

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Caterpillar Assembly Plant To Add 1,400 Jobs

AUSTIN - What Texas can do to stay strong in a faltering world economy is something top state officials are more than pondering these days.

Gov. Rick Perry on Dec. 17 met with trade association and labor union leaders to get input on how the economic downturn is affecting industries and workers in Texas.

On Dec. 18, Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick jointly announced a deal

that will move one of Caterpillar Inc.'s assembly, test and paint facilities to Texas, creating more than 1,400 jobs.

The state agreed to peel off \$10 million from its \$350 million Texas Enterprise Fund to aid Caterpillar in moving the facility to Seguin.

Texas was in competition with South Carolina and Mexico for the facility, Perry said.

A Fortune 500 company, Caterpillar manufactures construction and mining equipment, diesel and

natural gas engines, industrial gas turbines and medium and high speed diesel engines.

The company already has plants in Amarillo, Channelview, Coppell, Dallas, DeSoto, El Paso, Fort Worth, Garland, Houston, Laredo, Mabank, McAllen, McKinney, Midland, Sherman, Waco and Waskom.

Study addresses worker shortage

Meanwhile, on Dec. 17, Comptroller Susan Combs said there is a widening gap between the demand for skilled workers in Texas and the state's ability to supply them.

"Texas' secondary and post-secondary education system is not meeting the demands of the current workplace," Combs said. "Employers tell us that good paying jobs are going unfilled because they cannot find qualified workers. And we're hearing from students about the value to them of programs at community and technical colleges. For Texas to remain an economic powerhouse, our education system needs added focus on career and technical

training to fill available jobs."

Combs has issued a new report, Texas Works, a look at the changing Texas job market and the growing shortage of workers with the technical skills required for many of the fastest growing jobs.

The report recommends establishing a fund to help with startup costs for new technical training programs and eliminating obstacles that discourage students from pursuing "CTE" or career-technical education.

Texas community and technical colleges offer training facilities and employment opportunities after just one or two years, Combs said. But state funding of community and technical colleges has declined, not keeping pace with inflation and hampering schools' ability to train the next generation of Texas workers, she added.

CTE courses can be expensive for a college, often requiring state-of-the-art technology and equipment, but the state does not provide funding for startup costs.

Combs' report recommends:

¥ The creation of a \$25 million Jobs and Education for Texas fund to provide support for post-secondary CTE courses, including startup funding for new programs.

¥ Linking any incentive funding to measurable results to ensure the state receives a positive return on its investments.

Leal now heads Texas Rangers

Antonio "Tony" Leal, 44, has been named chief of the Texas Department of Public Safety's Texas Ranger Division, making him the first Hispanic to lead the elite crime-fighting force.

Leal, a 24-year veteran of DPS also is the youngest person ever named chief of the Texas Ranger Division. He was born in Sugar Land and raised in the Fort Bend County area.

His appointment to Ranger chief took effect Dec. 10.

Race for U.S. Senate seat widens

More Texans have entered the race to succeed Kay Bailey Hutchison as a U.S. senator.

Bill White, a Democrat and

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital

HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

the mayor of Houston, and Texas Railroad Commission Chair Michael Williams, a Republican, have joined former state comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat, in declaring candidacy.

Hutchison, a Republican, has said she won't seek another term in the office she has held since 1993. She has filed papers and transferred campaign funds to consider and perhaps run for governor in 2010.

If Hutchison resigns her Senate seat to run for governor, standing Gov. Perry will appoint someone to serve out the remainder of her term.

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Buffet Tuesdays and Thursdays
11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Hours:
Mon.-Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
and 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Fri. and Sat.: 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

January 10, 1985

Alan J. Kristynik, a graduating senior Biology major at St. Mary's University of San Antonio has been selected to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" in recognition of outstanding merit and accomplishment as a student...

Christine Smith was honored New Year's Eve by her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Leon Smith of Eagle Lake on her 13 birthday...

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Juranek of El Campo announce the engagement of their daughter Brenda Kay to Timmy George Bittner son of Mr. and Mrs. Alois Bitt-

ner of Garwood. The couple will be married at 2 p.m. on Feb. 9 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada...

David and Aurora Cortez of Eagle Lake announce the birth of their first child, a son, born on November 7 at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The baby was named Marcus Alan and weighed eight pounds, one ounce and measured 20 1/4 inches...

Kristi Luedecke, daughter of Judy and Tim Luedecke was honored on her 4th birthday Sunday, January 6...

Sarah Sosa Torres, 59, of Eagle Lake, passed away on Thursday, January 3 at the M.D. Anderson hospital in Houston. Prayer services were held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 5 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel. The funeral was conducted at noon on Sunday, January 6 from the Vine of the Lord Church with Rev. Paul Aguilar, officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

Phyllis Rompf Tyler, 63, of Altair, passed away on January 1 at her residence in the Bernardo area. The funeral was conducted at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 4 from the Henneke Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Bill Huth officiating. Burial was in Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery...

