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Gov. Clements names his new chief justice

Gov. Bill Clements surprised Capitol watchers last week by naming his new chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, a relatively unknown state judge with high marks for judicial excellence.

The governor tapped Thomas R. Phillips of Houston to replace outgoing John Hill in January. Phillips will be the first Republican chief justice in modern times and is expected to run for election next year.

Phillips has family and philosophical ties to the conservative, pro-business side of the bench, and his record of excellence and fair play will help the high court at a time when several sitting justices, all Democrats, are faulted for taking questionable political contributions.

He is also regarded somewhat as an example of the merit selection process, since Hill himself urged the appointment. Clements took recommendations from a wide array of sources.

How about elections?

Phillips is relatively unknown in Capitol halls, and some wonder how he will stand up on the non-academic, rough-and-tumble statewide campaign trail.

He will have to deal with two sitting justices who months ago threw their hats into the ring for his new job. The Texas Democratic Party has already vowed to retire him.

Many have never learned that the judicial system is an electoral world all its own, a couple of plateaus above partisan party politics. Phillips is probably better equipped politically than they realize, having dabbled in GOP politics and contributed to books on Texas elections and presidential campaign biographies.

Thus, the student will become a player, but Phillips is recognized as a pretty good student. He holds degrees from Baylor University and Harvard Law School, and is well-regarded where he is known.

State Capitol Highlights

By Lyndell Williams

Holding bond funds

State auditor Lawrence F. Alwin says 19 state universities are holding funds from bond issues, and on occasion using them to pay salaries and for unauthorized purchases, instead of proceeding with construction projects or library improvements.

Higher Education chairman Ken Ashworth says the Higher Education Coordinating board has been blocking the schools on building projects while it reviews needs and plans.

Federal tornado aid

Governor Clements wants federal disaster aid for the Texas towns ravaged by tornadoes last week.

The two-day storms killed 11, injured 160 and caused millions in damage. The damage estimate will be consolidated into his plea for disaster aid, Clements said.

Seeking new voters

Secretary of State Jack Rains will enlist the help of hotels, airlines and businesses to register a million new voters.

Rains, a Republican, said it was a new technique to reach mobile Texans who are inaccessible to traditional registration methods.

Others say, warmly and coldly, it's a way to bring more conservatives and independents into the electoral process.

Some contend this method is the pro-business response to the strategy of going door-to-door in the barrio or slum districts to garner liberal voters.

Rains is considered by some to be a likely candidate for some office, perhaps governor, in 1990.

Other highlights

•Campaigning in Dallas, GOP presidential aspirant Sen. Bob Dole said he would support a tariff on imported oil if it would help lower the deficit and balance the budget.

•Comptroller Bob Bullock asked Attorney General Jim Mattox for a legal opinion on whether Texas' new "tax snitch" law is constitutional.

Bullock disagrees and is reluctant to comply with the new law which allows his office to pay up to a five percent finder's fee for information leading to the recovery of taxes owed to the state.

•Mattox explained for lawmakers his opinion on unconstitutional Bible courses at state universities. He said religious groups should not pick and pay professors at a state school.

•Workers' compensation insurance rates will increase by 25 percent next year after last week's vote by the State Insurance Board. Texas employers are not legally required to carry the insurance.

•Gov. Clements appointed his legislative liaison, former House member Jim Kaster, to the Texas Industrial Accident Board.

•58 Texas Department of Community Affairs employees were laid off by Clements. Some who were hired by former Gov. Mark White called it a political purge.

Lets Look Back... 24 Years Ago

(October 24, 1963)

A one-day CROP canvas for contributions of commodities or cash for the world's hungry will be held today Thursday, October 24... Mobile units from the U.S. Department of Agriculture were busy distributing fire ant bait in the city limits of Eagle Lake... Miss Robbin Griffith was named Fairest of the Garwood Fair. She was sponsored by the Eagle Lake Rotary Club...

