

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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# Legislature Runs Out Of Time On Numerous Bills

AUSTIN — Lawmakers spent the last few days of the 140-day 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature maneuvering to get their bills passed before midnight, June 1.

House Democrats ate up enough of the clock with stall tactics to prevent final passage of the Republican-supported "voter ID" bill that originated in the state

Senate. Hundreds of other bills died because of the slowdown, but end-of-session tactical slowdowns are nothing new.

Also, to revive a floundering bill, some members employed the tactic of attaching the bill's language in the form of an amendment to another piece of "germane" legislation. Amendments

must be germane to whatever legislation they are attached. That is, they must relate to the general subject of the original proposition of a bill.

Senators and House members did accomplish their most important task. They put the finishing touches on and adopted Senate Bill 1, the state budget for 2010-2011.

The budget, an estimated \$182 billion, gives the Texas Department of Transportation \$17 billion with \$6 billion of that going for new road construction.

Health and human services increases 10 percent and includes funding to improve state schools and centers operated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

"We've made a historical commitment to assisting our citizens with intellectual disabilities," said Sen. Steve Ogden, chair of the budget-drafting Senate Finance Committee.

"It is significant that we are going, in this budget, to provide the funding necessary to reform our state schools and create many new alternatives, thousands of alternatives, for these most deserving citizens to receive the help and the treatment they need outside of an institutional setting," Ogden said.

The budget gives higher education a 7 percent increase in spending, \$450 million in new funds for cancer research and a 7 percent pay raise for correctional officers over the next two years.

Gov. Rick Perry has the final say. He can sign SB 1 into law as is, send it back for reconsideration in the final day of the session, or call a special session for a heavy makeover.

**Act aids wrongfully imprisoned**

Gov. Perry on May 27 signed into law HB 1736, the Tim Cole Act, legislation increasing lump sum compensation paid to victims of wrongful imprisonment from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for each year of imprisonment.

The bill also requires the state to make monthly payments to the exonerated individual for life, and pay up to 120 hours of tuition and fees at career centers or state institutions of higher education. Exonerates also qualify for state-provided services to ease re-entry and reintegration into society.

The bill was authored by Rep.

Raphael Anchia, D-Dallas, and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock.

Forty Texas prisoners have been cleared of criminal wrongdoing based on DNA evidence. Dozens of others have been exonerated based on non-DNA evidence.

The bill is named in memory of Timothy Cole, who was serving a 25-year sentence after being wrongfully convicted for the rape of a Texas Tech student in 1985. Cole died in prison in 1999.

**D-senators block SBOE nominee**

Don McLeroy, a Bryan dentist and self-described "creationist," lost his bid to be reappointed as chair of the State Board of Education.

A motion to reappoint him failed to get a needed two-thirds

vote in the Texas Senate on May 28. The vote was party line, with 19 Republicans for McLeroy of 11 Democrats against.

Nominated by Gov. Rick Perry, McLeroy served as SBOE chair for two years, beginning in 2007. During his tenure, the board engaged in high-profile discussions over how the subject of evolution should be presented to Texas school children.

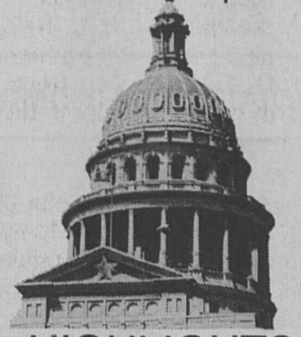
**Speaker files for second term**

House Speaker Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, on May 27 filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission signifying his intention to run for a second term as speaker.

His current term as speaker expires when the 82nd Legislature convenes in 2011.

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Ed Sterling

**Rep recovering from heart attack**

State Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, continues to improve after suffering a May 12 heart attack while at work in the state Capitol. Kuempel, 66, underwent surgery to implant a pacemaker. He has served as a House member since 1983.

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

**June 27, 1985**

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew L. Hewitt, son of Isaac T. and Jewel Hewitt of Eagle Lake, recently participated in the rescue of 13 Vietnamese Boat People in the South China Sea, while stationed aboard the landing command ship USS Blue Ridge, home ported in Yokosuka, Japan. On the evening of May 16, the Blue Ridge sighted a vessel approximately 110 miles southeast of Vietnam. A 1978 graduate of Rice High School, Altair, he joined the Navy in June 1978...

