

BIG SPRING HERALD

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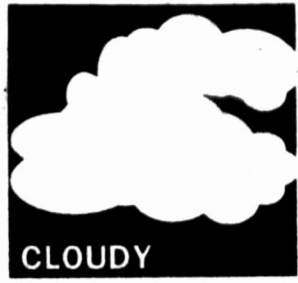
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

September 11, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT 62°-67° TOMORROW 85°-90°

Blood drive at city hall set Thursday

United Blood Services of San Angelo bloodmobile will at Big Spring City Hall on Thursday to collect much needed blood donations for area communities.

"We are already behind on donations for the month of September," said Sherry Morton, community relations representative. "We must find the blood to keep our hospitals stocked. Please help by giving the gift of life."

According to Johnna Pevey, the United Blood Services of San Angelo is at 15 percent of its blood collection for the month, down by nearly half of its usually donation collections.

"We are about a 1/3 of the month and we should have about 30 to 33 percent of collections for the month," Pevey said.

The drive will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those who would like to make an appointment can contact Rebecca Pritchett at 264-2347 or United Blood Services at (915) 665-1307.

Donors must be 17-years-old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health and know the names of any medication taken in the past 30 days.

WHAT'S UP...

WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in Howard College Cactus room.

□ Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria. People 50 and older are invited to participate.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

□ Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.

□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge.

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Terror strikes U.S.

World Trade Center felled

NEW YORK (AP) — In a horrific sequence of destruction, terrorists hijacked two airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center in a coordinated series of attacks Tuesday morning that brought down the twin 110-story towers. A plane also slammed into the Pentagon, raising fears that the seat of government itself was under attack.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers, but many were thought to have been trapped. About



AP Laserphoto

The second of two planes which struck the World Trade Center in New York this morning streaks toward its target. Both towers of the center later collapsed in what officials says was clearly a terrorist attack.

See TERROR, Page 5

Pentagon takes direct hit; government offices closed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon took a direct, devastating hit from an aircraft and the enduring symbols of American power were evacuated Tuesday as an apparent terrorist attack quickly spread fear and chaos in the nation's capital.

The nerve center of the nation's military burst into flames and a portion of one side of the five-sided structure collapsed when the plane struck in mid-morning. Secondary explosions were reported in the aftermath of the attack and great billows of smoke drifted skyward toward the Potomac River and the city beyond.

Authorities immediately began deploying troops, including a regiment of light infantry.

"Terrorism against our nation will not stand," vowed President Bush, in Florida on a morning when not only Washington was struck, but the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York were hit by planes and later collapsed.

There was no attempt to minimize the impact.

"This is the second Pearl

'This is the second Pearl Harbor,'

Chuck Hagel
U.S. Senator

Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., referring to the attack 60 years ago that surprised the nation and propelled it into World War II.

With Bush in Florida, his advisers were preparing a list of options, including closing the nation's borders, according to a senior U.S. official.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was premature to discuss military options because investigators were still trying to determine who was responsible for the attacks.

Away from the Pentagon, unexplained explosions were reported in the vicinity of the State Department and the Capitol. Agents with automatic weapons

patrolled the White House grounds.

The departments of Justice, State, Treasury and Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency were evacuated — an estimated 20,000 at the Pentagon alone.

One lawmaker said the congressional leadership had been hustled away to safety.

And the FAA ordered the entire nationwide air traffic system shut down.

A torrent of people rushed from their office buildings throughout the nation's capital, eager to leave a city under siege. The cell phone networks were overloaded, clusters of people sprayed on the sidewalks and at least one suburban school district announced plans to close early.

The Pentagon was hit a short while after the World Trade Center was struck.

Paul Begala, a Democratic consultant, said he witnessed an explosion near the Pentagon, saying it sent a huge, orange fireball skyward.

AP reporter Dave Winslow also saw the crash. He said,

See WASHINGTON, Page 5



AP Laserphoto

Smoke billows from both World Trade Center towers prior to their collapse.

Attacks leave local residents in collective shock

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

The terroristic attacks on the United States this morning shocked many residents as they tuned to the television to watch the events unfold throughout the morning.

"I just left there at 5 a.m. this morning," said Howard College student Van Jamison. "It's crazy."

Jamison was one of many who gathered around the television at the Howard College Student Union Building this morning watching media reports from New York and Washington.

Jamison, who is from New Jersey, left this morning on a Continental Flight from JFK Airport after attending

See SHOCK, Page 2



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Howard College employees and students gather around a television in the Student Union Building watching the media reports of the tragic attacks across the country.

