

# Dictionary’s entertaining history the focus of book

*Review: “The Story of Ain’t: America, Its Language, and the Most Controversial Dictionary Ever Published”*

**By Ann Levin**  
*For The Associated Press*

David Skinner’s “The Story of Ain’t” is an immensely entertaining history of a dictionary whose appearance in 1961 sent critics over the edge. “Literary anarchy,” “sabotage,” “disaster,” “calamity” – these were just a few of the epithets hurled at *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary*.

More than half a century later, it may be hard to understand how mere printed matter could get folks so worked up. But Skinner, the editor of *Humanities magazine*, manages to transform this somewhat arcane lexicographical dispute into a real page turner.

The story begins in 1934 with a black-tie dinner celebrating the publication of *Webster’s Second*,

17-pound tome crammed with all the information a well-bred person of that time might need to know. Oddly, that included lists of dog breeds and biographies of Roman orators.

By 1961, of course, that wasn’t nearly enough. The country had endured a depression and world war and witnessed the rise of television and movies, the aerospace industry, interstate highway system, civil rights movement, baby boom generation, rock ‘n’ roll and more.

That meant lots of new words had to be in the updated edition, including ballistic missile, desegregation, housing development, Little League, McCarthyism, ponytail and Zen. And when it came to usage, Webster’s Third wasn’t content to only quote from the likes of Dryden and Shakespeare – in came pithy snippets from

movie stars, Mickey Spillane, even a former madam.

To make room for the new, Editor-in-Chief Philip Gove decided that a good chunk of the old had to go.

What proved most controversial, however, was his philosophy that a dictionary should record the language as it was spoken. If that meant ignoring the prescriptions of the grammar cops, well then, so be it.

Gove’s position, reflecting decades of well-established linguistic research, outraged the so-called prescriptivists, who thought *Webster’s Third* represented permissiveness run amok.

Skinner ably captures the hysterical tone of the quarrel while suggesting that it foreshadowed many of today’s arguments over values and standards.

# Workshop to teach ranchers about strategies for drought management

Ranchers, what would you give to know 30, 40 or 60 days ahead of time that your livestock herd was going to run out of grass? Would you give some of your time?

If so, mark Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 11 and 12, for a unique and comprehensive Managing Drought Workshop series in Wray, Colo.

This workshop is for those who own rangeland and cattle, landlords or those leasing the range. It offers a unique approach to drought management that has never been available before.

This workshop begins on the afternoon of Dec. 11, with separate sessions Tuesday evening and Wednesday. Tuesday afternoon will focus on the thought processes of drought and the Cal\_F\_Cost\_Cow-Q-lator spreadsheet. This spreadsheet predicts profit or loss given certain conditions such as hay prices, amount of hay fed, calf weaning size, calf prices and more variables. Attendees will go through the worksheet and fill in the best and worst case prices and conditions and learn the profit estimate using those parameters. This spreadsheet is free and available on the web.

In the evening session there will be an introduction to various web resources by Pat Reece, who explains why ranchers should know how to use these websites to gain information for making informed drought-plan decisions.

On Wednesday, the attendees will learn about drought indicators, plant drought response and drought planning. Attendees will learn what they need to know to answer critical questions on how much moisture is needed, how to decide how many animals to run and when to decide. Wednesday’s workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Ranchers may attend any part or all of the workshop sections. There will not be a registration fee, although registration will be necessary. Watch for more detailed information in November. The workshop is being sponsored by the Yuma County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

## On the Beat

**Sunday**  
12:39 a.m. – Caller reported domestic disturbance. All OK, no report.  
1:16 a.m. – Caller reported earlier in the evening subject was driving under the influence and had juvenile in front seat without seatbelt. Provided information to reporting party.  
2:17 a.m. – Fight. Report filed, subjects did not want to press charges.  
3:16 a.m. – Caller reported two subjects walking southbound in roadway in the 1200 block of S. Range. Spoke to subject, told use sidewalk.  
3:32 a.m. – Caller reported car struck a parked vehicle.  
6:21 a.m. – Provided escort for high school students.  
4:33 p.m. – Caller reported dog at large. Citation issued.  
5:06 p.m. – Collision in the parking lot of Dillon’s. Both parties agreed no report needed.  
9:17 p.m. – Caller reported four-wheel-drive truck with very loud exhaust in area to east of Pine and Franklin. Not found.  
9:22 p.m. – Arrest warrant served for Barton County Sheriff’s Office.  
9:43 p.m. – Caller reported two all-terrain vehicles in Buffalo Park in the draw to the east of 405 S. Franklin. Not found.  
**Monday**  
2:26 a.m. – Narcotics violation report filed.  
8:01 a.m. – Caller reported pos-

