

## Shrimpers' report asks investigation into boat seizures

**United Press International**  
**BROWNSVILLE** — The Texas Shrimp Association Tuesday released a six-page report on the Mexican Navy's boarding and armed seizure of two American trawlers miles inside the U.S. fishing zone. The report termed the incident "an act of piracy" and asked for a U.S. State Department investigation.

Ralph Rayburn, executive director of the association, said he made a written request to Edward E. Wolfe, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fish, to conduct a full investigation into the Coast Guard's handling of the Dec. 5 affair to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

Rayburn asked the State Department to make recommendations to the Coast Guard on protecting American flag vessels on the high seas, requiring verification of "hot pursuit" claims such as the Mexicans used in seizing the shrimp boats, and determining methods of compensation "for losses to crewmen and vessel owners as a result of acts of piracy."

Owners and crews of both boats denied allegations by the

captain of the 305-foot destroyer escort Chihuahua that the Texas vessels had violated Mexico's fishing zone.

The Coast Guard simply "took the Mexicans' word" that the two boats had been illegally shrimping inside Mexico's 200-mile economic zone and that the gunboat was "in hot pursuit," Rayburn said.

He estimated total damages to the two boats, crews and owners at \$150,000 and said the State Department also should consider imposing an embargo on Mexican shrimp imports if there is no satisfaction of the demands.

The association's investigative report, prepared by Tony Reisinger of the Texas A&M University Marine Advisory Service, was based on interviews with crews of the Texas shrimp trawlers Santa Monica and Miss Chairmaine whose owners accused the Mexican Navy of piracy and kidnapping.

Reisinger advised area shrimpers to fish in groups until the issue is resolved because the Mexican gunboats would be less likely to try to capture fleets of boats.

## Procedures cause unnecessary pain

# State executions lacking 'dignity'

**HUNTSVILLE** — Condemned killers no longer can be hooked up to intravenous needles prior to injection executions in Texas until such a time as those executions can legally be carried out, the Texas Board of Corrections has decided.

Reacting to public criticism following murderer James

"Cowboy" Autry's near execution Oct. 4, the board which oversees the Texas Department of Corrections said on Monday current procedures may have caused unnecessary pain.

Autry had intravenous needles in his arms for an hour, prison officials said.

Meanwhile, the three-

member board recommended other changes they hoped will bring more "decorum and dignity" to executions.

Citing what it called a near riot when spectators outside the Huntsville Unit were told Autry's execution was stayed, the board recommended a new death chamber be built at a pris-

on outside the city.

The Huntsville Unit, with its death chamber, is located near downtown in a residential area.

Last October, about 250 people booed and shouted obscenities at Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox when he announced the U.S. Supreme Court had granted a last-minute stay.

Until a new facility can be built, the existing death chamber will be remodeled. Air conditioning will be added.

Other changes will separate witnesses for the state from the inmate by a barred barrier, and give the executioner a room with a view through a one-way mirror.

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## State news briefs

### Teacher facing drug charge

**MIDLAND** — A fourth grade teacher jailed with her husband on charges they sold heroin to adults was suspended from her job without pay pending a trial on the charges, school officials said.

Maria Rosario Flores Luna, 26, was not suspected of selling drugs to children but rather to adults, a Department of Public Safety spokesman said Tuesday.

Midland Principal Clint Adams said officers came to the school Friday and told him they planned to arrest Mrs. Luna. A DPS spokesman said the teacher's husband, Heravio Luna Jr., was arrested Friday near his home.

Mrs. Luna was in custody on \$50,000 bond for selling heroin while Luna was in custody on \$60,000 bond for possession of heroin and delivery of cocaine.

The DPS spokesman said nine people had been indicted in the case and more arrests were expected.

### Beached baby whale feeding

**GALVESTON** — "LaFitte," a baby whale who beached himself on New Year's Day, was eating Tuesday and his condition was improving, a Sea-Arama Marineworld spokeswoman said.

The 125-pound pygmy sperm whale had refused to eat anything last week, but he began nibbling on some squid Sunday. By Monday, he had chow down more than two pounds of fish.

Whales that strand themselves usually refuse to eat anything at all after they are rescued. They usually die within days. LaFitte was found with his mother on the beach by a commercial fisherman, but the mother whale died last week.

Marine experts are hopeful the baby came ashore because it followed his mother and not because he has medical problems.

### Residents protest dump site

**ASHERTON** — Some of the approximately 1,000 Dimmit County residents who gathered in the high school auditorium to express their opposition to a proposed, low-level nuclear waste disposal site held signs saying "Hell no, we won't glow."

Dr. William Fisher, chairman of the Texas Low-Level Radiative Waste Disposal Authority, told the crowd Monday it would be at least two months before his agency knew whether the town would be one of two candidate sites.

U.S. Rep. Abraham "Chick" Kazen and other elected officials questioned the safety of locating a waste site near Asherton, located about 100 miles southwest of San Antonio.

He said the waste site would jeopardize plans to build a reservoir on the nearby Nueces River.

### Town looking for new chief

**LITTLEFIELD** — City officials are taking applications for a new police chief in light of Chief Charles Morris' Jan. 31 resignation. Morris told city officials he had accepted a job in Austin with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education. The new post means Morris will work as an administrative specialist, he said Tuesday.

Littlefield City Manger George Shackelford said Littlefield's three sergeants would be responsible for their own shifts until a new chief was named.

### Union disputes picket law

**TYLER** — Claiming the state's picketing law is vague and unconstitutional, a union has asked federal Judge William Wayne Justice to strike down the statute. A hearing on the issue was scheduled for Wednesday morning.

The dispute grew out of the arrests of pickets and their lawyers at a Tyler business in 1979. Police made more than 70 arrests during a two-week period in March 1979 during efforts to organize the Buddy Schoellkopf plant, a Dallas-based company that produces down-filled products and marine equipment.

Local 746 of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America sued the company and the city of Tyler to stop the arrests.

Justice ordered a halt to what he called the "harassment," but his action was later overturned by 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The law says no more than two pickets can stand within 50 feet of each other and within 50 feet of the plant entrance.

### Oil barges beached by storm

**PORT LAVACA** — The owner of two barges loaded with a total of 28,000 barrels of waste oil Tuesday worked to float the vessels which were pushed ashore by rough seas in Matagorda Bay, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Lt. Michael Russell said the Coast Guard office in Corpus Christi was monitoring the situation Tuesday.

The barges, owned by Dean Towing Co., broke away from their tow vessel, the Diane Dean, and beached Monday night as a cold front pushed across the Texas coast.

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