Council meeting cooking school cancelled tonight

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

The terrorist attacks this morning in New York and Washington D.C. have prompted several local measures, including postponement of the Big Spring City Council meeting scheduled for this evening, grounding of flights from the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport and the Midland International Airport as part of a nationwide Federal Aviation Administration grounding and heightened security at the Big Spring State

See IMPACT, Page 2

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TEXAS BRIEFS

State rejects claim in officer's slaying

FORT WORTH (AP) — Lawyers for the Texas attorney general's office are rejecting claims that the state prison system was responsible for a police officer's death that followed a high-profile escape by seven inmates.

Relatives of Irving police officer Aubrey Hawkins had accused the Texas Department of Criminal Justice of negligence and wrongful death. It states that inadequate staffing, lack of training and security gaps led to his shooting death on Christmas Eve.

The Criminal Justice Department is protected by sovereign immunity, a legal doctrine that prevents the government from being sued, Texas Assistant Attorney General Lori Erwin wrote in the response filed Monday.

Erwin also wrote that prison employees cannot be sued individually because they were working "in good faith while acting within the scope of their authority."

Hawkins was killed by "parties ... over whom defendant had no control at the time of the incident," wrote Erwin.

The prison escapees' avowed ringleader, George Rivas, was sentenced to death last month in the slaying of Hawkins.

Texas eyes other states for prison guards

HOUSTON (AP) — For the first time, state correctional officials are looking outside Texas borders to recruit guards for a prison staffing shortage.

Officials are hoping a pay raise approved by the Legislature this spring will lure enough people from six nearby states — New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama — to fill 3,000 positions.

The turnover rate among Texas prison guards grew from 12.1 percent in 1996 to 22 percent last year, an increase that officials blame partially on the state's strong economy. Officials say recruiting in Texas hasn't kept pace with the droves of guards quitting.

"The deal is that once they get here, we find out that they've gotten a better-paying job or they decide this kind of job wasn't cut out for them," Janie Cockrell, director of the TDCJ institutional division, said.

The agency is authorized to employ 26,000 officers who manage 131,000 inmates in 93 facilities.

Lawmaker urges study of swamped TRC

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas lawmaker is urging a detailed review of the state agency that decides which Texans qualify for monthly disability payments from the Social Security Administration.

State Rep. Garnet Coleman has written a request to House Speaker Pete Laney that two legislative committees look into the Texas Rehabilitation Commission's policies.

The commission has a backlog of disability claims and ranks near the bottom nationally in claim reports. Earlier this week, the Houston Chronicle reported that about 12,000 sick and injured Texans who applied to the commission for benefits had their cases assigned to case-workers who didn't exist.

Jurors to determine if Yates competent

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors selected to determine whether a Houston mother accused of drowning her five children is competent to stand trial will have to consider her ability to assist her attorneys and to rationally and factually understand the case against her.

But no matter what the jurors determine, legal experts say Andrea Yates' ability to meet those two standards may be fragile and could change.

Jury selection began today for a hearing to determine if Yates is fit to stand trial. Yates, 37, is accused of two counts of capital murder for the drowning deaths of three of her five children in a bathtub in the family's home in June.

When testimony likely begins Wednesday, the jury won't consider Yates' innocence or guilt but whether she understands the case against her and can consult with her attorneys about it, said Daniel Shuman, a law professor at Southern Methodist University.

If Yates is found competent to stand trial, another

jury will determine her degree of responsibility and whether she was insane at the time of the killings.

If she is found incompetent, jurors will also have to determine the likelihood that Yates will regain competency.

"The state is constitutionally barred from proceeding with the criminal prosecution until she becomes competent," said Brian Serr, a Baylor University Law School professor.

In an attempt to reach competency, the state can commit Yates to a mental institution for up to 18 months, Serr said. Progress reports come every 90 days.

Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal has said his office will pursue the death penalty against Yates.

Her defense attorneys, contending she is innocent by reason of insanity, have submitted to the court hundreds of pages of medical records detailing Yates' treatment for depression, postpartum depression and showing two suicide attempts after the birth of

her fourth child.

The records show Yates wanted to kill herself to keep from hurting someone else. She told doctors she had her first homicidal thought after the birth of her first child, but "blew it off."

A competency evaluation ordered by State District Judge Belinda Hill found Yates competent to stand trial.

Her defense attorneys disagree. In July, they said she remained in "a psychotic state."

A person's competence can resemble a roller coaster ride, SMU's Shuman said.

"A finding that she was competent on Day 1 says nothing about her competence on Day 10," the professor said. "That's the important question. Can she assist her attorney at this point in time? It doesn't matter whether she could a month ago."

Family members have said recently that Yates, held at a Harris County Jail psychiatric unit where she is being treated by mental

health specialists, is coherent and talking more.

Yates' mother, three brothers and a sister all have been subpoenaed for the competency hearing. So have Yates' husband, Russell, and his mother and brother.

