

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Senate Passes \$182 Billion Budget

AUSTIN - A \$182.2 billion state budget proposal for fiscal years 2010-2011 on April 1 earned passage in the Texas Senate.

The Senate proposal, now called Committee Substitute SB 1, includes \$11 billion in federal stimulus money.

CSSB1 must be reconciled with HB 1, the House version to be rolled out later this month.

Lawmakers will have until the end of May to deliver the finished product to Gov. Rick Perry, who may sign or veto it.

The governor repeatedly has said that he will reject a state budget proposal if it includes federal stimulus funding that requires the state to adhere to future spending obligations.

CSSB 1 includes a provision restricting the use of federal stimulus funds.

It directs state agencies to prioritize one-time expenditures and authorizes the Legislative Budget Board and governor to prevent expenditures that would result in future fiscal obligations to the state.

The 10-member Legislative Budget Board is composed of the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House, the chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Finance Committee, plus two House members appointed by the

speaker, and three Senate members appointed by the lieutenant governor.

Not counting the federal stimulus money, the Senate version is a modest increase over the current state budget.

Here are a few estimates of the larger appropriations in CSSB 1, based on a chart of all funds published by the Legislative Budget Board:

--\$75 billion for public education.
 --\$60 billion for health and human services, including Medicaid.
 --\$20 billion for economic development.
 --\$11 billion for criminal justice.

Bill would expand CHIP eligibility

Texas families currently ineligible for children's health insurance sponsored by the state could buy into the program under SB 841, a bill now under consideration by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

The Children's Health Insurance Program now covers almost half a million children from low-income families, but Texas still leads the nation in uninsured children.

Families currently eligible for CHIP make 200 percent of the federal poverty level or about \$44,000 annual income for a fam-

ily of four.

SB 841 features a graduated buy-in program for families earning 200 to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, and would cover a family of four with an annual income up to approximately \$66,000.

To control costs, SB 841 limits enrollment to 2,500 children the first year and 5,000 the second year, but has no cap in the third year and beyond.

SB 841 author is Sen. Rip Averitt, R-Waco, and coauthors, Sens. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, Kevin Eltife, R-Tyler, Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, Royce West, D-Dallas, and Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands.

Sobriety checkpoint bill moves

The Senate on March 31 approved legislation creating guidelines for law enforcement to use in operating a temporary checkpoint on a highway or street to stop motorists and test their breath, blood or urine to determine if they were driving while intoxicated.

Law enforcement that could conduct a sobriety checkpoint would include the Texas Department of Public Safety, the sheriff's department of a county with a population of 250,000 or more and the police department of a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more.

Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas,

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

author of SB 298, said his bill addresses that fact that Texas leads the nation in alcohol-related traffic fatalities and is one of only 11 states that does not allow law enforcement officials to conduct sobriety checkpoints due to a lack of established guidelines.

The bill will be assigned to a House committee for further consideration.

Bill requires live ERCOT hearings

The House State Affairs Committee approved committee substitute to HB 1783 by Rep. Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton.

The bill would require the Public Utility Commission and the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas to broadcast their public hearings and open meetings via live Internet video.

The bill now moves to the full House for further consideration.

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Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

May 2, 1985
 Sonia Marie Vasquez honored with a delightful Care Bear party on Sunday, April 21 by her proud parents, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Vasquez and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolfo Saucedo...
 Mr. and Mr. Michael Boulina,

of Wharton, art pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Megan Irene, born on April 22 at 1:20 a.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The little miss weighed seven pounds 15 ounces at birth...
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Garza of Houston are proud to announce

the birth of their son, Stephen Garza II born at 8:37 a.m. on April 13, 1985 at Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston. The baby weighed nine pounds six ounces and measured 22 inches long...
 Mr. and Mrs. James J. Drlik of Garwood announce the engagement and approaching marriage

of their daughter, Susan Renee Drlik to Roger Wayne Chumchal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald N. Horton of El Campo and Pete A. Chumchal of Wharton. The couple will exchange vows on June 15 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