Shooting on the film, "The Travelling Lady" by Columbia Pictures is expected to begin Monday in Columbus... Mrs. Roy J. Jones of Bernardo announces the grand opening of Patsy's House of Beauty at her home in the Bernardo area this Saturday, October 26... Ed Johnson and J.O. Gumm visited in Lafayette, La. attending the oil show Wednesday through Sunday... Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Leopold of Nada will be honored with an open house at their home by their children on the occasion of the couple's 50th wedding anniversary November 10...

Mrs. Oscar Bunge of Eagle Lake and Mrs. Lester Bunge of Garwood left August 29 by jet plane for Los Angeles, California where on August 30 they boarded the S.S. Mariposa, one of the Matson's elegant ultramodern liners, for a five-week Matson South Seas adventure... Gardner Duncan and son, Vance, flew to Little Rock, Arkansas Saturday to attend the Texas U. Arkansas football game that night... Mr. and Mrs. R.R. Wells Jr. joined friends from San Antonio for a 20th reunion of the 1943 Texas A&M graduates in Fort Worth on Saturday and Sunday. Among the activities was attendance at the TCU/A&M football game.

Lets Look Back... 48 Years Ago

(October 27, 1939)

Friends of Virginia Mazac, who has been confined to her home with typhus fever, will be glad to know that she is improving, may be allowed to get up during the weekend. Virginia has really had a severe siege of fever and her pals are hoping to see her back in school within a short time... Dick Ney, son of Mrs. Kate Ney, entered Memorial Hospital in Houston on Monday where he will remain about 3 weeks for treatment of a spine injury...

Rev. J.M. Lewis, popular local Methodist pastor, who, at his request, was transferred by the conference to the San Angelo district, left, with his family, yesterday for his new pastorate at Menard. The Menard pastor, Rev. K.R. Hemphill, comes to Eagle Lake, the conference having changed pastorates of the two pastors... The Eagles topped the El Campo Rice Birds 3-0 Friday night. Late in the fourth quarter E. Frnka intercepted a Rice Bird pass on their forty and ran to the ten. There the Eagles could make no headway. On the fourth down the ball was put in placement with D. Forbes booting a field goal for the only score of the game...

Mrs. A. Seaholm returned home Tuesday from a six months stay in the West... Announcement is made of the recent marriage of two of Eagle Lake's popular young people, which is of interest to many friends of the couple. C.K. Randow (and for fear that few of our people who know him so well and favorably, may not recognize the "C.K.", it's "Buddy") and Miss Amanda Becker were married at the home of Mrs. Ada Dodd on Saturday, Sept. 30, with Rev. W.M. Logan, Presbyterian pastor, officiating.

Opinion Column

Medical care to elderly being limited

(The following article, written by Max C. Butler, M.D., president of the Harris County Medical Society, and printed in the October 30 issue of the Houston Chronicle, was brought to our attention by Dr. and Mrs. Jose Ugarte. We were given permission by the writer to reprint this article.)

I have practiced family medicine in Houston for nearly 30 years. Many of the patients who came to me then come to me now. We have "matured" together. Many of them are now covered by Medicare, one of these days I will be, too. I am not sure I look forward to this achievement.

As a physician, I am absolutely outraged at the treatment of Medicare beneficiaries by the very program which pretends to assure them access to quality medical care. At one time, Medicare nearly paid for the true costs of providing care to the nation's elderly. At one time, access to quality care was a driving force behind the program.

But in the past five years, thanks to Congress, with its legion of accountants armed with a battery of computers, access and quality concerns have been jettisoned. It has become painfully clear to me and my patients that the sole driving force behind Medicare is the limitation of program expenditures.

With the assent of the elected officials, employees of the federal government and their designated Medicare insurance companies are now, essentially, practicing medicine. They do it without education, without examination of the patient, and without an understanding of the patient's unique and individual need.

They are just practicing medicine by balance sheet and by the mathematical tallying of program revenues vs. expenses. It is just that simple. And just that dangerous.

