

This Week in the Legislature
December 30, 2006

Here is something to look forward to in the New Year.

The first Session of the 48th Legislature opens on January 8, with the Governor's State of the State message. Because the first Monday in January is a holiday, the inauguration will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 4, during a ceremony on the plaza in front of the historic state Capitol, 1700 W. Washington St. in Phoenix.

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will do the honors, swearing in Gov. Janet Napolitano, Secretary of State Jan Brewer, Attorney General Terry Goddard, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne and Treasurer Dean Martin. Martin is the newcomer to the ranks; the others were re-elected in November to second terms.

Thursday's inauguration is open to the public; seats are available on the Senate lawn on a first-come, first-served basis.

The same old message is going around: Tax receipts are down and we need to get the budget under control. It seems that no Legislature starts without that warning. This warning comes at the same time that legislative leadership is calling to make the three-year property tax holiday permanent.

There is also the historical warning to lock up your livestock, bury your valuables, and hide your daughters because the legislature is in session. At least this one has some validity.

One possible bright spot is Senator Jim Waring's introduction of SB1038 (low income housing; property tax). I don't know much about this one yet, but it could be one SVdP can support.

So far the Senators have introduced 43 bills and the Representatives have come up with 32. Don't worry! The House members will take back their traditional lead: there are twice as many of them as the Senators.

One possible bright spot is Senator Jim Waring's introduction of SB1038 (low income housing; property tax). I don't know much about this one yet, but it could be one SVdP can support.

Have a Happy New Year.