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**Battalion Classifieds** Call 845-2611

## House expecting Texan to move up into top GOP spot

WASHINGTON (AP) - Rep. Bill Archer of Houston is poised to move into one of the most powerful GOP positions in the House as ranking epublican on the Ways and Means Committee, taking the place of Rep. John Duncan, who died late Tues-

House Republicans must still approve Archer's ascension in the powerful tax-writing committee, but of-ficials said Wednesday that should not pose any problem for the 60-year-old Houston native. A vote could be taken as early as

A vote could be taken as early as next week, said a spokesman for House Republican Leader Bob Michel, R-Ill.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said Archer should have "no trouble" gaining the necessary approval. "He is very highly respected and deservedly so." vedly so.'

Free Summer Apts. in exchange for work between semesters. Work involves apt. make ready or ranch construction. Apply at Casa Blanca Apts. 4110 College Main Bryan, Texas 846-1413. No calls after 7pm.

137tfn The rise to ranking minority member puts Archer at the foref-ront of debate on such issues as raising taxes, welfare programs and Social Security, and foreign trade.

The move also automatically puts Archer in the leadership circle of the Republican Party on Capitol Hill the first time since at least the Civil War that a Texan has been a member of that group, Gramm said.

When the group meets, Archer said, "I will be sitting within the room and the voice of Texas will be heard in that regard for the first time in the history of the United

And as long as there is a Republican president, Archer will be among GOP leaders attending strategy sessions at the White House.
"When the leadership goes down to meetings with the White House, the voice of Texas will be heard more strongly within the walls of the White House," Archer said. "Responsibilities and opportunities for influence extend beyond the Ways

and Means Committee."
Archer will be joining several othr Texans in positions of power in Congress, including House Speaker Jim Wright of Fort Worth, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Rep. Jack Brooks, a Beaumont Democrat and chair-man of the House Government Operations Committee, and Rep. Kika de la Garza, a Mission Democrat who is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

"Certainly, it means in so far as Republican leadership on committee is concerned, I have an opportunity to do even more to work for the best interests of Texas and the country, Archer said. "As we move along the ability to focus in on the things that are helpful to Texas has been en-

Gramm said, "Clearly, the Ways and Means Committee is a powerful committee with broad jurisdiction, and it's very much to our benefit. Bill Archer is a very able member of Congress. "It helps (Texas) because we will have a Texan in a very key position on the Ways and Means Committee . . . That will enhance our ability to have our concerns heard on issues such as energy and those issues that tend to be regional

One of those issues is repeal of the windfall profits tax on oil, and Gramm said Archer's new position could strengthen those efforts.

### **Local Briefs**

### Professor helps find toxin disposal

By Joe Segovia

A&M research professor Donald T. Sawyer has helped discover a new disposal method for poly-chlorinated biphenyls that does not create the highly toxic dioxin resulting from other methods.

Sawyer said using a special form of oxygen to destroy PCBs, a toxic chemical, could become available commercially as soon as the fall of 1989.

The problem with PCBs is a historical problem, Sawyer said. PCBs, now banned, were used in the 1930s as heat exchangers in electric transformers by utility companies.

Through studies on mice and

rats, the destruction of PCBs has created toxins linked with birth defects and cancer in humans. "Our process as far as I can tell

is the first one that completely degrades PCBs but does not produce dioxins," Sawyer said.

Dr. Stephen Safe, of the lege of Veterinary Medicine, the "mildly toxic" PCBs shown no significant increase cancer to humans. Safe s PCBs, found particularly int workplace, appear to not be vere.

Sawyer began experime with superoxide ions (mol oxygen with an additional etron) 20 years ago, with is search group and three or groups around the world.

"In the last year, we (rese group) observed that if you

bine superoxide ions with pollorinated biphenyls, or Pothey went through a wholes of steps," Sawyer said. "Untely, the result was bicarbo ion (or baking soda) and sodi chloride ion, which is the equi lent of table salt."

Incineration, a less expens method for the destruction PCBs, creates dioxin, and highly toxic substance.

### B-CS officials declare 'War on Drugs'

By Norma Jean Wilson Reporter

A "War on Drugs" has been declared by city council members from both Bryan and College Sta-

To help fight this war, the two city councils created a joint Com-mittee for the War on Drugs. To increase involvement in the problem, the committee in turn created a subcommittee of eight citizens — five from Bryan and three from College Station. The subcommittee is evaluat-

ing existing drug abuse programs in the fields of law enforcement, education and treatment to determine which programs are meet-ing the needs of the community.

