

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Funding Increases Possible For Health Care Expansion

The federal government's passage of health care reform legislation in late March will have a big impact on Texas, as an estimated six million Texans have been going without health care insurance.

Reforms are expected to return billions of dollars to Texas

through health insurance tax credits for middle class and low-income Texans and Medicaid coverage for the poorest citizens.

"Medicaid expansion to cover working poor parents of children on Texas Medicaid today will be 100 percent federally funded for three years, with the state getting

nine federal dollars for each state dollar from 2020 on forward," said Anne Dunkelberg of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a non-partisan, Austin-based research and advocacy group.

"Twice as many now-uninsured Texans will gain coverage by purchasing affordable private insurance through the new Health Insurance Exchange as will gain Medicaid, bringing even more federal dollars to Texas with no state matching dollars required."

The reform keeps in place Texas' private insurance and health care delivery sector, while filling the gaps that have left too many Texans lacking care or overwhelmed by debt, she added.

Meanwhile, the Senate State Affairs Committee had a March 31 interim meeting, taking testimony from officials on the impact of health care reform here in Texas.

Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin suggested the fiscal impact on his agency would be large but uncertain, as there has not been such a large policy undertaking in decades.

He said the Department of Insurance will prepare for a range of scenarios and develop a consumer education effort.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Tom Suehs said

expansions required by health care reform increase Medicaid eligibility up to 130 percent of the federal poverty level, potentially adding more than 2 million Texans to the Medicaid rolls.

H1N1 shots still recommended

Overall, flu activity in Texas is classified as sporadic but the state health department is continuing to encourage people to get the H1N1 flu vaccination now to protect themselves.

More than 50 hospitalizations and at least three deaths related to H1N1 influenza were reported in the month of March in Texas.

Health Commissioner Dr. David Lakey on March 31 said, "There is plenty of vaccine to go around.

People who have not been vaccinated should do so now."

Hutchison to finish Senate term

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced March 31 that she will complete her term in the Senate, which expires in 2012.

In her announcement delivered at the San Antonio airport, Hutchison said, "For family reasons, I had planned to begin making a transition home to Texas this spring, but it is clear to me that the stakes in our nation's Capitol have never been higher.

President Obama's victory on health care legislation has emboldened those who want an even bigger and more intrusive federal government."

Hutchison, the ranking member of two powerful committees, had planned to resign from the Senate whether she won or lost in her bid to be the Republican nominee for governor of Texas.

Incumbent Gov. Rick Perry, who won the GOP nomination for governor, praised Hutchison's decision to remain in the Senate.

Judge denies request to intervene

A Travis County state district judge on March 31 denied Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's request to intervene in the county's first same-sex divorce case.

Abbott's deputies had filed court papers arguing that the two women, who had legally married in Massachusetts, could not legally be granted a divorce in Texas.

Judge Scott Jenkins, who granted the divorce in February, said a Dallas divorce case currently under appeal could provide precedent on the legality of same-sex divorce.

In that case, which involves two men, the Dallas County state district judge rejected Abbott's attempt to intervene.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

The Texas 5th District Court of Appeals in Dallas is scheduled to hear arguments in that case on April 21.

In 2005, Texas voters passed a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Rebate program to launch April 7

Texans may call (877) 780-3039 or visit www.TexasPowerfulSmart.org, beginning at 7 a.m. April 7, to reserve rebates under a program promoted by the state comptroller's office.

The rebates may be used to buy "Energy Star" energy-efficient appliances and replace the same type of old, functional appliance.

The purchase period start date for all appliances is April 16 and the program will end "when all funds are exhausted."

ANTIQUES

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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 1, 1986

Sam Marsalia, 74, of Eagle Lake passed away April 27. He had been a resident of this area all his life...

Mrs. Lena Alvarado won the truck giveaway from Wilcox Mini-max "Sesqui-Celebration"...

Funeral services were held for John Randall Nelson, 33, at St. Roch's Catholic Church in Mentz...

Mr. and Mrs. Edward (Teddy) Munoz announced the birth of their second child, a son, born April 25. He has been named Joshua Teddy (J.T.)...

Miss Neely Klopsteck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Klopsteck, was crowned Little Miss Wharton County Youth fair at the annual event April 14...

Miss Elizabeth Waddell, bride-elect of Alan Uhlig, was honored at a bridal shower on April 18 at Mentz parish Hall...