Serr said it is rare but not unprecedented for a defendant to be declared competent to stand trial and then deteriorate.

"You can be competent at the beginning of your trial and you can become incompetent in the middle of your trial," he said. "I don't think it's a perfect science that a certain type of treatment, if taken, is going to work."

University of Texas law professor George Dix says it doesn't take much for a defendant to be declared competent to stand trial.

"If they can understand the functions of the various individuals in the trial process, we determine they can understand the proceedings," he said. "A person can be quite severely impaired, but nevertheless be competent to stand trial."

Condemned killer says it's time for him to die

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Convicted killer Jeffery Tucker sees his execution set for tonight as relief.

"A life sentence would be more torture to me," Tucker said. "The hardest thing for me is to look in a mirror for 13 years and know I took a life."

Tucker faces lethal injection for fatally shooting a Parker County man, Wilton Humphreys, while trying to rob the 65-year-old man of his truck July 11, 1988.

"I've looked at myself in a mirror and see that man's face," Tucker said. "The memory haunts me... I say

put me on the gurney and maybe the pain will stop."

Tucker, 41, would be the 13th condemned prisoner to be executed this year in Texas, where a record 40 inmates were put to death last year. At least four more executions are scheduled in the coming months, including another one next week.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week refused to halt Tucker's punishment. His lawyers sought an 11th-hour reprieve from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The reprieve would not be welcome, he said.

"This is it," Tucker said.

"I'm not expecting a stay... Thirteen years. It's time."

"I feel like everybody deserves their day in court and should have the court processes reviewed," Donald Schnebly, the Parker County district attorney who was among prosecutors who tried Tucker in 1989, said.

"Sometimes you just wish the process would move a little faster."

Tucker said he would not seek clemency from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles or the governor.


"I'm not going to waste my time or theirs," he said.

Tucker already had been in and out of Texas prisons three times, with convictions including drug possession, check forgery, theft and assault from at least five counties: Tarrant, Collin, Harris, Palo Pinto and Anderson.

"Obviously, he had not been rehabilitated," Schnebly said.

When he was pulled over by state police following a chase near Santa Rosa, N.M., Tucker was driving Humphreys' truck and also was wanted for robbing a service station three days earlier.

Downtown Business Directory



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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ken Dulaney
Publisher
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

In reply to Mayor McEwen's explanation of the 2001-2002 budget on hiring a "fulltime" airpark manager, there already is a person in that position, Nelda Reagan, whose salary of \$25,000 is indeed funded by the airpark budget.

By strict policy of the FAA, all revenues generated by the airpark are to be expended on improvements and maintenance of the airpark-not on city projects.

In discussion with the FAA Monday I was informed what a great asset the airpark is to the community and visual inspection by the FAA had revealed few improvements expended on the airpark except through grants from TXDOT Aviation. A representative stated that if the city of Big Spring wishes to spend airpark money on two managers, future TXDOT grants will be screened closely as the airpark's revenue is not being spent properly.

According to the city of Big Spring Ordinance No. 593, dated Jan. 26, 1993, the Airpark Development Board was created to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the airpark. The board was to recommend to the council such policies as preparation and maintenance of a comprehensive Airpark Improvement Program, the Airpark Master Plan and matters pertaining to the economics of leases, potential business growth, security and safety. It was designated to comply with FAA requirements.

There are members on the board who were assigned to the original one in 1993. With the present mayor and council, the board has no authority. The city manager controls the airpark budget. Many budget line items were cut to supplement the money for the new position.

The airpark pays the city a sum of \$125,000 for "administrative services." These services are based on time provided by a city employee to perform duties for the airpark, such as accounting, legal, management \$10,000 of Emma Bodard's salary included in this amount.

The mayor cites "Ports-to-Plains is now a reality." Ports-to-Plains was designated by the Texas Department of Transportation on June 28, 2001, as the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Route from Laredo north to Dumas. From Sterling City to Lamesa, the corridor will follow U.S. Highway 87, with an alternate route from Sterling City to Midland to Lamesa. This will not be a reality for many years.

A feasibility study for a truck relief route, which will be located near the airpark, will not be presented to the Texas Department of Transportation until Nov. 15. After designation and funding, an anticipated date of completion would be five to 10 years. We have ample time to analyze the needs of the airpark and prepare for all

that "potential industry." While Mayor McEwen has had "overwhelmingly favorable comments on our proposed 2001-2002 budget", the petitions signed by citizens, the phone calls and letters to the editor indicate otherwise.

I am a past president of the Moore Board and I know that continuous efforts have been made and continue to be made to market the airpark. When you look at the tenants, you will find how the Moore Board has helped these companies financially, including the current president of the Chamber of Commerce.

