

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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**House Passes \$178 Billion Budget For 2010-2011**

AUSTIN - The Texas House of Representatives spent Friday and Saturday, April 17 and 18, amending and finally passing SB 1, the upper chamber's proposal for the 2010-2011 state budget.

The House version of SB 1 totals \$178 billion while the Senate

version totals \$182.2 billion. The House version represents a 2.5 percent annual increase for the two years, a rate below projected rates of inflation and population growth for Texas.

Now, SB 1 goes back to the Senate, where the body either can

accept or reject changes made by the House.

If any of the House version's more than 400 amendments rubs senators the wrong way, the bill will go to a conference committee of senators and House members.

Differences must be reconciled before the bill can be forwarded to the governor.

The tax-writing House Committee on Ways and Means is working on legislation to fund the appropriations.

**Committee Eyes Smoking Ban**

Two dozen other states have outlawed smoking in public venues.

Texas would join them if SB 544, considered April 14 by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, passes.

The bill, by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would extend the ban to all cities in the state. Already, 28 cities in Texas have ordinances against smoking in public places.

In laying out his bill for consideration, Ellis said there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, and second-hand smoke presents a public health risk.

"Our state and our state's employers need to embrace policies

and programs that will truly clear the air, improve health for every Texan, and make a positive contribution to managing rising health care costs in Texas," he said.

**Tobacco Purchase 'Age May Rise**

The Texas Senate on April 15 approved a bill by Sen. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, raising the minimum legal age to purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products from 18 to 19 years of age.

Senate bill analysts say Uresti's SB 1049 may cost the state about \$12 million in tax revenue from tobacco sales.

But Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, pointed out, "You are going to save the state multiple times this amount of money in tobacco related illnesses that we would see on down the line."

**State Grants to Stem Tobacco Use**

Grants available from the Texas comptroller's office are intended to help keep tobacco away from underage users.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$150,000 can be used for tobacco education, keeping schools and school events tobacco free and sting operations to catch retailers selling tobacco products to minors.

Texas teenagers illegally buy

or smoke more than 67 million packs of cigarettes each year, and combating the threat to children's health is critical, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

The deadline to apply for 2009-10 grants is May 4 for schools with on-campus law enforcement and May 11 for police departments, sheriffs, constables and district attorneys.

**Senate Passes Mesothelioma Bill**

Following a four-hour floor debate, the Senate on April 16 tentatively approved CSSB 1123 by Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

The bill would expedite the process of lawsuits filed by patients with mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer related to exposure to asbestos.

Duncan said a recent Texas Supreme Court ruling made it too difficult for mesothelioma patients to prove the source of their cancer.

Duncan's bill is subject to a vote by the full Senate before it can move to the House for consideration.

**Cuba Policy Changes Are Asked**

The White House on April 14 announced the relaxing of restrictions on travel to Cuba and on sending money to the Caribbean



island nation that has been under communist rule since 1959.

Upon that news, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples wrote a letter to President Obama asking for two more changes:

-The easing of travel restrictions for Cubans seeking trade opportunities with the U.S. and those traveling for educational purposes.

-The authorization of a Texas-based air service that will offer direct flights to Cuba.

"While I disagree with Cuba's political philosophy, Staples said, "I believe by expanding trade, Cubans can see the success of democracy and embrace a free market society, and at the same time, Texans will benefit through job growth."

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**WHARTON COUNTY YOUTH FAIR**

**It's COOKOFF TIME!**  
 Wharton County Youth Fair Bar-B-Que Cookoff

Sponsored by:  
 Del Papa Distributing, Hartman Distribution, Coca-Cola Custom Creations

**Fri & Sat • April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>**  
 Fairgrounds, 6096 FM 961 Rd. Wharton, Texas

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday April 24th**  
 Gates Open at 9:00am - 1:30am  
 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Bar-B-Que Check In

**Saturday, April 25th**  
 Gates Open at 9:00am - 10:00 pm  
 10 a.m. BBQ Team Showmanship Judging  
 12 p.m. Bean & Chili Judging  
 2 p.m. BBQ Chicken, Ribs & Brisket Judging  
 4 p.m. Awards

