

**THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT**

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**House Looks At Franchise Exemption**

AUSTIN - The Texas House on May 4 approved HB 4765, legislation to raise the small business exemption to the state margins tax from \$300,000 to \$1 million, but only for years 2010-11.

The primary author of the bill is Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville.

One of the bill's four co-authors, Rep. Bill Callegari, R-Katy, said the timing of the new margins tax could not have been worse on Texas businesses because tax bills came due right as the economy began to worsen.

"By raising the revenue exemption, small businesses will get some needed relief to help deal with the terrible aftershocks of the economic crisis," he said.

Next, the Senate Finance Committee will consider the bill. The margins tax has evolved over recent sessions of the Legislature.

The 2005 Legislature, in its third called session, revised the state's franchise tax to by basing it on gross margins and businesses with total revenue of less than \$300,000 were exempted from paying the tax.

In 2007, the Legislature enacted a sliding scale of franchise tax discounts for businesses with revenue between \$300,000 and \$900,000.

**Senate Approves CHIP Bill**  
 Families that earn more than the federal poverty level but still can't afford health coverage would

be able to buy into state health insurance for their children under SB 841 passed by the Senate on May 6.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) covers families whose annual income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$44,000 for four-member family.

Sen. Kip Averitt, R-Waco, said his bill aims to make it so families "will have the opportunity to pay part of the premium, so that they can grow into fully paying for their own health insurance for their own children."

SB 841 would create a program where families that make up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, about \$66,000 for a family of four, could pay part of the premiums and buy in to CHIP coverage.

The bill moves to the House for further consideration.

**DPS Chief Resigns, Interim Named**

Col. Stanley Clark, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety since September 2008, announced his resignation on May 4 after allegations of sexual harassment in the workplace against him were made public.

Allan B. Polunsky, chair of the Texas Public Safety Commission, the agency that oversees the DPS, accepted Clark's resignation and

named Lamar Beckworth of Austin as the interim director.

Beckworth has been a DPS officer for 31 years.

He is the first African-American to lead the agency.

**Ag Chief Requests Fire Assistance**

North Texas wildfires over Easter weekend and recent weeks contributed to losses estimated at more than 220,000 acres of pasture, roughly 1,500 miles of fence and almost 500 cattle and calves.

Wildfires cost Texas farmers and ranchers about \$35 million during March and April, and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples said that is why he has requested USDA assistance.

In a May 5 letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Staples asked for access to emergency loans and other forms of needed assistance for producers in 18 counties including: Archer, Baylor, Callahan, Clay, Cooke, Eastland, Hamilton, Hood, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Shackelford, Stephens, Wheeler, Wichita, Wise and Young.

In light of drought-related fires that ravage the state, a constitutional amendment proposed by Rep. Valinda Bolton, D-Austin, would authorize emergency services districts to impose an additional ad valorem tax not to exceed 5 cents per \$100 valuation for

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State Capital



**HIGHLIGHTS**  
 By Ed Sterling

the acquisition of land, equipment or apparatus or the construction of capital improvements, with district voter approval.

Bolton's HJR 112 is awaiting a vote by the full House.

**Cap on Tuition, Fees Is Approved**

The Senate on May 4 unanimously approved a bill to cap tuition increases and mandatory fees for resident undergraduates at many public universities in Texas.

Authorized by Sen. Judith Zafirini, D-Laredo, SB 1443 would establish a 5 percent per year cap, or the rate of inflation based on a three-year average, whichever is less.

Affected would be 17 universities whose total academic cost exceeds the state median, just above \$5,000 in 2009.

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

**June 6, 1985**

**Mrs. Wyvon F. (Bonnie) Baker**, 78, of Rock Island, passed away on May 29 at 2:40 p.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The funeral was conducted at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 1 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Charles Runk, pastor of United Methodist Church of Eagle Lake, officiating. Burial was in Myrtle Cemetery in Rock Island...

**Infant Aaron Ray Zahradnick**, newborn son of Alicia and Lloyd Zahradnick, passed away soon after birth in a Houston hospital. Graveside services and burial was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 31 from the Lakeside Cemetery in Eagle Lake with Rev. Charles Runk, pastor of United Methodist Church, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Dulany Funeral Home...

**Elizabeth Gonzales**, 73, of Eagle Lake, passed away on Sunday, May 26 at 9 a.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Rosary was recited at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 27 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel in Eagle Lake led by Eusebio Salazar. The funeral was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28 from Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Rev. Ray Widacki officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

Services for **Creasie Watson Williams**, of Eagle Lake, was held May 25 at 2:30 p.m. from Greater Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Eagle Lake with Rev. Obie Rhodes officiating...

**Louis D. Kooviska**, 60, passed away on May 2 in Houston. Services were conducted at

1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 27 from the Brookside Funeral Chapel in Houston with Rev. Richard Irvin officiating. Burial was in Brookside Memorial Park...

**Willie Schroeder**, 78, of Wharton, passed away on May 24 at 11:44 a.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Services were conducted at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 26 from the Dulany Funeral Home Chapel in Eagle Lake with W.T. Broome of Wharton officiating. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery...

**Mrs. Charles W. Bubela** of Nada announces the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, **Monica Rose**, to **James Steve Stock**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Stock Sr. of Weimar. The wedding is planned for August 3 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church at Nada...

**Mr. and Mrs. James Crabb** of the Woodlands, formerly of Eagle Lake, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Carol Sue**, to **Horace Lee Robison, III**, of Dennison. The wedding will take place July 20 at the Woodlands United Methodist Church...

**Allan and Jeanie Janak** of Palacios are proud to announce the birth of their first child.

**Brandon Allan** was born on Sunday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. He weighed eight pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21 1/2 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gold of Nada and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Janak of Palacios. Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Annie

**Korenek of Nada** and paternal great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Krejehl of Hillje...

**Chris and Kim Gold** of Louise are proud to announce the birth of their first child. **Jason Christopher** was born on Tuesday, May 28 at 12:20 p.m. at El Campo Memorial Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, six and one-half ounces and measured 21 inches long. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gold of Nada and maternal grandparents are Betty Courville of Louise and Mr. and Mrs. James Courville of Hallettsville. Maternal great grandfather is **Frank Popp** of Louise and paternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Annie Korenek of Nada...

**Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Godley Sr.**, of Altair, announce the birth of their fourth child, a son, born on May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital in Eagle Lake. The baby was named, **Jason Jermaine Godley**; weighed nine pounds three ounces. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Davis Tumor, of Altair. Paternal grandmother is Mrs. Esther Lee Stovall of Eagle Lake. Great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Spears of East Bernard...

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zahradnick** of Richmond, Virginia are pleased to announce the birth of their second son, born on May 24. Given the name **Anthony Lee**, the little mister weighed nine pounds, 14 ounces at birth...

**Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dela Rosa** of Richmond are proud to announce the birth of their son **Richard Saul Dela Rosa**, born at 2:16 p.m. on May 10 at Polly Ryan Memorial Hospital in Richmond. The baby weighed eight pounds and five ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches...

**Iris Danklefs**, of Garwood, retiring with 21 years of service was honored by the high school faculty, administration and cafeteria personnel with a retirement luncheon on Friday, May 24 in the Rice High School Commons...

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