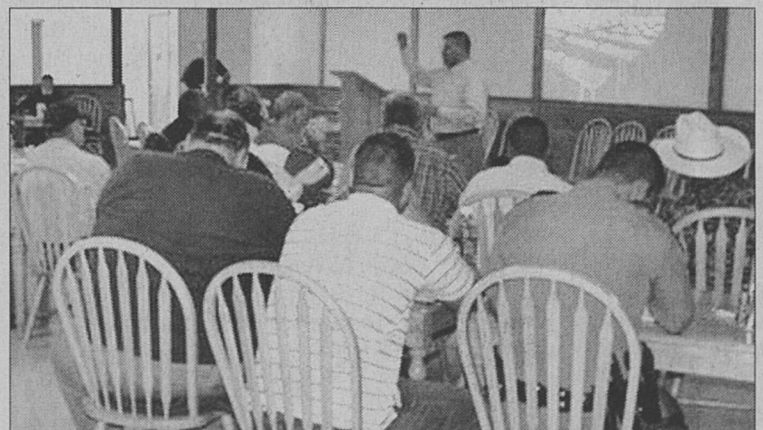
Colorado County Court Dispositions

The following individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, April 1.
 Duran L. Amos, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug class.
 Guillermo Belmonte, driving while intoxicated with previous conviction. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$200 plus court costs.
 Alvaro J. Benitez, prohibited weapons switchblade/knuckles. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.
 Ben Ernest Collins, perjury. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, weekends.
 Cesar Duque, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs, one year driver's license suspension.
 Shelita Peoples, assault causing bodily injury family member. Fined \$100 plus court costs.
 Orlando M. Trochez, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 12

months probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, interlock device.
 Danielle Watts, theft of stolen property by check. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$200 plus court costs, \$222.43 restitution.
 Derrick Tolliver, evading arrest. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs.
 Chad Lynn Biddle, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.
 George F. Blumenthal, count I, driving while intoxicated; count II, possession of marijuana, count III, possession of a controlled substance; count IV, driving while license invalid with previous conviction. Count I and II, 120 days in jail, 18 months driver's license suspension, abandon counts III and IV.
 Carolyn Marie Burley, criminal trespass. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.
 Luis Flores, possession of marijuana. Fined \$500 plus court costs, reduced to Class C.
 David W. Garrett, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$1,000

plus court costs, dismiss DWI paragraph.
 Kevin G. Griffin, fleeing police officer. Sentenced to 90 days in jail.
 Kenneth L. Grohman, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$1,000 plus court costs, six months driver's license suspension.
 James Johnson, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$750 plus court costs, 12 month's driver's license suspension.
 Cecilio Lopez, terroristic threat of family/household. Sentenced to 15 days in jail.
 Aaron Moreida, criminal mischief. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, \$187.50 restitution lien.

Aaron Moreida, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.
 Charles D. Obey, failure to identify fugitive from justice. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.
 David Ramirez, Jr., possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 25 days in jail.
 Michael Thomas Taylor, Jr., possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.
 Kassie Christenson, theft. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs, 50 hours community service and restitution.
 Amilean Roldan, JP Appeal. Fined \$50 plus court costs.



Shown above are local and area law enforcement officers attending a Narcotics Interdiction Seminar in Weimar with instructors from the Texas Narcotics Officers Association, which was initiated by Colorado County Attorney Ken Sparks and conducted by the Hallettsville and Weimar Police Departments. Sparks paid the seminar fees for 35 officers from the Sheriff's Office, Department of Public Safety, and the Columbus, Weimar and Eagle Lake Police Departments using drug forfeiture funds seized from drug dealers. Two duplicate seminars were held on March 30 and April 1 to accommodate the officers' work schedules.

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'06 Ford Taurus blue, 32k \$8,889	'08 Chev. Cobalt red, great school car \$10,988
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'02 Ford Escape Standard, 164k \$5,999	'07 Ford F-150 red, 30k, long bed \$19,988
'07 Ford Focus 4 dr., auto, 29k, grey \$11,999	
'08 Merc. Marquis two to choose \$14,988	
'03 Lincoln Town Car grey, 85k \$8,999	

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