

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Tax Cut For Seniors, Disabled Reaches Governor Perry

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry signed legislation reducing the amount of property tax that a school district may impose on the home residence of Texans who are over 65 or disabled. The legislation, HB 5 by Rep. Leo Berman, R-Tyler, is a one-time tax cut that expires on Sept. 1, 2008.

HB 5 stipulates that the state will make up the revenue school districts will lose to the tax cut, estimated at \$15 billion. The money to make up the lost revenue would come from HB 1, the general appropriations bill, but HB 1 has not passed. A conference committee of 10 lawmakers must work out a final

version of HB 1 agreeable to both the House and Senate. Conferees are Reps. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa; Dan Gattis, R-Georgetown; Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City; Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; and Sylvester Turner, D-Houston; and Sens. Steve Ogden, R-College Station; Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; John Whitmire, D-Houston; and Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands.

Jessica's Law goes to conference

The House and Senate did not agree on elements of HB 8, the Jessica's Law legislation championed by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and authored by Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Houston, five joint authors and 23 cosponsors.

Dewhurst named conferees to meet with House members in a conference committee: Sens. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville; Kim Brimer, R-Arlington; Juan Chuy Hinojosa, D-McAllen; Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, and Florence Shapiro, R-Plano. House conferees are Reps. Riddle; Gattis; Aaron Pena, D-Edinburg; Jerry Madden, R-Richardson; and Joe Deshotel, D-Beaumont.

"This legislation is one of my highest priorities and I have full

confidence that the conferees will craft a final bill that sends a strong message to child predators: Don't mess with kids in Texas," Dewhurst said.

Dewhurst wants tougher penalties for child predators, including the option of the death penalty or life in prison without parole for persons twice convicted of aggravated sexual assault against a child under 14.

Combs offers limited tax amnesty

State Comptroller Susan Combs announced she is offering a 60-day tax amnesty to businesses with overdue state taxes and those that may be operating without required tax permits.

From June 15 through Aug. 15 taxpayers can come forward, file past-due tax reports and pay their taxes in full, and the comptroller will waive penalty and interest charges normally added to delinquent taxes, according to a news release from Combs' office.

The tax amnesty applies to taxes and tax reports originally due before April 1, 2007.

"We're calling the amnesty period 'Project Fresh Start' because taxpayers have a unique, limited-time opportunity to clear up unpaid, underreported or overdue taxes without fear of penalty

or interest and get a fresh start with the state," Combs said.

The amnesty does not apply to assessments already identified by the comptroller, taxpayers currently under audit or review, and taxpayers the comptroller has already contacted about an audit or possible tax deficiency, Combs said.

House passes 'Under God' bill

The House voted 124-5 to put the words "under God" in the pledge of allegiance to the state flag. HB 1034, authored by Rep. Riddle, would change the wording to "I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God and indivisible." The current language is "I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible." The Senate has yet to consider the measure.

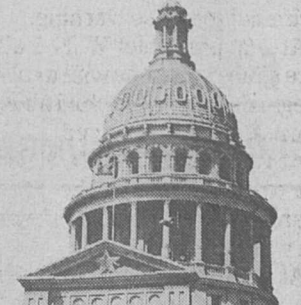
Before the bill came to a final vote, Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, asked Riddle if she would accept an amendment adding the words "and justice for all" to the bill, because if the intent was to mirror the U.S. pledge of allegiance, it would include those additional words. Riddle declined.

Smoking debate to continue

The House spent hours in de-

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State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

bate May 4 over HB 9, legislation to ban smoking in all workplaces and public places, authored by Rep. Myra Crownover, R-Denton.

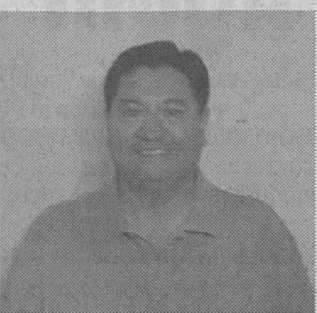
Debate was interrupted many times by points of order charging that parts of the official analysis of the bill were inaccurate.

Further consideration was postponed to May 9.

Casino gambling measure fails

A bill to allow casino gambling on the federally recognized Tigua and Alabama-Coushatta Indian reservations narrowly failed in a House vote on May 4.