JOYCE CROOKER
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to address some issues that were in a letter to the editor on Thursday. The letter stated that the newest members of the school board are being told what to do by a small group of people. The letter also insinuated that these new board members are against computers for our students. These statements are totally false.

I have been employed by this district for 17 years and have seen numerous board members come and go. I feel that the newest members of our board have more common sense and back bone that the boards from previous years. They are faced with the task of cleaning up messes that were created by previous boards.

I feel that these three men completely consider all sides of every issue before casting their vote. I think they have shown great strides in some of their recent decisions.

As for computers in the classrooms, BSISD is constantly updating its computers and training teachers to work with students to become more computer literate. The cost of computers and software for computers is astronomical.

Our board, along with the technology department, has spent numerous hours seeking grants from the state to pay for these computers. They have to stay within their allotted budget to supply these things for our students.

I do not know where the lady who wrote this letter got the idea that our board is against computers in the classroom. From where I sit, she has been misinformed. I think that everyone has misinformed. I think that everyone has a right to express their opinion, but I feel that your must first have all of the facts.

The fact is that these three board members have proven their willingness to stand up for what they believe is right. The fact is that our classrooms are outfitted with more computers and the number continues to grow as finances allow.

I feel that these three men are doing an excellent job in representing the voice of the people who elected them.

RHONDA DOE
BIG SPRING.

Controlling opinion controls government

Browsing through the writings of James Madison, generally considered one of the main authors of the Constitution, I finally spotted the flaw in the great system of government that Madison and others devised.

Madison referred to the American government as a "government of opinion." He meant that public opinion would determine the direction the government would ultimately go. And that was the flaw.

In Madison's time, the influencers of public opinion were private education, public newspapers and pamphlets, speeches, town meetings and personal experiences. There existed no method of communicating with all 3 million Americans simultaneously.

Today, the main influencers of public opinion are corporate-owned broadcast and print outlets, the entertainment industry (also corporate-owned) and

the gigantic government education bureaucracy. The news media and entertainment industries are essentially unregulated, so the quality of the information depends entirely on the people who control them.

No wonder we're in trouble as a country.

Against better judgment, I tuned in to a segment of ABC's "Good Morning America." There was about two and a half minutes of news, and the entire rest of the segment was devoted to gossip about Rep. Gary Condit and a girl who has been missing for more than 100 days. Over the entire earth, the producers thought gossiping about a sordid little affair was the most important event.

The District of Columbia police long ago indicated that Condit is not a suspect in the girl's disappearance. Apparently, there were two separate and, for all we know, entirely unrelated events. The congressman reportedly had an affair, which ended. Sometime later, the girl turned up missing. There's a correlation, but no cause-and-effect relationship has been established. Without the congressman, however, the news media don't have a story. People turn up miss-

ing all the time. So, despite the lack of any facts or evidence, the television media continue to link her disappearance to her relationship with the congressman.

That is not the kind of information Madison had in mind when he and the Founding Fathers established the principle of a free press. They had in mind serious reporting and discussion of public affairs, and a congressman's love life hardly qualifies, especially in these decadent days when there is apparently nothing so immoral any public official can do that will affect his re-election chances. Bill Clinton proved that, beyond a shadow of a doubt.

In the meantime, we are stuck with a few corporations that control most of what we can read or see and which, apparently deliberately, employ largely attractive and glib idiots to set the public agenda. The winning formula for ratings and circulation is always an appeal to the lowest common denominator. Just as Stonewall Jackson's friend R.L. Dabney said in the 19th century, if what you mean by education is teaching people to read, all you will accomplish is to create a

mass audience for trash. A hundred years later, Alexander Solzhenitsyn would tell the American people that their allegedly free press is less free than the press in Eastern Europe, so addicted is the Western press to cliches and what is fashionable. Referring to the press's claim of the "people's right to know," Solzhenitsyn said people also have a right not to have their divine souls stuffed with garbage.

The shared monopoly we should be concerned about is not Microsoft's dominance of computer operating systems, but the growing concentration of media and entertainment in fewer and fewer corporate hands. In a "government of opinion," he who controls public opinion controls the government. That might be why we have a corporate welfare state that increasingly resembles fascism. If you go to a corporate boardroom looking for patriotism or morality or Christian compassion, you will have gone to the henhouse looking for wool. No doubt there are exceptions to that generalization. I just haven't found one yet.

Charley Reese can be contacted at brarl@earthlink.net



CHARLEY REESE



Wise use of technology requires intelligence

In the mountains of Azerbaijan, people are expected to live to be 100. "If you don't live to be 100," the saying goes, "it's your own fault." The usual mistakes, said a reporter in The New York Times, are "trading the bracing mountain air for the ill winds of the lowlands, not partaking of the local herbs, getting too much information, and thinking bad thoughts."