Mr. and Mrs. Manual Spann of Columbus announced the engagement and impending marriage of their daughter, Sherri Leigh to Jeff Lang, son of Mr. and

Mrs. T Lang of Eagle Lake...

Brandon Michael Struss arrived in Austin on April 10. He is welcomed by his parents, Warren and Colleen and a sister, Heather. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Struss...

Laura Appelt and Valerie Benge, Rice High School seniors, were honored April 12 with a senior luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Bendy...

Christie Michelle Crane was honored on her sixth birthday with a party held April 22 at the Louis Crane, Jr. residence in Garwood given by her parents, Gary and Marla Crane...

April 28, 1960

George Cason, Jr. of Eagle Lake and Matthews has been elected president of the Gulf Coast Hereford Breeders Association...

Mrs. Marcus Gunter, home-making instructor at Eagle Lake High School will accompany Misses Mary Agnes Dromgoole, Esther Adkins and Pat Beseda to the state meeting of the Future Homemakers of America in Austin on April 28-30. Miss Dromgoole

will receive the state homemaking award, being only the second girl from Eagle Lake ever to achieve this high honor...

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Livanec of El Campo announce the engagement of their daughter, Alice Lorraine, to Joe J. Kallina, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Kallina of Garwood. The couple will be married June 4th in El Campo...

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mann were host and hostess to the Universal Motor Company Falcon bowling tem and their wives for a steak dinner and al the trimmings at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S.S. Sinclair...

Miss Henrietta Schoellmann and Billy Reese were named top students in the 1960 graduating class from Garwood...

Construction is underway on a beautiful new building for the Mill-Bauer Funeral Home on McCarty Street in Eagle Lake...

The Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce announced this week the winners in the essay contest held during Texas Industrial Week, April 1-8. Cecile Beyette won first place and \$7 cash prize.

We Need Volunteers, Volunteers, and MORE VOLUNTEERS

For Eagle Lake TRASH-OFF DAY

April 10

8 a.m.

City Hall

Colorado County Sheriff's Report

The Colorado County Sheriff's Department reported the following calls and cases for the period ending March 11.

Friday, February 26

At 10:25 am, Deputy Hudson responded to a residence on McDonald Road near Eagle Lake in reference to Criminal Mischief. The complainant reported a broken window. Case is pending further investigation.

At 11:15 am, Deputy Head responded to Nelson Lane near Bernardo in reference to fence damage. The complainant reported that someone drove through his fenceline on two separate locations. Case is pending further information.

At 12:40 pm, Deputy Head responded to IH-10 near the 704 mile marker east of Columbus in reference to a reckless driver. The suspect vehicle was stopped on Hwy 71 at Crossroads west of Columbus. After further investigation, Ryan Younger Blythe, 24 of San Antonio, was arrested for Driving While License Invalid and No Proof of Liability Insurance. Case closed.

At 7:25 pm, Deputy Blair initiated a traffic stop on Evans Dr. and the south feeder road of IH-10 in Alleyton. After further investigation, Annie Marie Jones, 31 of Columbus, was arrested for No Driver's License and No Proof of Liability Insurance. Case closed.

At 10:30 pm, Deputy Blair

initiated a traffic stop on Alleyton Road behind the Alleyton Shell Station. After further investigation, Jose Alberto Moreno, 22 of Weimar, was arrested for No Driver's License. The passenger, Miguel Angel Mendez, 23 of Weimar, was arrested for Public Intoxication. Case closed.

Saturday, February 27

At 12:20 pm, Deputy Hillier and Deputy Abbott initiated a traffic stop on Cat Spring Road and Center St. in Eagle Lake. After further investigation, Francisco Castro Martinez, 27 of Eagle Lake, was arrested for Driving While License Invalid, Expired Registration, No Proof of Liability Insurance, and three outstanding Eagle Lake Municipal warrants. Case closed.

At 12:30 pm, Deputy Toppel responded to a pasture on Cummins Creek Road in reference to a report of animal neglect. After further investigation, the situation was resolved and no charges are pending at this time. Case closed.

At 2 pm, Deputy Martell responded to the Eagle Lake Police Department in reference to a Peace Officer's Warrant for a mental patient. The patient was transported to West Oaks Hospital in Houston for treatment. Case closed.

Sunday, February 28

At 7:30 am, Deputy Hillier and

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