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## Texas teachers group submits merit pay plan

United Press International AUSTIN — By receiving an across-the-board pay raise and earning extra money for working a little harder, Texas school teachers could make as much as \$40,000 a year under a plan designed by a teachers union.

But the incentive salary plan unveiled Tuesday by the Texas Federation of Teachers would cost taxpayers at least \$1 billion a year in higher taxes.

TFT president John Cole said the "model" plan — dubbed "Project QuEST" — has been presented to an 18-member select education committee that public hearings opened

Teachers Association will explain its proposals for reforms in public education Thursday.

In addition to a salary sche-dule pegged on a 24 percent pay hike, the TFT plan would also stiffen teacher certification requirements, change school governance, set up an in-house evaluation program and give teachers collective bargaining

rights. But Cole said that before merit pay is considered, all Texas teachers should receive a one-time pay boost of at least 24

The TFT proposals, he said, "offer a real opportunity for teachers to be rewarded for performance above and beyond the call of duty; but also protects the public against phony merit pay schemes which do not reward

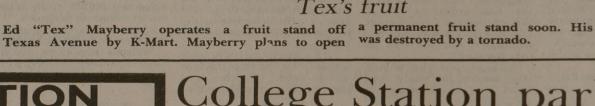
merit Under the TFT plan, teachers could add to their base salaries through an incentive program that would add from 5 percent to 55 percent through additional education and other extra work.

Teachers could earn addi-tional pay for teaching summer school, sponsoring school clubs and field trips, attending PTA and open house meetings and in-service workshops and serving on textbook committees.

Cole suggested the money could be raised by increasing oil gas severance taxes or through a "sin" tax plan sug-gested earlier by Gov. Mark White.

As an example of the TFT pay plan, a teacher with an M.A. degree and 10 years experience now earns \$18,140 a year in state

Base pay. But the same teacher could make \$36,047 by receiving a a 24 percent hike, obtaining a master teacher certificate, sponsoring a math club, serving on a professional support team, attending all PTA meetings, visiting parents at home and teaching summer school.



# Ed "Tex" Mayberry operates a fruit stand off a permanent fruit stand soon. His Navasota st College Station park granted over \$800,000

by Bill Conaway Battalion Reporter Because it was prepared, Col-Station has received an \$842,000 grant for park development from the state, says an assistant director of College Station Parks & Recreation. Of the five cities in Texas receiving funds, College Station's received the most

Andy Czimskey said getting the money was no problem for the city. "We met the criterion being

used by the Parks & Wildlife Department such as preliminary planning, matching funds in the bank and making the deadlines imposed," he said.

Czimskey said work began on the Southwood Athletic Park, the project being funded through the grant, more than two months ago. Paving of the streets and installation of water and sewer lines in the park will soon be complete. Baseball and soccer fields, the primary attrac-

udging cat tions of the park, will be by the end of August Czimskey We plan on adding ming pool, tennis courts

staff photo by Eric En

Brass q que pavilion, and co building in the fall," h The Las

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The use of the fundsa struction of the projecte is overseen by the Texas Wildlife Department, sa Hogsett, a grant admin with the agency. He said partment will watch the p until its completion.

### Four hospitalized with burn swim Pool after explosion at Du Pont in the chloroprene product

United Press International LAPLACE, La. — Four vic-tims of an explosion and fire that injured 17 others at a Du Pont chemical plant were in cri-tical condition early Wednesday

with burns over 90 percent of their bodies, a spokesman said. Plant officials speculate the explosion occurred Tuesday when process materials backed up in a byproduct storage tank

The sec unit. Meet will Chloroprene is a hazar Creek Par highly flammable, non-chemical used in the man Sunday ture of Neoprene, a

rubber that is one of Du major products. When the backup occur

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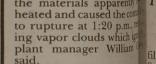
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The B films Thu Station C "But details are still ske simulation

and we won't have a better Come" is: of what happened for s days," Cobb said. "At the

the rupture, we recogni plug-in problem and were To submi office in process of cleaning the sy

A plant spokesman sal company employees and tract employees were when the explosion and ped through the E.I. Du Po Nemours plant. Seven of jured were treated and rele

Three remained hospit in critical condition, a s man said.

The blast could be hear miles from the plant, which miles upriver from Orleans. Firefighters br the blaze under control 20 minutes, although blue-black smoke billow ward for more than an

#### First Presbyteria Church

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