

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Health Coverage Restored For Com. College

AUSTIN — Back in June, Gov. Rick Perry used the line-item veto to kill funding passed by the Texas House and Senate that would have continued paying for health benefits of most people who work at community colleges.

Perry's veto prompted criticism from community college employees, state lawmakers, students and students' families who faced tuition and fee increases to make up for the loss in funding.

On Oct. 23, Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick announced an agreement to allocate \$99 million for the state's share of health benefits, a one-time \$55 million transitional payment for fiscal year 2009, and the development of an incentive funding program for community colleges.

As part of the agreement, the governor's office said, community colleges are asked to rescind tuition, fee or tax increases adopted for fiscal year 2008 and any tuition, fee or tax increases under consideration for fiscal year 2009 meant to offset the original veto.

Court hears Capitol tape case

Closed-circuit security cameras record human activity in the halls of the state Capitol.

Texas' 3rd Court of Appeals heard arguments in the Texas Observer's attempt to get access

to videotape recordings of activity in the back hallway outside the House Chamber on May 23, 2005.

The Texas Observer, a biweekly investigative journal based in Austin, filed a request with the Texas Department of Public Safety to view the tapes under the Texas Public Information Act, a law that makes most government documents available to all citizens.

The Texas Observer argues that it would be in the public's interest to release the tapes, but the DPS has consistently refused, saying that releasing them would compromise Capitol security.

What makes May 23, 2005, so interesting? It is the day Republican activist and campaign donor James Leininger of San Antonio allegedly met with lawmakers in the hallway when a vote on legislation to allow a pilot school voucher program was up for a vote.

The Texas Observer wants to see if the tapes reveal interaction between Leininger and lawmakers.

Now, after many months in the legal process, the matter may take the 3rd Court of Appeals' three-judge panel days, weeks or months to rule on the matter.

Agency to reduce license fees

The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation voted

to reduce 21 licensing and registration fees.

Before lower fees can take effect, agency rules will have to be amended, and that takes time.

Fee reductions range from 8 percent to as high as 80 percent and are projected to exceed \$1.3 million per year, the agency said.

Among proposed reductions:

- Barber licenses, from \$90 every two years to \$70;
- Master electrician and master sign electrician licenses, from \$65 annually to \$50;
- Journeyman electrician and journeyman sign electrician licenses, from \$40 annually to \$35;
- Elevator contractor licenses, from \$300 annually to \$115;
- Combative sports contestant licenses, from \$30 annually to \$20;
- Air-conditioning contractor, initial license from \$130 annually to \$115 and renewal license from \$80 to \$65.
- Cosmetology revised or duplicate license, from \$53 annually to \$25.

Austin receives Swiss trains

Austin's Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority accepted delivery of two rail cars shipped in pieces from Switzerland. Four more cars are on order.

"MetroRail" is scheduled to

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

begin in about a year, carrying passengers from Leander, north of Austin, to downtown Austin, with a few stops in between.

What's more, Austin Mayor Will Wynn is proposing a separate project — a light rail line — to connect Austin Bergstrom airport, downtown Austin, the University of Texas, and other stops. He wants to make it a November 2008 ballot issue.

Early voters have deadline

Registered voters can take advantage of early voting through Nov. 2. Computer users can easily determine polling locations and hours, by going to the Secretary of State's Web site, www.sos.state.tx.us.

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Let's Look Back... **24 & 48 YEARS AGO**

October 13, 1983
 Mr. and Mrs. Roland Fulton of Houston honored Ann Williams and Bill L. Olson, whose wedding is scheduled for October 29 with a cocktail party and bar shower October 8...
 Elizabeth and Harold King are proud to announce the birth

of their son, Christopher Carter, on September 27. He weighed four pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19 inches at birth...

Ginger Case celebrated her third birthday Sunday, October 9 (actual birthday October 12) at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Case...

Mr. and Mrs. Prajedes Jaramillo of Eagle Lake are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Rose Mary to Hector Gutierrez son of Jose Gutierrez of El Campo. The couple will be married at 2 p.m. on January 14, 1984 at our Lady of Guadalupe in Eagle Lake...

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus for Jerry W. Zatopek, who passed away Wednesday evening at Park Plaza Hospital in Houston after a lengthy illness. Burial was in the St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Cemetery in Frelsburg with military honors

by the American Legion Post No. 383 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6113 of Columbus of which Jerry was a lifetime member. Rosary was recited by Rev. Bockholt October 7 at the Chapel of the Henneke Funeral Home...

Mrs. Alma Kollmann, 95, passed away Sunday in Seguin. She was a long time resident of Eagle Lake. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday October 11 at the Dulany Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Kurpicka officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

Howard R. Harry of Garwood passed away the evening of October 4 in the Wharton Caney Valley Hospital after an extended illness. Funeral services were held from the Chapel of Dulany Funeral Home in Eagle Lake with the Rev. Effie May Young officiating. Interment followed in Lehrer Cemetery in Garwood.