Certainly, the mountain air, herbs and good thoughts sound beneficial, but is it really possible to receive too much information? Some don't think so. James Gleick has written of technologists who believe that the collective mind will grow vastly more intelligent because of the Internet. He quotes scientist Bernardo Huberman, who wants to "harvest the distributed knowledge that

such a gigantic social mind is producing ... We now know that society can work better than any individual.

There is this notion of a collective mind, a social mind, and, today, the Internet allows us to tap that."

No doubt there is truth in this statement. If more decisions are made by being informed by more data — which now can be instantly, even effortlessly, gathered — surely there is a gain for humankind. But, still, it is necessary for information to be distilled into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom. Otherwise, the world falls prey to endless quantification, uninspired by deeper instincts.

Indeed, some people are already incorporating this philosophy into their lives. Stephen Sondheim, the songwriter, refuses to have a computer, lest it interfere with his creativity. One Texas rancher now turns off the fax so that it's necessary to telephone her in order to send one. Another woman living in Dallas, Texas, opens the mail only once a week. Without

knowing it, they have imbibed the lesson of the Azer mountain people.

There are many, of course, who are still entranced by Bill Gates's aspiration to conduct "business at the speed of thought." Even so, Microsoft was surprised to learn a few years ago that its most active Web site was the address devoted to religion. It is open to members of all faiths and has only one rule: that everyone be treated with respect.

As for Seattle, home of Microsoft, one observer has noted that it is "Montana with water. It is like L.A. in the '30s — the dream." The dream has taken a beating these past few months. M.B.A.s are back now, along with coats and ties. High-tech itself is being reappraised. Chip Pitts of Dallas, formerly chief counsel at Nokia, is finding that he no longer gets all his news online. Instead, he prefers the aesthetics of the newspaper, he said, and enjoys spreading it out.

People are shunning e-books. The rush to digital reading that was supposed

to sweep the publishing industry with the force of paperbacks 40 years ago simply has not materialized. Only smaller houses selling e-books for \$3 or so are having any success, according to one press report. Most major publishers are still pricing e-books at around \$15, which makes them more expensive than paperbacks.

But maybe money isn't the only issue. Perhaps there are those who still love the aesthetics of a book: the feel of the paper, the design of the cover, the elegance of good typography. Of course, hand-held computers haven't worked as well as one might wish. This technology is four or five years away from really fulfilling itself.

In time, e-books may indeed come into their own.

Certainly, e-mail has a firm hold on the culture. It's not as appealing as the aesthetics of lovely stationery, personal handwriting and a carefully chosen stamp, but it is efficient. What is lost is intimacy. It's the same case with the telephone.

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY

Wall Street

NEW YORK — U.S. financial markets to a halt Tuesday separate planes the twin towers Trade Center.

The Securities Exchange Commission all financial markets be closed for an announcement suspension of trading New York Stock and Nasdaq. The American Exchange has decided to close

Republican drafting plus

WASHINGTON — Unwilling to w guidance from Bush, cc Republicans a standby speaker meant to show for Social Sec same time the new tax cuts economy.

"It's important some leadership just stand on lines," Senate Leader Trent Lott suggested a tactic at easing the "We've got to be ways to address lem" of a slum.

While Lott call for tax Republicans a budget committee to approve spending cuts. tions would take the next fiscal after Oct. 1, if the government into the Social surplus in 2002 year.

In a campaign pledge issued Republicans would not Social Security for any purpose paying down the

"We will cut order to achieve amount of debt equal to the Social surplus," said Nussle, the chairman of the Committee. He heads would be tude in applying and a few projects that affect and low-income recipients, exempt. Benef such as Medicare Social Security wise be shielded. Nussle said House "has been about it, but signal one w other" what the position is on tion.

He also p Senate to act would be a "a the Senate not commitment to Security surplus.

Initial Demotion was negative. "It's a gin clearly an attack around the fact budget director them really which is the put them into s Social Security said Kori Berna

WASHINGTON

Continued from F "I saw the tail of liner. ... It plowed the Pentagon." Gen. Richard chairman of Staff Chiefs of staff prior to the crash Pentagon, militia had been not another hijacker

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Wall Street closes, trading not expected to reopen anytime soon

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. financial markets came to a halt Tuesday after two separate planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said all financial markets would be closed for the day. The announcement followed a suspension of trading on the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Stock Market. The American Stock Exchange had already decided to close.

"As a safety precaution while the tragic events of today are sorted out, the securities markets have decided not to open for trading today," SEC chairman Harvey Pitt said in a statement. "We strongly support that decision."

Pitt said markets would reopen "as soon as it is practicable to do so."

