

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 159 USPS 045360 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, June 10, 1987



Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

## Making A Big Splash

The driver of this truck on S. College in Bryan appears to have gotten in deeper waters than he may have expected. Recent rains have caused high water levels on many Bryan and College Station streets,

but no roads have had to be closed yet. The weather has been unusual for Texas over the past few weeks, with heavy rains, not sunny skies, dominating the southern region of the state.

## Teenager catches 1,120-pound shark, sets state record

HOUSTON (AP) — Teen-ager Larry Simmons Jr. landed more than just a big fish when he hooked a 1,120-pound tiger shark off Galveston — he may have set a state record. Simmons, 16, said he didn't realize the size of the creature — more than 100 pounds bigger than the present record fish — until it had been brought aboard his father's fishing boat.

Simmons' father said, "We knew we had a big one but couldn't get the double line on the reel. The shark was right under the boat. Then, when we were all looking over the port side, the fish surfaced on the starboard. I turned around and freaked — had no idea it was such a monster until right then." "It was kind of spooky," he said.

"I thought it was about 700 pounds," he said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "He (Simmons' father) was kind of scared when they were pulling it up because it could have taken one of the wire men (crewmen) in."

The record for a tiger shark is 1,010 pounds set in 1983, said Clarence Beezley, an information specialist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. in Austin. Beezley said the latest catch would have to be verified before it could be listed as a record.

Simmons, of Katy, fought the tiger shark for two hours before bringing it in. Normally, the fisherman would be kept in a chair secured to the deck of the boat. Simmons, however, was on his feet the entire time.

"All we had at the time was a harness, and it didn't work too well," Simmons said.

"I kept real heavy pressure on the fish, but the drag kept heating up and slipping," he said. "The shark never did run that far — maybe 100 yards — but it was so strong. It stayed close but wouldn't give up."

Simmons' father, Larry Sr., and crewman Ken Cox helped the youth land the shark Friday night about 30 miles off Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico. The catch earned Simmons first place in the 11th annual Shark and Sport Fishing Tournament at Galveston.

"It could have been dangerous," the younger Simmons said. "It started to come alive when we shot it, and we had to shoot it again."

The female shark was 12 feet, 2 inches long and swollen to a girth of 88 inches, Simmons said. It was carrying several pups, he said.

Roy Drinnen, curator of fishes at Sea-Arama Marine World in Galveston, said, "That's a pretty good size." He added that tiger sharks, which are among the 16 listed man-eaters, average 8-12 feet in length and 600-800 pounds.

VENICE, Italy (AP) — As bombs rocked U.S. and British embassies in Rome, President Reagan won summit support Tuesday for a tough stand against terrorism and a fresh diplomatic initiative to counter threats against Persian Gulf shipping.

The United States and its six most powerful trading partners also hailed the growing momentum of arms control talks, but agreed to remain vigilant in dealing with a changing Soviet leadership.

Reagan said he was "delighted" with his six summit partners' largely symbolic declaration of support for the free passage of oil tankers through gulf shipping lanes. And, for the first time, they embraced Reagan's policy of refusing to make concessions to terrorists.

Although one U.S. official pronounced the summit "very successful from our standpoint," discord surfaced over the next step in Soviet-American arms control negotiations, with West Germany questioning U.S. strategy in dealing with Moscow.

Reagan's summit partners did not condemn arms sales to Iran, which U.S. officials cite as the principal obstacle to stability in the region, nor did they offer military assistance for U.S. efforts to keep vital oil shipping lanes open.

But Secretary of State George P. Shultz insisted that "we will be able to take care of ourselves well" in the gulf, where British and French warships also provide armed patrols and shipping escorts. "The states that are capable of providing (military help) are doing it," he said.

## 1 dead, 2 wounded in head-on train crash

PROSPER (AP) — A conductor was killed and two other trainmen were injured when a single engine struck a stopped freight train head-on Tuesday after a switch apparently was not thrown, officials said.

Charles L. Bookout, 57, of Tulsa, Okla., the conductor on the single engine, was pronounced dead at AMI North Texas Medical Center in McKinney, a Burlington Northern Railroad official said.

The accident happened at about 5:50 a.m. on a Burlington Northern siding about a half mile north of Prosper, midway between Denton and McKinney, railroad spokesman Robin Hughes said.

"From all indications, someone did not throw the switch," to keep the single engine off the siding track where the freight train was standing, Sgt. Anthony Hancock of the Collin County

Sheriff's Office said. "The single engine struck the stopped train head-on."

Hughes said Burlington Northern investigators would examine the switch, a manually operated apparatus, as well as other aspects of the mishap. "We do have concerns about the position of the switch," she said, noting that the Federal Railroad Administration and possibly the National Transportation Safety Administration would investigate the crash.

Hancock said the conductor and the engineer aboard the single engine jumped just before impact.

Injured was Ronald Stewart, 50, of Sand Springs, Okla., engineer on the single engine, who underwent surgery for a fractured arm Tuesday at the McKinney hospital, a hospital spokesman said.

Rick Shemberger, 25, of Fort Worth, the

freight train's brakeman, was treated in the hospital emergency room and released, the spokesman said.

Two other crew members on the freight train were not injured, Hughes said.

The single engine, an "expediter train" given a high priority main-line clearance on its southbound run from Tulsa to Irving where it was to pick up freight cars, was authorized to travel as fast as 49 mph, she said.

