

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Texas Unemployment Rate Growing Despite New Jobs

AUSTIN —The Texas Workforce Commission reported Aug. 21 that Texas added 37,900 new non-agricultural jobs in July.

But, 941,000 able Texas residents were listed as unemployed in July.

In June, 899,800 people were listed as unemployed, so even with the reported gain, that is a net loss of jobs over the month of July. Consequently, the unemployment rate grew from 7.4 percent to 7.9 percent - still less

than the national unemployment rate of 9.4 percent.

The Commission also reported that 129,455 unemployed Texas residents will exhaust their unemployment benefits over the five-month period between August 2009 and Jan. 2, 2010.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, in its August regional economic update for Texas, said, "Despite the signs of stabilization, employment continues to decline, though there is evidence of im-

provement on this front as well. The most recent employment forecast estimates that Texas will see a decline of 2.8 percent in 2009. While not especially encouraging, it is a significant improvement from the previous forecast of minus-3.5 percent."

Drink, Drive, Go to Jail campaign

The annual "Drink, Drive, Go to Jail" campaign will be observed during the Labor Day holiday.

The campaign is a joint project of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Yellow Cab and local law enforcement agencies.

"The price of a cab ride pales in comparison to the hefty fines, attorney fees and other cost associated with being arrested for driving while intoxicated," said David Baker of the Texas Highway Patrol.

Convicted first-time DWI offenders can pay a fine of up to \$2,000, lose their driver's license for as long as a year, and serve 180 days in jail. Other costs associated with a drunken driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than \$17,000 for bail, legal fees, court appearances, court-ordered classes, vehicle

insurance increases and other expenses.

Panel to decide in Keller case

A four-day state district court hearing in the case of Judge Sharon Keller ended Aug. 20 in San Antonio.

Keller, who sits on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, is charged with judicial misconduct for not processing a late hour death row appeal in September 2007.

It's now up to the 13-member State Commission on Judicial Conduct to deliberate on findings of fact in the case, and rule. Possible outcomes: the dropping of charges, censure, or a recommendation that Keller be removed from office.

Hurricane preparations under way

Lessons learned because of monumentally disastrous Hurricane Ike last September are still fresh, and as named storms in the Atlantic Ocean rattle westward, generally toward us, Texas is coordinating disaster plans.

On Aug. 18, the Texas Department of Transportation said it, along with other state agencies, volunteer groups and private sector partners, are preparing. Responders are forming logistical

support teams and working on evacuation and reentry, emergency traffic control, debris removal plans, and updating phone lists and Web sites.

After 36 hours, charges go up

The amount of time it takes the Texas Historical Commission to produce public information for requestors is going to make a difference shortly.

Employees of the Commission who round up information for inspection or making copies will have to keep track of the time expended for each requestor.

If they go past 36 hours for you, the Commission will assess charges for personnel time. The hours will be calculated over the agency's fiscal year, which starts Sept. 1 and ends Aug. 31, 2010.

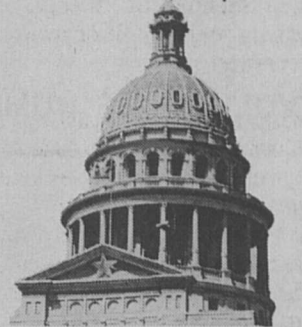
Off-highway vehicle parks coming

The sale of those \$8 official state decals that must be displayed on off-highway motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles is bringing in enough revenue to improve and build more park facilities where OHVs can be operated.

Parks & Wildlife plans to spend more than half a million dollars in decal revenue in 2010-2011 for such purposes as land surveys,

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Mike Cox

appraisals, land acquisitions and biological or cultural surveys.

Perry asks for emergency funds

In an Aug. 18 letter to President Barack Obama, Gov. Rick Perry requested a federal emergency declaration for the state because of the extreme fire hazard from ongoing exceptional drought conditions. Also requested was funding for additional firefighting resources.

Celebrated Texas novelist dies

Elmer Kelton, 83, died Aug. 22, 2009, of natural causes. The Crane native wrote more than 60 books, mostly western novels. His work experience included 15 years as a farm and ranch writer for the San Angelo Standard-Times.

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Sunday: 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Let's Look Back...

