



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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email: eaglelakeheadlight@sbcglobal.net
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Budget Demands May Force Medicaid Fee Reduction

AUSTIN — Texas doctors, dentists and hospitals could find their Medicaid fees reduced by 1 percent if a budget reduction plan forwarded by the state Health and Human Services Commission is adopted.

HHS Commissioner Tom Suehs said health care providers, including nursing homes and group homes for the mentally disabled, could see a 2 percent reduction when treating adults.

Stephanie Goodman, spokeswoman for the commission, said the commission has not yet adopted the plan.

The budget-cutting proposal also includes reducing the num-

ber of beds for psychiatric patients, postponing hiring new food safety inspectors and trimming 10 percent from the money that trauma hospitals receive from the Driver Responsibility Program.

Suehs offered the \$304 million in reductions after a request from state leaders for agencies to find ways to trim 5 percent of their budgets to meet a projected budget shortfall.

Texas boosted Medicaid payments for pediatric care and child dental care in recent years in response to a class-action lawsuit. Some fear that progress in Medicaid care could be undone if the reimbursements are trimmed.

Lottery bid deadline extended

Texas lottery officials have added another 30 days to the deadline for companies to bid on the contract to run the state lottery.

The extra time was added because of possible information sharing between current lottery vendor GTECH Corp. and a lottery consultant.

Gary Grief, executive director of the state lottery, said companies now have an extra month to bid on the contract while state officials investigate the possible collusion.

GTECH had a contract with consultant Gartner Inc. during the time Gartner was helping Texas lottery officials write bid specifications for a new contract.

GTECH President Jaymin Patel said there was no sharing of information and no conflict of interest. But some state officials believe GTECH might have had a competitive advantage because of the contract with Gartner.

Perry seeks federal reimbursement

Gov. Rick Perry said he will ask the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to reimburse Texas for holding illegal immigrants awaiting deportation or serving prison sentences for crimes.

Perry said Texas spends \$13.5 million a month on illegal immi-

grants, including approximately 9,000 in custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Perry said he intends to send a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano asking for the reimbursement.

There's precedent for the state seeking money back from Uncle Sam.

For example, Gov. Ann Richards and others sued the federal government in 1994 seeking \$5 billion to care for, educate and incarcerate illegal immigrants.

Eventually \$42 million was provided to several states, including Texas, to cover some of those costs.

More details on new jobs program

State officials have launched a new "Texas Back to Work" project that offers incentive payments to businesses that hire unemployed workers.

Earlier this month, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Texas Workforce Commission officials said as many as 15,000 unemployed

workers could find jobs through the program.

Texas companies will be eligible for \$500 a month for four months for hiring someone who is receiving unemployment insurance or whose unemployment insurance benefits have expired.

Those hired must have earned \$15 an hour in their previous jobs, and only private-sector employers qualify for the benefit.

Dewhurst said the Legislature approved \$15 million for the program last session and that funding can be extended.

The Workforce Commission has applied for \$50 million in federal funding as well.

The Texas unemployment rate is at 8.3 percent.

Anti-money laundering pact made

As part of a \$94 million settlement, Western Union has reached an agreement with Tex., Cal., Ariz. and N. Mex. to share information on wire transfers from the United States to fight illegal money laun-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

dering.

The agreement also creates the Southwest Border Anti-Money Laundering Alliance.

As part of the settlement, Western Union will provide information regarding certain wire transfers sent to or from authorized Western Union locations within Tex., share Suspicious Activity Reports about wire transfers to and from Tex. and the other states and provide information about transactions suspected of having a connection to human trafficking operations.

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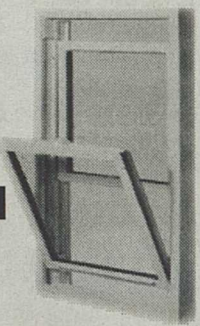
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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

March 13, 1986

Hilario S. Diaz, of Eagle Lake has been awarded a certificate for 60 continuous years of membership in good standing with W. Cherry-M. Perry Post 108 of the American Legion in Eagle Lake...

