

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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# Legislation Passes, Speaker Survives Challenges

AUSTIN — The 140 day regular session of the 80th Texas Legislature ended on May 28.

The House and Senate completed the essential task of settling on a budget — \$153 billion — covering fiscal years 2008-2009.

The state budget for 2008-2009 includes a set-aside of \$7.5 billion for property tax relief in 2010-2011.

Commanding the bulk of at-

tention, however, was House Speaker Tom Craddick's battle to withstand challenges to his authority in the final days of the session.

Members from both major political parties cited parliamentary precedents and House rules in attempts to be recognized on the House floor so they could move to conduct a vote to vacate the chair.

Had such a motion been rec-

ognized and a vote taken, Craddick, R-Midland, might have been forced to step down. Then members could have elected another speaker to serve out the remainder of the session.

Three days before the session's end, Parliamentarian Denise Davis and Deputy Parliamentarian Chris Griesel, who had advised Craddick all session long, abruptly resigned their posts.

A short time later, Craddick appointed former state Reps. Terry Keel and Ron Wilson as parliamentarian and deputy parliamentarian, respectively. The pair guided Craddick through a maze of questions from the floor.

Craddick, Keel and Wilson ran down the clock, repeatedly responding to members with rulings that it is the speaker's absolute right to choose to recognize or not recognize a member to make a motion.

In effect, "You will not be recognized to make that motion," was the pat response. Attempts to be recognized subsided as lawmakers saw the opportunity to pass

legislation slipping away.

Craddick said he plans to run for a fourth term as speaker, but he will face competition. The list of House members who have expressed a desire to succeed Craddick includes Republican Reps. Fred Hill of Richardson, Jim Keffer of Eastland, Jim Pitts of Waxahachie, Robert Talton of Pasadena and Brian McCall of Plano, and Democratic Reps. Senfronia Thompson and Speaker Pro Tempore Sylvester Turner, both of Houston.

The 81st Legislature will convene in January 2009. Craddick and challengers will have 18 months to get promises of support from colleagues.

**Major legislation gains passage**

Despite time lost in efforts to unseat Craddick, legislators still managed to push through and pass about 1,500 bills. Here are the effects of a few of them:

- A water plan benefiting Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and other thirsty metro areas and giving rural areas some control over

interbasin water transfers.

- A \$425 minimum pay increase for public school teachers and a set of standards that if met can qualify a teacher for an additional raise.

- Funding for the Childrens Health Insurance Program will give coverage to an additional 127,000 children.

- Enhanced felony charges possible for owners of dogs that attack other people.

- Elective Bible education classes for schools that have enough students who express an interest in taking them.

- A toll road bill that puts a two-year hold on construction of the Trans Texas Corridor project but allows the planning to continue, while granting local and regional toll authorities control over their own road projects.

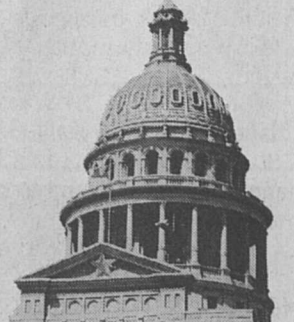
- Random steroid testing of Texas high school athletes.

- A requirement for all public schools to have at least one automated external defibrillator on campus.

- More than \$200 million for

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State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling

additional law enforcement officers and technology to aid in border and homeland security operations.

- Constitutional amendment letting voters decide in November if the Legislature should be required to record each member's vote on final passage of substantive bills.

- Constitutional amendment letting voters decide in November if the state of Texas should borrow \$3 billion for cancer research over the next decade.

Deadline for the governor to veto bills is June 17.

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## 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

**June 9, 1983**

**Bruno A. Shimek** from Garwood received a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University's spring commencement exercises...

**Debbie and Rusty Cook** happily announced the arrival of their first child **Mandelyn Chelsea**, born at Southwest Memorial Hospital on May 17, weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces...

**Mr. and Mrs. Isreal Gregory Connor** of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their second child, a girl, born on May 28 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The

baby was named **Anastasia Marie** and weighed seven pounds, four ounces...

Funeral services were held from Dulany Chapel at 2 p.m. Saturday for **Mrs. Fay Etta Lewis**. **Rev. J. Melburn Sibley**, pastor of the First Baptist Church officiated at the services...

The community learned with sadness of the death of **Oscar Adolph Herman**, a well-known citizen of Eagle Lake. He passed away in his sleep early Sunday morning. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday from Dulany Funeral Home with **Rev. Bill Couvillion** pastor of Lissie United Methodist Church officiating. Interment followed at Lakeside Cemetery...

Services for **Mrs. Lucille Gore**, 69, of Arp, Texas were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 31 at the Cottle Funeral Home Chapel in Troup, Texas with **Rev. Romilly Timmins** officiating. Burial was in Ebenezer Cemetery in Arp...