The subcommittee will submit

a written report on Sept. 1 who city councils with specific reco mendations for the impleme tion of drug abuse programs the community.

After both city councils evaluated the recommendate they will meet with the commi and the subcommittee to im ment the program.

The Committee for the War Drugs encourages citizens the community to get involve

"Public awareness is vitalif are going to deal with drug ab realistically," said Lynn Mdl ney, one of the committee me

Citizens interested in gettin involved should contact either Bryan or College Station

# Federal aid for thrifts almost \$90 million

DALLAS (AP) — Two ailing Texas thrifts were taken over Wednesday by an Arizona savings bank after Federal Home Loan Bank Board officials guaranteed \$83.9 million in assistance to complete the transaction, a part of the Southwest

MeraBank Federal Savings and Loan, with \$6.4 billion in assets, took over First Financial—A Savings Association, based in El Paso; and Brownfield Federal Savings and Loan Association in Brownfield. MeraBank, based in Phoenix, Ariz., is the largest thrift institution in that state

and the 25th largest in the United States. First Financial has seven branches in El Paso, three in Amarillo, two in Lubbock, one in Can-yon, and one in Pampa. Brownfield Federal has no branches.

The transaction was the third under the terms of the Southwest Plan, which aims to consolidate and recapitalize Texas' savings and loan indus-

\$330 million in assets, and Brownfield, with \$40

insolvent Texas thrift later this year as part of the

The subsidiary will be based in El Paso with administrative headquarters in Dallas. Bank board

transaction. It is forming a separate subsidiary, MeraBank Texas, to hold the three Texas institu-

MeraBank, which already has seven branches in Texas, is contributing \$8.8 million in new capital to the deal to acquire First Financial, with

officials said they expect MeraBank Texas to

consolidate all its operations in Texas within six to nine months.

MeraBank officials still don't know how much in outstanding loans they will have to write off, said Arthur Gonzalez, president of MeraBank's Texas division.

He said officials have not yet inventoried the two thrifts' loan portfolios and are unsure how many employees they have inherited from the

"This acquisition . . . was a little unusual in what we agreed to do with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board without lots of information,

"We had to diversify ourselves," said Gene Rice, chairman and chief executive officer of Me-raBank. "Any time a bank has all its eggs in one basket, it can get in trouble. Our long-term objective is to have 20 percent of our bank in Arizona, 20 percent in Texas and the balance in other

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp., which insures S&L deposits up to \$100,000, will hold warrants for 20 percent of

the subsidiary's stock, officials said. First Financial and Brownfield are the ninth savings and loar eral regulators in Texas this year, while 40 nationwide have been resolved.

The state's institutions, hard hit by slumps in the oil industry and real estate valuations, accounted for \$3 billion of the industry's \$3.8 billion loss in the first three months of this year. Regulators say 133 of Texas' 279 thrifts are in-

solvent under generally accepted account rules. The bank board hopes to reduce them ber of savings and loans in Texas by about Bank board Chairman M. Danny Walls

MeraBank's expansion in Texas "will be Texas, the thrift industry and FSLIC." Rice called the transaction "a trement

time-consuming process."

"They (FHLB) didn't just walk out there tray full of fruit and let us pick our fruit," sall ce. "We had to work together."

The third thrift to be acquired by Meralla which is based in Phoenix, Ariz., would are deal worth about \$1 billion, he said.
Thrift industry officials said a \$1.2 billion at Sunbelt Savings Association of Dallas bos losses by Texas' savings and loans to \$3.5 billioning the first three months of 1988.

Analysis and industry officials said theles.

Analysts and industry officials said the Analysts and industry officials said the awere not unexpected. But House Banking, nance and Urban Affairs Committee Chair Fernand J. St Germain, D-R.I., said Tuesdar report raises "extremely serious questions at the rosy scenarios being peddled by the Fed Home Loan Bank Board."

Operating losses for the 477 institutions five states served by the Dallas office of the board widened during the first quarter of \$1.1 billion from \$623 million in 1987.

