

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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House Passes Version Of State Budget For 2008-2009

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives on March 30 passed House Bill 1, the state budget for the 2008-2009 biennium.

The budget totals slightly more than \$150 billion, an increase of 5.4 percent from the previous biennium.

Note: the figure does not include the \$14.2 billion property tax relief passed a year ago in the Third Called Session of the 79th Legislature.

Speaker Tom Craddick said that compared with the state's population growth and the rate of inflation since that time, the increase embodied in HB 1 is fiscally conservative, leaving a \$4.2 billion surplus to carry forward to the next state budget cycle.

When compared to the present 2006-2007 budget, education received a \$3.6 billion increase, covering the Teachers' Retirement System, financial aid and additional funding for public schools and higher education.

An amendment to HB 1 gives teachers an across-the-board \$850 annual pay increase.

More than \$2.5 billion was added to health and human services for increased Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program costs, improved provider rates for physicians and other healthcare professionals, increased trauma funding for hospitals, and a new mental health crisis stabilization program.

Corrections received nearly \$600 million to meet projected inmate population growth and increase border security.

Before debating HB 1 on the House floor, members voted to require that any new spending item added to the budget must be accompanied by removing another item of equal value.

If the House version of the budget does not square with the Senate version, differences will be debated in a conference committee of House and Senate members.

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Report shows costs of obesity
 A new report commissioned by Comptroller Susan Combs shows obesity-related costs set Texas businesses back an estimated \$3.3 billion in 2005 and could cost employers about \$16 billion annually by 2025.

The dollar amount includes cost of health care, absenteeism, decreased productivity and disability.

Combs commented on the report, "Counting Costs and Calories — Measuring the Cost of Obesity to Texas Employers."

"Nearly two-thirds of our state's adult population is currently overweight or obese, and because of the alarming rise in obesity, we decided to communicate what stake Texas businesses have in stemming the obesity crisis," she said.

"The costs are shocking, and the future could be very grim if we don't take action now to reverse this trend. The trend in obesity is avoidable — not inevitable — but we must take action now."

Perry signs 'Castle Doctrine' bill
 Gov. Rick Perry on March 27

signed into law Senate Bill 378, extending Texans' rights to use deadly force for self-defense in their home, vehicle or workplace. The law takes effect Sept. 1.

Under SB 378, Perry said, a person's right to stand their ground extends beyond the home to vehicles and workplaces, allowing reasonable use of deadly force when an intruder is:

- Committing or attempting to commit a violent crime, such as murder or sexual assault;
- Unlawfully trying to enter a protected place; or
- Unlawfully trying to remove a person from a protected place.

The law also provides civil immunity for a person who lawfully uses deadly force.

Senate confirms Kimbrough
 The Senate Committee of the Whole on March 28 confirmed Jay Kimbrough as conservator of the Texas Youth Commission.

Kimbrough had been serving as special master of the ailing state agency since early March, when he was appointed to the post by Gov. Perry.

Allegations of sex abuse of inmates and official wrongdoing at the agency are under investigation.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

As conservator, Kimbrough has legal authority over the agency. He will act as chief executive, overseeing day-to-day operations while directing the investigation.

Already, some high-level officials have left, employee firings are possible and sentences of youths are being reviewed for fairness.

The only senator voting against the confirmation of Kimbrough was Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, who wanted a conservator without close ties to Gov. Perry.

Kimbrough is a former staff member of Perry's and a former staff member of Attorney General Greg Abbott.

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Managing Bipolar Disorder

Bipolar Disorder is a mental condition in which there are changes in mood and energy. The condition is also known as manic-depressive illness. Periods of highs and lows, referred to as episodes of *mania* and *depression*, are characteristic of this condition. A manic episode, or mania, may include a euphoric mood, racing thoughts, inability to concentrate, and restlessness, among many other symptoms. Symptoms must be present for at least a week for a diagnosis of manic episode to occur. Depression, or a depressive episode, includes symptoms such as feelings of worthlessness, decreased energy, and sleeping too much. A diagnosis is generally appropriate after a number of symptoms are present for 2 weeks or longer.

