference to a Violation of a Protective Order. An investigation was conducted and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the suspect. Case is pending apprehension of suspect.

Sunday, November 12

At 9:46 pm, Deputy Mieth spoke with a complainant from Seguin about a burglary of a motor vehicle that possibly occurred at the IH-10 west bound rest area. The complainant reported that her purse was missing from her vehicle and contained credit cards, which were later used by the suspect(s) to make purchases in Weimar and Schulenburg. The information was obtained and the case remains under investigation.

Monday, November 13

At 10 am, Deputy Argo responded to the Rice High School in reference to a disturbance that occurred the previous week. After further investigation, one student was issued a citation for Disruption of Classes. Case closed.

At 6 pm, Deputy Staff responded FM 950 near Eagle Lake in reference to a missing calf. The complainant reported that the calf has been missing for several months. Case is pending further information.

At 7:33 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to a residence in Glidden in reference to unwanted subjects. After further investigation, two subjects were located and issued Criminal Trespass Warnings. Case closed.

At 9:39 pm, Deputy Staff responded to a residence on PR 30 near Weimar in reference to an unwanted subject. After further investigation, one subject was located and issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Case closed.

At 10:36 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to Hwy 90 near Alleyton in reference to a verbal disturbance. On arrival, the incident was determined to be a child custody issue. A report was filed and the case is closed.

Tuesday, November 14

At 9 am, Deputy Pflughaupt met with a complainant in reference to several threats. During the investigation investigation, the suspect was identified and a warrant was issued. After the investigation, the suspect, Anton Adolph Schmidt Jr., 22 of Cat Spring, was arrested for Terroristic Threat.

At 4 pm, Deputy Pflughaupt met with a complainant in reference to a stolen vehicle that was taken from the Alleyton Shell Station. After further investigation, the suspect was identified and the complainant later refused to pursue charges. A report was filed and the case will be closed.

Wednesday, November 15

At 3:30 pm, Deputy Gonzalez was dispatched to Garwood in reference to juveniles fighting. After an investigation two juveniles were issued citations for disorderly conduct. Case Closed

At 6:30 pm, Deputy Slubar responded to the Columbus Emergency Room in reference to a dog bite that occurred on Diana Lane near Columbus. The dog owner was located and provided proof of current rabies vaccinations. Case closed.

Thursday, November 16

At 5:15 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to a residence on Beard Street near Eagle Lake in reference to a Theft. The complainant reported a missing flat-bed trailer. An investigation was conducted and the case is pending further information.

At 6:10 pm, Deputy Thumann initiated a traffic stop on Business 71 at FM 109 near Columbus. After further investigation, Randy Junior Jenkins II, 25 of Columbus, was arrested for Possession of Marihuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Case closed.

Friday, November 17

At 7:20 am, Deputy Gonzales responded to the Colorado County Opportunity Center in reference to a burglary. A report was taken and evidence was collected. There was one suspect observed in the area the day before. Case is pending the identification of that suspect.

At 4:20 pm, Deputy Pardo located a vehicle abandoned for over 48 hours parked on IH-10 near the 699 mile marker. The vehicle was removed from the roadway by Delgado's Wrecker Service. Case closed.

At 9 pm, Deputy Thumann initiated a traffic stop on Hwy 90A and Rice High School. After further investigation, Nancy Lynn Cole, 39 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for Driving While License Suspended with Previous Convictions. Case closed.

Saturday, November 18

At 4:51 am, Deputy Slubar responded to Wilde Road in reference to a vehicle stuck in the ditch. After further investigation, Albert Derwood Schulle, 42 of Fayetteville, was arrested for Public Intoxication. Case closed.

At 11:30 am, Deputy Cranek initiated a traffic stop on Alleyton Road and Hwy 90 east of Columbus. After further investigation, Johnny Camacho Jr., 50 of Columbus, was arrested for Expired Driver's License and Altered License Plate. Case closed.

Sunday, November 19

At 4 pm, Deputy Pflughaupt responded to a residence in Sheridan for a disturbance. After further investigation, the incident was determined to be a verbal argument. Case closed.

At 10:36 pm, Sgt. Grindt located a suspicious subject in the roadway on Colorado St. in Glidden. After further investigation, Enemecio Xavier Castillo, 18 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for Possession of Marihuana and Public

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