sible gun on hood of vehicle. Toy gun; everything OK.  
8:39 a.m. – Criminal damage to vehicle. Report filed.  
8:48 a.m. – Caller reported horse trailer blocking roadway and fire hydrant. Not blocking any fire hydrant, vehicle will be moved.  
1:35 p.m. – Criminal damage: caller reported windows broken. Report filed.  
4:13 p.m. – Subject came to station about accident. Report filed.  
9:20 p.m. – Caller reported subject harassing by text. Made contact with both parties.  
**Tuesday**  
3:27 p.m. – Domestic disturbance report filed.  
4:45 p.m. – Report filed on recovered bike.  
5:25 p.m. – Business advised of gas skip. Made contact, accidental.  
5:40 p.m. – Caller reported tag stolen off vehicle. Reporting party does not want report as of this time.  
**THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Saturday**  
11:02 a.m. – Booked James Hickert.  
3:38 p.m. – Suspicious incident: subject called 911 about possible oil pump on fire at County Rds. 36 and B. Everything OK, no fire.  
6:17 p.m. – Suspicious incident: caller advised of vehicle fire at County Rds. 30 and E. Report filed.  
7:18 p.m. – Caller reported two

dogs killing their goats. Report filed.  
**Sunday**  
4:56 p.m. – Released Jason Dodson.  
9:31 p.m. – Checked buildings at Rexford School. All OK.  
**Monday**  
4:57 a.m. – Caller advised window on semi broken out while parked south of C&M Truck Repair. Report filed.  
7:37 a.m. – Burglary/theft: caller reported more semis broken into at C&M Truck Repair. Report filed.  
10:52 a.m. – Subject came to station about lost tag. Report filed.  
12:18 p.m. – Callers reported pickup going wrong direction on I-70. Unable to locate.  
1:50 p.m. – Kayla Quenzer arrested on warrant.  
**Tuesday**  
10:30 a.m. – Justin Saavedra arrested on warrant  
11:42 a.m. – Caller reported cows on railroad tracks at County Rd. 21 and Veterans Memorial. Owner contacted.  
1:31 p.m. – Caller reported cows out at County Rd. 32 and Thomas County-Rawlins County line. Owner contacted.  
4:29 p.m. – Booked Jason M. Schwarz.  
4:50 p.m. – Released Schwarz.  
4:59 p.m. – Booked Janell Racette.  
5:14 p.m. – Released Racette.

# More aflatoxin allowed in feed corn

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a request from the Kansas Department of Agriculture to allow corn containing more than 20 parts per billion of aflatoxin to be blended with corn with lower levels or no aflatoxin to be used for animal feed.

“Like other corn-producing states suffering from the historic drought of 2012, some of the corn being harvested in Kansas right now has increased amounts of aflatoxin present. However, there is also a great deal of corn with lower levels or no aflatoxin

present,” said Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman. “Having the ability to blend corn with aflatoxin present with clean corn is important for Kansas, which ranks sixth nationally in corn production. We greatly appreciate FDA’s approval of this request.”

Prior to blending any corn, the blending firm must complete a compliance certification form and submit the completed form to the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Guidelines regarding how the blending is to be carried out are listed in the 2012 Compliance Certification Form Blending Corn

Containing Aflatoxin. Blending firms are required to submit samples of blended corn for sale both in Kansas and out-of-state. All samples must be submitted to Kansas Grain Inspection Service using the Aflatoxin Blending Sample Form. It is important to note that the blended corn will be clearly identified and labeled for animal feed use only and no corn containing aflatoxin levels greater than 500 ppb can be blended for livestock feed. The waiver is effective until Dec. 31.

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