Roy James Brooks, 88, of Eagle Lake, passed away on June 19 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital following a sudden illness. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 21 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Bros. Roy Botard, Billy Botard and Raymond Hopkins officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bailer

of San Antonio announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Sharon Marie to Mark Alan Krivacka, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ktivaeka of Richmond, formerly of Eagle Lake. Sharon is a 1982 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is currently employed with Bailer, Krivacka and Company. Mark is a 1981 graduate of Sam Houston University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is a certified public accountant and senior partner in the accounting firm of Bailer, Krivacka and Company. The wedding will be on July 27, 1985, at 3:30 in the afternoon at St. Benedict's Catholic Church in San Antonio...

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry C. Lassetter of Ft. Worth are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Lynn to Carl Gene Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene F. Brown of Eagle Lake. Michelle is a 1984 graduate of Connally High School in Waco.

Carl is a 1984 graduate of Rice High School and is attending TSTI in Waco...

Miss Elena Sophia Brune of Columbus and John Edward Holt of Schulenberg exchanged wedding vows Saturday, June 15 at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbus. The Rev. Robert E. Schlortt officiated at the double-ring ceremony...

Mr. and Mrs. Natividad Martinez, of Wharton, announce the birth of their ninth child, a daughter, at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The baby was named Dolly Martinez weighed eight pounds, two ounces. The baby was welcomed home by her brothers and sisters. Paula 15, Thomas 14, Esther 13, Anita 12, Guadalupe 11, Annette 10, Kathy nine, Natividad Jr. eight. Maternal grandparent is Faustino Martinez. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Julian Rodriguez. The new mother is the former Estella Rodriguez.

## Kleinschmidt Named Best Freshman Rep

The House of Representative's Republican Caucus named Representative Tim Kleinschmidt as the Freshman of the Year.

This prestigious honor culminates 150 days of dedicated service to both the constituents of District 17 and to the people of the great State of Texas.

Representative Kleinschmidt served as a member of the Agriculture and Livestock committee, the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism committee, and the Rules and Resolutions Committee this session.

"I have worked hard this session for a balanced State budget, voter ID, small business tax relief,

and private property rights. I am honored my colleagues selected me as freshman legislator of the year.

What matters most is sticking up for the citizens of Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, and Lee Counties in my district. That is and will always be my top priority," says Representative Kleinschmidt.

This recognition has been bestowed upon him by his peers in the Republican Caucus and demonstrates the respect his fellow Republican members have for him as well as the faith they have in his abilities.

Representative Kleinschmidt's

dedication and devotion reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Republican Caucus and the House of Representatives.

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

**Two Sentenced In County Court**

Jacob Aaron Foote, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$1,200 plus court costs, 50 hours community service.

Kelly Elizabeth Walker, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$1,500 plus court costs, 50 hours community service, two days in jail as condition of probation and interlock.

**Two Suits Filed In District Court**

Two lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the past two weeks.

On May 28, Vincent's Roofing Inc. filed suit against A.R. Lay Inc. in a dispute over a construction contract.

The suit states that on Jan. 4, 2008, Lay contracted with Vincent's to erect a dining hall building.

The suit says that when the building was substantially complete on March 19, 2008, A.R. Lay terminated the services of Vincent's and refused to pay \$32,984 to Vincent's.

In a separate suit on May 28, Discover Bank filed suit against Carol Rooks and Larry Rooks in a suit on account. The amount in dispute is \$12,158.

## LCRA Denies SAWS Breach

LCRA, accused earlier in May of breaching its agreement with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to study a proposed water-sharing project, called Thursday, May 28, for mediation of the dispute and denied that it had breached the agreement.

LCRA also challenged SAWS to identify exactly what obligations SAWS thinks LCRA has left unfulfilled.

LCRA and SAWS signed an agreement in 2002 to study the feasibility of a water-sharing project to determine if such a project could provide for water needs in both basins while meeting requirements set by the Texas Legislature.

Recently, preliminary study findings indicated that the project - given updated growth projections - would not meet all of the legislative requirements, meaning no water would be available for San Antonio.

On May 5, the SAWS Board of Trustees claimed that LCRA's use of updated water need projections in the ongoing project studies breached the agreement.

In a letter sent May 28 to SAWS in response to its threat of a legal challenge, LCRA said, "in studying the facts and reporting the results, LCRA has certainly not breached the agreement."

It also noted that the preliminary study results were "understandably very disappointing to the many people - at LCRA as well as SAWS - who hoped the project would meet the feasibility standards in the agreement and LCRA Act and make more water available for all."

LCRA's letter also challenged SAWS to identify any provision of

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*Continued on page 9*

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