The vote was a tie at 66-66. One more vote would have sent the measure, HB 10 by Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, to the Senate for consideration.



Vote For Carlos Gonzalez
 Rice CISD School Board
 Position 5
Saturday, May 12, 2007

Political ad paid for by Carlos Gonzales.

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

May 12, 1983
 Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Ray Guthmann of Lissie are the proud and happy parents of a new baby daughter named Amanda Rae. Born Tuesday, May 3 at 1:58 a.m. the little lady made her arrival at the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. She weighed seven pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches at birth...
 Clark Popp, a Rice High School senior was honored with a graduation party on April 29 at 6 p.m. at his home in Garwood...
 Ruth Luebke of East Bernard will be among the graduates in the Pinning Ceremony in the Associate Nursing program at Wharton County Junior College on Thursday May 19...
 Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Morgan of Eagle Lake are proud

to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Pamela Kaye to Anthony Stephen Wostarek. Anthony is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wostarek of Columbus...
 Miss Robbie Gail Stauffer of Rockdale, bride-elect of Billy Breithaupt of Rockdale was complimented with a miscellaneous bridal shower on Saturday, May 7 at 2 p.m. The party was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Seaholm of Eagle Lake...
 Funeral services for Miss Idella Powell, 19, of Eagle Lake were held May 3 from Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church with Rev. R. Kiser officiating. Burial was in the Union Hill Cemetery in Matthews...
 Clarence Arthur Leopold, a resident of Austin, passed away suddenly at Seaton Hospital on Saturday, April 30. He had fought a six-year about with Parkinson's Disease. A memorial service was held in Austin on Monday and a rosary was recited by Msgr. Victor Schmidtinsky at 2 p.m. The funeral mass followed at 2:30 with Father James Janish

officiating...
 Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. last Sunday from the Friendship Baptist Church for I.G. Westmoreland of Philadelphia Pa. Rev. Richard Williams officiated. Interment followed at the Community Cemetery...
 Funeral services were held from the chapel of the Pete E. Etlinger Funeral Home in Bellville at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 5 for Mrs. Eva Maye Fant of Bellville, formerly of Eagle Lake, with Rev. David A. Hutchins officiating.
May 14, 1959
 Last Thursday the Houston Chapter of the Horseless Carriage Club stopped at Epps Cafe enroute to Kerrville to meet other groups with antique cars for a parade...
 Funeral services were held for J.M. Evoritt, 87, a resident of the Lissie and Eagle Lake area since 1900. Mr. Evoritt passed away Tuesday in Laughlin Hospital following a heart attack ten days ago. Services were at the Mill-Bauer Funeral Home and the body was taken to Houston to be interred in the Forest Park Cemetery...
 New 1959-60 officers for the

Eagle Lake Parent-Teacher Association are: president, Mrs. F.M. Dromgoole; vice president, Mrs. B.D. Anderson; treasurer, Mrs. T.P. Dowdy; parliamentarian, Mrs. B.H. Hurley; and reporter, Mrs. Fred R. Frnka...
 Eagle Lake High School's golf team won fourth place in the state golf tournament held last weekend with a total score of 753. Coach Ben Cobb will take the golf team to Bastrop this weekend to compete in a high school tournament at Bastrop State Park...
 Fifteen Eagle Lake youth were selected last Friday to compete on the Colorado Valley Little League. They are Brent Boggess, Clark Powers, John Grieves, Johnny Mathys, Charles Kretzchmar, Alan Marquart, Dick Waddell, Jerry Alvarado, F.M. Dromgoole, Martin Morales, Gerald Evoritt, David Grieves, Gerald Obenhaus, Bill Blair and John Laughlin...
 Clyde Brown won the championship match with E.J. Parma last Friday and went on to win the men's division of the Eagle Lake Recreation Center championship.



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Parade at 2 p.m.

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MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

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MY MOTHER IS ALWAYS BRINGING ME STUFF FROM HER POTTERY CLASS — STUFF I CAN'T IDENTIFY...

HAPPY MOM'S DAY

..BUT I ALWAYS SAY, "THAT'S WONDERFUL!"

IT'S PAY-BACK TIME!

JP Doodles

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