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FROM REPRESENTATIVE ROBBY COOK

Grant okayed on Fayette airport, El Campo jobs

The Texas Transportation Commission approved an airport improvement grant to the County of Fayette on Aug. 28, in the amount of \$100,000 for improvements at the Fayette Regional Air Center Airport.

The financial assistance will be used for construction of a terminal building. State funds have been approved for 50% of estimated project costs. Fayette County has responsibility for the remaining 50%.

Representative Robby Cook, whose legislative district includes Fayette County, said, "I am pleased that the Department of Transportation has chosen to support the economic development efforts of Fayette County, especially in the improvement and development of its aviation facilities."

Also, the Texas Department of Commerce officially certified that Quality Hot Mix Inc. has retained 10

jobs in the El Campo Enterprise Zone. Quality Hot Mix Inc. received designation from Commerce as a qualified business through the Texas Enterprise Zone Program.

This designation makes the company eligible for a one-time state tax incentive for operating and retaining 10 or more jobs in the enterprise zone's jurisdiction.

Representative Cook, whose legislative district also includes Wharton County, commented, "Every new job in this area means increased productivity and further economic development. We are pleased that El Campo was designated by the Department of Commerce."

Morales says suit against tobacco industry going to trial



By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

"Texas will be the forum to guarantee the industry is held accountable," Morales said.

Tobacco industry officials agreed. Dan Webb, a Chicago attorney for Philip Morris and spokesman for the 11 tobacco companies, said, "This is a mainstream case that needs to go to trial so we can establish our position and prove we have done nothing wrong."

The state seeks as much as \$14 billion in health-care costs in its suit, naming as defendants American Tobacco, R.J. Reynolds, Brown and Williamson, B.A.T. Industries, Philip Morris, Liggett Group, Lorillard, United States Tobacco, the Hill and Knollton public relations firm, the Council for Tobacco Research-USA and the Tobacco Institute.

Pauken Announces AG Candidacy
Tom Pauken, former chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, formally announced his candidacy for attorney general last week.

The 53-year-old Dallas lawyer, who believes in abortion only to save the life of the mother, said he is the only true conservative in the race.

His opponents in the March GOP primary will be Railroad Commission member Barry Williamson and Texas Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn.

The winner will face either incumbent Dan Morales or Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Morris Overstreet in the Nov. 1998 election.

Inmates' Families Want Advocate
Families of state inmates urged Gov. George W. Bush last week to appoint a prisoners' advocate to the nine-member Texas Board of Criminal Justice, which has an opening.

The cry came after print and broadcast reports turned the nation's attention to a videotaped incident last year in the Brazoria County Jail, in which guards allegedly abused inmates. The inmates were being housed under a contract between Brazoria County and the state of Missouri.

No Texas inmates or state prison employees were involved in the inci-

dent.
Ray Sullivan, a spokesman for Gov. Bush, said the governor will look into the matter.

State Farm Will Pay Up
State Farm Insurance last week announced it will pay for foundation damage caused by leaking water and sewer pipes, even though the company considers those losses "not covered" in the standard homeowners policy.

The announcement came a week after State Farm said it would ignore an order from Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer to cover such damage. Bomer ordered the company to honor claims after the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals held that State Farm did not have to pay.

Bank Profits Show Increase
The Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas reported last week that as of June 30 Texas bank profits were up 11% over the first half of 1996.

Officials attributed the difference to an increase in loan volume. For Texas' 872 banks, loans were up 6.3% - for a total of \$118 billion - for the first half of 1997.

Banks in Texas are in "a period of historic loan demand again, something we haven't seen since probably the early '80s," Chris Williston, president of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas told the *American Statesman*.

More State Troopers Promised
More state troopers will patrol Texas highways during the next 18 months, the head of the Public Safety Commission said last week.

Chairman James B. Francis said he outlined the plan to Gov. Bush after state auditors blamed the shortage of troopers on the DPS spending money earmarked for new officers on other things.

Francis said plans are under way to put more than 100 additional troopers on state highways during the next 18 months.

Other Capital Highlights
•Paul Hobby, a Houston businessman and son of former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, has declared his candidacy for the office of state comptroller. The 37-year-old is the first candidate to officially announce for the post being vacated by fellow Democrat John (See Highlights, Page 3)

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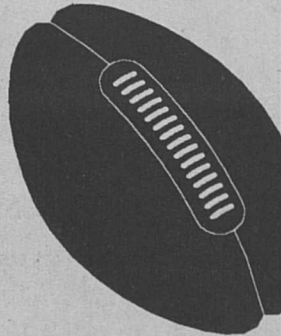
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Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Nov. 16, 1972

The home of Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert McGrew was completely destroyed by fire shortly after 10 p.m. Monday. The home is on a county road two and one-half to three miles south of Altair, between Altair and Vox Populi...