**GO-TEXAN-SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
 9:00am.....Go-Texas Dominoes (Crescent Comm. Center)  
 9:00am.....Go-Texas Washers & Horseshoes (Ammann Barn)

**3RD ANNUAL COWBOY CRUISIN'**  
 Scootin' Boots & Raisin' Loot!  
**5K RUN/WALK & KIDS FUN RUN**  
 (Proceeds to Benefit Fair Improvement Fund)  
**Saturday, April 25, 2009 • 8:00 a.m.**  
 Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds  
 Prices for top finishers in each age category will be awarded.  
 Overall Male & Female Runners will receive official WCYF Race Buckles, and all participants will receive Race Day T-Shirts upon entry, while supplies last.  
**Registration Fees:**  
 Adults \$25 • Children \$15 (12 & under)  
 Registration Forms Available At Local Chamber of Commerce & www.whartoncountyouthfair.org

**3RD ANNUAL ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL & SHOW**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH**  
 Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds  
 Pull Starts at 10:00 a.m. • Parade at 1:00 p.m.  
 To Register Call: Preston Purnack 979-541-9550

**April 26, 2009 • 9:00 A.M.**  
**Area Go Texan Team Penning**  
 Wharton County Youth Fair Grounds  
 Junior Team Penning ages 8-17 as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009  
 Senior Team Penning 18 and older  
 For Entries and rules go to www.whartoncountyouthfair.org

**April 26, 2009 • 1:00 P.M.**  
**2nd Annual Rockin W Reunion Rodeo**  
 Wharton County Youth Fair Grounds  
 EVENTS:  
 LADIES BREAKAWAY • LADIES BARREL RACE  
 TIE-DOWN CALF ROPING • TEAM ROPING • RIBBON ROPING  
 STEER YOKING

**May 5, 2009 • 7:00 P.M.**  
**Rockin W Ranch Rodeo**  
 Wharton County Youth Fair Grounds  
 For Entries and rules go to www.whartoncountyouthfair.org  
 LIMITED TO THE FIRST 50 TEAMS

**Fair Office (979) 677-3350**

**TICKETS For All Events SEASON PASSES \$25**  
 (Advance from Queens Contestants)  
 Adult \$10 • Child 6-12 \$5 • Child 5 & under FREE

whartoncountyouthfair.org  
 wcyf@ykcwb.com

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

**May 16, 1985**  
 Dina Marie Kohleffel bride-elect of Stephen Cromer, was honored with a miscellaneous coffee shower on Saturday, May 4 in the home of Mrs. Lonnie Sommerlatte. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Mickey Kochwelp, Mrs. Gene Paschall and Mrs. Bill Wegenhoff...  
 Miss Susan Drlik, bride-elect of Roger Chumchal, was the honoree at a miscellaneous bridal shower on Friday evening. Upon arrival, corsages of orchid, lored

roses were presented to the bride-elect; her mother, Mrs. James Drlik; groom-to-be's mother, Mrs. Donald Harton, and to grandmothers, Mrs. Leo Drlik, Mrs. Jack Cloat and Mrs. Ervin Allbright...  
 Jessica Elyce Gouskos, two, daughter of Gary and Marlene Gouskos of Glenpool, Oklahoma, was crowned 1985 Oklahoma Charisma Tiny Tot State Queen at the state pageant held May 3-5 at the Sheraton Hotel in Edmond, Oklahoma. She will represent

Oklahoma at the national finals August 16-18 in Hollywood, California. Jessica won over 13 other preliminary winners for the coveted crown. She is the niece of Mrs. Dan Canaris of Eagle Lake...  
 Melissa Engstrom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Engstrom served as Rice High School's sophomore representative to the Hugh O'Brian youth leadership seminar held April 19-21 in Houston...  
 Glen Sunderman made a

hole-in-one using a 9 iron Saturday on Par 3 No. 4 for a chip in and a carryover skin. Witnesses were Ebb Ashby, Tommy Pilkington, Ray Nash and Louis Schorlemmer...  
 Sharon Webb graduated Summa Cum Laude from Prairie View A&M University Sunday. She received her bachelor degree in Education with a kindergarten certificate and was honored with a watermelon party at the recreation center Sunday afternoon...