Preventive treatment is generally recommended for persons affected by this condition. *Lithium* is a mood stabilizer which is effective in preventing the recurrence of manic and depressive episodes. Anticonvulsant medications, such as valproate (*Depakote*) and carbamazepine (*Tegretol*), also may have mood-stabilizing effects, and are sometimes prescribed for persons with bipolar episodes that are difficult to treat. Anticonvulsant medications are often used in combination with lithium to achieve maximum effects of these medications.

Let's Look Back...
24 & 48 YEARS AGO

April 7, 1983
 Donald Ruesewald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ruesewald, Jr. of Garwood and a junior at Subiaco Academy a college prep school in Arkansas was among the 63 students earning positions on the Academy's faculty list for the third grading quarter...

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Krupicka proudly announced the arrival of their little daughter, **Karen Marie**. Karen was born March 25 at 6:54 a.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. She weighed six pounds, 13 ounces and measured 21 inches at birth...

Planning a July wedding are **Patti Kay Black** of Eagle Lake and **Wayne Louis (Tiger) Briscoe**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Briscoe of Sheridan. The United Methodist Church in Eagle Lake will be the setting for the July 2 wedding...

Mr. and Mrs. James Cash of Eagle Lake attended church services at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rosenberg on Palm Sunday. They went especially for the confirmation of their grandson, **Danny Faucett**. Danny is the son of Mr. and Mrs. **Welson Faucett** of Rosenberg...

Randy Soto and **Adrian Montemayor** graduated from Wyoming Technical Institute at the 128th consecutive commencement exercise held in Laramie, Wyoming on March 26...

Lori Dawn Hernandez celebrated her third birthday Easter Sunday at a family reunion on her great grandma's ranch near Old Ocean...

Kevin L. Brisco, son of **Lavo and Ruth Brisco** of Sheridan passed away last Thursday morning in Citizens Memorial Hospital in Victoria. Funeral services were held last Friday at 3:30 p.m. from the First United Church in Hallettsville with **Rev. Gary Langston** officiating. Interment followed in Myrtle Cemetery in Rock Island...

Funeral services were held Monday at 11 a.m. for **Joseph R. Garcia Sr.** a life long resident of Eagle Lake. Garcia passed away Friday at the VA Hospital in Houston after a lengthy illness...

Recent guest of **Mr. and Mrs. William Kemper** was Mr. Kemper's cousin **Mr. and Mrs. Ray Martin** from Marysville, Kansas. While here they visited Ray Kemper's sister in Galveston and their children in Houston...

April 2, 1959
Charles D. Stephens, manager of Eagle Lake Implement Co., is at home recuperating from a wrenched back...

Burglars break into Eagle Shoe Shop on Main Street taking a small amount of cash...

Vernon Tyler, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Tyler** of Eagle Lake, and **Gene Paschall**, son of **Mrs. Ora Eastland** of Altair, veteran seamen in the Merchant Marine, escaped injury when the

ship, *The Valchem*, they were on was rammed by the Luxury liner *Santa Rose* off the coast near Atlantic City last Thursday in a dense fog...

Gardner C. Duncan of Eagle Lake was elected one of the three new directors of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in final session last Wednesday...

Annette Hurley and **Barbara Gay Foster** of Eagle Lake, members of South Texas Girl Scout Council, will attend the 1959 Senior Roundup near Pike's Peak July 3 through 12...

Miss Julia Thomas, daughter of **Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Thomas**, was christened by **Rev. C.E. Marshall** Easter afternoon, March 29 at her home with her uncle, **Max Kurt Martin**, as Godfather...

Mr. and Mrs. George Cason are the proud parents of a son, **Glen Marshall**, born March 26 in Laughlin Hospital.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending March 15.

