

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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979-234-5521 • Fax: 979-234-5522

email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net

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James Sweet Carol Cardenas • Doug Beal Donna Samora

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Health And Human Services Plans To Issue New Medicaid Card

AUSTIN — The Texas Health and Human Services Commission announced plans to go statewide with a new smart card system that it said would create a more convenient and secure way for

people to verify their Medicaid coverage.

The card, which looks like a credit card, automates the patient check-in process, which presently requires provider staff to copy data manually from paper forms.

The card contains encoded patient information and has built-in fraud protection, as it requires the client's finger image to use.

Statewide expansion is set to begin next year when HHSC issues a request for proposals in May to select a contractor for the project.

The system may be in place by the second half of 2009, said Commissioner Albert Hawkins.

AG sues two Internet sites

Attorney General Greg Abbott on Dec. 5 filed lawsuits against two Web sites, TheDollHouse.com and Gamesradar.com under the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, COPPA.

COPPA generally prohibits Web sites from unnecessarily collecting personal information from children under 13.

Abbott accused the Web sites

of unlawfully collecting personal information such as names, ages, and home addresses from children.

Investigators also discovered that the sites' parental consent features were easily manipulated and circumvented.

Regents scale down tuition hike

The University of Texas System board of regents ordered UT-Austin to cut back a proposed tuition hike after students and state legislators complained the average \$300 per semester hike was too big an increase.

Instead, in school years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, UT System students will pay \$150 more tuition per semester or 4.95 percent more, whichever amount is greater.

In 2002, before the Legislature deregulated tuition, a typical freshman entering UT in the fall paid about \$4,500 a year in tuition and fees. In 2010, under the new rates, an incoming freshman should prepare to pay more than \$8,000.

Speaker names energy panel

Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick announced the creation of the Select Committee on Electric Generation Capacity and Environmental Effects.

Craddick, R-Midland, assigned the committee to prepare a long-term energy and environmental impact plan and submit it to the

81st Legislature, which convenes Jan. 13, 2009.

The plan will include an assessment of various types of energy generation available to the state.

Craddick appointed eight House members to the committee: Charles "Doc" Anderson, R-Waco; Kevin Bailey, D-Houston; Norma Chavez, D-El Paso; Rick Hardcastle, R-Vernon; Phil King, R-Weatherford; Burt Solomons, R-Carrollton; Joe Straus, R-San Antonio; Sylvester Turner, D-Houston; and Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, to serve as chair.

Green schools effort is launched

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, announced on Dec. 5 a new, bipartisan congressional effort to ensure schools are safer environmentally and thus should provide a healthier learning place for children.

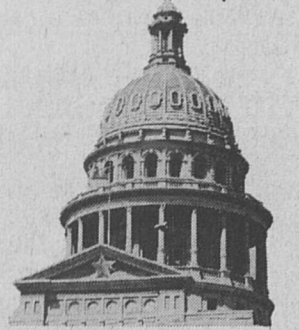
McCaul, co-chair of the Green Schools Caucus, said, "Today, there are American schools which are harmful to our children. That is unacceptable."

The caucus will take input and begin working on legislation to promote safer schools.

McCaul and architect Stan Haas made the announcement at J.J. Pickle Elementary School in Austin, a "green-built" campus that features proper solar orientation, insulated concrete, rainwater collection, salvaged pine and recycled-content materials, unfinished materials, and

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS By Ed Sterling

paint and finishes with low levels of chemical emissions.

New chief at Parks & Wildlife

Carter Smith, state director of the Nature Conservancy of Texas since 2004, was named executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Dec. 5.

A graduate of Texas Tech University and Yale University, Smith succeeds Robert L. Cook, who retired on Aug. 31.

Dewhurst is named Texan of Year

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has been named "2008 Texan of the Year" by Texas Legislative Conference, a non-partisan organization of Texas business and political leaders. Dewhurst will accept the award at the group's 42nd annual meeting at New Braunfels in March.

Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant advertisement with menu items: Breakfast Specials, Lunch and Dinner Specials, Buffet Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Hours.

Eagle Lake Headlight Early Ad Deadline Notice. Week of Christmas December 27 issue 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 21. Week of New Year's January 3 issue 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 28. No exceptions.

Kris Kringle Cash Giveaway advertisement. Count the number of symbols in advertisements in this edition and submit your guess in writing to the Headlight by Monday, Dec. 17. Two winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any one of the businesses advertising in this edition.

