

VISTA BMW WORLD'S LARGEST BMW DEALER NEW 2007 BMW Z4 LEASE FOR ONLY \$399 PER MONTH FOR 24 MONTHS Fully automatic soft-top, all power opts, climate control

- >Search Classified
>Find a Job
>Buy a Car
>Find Real Estate
>Find an Apartment
>Place a Classified Ad
>Buy a LocalLink
>ShopLocal
>Boodle Coupons

LOCAL NEWS NEWS BY AREA

- Broward County
Palm Beach County
Regional/Florida
Cuba
Nation/World

NEWS TOPICS

- The Help Team
Legislature
Education
Florida Lottery
Obituaries
Traffic
News by E-mail
News Quiz
Next Generation
Kids of Character
Character Counts

CHANNELS

- NEWS
Broward County
Palm Beach County
Regional/Florida
Cuba
Nation/World
The Help Team
Legislature
Education
Florida Lottery
Obituaries

WEATHER

- Hurricane
Webcam

SPORTS

- Miami Dolphins
Florida Marlins
Miami Heat
Florida Panthers
University of Miami
High School
College
Blogs/Columns

BUSINESS

- Real Estate News

EDITORIAL

- Letters
Chan Lowe
Cartoons

BLOGS

COLUMNS

- SOUTHFLORIDA.COM
Entertainment
Events
Restaurants
Movies & TV
Music & Stage
Nightlife & Bars
Florida Getaways
Celebrity News
Horoscopes
Dating/Personals
Attractions/Outdoors
Visitor's Guide

Legislative chambers to submit state budget proposals

Posted April 7 2007

The Florida House and Senate are scheduled to approve separate versions of a \$70 billion-plus state budget when they return from the Passover/Easter break. The chambers then will begin negotiations to reach a compromise spending blueprint for the budget year that will begin July 1. Here are some highlights of the two bills:

Both budgets propose a 6.5 percent, or \$1.2 billion, increase in the \$18.1 billion budget to run kindergarten through 12th-grade classes. That amounts to an average of \$450 more per student, but no specific numbers are yet available for Broward and Palm Beach counties.

Almost half of the new money would come from local property taxes. Neither chamber has called for a cut in property taxes levied to pay for public schools.

The best teachers in Broward and Palm Beach counties could get bonuses of as much as 10 percent, but there's no guarantee of pay raises for the vast majority of those who work in the schools. Gov. Charlie Crist wants \$295 million to fund a new teacher merit pay plan that would provide bonuses of as much as 10 percent, but the Senate has earmarked about \$147 million and the House \$200 million.

Traffic could ease under the Senate's \$585 million proposal to speed construction of road improvements already in planning. One of the major projects proposed is a \$35 million plan to turn HOV lanes on Interstate 95 between I-595 and northern Miami-Dade County into toll roads.

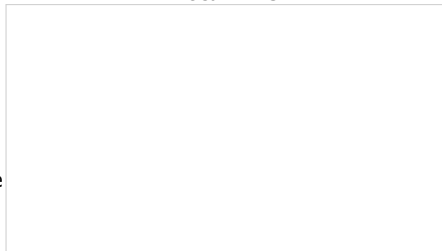
Instead of spending that money, the House wants to bank at least \$1 billion to help prepare the state for an economic downturn or natural disaster.

South Florida voters could be casting their 2008 presidential ballots on voting machines with paper trails if legislators agree to a \$28 million request from Crist to help 15 counties -- including Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade -- replace their touch-screen devices. But neither chamber has agreed to fund his request.

Students at Florida Atlantic University, as well as Broward and Palm Beach community colleges, could see their tuition go up by 5

verizonwireless High-Speed Downloads It's the Network. LEARN MORE

LocalLinks



- E-mail story
Print story
Most e-mailed
News on your cell
RSS news feeds

LATEST VIDEOS

ADD TO PLAYLIST

- Haitian American continues his hunger strike
Journalist Daniel Pearl added to Holocaust Memorial Wall
Strong storms strand travelers at Florida airports
Cam Cameron on the Miami Dolphins' first minicamp
Town hall meeting on property taxes
Gay rodeo competes in South Florida
Monday's South Florida weather update
Workers protest in Fort Lauderdale

Check All | Clear All

PLAY ALL CHECKED

MOST E-MAILED (last 24 hours)

- 1. How safe is your favorite restaurant?
2. Five years after a South Florida family joined a historic aliyah to Israel, Laura Ben-David's letters tell of 'the real life that goes on'
3. Green trade imminent; Culpepper likely to be released
4. For Weston's Cleveland Clinic, cutting ties with Tenet was the right prescription
5. Gay rodeo shows South Florida how West was fun
See the complete list ...

Click here to subscribe today to the Sun-Sentinel or call 1-877-READ-SUN.

FEATURES

Lifestyle
Arts
Food & Recipes
Home & Garden
Travel
Books

HEALTH & SCIENCE**COMMUNITY****NEWSLETTERS****RSS NEWS FEEDS****CORRECTIONS****OTHER SERVICES**

Archives
Customer Service
News by E-mail

percent. After several years of tuition hikes, Crist asked that the Legislature forgo an increase this year. But the House and Senate have proposed boosting student costs. The average community college student would pay \$100 more a year; university students would face slightly higher costs.

An initiative to clean up the water flowing into Lake Okeechobee -- and ultimately into the Everglades -- would get a big funding boost, with the House putting \$85 million into the project and the Senate setting aside \$100 million. The current funding is \$25 million.

Everglades restoration would continue to get its \$100 million yearly allocation under both bills.

Broward County, which has been told by the state to look for places other than the Everglades for new water supplies, could be the big loser under a House plan to cut funding to a program that helps counties develop alternative sources. The House wants to spend \$30 million, the Senate \$60 million.

About 13,000 developmentally disabled would remain on the waiting list for state help under both bills. But the Senate would cut funding for the families of about 5,000 disabled who already get state help, limiting their assistance to \$30,000.

-- Linda Kleindienst, Tallahassee Bureau Chief

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

Post Comment

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator.



Subscribe today to the Sun-Sentinel and find out how to get one week extra!

[Click here or call 1-877-READ-SUN](#)

Ads by Google

Thumann's "The Deli Best"

Wholesale food South FL & Caribbean Call for free sample! 888-954-MEAT
www.kbrothersfood.com

Private Investigator

Specializing in Cheating Spouses, Fraud and Stalking related cases.
www.mayaandmayainc.com

Unbelievable Pricing

No reasonable offer refused. Act quickly! Ft. Lauderdale, FL
www.ownlasolas.com

We Read the Bills

Discover what you are missing! Premier State Monitoring Service
www.stateside.com

Florida Mold Testing

I.A.Q. Mold Testing & Sampling Infrared Cameras - Certified Mold
FloridaMold.net

Copyright © 2007, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Partners: CareerBuilder.com for Jobs | Cars.com for Autos | Apartments.com for Rentals | ShopLocal.com for Shopping FSBO | Boodle.com coupons | [Houses for Rent](http://HousesforRent.com) | [Open Houses](http://OpenHouses.com)

Sun-Sentinel.com

[Questions or comments?](#) | [Paid archives](#) | [Start a newspaper subscription](#) | [How to advertise](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

