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## Spring man's drowning reclassified as homicide

WOODLANDS, Texas (AP) — The mysterious 1993 death of a Spring man, previously ruled an accidental drowning despite two gunshot wounds to the victim's head, has been reclassified as a homicide.

Montgomery County Justice of the Peace Edie Connelly reversed her 1993 ruling on Paul Jerome Beauchamp's death Tuesday after three of four pathologists who re-examined his exhumed body agreed he died of the gunshot wounds.

Beauchamp's family had rejected the theory that Beauchamp, who earlier had been drinking heavily at a Christmas party, got his pickup stuck on a remote road about 600 yards from a private pond, became disoriented, stumbled into the water and drowned.

Dr. Joye M. Carter, Harris County medical examiner, headed the team of pathologists who re-examined the body on Nov. 18.

The pathology team's lone dissenter from the homicide finding was Dr. Vladimir M. Parungao.

Parungao is the Harris County pathologist who concluded in the original autopsy that two shots were fired into Beauchamp's head on Dec. 26, 1993, after he drowned.

A Spring auto mechanic who lives near the pond always contended that he fired two shots from a .22-caliber rifle into Beauchamp's head in the belief that he was shooting at a turtle.

The mechanic has not been charged with a crime.

Montgomery Sheriff Guy Williams said Wednesday he disagrees with the new findings, but his department will meet with the

district attorney's office and the justice of the peace to decide whether to pursue charges.

"The district attorney will have to prove that (the mechanic) intentionally and knowingly took the life of Paul Beauchamp," Williams said. "I'm not speaking for the DA, but that'd be awaiting to do."

The level of alcohol in Beauchamp's blood was 27 percent. The legal limit for intoxication is .10 percent.

Neither Carter nor Parungao could be reached for elaboration. A report, which said "all doctors agree that the initial and follow-up investigation was severely flawed."

Williams said his officers conducted a thorough investigation but turned up no evidence that Beauchamp was murdered. A new report still provides no details that Beauchamp was killed intentionally, he said.

But the pathologists' report said that "items in police custody were misplaced and/or lost."

Williams said he was unaware of any evidence missing from the report. He also disputed the report that said a "legged weapon was not tested."

"I know that we did a ballistics test on the weapon and it was conclusive, just like the test the Department of Public Safety Laboratory did on it recently," Williams said.

"All I can say is that we did a physical examination of the body then, and it's been examined a bunch of times since then."

### ► Conservation Reserve Program

## USDA reveals final changes to program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas agriculture experts and lawmakers greeted with caution Wednesday the unveiling of a retooled Conservation Reserve Program that has pumped more than \$1.8 billion into the state's rural economy over a decade.

Most adopted a wait-and-see attitude over the raft of intricate changes to the program, which has paid Texas farmers and ranchers to idle 4.1 million acres of cropland, mainly in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains.

"We certainly do hope that Texas doesn't stand to lose major acreage to other parts of the country," said Steve Pringle, legislative director of the Texas Farm Bureau.

The 11-year-old program pays farmers not to plant crops in a bid to protect topsoil from erosion, reduce water runoff and shield wildlife.

Texas has more enrolled acres than any other state. Nationally, nearly 33 million acres are idled through 10-year contracts. Contracts covering 22 million acres are due to expire this fall.

Up to 240 million acres — two thirds of the nation's farmland — will be eligible for consideration. But no more than 15 percent of that total, amounting to a maximum 36.4 million acres, can be enrolled.

"Under the new CRP, we will enroll only the most environmentally sensitive land," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

Although erosion remains prominent in determining which land qualifies, considerations for wildlife habitat and water quality also have emerged as major factors to be evaluated by USDA in issuing contracts.

Cost also is a consideration.

"The CRP is no longer just a soil protection program but a true conservation program," Glickman said.

Using a complex Environmental Benefits Index formula, USDA will determine which land is suitable for inclusion in the CRP.

The new regulations mark a substantial departure from the rules proposed last year. Glickman said, "when you look at the criteria, they are somewhat different than they were before," said

**"The CRP is no longer just a soil protection program but a true conservation program."**

Dan Glickman  
Agriculture Secretary

Mac Thornberry, R-Clarendon, whose Panhandle district includes a huge chunk of the Texas acreage.

Thornberry and Combest's inclusion of a new criterion, air quality, which weighs the amount of dust and dirt in the air — a key issue in the windy Panhandle.

"Wind erosion and air quality are significant for the state of Texas," Combest said.

# Texas Instruments Career Fair

Monday, February 17, 1997

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Room 110-111

Interviews Scheduled

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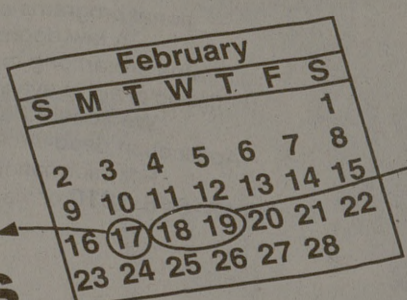
- Chemistry/Chemical Engineering
- Physics (Engineering and Solid State)
- MBA with EE undergraduate degree
- Finance
- Accounting

The Career Fair and sign-ups for interviews will be held: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., February 17, Room 110-111, John J. Koldus Building. Interviews (by appointment): February 18 & 19.

Visit TI's homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ti.com>

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