In the past two months alone, Medicare has:

•Dunned 200,000 beneficiaries and 4,700 physicians in Texas for alleged "overpayments" that were not the fault of either doctor or patient and which were not, in fact, overpayments at all. Nevertheless. Medicare has threatened to withhold amounts from the beneficiaries' Social Security checks until these amounts are repaid. The Texas Medical Association has filed suit to stop these incredible intimidation tactics used by our own government against some of our neediest citizens.

•Announced Part B premium increases of $6.90 per month and blamed the medical profession for the increase even though Medicare officials acknowledge that premiums have been kept artificially low for the past two years. They forget to mention that Medicare also is denying more hospitalizations and then demanding quicker discharges when patients require more extensive care in a hospital.

•Extrapolated a limited survey to allege that some 22,000 "avoidable" deaths occur annually to Medicare beneficiaries and that more than 200,000 are discharged in unstable condition. Nearly every death can be said to be avoidable in some way, and without an explanation of the study's methodology these projections must be viewed cautiously. Nevertheless, because of Medicare's single-minded pursuit to limit expenditures for patient care, we do know that many patients are being discharged quicker and sicker than they would have been in the past. The bureaucrats now practicing medicine in Washington demand this.

Individually, each of these incidents is a significant barrier to the delivery of quality medical care. Each in its own way contributes to a climate of confusion and extreme anxiety among Medicare beneficiaries, many of whom must rely totally on Medicare coverage and Social Security benefits for their well-being. And there are many more examples of regulatory absurdities too numerous to cite.

In the aggregate, this intellectual dishonesty by Medicare officials and politicians strikes a blow to the very heart of the physician/patient relationship, a fragile connection based on honesty, trust and compassion. In the long run, this myopic focus on program expenditures to the exclusion of all other concerns will result in lower quality of care and limited access, at best. At worst, it will lead us quickly down the road to rationing care for the elderly.

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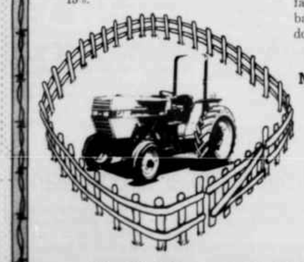

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Fritz Leopold receives 'man of year' agricultural award

Frederick "Fritz" Leopold was recognized by the Columbus Rotary Club as the 1987 recipient of the Rotary "Man of the Year in Agriculture" award. Leopold was presented the award during the 35th annual Rural-Urban banquet held Tuesday night, November 24 at the Columbus High School cafeteria.

Leopold, 50, is a lifelong resident of Nada. He, his wife Cathy, and their four children reside on a rice, corn, grain sorghum and soybean farm one mile west of the Nada townsite. In addition to a farming partnership with his brother, Arthur, the Leopold brothers built and operate Leopold Bros. Grain Dryer. The grain facility provides a much needed service to area grain and soybean farmers in the form of a storage and marketing facility. Leopold graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville prior to his entering the farming and grain storage and marketing business.

Leopold Bros. are very water conservation conscious with installation of extensive underground irrigation pipeline system on two of their farms they farm on. Their systems were some of the first such systems installed in the Garwood/Nada area.

What makes Fritz Leopold stand out as a farmer is his dedication to serving his fellow farmer on numerous boards and committees. Presently he is serving as president of the Garwood division of the American Rice Growers Association. This year he was elected zone director to the Texas Rice Producers board. He is serving on Agriculture Commissioner Hightower's district advisory council and a long term member of the Texas Farmers Union. He continues to serve on the Colorado County Extension Program Council Row Crops Committee and has served as its past chairman for several terms. Leopold was chairman of Colorado County Farmers Home Administration board during his tenure and past member of the County ASCS community committee.

In addition to his contribution to the agricultural community Leopold is active in the community affairs of the Garwood/Nada area being a member of the Garwood Lions Club and serving them as their past president. He is currently vice president of the Rice Consolidated School board.

The St. Mary's Catholic Church recognizes the impact that Leopold has made on its congregation as he has served on the church board and on the St. Mary's School board in the capacity of president. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus having served as grand knight and district deputy grand knight. Leopold and his wife are active supporters of the Rice FFA and Colorado County 4-H club programs.

