

News Digest

By The Associated Press



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

Whooping cranes begin trip

Record number to migrate through Nebraska in future

The annual migration of the world's only wild flock of whooping cranes is under way, and their stops in Nebraska and other states have taken on new importance, wildlife officials said.

A record number of whooping cranes will migrate through Nebraska within the next six weeks, officials said.

As many as 133 whoopers could be winging south, 3,500 miles from breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada to wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge along the Texas Gulf Coast.

That number compares with 16 when the endangered species reached its lowest number 46 years ago, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said.

Although the number in the wild flock is increasing, the number in an experimental group is decreasing, officials said.

Whooping cranes generally lay two eggs but nurture only one in each nest. For several years, Canadian wildlife biologists have taken one egg from nests and have flown them to Grays Lake refuge in Idaho to be placed in nests of sandhill cranes there.

Sandhill cranes have raised the whooper chicks, but no male and female whoopers have mated to produce chicks.

Of the 12 eggs transferred to Grays Lake this year, two chicks survived to fly. That group, totaling 27 whoopers last year, is down to about 22, officials said. The Grays Lake whoopers migrate 850 miles south to Bosque del Apache refuge in New Mexico.

If the experimental group of whoopers does not survive, protecting the main flock and its habitat becomes more important, said Ron Klataske, regional vice president of the National Audubon

Society, and Ross Lock, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission non-game specialist.

In Nebraska, most whoopers in the main flock fly between Grand Island and Lexington and through the Valentine-O'Neill area, officials said.

Their favorite habitat is the Platte River, the Rainwater Basin Loup River drainages and some Sandhills lakes.

The flock is expected in Nebraska between now and Nov. 15.

Federal law forbids people from shooting whoopers. Officials cautioned people against frightening the birds into wires of other obstacles.

Whooping cranes are white with black wing tips and a red crown. Their wing spans may reach 7 feet. Adults are 5 feet tall.

Sharp aftershock shakes quake area

LOS ANGELES — A sharp aftershock from last week's severe earthquake jolted Southern California before dawn Sunday, causing at least one death and dozens of injuries, damaging buildings, knocking out power and sending jittery residents into the streets.

The quake, centered in suburban Rosemead, Calif., about eight miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles, registered at 5.3 on the Richter scale of ground motion, said Don Kelly of the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo.

At the California Institute of Technology the quake was measured at 5.5, according to a spokesman, Robert Finn.

"It was pretty wild," said Mark Rosenker, who was on the 18th floor of the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. "Let me tell you, it does get you up."

The 3:59 a.m. quake was the 22nd aftershock registering more than 3.0 or more within four hours.

Power outages occurred in numerous areas, and many residents, some in bathrobes, gathered outside apart-

ments and houses, waiting for more shocks. Others, camped out in a downtown parking lot, said they had been there since Thursday.

"We are glad we stayed out here," said a man who identified himself only as Hector. "At least here we feel safe."

Mildred Robbins, 66, of Arcadia, Calif., was pronounced dead at 5:14 a.m. at Arcadia Methodist Hospital after going into full cardiac arrest, said administrative supervisor Terry Pisenti. Efforts to revive her failed.

More than 60 other quake-related injuries, mostly cuts from broken glass, bruises from being hit by falling objects and anxiety-related chest pains and breathing problems, were reported at area hospitals.

"All the lights went out. It felt like the sky was falling. I thought the whole house was coming down," said Marta Jimenez of suburban Montebello.

The Jimenezes moved a mattress and cushions onto their lawn and set up camp, listening to a portable radio. Many neighbors did the same.

Crime down 20 percent since 1981, government says

WASHINGTON — Americans were victimized by an estimated 34.1 million crimes last year, a decline of three-quarters of a million from 1985 and down more than 7 million from the peak year of 1981, the government reported Sunday.

The survey of about 100,000 people in 50,000 households by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that the rate of violent crimes dropped 6.3 percent last year compared to 1985 and has fallen 20 percent since 1981. The survey counts crimes whether or not they were reported to the police and uses the results to estimate the

number of criminal incidents nationwide.

Criminologists say the five-year downward trend is due to the aging of the baby-boom generation, the movement of people born after World War II out of the age group most prone to commit crimes, those from 15 to 24.

As the children of baby-boomers come of age in increasing numbers later this decade, crime levels should begin turning upward because of the "sheer number of children entering their teen-age years," said Marvin E. Wolfgang, professor of criminology and law at the University of Pennsylvania.

