



What's Up in the Legislature

(April 22, 2007)

There is no good news to report.

The Legislature has now well gone past its original plan for a 100 day Session.

There are some bills getting through, and the budget is beginning to get out slowly but surely. Unfortunately, there are few interested in checking out the areas that we are pushing.

President Bee did say that the Governor's push to extend Kidscare to persons who are 200% above the poverty level is doomed. He said it's not a matter of money, but philosophy. The Republicans feel that those parents can easily afford to get their own insurance, and not lay that burden on the taxpayers.

The Senate that has been including the Democrats in the budget discussion seems to be looking for a maximum tax cut in the \$10 million range. Russell Pearce, chair of House Appropriations, says that what he wants are tax cuts in the \$60 to \$70 million dollar area. He feels that the Senate is spending much too much. The House will bring the Democrats into the budget picture once they have decided what they want to do.

Last Thursday I told everyone that SB 1446 was on the 5th COW Calendar. Well, the House took off for the weekend before they did much of anything on Thursday. So 1446, the PAYDAY loan bill, is the 2nd bill on the 4th COW Calendar for Monday April 23.

Look for more bills to move and maybe more budget news this week.