Josephine Emma Harry, 90, passed away March 9... Elementary science fair winners in Sheridan were Jessica Young, Lisa Linnemier, Andrea Machac, Latrell Godley and Shari Grahmann.

Staff Sgt. Walter R. Williams, Jr., son of Walter R. and Margaret L. Williams of Alleyton has been decorated with the Army achievement medal in West Germany...

Margaret Hurd Flowers passed away on March 2 at Eagle Lake Community Hospital...

Divisional science fair winners at Sheridan School were Sarah Hesson, Nerissa Brisco, Amy Jahn, Joshua Grahmann, Jennifer Hooper and Shara Querner...

Major Robert Charles Price, stationed in Maryland, formerly of Eagle Lake, passed away Feb. 6...

Junior high school winners in the science fair at Sheridan were Shee Venghaus, Raymond Ford, Shawn Simme, Aaron Machac,

Becky Midgett, Donna Greak, Roxanne Tesch, Becky Faichinger, Jenny Hessong, and Shelley Slawinski.

March 10, 1960

Winners in the Eagle Lake High School Science Fair were Larry Tate, Jerry Powers and Gerald Bridwell...

A.W. Kohleffel filed his application for a place on the city election ballot...

J.T. (Tommy) Pilkington has been appointed Constable of Eagle Lake Pct. No. 8...

Miss Patsy Van Matre and Vernon Miculka were united in marriage at the First Baptist Church of La Porte. Vernon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Miculka of Eagle Lake. Patsy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Van Matre of La Porte...

Two 4-H club members won places at the 1960 Fat Stock Show. Sue Ellen Rolf's calf won first and Wayne Corman's heifer won third. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Rolf and he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V.R. Corman...

Miss Jo Ann Sens and Guy Burkhart will be married in the First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake on March 12 at 8 p.m. Rev. W.J. Miller, pastor of the Grace

Lutheran Church will read the wedding ceremony...

Jack Dowdy completed qualification on Feb. 29 for a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Oklahoma A&M College...

Cindy Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Thomas received a first division rating at the University Interscholastic League Solo and Ensemble Contest in Texas City...

Friends of the Eagle Lake and Lissie communities learned with deep regret of the death of Robert W. Brown...

Miss Jo Ann Sens daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Sens and the bride-elect of Guy Burkhart was complimented with a kitchen and linen shower Feb. 27 by Mrs. Lonnie Sommerlatte and Miss Martha Pidgeon of Houston in the Sommerlatte home...

Funeral services were held March 7 for Henry Labay, 61, a long time resident of the Garwood community...

Mrs. Sylvia S. Danklefs of Garwood has been named as crew leader for this area of the 1960 Census...

Michael Meitzen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Meitzen celebrated his 6th birthday with a party given by his mother. Special guests were his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Meitzen, Sr.

Colorado County Courthouse Report

Grand Jury Indicts Thirteen

The Colorado County grand jury, meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11, returned 13 indictments for felony offenses.

Those charged included:

—Crystal A. Smith, 23, of Eagle Lake, murder. She is accused of killing Gary McTear Jr. on Dec. 22 by running over him with a motor vehicle.

—Robert T. Bruce, 24, of Columbus, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon on June 15, 2008.

—Ray W. Head, 54, of Brenham, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon on Dec. 15.

—Khistopher R. Hicks, 24, of Columbus, evading arrest on Dec. 29.

—Dusty S. Holt, 28, of Sheridan burglary on Jan. 2 and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon on Jan. 3.

—George Howard Jr., 59, of Eagle Lake, illegal dumping of 1,000 pounds or more, involving trash and construction debris, on Sept. 30.

—Teresa D. Jackson, 28, of Rock Island, burglary on Jan. 2.

—Lamont D. Johnson, 24, of Weimar, delivery of a controlled substance, cocaine, between 4 and 200 grams, on Nov. 9.

—Hugo Llanos Jr., 29, of Eagle Lake, aggravated assault on Dec. 22.

—Alan R. McNea, 27, of Webster, possession of marijuana, between four ounces and five pounds on Dec. 10.

—Jose I. Rios, 26, of El Campo, driving while intoxicated on Nov. 20.

