

Today's almanac

United Press International Today is Monday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 1981 with 45 to follow.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Scorpio. Famed American composer W. C. Handy, known as the "Father of the Blues," was born November 16, 1873.

In 1953, former President Harry Truman went on nationwide radio and television to deny charges by the U.S. Attorney General that he had appointed Harry Dexter White to high government office (Director of the International Monetary Fund) knowing that White was a Russian spy.

State

Clements campaigns in bid for re-election

United Press International AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements, who travels to San Antonio, Houston and Dallas Monday to formally announce his bid for re-election, has said he will spend whatever it takes to wage a competitive campaign.

A recent story in a Dallas newspaper reported Clements would spend \$9.5 million to win the chief executive's post. Clements has denied this report, but declines to say how much he will spend.

"I don't have a number in mind," Clements said. "I will spend whatever is necessary to be in a competitive race."

The only announced Democratic candidate, Sen. Peyton McKnight, D-Tyler, has said he can raise as much as \$5 million in his bid to unseat Clements.

Clements' Monday news conferences start a three-day tour of re-election bid announcements all over Texas. Tuesday Clements is scheduled to visit Fort Worth, Amarillo, Lubbock, El Paso and Odessa. He will travel Wednesday to Texarkana, Tyler, Waco, Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

McKnight already has leveled criticism at Clements, which the governor answered at a news conference Friday. Although he did

not specifically name McKnight, Clements said he should not be criticized for refusing to give testimony in a federal lawsuit regarding congressional redistricting.

"We all feel this is a precedent we must not allow to be established," Clements said.

He said the governor, as chief executive, is named in many lawsuits and if he gave testimony in one, he would have to submit to giving a deposition in every single case.

"Every two-bit lawyer in the state of Texas would be asking for my testimony," Clements said.

Doctors looking at interferon as cancer fighter

United Press International HOUSTON — A cancer researcher trying to unravel the mysteries of the anti-viral drug interferon, which tests have shown to be an effective tumor shrinking agent, called the early results "remarkable and miraculous."

Scientists from three major cancer research centers — Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston and the Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, Calif. — agreed the drug may be the key to defeating cancer.

"The ways we use this substance are very simplistic and crude. What has been done so far is remarkable and miraculous," Mathilde Krim of Sloan-Kettering said Friday.

"There are many dreams that can be realized from interferon," she said. "I think interferon has great promise and clearly, within 20 years from now, it will be a part of medical knowledge."

Although interferon research, primarily laboratory work over the past few years, is in its infant stages, Dr. Jordan Gutterman reported human experiments have shown promise. Gutterman, a professor of

medicine at M.D. Anderson, said about 75 cancer patients have received synthetic and natural interferon treatment and in most cases the tumors were reduced.

Side effects, including fever and other flu-like symptoms, forced two patients to be removed from the experiment, he said. The side effects disappeared once the patients stopped receiving the treatment.

There are about 50 types of varieties produced by the body and each produces different test results. "Scientists have found that different types of interferon seem to be more active on the cells it is produced by," Gutterman said.

The anti-cancer properties of interferon, a protein that serves as a key element of the body's complex defenses against disease, appears to differ from standard cancer drugs, prompting speculation a two-pronged attack might be launched against cancer.

Krim said it is almost puzzling why nature put all these different types of molecules in the body.

"If it was unnecessary, nature would have done away with it through evolution," she said. "It is a mystery."

New drug will help babies undergoing heart surgery

United Press International BALTIMORE — A newly approved drug dramatically improves the survival chances of babies undergoing surgery for serious heart defects, a University of Maryland researcher says.

Dr. Anthony L. Moulton, a pediatric surgeon at University Hospital, said Friday the new drug — prostaglandin — helps to open blood vessels to the lower part of a baby's body and flush out toxic wastes that often kill infants before they can be operated on.

Prostaglandin, a synthetic drug patterned after a protein substance that occurs naturally in the human body, was recently approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The drug has proven to be a blessing to doctors trying to operate on babies with narrowed aortas, a condition restricting blood flow to the lower half of the body. Moulton said before surgery prostaglandin is used to temporarily open the ductus arteriosus, a blood vessel that normally closes within

hours after a baby's birth.

The open vessel significantly improves urinary output and removes the toxins that often weaken babies to the point they can not withstand surgery to widen the aorta, Moulton said.

"When we go to the operating room the baby is in much better shape," he said.

Moulton said of 11 infants treated with prostaglandin only one died during surgery. In addition, he reported no serious side effects.

Residents fear mine water is possible health hazard

United Press International COMMERCE, Okla. — The zinc and lead mining operations pulled out of the Tar Creek area in the 1960s but left a legacy of pollution. Two congressmen say the area, where acid-tainted water bubbles out the ground, is the nation's worst environmental hazard.

Reps. Mike Synar, D-Okla., and Bob Whittaker, R-Kan., Friday toured the 40-square-mile creek basin, which includes north-east Oklahoma and southeast Kansas. Some residents fear the foul-smelling, red-colored stream that meanders through abandoned mines is a threat to their water supply. Others fear cave-ins. Synar and Whittaker were

gathering information and support for placing the Tar Creek area high on the list for the EPA's "superfund cleanup" program. They said it was labeled the nation's most hazardous waste site by an independent study conducted for a House oversight subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Bill Librizzi, of the Environmental Protection Agency's Dallas regional office, said after the tour it will be at least two years before the government can begin cleaning the area. He said it would require funding and planning.

A study commissioned by former Gov. David Hall, who served from 1971 to 1975, said it would take as much as \$20 million and 30

years to clean up the area.

David Richard, who grew up in the mining area, said mining companies just "bled this whole land."

"They didn't give a damn," he said. "All they cared about was the minerals and the money. It's just a big cesspool now."

The tour started on the farm of George Mayer, who had to move his Arabian horse because water gurgling up in his pasture was causing deep red sores on the animal's legs.

Clear water gurgles from a hole in the ground on the north edge of town. After an hour it turns a deep red and flows sluggishly through Mayer's pasture, killing all vegetation in its path.

A chemical reaction between metals in the old mine shafts and years of rainwater has made the water rich in carbon dioxide. When the water bubbles forth from the hole in Mayer's pasture — and from thousands of similar openings in the hazard area — a new chemical reaction turns the water a murky, undrinkable red. Gas, mostly carbon dioxide, vents out of the ground with the water which leaves a frothy path as it flows.

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