

The Hereford Brand



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Market prices are being driven down because ranchers, who are quickly running out of feed and water because of the heat, are liquidating their herds and flooding the markets.

Drought's painful toll continuing; cattle prices fall

LUBBOCK (AP) - Few words can console West Texas ranchers watching cattle die in the sweltering heat.

Hearing that the drought's fallout is not as bad as 1996 doesn't help. But researchers say that while cattle prices are falling quickly, they're not quite as low as they were in 1996.

"A good, muscular animal, which usually could be sold for \$500-\$700, can now only be sold for \$200-\$300," said Texas Agriculture Extension Service cattle specialist Dennis Herd. Economists say that in 1996, market prices fell to less than \$200 a head.

Market prices are being driven down because ranchers, who are quickly running out of feed and water because of the heat, are liquidating their herds and flooding the market.

If ranchers can't sell their cattle, they can be stuck with too many animals to feed.

Elmo Lopez, a rancher near Laredo, says he has lost eight cattle to the intense heat and expects to lose more before the drought is over.

"It's as bad as it's ever been," Lopez said. "We're running low on water and it's hard to keep the cattle cool."

Herd said that the heat-induced crop failures have left ranchers with no choice but to look to other states for hay.

"The heat is killing some cattle outright but the biggest problem

around the state really is the affect the drought has had on food supplies," Herd said. "Ranchers are being forced to go to other states for hay and that is expensive."

Other regions around the state battled different effects of the drought this week.

In San Antonio, the drought is dropping the level of the Edwards Aquifer by nearly half a foot a day, prompting the Edwards Aquifer Authority to seek approval for cloud seeding in the hope of bringing rain to the parched area.

The authority regulates withdrawals from the huge natural underground reservoir that's refilled by rainfall and streamflows.

In Raymondville, a small town of 8,000 people about 30 miles north of Harlingen, farmers began dipping into the old well the city reopened to brace for the worst of the drought.

Residents can count on 1 million gallons a day out of the deep-water well, and city commissioners last week passed a water conservation law to make sure nothing is wasted.

"It's a lot more serious a situation than the public really knows; we're just praying," Mayor C.M. Crowell told the Valley Morning Star.

"The farmers are being cut off. If the drought continues, there's no doubt there'll be a lot of bankruptcies. If it doesn't end, the Rio Grande Valley's going to go out of business."



File Photo

Hereford in the early days

Hereford is just a jumbled collection buildings on the horizon when this photograph was taken sometime in the early part of the 20th century. The infant community, formerly known as Blue Water, was adjacent to the rail line, which is being constructed when this photo was taken. Hereford will celebrate its 100th birthday next month during the annual Town & Country Jubilee.



Heat wreaks havoc with hay, other crops

COLLEGE STATION (AP) - As the drought drags on, hay supplies dwindle and prices rise. Texas cattle raisers are being told to start looking beyond the current crisis and plan for winter, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reports.

"It is definitely a supply and demand situation," said David Bade of College Station, Extension forage specialist.

Available hay must be transported, so delivery costs increase the expense to livestock owners, Bade said.

Charles Brown, who ranches near Benchley and is the chairman of the Brazos Area Hay Producers Association, said ranchers are getting hay from anywhere they can.

"People are calling for hay and wanting to know where are pastures that can be leased that someone's not running cattle on," he said. "You can hardly find either one."

He encouraged ranchers to coordinate with others to locate, buy and have hay delivered in the most efficient manner.

Bade cautioned against buying hay that has not been tested for nutritional value.

"Because of the money involved, it is very important that when you buy hay that you know something about the quality of that hay," Bade said.

Those who purchase hay left over from last year should not only have

the forage tested for nutrient content, they should also consider the amount of weathering during storage.

"At the price of hay today, it would be unfortunate that you would have to add a lot of corn and cottonseed meal before you can feed it," Bade said.

"It is not going to get any better unless we have some rain," Bade said.

But Extension forage specialist Don Dorsett of College Station doesn't believe Texas will get enough rain to make a difference and he's telling ranchers to deal with summer, but plan for winter.

"Our next big opportunity for rain is September, so we might as well go ahead and put the rye grass or oats or wheat or whatever you are going to plant for winter pasture and be ready for it," Dorsett said.

Dorsett says the hay supply will be even more depleted going into the winter, therefore ranchers will be forced to rely on winter pastures.

"Just plain old rye grass pastures could make a lot of difference to people this year, especially the amount of hay they have to feed or the amount of supplement they are going to have to buy," Dorsett said.

In Southwest Texas, district Extension director Joe Pena said

See CROPS, Page 8

"This scorching heat shows no sign of abating. It has destroyed crops, led to widespread power outages and, worst of all, has resulted in the deaths of over 100 people."

- President Clinton

Clinton orders aid to weather victims

WASHINGTON (AP) - The broiling summer's toll on humans and agriculture prompted President Clinton to declare a disaster for Texas farmers and order \$100 million to pay electric bills and buy air conditioners and fans.

The president also repeated his support Thursday for several measures in Congress to help farmers across the country who are suffering from incomes that are down 35 percent compared to 1996, partly because of disasters and partly due to lagging foreign trade coupled with big harvests.