Many of the nation's investment firms have at least some of their operations in the World Trade Center or surrounding

buildings, possibly limiting their ability to restart quickly. And the New York Mercantile Exchange, where energy futures are traded, is located in the nearby World Financial Center.

Much of the downtown district was evacuated. It was difficult to make phone calls to the downtown business district and throughout Manhattan.

The collapse of both of the World Trade Center skyscrapers and reports of

attacks on the State Department and on the Pentagon in Washington added to the paralysis and terror already engulfing the financial district. The fate of the 50,000 people who work in the twin 110-story towers was not immediately known.

Hundreds of companies sent their employees home for the day, putting thousands of New Yorkers into the streets after public transportation was shut down for fear of more

attacks.

"The two explosions were incredible and at the point of explosions all you could see outside were personal belongings and office supplies raining outside," said Bob Rendine, an American Stock Exchange spokesman, whose office is down the block from the NYSE. "We're staying here. We think it's safer to stay inside than go outside at this point."

Business and trading in other parts of the country

also were affected. The Chicago Board of Trade also suspended all trading effective, 10:15 a.m.

In Canada, the Toronto Stock Exchange ended its trading in midmorning.

Overseas, the London Stock Exchange evacuated its building, trading continued from an alternate site.

Around the country and world, the investment community was focused on the fate of people working in the buildings affected by the apparent terrorist attacks.

Republicans in Congress drafting spending cuts, plus additional tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unwilling to wait for clear guidance from President Bush, congressional Republicans are crafting standby spending cuts meant to showcase support for Social Security at the same time they push for new tax cuts to spur the economy.

"It's important to show some leadership and not just stand on the sidelines," Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott told reporters Monday as he suggested a tax cut aimed at easing the payroll tax. "We've got to be looking at ways to address the problem" of a sluggish economy.

While Lott and others call for tax cuts, House Republicans arranged for a budget committee session to approve conditional spending cuts. The reductions would take effect in the next fiscal year, soon after Oct. 1, if it turned out the government had dipped into the Social Security surplus in the current year.

In a campaign-season pledge issued in 1999, Republicans said they would not use excess Social Security tax receipts for any purpose other than paying down the debt.

"We will cut spending in order to achieve the full amount of debt reduction equal to the Social Security surplus," said Rep. Jim Nussle, the Republican chairman of the Budget Committee. He said agency heads would be given latitude in applying the cuts, and a few programs, such as those affecting veterans and low-income housing recipients, would be exempt. Benefit programs such as Medicare and Social Security would likewise be shielded.

Nussle said the White House "has been informed about it, but we have no signal one way or the other" what the president's position is on the legislation.

He also prodded the Senate to act, saying it would be a "tragedy for the Senate not to keep the commitment to the Social Security surplus."

Initial Democratic reaction was negative, though. "It's a gimmick. It's clearly an attempt to get around the fact that their budget director is bringing them really bad news, which is the tax cut has put them into spending the Social Security trust fund," said Kori Bernard, spokes-

woman for House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt.

Whatever the fate of the proposal, the spending cut bill is the latest manifestation of concern among Republicans over the slowing economy and the potential political fallout in next year's midterm elections.

Bush has expressed concern publicly on numerous occasions, but thus far has resisted pressure from Republicans to support steps beyond the economic program he had previously outlined.

Ari Fleischer, Bush's press secretary, said the president was "open-minded" about suggestions coming from congressional Republicans. But, he added, "the president has faith and confidence that the economic recovery plan that is still going into effect, that is still being received, will get the job done."

Among the steps that administration officials cite is a continuing stream of tax rebate checks being mailed to taxpayers, as well as the increase in take-home pay that will result from an adjustment in tax withholding tables in January.

Bush has also called for expanded trade authority and enactment of his energy legislation, with its call for expanded oil exploration and drilling.

Spending cut legislation aside, there is widespread agreement among Republicans in the House and Senate for a tax cut. While a cut in the capital gains tax is the reduction mentioned most frequently, Lott suggested a cut in the payroll tax, as well.

"There are people, at the entry level, who are hit very hard by the payroll tax," he told reporters. "If you're trying to get money into working people's pockets quickly, that's one option you could consider."

Rolling back a portion of the payroll tax that goes to Social Security and Medicare would give a tax cut to more than 30 million workers — most earning less than \$44,000 a year — who were left out of this year's \$40 billion in tax rebate checks.

Republicans have been pushing to cut the capital gains tax, which now tops out at 20 percent, to 15 percent for two years as an economic stimulant and to boost government revenue as people sell investments.

Bush promises U.S. will track down terrorists

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. (AP) — As chaos unhinged New York and Washington, President Bush commanded the full force of the United States government to "hunt down and to find" the terrorists responsible.

"Terrorism against our nation will not stand," he declared Tuesday.