Non-operating losses, primarily fund aside to cover non-performing assets, income \$2.8 billion from \$609 million.

### Prisoners disappointed, fearful over courts' death penalty ruling

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Stunned and disappointed death row inmates said executions are imminent - perhaps as early as this week — in the wake of Wednesday's U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the capital punishment law in Texas.

'Look over and there might be a black cloud out there," Raymond Kinnamon, a death row inmate, said, pointing to the row's wings at the Texas Department of Corrections

The high court, in a 6-3 decision, said convicted killer Donald Gene Franklin of San Antonio properly was sentenced to death for the 1975 abduction-slaying of nurse Peggy

Attorneys for Franklin contended jurors improperly were not allowed to consider any mitigating circumstances in sentencing Franklin, one of more than 270 inmates on death Since the high court agreed to

inmate, Robert Streetman, was put to death. Dozens more, however, used the pending Franklin case to obtain stays of execution. "I'm dead now," convicted killer Calvin Williams said Wednesday af-ter learning of the ruling. "Ain't no

hear the case late last year, only one

doubt about it. That was my last hope."
Williams in February came within two hours of lethal injection before the Supreme Court, citing the

Franklin matter, issued a stay. "I kind of figured it was going to happen," Williams said. "About 50

of us have gotten stays on Franklin. I figure I'll be going back to get a date

Convicted killer Fletcher Mann, who faces lethal injection early Saturday, was a likely candidate to die because his appeals are exhausted, inmates said. Before Wednesday's

ruling, a stay was a virtual certainty. "If it's going to happen, it's going to happen," Mann, 27, said, of the possibility of his execution.

Many inmates believed the Franklin case, the most serious challenge to the Texas death penalty law in several years, would result in a ruling favorable to them and commutations of their sentences to life.

Inmate Jim Vanderbilt said,"I feel like an idiot having put my hopes in the court. This is a bitter disappoint-ment. It's not easy seeing your friends hauled off to be killed."

James Beathard, another death row resident, said, "I'm afraid they'll try to get as many as they can before the next issue comes up.

Franklin refused to be interviewed Wednesday.

His attorney, Mark Stevens, said he likely would seek a rehearing for

ely granted such motions.
"We were disappointed, obviously," Stevens said. "We'll investigate whether there are any more

Franklin but that the high court rar-

claims that need to be claimed. Stevens said he doubted whether the pace of executions would quicken, since Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Harry A. Blackmun

voted to uphold the Texas death penalty law, but for different rea-

ons.
"What they said was, 'We think the four judges are right in this case.' It leaves open: What about the next

case?" Stevens said. "It's two judges that seem to be an open question now," he said. "It's going to have to be a case-by-case analysis of any case pending before

the Supreme Court. Attorney General Jim Mattox, however, said he believed the ruling will clear the way for more executions. Texas already has executed 27 convicted killers, more than any other state since the Supreme Court allowed the death penalty to resume

"This case removes another major impediment to carrying out executions in Texas," Mattox said. "We now expect that executions will

again move forward in this state." Gov. Bill Clements, who never has used his authority to halt an execution, said he was pleased with the

high court decision. "I have always believed in the jury's right to sentence a criminal to the death penalty under appropriate circumstances," Clements said, adding that the ruling removed a major obstacle to the proper functioning of the capital punishment statute.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who serves as against the death penalty and acting governor when Clements is out of the state, said he would continue his lobby efforts, but would tinue to review the cases that came to

### Inmate predict second trial 'far from over

HUNTSVILLE (AP) – Hughes, convicted this mont the second time of the slaving Texas state trooper, pro Wednesday it would be mo

years before his case was resolv "It's something that's far, far from over," said Hughes, who turned to death row for the time in 13 months after a jury City found him guilty of capital der and sentenced him to dea the 1976 shooting of Mark Fro

"I am not bitter; I am not with anyone," Hughes said. "In

give up that hope. Jurors deliberating last week ommended Hughes be executed killing Frederick, who was gu down after he and his p

stopped Hughes in Sealy on as credit card complaint.
"I had the best representation the world," Hughes said of the his second. "I cannot fault my neys one inch, one word, one

Hughes said both he and his neys agreed that it was best hel fied, something he did not do

first trial. "We wanted the truth to out," he said.

Hughes, who gained notorie death row as a registered lot pand it to advocate better po

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