**Clarence Raver** of Houston passed away June 4. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday from Heights Funeral Home in Houston with **Rev. G. Ray Lloyd** officiating. The remains were brought to Eagle Lake for services at 3 p.m. Wednesday from Dulany Funeral Home. **Rev. Charles Runk** of Eagle Lake United Methodist Church officiated. Interment followed at Myrtle Cemetery in Rock Island...

**Joni Ruesewald**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Ruesewald, Jr.** of Garwood and a sophomore at Mt. St. Joseph Academy was among the students recognized during awards ceremonies at the 109 year old Kentucky college preparatory school on May 19...

**Miss Veronica Teraye Parker**, daughter of **Mildred Parker Williams** and granddaughter of **Lillie Lee Parker**, has made the dean's list at Prairie View A&M University with a 3.25 GPA...

A recent graduate of the University of Houston at Victoria, **Jeanie Gold Janak**, received her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree with a kindergarten endorsement. She graduated cum laude and was on the National's Dean's List and is listed in Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities...

**June 11, 1959**

**Willard Ethridge**, high school principal, presented merit award pins to outstanding students in high school subjects as follows **Miss Gini Pendergrass** in science, **Judith Frnka** in foreign language, **Susan Davidson** in English, **Gerald Birdwell** in history and **Miss Dolly Stiles** in math...

**Miss Jo Ann Sens** of Houston, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Sens** of Eagle Lake, was among the five finalists for the honor of being named "Miss Houston" to

represent that city in the "Miss Texas" and "Miss America" contests...

**Mrs. Maurice Goodson** has returned from Beaumont where she attended Lamar State College of Technology and earned a certificate of accomplishment in a course of studies for school lunchroom supervisors...

**Miss Carol DeShazo** was complimented with a miscellaneous shower by members of the Altar Society of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church on May 26...

**Misses Linda Kay** and **Cynthia Ann Ingram**, daughters of **Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ingram** of Pasadena, are spending the week here with their grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Ingram**...

**Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Glueck** and daughter, **Mary Frances**, visited with their parents and grandparents, **Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Glueck**, while enroute to California where Mr. Glueck will undergo a two-week summer training program with the U.S. Marine Corps...

County school trustees met in Columbus on June 2 and re-elected **Joe L. McCreary** of Eagle Lake as president of the board. Other school board members are **C.T. Wiese** of Eagle Lake, trustee at large; **Oscar Class** of Bernardo; **W.A. Hefner** of Garwood, and **August Beken** of Weimar.

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## Arsenic & Old Lace June 9

Arsenic and Old Lace, the last production of the 2006-2007 dinner theatre season at the Stafford Opera House in Columbus, is a frenzied, hilarious, madcap comedy you are sure to enjoy. Come and meet **Mortimer Brewster**, a theatre critic, who is in love but is struggling to maintain his sanity amongst a family of lunatics.

A confirmed bachelor, **Mortimer**, has written a number of books describing marriage as old fashioned. But as fate would have it, he falls in love with and marries the girl who grew up next door to his old family home in Brooklyn. Immediately after the marriage, he visits the bizarre relatives who still live there... two elderly

aunts and his brother **Teddy** who just happens to believe that he is **Teddy Roosevelt**.

After finding a corpse hidden in a window seat, **Mortimer** tells his aunts that **Teddy** has killed someone and must be sent to an asylum.

**Mortimer's** aunts, at this point, explain that they, not **Teddy**, are responsible. They are actually "ending the presumed suffering of lonely old bachelors by serving them elderberry wine spiked with arsenic, strychnine, and just a pinch of cyanide". The brother that thinks he's **Teddy Roosevelt** merely buries them in the basement, and then if things aren't complicated enough, there is an-

other brother who kills for somewhat less charitable reasons

It's anyone's guess whether **Mortimer** will make it through the night. It's a comedy to die for!

The 1944 film, **Arsenic and Old Lace**, was directed by **Frank Capra**. The lead role of **Mortimer Brewster** was originally intended for **Bob Hope**. **Jack Benny** and **Ronald Reagan** were also approached before settling on **Cary Grant**.

This type of comedy is what **Art Park Players** do best. So, sit back and enjoy an evening of dinner theatre with family and friends. **Art Park Players**, under the artistic directorship of **Susan Mele**, is recognized throughout Texas as one of the most active theatres in the state. Since staging their first production in 1979, they have committed themselves to striving for excellence in their productions, while being involved in civic affairs, touring shows to other cities in Texas and nurturing area children who look to the **Art Park Players' Theatre School** for exposure to the performing arts.

Don't miss this last show of the dinner theatre season at the **Stafford Opera House**, 425 Spring Street in Columbus, on Saturday, June 9. Enjoy a glass of wine, a beer or a soft drink from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. with family or friends. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the curtain opens at 7:30 for an evening of laughs and intrigue. Call 979-732-5135 for tickets or information.

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