

State and Local

Fort Hood to trim payroll by 20 percent

FORT HOOD (AP) — Fort Hood will trim 628 employees from its payroll to meet with federal budget cuts, which will reduce the post's civilian work force by about 20 percent, officials say.

Army officials said they will make efforts to place employees in other defense-related jobs and will encourage early retirement where possible. They also predicted that attrition would reduce the force by 30 to 40 jobs per month until the May 1 deadline.

"We realize that we're talking about living, breathing human beings depending on jobs," garrison commander Col. Clyde Glosson said. "This was not an easy decision to make."

"The command will protect training events such as the National Training Center rotations and gunnery conducted by battalions and brigades."

An official of the Texas Employment Commission's Killen office said the impending layoffs would overload the area work force and his office, which already handles about 600 claims a month.

"Wow, that's going to be tough," claims supervisor Phillip Racicot said when told of the news.

"Federal claims are much more time-consuming than regular claims, but we'll find a way to handle them," he said.

Federal claims from Fort Hood unemployment, including those by retired personnel seeking employment, comprise half of the Killen office's work load, Racicot said.

"Our economy would have a hard time absorbing that amount of people right away into the work force," Racicot said, adding that it would be the largest Fort Hood layoff since he joined the TEC Killen office 14 years ago.

Jobless Fort Hood workers will find very few similar jobs in the civilian community offering as much money, he said.

"That's going to put a crimp in their ability to find work," Racicot said.

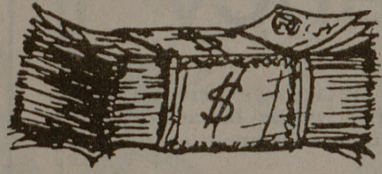
Texans can reclaim share of lost money

By Mary-Lynne Rice
Staff Writer

Hundreds of Bryan-College Station residents have the chance to claim their share of the more than \$60 million in lost or forgotten accounts that rests in the Texas State Treasury.

About 75,000 Texans are named in the Treasury's annual Unclaimed Money Fund List, each of whom has dormant checking or savings accounts, utility or safe-deposit box deposit refunds, oil royalties or corporate stock dividends of at least \$50.

Beginning Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., the Treasury will open a toll-free phone line (1-800-321-



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

2274) to give moneyholders information on how to collect their unclaimed funds. The line will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Although those credited with unclaimed money may be eager to get it back after seeing their names on the list, they need not worry about losing the money if

they do not act quickly, said Bill Cryer of the Texas Treasury Public Information Office.

After three years of an account's inactivity, the funds are turned over to the Treasury, which divides the money equally for general state expenditures and federal school programs. Yet at any time, the account holder or his heirs may collect the money.

"If a person fails to collect his money and after three years the account is completely inactive, it is turned over to the state," Cryer said. "People think they have to claim the money quickly or it will be spent. But it's in the Treasury forever. It will be there even 100

years from now, and they can always claim it."

Tens of thousands of calls to the information hotline are expected in the first weeks of the money reclamation effort, he said, and many callers will get nothing but a busy signal.

"A lot of people will get frustrated with us when they call and it's busy," Cryer said. "We're asking them to be a little patient with us. We have no interest in confiscating their money."

Once a caller reaches the Treasury, an operator will check his name and account. In many

cases, Cryer said, all that will be necessary to reclaim money is to go to the bank or the company that holds the lost account. If the money has been turned over to the Treasury, however, "it's still a simple process," he said.

Callers will be mailed a one-page claim form, to be signed, notarized and returned with proof of identification. A check for the total of the account will be issued by the Treasury usually within four to six weeks, Cryer said.

A claim form may also be requested by mail, at P.O. Box 12608, Capitol Station, Austin, 78711.

The following people, businesses and organizations have cash in the Texas Treasury Unclaimed Money Fund. For information on how to collect property, call the State Treasury or after Sunday at 1-800-321-2274, or write to the treasury at P.O. Box 12608, Capitol Station, Austin, 78711.

The line will be open Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Callers should give their names exactly as listed, with their address and Social Security number.

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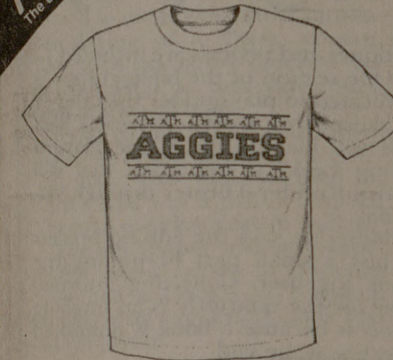
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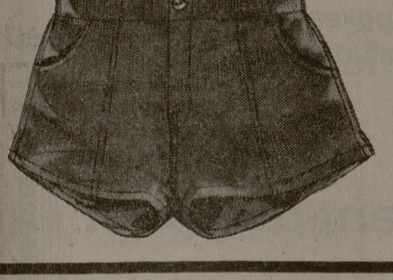
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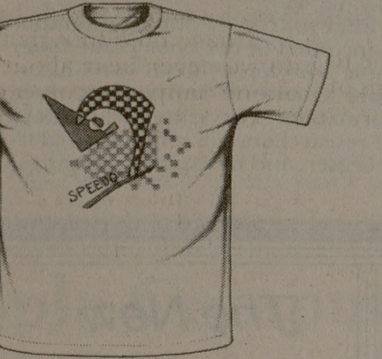


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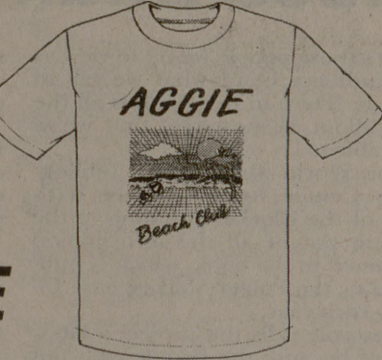
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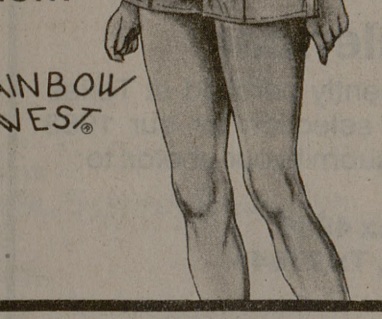
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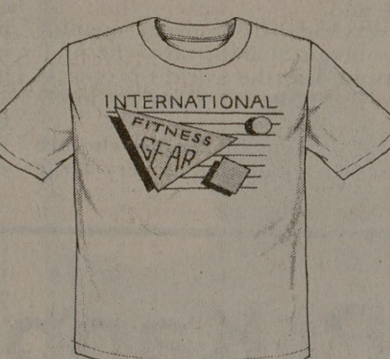
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