"We simply can't flourish if we let our rural roots shrivel and decline," the president said from the White House in a session broadcast to radio stations in farm states.

Clinton, noting that the summer of 1998 is on track to being the hottest on record, said: "This scorching heat shows no sign of abating. It has destroyed crops, led to widespread power outages and, worst of all, has resulted in the deaths of over 100 people."

To help people stay cool in 11 Southern and Western states, Clinton ordered release of \$100 million from the low-income home energy assistance program.

"Those who cannot afford air conditioning are at real peril of further health risks as the heat wave goes on," Clinton said.

The 11 states eligible for emergency aid are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Hit by drought, chronic wet weather and declining export markets especially in Asia, the Commerce Department reported that farm income in the first three months of the year was \$17.8 billion. That is off more than a third from the \$27.2 billion farmer earned in the first quarters of both 1996 and 1997.

The election-year crisis has Democrats and Republicans scrambling to respond.

"In Texas, almost three quarters of the cotton crop is lost," Clinton said. "And in North Dakota, retired auctioneers are being pressed into

duty just to handle all the families who are being forced to sell all their farms."

Clinton declared all Texas counties eligible for disaster assistance, making federal aid available to farmers. He also said he will send Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to Texas and Oklahoma next week to inspect areas hit hardest by the drought and harsh temperatures.

The president urged House Republicans to support the Democrats' \$500 million emergency aid package passed by the Senate.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich has tentatively endorsed the plan, which is particularly aimed at Upper Midwest farmers who have suffered repeated crop losses due to wet weather and disease.

Gingrich and Clinton also are together in supporting legislation to speed up the \$5.5 billion in payments that many farmers are due to get later in fiscal 1999, which begins Oct. 1.

"We must never turn our backs on farmers when Mother Nature or the world economy turns a callous eye," Clinton said.

He expressed sympathy with farmers' complaints that the government's crop insurance program, which is supposed to protect against calamities, is not working after Congress rewrote farm laws two years ago to end automatic government disaster assistance.

"This is one where an honest error was made and we want to correct it," Clinton said. He invited farmers to suggest ways to make the program more affordable and fairer. Clinton also called on Congress to approve \$18 billion to replenish the International Monetary Fund, which would loan money to foreign governments to buy American farm products.

"American farmers cannot afford to wait," the president said. "They need help now."

Clinton acknowledged that the fast-track trade legislation - supported by many Republicans but opposed by most House Democrats - probably would not be approved before next year, after the November elections.

Many farmers believe it would help increase agricultural exports once new trade deals are negotiated.

... and no relief is in sight

By The Associated Press

Some scattered showers and thunderstorms will dampen some areas around the state, but there is nothing in the weather forecasts to provide Texans with any hope of immediate relief from the heat wave.

It will be partly cloudy and hot over the entire state.

A stationary frontal boundary over Oklahoma will keep any cooler weather from moving southward into the state through Saturday.

There is a chance of thunderstorms over most areas of West Texas through Saturday.

A heat advisory was in effect for central areas of North Texas through Saturday because afternoon heat

index values will ranged from 105-110.

It will be clear tonight in western and central areas of North Texas, but it will be partly cloudy with a chance of some isolated thunderstorms in eastern areas. There is a slight chance of some thunderstorm activity in eastern areas on Saturday.

A few isolated showers and thunderstorms will dampen some areas of South Texas through this evening. But skies will be clearing tonight and Saturday should be another hot day.

Lows tonight will be in the 70s in West Texas and in the 70s and 80s elsewhere across the state.

Teeing off at scramble

Randy Dean, Hereford High School boys basketball coach, tees off Thursday evening at Coaches Golf Scramble, sponsored by the Whiteface Booster Club at Pitman Municipal Golf Course. The nine-hole scramble gave golfers a chance to meet the coaches in Hereford Independent School District.

Photo by Julius Bodner



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Lifestyles

Ann Landers

Mother knows best this time

Dear Ann Landers: This is another one of those "how we met" letters for those who enjoy them.

The year was 1945. I was supposed to meet my sister at the home of a friend whose parents ran a boarding house. When I rang the bell, one of the boarders opened the door. He introduced himself and said he was a Norwegian seaman who had sailed during the war but couldn't go back home to Norway because his country was occupied by the Germans.

We chatted for a while, and he asked me to join him for dinner. I accepted. I had a fairly good time but was not especially impressed. When I introduced him to my mother, she said, "Grab him. He is a good man. Mark my words." I trusted my mother's judgment, and six weeks later, we were married. To top it all, he invited my mother, who was a widow, and my sister and her husband to go with us on our honeymoon to Sea Bright, N.J.

Mother did know best when she advised me to grab him. She showed great wisdom because he turned out to be a very good man. We've been happily married for 52 years and have been blessed with wonderful children and four beautiful grandsons. -- Staten Island, N.Y.

Dear Staten Island: Thanks for a heartwarmer. Yes, it's true -- mothers usually do know best, and yours proved it.