The children of Mr. & Mrs. R.F. Spanihel of Eagle Lake extend an invitation to friends throughout the area to join them for the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration of their parents from two to six o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday, Nov. 26, at Diner Hall in Eagle Lake...

In the race for Constable of Precinct No. 2 (which includes Garwood, Rock Island, Sheridan and Nada communities) Lawrence Berger of Garwood was elected constable for the next four years on a write-in vote...

The Eagle Lake community was shocked Wednesday morning to learn of the death of Melvin A. Hayden, 45, a life-long resident of this community. Mr. Hayden died during the night at his home...

Bernard Renken, who has been employed by the county for two weeks, has signed his letter of resignation with the sheriff's office. Sheriff George (Doc) Mueller said that Buford Ashley Jr. of Sheridan has been hired to replace Renken...

In honor of the momentous occasion of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. H.J. Kretzmar of the Ramsey community, the children of Mr. & Mrs. Kretzmar complimented them at a barbecue dinner at their country home on Sunday, Nov. 5.

George W. Thomas, a long-time resident of the Eagle Lake community, passed away at a Wharton Hospital last Saturday, Nov. 4. He had just reached the age of 96, a few days before his passing...

Mrs. J.G. Mathis of Bonus announced the engagement and approaching marriage of her daughter, Julia Sue, to Phillip Dan Canaris, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Canaris of Eagle Lake. The couple has calendared a wedding date of Jan. 6 in First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake.

July 29, 1949

Charlie Duddleston broke up (See 24 & 48, Page 4)

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Eagle Lake will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in 1996 by 14.0524 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property.

The public hearing will be held on September 23, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

FOR the proposal: Barbara Pidgeon, J.W. Shavers, René Cooper-Scott and Michael Cooper

AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: William Kell

The statement above shows the percentage increase the proposed rate represents over the \$0.57089 effective tax rate that the unit published on 08-28-97. The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average home value	\$28,539	\$28,539
General exemptions available (amount available on the average home, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average taxable value	\$28,539	\$28,539
Tax rate	\$0.530000/\$100	\$0.651114/\$100 (proposed)
Tax	\$151.26	\$185.82 (proposed)

Under this proposal taxes on the average home would increase by \$34.56 or 22.8481 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.12114 per \$100 of taxable value or 22.8517 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

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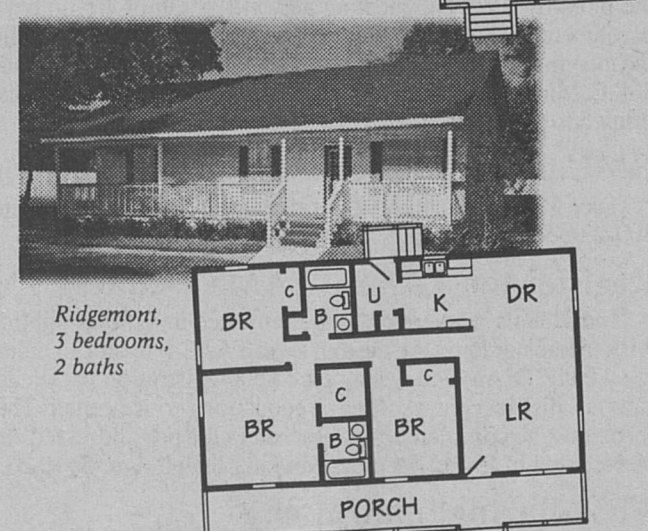
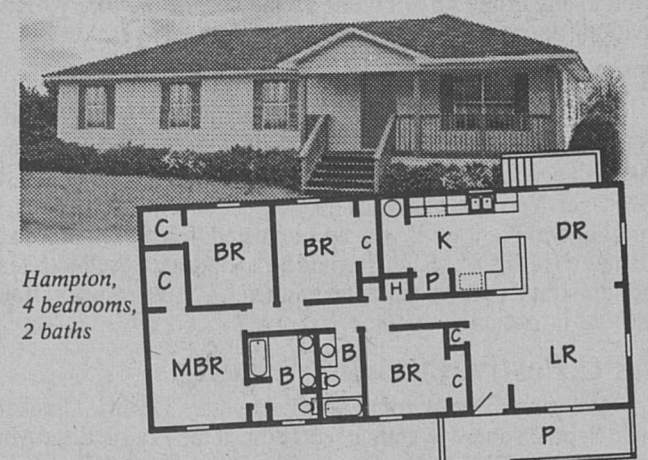
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