

Columbia 'buttoned up' for date with White Sands

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The space shuttle was being "buttoned up for flight" yesterday when NASA began the "monumental task" of equipping a wide-open white sand runway in New Mexico to handle Columbia's third landing. NASA's goal: Get off on Monday, on time.

In Houston, astronauts Jack Lusoma and C. Gordon Fullerton prepared for an unusual preflight, full-dress landing rehearsal. Today's session was to allow the crew and NASA flight controllers to "get smart on

White Sands because it's going to be the real thing this time," a space agency spokesman said.

Previously, the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range served as a backup site for the shuttle landing, but inclement rains at Edwards Air Force Base in California forced NASA to shift touch-down to New Mexico.

For Lusoma and Fullerton, the change 800 miles to the east was no bother. "They've flown into White Sands more than they have into ED,"

emphasizing the shuttle's commercial future as a "space freighter," NASA spokesman Brian Duff said. "We want to tell our customers that even if there is a weather problem, we can make our schedule."

On the Atlantic Ocean launch pad, countdown was moving with uncommon ease, but across the continent the rain-soaked runways at Edwards Air Force Base in California were deemed unacceptable either as a "once-around-Earth" emergency site

or for the normal landing to end Columbia's seven-day mission.

Instead, the space shuttle is scheduled to leave its 110th orbit and glide, unpowered, 800 miles farther eastward. Touchdown will be at the White Sands Missile Range, in the Tularosa Basin in New Mexico.

Two 7-mile-long runways have been smoothed out on the white gypsum sands of a dry lake bed called Northrup Strip. It is among the most remote locations in the United States,

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Don and Jane Witt lug provisions to their car after stocking up in Oracle, which got about an inch of snow

Late-winter storm surges through state

By Joe Watt
The Arizona Daily Star

Boiling, low-lying clouds full of moisture and chilly air blew in yesterday, making what Tucson — and most of the West — got another taste of winter before spring blossoms next week.

Forecasters issued a winter storm warning for the central and northern part of the state last night.

In the Tucson area, afternoon temperatures plunged as the storm moved in. From 67 degrees at 2 p.m., the mercury plummeted to 43 by 7 p.m. at Tucson International Airport, said a spokesman for the National Weather Service.

The storm covered the western part of the United States, from Montana to Mexico, the weather service spokesman said. The storm developed over the eastern Pacific Ocean and moved to the north before swooping down the West Coast and inland.

In anticipation of the storm, Salt River Project officials were releasing water from Bartlett Dam on the Verde River yesterday, but at a slower rate than had been predicted.

They cut the flow to about 750 gallons per second when they determined that the storm was centered farther north than initial reports indicated. A day earlier, they were releasing 6,000 gallons per second, The Associated Press reported.

In Tucson, 0.4 of an inch of rain was reported in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, one weather observer said. Another weather watcher reported 0.23 of an inch near North La Cañada Drive and West 1st Road. A near-northern resident.

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Fake detectives bilk woman

By John S. Long
The Arizona Daily Star

A 75-year-old northside woman was bilked out of \$2,000 in jewelry yesterday when two men posing as law officers promised to protect her valuables from burglars planning to steal them.

Sheriff's Lt. Dave Fisher said that at 10:15 a.m., a man identifying himself as Fisher phoned the woman, who lives in the 4000 block of East Camino Royal, and told her that detectives had just arrested a burglar. The man said the burglar had a piece of paper with the woman's name and address on it, and that detectives thought that a burglary ring was about to strike at her home.

Fisher said the phony lieutenant then told the woman that he was sending a detective to her home to take her valuables and jewelry for safekeeping.

While the woman was still on the phone, another man came to her door and said he was a sheriff's detective, Fisher said. She put him on

'Mailman' may deliver trouble

Tucsonans should be wary of a telephone caller claiming to be a mailman or postal employee who wants to deliver a package to them, postal inspector Mike Kingery said yesterday.

A man claiming to work for the post office has contacted at least two Tucson homes recently, asking if he could deliver a package at a certain time, Kingery said.

The inspector said no packages were delivered, and the postal stations that serve the two homes had no record of undelivered packages for the occupants.

Kingery said he suspects the caller was trying to find out when the houses would be unoccupied, perhaps to burglarize them.

If you receive such a call, Kingery said, get the person's name and telephone number, then tell the caller you are busy and will call back in a minute.

Check the phone number given you by your postal station's phone number, he said, and if they are the same, call back and ask for the person.

But if the numbers are not the same or you notice some other discrepancy, Kingery said, you should contact the Tucson Police Department immediately.

Crumbling dikes imperil Fort Wayne

The Associated Press

Three swollen rivers that have driven thousands from their homes in Fort Wayne, Ind., crested and began dropping yesterday, but more rain is forecast and dikes have been weakened by prolonged soaking.

The National Weather Service said the city's three rivers — the Maumee, St. Mary's and St. Joseph — crested after reaching a level of 23.90 feet just 8.2 feet below the record 1933 flood level that killed 700 people in Indiana and neighboring states.