Dear Ann Landers: In a recent column, you asked for the secret of how those World War II marriages endured. My marriage to Mrs. King has "endured" for over 60 years, and we have been very happy. The secret -- she makes all the minor decisions, and I make all the major ones. So far, nothing major has come up. -- C.K. in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Dear C.K.: Not so fast, Mr. King. Something "major" may come up when she reads this in the Contra Costa Times. Let me know if you need some help.

Dear Ann Landers: So often, people accuse you of making up letters. I know this is not so. Some of the situations that have occurred in this small travel office are beyond belief. I am writing to share a few with you.

A young man walked in recently and wanted to take a cruise with his girlfriend, Kathy. We asked for Kathy's legal name, which is essential for travel documents. He did not know if it was spelled Kathryn or Katherine. He asked if he could go home and phone us later. I said, "No problem." It turned out that her name was Kathleen.

A few days later, another gentleman came in. He wanted to take his wife, Jackie, on a trip to Europe. We asked if her name was Jacquelyn or Jacqueline. He said, "I really don't know. I always call her Jackie."

A month later, a young woman came in and inquired about a foreign vacation with her boyfriend, Tom. We asked her if his legal name was Thomas. She said, "I don't know. I never asked."

I cannot imagine going on a date, much less a trip, with someone whose name I didn't know. Don't you find it odd? -- Wisconsin Travel Agent

Dear Wisconsin: Not really, but I'm printing your letter anyway. I'm sure a lot of readers are now going to ask their mates, "Honey, what's your REAL name?" I'd bet on it.

Dear Ann: You asked readers who had been married a long time to share their secret. Ours is honoring the three C's -- communication, compassion and caring. My wife and I have practiced this for 48 years. It works. -- Oklahoma Sweethearts

Dear Sweethearts: Beautiful. Planning a wedding? What's right? What's wrong? "The Ann Landers Guide for Brides" will relieve your anxiety. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Brides, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1998 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



Video performers

The youth group of New Beginnings Assembly of God, "God's Power and Light," will perform a human video during Sunday morning worship at Fellowship of Believers. The group recently performed in a fine arts festival in San Antonio and received a Superior rating with an invitation to nationals in Springfield, Mo., on Aug. 2-7. They will hold a fund-raising car wash beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday at Auto Zone to help pay for the trip. Members of the group are (clockwise from center back) Trey Madrigal, Julia Madrigal, Sayra Apodaca; Nicole Mendoza, Ana Avila, Gloria Orozco, Ashley Madrigal, Patricia Sanchez, and center, Johnny Esparza. Not pictured is Jonathan Rosado. Dora Madrigal is in charge of the youth group and Cindy Rosado is in charge of the drama team.

Hereford Toastmasters select Andrews as best topic speaker

Clark Andrews was voted best topic speaker at Thursday morning's meeting of Hereford Toastmasters. Sharon Cramer presided at the business meeting when the officers training meeting scheduled for August 1 was discussed. Area governor Charles Caldwell will attend the training session. Dan Hall served as toastmaster and Oscar Barrera as timer. Cramer was AH counters, grammarian and wordmaster. Adrian Castillo was topicmaster and topic speakers and their topics were Andrews-Perfect day; Cramer-Space program; Hall-V-chip; and Barrera-Energy. One guest, Michael Schumacher, attended the meeting.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, July 24, the 205th day of 1998. There are 160 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On July 24, 1959, during a visit to the Soviet Union, Vice President Richard M. Nixon got into a "kitchen debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev at a U.S. exhibition.

On this date:

In 1937, the state of Alabama dropped charges against five black men accused of raping two white women in the Scottsboro Case.

In 1969, the Apollo XI astronauts, including the first two men to set foot on the moon, splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Nixon had to turn over subpoenaed White House tape recordings to the Watergate special prosecutor.

Ten years ago: On the campaign trail, Republican George Bush heard chants of "ERA," a reference to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, from members of a professional women's group in Albuquerque, N.M. Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis was heckled by anti-abortion protesters in St. Louis.

Five years ago: The Russian government announced it would invalidate billions of pre-1993 rubles. House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Rostenkowski denied allegations he'd received embezzled funds, saying he had engaged in "no illegal or unethical conduct."

One year ago: Retired Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan died in Arlington, Va., at age 91.

Hospital Notes

Patients in Hereford Regional Medical Center on July 24:
Gertie E. Burrell, Paquita Reyna, Sherri Saucedo, Eugene Watkins.

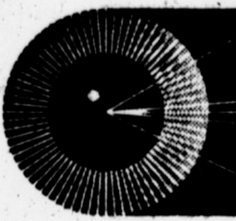


Enrollment time

It is enrollment time at St. Anthony's School. Emily Brorman, future student, and Allyson Paetzold, former student, look over the technology room at the school. For information on enrollment call the school office at 364-1952.



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Watts

es average about 7,000 yards, or about 150 yards less than most PGA Tour tracts.

Even after five years, Watts struggles with the language barrier. Watts admitted he has "very little" communication with playing partners during rounds, unless he's paired with one of the other Americans on tour (Brandt Jobe or David Ishii) or one of about a dozen Australians.

"In press conferences, I have to have interpreters answer the questions," he said. "I can go through my round shot-by-shot in Japanese, but that's about it when it comes to press conferences."