The northbound Irving-to-Tulsa freight train — consisting of six engines and 51 cars, 45 of which were empty — was waiting on the siding for the single engine to pass on the main line when the trains collided, she said.

All the trainmen had undergone drug testing according to FRA standards, Hughes said, but the results of those tests were not available immediately.

## Reagan wins support for terrorism stand

### Kuwaiti tankers to get U.S. escort by next month, Weinberger says

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Navy ships will begin escorting Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf early next month and must do the job alone if American allies won't help, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told Congress on Tuesday.

Weinberger's offer of his comments hours after President Reagan, meeting with other western leaders at the Venice summit, gained diplomatic and symbolic allied support for his goal of protecting ships in the vital waterway.

Weinberger told the House Armed Services Committee that the Coast Guard is likely to finish the paperwork needed to place 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the American flag later this month. When that administrative task is complete, he said, the Navy will begin escorting the ships.

Pressed by legislators about when the U.S. escort role would actually begin, Weinberger declined to be specific beyond saying it would be "very shortly" after the end of June.

"We believe that the reflagging will be completed by the end of the

month," he said, disputing statements by other administration officials that the U.S. escort role would start in late June.

Congressional fears about U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf have risen in the wake of last month's Iraqi missile attack on the frigate USS Stark that killed 37 sailors and Reagan's pledge to protect the Kuwaiti tankers.

Kuwait is an ally of Iraq in the nearly 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war, and Iran has threatened to continue to target the Kuwaiti tankers.

A key concern in Congress has been the role of U.S. allies in Western Europe and Japan, which receive a higher percentage of their oil from the gulf than does the United States. Legislators have complained that American allies should carry more of the burden of protecting the gulf.

In Venice, Italy, Reagan and the leaders of the six other industrialized democracies at the summit issued a communiqué that said "the principle of freedom of navigation in the gulf is of paramount impor-

portance for us and for others, and must be upheld."

U.S. officials traveling with Reagan said he had not sought military help from the allies beyond the British and French naval forces already in the gulf.

Meanwhile Tuesday, the House Foreign Affairs Committee delayed a vote on a resolution urging America's allies to do more in support of the U.S. role in the gulf. The postponement was made so the administration could have more time to look at the resolution and prepare a formal response.

In his testimony, Weinberger noted that the United States gets less than 6 percent of its oil from the gulf, while Japan receives 60 percent of its energy from the area and Western Europe, 30 percent.

"But this ignores the fact that the world oil market is one market and, should the Persian Gulf oil supplies be disrupted, oil prices will rise for everyone," the secretary added.

In addition, he said, "the fundamental issue is leadership, the leadership of the free world to resist the forces of anarchy and tyranny."

of the quickening pace of negotiations that have led the superpowers closer to signing a treaty that would eliminate hundreds of nuclear missiles in Europe and Asia, and said "more favorable prospects have emerged for the reduction of nuclear forces."

Since last year's summit in To-

## Residents of DG evicted; official cites vandalism

By Kirsten Dietz  
Senior Staff Writer

Students who expected to return to Davis-Gary Hall in the fall semester have been reassigned to other dormitories because of excessive policy violations and vandalism during the 1986-87 school year, said Tom Murray, assistant director of the Department of Student Affairs.

The department notified the 156 students of their new hall assignments in a letter dated June 3. Most of the students were assigned to Moses, Moore, Crocker or Hotard halls, whose rates are the same as Davis-Gary. If a student had chosen a roommate for the fall semester, the two were reassigned as roommates.

New residents, mostly freshmen and transfer students, will move into the 254-bed dorm in the fall.

The decision to relocate the residents came after almost two years of continuous vandalism, Murray said.

"We are certainly not making Davis-Gary an example," he said. "It's a pretty drastic move on our part. We didn't reach the decision lightly."

This was not the first time Davis-Gary residents have been relocated. Last year 15 second-floor residents were reassigned to other halls because of excessive vandalism, which included graffiti on hall and bathroom walls.

The student affairs department tried to curb the incidents by billing individuals responsible for the vandalism and by sending letters, dated Dec. 9, 1986 and May 5, warning

residents to stop the damage.

Unfortunately, Murray said, "That letter didn't really result in anything positive. We have some vandalism and some rowdiness in other halls, but to have it of this magnitude was a problem for us."

Murray says the vandalism increased during the spring semester.

According to the May 5 letter, 15 windows, 21 hallway lights, seven smoke detectors, six room locks and four bulletin boards had to be replaced in only a few months. Also, the letter says, hallways were trashed more than 10 times and were flooded three times. Walls were vandalized five times and arson was reported five times, the letter states.

During the weekend of April 24-26, the letter continues, a fourth-floor shower drain was stopped up, flooding rooms on that floor and other floors as water flowed down the stairs. Later that week a mattress was set on fire outside the head resident's room, the letter says.

"This year we've had a consistent string of incidents," Murray said.

As of Tuesday, one week after the final letter was dated, about 12 to 15 students had called the department, only one of whom was an irate caller, Murray said. The other callers had questions about the new arrangements, he said.

Davis-Gary is the second hall to have its students relocated this year. In February, 32 residents of Walton Hall's E-ramp were moved after repeated warnings by the department to end vandalism.