Curfew imposed in the Tibetan capital

LHASA, Tibet — Chinese authorities imposed a curfew Sunday and tried to stop at least one busload of foreign tourists from leaving this Tibetan capital after pro-independence demonstrations that killed at least six people.

Dissidents proclaimed the six as martyrs. They put up signs saying those who died in Thursday's demonstration "died for all the Tibetan people, not for themselves."

Nineteen policemen were seriously wounded in that demonstration, staged to protest the arrests of participants in an earlier, Sept. 27 demonstration.

Buddhist monks at the Sera Monastery outside Lhasa said they hoped to stage another

protest on Wednesday, the 37th anniversary of the day that Chinese communist troops moved into Tibet to annex it in 1950.

The monks also said in a taped interview with three French tourists that the 20 monks who staged Thursday's protest had not returned to the monastery and were believed to be hiding from police.

In London, a representative of the Tibetans' exiled spiritual and civil leaders, the Dalai Lama, called the protests "the tip of the iceberg."

"It doesn't matter how harsh the Chinese may come down on them. It will continue until we can find a lasting solution which is accept-

able to the Tibetans," Tse Wang Top Eyal, the Dalai Lama's deputy representative in Europe, said in an interview on the British Broadcasting Corp.'s "World This Weekend" radio program.

The Dalai Lama fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against the Chinese.

Meanwhile, an American diplomat in Chengdu, the nearest large city to Tibet, said two Americans detained in Lhasa after the Sept. 27 demonstration were released and believed to be still in the city.

A 10 p.m. curfew was imposed on Tibetans in Lhasa, although foreigners were allowed to move about past the curfew. Travelers pooled

medicine to give to wounded Tibetans who feared going to hospitals for treatment.

Chinese authorities, however, posted warnings at several hostels that foreigners should not become involved in the unrest, said William Milberger, tourist from San Francisco.

The nation's leading newspaper, the People's Daily, carried a detailed story and pictures of last week's demonstration. The evening television news for the first time showed film of the protest. It showed a crowd surging through Lhasa's Jokhang Temple square and tossing stones at police and the police station there.

Reagan hails trade pact between U.S., Canada

WASHINGTON — President Reagan hailed a tentative U.S.-Canadian trade agreement Sunday that would eliminate all tariffs between the two countries as a historic pact beneficial to both nations' economies.

"Now, in addition to sharing the world's largest undefended border, we will share membership in the world's largest free trade area," Reagan said in a statement released at the White House.

Treasury Secretary James Baker III and Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson said at a joint news conference they were confident the agreement would be approved by the U.S. Senate and Canada's parliament. Both described it as a "win-win situation," good for both countries.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said some tariffs would be dropped upon implementation of the treaty and others would be phased out over five to 10 years.

Baker said the tentative agreement also eliminates other trade barriers and will improve trade in agriculture. He called it a "political signal against protectionism."

Baker described the negotiations, which he said culminate a 100-year effort to reach trade agreement between the two countries, as "taxing and at times overwhelming."

U.S. and Canadian negotiators had settled on the general framework for the pact linking the world's two largest trading partners just before the midnight Saturday deadline that had been set for submission of the agreement to Congress.

Neither side gave many details of the agreement at the news conference. "There is a lot of text," Baker said. "I would characterize it as an agreement in principle. We still have to cross some t's and dot i's. We are continuing to clean up loose ends."

In Brief

KKK members demonstrate; spectators protest

EPHRATA, Pa. — Ku Klux Klansmen dressed in traditional white garb burned a 15-foot cross Saturday night at a rally in this quiet township, while hundreds of opponents staged counterdemonstrations. About 40 police officers in riot gear stood by as the two demonstrations were held. Another anti-Klan rally in Lancaster, about nine miles away, attracted some 600 people who lit candles and said prayers.

Occidental Nebraska plans to close 6 offices

OMAHA — Occidental Nebraska Federal Savings Bank will close its branch offices in Minden, Alma, Red Cloud, Gothenburg, Fremont and Arapahoe effective Nov. 1, the Omaha-based company said. The closings affect 300 to 500 accounts statewide, and patrons have been notified by letter. Offices are closing because projected economic growth and market share didn't meet Occidental's cost of business, said Bill Balek, Occidental executive vice president.

Officials end 4-week Chicago teachers' strike

CHICAGO — Negotiators reached a tentative contract agreement that would end a four-week old teachers' strike, the longest on record in the nation's third-largest school district. The two-year Chicago agreement calls for a 4 percent salary increase in the first year, with raises in the second year contingent on funding received by the Chicago Board of Education.

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