24 YEARS AGO

September 19, 1985
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Gonzales, Jr., announce the birth of their first child born on September 15 at 7:01 a.m. at the Eagle Lake Community Hospital. The baby weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces. Her name is Vanessa Cristine Gonzales...

Edith Caroline Waddell Ercanbrack was laid to rest beside her husband, **Joe Eldrod Ercanbrack**, in the Veterans Administration Cemetery in Westwood, California having passed away on

August 28 at her home in Downey, California...

Graveside services were held September 17 at Garwood for **Colin Kirk Engstrom** infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Engstrom.

He was born September 13 in Wharton...

Mrs. Hertha Herman, 79, of Lissie passed away on Monday, September 16 at 5:55 p.m. in Eagle Lake. Funeral Services are scheduled for Wednesday, September

18 at 2 p.m. from Dulany Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. E.B. Beasley, pastor of Lissie United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was to follow at Lakeside Cemetery.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

Sixteen Indictments By Grand Jury

Sixteen indictments were returned by the Colorado County Grand Jury, meeting on Aug. 13. Those indicted included:

—Michael A. Adams, 32, of Columbus, possession of a controlled substance, less than a gram of cocaine on July 24.

—Cameron M. Burke, 18, of Houston, possession of a controlled substance, less than 20 units of lysergic acid diethylamide, on July 1.

—Deborah G. Cantu, 41, of Eagle Lake, aggravated assault on July 13.

—Andre D. Carter, 19, of Columbus, attempted capital murder on June 14 of William Thomas Whitehead and De'Onna Whitehead.

—Neil R. Ceccati, 20, of Houston, possession of a controlled substance, less than a gram of heroin on July 29.

—Jeffrey J. Clark, 29, of Santa Fe, attempted aggravated, conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of a criminal instrument on June 24, involving Fayette Savings and Loan in Columbus.

—John F. Collins, 45, of Houston, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon on June 27.

—Timothy S. Emberton, 24, of Houston, debit card abuse on March 20.

—Danny Gonzales, 19, of Columbus, possession of a controlled

substance, less than a gram of cocaine on July 31.

—Andrew J. Manuel, 30, of Sealy, evading arrest on April 5.

—Jose R. Medina, 29 of Mission, possession of marijuana, between five and 50 pounds, on July 1.

—Raul A. Miramontes, 21, of Eagle Lake, assault on a public servant on July 19, involving assaults on Sheriff's Deputy Shawn Zak and DPS Trooper Patrick Mladenka.

—Connie C. Pavlicek, 55, of Fayetteville, possession of a controlled substance, less than a gram of cocaine, on Aug. 3.

—Jose J. Sanchez, 25, of Houston, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and criminal mischief, on June 29.

—Carlos Urbina, 23, of Brookshire, criminal mischief on June 29.

There was one indictment sealed, pending the arrest of the individual.

Eighteen Sentenced In County Court

Eighteen individuals were sentenced in Colorado County Court on Wednesday, August 19. They included:

Adam Cole, possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 15 days in jail.

Joel Lara, possession dangerous drugs. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined

\$350 and ordered to attend drug classes.

Moises Martinez, driving while intoxicated-2nd offense. Sentenced to 18 months probation, fined \$1,000 plus court costs, 72 hours in jail as COP.

Oscar Sewell, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150 plus court costs, AA, BIPP, shelter fee.

Francisco Osornio, assault family violence. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150, BIPP.

Jacob Miles Cassell, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to 180 days in jail.

David Castillo, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to 125 days in jail.

James E. Eaton, Jr., possession of marijuana. Sentenced to 25 days in jail, weekends.

Mayra Marquez, graffiti pecuniary loss. Sentenced to six months deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs, \$200 restitution.

Sonny Edward Martinez, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Chad Edmund Muras, assault causing bodily injury family member. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$150 plus court costs, restitution.

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

John Christopher Shaffer, reckless driving. Sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Juan Martin Vasquez, assault causing bodily injury. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$350 plus court costs, ordered to attend anger management classes and \$558.95 restitution.

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

Kristen Woolman, theft stolen property. Sentenced to three days in jail, fined \$250 plus court costs.

Christina Mackey, assault family violence. Sentenced to 10 days in jail.

Christopher Ames, failure to identify. Sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Continued on next page

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Feliz Cumpleaños Papi

PEDRO RAMIREZ
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