Slack Ivey Hamm, 94, of Wharton and formerly of Eagle Lake passed away Monday, January 7 in a Beaumont hospital following a brief illness. Funeral services were scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, January 10 in the chapel of the Wharton Funeral Home. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake...

Mrs. Addie Jo Taylor, 80, of Eagle Lake, who with her late husband were former owners of *The Eagle Lake Headlight*, passed away January 6 at her home here. The funeral was conducted at 3 p.m. Tuesday, January 8 from the First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake with Rev. Mike Barron and Rev. E.E. Mulliner officiating. Burial was in Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake...

Vera Ondrias Malcik, 64, of Wharton passed away on January 3. Services were conducted at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 5 from the St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford with Father. H.C. Rachunek officiating. Burial was in St. John's Catholic Cemetery...

Mrs. Vera White Cambre, 73, of Eagle Lake, passed away on Friday, January 4 at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Following cremation, the ashes will be returned to Eagle Lake and interment will follow in Lakeside

Cemetery in Eagle Lake. Local arrangements were under the direction of Dulany Funeral Home...

Chester Douglas Webb, 68, of Hallettsville passed away on Wednesday, January 2 at 1:15 p.m. at the Stevens Convalescent Center in Hallettsville. Services were conducted at the Kubena Funeral Home on Friday, January 4 with Rev. Charles Runk officiating...

Mrs. Lillie Mae Herron, 91, a resident of the Heritage House in Eagle Lake passed away on December 28 at 6:30 a.m. the funeral was conducted at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 30 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Charles Runk officiating. Burial was in Lehrer Memorial Cemetery in Garwood...

Clifton Louis Tyler, 73, of Woodside, New York, passed away on January 5 at the Elmhurst Hospital in Woodside, New York. Services were held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, January 10 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Cheatham Cemetery in Sheridan...

Miss Donna Marie Kulhanek and Gary Dean Schindler were united in marriage at 3 p.m. on December 15, 1984 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus with Pastor Robert Schlott officiating at the double ring ceremony.

Colorado County
Courthouse ReportEleven Sentenced
In District Court

Eleven individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Friday, December 19. They included:

Eric R. Belmonte, possession of a controlled substance. Probation modified, 90 days in jail as COP and decline robbery charge.

Kendrick Jamal Bluntson, unlawful possession of a firearm by felon. Sentenced to eight years TDCJ-ID, credit 149 days.

Kayla M. Burley, credit card or debit card abuse. Sentenced to 180 days in jail, no credit for time served.

Reginald R. Coombs, theft. Sentenced to four years deferred adjudication, 90 days in jail, \$5,921.97 restitution as condition of probation.

Floyd Eaton, III, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to 20 years TDCJ-ID.

Martin Herrera Ferrel, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to six months state jail.

Roy M. Hampton, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to 20 years TDCJ-ID abandon enhancement.

Roy M. Hampton, burglary of habitation. Sentenced to 20 years TDCJ-ID abandon enhancement.

Silvino Lopez, Jr., unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

James C. Middleton, engage in organized criminal activity. Sentenced to 25 years TDCJ-ID.

James C. Middleton, criminal mischief. Sentenced to 20 years TDCJ-ID.

Richard Sosa Palacios, credit card or debit card abuse. Sentenced to 180 days state jail.

Jeremy Evan Stalbird, possession of a controlled substance. Sentenced to 180 days state jail.

Nineteen
Sentenced In
County Court

Nineteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, December 17. The included:

Jarmorris O. Brooks, theft of stolen property. Sentenced to four days in jail, fined \$100 plus court costs.

Agripino Resendez, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, interlock device, and restitution.

Owen Robinson, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$350 plus court costs.

Hilario Zuniga, Jr., possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Cameron W. Anders, interference with emergency telephone call. Sentenced to one year probation, fined \$500 plus court costs, 10 days as condition, BIPP.

Rosalio D. Barraza, posses-

sion of a controlled substance, failure to identify. Sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Tyreance Ramone Dabney, theft of stolen property. One year deferred adjudication, fine plus court costs, 15 days in jail, restitution.

La Joe D. Dancy, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Aaron A. Flores, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 30 days in jail, fined \$500 plus court costs, one year driver's license suspension.

Deetra Nikol Johnson, theft by check. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Cody Matousek, reckless driving. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150 plus court costs.

Miguel A. Mendez, evading arrest/detention. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Andrew Nowak, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug classes.

Jason Patton, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$250 plus court costs, ordered to attend drug classes.

Juan Alarcon Pena, driving while intoxicated. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Jose D. Reyna, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 40 days in jail.

Continued on page 7

Tenth Annual
EAGLE LAKE

New Year's Eve

Fireworks
SHOW

will be held

WEDNESDAY

Dec. 31, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Calhoun Road

For More Info: 979-232-0233