

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Senate Eyes Seatbelt Law Changes

AUSTIN — The Texas Senate on May 14 approved legislation that requires automobile passengers of all ages to buckle their seatbelts, no matter where they sit.

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, author of SB 1028, said, "This is about safety; it's about making sure that people don't end up dying or in the hospital."

Watson said Texas Department of Transportation figures show that in 2006 there were nearly 400 traffic fatalities that could have been prevented by wearing a seatbelt, and that passengers not wearing seatbelts are twice as likely to be hospitalized after a crash.

Texas would join 35 other states that mandate seatbelts for all passengers if the bill is approved by the House and signed by the governor.

Sales tax holiday set to expand

The House on May 13 passed HB 1801, legislation that would expand the Aug. 21-23 state sales tax holiday to include school supplies. Current law limits the sales tax holiday to clothing and shoes.

"School clothes and sneakers are already eligible for tax-exemption and we think crayons and paper ought to be too," said Rep. Trey Martinez-Fisher, D-San Antonio. "We have been working

since 2005 to make school supplies more affordable for Texas families, and I am pleased that through a bi-partisan effort we are about to make that a reality." Rep. Dwayne Bohac, R-Houston, is coauthor of the bill.

The state comptroller's office estimates that those who purchase clothing and school supplies during the upcoming sales tax holiday would save a total of \$9.5 million in sales taxes if HB 1801 passes.

Senate passes stem cell measure

The state Senate on May 14 approved a bill intended to help lawmakers determine the extent of stem cell research being performed by state agencies. SB 2573 by Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, would require all state agencies involved in biomedical research to submit a report detailing any research involving stem cells or human cloning.

State representative hospitalized

Rep. Edmund Kuempel, R-Seguin, was found collapsed in a state Capitol elevator on May 12, after suffering an apparent heart attack.

Rep. John Zerwas, R-Houston, a physician, and Texas Department of Public Safety officers, rendered first aid on the spot. Kuempel was transported to an

Austin hospital where he was put into a medically induced coma as part of ongoing treatment.

Kuempel, 66, is chairman of the House Committee on Licensure and Administrative Procedure.

Texas remembers fallen officers

On May 15, Peace Officer Memorial Day, state Capitol Complex flags were flown at half staff in memory of fallen police officers. The day is part of National Police Week.

Human Services chief retires

Texas Health and Human Services Commissioner Albert Hawkins announced his retirement after a 35-year career in state government.

Hawkins, head of the agency since January 2003, earlier served as a senior White House aide to then-President George W. Bush. From 1995 to 2000 he was governor's office budget director for then-Gov. Bush. Before that, Hawkins was an employee of the state Legislative Budget Board for 16 years.

Parks & Wildlife cancels Expo

Carter Smith, executive director of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, announced that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Expo

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
 By Ed Sterling

scheduled for Oct. 3-4 has been canceled and plans for the 2010 Expo have been suspended.

Smith said costs of putting on the events previously were underwritten by sponsors, but sponsorship has been adversely affected by the economic downturn.

AG charges telemarketing firms

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on May 14 charged three telemarketing firms with participating in an illegal scheme to sell vehicle service contracts that were falsely marketed as extended warranties.

Two California-based telemarketing firms, SCM Media Inc. and On Point Media Inc., along with a Nevada company, Pacific Guard Warranty LLC, are named defendants in the state's enforcement action.

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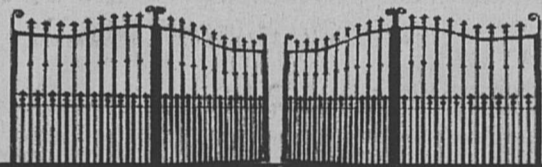
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Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

June 13, 1985

Arthur J. Willrodt, 86, passed away early Sunday morning, June 9, when the car he was driving crashed near Frelsburg. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, June 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus by the Rev. Father Brian Crookes. Burial was in the Oddfellows Rest Cemetery in Columbus. A Parish Rosary was held Monday night at 6 p.m. at Henneke Funeral Home followed by the Knights of Columbus Rosary service at 6:15 p.m.