Food isn't a problem because, as Watts says, "I eat anything but sushi." Although he has made more than 475 million yen (roughly \$4.5 million) on the Japanese tour, he lives far from luxuriously.

"I can't afford a house there," he said. "I can't afford an apartment that I'd like. The hotels are \$150 to \$200 a day, for something very marginal. I wouldn't say it's a great lifestyle over there, but I get by."

He has been a celebrity in Japan ever since 1994, when he won the money title. Along with seeing his picture on the side of buses and on billboards, Watts often has fans seek him on the streets and say, "Oh, Brian Watts."

"Most of the people who play golf over there are over 40," he said. "I'd say I'm very well

known to over 40-year-olds."

No wonder the decision to play on the PGA Tour isn't cut and dried. All of Watts' sponsorships are with Japanese companies. He will walk away from more than \$1 million a year in on- and off-course earnings by returning to America.

But Watts will be closer to Debybe and Jason, even during weeks he's playing PGA Tour events. Brian missed it when Jason took his first steps last week. Debybe videotaped the moment, but Brian doesn't want to miss many more of his son's milestones.

"I feel worse for her (Debybe) than for me," Watts said. "She's the one who's always there, knowing when I'm missing things."

Verplank said he looks forward to having Watts, the friend, on tour. And he believes Watts will fare much better than he did in '91.

"The British Open should help his confidence immensely," Verplank said. "I remember the last couple of years, that was the thing that kind of held him back a little bit. He was obviously confident in Japan, not quite as confident here."

"The British Open is the world's stage. That ought to prove to him that he can get it done."

Distributed by The Associated Press

MLB

had converted 59 of his previous 62 save opportunities, couldn't get one this time.

The Red Sox tied it in the ninth on John Valentin's RBI double and Troy O'Leary's run-scoring single.

Tom Gordon (5-3) held Toronto scoreless in the 10th. Myers (3-3) retired the first two batters in the bottom of the inning. But Darren Lewis singled and stole second. Valentin then was walked intentionally.

Varitek pinch-hit and dumped a soft hit into short right field as Lewis scored easily.

Orioles 9, Athletics 7

BALTIMORE -- Lenny Webster's two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted the surging Baltimore Orioles to their fourth straight victory Thursday night, 9-7 over the Oakland Athletics.

Webster's drive to left off Mike Fetters (1-5) followed a leadoff walk to Joe Carter.

The victory lifted Baltimore to .500 (51-51) for the first time since May 15. Armando Benitez (4-2) worked the ninth inning as the Orioles extended their home winning streak to 10.

Rockies 6, Reds 4, 1st game

Rockies 6, Reds 4, 2nd game

DENVER -- Dante Bichette and Larry Walker each hit two-run homers as the Colorado Rockies beat Cincinnati 6-4 Thursday night to complete a soggy day-night doubleheader sweep of the reeling Reds.

Walker had his seventh three-hit game of the season and scored twice

to help the Rockies win the opener 6-4.

Bichette's 15th homer off Pete Harnisch (7-5) in the first inning of Game 2 gave the Rockies a 2-0 lead before rain forced the grounds crew to cover the field after the second.

In the opener, Pedro Astacio (8-10) extended Colorado's scoreless innings streak to a team-record 16 before surrendering a three-run homer to Paul Konerko in the eighth.

Astros 8, Dodgers 6, 10 Innings

LOS ANGELES -- Mark Guthrie walked Ricky Gutierrez on four pitches with the bases loaded in the 10th inning Thursday night to force in the go-ahead run as the Houston Astros rallied for an 8-6 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Astros trailed 6-0 after the first inning but came back against Los Angeles' bullpen, scoring five runs in the eighth.

-- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AREA HAPPENINGS

Foursome putts to scramble victory

From staff reports

The foursome of Lewis McDaniel, Wallace Hill, Wendell Burdine and Dave Hopper won a four-way puttoff to win the Whiteface Booster Club Golf Scramble Thursday at John Pitman Municipal Golf Course.

The winning team shot a nine-hole

total of 29 to tie with three other teams.

Other Scores*

2. Steve Stevens, Temple Abney, Newton Roland and Jim Conner 28; 3. Bill Allen, Roy Hartman, Bob Sims and Bill Davis 28; 4. Pete Rodriguez, Mick Stevens, Ed Sanders and Don Davison 28.

*--Placings decided by puttoff.

Coaches say they're ready for pressure

By MIKE DRAGO
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS -- In a profession where pressure and scrutiny are as much facts of life as gravity, Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel and Iowa State's Dan McCarney face more than their share of both in 1998.

But neither would say so Thursday as Big 12 Conference coaches and players gathered to talk about their teams' chances this season.

There also was plenty of talk about forgetting last season from Neuheisel, McCarney, Oklahoma's John Blake and Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes, whose team remains under the dark cloud of a pending NCAA decision on sanctions for rules violations.

"We went through a whole year of turmoil," Dykes said. "Nobody ever asked about our players. Everybody wanted to know about the NCAA. ... It was just a nightmare season. You're glad when it's over with."

Neuheisel, whose team went 5-6 last season after going 20-4 his first two years, knows the feeling. The Buffs were technically reduced to winless after they reported having used an ineligible player.