—Gregory M. Wesselski, 17, of

Garwood, indecency with a child on Oct. 1.

—Fakhruz Zaman, 53, of Columbus, assault with bodily injury on Nov. 3.

Twelve Sentenced In District Court

Twelve individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Feb. 8. They included:

Cody M. Besch, theft. Probation conditions modified to SAFFP.

Cody M. Besch, burglary of habitation. Probation conditions modified to SAFFP.

Cody M. Besch, theft of firearm. Probation conditions modified to SAFFP.

Andre Dewayne Carter, prohibited substance correction facility-alcohol/drug/phon. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.

Andre Dewayne Carter, attempted capital murder multiple persons. Sentenced to 40 years ID-TDCJ.

Timothy S. Emberton, credit card or debit card abuse. Sentenced to 10 months state jail.

Jamar Glenn, theft of firearm. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$500, two weeks in jail as COP.

Calvin P. Hill, possession of controlled substance. Sentenced

to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$500.

Horace Lee Hodges, Sr., delivery of a controlled substance. Sentenced to four years ID-TDCJ.

Monique M. Johnson, unauthorized use of vehicle. Sentenced to six months state jail.

Monique M. Johnson, bail jumping and fail to appear felony. Sentenced to two years ID-TDCJ (credit for 18 days jail).

Evan A. Martin-McKamie, possession of controlled substance. Sentenced to one year deferred adjudication, fined \$500 plus \$140 restitution.

Lamonte D. Miller, aggravated assault with deadly weapon. Sentenced to 10 years ID-TDCJ.

Lamonte D. Miller, unlawful use of a firearm. Sentenced to 15 years ID-TDCJ.

Charles E. Mosby, delivery of controlled substance. Sentenced to seven years ID-TDCJ.

Charles E. Mosby, possession of controlled substance. Sentenced to seven years ID-TDCJ.

Kevin O. Phynon, burglary of building. Sentenced to three years deferred adjudication, fined \$500, 10 days in jail as COP.

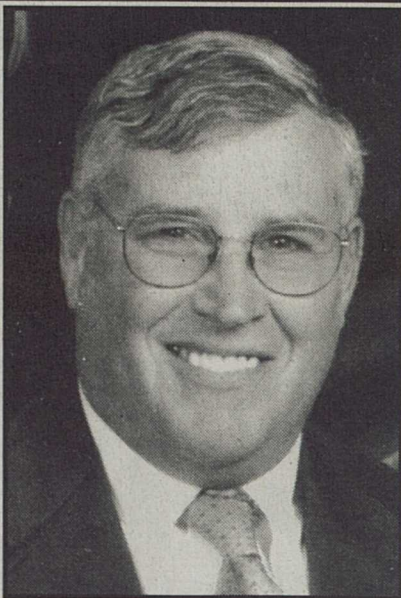
John Robert Villanueva, prohibited substance correction facility-alcohol/drug/phon. Sentenced to six months county jail, reduced to Class B (possession of marijuana).

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HELP KEEP THE
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RE-ELECT
DARRELL D. GERTSON

FOR COLORADO COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PCT. #4



- Twelve years experience as Foreman under the tenure of Commissioner Sonny Spanihel.
- Eleven years experience as Colorado County Commissioner.
- Instrumental in overseeing the construction of the EMS new buildings in Columbus and Eagle Lake.
- Has always been and will always be a 24/7 Commissioner.
- Qualified, Experienced and Dedicated.
- Committees appointed to serve on by the Colorado County Commissioner's Court: Houston-Galveston Area Council, HGAC Solid Waste Committee, Clean Rivers Steering Committee, Sam Houston Area Resource and Conservation Committee, Colorado River Floodplain Coalition, Committee to select the Emergency Management Coordinator and the Emergency Management Services Director and Working with FEMA on Disaster Recovery Efforts

YOUR VOTE FOR DARRELL D. GERTSON IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES ON MARCH 2, 2010, FOR COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4 WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

(Remember February 16 is early voting at the Courthouse)

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY DARRELL GERTSON CAMPAIGN, 1007 HONEYDEW LANE, EAGLE LAKE, TX, 77434, GAIL GERTSON, TREASURER.