Kris Kringle Cash Entry Form. (Return to The Headlight by 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17) PO Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434. My Guess is, Name, Phone, Address, I'd like to use my certificate at.

Let's Look Back... 24 YEARS AGO

November 23, 1983

The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy held its annual swearing in ceremony for the newly appointed accountants at the Frank Erwin Special Events Center in Austin at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 12 Governor Mark White was the principal speaker Sue Wegenhoft Briscoe was on the stage as a member of the State Board. Among those receiving certificates was Patti Mathis daughter of James A. and Selma Mathis of Eagle Lake...

Katy Ishee of Eagle Lake joined an elite group of Future Farmers of America by receiving the highest FFA degree or membership that of American Farmer along with 730 other outstanding FFA'ers the Rice Consolidated chapter member was honored at the 56th National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Missouri...

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Kasmiarsky, Jr. of Garwood are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Laurette Marie, of Houston to William James

Remik, Jr. of Houston, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Remik, Sr. of Houston, formerly of North Canton, Ohio. The wedding is planned for late December at St. Michael Catholic Church in Houston...

Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Stiles, Jr. of Eagle Lake and Mrs. Cecelie McElroy of Rockville, Maryland announce the engagement of their children, Trudie M. Stiles and William E. Gonseaux. The wedding will take place December 10 in Houston...

Miss Sharron Rose Schneider became the bride of James F. George, Jr. at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 12 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada with Msgr. Victor G. Schmidtinsky, pastor of St. Mary's Church, performing the ceremony...

Brent and Justin Schneider, sons of Sandy and Leon Schneider of Garwood celebrated their birthday Wednesday, November 9. Brent was five on November 5 and Justin will be three on November 30...

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L.

Vowell of Beulah, North Dakota, announce the engagement of their daughter, Vivian Vee, to Stephen Patrick Spanihel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Spanihel. The wedding will be December 11 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake...

Ann Gertrude Williams and Bill Lewis Olson of Houston exchanged wedding vows in a double-ring ceremony Saturday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. The Right Reverend Victor Schmidtinsky officiated...

James Torres of Richmond, former DJ for KFRD radio, is now the new program director for a brand new stereo radio station, KYST Radio 92 Stereo AM, which went on the air November 6...

Former Eagle Lake resident, Otto L. Breitreutz, 85, passed way November 10 in Corpus Christi. Funeral services were conducted November 11 at 2 p.m. at the Christ Lutheran Church with Pastor John Wiley Fox officiating. Burial was at Seaside Memorial Park.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending Nov. 22.

Friday, November 9

At 2:40 am, Deputy Gonzalez responded to the Valley Apartments on Hwy 71 west of Columbus in reference to an attempted break in. On arrival, it was reported the suspect had fled the scene on foot. There were no items reported missing. Case is pending further information.

At 7:20 am, Deputy Hudson responded to the IH-10 east bound rest area in reference to a Theft. The complainant reported that two aluminum loading ramps were stolen from a trailer. Case is pending further information.

At 2 pm, Deputy Argo responded to the Rice Alternative Education Program in reference to a problem with a student. After further investigation, one student was issued a citation for Disruption of Classes. Case closed.

At 2:30 pm, Deputy Argo re-

sponded to the Rice High School in reference to a fight. After further investigation, two students were issued citations for Disorderly Conduct. Case closed.

Saturday, November 10

At 11:10 am, Deputy Mieth responded to FM 155 and Caroleta Ranch Road in reference to vehicle damage. A report was filed and the case is closed.

Sunday, November 11

At 7:30 am, Deputy Mieth and Deputy Cranek responded to FM 949 in reference to an unstable subject at a residence. After further investigation, the subject was taken into custody on a Peace Officer warrant and later transported to the Austin State Hospital for treatment. Case closed.

At 8:01 pm, Deputy Butts and Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to FM 109 in reference to an intoxicated subject walking in the middle of the road. After further investigation, Jimmy Charles Smith, 58 of Columbus, was arrested for Public Intoxication. Case closed.

At 11:30 pm, Deputy Thumann conducted a traffic stop on the IH-10 south service road near Alletton Road. After further investigation, Cody Mitchell Besch, 19 of Alletton, was arrested for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Case closed.

Monday, November 12

At 7:45 am, Deputy Cranek responded to the Sheriff's Office in reference to a fight that occurred

Congratulations Terri and Dan On Your Wedding December 5, 2007 From the Morales and Sanchez Families. Includes photo of a couple and decorative border.

Continued on next page