Friday, March 2
 At 10 am, Deputy Argo investigated an allegation of a student with cigarettes at Rice High School. After further investigation, one student was issued a citation for Minor in Possession of Tobacco. Case closed.

At 10 am, Deputy Pardo and Deputy Savino responded to CR 220 near Weimar in reference to a Public Nuisance. The property owner was located and issued a Public Nuisance Warning. Case is pending compliance within 30 days.

At 11:54 am, Deputy Cranek responded to CR 104 in reference

to a report of Stalking. During the investigation, no offense could be substantiated. After the investigation, one subject was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Case closed.

At 3:30 pm, Deputy Argo responded to Rice High School in reference to a Theft of a cell phone. The missing cell phone was entered into the state and national database as stolen. Case is pending further investigation.

Saturday, March 3
 At 2 am, Deputy Thumann initiated a traffic stop on Alleyton Road and Hwy 90. After further investigation, **Alfredo Aguilar Jr.**, 27 of Columbus, was arrested for Driving While License Invalid. Case closed.

At 8:30 am, Deputy Hoffer and

Deputy Pflughaupt responded to Jerrell Coffee Road in reference to a Burglary of Vehicle and Theft of a Firearm, which occurred the previous night on FM 1890. The missing property was entered into the state and national database as stolen. Case is pending further investigation.

Sunday, March 4
 At 5:30 pm, Deputy Staff responded to Ohnheiser Road near Weimar in reference to mailbox damage. On arrival, it was observed that two mailboxes had been run over by a vehicle. Evidence was collected and a vehicle description was obtained. Case is pending further information.

At 6:28 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to Schobel Road to meet with a complainant about an assault that occurred on Old McDonald Road in Glidden. After further investigation, **John Wesley Thomas**, 32 of Cuero, was arrested for Family Violence Assault and issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Case closed.

At 7:30 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to Broadway Food Mart on Hwy 71 in reference to a reported Theft of gasoline. During the investigation, one suspect was located and it was determined the incident was accidental. After further investigation, the situation was resolved and the suspect paid for the fuel. Case closed.

Monday, March 5
 At 3:05 pm, Deputy Pflughaupt responded to Hwy 71 and Koehl road in reference to a vehicle that was abandoned for at least 3 weeks. The vehicle was removed from the location by Jimmy's Wrecker service and stored as abandoned. Case closed.

At 8:20 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to a residence in Glidden in reference to Harassment.

The complainant did not wish to pursue charges at this time. A report was filed and the case will be closed.

Tuesday, March 6
 At 6:16 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence in Rock Island in reference to Burglary of a Building. The suspect(s) were identified and the stolen property was recovered. After further investigation, **Russell Clay Nelson**, 17 of Rock Island, was arrested on a warrant for Burglary of a Building.

At 7:30 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence in Rock Island in reference to a Burglary of a Habitation. The suspect(s) were identified and most of the stolen property has been recovered. After further investigation, **Russell Clay Nelson**, 17 of Rock Island, was arrested on a warrant for Burglary of a Habitation.

At 11:19 pm, Deputy Staff responded to the US Post Office in Sheridan in reference to Criminal Mischief and Theft. An investigation was conducted, evidence was collected, and a suspect was developed. After further investigation, **Russell Clay Nelson**, 17 of Rock Island, was arrested on warrants for Criminal Mischief and Theft.

Wednesday, March 7
 At 9:49 pm, Deputy Slubar responded to FM 155 south of Weimar in reference to suspicious activity. On arrival, the suspicious vehicles were gone. A report was filed and the area will be monitored for future activity.

Thursday, March 8
 At 3:18 am, Sgt. Edman initiated a traffic stop on Hwy 71 near Richter Road. After further investigation, **Steven Wallace Flournoy Jr.**, 31 of Pflugerville,

Continued on next page

Happy 2nd Birthday Aaliyah

Love,
 Mom, Grandma,
 Chris and Popo

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