



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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Gov. Says Texas Can't Offer High Risk Insurance Pool

AUSTIN — The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 23, requires states to establish within 90 days "high risk

pools" for people with a preexisting medical condition who have been uninsured for at least six months when they apply.

The pools would allow en-

rollees to pay standard market premium rates with their coverage not subject to any preexisting condition exclusion.

But on April 30, Gov. Rick Perry sent a letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius notifying her that the state of Texas cannot commit to operating "a new temporary high-risk pool program due to the lack of program rules or reliable federal funding."

"I do not believe the aggressive implementation and the lack of assurances on financial solvency of the program are in the best interest of Texas taxpayers, families, patients or health care providers," Perry wrote.

The governor expressed concern over the absence of key contract terms and passage of federal rules and covenants to ensure financial solvency so that taxpayers and state revenue systems are held harmless.

Texans working on big oil spill

Crews from the Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program deployed with 1,000 feet of fire boom to help corral and burn the oil slick spreading from the damaged Deepwater Horizon oilrig off the coast of Louisiana.

A damaged wellhead on the ocean floor more than a mile beneath the surface is discharging an estimated 5,000 barrels of oil each day.

The spill threatens human health, wildlife and commerce along the Gulf coast.

BP Plc., manager of the leaking oil facility, said it would pay clean-up costs.

State defends 'under God' in pledge

Texas Solicitor General James Ho on April 27 defended the constitutionality of the Texas Pledge of Allegiance before the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The pledge, as amended in 2007, reads: "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

After the Texas Legislature

added the words "under God" to the Texas Pledge in 2007, a Dallas couple filed a lawsuit arguing that the amended pledge violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

At trial, the Office of the Attorney General successfully argued that patriotic acknowledgments of the Almighty are consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

The federal district court agreed, ruling that the revised state pledge is constitutional.

After the federal district judge issued its decision rejecting the plaintiffs' challenge in 2009, the plaintiffs appealed the adverse ruling to the Fifth Circuit.

"As the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged, reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance is an appropriate and constitutional way to begin each school day on the right note," Solicitor General Ho said.

"The Texas Pledge of Allegiance serves precisely the same function, to give students an opportunity to engage in a patriotic acknowledgement of the religious heritage of our state and our na-

tion."

Behind-wheel training increases

The Texas Department of Public Safety on April 28 said beginning May 1 anyone enrolling in a driver education course will be required to complete an additional 20 hours of behind the wheel instruction, including 10 hours of night-time instruction.

The training is in addition to the 32 hours of classroom training, seven hours of behind-the-wheel training and seven hours of in-car observation/practice that already are required.

'CHL' application goes online

Concealed handgun permit applicants can now complete the application form and schedule their digital fingerprint appointments online at the DPS Web site, www.txdps.state.tx.us.

The online application process debuted May 1.

Supplemental materials such as citizenship documents and criminal history are still required to be mailed in.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling

Parks to launch new software

The state park system of Texas soon will launch its new business software system.

A benefit for park customers is that people making online camping reservations will no longer pay the extra \$3 fee that has been charged for booking via the Web, Texas Parks and Wildlife said April 23.

The new system, TxParks, will go live on May 12 at all 93 state park locations and the agency's Customer Service Center for centralized reservations, located in Austin.

Benefit Bake Sale

For
Leo Cordova Memorial
Scholarship Fund

Saturday, May 8, 2010

8:00 a.m. - ??

Brookshire Brothers - Eagle Lake

German Weimar Gedenke 5/7 - 5/8!
Free Admission
German Music, Food, & Good Times!!

Friday, May 7 - Grounds open 5 p.m.
BBQ cook-off * Arts & Crafts Booths * Games/Contests
Kids Area * Biergarten * Food
Musical Entertainment—DJ Johnny Loco * Southbound 955

Sat., May 8
Fun run/walk 7:30 a.m.
Pie Contest

Grounds open 10 a.m.
Arts & Crafts Booths * Games/Contests
Kids Area * Food/Beverage * Biergarten
Museum opens with special exhibit

Parade at noon
BBQ Cook-off awards at 6:30 pm

Other activities & games include
Miss Weimar Pageant * Pony Carousel * Super Slide * Petting Zoo * Train Ride * Trampoline-Bungee Jump * Rock Climbing * Mechanical Bull Ride

Musical Entertainment throughout the day and night Saturday
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The Hit Men * Telstars

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and 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
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Click-It Or Ticket Reminder Given; New Seat Belt Laws Outlined

Memorial Day is coming and Texas AgriLife Extension Service Colorado County, wants to remind drivers and passengers that it is almost time for the annual Click It or Ticket campaign.

This year, the campaign has new seat belt and child safety seat laws to back it up.

The new seat belt law requires ALL passengers in both the front and back seat to buckle up. The new child safety seat law requires children under 8, unless taller than 4'9", to ride in a child safety seat system, which includes booster seats.

Although the adult seat belt law has been enforced since it became effective on September 1, 2009, the child safety seat law included a grace period that will end on June 1, 2010, when strict enforcement will begin.

More people in Texas are wearing their seat belts, but we

are still losing too many lives from traffic crashes.

Although seat belts have been proven to save lives, more than half of those killed in crashes were not buckled up.

Groups that are still not consistently wearing their seat belts include 16-20 year olds, pickup truck drivers and passengers, and male drivers and passengers.

Staying inside the vehicle is the key to surviving a crash. Statistics from 2008 showed that 77 percent of occupants who were thrown from their vehicle were killed.

Wearing your seat belt is the best way to increase your odds of survival in a crash. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts are credited with saving 255,115 lives from 1975 through 2008.

The Click It or Ticket campaign seeks to reach teens through a

website (<http://seatbeltsrock.com/>) where teens can create a personalized video to share with their friends.

The video follows teens as they begin a road trip and includes the names of their friends on billboards they pass along the way.

Teens who participate will be entered into a contest to win prizes.

The enforcement time for this year's campaign by the Texas Department of Transportation is May 24 through June 6.

During that time, extra law enforcement will be on the roads to enforce the new laws, with the goal of saving lives.

Save yourself the time, the money, the hassle, and potentially your life. Buckle your safety belt.

Wear it properly, and wear it every time you get into a vehicle. Spread the word — seat belts save lives!

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Five Sentenced In District Court

Five individuals were sentenced in Colorado County District Court on Monday, May 3 with District Court Judge Kirkendall presiding.

They included:

—Sharon A. Beyer, engaging in organized criminal activity, three years deferred adjudication and \$500 fine.

—Michael L. Ferrel, possession of a controlled substance, 12 months in county jail.

—Monica M. Guerrero, theft, three years probation and \$500 fine.

—George Howard Jr., illegal dumping, three years deferred adjudication.

—David A. Kehlenbeck Jr., burglary of a building, six months in state jail.

Two Lawsuits In District Court

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

On May 3, Arrow Financial Services, LLC filed suit against Dean Klump in a dispute over an amount owing on an account. The amount in dispute is \$1,255.

On May 4, Carl Wegenhoft filed suit against Kimberly Miekow and Christine Carson in a dispute over a promissory note. The suit states that in March 2004, Wegenhoft

signed a contract to purchase property and also signed a promissory note. The dispute is over the amount of the outstanding balance owed on the note.

Divorces Granted

Chad Allen Huebner and Crystal Lynn Huebner, May 3.

Tina Marie Milner and Wade Clinton Milner, May 3.

Divorce Filed

Jim Eric Jamail and Jan Marie Jamail, May 3.

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