The river level stood at 23.33 feet at 6 p.m. yesterday, according to city officials.

While the water level was dropping slowly, the city's network of dikes was weakened seriously by nearly a week of flooding, and officials worried that some might not hold until the rivers return to their banks.

Fort Wayne Mayor Winfield Moses Jr. said that if an inch of rain fell, as predicted, "Things are going to get even more difficult."

"I'm told by the weather service that for every half-inch of rain that falls, the rivers go up 6 inches."

"It's like rebuilding the pyramids," said Moses. "But if we lose the dike and do not have a secondary line of defense, a wall of water will sweep through the area, causing the destruction of hundreds of houses. We would have a flash flood the likes of which this city has never seen."

Early yesterday, volunteers struggling to save their city reinforced a soggy 15-foot-high dike that had leaked during the night, chasing hundreds more from their homes.

Work began on a secondary dike along a critical area of the Lakeside subdivision, part of the eight-mile system of dikes protecting the river city of 170,000 people.

Moses said the old dike, built after the 1933 flood, was as soft as toothpaste from the flooding that began last weekend.

He estimated that the water would be about 15 feet above street level if the dike goes.

The dikes were constructed for a water level of 26 feet. Although the water level was below the top early yesterday, some of the siltation, grass-covered dikes are saturated after holding back the water for nearly a week and are turning to mush.

"It tends to ooze," Moses said. "It's like the Zander Zee (of the Netherlands). We plug our finger in when we find a leak, patch it, then move on to the next one."

Water still filled Fort Wayne's downtown streets as the rivers crested.

See FLOOD-BATTERED, Page 3A

UA library fire doused; some don't hear alarm

By Jay Gonzales
The Arizona Daily Star

An effective sprinkler system prevented what could have been a disaster last night when it doused a deliberately set fire in the basement of the University of Arizona Main Library, fire officials said.

A malfunction in the audible alarm system had campus police racing through the building to evacuate it, officials said.

The fire in the loading dock on the south side of the building was almost extinguished when the first firefighters arrived, Fire Capt. Duane Stutz said. Photo on Page 1B.

UA police officer D.R. Erwin said several other officers had to cover all five floors of the library to evacuate approximately 100 people — students and employees — who were apparently unaware of the fire.

Grant E. Smith Jr., director of in-

Weather

Shower power. Today will be partly cloudy and continued cool with a 30 percent chance of rain. A high in the mid-60s and a low in the mid-40s are expected. Yesterday's high and low were 67 and 49.

Snow fall in the Rockies, and from Montana to Minnesota yesterday. Rain was reported in Southern California. Rain also fell from Kansas and Oklahoma to the lower Ohio Valley.

Yesterday's national temperature extremes were 14 at Great Falls, Mont., and 92 at Brownsville, McAllen and Laredo, Texas. Details on Page 4A.

Deaths bring guilty verdict. The man prosecutors say was drunk when he ran a stop sign and killed two children is found guilty of manslaughter. Page 1B.

Kicking Corrections. Legislators unhappy with what they see as financial abuses in the State Department of Corrections trim \$1.4 billion from a supplemental appropriations bill. Page 1B.

Back to the drawing board. The state Senate defers a measure that would have given Arizonans the deciding vote on whether judges in Pima and Maricopa counties should again be elected. Page 2B.

Klein censured. James B. Klein is censured by fellow members of the Pima Community College board after he charges them with dictating minutes of the board's executive session. Page 9B.

Another Arizona crash. A private plane carrying prisoners crashes near Sunflower, killing four of the seven persons aboard. Page 6B.

"Ma" Herrick dies. Emma K. "Ma" Herrick, deaf and confidante to thousands of University of Arizona students, dies at 90 after a long illness. Page 10B.

Big-business proposal. President Reagan asks big business to align with his economic program, while two advisers warn that feeding over spending could jeopardize economic recovery. Page 5A.

Spy-protection bill gains. The Senate passes a bill making it a crime for journalists to publicly identify American spies, even if the information comes from open records. Page 6A.

Navy, Air Force chiefs named. Reagan names two new chiefs for the Air Force and the Navy, and has now appointed a majority on the Joint Chiefs. Page 7A.

Dozier's hearing impaired. U.S. Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier settles in Italy but listening to six weeks of the Red Brigades' loud rock music permanently impaired his hearing. Page 2A.

News

Hat almost in ring. Rep. Morris K. Udall sets press conferences in Tucson and Phoenix to announce his campaign plans, conditional on an settlement of the redistricting fight. Page 1B.

Grabbing a bite — President Reagan sits on the run before addressing the National Association of Manufacturers. Story, Page 6A.

Sports

Virginia, Idaho lose. Alabama-Birmingham, playing on its home court, holds off Virginia, 68-66, and Oregon State defeats Idaho, 90-62, in NCAA regional semifinal basketball games. Page 1C.

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