Receives check

Walter Lee Bauer, president of the Wintermann Library board, received a check totaling $17,400 from Fair Wells, right, president of the Eagle Lake Study Club. The Study Club recently held their annual auction and these figures were totaled up from each department at the auction: $14,375, main auction; $1,426.50, silent auction; $967.50, bakery booth, and $631.00 donations.

Local gymnasts receive USGF safety certification

Debbie Powers and Mindee Porter, owners of P&P Gymnastics Inc., recently completed a six-hour safety certification class in Austin. On completion of the class they were each required to take a 100 question qualifying test of which only 60% of the class would pass. The class is sanctioned by the United States Gymnastics Federation and was taught by Dr. Robert H. Dvorak, Ph.D., who is a professor of physical education and the men's gymnastics coach at Houston Baptist University.

This class is a major step forward on the part of a national governing body to address the need for safety awareness in the sport of gymnastics. This class is a compilation of material prepared by the leading experts from all around the United States. Over 50 of the nation's top gymnastics coaches, teachers, judges and administrators combined their knowledge in order to help increase the level of safety awareness in gymnastics.

While in Austin, Debbie and Mindee attended the state convention of the Gymnastics Association of Texas, where they attended many seminars on new techniques, dance in gymnastics and gymnastic equipment. They also attended a meeting for Texas Special Olympics.

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Blood drive December 5 at St. Mary's

The Knights of Columbus and St. Mary's Catholic Church will be sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The drive will be set up in St. Mary's Church hall in Nada and anyone wishing to donate may make an appointment by calling Vic Hyek at 758-3300 or 758-3572 or drop by between the hours mentioned above.

Members of the community are invited to participate.

Ag credit group slated annual meet

Prominent Garwood farmer to present keynote address

Some 350 farmers, ranchers, harvesters of aquatic products, farm-related business owners and their guests from the surrounding seven-county area will gather on Wednesday, December 2 for their Production Credit Association's 53rd annual stockholders' meeting at the Silver Wings Ballroom in El Campo.

Dale V. Hunt, a native of Colorado County, who has been farming and ranching in the Garwood area since 1956 will be the events keynote speaker. Hunt's agri-business experience has involved leadership roles at the state, national and world levels. He presently serves as a member of the Texas State ASCS committee, trustee of the Texas Rice Research Foundation, and director of the American Rice Growers Association, Garwood division. During the period of 1980-84, Hunt served as president of American Rice, Inc. Hunt has also served as member of the National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy, chairman of the Five-State Rice Producers Legislative group, and member of the Governor of Texas Task Force on Agricultural Development.

Jack W. Rapp, El Campo PCA president, said registration and coffee for members and their guests begins at 9 a.m. The business session will convene at 10 a.m. and will be followed by drawings for door prizes and a fried chicken meal at noon. Special entertainment for the day will be provided by "Tides In", a barber shop quartet, from Matagorda County.

High on the meeting's agenda is the election of two directors, each to serve three-year terms, by members of the farm credit cooperative.

Nominees for the two positions are Kenneth M. Danklefs, of Garwood, and Mark D. Anderson, incumbent of Eagle Lake, for position four - representing the Colorado County area, and Andrew Rod, of El Campo, and E.G. Goff, incumbent of Louise, for position five - representing the Wharton County area.

Other main business items include the directors' report by Harry S. Shannon, board member from Bay City; the association's financial report presented by David Coan, PCA first vice president and secretary; and the report of nominating committee will be made by Frank A. Higgins, committee chairman of Eagle Lake.

Layton R. Raun, member from El Campo, will preside as general chairman of the annual meeting.

Candidates to be voted on for the 1988 nominating committee include W.H. Mann and William Ottis, both of Matagorda County; Kenneth Stelzel and Ricky Kramr, both of Colorado County; Gordon Roades and Walter Krause, both of Calhoun-Jackson-Refugia-Victoria Counties, and Bill Hubenak and Lowell G. Raun Jr., both of Wharton County.