In Florida for a pair of education speeches, the president scrapped his schedule and said, at the

first reports of attacks on New York's World Trade Center, that he was hastening back to Washington.

But, with the White House evacuated under threat of attack and his wife hunkered down in an unidentified secure location, the president and Air Force One were rerouted — under escort by military fighter jets — to this Louisiana air base.

In a conference room dotted by portraits of decorated

Air Force officers, the commander in chief announced that the U.S. military was on "high-alert status."

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning and I assure you freedom will be defended. Make no mistake. The United States will hunt down and pursue those responsible for these cowardly actions," Bush said.

First lady Laura Bush spoke with her husband by a secure military phone line before he took off from

Sarasota, Fla.

Mrs. Bush and a handful of aides were whisked by motorcade from Capitol Hill to a hide-out away from the White House.

There, the sequestered group huddled around a single TV in their hide-out and channel-surfed for the latest news, according to one person in the group.

Mrs. Bush also checked with her twin daughters at college to make sure they were safe.

TERROR

Continued from Page 1

50,000 people work at the Trade Center. American Airlines said its two aircraft were carrying a total of 156 people.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list. ... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

President Bush ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

Within the hour, the Pentagon took a direct, devastating hit from an aircraft. The fiery crash collapsed one side of the five-sided structure.

The White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated along with other federal buildings in Washington and New York.

Authorities in Washington immediately began deploying troops, including an infantry regiment. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation. And authorities went on alert from coast to coast, halting all air traffic and tightening security at strategic installations.

"This is the second Pearl Harbor. I don't think that I overstate it," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

American Airlines identified the planes that crashed into the Trade Center as Flight 11, a Los Angeles-bound jet hijacked after takeoff from Boston with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77, which was seized while carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, N.J., to San Francisco, crashed about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh with 45 people aboard. The fate of those aboard was not immediately known and it was

not clear if the crash was related to the disasters elsewhere. In a statement, United said another of its planes, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles with 65 people on board, also crashed, but it did not say where.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilized its anti-terrorism division, and security was intensified around the naval installations in Hampton Roads, Va. Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., was evacuated.

At the World Trade Center, "everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a fire marshal. "It's like a war zone."

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Ioan, shaking in shock outside City Hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him.

Nearby a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was 2 to 3 inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified.

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. A witness said he saw bodies falling and people jumping out. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

"Today we've had a national tragedy," Bush said in Sarasota, Fla. "Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack

on our country." He said he would be returning immediately to Washington.

The crashes at the World Trade Center happened minutes apart, beginning just before 9 a.m.

Heavy black smoke billowed into the sky above one of New York City's most famous landmarks, and debris rained down on the street, one of the city's busiest work areas. When the second plane hit, a fireball of flame and smoke erupted, leaving a huge hole in the glass and steel tower.

John Axisa, who was getting off a commuter train to the World Trade Center, said he saw "bodies falling out" of the building. He said he ran outside, and watched people jump out of the first building. Then there was a second explosion, and he felt heat on the back of neck.

WCBS-TV, citing an FBI agent, said five or six people jumped out of the windows. Witnesses on the street screamed every time another person leaped.

People ran down the stairs in panic and fled the building. Thousands of pieces of what appeared to be office paper drifted over Brooklyn, about three miles away.

Several subway lines were immediately shut down. Trading on Wall Street was suspended. New York's mayoral primary election Tuesday was postponed. All bridges and tunnels into Manhattan were closed.

David Reck was handing out literature for a candidate for public advocate a

few blocks away when he saw a jet come in "very low, and then it made a slight twist and dove into the building."

Terrorist bombers struck the World Trade Center in February 1993, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

"It's just sick. It just shows how vulnerable we really are," Keith Meyers, 39, said in Columbus, Ohio. "It kind of makes you want to go home and spend time with your family. It puts everything in perspective," Meyers said. He said he called to check in with his wife. They have two young children.

In New York, "we heard a large boom and then we saw all this debris just falling," said Harriet Grimm, who was inside a bookstore on the World Trade Center's first floor when the first explosion rocked the building.

"The plane was coming in low and ... it looked like it hit at a slight angle," said Sean Murtagh, a CNN vice president, the network reported.

In 1945, an Army Air Corps B-25, a twin-engine bomber, crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building in dense fog.

In Florida, Bush was reading to children in a classroom at 9:05 a.m. when his chief of staff, Andrew Card, whispered into his ear. The president briefly turned somber before he resumed reading. He addressed the tragedy about a half-hour later.

WASHINGTON

Continued from Page 1

"I saw the tail of a large airliner. ... It plowed right into the Pentagon."