"When you have a season like we had it takes awhile to get that taste out of your mouth," he said.

Despite Colorado's 1997 flop, Neuheisel said he doesn't feel any additional pressure to win.

"It seems to me that every year has been a pivotal year in my career," he said. "I went from two years of 'please stay' to one year of 'please go.' So I'm somewhere in the middle of that, and hopefully I've learned to gain perspective. I'm never going to be as good as

everybody thought I was and I'm never going to be as bad as everybody thought I was. I'm just going to do the very best I can, and I can live with that."

Blake, 7-16 in his third year with the Sooners, is hoping for his first winning season.

"There was pressure the first day I took the job, but I also understand the situation," he said.

Talk about pressure. Nebraska Frank Solich is taking the helm of the defending co-national champions and trying to fill the shoes of retired coach Tom Osborne, merely one of the best coaches in college football history.

The folks in Lincoln aren't letting him forget it.

"I know what the expectations are," Solich said. "Some people might have 8-3 expectations. I haven't run into many of them. They don't seem to ask me how we're going to do. They tell me how we're going to do."

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Rangers

Bill Haselman homered and drove in two runs for the Rangers on Thursday. Ivan Rodriguez, who had been in an 0-for-12 slump, and Mark McLemore each had three hits for Texas.

Texas manager Johnny Oates gave Rodriguez a night off from catching, using him as a designated hitter.

"I was possibly going to give him (Friday) night off if he struggled offensively, but now with three hits, I know he'll be ready to play tomorrow," Oates said. "He was struggling more mentally than physically."

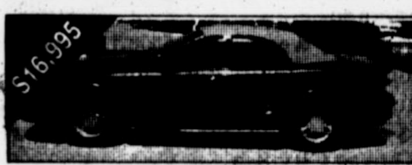


Jose Offerman went 4-for-4 for Kansas City. Jermaine Allensworth had three hits for the Royals.

Greer, Gonzalez and Roberto Kelly each hit RBI singles in the third. Greer added a two-out, two-run single in the fourth for a 5-0 lead.

Reliever Xavier Hernandez (5-1) defused two Kansas City rallies in the middle innings. He took over for starter Darren Oliver with two outs and three runs across in the Royals' four-run fifth, giving up an RBI single to Terry Pendleton but then retiring Sal Fasano on a fly ball.

Western

"O" DOWN

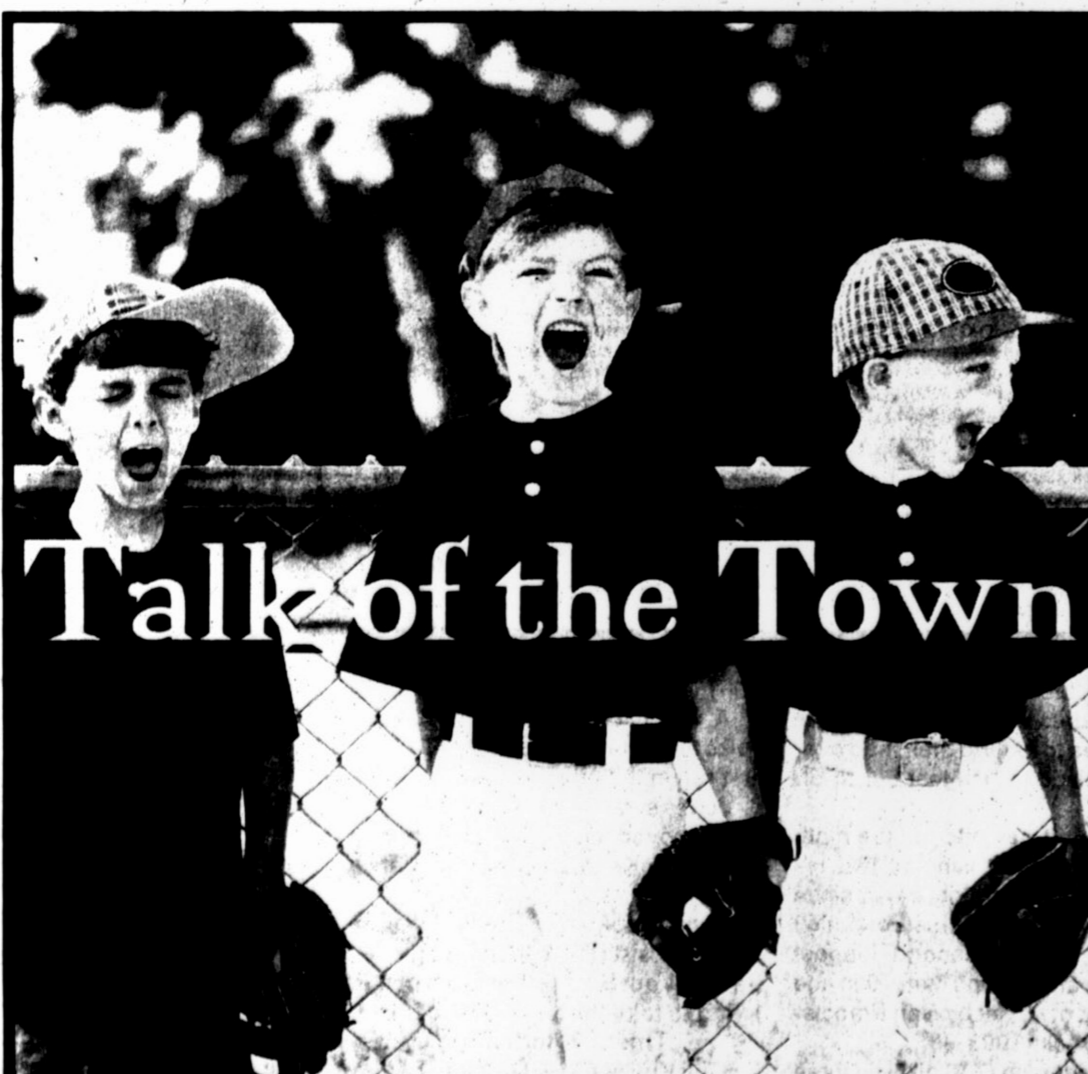
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WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Bracelets not just for church kids anymore