El Campo Production Credit Association is completely member-owned by stockholders within a seven-county area of the Central Gulf Coast section of the state and expects to extend over $47 million in short and intermediate term financing to its membership during the current fiscal year.

Total ag credit extended during the group's 53-year history now exceeds $1 billion. Capital and reserves at the end of the past fiscal year, July 31, totaled more than $8.7 million.

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Colorado County Courthouse Report

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Arturo Milan Tinoco, 24, and Leonor Maria Alvarez, 33.

Robert DeWayne Burger, 42, and Catherine Bailey Hatcher, 41.

David Eugene Fudge, 39, and Judy A. Otto, 35.

Troy T. Galloway, 47, and Mary Hellen Atkinson, 44.

DIVORCES FILED

Frances Claudette Powers and Lanny Dean Powers.

Nelda Jean Grayless and Robert Stewart Grayless.

DIVORCES GRANTED

Iris Evans and Tommie Evans.

Ernestine Scott and Edward Lee Scott.

Patricia Ann Batla and John Dudley Batla.

DISTRICT COURT CASES FILED

First State Bank of Weimar vs. Helmut C. Brenner, suit on account, filed 11-12-87.

All Valley Acceptance Co. vs. Willie Jackson Jr., promissory note, filed 11-12-87.

Fred Jensen, independent executor of the estate of R.C. Tolbirt Jr., vs. Robert H. Thompson, et al, suit on note and declaratory judgment, filed 11-13-87.

Sears Roebuck and Co. vs. Marcella Cook, suit on account; filed 11-16-87.

Fred Jensen, independent executor of the estate of R.C. Tolbirt Jr., vs. Hugh Morris, suit on note, filed 11-16-87.

Royal Stevens, individually and as next friend for Cynthia Stevens, vs. Southern Farm Bureau, personal injury, filed 11-19-87.

REAL ESTATE DEEDS

Gift Deed, William R. and Marguerite E. Dennis to Lex Anderson Sutton, 5.387 acres, J.H. Burton Survey; 11-6-87.

Deed, F. Carrington Weems to Elizabeth V. Weems, Ben F. Weems, trust, et al, interest in lands in Colorado, et al counties; 11-5-87.

Deed, Rita Henneke Addicks, James Henneke, et al, to Cooley Properties, Inc., 52.56 acres, BBB&CRR Co. Survey, et al; 11-5-87.

Deed, Edwin F. Anders to Edwin J. and Rita Anders, 10 acres, A. Kelso League; 11-5-87.

Deed, Charles A. and Edwin P. Bawel to Veterans Land Board of Texas, 10 acres, Freeman Pettus League; 11-6-87.

Deed, James Allen Vasek to Moore Ranch Inc., 142.096 acres, Alfred Kelso League; 11-6-87.

Deed, Henry Lott to Clemons L. and Barbara Prause, lot 5, part of subd. lot 6, block 69, Columbus; 11-6-87.

Deed, Bettie Jo Hood and Mattie Lott Richardson to Clemons L. and Barbara Prause, subd. lot 5, part of subd. lot 6, block 69, Columbus; 11-6-87.

Deed, Lucille Lott Courtney to Clemons L. and Barbara Prause, lot 5, part of subd. lot 6, block 69, Columbus; 11-6-87.

Deed, Willie Lott to Clemons L. and Barbara Prause, lot 5, part of subd. lot 6, block 69, Columbus; 11-6-87.

Deed, Alice Lott Brown and Harold Warner to Clemons L. and Barbara Prause, lot 5, part of subd. lot 6, block 69, Columbus; 11-6-87.

Gift Deed, Lillie M. Freis to Jena Heger Bippert, Russell Heger and Mark Heger, ind. int. in 198.8 acres, F. Pettus Survey; 11-6-87.

Deed, Royce and Debra J. Dudensing to Daniel and Debra Bondac, 5 acres, John Andrew League; 11-2-87.