Gen. Richard Myers, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that prior to the crash into the Pentagon, military officials had been notified that another hijacked plane had

been heading from the New York area to Washington. He said he assumed that hijacked plane was the one that hit the Pentagon, though he couldn't be sure.

One of two planes that crashed into the World Trade Center was hijacked after takeoff from Boston and headed to Los Angeles with 92 aboard, American

Airlines disclosed.

The second plane may have flown out of Newark, N.J., the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Asked if there was any possibility the crashes were anything other than deliberate, a government official said it appeared not to be an accident.

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SPORTS EXTRA

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table with columns: American League East Division, Central Division, West Division, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Today's Games, National League East Division, Central Division, West Division, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Today's Games. Includes team names, wins, losses, percentages, and game schedules.

NFL STANDINGS

Table with columns: American Conference East, Central, West, National Conference East, Central, West. Includes team names, wins, losses, ties, percentages, points for, points against, and playoff status.

Bonds closes in on McGwire record at homer-friendly Enron

HOUSTON (AP) — Barry Bonds put up some impressive numbers at brand new Enron Field last season. His only appearance there this year starts Tuesday night and it finds the San Francisco slugger with a real chance at Mark McGwire's major league home run record. Bonds went 7-for-16 with four home runs and five RBIs in the Astros' downtown stadium in 2000. Those numbers would make the chase very interesting as Bonds has 63 home runs — including three Sunday at Coors Field in Denver — seven off McGwire's mark set three years ago. Astros and opposing batters have hit 206 homers at Enron this season, second among all major league stadiums to Coors, which has yielded 239. Bonds left his mark on Enron last season in two visits. His most significant homer was the longest one hit at Enron, 458 feet over the center field fence. With the Giants chasing a playoff spot, Bonds deftly diverts most talk about the home run record to his team's playoff chances. "Everything is important right now," Bonds said. "Every at-bat means something. You try not to watch the scoreboard. But it's hard not to. The intensity level is a lot higher than normal." But the home run race has intensified with the fans, especially since Bonds' weekend performance at Coors Field. Fans in Denver gave Bonds standing ovations for home runs 61, 62 and 63, demanding a tip of the hat from Bonds, who surprisingly obliged. "I don't think I've ever seen a visiting player take a curtain call," teammate J.T. Snow said. "They were awesome. They knew they might be seeing history and they knew they were a part of it." Astros fans might not be as friendly. Unlike the last-place Rockies, the Astros are fighting to stay atop the NL Central ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals. "I'd say we'll be at capacity or near it for all three games," Astros ticket manager John Sorrentino said. Bonds will be comfortable at Enron regardless of the mood of the fans. He's hit 31 homers at the Giants' Pacific Bell Park and 32 on the road. His 32 road homers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table titled 'The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 8, total points based on 25 points for a first place vote through one point for a 25th place vote and previous ranking.' Lists teams like Miami, Florida, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas, etc.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Team, Rec, Pts. Lists high school football teams and their records/points for various classes (Class 5A, Class 4A, Class 2A, Class A).

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Form for Power Points contest entries. Includes a grid for weekly games (Week 1, Games of Sept. 15-17) and fields for Name, Address, City, State/zip, Day Phone, Night Phone.

HOW TO PLAY. Select a winner from each of the week's games... DEADLINE: 2 P.M. FRIDAY. THIS WEEK'S GAMES: Atlanta at Washington, Kansas City at Seattle, etc.

POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES. 1. Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 possible points as you can. 2. Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

TUESDAY SEP. 11

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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FAMILY CIRCUS



"... But then they grow up."

HAGAR



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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2001. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

On this date: In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1850, Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," gave her first concert in the United States, at Castle Garden in New York.

In 1885, author D.H. Lawrence was born in Eastwood, England.

In 1936, President Roosevelt dedicated Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) by pressing a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first

hydroelectric generator in Nevada.

In 1941, Charles A. Lindbergh sparked charges of anti-Semitism with a speech in which he said "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were trying to draw the United States into World War II.

In 1944, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met in Canada at the second Quebec Conference.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC: Miss California, Lee Ann Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

In 1971, former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died at age 77.

In 1972, the troubled Munich Summer Olympics ended.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende died in a violent military coup.

Ten years ago: Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev announced the Kremlin would withdraw

thousands of troops from Cuba, a move bitterly denounced by the Havana government.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betsy Drake is 78. Actor Earl Holliman is 73. Movie director Brian De Palma is 61. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Grateful Dead) is 58. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 56. Actor Reed Birney is 47. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 44. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 43. Actress Kristy McNichol is 39. Actress Virginia Madsen is 38. Actress Roxann Dawson is 37. Musician-composer Moby is 36.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like SEAN, CASE, ARPS, etc.

Newsday Crossword

ADORNMENTS by Bob Lubbers Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.