## Companies plan layoffs in Texas due to economy

FORT WORTH (AP) — Layoffs by some of the big gest U.S. companies not only have sparked worries about job security and a national economic slowdown. They've also hit close to home.

The General Motors Corp. assembly plant in Arlingon will cut back to one rotating shift beginning Monday because of slow sales.

That move was announced before GM said Friday hat it would idle more than 27,000 workers nation-

General Dynamics Corp. said Oct. 29 that it would ay off between 700 and 1,000 research and engineering personnel in January.

The defense contractor has said it expects to cut up 7,000 jobs at its Fort Worth Division by the mid-1990s because of declining government defense spend-

Texas Instruments in Dallas has lost 950 of its 22,000 orkers in its Defense Systems & Electronics Group for

A study by an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas shows that defense companies account for 18 ercent of Fort Worth's total economic output.

Defense work is so important to the local economy that each job eliminated by a defense contractor will also bring about the loss of one more job somewhere else in the Fort Worth-Dallas area, the study showed.

"We've been through a depression, so the only way to go is up," said Frank Anderson, a financial analyst who follows Southwest banks for Stephens Inc. investment bankers in Little Rock, Ark.

HOUSTON (AP) — Ever since troops from Fort Hood joined Oper-ation Desert Shield in Saudi Arabia,

the 65,000 residents of Killeen have

felt the pinch of battle as stores and

restaurants close from a lack of busi-

"Business is off 35 to 40 percent,"

Mike Lazar, 53, owner of Scandals, a

topless nightclub that gets about 75

percent of its business from Fort Hood soldiers, said. "There are

fewer soldiers, and those that come in are spending less. Why? The

Rob Morris, 29, who owns a jew-elry store in Killeen Mall said he now

'Normally on a day like today (a

military payday), I'd have 20 customers," Morris said. "Today, I've had five. We're hoping for the best."

magic of the crowd is missing.

trolls for shoppers.

Businesses close up

as soldiers pull out

"The Texas economy is more broadly based than it was 10 years ago. When you look at Tarrant County, once you go beyond defense... our largest employers — Tandy, GM, American Airlines, Pier 1 depend on discretionary consumer spending."

 Robert "Bobby" McGee, president, **Texas Commerce Bank** Fort Worth

Police officer

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas po-lice officer was killed early Sun-

day morning when he was run over by someone driving a stolen

Sunny Ma Love, 39, was struck

and killed at about 1:30 a.m.

while he was placing flares at a traffic accident site on North

Central Expressway, police spokeswoman Vicki Hawkins

The Cambodian native had been on the police force two years, Hawkins said.

Hawkins said the stolen car

had been recovered, but the driver fled the scene and had not been found early Sunday.

Another officer working a

nearby accident found Love's

hit by car,

car, authorities said.

driver flees

But others aren't so sure.

Fort Hood's 38,000 troops — plus

another 55,000 Army spouses and children — provide a livelihood, directly or indirectly, for an estimated

120,000 civilians around Killeen.

The Central Texas post accounts for

about 75 percent of the regional economy, officials said.

"Since the deployment, we can't find people to rent from us," Rick

Foerster, 47, a trailer park operator,

in business, I'm now doing \$200," John Consentino, 34, assistant manager of an athletic footwear store in

Killeen Mall, said.

"Where ordinarily I'd do \$5,000

Still, Consentino is luckier than

some merchants. Last month, the Western Sizzlin' Steakhouse closed

its doors and Manuel Pacheco plans

to sell his Boot & Things Army

"The Texas economy is more broadly based than it was 10 years ago. When you look at Tarrant County, once you go beyond defense... our largest employers — Tandy, GM, American Airlines, Pier 1 — depend on discretionary consumer spending," said Robert discretionary consumer spending," said Robert "Bobby" McGee, president of Texas Commerce Bank

"There's no escaping that whatever happens in the national economy happens in the Texas economy, good and bad," McGee told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

## Lewis finds defense in supporters

FORT WORTH (AP) -- Many Republicans, Democrats and political analysts agree: Questions about House Speaker Gib Lewis' tax payments won't matter much in Tuesday's election.

Lewis said Thursday that a law firm didn't pay any of his company's delinquent property taxes. He reversed himself the next day, saying he would reimburse Heard Goggan Blair & Williams for all taxes, penal-ties and interest that it paid for his

The law firm, which collects more than half of all delinquent taxes in Texas, paid more than half of a 1987 delinquent tax bill owed by the Shooters' Palace gun range, of which

Lewis owns 50 percent. State Rep. Doyle Willis, D-Fort Worth, a 36-year veteran of the Legislature, said that while he often disagrees with Lewis in the House chambers, he believes the speaker

made a simple mistake.

"It's absolutely impossible to keep up with all those things. I don't think he knew about it," the 82-year-old lawmaker told the Fort Worth Star-

Telegram.
Willis and other legislators said they doubted that tax-paying dis-crepancies and vacations that Lewis

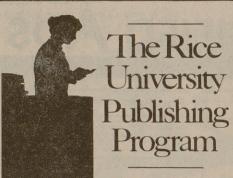
"It's absolutely impossible to keep up with all those things. I don't think he knew about it."

—Doyle Willis, State Rep., D-Fort Worth

took to Mexico with Heard Goggan attorneys—including one in 1987 to Manzanillo, Mexico, for which sources said the firm paid \$28,000—would have any effect on Lewis'

Lewis has acknowledged that he traveled to Mexico with the attor-

neys.
"I don't think it will affect him in the election," Willis said. "But any time you are a public official and you have any criticism — just or unjust you have a tendency to work a little harder."





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