

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Governor Signs Reform Bill For State Living Centers

AUSTIN — It's bill signing and vetoing time for Gov. Rick Perry.

He suffered a broken collar bone in a June 9 bicycling accident near his residence, but exercised his pen with a pile of legislation awaiting his signature.

On June 11, he signed SB 643, enacting emergency reforms for Texas' state-supported living centers, formerly referred to as "state schools." The legislation

increases oversight and protection for residents of centers and for those enrolled in community-based services.

The projected cost of the package of reforms is \$32.7 million through Aug. 31, 2011, and another \$40 million from Sept. 1, 2011 through the end of fiscal year 2014.

Among its many reforms, SB 643 increases penalties for

employees who abuse or neglect residents, or fail to report abuse or neglect, Perry's office said. And, it requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services to contract with an independent patient safety organization to conduct mortality assessments to determine if deaths could have been prevented.

Among the many people present for the signing ceremony were primary author Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Grapevine, and House sponsor Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs.

Voters to decide on 11 proposals

During the 81st regular session of the Texas Legislature, which ended June 1, the House and Senate passed nine joint resolutions that will appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot as proposed amendments to the state constitution.

In the coming months, the Secretary of State's office will publish analyses the proposed amendments, including what supporters and opponents say about each.

Here are somewhat shortened captions of proposals on the ballot:

* To authorize the state to contribute money, property, and

other resources for the establishment, maintenance and operation of veterans hospitals in this state.

* To prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large or entities granted the power of eminent domain.

* To establish the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund.

* To authorize the Legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

* To set uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

* To authorize the Legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated

equalizations.

* To provide that elected members of governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years.

* To protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

* To authorize the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.

* To allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.

* To authorize the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation.

Back to Austin for lawmakers

Gov. Perry has warned to the idea, but has not set a date for lawmakers to return to Austin to settle unfinished business in a 30-day special session.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

The Senate, the House and Perry are under pressure to pass "sunset bills" that would allow the continuation of the Texas Department of Insurance, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Racing Commission and the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation.

Without the Legislature's approval, those agencies will clock out for good on Sept. 1, 2010.

AG chastizes reorganized GM

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on June 10 raised Cain with the "new General Motors" for putting thousands of Texas dealers, workers and their families at risk by modifying franchise agreements with take-it-or-leave-it stipulations.

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Let's Look Back... 24 YEARS AGO

July 11, 1985

Mary Ann Becak of Garwood received a bachelor degree in animal science at Texas A&M University's spring commencement exercises...

Becky Yvonne Bengé of Eagle Lake daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Major Bengé, is listed on the dean's honor roll for the spring semester at the Angelo State University in San Angelo...

Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Hunt of Katy announce the birth of their first child, a son, named Trey Brandon. The baby was born at 11:20 a.m. on June 28 at Spring Branch Memorial Hospital and weighed seven pounds, three ounces...

Derek Michael Gonseaux, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gonseaux of Katy was born on June 18 at 6:18 a.m. in Katy Memorial Hospital. He weighed nine pounds, two ounces and

measured 22 inches...

Kirby Gordon and his wife, Patricia proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Tranasha Alease born June 26 at 1:39 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. She weighed seven pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches...

Deleslyn Pearl Valenta of Eagle Lake and Steven Dale Venghaus of Columbus were united in marriage Saturday, June 15 at the First Baptist Church in Eagle Lake. The double ring ceremony was performed by Rev.

Melburn Sibley...

Mr. and Mrs. Thurston Webb of Eagle Lake announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Sharri Kay to Glendale Ross Payne son of Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Seaholm of Eagle Lake and Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie Payne of Alvin. The couple will wed August 17 at 4 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake...

day, June 18 at 11 a.m. from Jackson Funeral Home in Houston with Rev. Eldridge Edwards officiating. Burial was in Houston Memorial Garden Cemetery...

Funeral services were conducted June 25 for Mary Schmitt Schmidt, 79, of the Ramsey community, who passed away June 23 at Eagle Lake Community Hospital. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25 from St. Roch's Catholic Church in Mentz with Rev. Bernard Snock, pastor, officiating. Burial was in St. Roch's Catholic Cemetery.

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the week ending May 21.

Friday, May 8

At 8:50 pm, Deputy Zak responded to Zimmerscheidt Road north of Columbus in reference to an ATV accident. The victim was transported by EMS to the Columbus ER for treatment. Case closed.

Saturday, May 9

At 1:55 am, Deputy Zak responded to a residence on FM 1890 west of Columbus in reference to a disturbance. After further investigation, Jacob Miles Cassell, 27 of Columbus, was arrested for assault with bodily

injury and felony possession of marihuana. Case closed.

Sunday, May 10

At 3:12 am, Sgt. Pflughaupt located a suspicious person walking in the area of FM 102 near Stevenson Street in Eagle Lake. After further investigation, Gilbert Ruiz, 44 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for possession of marihuana and evading arrest or detention. Case closed.

At 5:45 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt responded to a residence in Alleyton in reference to indecency with a child. On arrival, several witnesses were contacted and a suspect was identified. After further investigation, a warrant was issued and the case is pending

apprehension. At 9:42 pm, Deputy Zak conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 90 east of the Sheriff's Office in Columbus. After further investigation, Christian Jerome Shelton, 24 of Fort Worth, was arrested for no driver's license, no proof of liability insurance, and theft of a firearm. Case closed.

At 10:23 pm, Sgt. Pflughaupt initiated a traffic stop on Old Alleyton Road in Alleyton. After further investigation, Gene Ray Ritter, 60 of Wimberly, was arrested for driving while license invalid and no proof of liability insurance. Case closed.

Monday, May 11

At 8:05 am, Deputy Head responded to Heinsohn's Store in Frelsburg in reference to a burglary. A description of stolen property was obtained and evidence was collected. Case is pending identification of suspect(s).

At 2:45 pm, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence on River Plant Road near Altair in reference to a subject tampering with an electric meter. After further investigation, Ernst Barton Henry "Bart", 63 of Alleyton, was arrested on two counts of criminal mischief.

At 7: 50 pm, Deputy Gonzalez responded to Reeves Road south of Rock Island in reference to an ATV accident. On arrival, the victim had already been transported to the Rice Medical Center by EMS for treatment. Case closed.

Tuesday, May 12

At 9:50 am, Deputy Head conducted a traffic stop on FM 109 in New Ulm. After further investigation, James Edward Mobley, 52 of Weimar, was arrested on an outstanding parole warrant. Case closed.

Wednesday, May 13

At 8 am, Deputy Head responded to Texas Manufactured Marble in reference to a stolen trailer. The trailer was described as a 16 foot black pipe lowboy. The trailer was entered into the State and National database as stolen.

Continued on next page

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