DALLAS (AP) - Lee Ferguson, fresh out of the pool after swim practice, sits with her pals under a shade tree fiddling with her fluorescent yellow bracelet embroidered with the letters "W.W.J.D."

Ah, youth. Is this another teen-ager pondering the question, "What Would Jesus Do?" - a slogan that's wrapping wrists of kids across the country?

"I wear it because it matches my bathing suit," said Ferguson, a blue-eyed 14-year-old hanging out at

a Dallas neighborhood pool club.

WWJD bracelets are not just for church kids anymore.

In fact, some kids have changed the meaning to "We Want Jack Daniels."

Great. Just great.

That's not what Dan Seaborn had in mind nine years ago when he came up with the idea for his Christian youth group in Holland, Mich. It was based on the book, "In His Steps," a 19th-century spiritual classic. In it, a dying beggar challenged townsfolk

to ask themselves, "What would Jesus do?" before they take any action.

Seaborn thought it was a great message for modern kids, so he asked his friend Ken Freestone of the local Lesco Co. to make some buttons with the WWJD legend. The message soon spread from the youth group to the Christian schools.

Freestone said he and his brother came up with the idea to embroider the letters on nylon wrist bands. In 1996, after a big promotional push,

the company sold 250,000, which retailed for about \$1 apiece. Last year, Freestone said, sales skyrocketed to 15 million after CNN televised a story about them.

"This is the first time a trend started in the Midwest, I think," Freestone said, noting how the fad is fanning out to both coasts.

Lesco was not allowed to license the slogan, so other companies jumped into production, making WWJD golf balls, shoelaces, blinking pins, pencil sharpeners and more.

"It's hard to keep them in stock," said Jason Neeley, manager of Family Christian Stores in North Dallas where WWJD trinkets are displayed next to packages of "Testaments" breath mints. "In Christian circles, they're as popular as Beanie Babies."

They also move quickly at Wal-Mart, mall accessories stores and corner gas stations.

Now, kids stack them along their arms and trade them like baseball cards for camouflage and rainbow colors. Even kids with baggy pants

and pierced tongues wear them.

The bracelets have their own protocol: If someone asks about one, the wearer is supposed to offer it as a gift to help spread the message.

"It helps me to think before I do something stupid," said Christine Hoffsten, 14, of Grosse Pointe, Mich., who attends a public school. "Almost everyone in my grade has them. For some people it makes them better, but I've seen some people wear them just because it's cool. I've seen people use the Lord's name in vain wearing them."

