

# GOP blames White for election date

United Press International

BRYAN — Former Texas A&M football player Edd Hargett joined the chorus of Republicans Wednesday who were critical of Gov. Mark White for setting a special legislative election during the conservative school's spring break.

"As a former student, it upsets me that Gov. White has obviously done this to disenfranchise the conservative-minded vote of the Aggie network of 48,000 students and employees," said Hargett, now a member of the Texas Economic Development Commission. White touched off the

GOP's ire when he set March 10 as a special election date to fill Rep. Bill Prenal's seat in the state legislature. Prenal, a Bryan Democrat, resigned the office to work as a vice-chancellor at A&M.

"Mark White, probably in consultation with the Democratic candidate in Brazos County, undoubtedly looked at the high Republican vote totals in Texas A&M precincts and decided to give an edge to his candidate over Republican Richard Smith," said GOP State Chairman George Strake.

White's aides said the timing of the university's spring break was not a factor in their

decision to set the election for March 10.

But Smith said many A&M students are conservatives who tend to vote Republican and blamed the selection of the March 10 date on either party politics or a lack of knowledge in the governor's office about A&M's schedule.

"It's hard for me to believe that the state's highest elected official does not have access to information regarding when A&M students will be on spring break," Smith said.

The earliest possible date for the special election would have been March 3, before A&M's break begins.

# Prosecutor, cop deny reports on 2 suspects

United Press International

KILGORE — A prosecutor and police official Wednesday blasted as "totally false" reports a grand jury soon would hear evidence against two suspects in the deaths of five people at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant.

"We've had suspects since day one," said Kilgore police spokesman Jerdy Wolverton. "We've had hundreds of them but, through the course of the investigation, most have been cleared."

Rusk County District Attorney William Brown was quoted as saying two people had been singled out as suspects and that information would be presented to a grand jury in March.

But Brown said in Henderson Wednesday he made no such statement.

"It is totally inaccurate," Brown said. "A reporter called here that had heard street talk and attempted to verify it through us. When we didn't verify it the way he wanted it done, he wrote up his street talk and attributed it to us."

"We do have some leads that we hope will pan out, and we're checking all the leads as they come in. If and when we're able to develop enough information we feel we can go with, then we'll go forward. When and where that will be, it's too early to say."

Four employees and a bystander were taken from the restaurant as it closed Sept. 23. They were later shot to death on

a back road 18 miles south of Kilgore.

The recent arrests of suspects in multiple killings in Sherman and Mount Pleasant may have triggered the incorrect reports concerning the Kilgore slayings, Brown said.

"We got some sparks from the Sherman case and the Mount Pleasant case, and they picked up this street talk on this one and tried to add it to them," he said. "This one's nowhere ready yet."

# Grandstaff trial moves to Week 3

United Press International

AMARILLO — A U.S. District judge is hearing its third week of testimony in a \$5 million civil suit concerning the 1981 shooting of 6666 Ranch camp foreman James Grandstaff.

Judge Mary Lou Robinson Wednesday denied a mistrial request from attorneys for the city of Borger. Attorney Wayne Sturdivant made the request late Tuesday, saying witness Jack Benton had expressed opinions without being an expert in his field.

Grandstaff's widow, Sharon, filed the suit against Borger and the counties of Hutchinson, Carson and Gray.

Grandstaff, 31, was shot by authorities who mistook him for a fugitive. Mrs. Grandstaff previously testified her husband had been trying to help authorities hunt for a man near their home early on Aug. 11, 1981.

Benton, a former Department of Public Safety employee, had investigated evidence Texas Rangers collected after the Grandstaff shooting.

He said his tests and calculations indicated the gunman was lying on the west side of a road when he fired the shot at Grandstaff as he was bending over. He said he did not have any conclusions about which of the six officers at the scene had fired the fatal shot.

# Shrimp predicted as new crop

By CASEY RAMSEY Reporter

Texas usually brings to mind oil, cowboys, huge cattle ranches and fertile farm lands. But much of the land, more than a million acres, is not suitable for ranching or farming.

Until now, that is, when research at Texas A&M University indicates that the land may be ideal for raising a new crop — shrimp.

The research, funded by the Texas A&M Sea Grant Program and the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, has been very successful in shrimp mariculture—the raising of shrimp in saltwater ponds. The program has already become the first in the continental United States to produce two shrimp crops in one year, said Feenan Jennings, director of the Sea Grant program.

The mild winters, flat coastal plains and the availability of saltwater makes the Texas coastal region an ideal location for raising shrimp in saltwater-filled ponds, he said. In addition the shrimp farm operation is a good investment.

A yield of 1,000 pounds of shrimp per acre is valued between \$3,500 and \$4,000. This compares to cotton which is valued at only \$400 to \$500 an acre. These figures, combined with the fact that each year the United States imports 50 percent of its shrimp, valued at more than \$500 million, illustrates the financial importance of this new technology.

Jennings compares breeding shrimp to the domestication of cattle.

"Until cattle were domesticated, man had no control over a

potential food source," he said. "Once he got control, he could use them for his benefit. Man's ability to control shrimp is parallel to this."

Jennings said that before mariculture can achieve full commercial success, the entire shrimp life cycle must take place in captivity. A big problem is finding a way for shrimp to breed naturally while in captivity.

Texas A&M's mariculture program began in 1968, but researchers were unable to induce the shrimp to spawn in captivity until 1979. The solution to the problem was found quite by accident, Jennings said.

"It was noticed by researchers that captive shrimp who had somehow knocked off one of their antenna-like eyes were ovulating naturally," Jennings said.

The shrimp are now caught by hand and one eye is removed with a razor blade, a process called ablation. It is believed that when a certain gland in the stalk of the eye is removed, hormonal changes occur and the shrimp can ovulate naturally, Jennings said. Prior to this, the shrimp were caught while in native spawning grounds off the Texas coast and moved inland, a costly and time consuming process called "souring."

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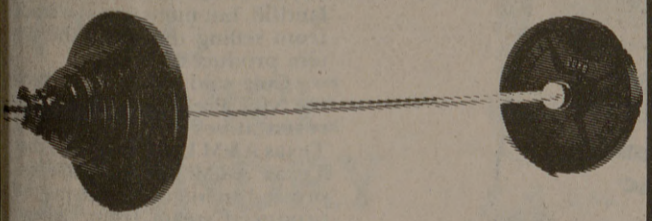
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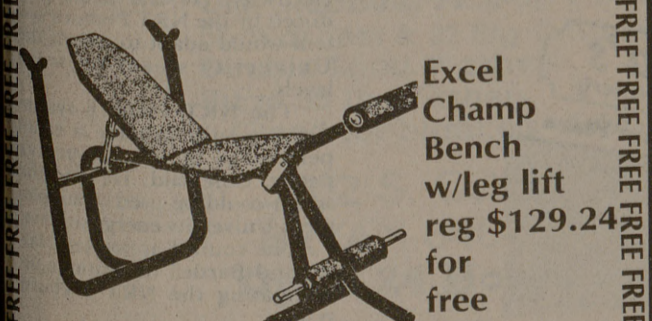


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