**Colorado County Sheriff's Report**

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending March 26.  
**Saturday, March 14**  
 At 3:45 pm, Deputy Ortiz responded to Hwy 90A near Eagle Lake in reference to a Theft of exotic livestock. A report was filed and the case is pending further information.  
 At 6:20 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to Kurtz Lane in Columbus in reference to a suspicious

vehicle. After further investigation, Brandon Joseph Payce, 24 of Plano, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia. Case closed.  
 At 11:40 pm, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 90A @ CR 16 in Altair. After further investigation, Darrell Wade Sless, 45 of Louise, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in Penalty Group 1. In addition, the passenger, identified as Robin Rene Brewster, 43 of Ganado, was arrested for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Case closed.

At 7:40 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence on Boulden Street in Garwood in reference to a disturbance. After further investigation, the disturbance was determined to be a verbal argument. A report was filed and the case is closed.  
**Monday, March 16**  
 At 4 am, Deputy Zak responded to the Columbus Oaks Apartments in Alleyton in reference to a criminal trespass complaint. A report was filed and the case is pending further information.  
 At 4:50 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to McCormick Road near Eagle Lake in reference to a theft of oil field pipe. Case is pending further investigation.

At 3:52 pm, Deputy Mieth was contacted by a complainant from CR 151 south of Columbus in reference to a missing trailer. The trailer was entered into the State and National database as stolen. Case is pending recovery. 0540  
**Wednesday, March 18**  
 At 1:04 am, Sgt. Staff and Deputy Duran responded to a residence in Sheridan in reference to criminal mischief. After further investigation, two suspects were identified. Case is pending further action  
 At 1:15 pm, Sgt. Edman met with a complainant from Sheridan in reference to stolen pistol. A report was filed and the pistol was entered into the State and National database as stolen. Case is pending recovery.

**Sunday, March 15**  
 At 11:30 am, Deputy Ortiz made contact with a complainant in reference to an assault that occurred at the Nada Community Center. An investigation was initiated and the case is pending further action.  
 At 2:30 pm, Deputy Abbott responded to the Columbus Livestock Auction in reference to an estray bull on Alleyton Road. After further investigation, an owner was located and the bull was returned. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 6:35 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence on Elsie Street in Rock Island in reference to a burglary. Evidence was collected and two suspects were developed. Case is pending further investigation.

At 5:50 pm, Deputy Martell met with a complainant from Weimar in reference to an allegation of possible identity theft. A report was filed and the case is pending further investigation.  
**Tuesday, March 17**  
 At 11:17 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to McDonald Road near Eagle Lake in reference to an 18-wheeler parked in the roadway. The vehicle was removed by Delgado's Wrecker Service and stored as abandoned. Case closed.

At 3:10 pm, Sgt. Girndt met with a complainant from Live Oak Lane west of Columbus in reference to credit card abuse. Case is pending further investigation.  
 At 4:45 pm, Deputy Mieth responded to Patos Lane near Eagle Lake in reference to a criminal trespass warning. After further investigation, one subject was issued a criminal trespass warning. Case closed.  
**Thursday, March 19**  
 At 9:43 pm, Sgt. Staff and Deputy Duran responded to Townsend Street in Garwood in reference to a family disturbance. After further investigation, Douglas Paul Guthrie, 53 of Garwood, was arrested for family violence assault, and endangering child. Case closed.

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**Friday, March 20**  
 At 10:50 am, Sgt. Girndt, Sgt. Edman, and Deputy Abbott responded to a residence on Piney Woods Road in reference to a family disturbance. After further investigation, Herbert Bryce Ramsey, 30 of Alleyton, was arrested for possession of marijuana. Case closed.  
 At 1:30 pm, Deputy Abbott responded to Ramsey Road in reference to a fallow deer that was shot in the neck. A report was filed and the case is pending further information.  
 At 2:30 pm, Deputy Abbott

*Continued on page 3*