

Cost of coverage under ACA may soar

Texans facing price spike as federal tax credits expiring amid prolonged dispute in Congress

By Saul Pink
STAFF WRITER

Open enrollment for Affordable Care Act marketplace insurance plans starts on Saturday, and Texans could see steep rate increases if ACA tax credits expire — the dispute at the center of the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Advocates in the Lone Star State warn that uncertainty

surrounding these policy changes could lead to a chaotic open enrollment period and cause some Texans to lose insurance altogether. Texas already has the highest rate of people without health insurance in the United States, according to some studies.

“At this point, we’re so close to open enrollment that if Congress does extend tax credits at this moment, which they abso-

lutely should, then there will be a mad dash to try to figure out how the infrastructure of healthcare.gov will work,” Lynn Cowles, director of health and food justice at the advocacy group Every Texan, told KERA News. “Issuers would likely not readjust their rates at that point.”

Texas did not expand Medicaid coverage to include working-age single or childless adults, making its criteria for the federal health insurance program more restrictive than in many other states. Many Tex-

ans rely on the ACA marketplace, which offers private health plans subsidized by federal tax credits. In the past few years, a record number of Texans have signed up for marketplace plans.

Cowles told the radio station that nearly 2 million Texans automatically reenrolled in plans last year at no additional cost because of the tax credits. Many may not realize they’ll face new bills this year or understand how to navigate the enrollment process. Those who expect to auto-enroll but fail to pay new

premiums risk losing their coverage.

The federal government has been shut down since Oct. 1. Senate Democrats blocked a Republican-passed bill to fund the federal government in an effort to negotiate over Medicaid coverage rollbacks and the expiring ACA tax credits. Republicans say Democrats must agree to end the shutdown before negotiating on health care policy.

The two sides are at a standstill, and the shutdown is about to enter its fifth week.

BUILDING HOPE IN MANOR



Cold front to drop temps into 40s this week

By Mary Wasson
NEWSROOM METEOROLOGIST

October’s reputation for extreme weather will continue across Central Texas this week as a powerful cold front moves through, sending temperatures across the state tumbling more than 30 degrees in just 24 hours.

Over the weekend, Central Texas experienced rounds of heavy rainfall, with Austin receiving as much as 2.76 inches. The region also withstood severe thunderstorms, with our neighbors in South Texas confirming an EF1 tornado near San Antonio.

Now, our attention turns to Tuesday’s strong fall front, which will bring an abrupt end to our unseasonably warm October weather and officially kicking off sweater weather season.

A strong upper-level system of low atmospheric pressure will swing southward over the Great Plains and the Mississippi River Valley on Tuesday, ushering in a strong cold front across the Lone Star State. The front will move through areas along the Rio Grande, the Edwards Plateau and the Texas Hill Country late Tuesday morning. It will cross the Interstate 35 corridor around midday and exit the Coastal

Cold continues on B3

Bystanders aid police in infant’s recovery

By Alexis Simmerman
STAFF WRITER

Body camera footage of Texas police officers reporting to a nerve-wracking crash scene involving a baby documented an amazing recovery by officers and bystanders.

The Fort Worth Police Department posted the video of the rescue on social media, which quickly went viral. According to the post, the car accident occurred on Interstate 30 on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 23. Officers were notified that a woman and her 1-year-old child were thrown from the vehicle.

Officer Buddy Calzada later explained to ABC News that Sgt. R. Nichols and Officer E. Bounds — the first to arrive at the scene — didn’t need to wait for a call to come in.

“Fortunately, these officers were actually a few vehicles behind this accident that took place,” Calzada said. “So as the call came out and got dispatched, these officers were rolling up on-scene within seconds.”

Body camera footage shows

Infant continues on B2



Habitat for Humanity volunteers help construct framing on Monday for one of 25 homes being built in the Whisper Valley neighborhood of Manor. The 2025 Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project brings together more than 500 volunteers a day to build the houses in just five days. This year’s event is the first Carter Work Project since the death of the former president, who dedicated nearly four decades of service to Habitat for Humanity.

PHOTOS BY JAY JANNER/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Poll: Texans split over immigration policies

By Dante Motley
STAFF WRITER

Texans are nearly evenly split over President Donald Trump’s immigration policies, according to a new University of Houston survey that highlights sharp partisan and demographic divides on border and deportation issues.

The poll, conducted Sept. 19 through Oct. 1 among 1,650 registered voters, found that 51% of respondents approve and 49% disapprove of the administration’s immigration approach — a near dead heat that underscores how Trump’s mass deportation policies resonate differently across race, age and party lines.

Ninety percent of Republicans support Trump’s immigration agenda, compared with 13% of Democrats, according to the poll. By race, 62% of white Texans, 42% of

Latino Texans and 23% of Black Texans approve.

Men and older Texans are more likely to express support than women and younger voters, with 59% of baby boomers (born between the mid-1940s and mid-1960s) and members of the Silent Generation (born between the mid-late 1920s and the early-mid 1940s) approving, compared with 37% of Generation Z (born in the late 1990s and early 2000s).

Nearly half of respondents, 46%, believe Trump’s policies will reduce crime in Texas, while 25% think they will increase it and 29% say they will have no effect.

Views on the economy tilt the other way: 47% believe the policies will weaken the state’s economy, compared with 41% who say they will strengthen it.

Texans were also asked

Policies continues on B4



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

A DHS officer watches a protest at a new Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility Feb. 1 in Pflugerville.