

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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 979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522  
 email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net  
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James Sweet  
 Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal  
 Donna Samora

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**Budgeting Process Continues**

Through the week of March 23-27, the House Appropriations Committee and its various sub-committees toiled away at producing HB 1, a state budget for fiscal years 2010-2011. Hopes are that the budget bill may reach the House floor for debate in mid-April.

Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, on March 27 said, "We are "faced with very difficult and uncertain times in our economy."

"We have to make some difficult decisions." Speaker Joe Straus said he's confident the narrowly divided 150-member House, composed of 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats, can work together to pass a budget without the necessity of a special session.

Despite the ponderous weight of passing a budget on House shoulders, the lower chamber did manage to vote out the committee substitute to Austin Rep. Dawnna Dukes' HB 873, a bill that recognizes Texas is behind other states in offering film incentives.

Intended to create movie industry jobs in Texas, HB 873 lowers the state grant threshold for a film or television program from a minimum of \$1 million in in-state spending to \$250,000 and lowers the percent that must be filmed in Texas from 80 percent to 60 percent.

**Senate bills advance to House**  
 The Texas Senate approved more than 60 bills during the week

of March 23-27 and sent them on to the House for consideration.

Here are a few of those bills, to be scrutinized by House panels in the coming weeks:

--SB 158 by Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, requiring a school district to notify parents if a nurse is not assigned to a public school campus.

--SB 175 by Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, amending the "Top 10 Percent" law governing the number of students who may automatically be admitted to the University of Texas at Austin.

--SB 188 by Bob Deuell, R-Greenville, creating a hypodermic needle-exchange program to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis.

--SB 297 by Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, granting resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain veterans and their spouses and children.

--SB 424 by Van de Putte, establishing and implementing school-based flu vaccination programs.

--SB 503 by Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, requiring public notice of the name of each finalist for the position of superintendent of a public school district.

--SB 745 by Robert Duncan,

R-Lubbock, authorizing a state agency to allow its employees to submit travel vouchers electronically.

--SB 476 by Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, amending nurse staffing and overtime rules.

--SB 506 by John Carona, R-Dallas, restricting operation and movement of motorcycles during periods of traffic congestion.

--SB 572 by Shapiro, relating to transportation safety training requirements for certain child-care providers.

--SB 730 by Glenn Hegar Jr., R-Katy, relating to an employee's transportation and storage of firearms or ammunition while on certain property owned or controlled by the employee's employer.

**'Under God' remains in pledge**

A Dallas federal judge on March 27 ruled the phrase "under God" in the Texas Pledge of Allegiance is constitutional.

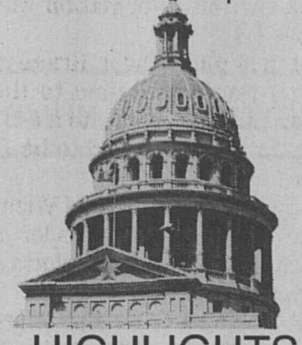
The court's decision rejected a lawsuit filed by a Dallas couple that argued that the state pledge violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

The Legislature added the words to the state pledge in 2007.

In support of the ruling, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said, "The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that patriotic acknowledgments of the Almighty

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

are constitutional. "Texans can rest assured that we will continue defending their children's ability to recite the state Pledge of Allegiance each morning."

**SBOE alters science language**

The State Board of Education on March 27 voted 13-2 to change teacher manual language said to cast doubt on the scientific theory of evolution with the assertion that the various schools of thought have strengths and weaknesses.

The new language promotes the use of empirical evidence, logical reasoning and experimental and observational testing, "including examining all sides of scientific evidence of those scientific explanations so as to encourage critical thinking by the students."

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**Hours:**  
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**USED CAR SPECIALS**

CARS	
9790B	2003 Saab 9, 4 dr, leather, sunroof, auto \$5,875
9939A	2001 Buick LeSabre, leather, 47,000 miles \$7,925
9937A	2003 Cadillac CTS, 4 dr, leather, chrome wheels \$9,985
2044	2007 Pontiac G6 GT, 4 dr, sunroof, 46,000 miles \$12,175
9855A	2006 Volkswagen Jetta, sunroof, leather, 43,000 miles \$13,925
9686A	2006 Nissan Altima, sunroof, 51,000 miles \$13,965
9502A	2007 Fusion, 4 dr, V6, SE, 30,000 miles \$13,995
10022A	2006 Lincoln Zephyr, sunroof, navigation, 50,000 miles \$16,825
SUV'S	
9993A	2006 Ford Explorer, auto, 6 cyl, 42,000 miles \$10,697
9834A	2005 Ford Expedition, Limited, leather, third row seat \$14,995
TRUCKS	
9995A	2006 Ranger Super Cab, auto, power windows & locks, 52,000 miles \$9,595
9733B	2003 F250 Super Cab 4x4, diesel, Ranch Hand "Grille Guard" \$13,595
2029A	2004 F350 Crew Cab, auto, diesel \$13,625
9772A	2005 Dodge 1500 Crew Cab, auto, power windows & locks, 46,000 miles \$13,875
9951A	2008 F150 SuperCrew 4x4, King Ranch, sunroof, navigation, dual dvd, lift and big tires \$26,965
10020A	2008 F350 Crew Cab DRW 4x4, Lariat, sunroof, a lot of chrome, 22,000 miles \$38,995

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

**April 29, 1985**  
 Navy Petty Officer third Class Mike L. Ross, son of Pat Phillip of Sheridan, was graduated from Basic Electronics Technician School...

**Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lee Kohleffel** are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Dina Marie to Stephen Lee Cromer, son of Mrs. George M. Higginson of Austin. The wedding is planned for June 14 at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Houston...

**Mr. and Mrs. Chris S. Cantu** welcomed the new arrival of their son, Chris Steven Cantu Jr. born on April 20 at 8:34 p.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital in Eagle Lake. The lad tipped the scale at nine pounds and ten ounces.

**Mr. and Mrs. Jerome J. Kubes** proudly announce the birth of their second daughter, Colleen Rose, at 9:03 on Monday, April 15, at Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital in Richmond. Colleen tipped the scales at eight pounds six ounces and was 21 3/4 inches in length...

**Ms. Cora E. Carter** of Columbus announce the birth of her son born on April 17 at 12:54 a.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital in Eagle Lake. The baby was named Phillip Shawn Carter weighing nine pounds and six ounces. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. David Lee Carter of Columbus.

**Colorado County Courthouse Report**

**Ten Sentenced In District Court**  
 Ten individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, March 27. They included:

Erasmus M. Alvarado, driving while intoxicated- 3<sup>rd</sup> or more. Sentenced to five years, probated five years, fined \$800, 15 days in jail, credit for 7 days.

Stephen W. Bass, burglary of building. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, restitution \$1,240.88, 30 days in jail.

Steven Herman, aggravated assault with deadly weapon. Sentenced to five years deferred adjudication, fined \$500, out patient treatment.

Christian Zachary Hernandez, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 180 days in jail, 70 days jail credit.

Cecilio Lopez, driving while intoxicated- 3<sup>rd</sup> or more. Sentenced to five years, probated five years, fined \$750, 15 days in jail.

Justina Torres Manciaz, burglary of building. Sentenced three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, restitution \$1,240.89, ordered to attend anger management classes.

Leonard Partida, theft. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.

Leonard Partida, bail jumping and failure to appear felony. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.

Tony Meza Sandoval, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Sentenced to 120 days in jail.

Leonard Ray Sims, assault causing bodily injury date/family/house. Sentenced to 365 days in jail.

Adam J. Torres, burglary of a building. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$1,000, restitution, \$1,240.89.

**Columbus Livestock Co.**  
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 Sale Every Thursday 10:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26**  
 CATTLE ON HAND - 916  
 HORSES-0 GOATS-0 DONKEY-0  
 # OF SELLERS - 174

**PACKER COWS**

Higher dressing utility & cutter cows	46-57
Lower dressing utility & cutter cows	41-45
Thin Cows	25-40

**PACKER BULLS**

Heavyweight bulls	59-69
Utility cutter bulls	47-59

**STEERS**

#1	#2
150-300 lbs	110-145
300-400 lbs	104-129
400-500 lbs	97-125
500-600 lbs	99-114
600-700 lbs	87-99
700-800 lbs	80-90

**HEIFERS**

#1	#2
150-300 lbs	100-140
300-400 lbs	93-125
400-500 lbs	95-118
500-600 lbs	87-110
600-700 lbs	75-96
700-800 lbs	75-87

**STOCKER COWS** Good Stocker Cow/Calif Pairs 650-850  
 Medium Cow/calif Pairs 450-650  
 Common Cow/calif Pairs 400-600  
 Good Stocker Cows & Heifers 500-600  
 Medium Stocker Cows & Heifers 425-625

**Colorado County Sheriff's Report**

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending Feb. 26

**Saturday, February 14**  
 At 2:26 am, Sgt. Staff and ELPD Officer Williams responded to a disturbance on Beard Street in Eagle Lake. The suspect was located in a vehicle on Old Altair Road. After further investigation, Robert Lee Parker Jr, 36 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for driving while intoxicated 2nd Offense. Case closed.

At 3:18 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to Old Nada Road in reference to harassing phone calls. After further investigation, the allegations were determined to be unfounded.

**Monday, February 16**  
 At 8:35 am, Deputy Abbott responded to Spalinger Road near Eagle Lake in reference to unauthorized use of a vehicle. After further investigation, a warrant was issued and Kassie Nicole Christiansen, 19 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Case closed.

At 7:08 pm, Deputy Zak made contact with a suspicious person walking on Business Hwy 71 across from FM 109 north of Columbus. After further investigation, James Kenneth Bruce, 36 of Columbus, was arrested for failure to identify and evading arrest or detention. Case closed.

At 7:25 pm, Deputy Thumann responded to Rock Island in reference to a subject riding an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) on the public roadway. On arrival, the ATV was located on Hwy 90A and Tuttle Street. After further investigation, Michael Joseph Hubenak, 23 of Rock Island, was arrested for driving while intoxicated and ATV Operation on public roadway. Case closed.

**Tuesday, February 17**  
 At 10:15 am, Detective Pardo was notified about an abandoned vehicle on Taylor Street in Alleyton. On arrival, the abandoned vehicle was determined to be stolen from Daytona Beach Florida. The stolen vehicle was recovered and the authorities in Florida were notified. Case closed.

At 11:20 am, Deputy Abbott

*Continued on page 8*