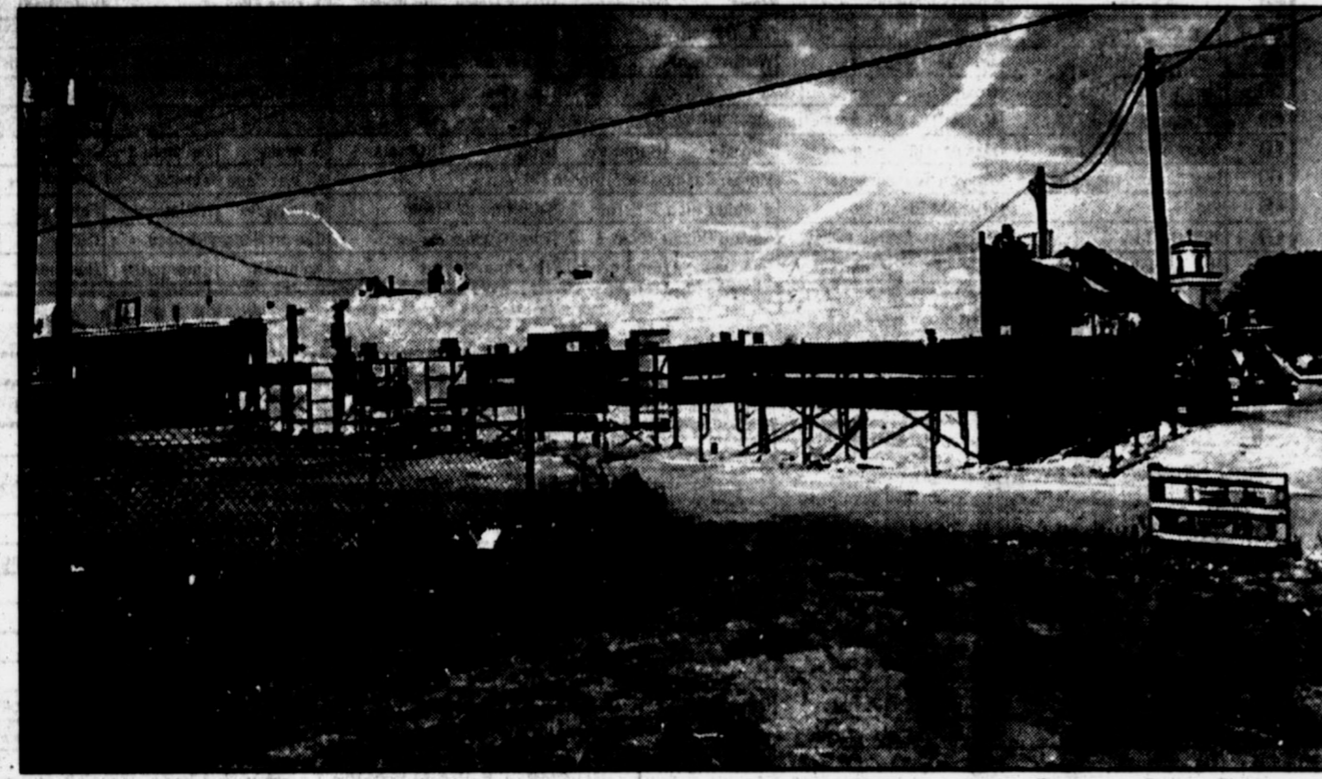


Photo by Julius Bodner

New grocery store

Well, not exactly. Taylor & Sons supermarket will be moving into this building at the junction of Park Avenue and 25 Mile Avenue. The building formerly was occupied by Buddy's, a discount outlet. Also, the building once housed Taylor & Son's supermarket before it relocated to Sugarland Mall.

'Yalie' faces re-arrest

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) - Tonica Jenkins was about to get a second chance.

Instead of facing a likely prison sentence for allegedly cheating her way into Yale University, Ms. Jenkins was poised to accept a plea bargain that would have allowed her to remain a free woman.

"We believed this to be a wonderful outcome," said her lawyer, Norman Pattis. "I spoke to her Monday, and it was clear she was coming to Connecticut to accept the deal."

But as the judge, district attorney and her parents waited for her in court Wednesday, it became increasingly clear that Ms. Jenkins wasn't going to show up.



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Photo by Julius Bodner

Taking shape

Work is progressing rapidly on the new car wash on North 25 Mile Avenue. The car wash, which will be the "northern" branch of Cowboy's Car Wash, will be open for business soon, easing some of the lines that manage to creep into the street at the "southern" operation.

NEWS in brief

Army honors five black WWII veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than a half-century ago, they answered the call to arms against Germany.

Only on Thursday did the five black soldiers finally get full recognition from the Army.

At a ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, the Army's No. 2 general awarded medals to the soldiers. They were among 2,221 blacks answering Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's emergency request to serve in the front lines with units depleted in the fight against Germany.

The opportunity to be the first black soldiers to serve with white troops on the front lines came with a catch, however. The volunteers had to give up their noncommissioned officer's stripes and serve as privates. When they returned to their units at the end of the war, their lost rank was not restored.

After the war, when the military decided to award the Bronze Star to all who had served as combat infantrymen, these men were not contacted.

Experts adviser approval for vision laser treatment

WASHINGTON (AP) - The first laser system to correct farsightedness has won recommended approval from the government's scientific advisers.

Visx Inc.'s laser already is used widely to correct nearsightedness, the inability to see clearly at a distance.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted unanimously Thursday that the laser appears also to help mild to moderate farsightedness, or difficulty in seeing objects at close range. The panel was split on whether Visx provided enough data to prove it helps severe farsightedness.

The panel did set conditions for approval. Expressing unease about the stability of patients' eyes after surgery, advisers urged the FDA to require six months of follow-up data on certain test patients.

Arafat agrees to resume direct talks with Israel

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - In a change of position, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed today to resume talks with Israel over the scope of a West Bank troop withdrawal.

Arafat made the announcement

after a meeting with Israeli Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

The Palestinians had said after three negotiating sessions with Israel this week that they saw no point in returning to the table until Israel accepted a U.S. proposal for an Israeli troop pullback from 13 percent of the West Bank.

Teens cite alienation, pride in violence

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) - Ask teen-agers to discuss violence, and they recite a string of causes from wounded pride and malicious gossip to a deeper sense of not belonging.

"It takes one word of gossip, it takes one bad word from your friend," 18-year-old Zohra Atmar told Attorney General Janet Reno and Education Secretary Richard Riley at their first talk session on school violence. The violence "comes down quickly," Atmar said Thursday. "A lot of violence comes from hurt pride," said Chris Allgood, 18.

The only way for the slighted person to divert the shame is to "bring the attention on the other" through violence, said Kate Riddle, also 18. "Nobody wants to back down and look like a coward." When a fight breaks out, others encourage it by forming a circle.