Deed, Harry and Debbie Curtias to Paul and Carole Cockers, 8.52 acres, Samuel Kennelly League; 11-2-87.

Deed, Ernest W. and Floy Brewer to Hermuth and Pearlie Schuetze, .337 acre, H. Austin Five League Grant; 11-2-87.

Deed, Hermuth and Pearlie Schuetze to Ernest W. and Floy Brewer, .337 acre, H. Austin Five League Grant; 11-2-87.

Deed, L. Floyd O'Brien to David A. Murphy, lot 150, Lake Sheridan Estates; 11-2-87.

Deed, Willie S. Jr. and Kathryn Noble to Scott E. and Dianne Evans, 4.6915 acres, William Allen Survey; 11-2-87.

Deed, Herbert Schroeder to Hertha Mayes, lot 22, block 14, Rock Island; 11-2-87.

Deed, Herbert J. Jr. and Yolanda Korth to Oscar Addicks and Kermit R. and Evelyn Joyce Thuemler, .18 acre, H. Austin Five League; 11-2-87.

Deed, Herbert Schroeder to Esther L. Curry, lots 7 and 8, block 13, Rock Island; 11-2-87.

Deed, Richard L. Scheig to Cobra Oil and Gas Corp., int. in Lena S. Broyles lease; 11-3-87.

Deed, Alice B. Blair to William H. and Glenda Blair, track in block 24, Eagle Lake; 11-3-87.

Deed, Bettylee Hampil, estate, to St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, undi. int. in 147 acres, Peyton R. Splane Survey; 11-4-87.

Deed, Edwin W. Thomas, trustee, to Burl E. Eastup, estate, 288.031 acres, William Phillips 1/3 League; 11-9-87.

Deed, Kurt W. Steinmann to MS Holding Co., 112.312 acres, J. Hadden League; 11-9-87.

Gift Deed, Arthur F. and Anna Werland to Dawn Irene Pavalock, 2 acres, Erasmus Jones Survey and an easement; 11-9-87.

Deed, Herbert Schroeder to Demetrio L. Capistra and Erneo Perez, lots 23 and 24, block 26, Rock Island; 11-9-87.

Deed, William Howard Dabse to Glenda Fay Schroeder Dabse, part of lots 15 and 16, block 72, Weimar; 11-12-87.

Deed, Marvin and Betty Pitre to Jim Walter Homes Inc., tract in H. Austin Five League Survey; 11-12-87.

Deed, Ervin Mieth Jr. and Mary Lou Mieth to May Jean Rogers, lot 28, Memorial Oaks Subd., Section II, Columbus, W.B. Dewees Survey; 11-12-87.

Deed, Josephine Briggs to Gary Briggs, lot 10, block 2, McCarty Addition, Eagle Lake; 11-13-87.

Deed, Irma M. Picker to Rock Island Gospel Church, lot 19, block 11, Rock Island; 11-13-87.

Deed, Wm. Ray and Sue Butlin Krenek to Wm. A. Kell Jr., 11.7615 acres, N. Whiting and Wm. Osborne Survey; 11-13-87.

Deed, Herbert Schroeder to James D. and Mary Lou Frenzel, lots 21 through 24, block 50, Rock Island; 11-13-87.

OIL, GAS LEASES

Johnnie May Lee to The Louisiana Land and Exploration Co., 5 acres, HE&WT RR Survey Section 3; 11-2-87.

Nettie T. Hurr, John Hurr, Armond G. Schartz, et al, to Property Producing Co., 62.25 acres, I&GNRR Co. Survey, Section 58; 11-3-87.

Myrah Jane Draper to Fred J. Schindler, 40.38 acres, Thomas Cartwright League; 11-5-87.

Jewel L. Hurst, trusts, to Triad Energy Corp., 80.25 acres, I&GNRR Co. Survey Section 62; 11-12-87.

Bobbie Lou Mack to EF Operating Co., 100 acres, BS&FRR Co. Survey, Section No. 7; 11-17-87.

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