James H. Barclay, 85, of Eagle Lake, father of Mrs. June Mahalic, passed away on June 7 at 2:46 a.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 10 from Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Charles Runk, pastor

of Eagle Lake United Methodist Church, officiating. Graveside services and burial was held at 4 p.m. Monday at the Memory Garden Cemetery in Victoria...

Bernice Kraatz Koliba, 77, of Columbus, passed away Friday June 7 in the Columbus Community hospital. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, June 9, at 1 p.m. at Henneke Funeral Home in Columbus with the Rev. George Welsch of Eagle Lake officiating. Burial was in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin...

Navy Seaman Apprentice James L. Williamson, a resident of Sheridan, recently enlisted in the Navy Reserve through the Sea Air Mariner (SAM) Program. The program allows Williamson to attend boot camp between semesters of school or during the summer and remain at home to drill one weekend a month.

Williamson is currently assigned with Mobile Assignment Control Group 1007 at the Houston Naval Reserve Center. He joined the Navy in May 1984...

Mr. and Mrs. Mike E. Gertson, of Eagle Lake, proudly announce the birth of their first child, a son, born on May 19 at 7:41 a.m. at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The baby was named Mike Ryan Gertson and weighed eight pounds six ounces at birth. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. N. Joe Hollier of Wallis. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Gertson Sr. of Eagle Lake. Great grandparents are Alfred Andrew Gertson of Eagle Lake, Mary Lichey of Columbus and Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Hollier of Alvin...

Mr. and Mrs. Luther D. Sheldon of Sheridan announce the birth of their first grandson born to Nancy and David Sheldon on

May 26 in Bedford County Memorial Hospital in Bedford, Virginia. The baby was named Austin Baldwin Sheldon. The little lad weighed seven pounds and seven ounces. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Baldwin of Georgewest...

Miss Rose Fajkus, of Eagle Lake, became the bride of William J. Lobnitz, of Irving, in an impressive double ring ceremony at 3 p.m. of June 1, 1985 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Eagle Lake, with Father Ray Widacki officiating...

St. Mary's Catholic Church of Nada was the beautiful setting for the marriage of Deborah Ann Wilson, of Eagle Lake, to Robert Lee Labay, of Nada, on Saturday, May 11 at 2:30 in the afternoon. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky, pastor of St. Mary's Church, officiated at the double ring ceremony...

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Three Sentenced In County Court

The following three individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, May 13. They included:

Ronald Ray Cockren, Jr., assault causes bodily injury family member. Sentenced to 10 days in jail, fined \$750 plus court costs.

Abigail Erin Griffith, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$2,000 plus court costs.

Michelle Maddox, theft. Re-

duced to Class C. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$165 plus court costs.

Two Lawsuits In District Court

Two lawsuits were filed in Colorado County District Court in the last week.

On May 18, Cach, LLC filed suit against Gary Dybala in a dispute over payments for two vehicles.

The suit claims Dybala is in default on payments on a 2004 Dodge Ram and a 2000 Ford 5-150

pickup. The suits claim more than \$14,000 is owned

Divorces granted

Rhonda Anne Magness and James Daniel Magness Jr., May 18.

Keandra Lourraine Wilson and Henry Wilson Sr., May 18.

Roney Carroll and Georgina Davis, May 18.

Divorces filed

Rodney Allan Hinze and Kristy Ann Hinze, May 13.

Janette Allene Chester and Keith Randall Startz, May 18.

Library Seeks Wall Honorees

The Wintermann Library Board of Directors is taking nominations for the Eula and David Wintermann Library Wall of Honor. Nominees should be those who have taken part in the accomplishments and/or support of the library.

The Wall of Honor was established in 2006. The first inductees were Fair Wells, Betty Wegenhof, Dr. Raymond Thomas, Elmer Struss and Harry and Nancy Anderson. Those who have been added since are Betty and Bob Wilcox and Joe and Candy McCreary. Their names are included

on a plaque that hangs in the library.

The inductee this year will be presented at the Study Club Auction on September 19. If you are interested in nominating someone, stop by the library and pick up an application. Nominations must be

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Fri: Fried Catfish & Fries \$5.99

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