Police seek paper carrier accused of killing boss

SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich. (AP) - Ken Fazzari crouched in terror beneath a desk in the office of *The Evening News* as footsteps came toward him.

Moments earlier, two shotgun blasts had shattered the Thursday morning hum of activity in the building. He had seen circulation manager Anthony Gillespie mortally wounded. Now someone was walking in the direction of Fazzari, the newspaper's editor.

"I was just thinking, you know, 'Oh my God. What next?' because I really thought it was the shooter. Thank God it was one of my co-workers," he said.

Fazzari grabbed a phone and called 911 before he and the newspaper's advertising manager bolted for the back door, where police officers were waiting. About 15 employees remained inside for nearly five hours as police surrounded the building, thinking the gunman might be holding hostages.

It now appears he left shortly after the shooting.

Ruling party picks veteran politician

TOKYO (AP) - Japan's ruling party lawmakers overwhelmingly picked Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi as their choice for prime minister, ignoring public calls for a fresh face to help surmount the country's drastic economic problems.

Obuchi, a party stalwart with a long but conventional career in government, snared 225 of the 411 votes cast in the first ballot, easily beating former Chief Cabinet Secretary Sei-iro Kajiyama and Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Kajiyama came in second with 102 votes and Koizumi took 84.

While the vote was technically to pick the president of the Liberal Democratic Party, that person automatically becomes the party's candidate for prime minister when Parliament convenes to choose a new premier, expected on July 30. Obuchi is nearly certain to win because the LDP has a comfortable majority in the powerful lower house, which can overrule opposition from the upper house.

People in Tokyo expressed resigned displeasure at the LDP's choice of staid party-insider Obuchi, who had the least popular support among the candidates.

"I'm beyond disappointment," said trading company employee Yuko Imamura, 28. "This way, there was no point in having the upper house elections."

Obuchi, 61, would take over from Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who announced last week that he would resign after the party's stunning setback in July 12 elections for the upper house. He also would assume stewardship of Japan's economy, now in its worst recession since World War II.

The new LDP standard-bearer vowed today to straighten out Japan's financial mess. "The key issue at the moment is to repair Japan's economy, fulfill our expected role in the international community and ease the public's uncertainty about the future," Obuchi told reporters in a news conference after the vote.

It was uncertain if Obuchi was up to the task of making major changes analysts say are needed to solve the myriad problems with his country's economy.

So far, he has prescribed an income tax cut worth \$42.6 billion and \$70.9 billion in new spending to kickstart growth and spur lagging consumption, moves economists say

GOP lawmakers express alarm at missile testing by Iranians

WASHINGTON (AP) - A month after Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invited Iran to establish normal relations, Republican lawmakers are expressing alarm over the implications of Iran's test of a missile capable of hitting much of the Middle East.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on the Near East and South Asian Affairs, said Wednesday's test creates "a new and incredibly more dangerous environment for the Middle East."

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said if Iran has a missile capable of threatening its neighbors, "what is to stop them from developing the means to deliver such a weapon upon the United States and any of our allies?"

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., reiterated calls for a national missile defense system and accused the administration of "consistently

misleading" the public about threats to the nation's security.

"We've been telling the administration for over a year the Russians are helping the Iranians," Gingrich said Thursday evening in a keynote speech at the Young America's Foundation conference for conservative students.

"We are tired of the Clinton-Gore administration misleading us," he said.

Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., criticized the administration's "warm and fuzzy" approach to Iran and China and said the true power in Tehran continues to rest with militant clerics and not the more moderate elected leadership led by President Mohammad Khatami.

At the State Department, spokesman James P. Rubin also expressed concern about the test but said the most prudent course was to engage Iran so that such issues could be dealt with directly between the two countries.

At the time last month when Albright called for steps toward normal relations, she did so "with her eyes wide open," Rubin said, adding that the secretary was well aware of Iran's dark side.

"The question is, will Iran pursue policies that don't threaten the interest of its neighbors in the world. And we think one of the ways in which we can try to achieve that objective, in addition to retarding and deterring the assistance to Iran from other countries, is to talk to the Iranians and express our concerns directly to them," Rubin said.

Rubin added that despite the test, Iran's missile capability is still in the developmental stage.

He said Iran obtained the technology from North Korea, disputing suggestions of a Russian and Chinese role in assisting the Iranians. He also indicated that the test does not cancel out what he described as the positive actions Iran has taken in such areas as terrorism.

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Viagra isn't on VA list

WASHINGTON (AP) - Citing costs and health concerns, the Department of Veterans Affairs says it will not include Viagra among the drugs that must be available at all its medical treatment facilities.

The department said Thursday that requiring the impotence pill possibly could cost \$280 million annually.

"VA must weigh all factors when considering its benefits package," said Dr. Kenneth Kizer, an undersecretary for health at the department.

The department also cited safety and health concerns given the department's patient population.

A pharmacy committee cautioned Kizer about the drug, because of the often complex medical problems of patients treated at Veterans Affairs facilities. The potential impact of mixing Viagra with such conditions has not been demonstrated, the committee said.

The agency stopped short of banning the drug in its facilities.

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