October 15, 1959
G.A. Seaholm and Frank Hough got the top bid of \$9.88 for the Texas Patna Rice they raised at a sale at the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Association...

R.P. Wilcox, chairman and **L.J. Spanihel**, co-chairman of the Consolidated Fund Drive announced the goal was set at \$6600 for the 1959 campaign...

Victor Scott, Eagle Lake High School assistant coach, had a perfect score in ten games of the first football contest published and won \$4 first place prize...

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dostal announce the arrival of a baby girl, **Jane Gladys** born October 10...

Phyllis Johnson, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson**, and **Gayle Thomas**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas** of Eagle Lake, were married at 6 p.m. October 9 in George West, Texas.

Enter First National Bank's Friday Give Away!

The winner will receive a Rice Raider stadium seat.

One winner every Friday
Entries Now Being Accepted
Drawings will be held weekly during the Rice Raider football season.

Drawing will be held at 3:00 p.m.
Ask your friendly teller for an entry ballot.
 (need not be present to win; no transaction necessary to enter)
 FNB employees and immediate family are not eligible to enter.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases from Sept. 28 - Oct. 11.

Friday, September 28

At 6 am, Deputy Savino responded to IH-10 near the 702 mile marker in reference to a vehicle that was abandoned for over 2 weeks. The vehicle was removed from the location by Delgado's Wrecker Service. Case closed.

At 4:50 pm, Deputy Savino and Deputy Butts responded to the Columbus Community Hospital in reference to a Death Investigation. Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Billy Hefner arrived to conduct the Inquest. An autopsy was conducted at the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office to determine a cause of death. Case is pending results.

At 7:41 pm, Sgt. Girndt and Deputy Butts responded to a residence in Sheridan in reference to a disturbance. After further investigation, the incident was determined to be a verbal argument. No charges were filed. Case closed.

Saturday, September 29

At 9:20 am, Deputy Hudson responded to CR 240 near Weimar in reference to a vehicle that ran through a fence. A report was filed and the case is pending further information on possible suspect(s).

Sunday, September 30

At 2:22 am, Deputy Staff responded to Beard Street near Eagle Lake in reference to a sexual assault that occurred in East Bernard. The information was taken and the case was referred to the Wharton County Sheriff's Office. Case closed.

At 5:35 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to Garwood in reference to a Runaway Juvenile from Wharton County. The Juvenile was located at a residence and later turned over to the Wharton County Sheriff's Office. Case closed.

Monday, October 1

At 6:30 am, Deputy Craneck responded to the Columbus Community Hospital in reference to a death investigation. Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Billy Hefner, arrived to conduct the Inquest. An autopsy was ordered to determine the cause of death. Case is pending results from the Travis County Medical Examiner.

At 9:50 am, Deputy Mieth responded to a residence on Weishuhn Road in reference to a Burglary of a Vehicle that occurred the day before in Harris County. A report was filed and the complainant was referred to the proper jurisdiction.

At 6:44 pm, Deputy Slubar responded to a residence on CR 250 near Weimar in reference to a Burglary. A report was filed and evidence was collected. The case is pending further information on the possible suspect(s).

At 10:53 pm, Deputy Slubar conducted a traffic stop on FM 102 and Strickland Lane near Eagle Lake. After further investigation, Roger Wendell Fry, 45 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for Failure to Identify, Driving While License Invalid, No Liability Insurance, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Case closed.

Tuesday, October 2

At 2:21 am, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 90 and Alleyton Road east of

Columbus. After further investigation, John Elvon Church, 47 of Columbus, was arrested for Driving While License Invalid. Case closed.

Wednesday, October 3

At 12 am, Deputy Thumann responded to the Budget Inn east of Columbus in reference to a Burglary. A report was filed and evidence was collected. There is one suspect. Case is pending further investigation.

At 9:45 am, Deputy Mieth responded to Mentz Road near Alleyton in reference to Criminal Trespass. After further investigation, one subject was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. Case closed.

Thursday, October 4

At 6 am, Deputy Mieth and Deputy Thumann responded to an accident on IH-10 near the 686 mile marker near Weimar. On arrival, the subjects involved in the accident were determined to be juvenile runaways from Houston. After further investigation, the juveniles were detained and later released to the parents. Case closed.

At 9:20 am, Deputy Mieth spoke with a complainant in reference to several threatening calls made on his cell phone. The complainant did not want to pursue criminal charges. A report was filed and the case is closed.

At 10:30 am, Detective Pardo seized a lowboy trailer at the Warrenton Antique Fair that had the Vehicle Identification Number removed. After a property hearing, the trailer was awarded to the Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force. Case closed.

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