

The Arizona Daily Star

106th YEAR

FINAL

TUCSON, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1982

A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER

25¢

50 PAGES

Winds may force shuttle to land in Florida

By Robert Locke
The Associated Press

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. — The space shuttle Columbia, diverted from yesterday's scheduled landing by wild desert winds, will try again today in a suspenseful third-flight finale that could force the ship to bypass New Mexico and return non-stop to Florida.

It all depends on the morning weather and the condition of Northrup Strip at this barren Army missile base. NASA expects to make the decision by 9 a.m. Tucson time—

with a hoped-for landing four hours later. In orbit 141 miles above Earth, astronauts Jack R. Louma and C. Gordon Fullerton had food, fuel and power to last four days, and a NASA official said, "We're in excellent shape." The crew took the news in stride.

"Sorry about that," mission control told the two. "That's the breaks of space, I guess," said Louma.

Eugene Kranz, chief of flight operations,

said in Houston that a landing at 9:57 a.m. at White Sands would be preferred. If the Northrup Strip is still unusable, the shuttle will attempt to land at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla. A Florida landing would probably come at 9:13 a.m.

"The ground track would go clean across the United States, west to east," Kranz said.

"We're going to play the weather real fine," Kranz said. Flares will be sent aloft both in New Mexico and Florida to test the winds. It was such a fight, by Shuttle 1

astronaut John Young, that sealed yesterday's way-out.

Kranz said the landstorm that caused the postponement also damaged the runway but that it could be repaired overnight.

The runway at Cape Canaveral, 15,000 feet long, is ready should the shuttle have to land there. Columbia has never made a paved-runway landing, but the alternative is another try at wind-whipped Northrup, and NASA officials were pessimistic that conditions would improve by this morning.

Kennedy Space Center is NASA's third choice for Flight 3. The main runway in California is waterlogged and out of service.

Equipment at Northrup, hastily assembled to handle a shuttle landing, may have suffered some damage from the winds, but the gusts still were too strong to make an assessment yesterday.

"We are really fighting the odds," said David Novlan, chief forecaster at White Sands. "The odds are really stacked against us."

See MISSION CONTROL, Page 2A



Jonathan Caldwell and his son, Adam, 6, brave the wind at White Sands waiting for the landing that was not to be

Sand fills air Wave-off comes as no surprise

By Steve Williams
The Arizona Daily Star

WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT, N.M. — About 10 a.m. yesterday, Columbia astronaut Jack Louma asked about weather conditions at Northrup Strip here, where he and C. Gordon Fullerton were scheduled to land in about 2½ hours.

Sand-bladed reporters and photographers, huddled in a wind-swept trailer at the strip, anxiously awaited NASA's response as they watched camera tripods blowing over on a barely visible platform about 40 feet away.

Mission control in Houston replied, "Everything looks fine out there."

Crews of disbelief filled the trailer. "If they put that thing down here today, they can call it the 'space shovel,'" said one photographer.

No one stayed outside any longer than necessary. Eyes, ears and mouths were full of a hard-driven fine gypsum powder that burned the skin.

And even for the handful of those fortunate enough to have dust masks and goggles — glasses didn't do any good — walking, or even standing, was a struggle.

"I wish they'd go ahead and scrub this damn thing so we could get out of this hellhole," a reporter said as he weaved his way through the 55-mph winds that overturned an Army Jeep, injuring a military policeman.

Pages blew off reporters' nose

• About 30,000 people endure wind and sand in a futile wait for the shuttle. Page 2A.

The fine powder covered photographers' lenses and anything else that was exposed, including people, with a white film.

And for those who didn't get their fill of the storm by trying to seek information they wanted, there was a bomb scare.

Military policemen cleared the media area and called in a bomb disposal team. The 800 or so media representatives stood in the storm for about 20 minutes, not knowing at first why they had been forced into the desert.

Maj. Dave Olmstead, a White Sands spokesman, said later that a "suspicious-looking, unattended suitcase," which prompted the evacuation, contained only a reporter's notes, her lunch and a couple of Thermos bottles.

Soon afterward, about 11 a.m., NASA decided to postpone the landing until today, and the convey of Army buses provided to transport the media filled rapidly.

As the buses inched back to base headquarters, a reporter wearing a T-shirt saying "I was there — space shuttle landing — White Sands" was considering having a new one made to say "I survived the space shuttle non-landing at White Sands."

• And I thought this would be such a piece-of-cake assignment, another

Nationwide DWI bill passes Senate panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Commerce Committee, voting a nationwide crackdown on drunken drivers, yesterday recommended an automatic, 90-day suspension of driver's licenses for all first-time offenders who fail chemical sobriety tests.

Those convicted of drunken driving twice within a five-year period would receive mandatory jail terms of at least 48 hours under the proposal, a set of voluntary minimum standards for all states to follow.

States heading the minimum standards or enacting tougher drunken-driving laws would be rewarded with increased federal highway-safety funds under the bill by Sens. Claiborne Pell,

D.R.I., and Jack Danforth, R-Mo.

To qualify for the additional funds, state laws under the measure would have to include these requirements:

• Automatic suspension of the license for at least one year for a subsequent incident.

• Impoundment of the driver's vehicle if he or she is caught driving with a suspended driver's license.

• The setting of a blood-alcohol level of one-tenth of 1 percent as "conclusive proof of intoxication."

• Establishment of alcohol-treatment programs for offenders.

Sewage plant violating rules, EPA says

By Howard Fischer and Jane Kay
The Arizona Daily Star

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has cited Pima County for violating standards limiting bacteria and other sewage discharge into the Santa Cruz River.

Sources also told The Arizona Daily Star that the EPA and the Arizona Department of Health Services are questioning the accuracy of the county's laboratory reports on effluent quality from the Ina Road sewage-treatment plant.

The EPA's enforcement order, issued March 12, states that the county has exceeded both the daily and monthly standards for bacteria and solids at the Ina Road treatment plant during the last three months of 1981.

Records obtained by the Star show that the plant failed to meet monthly standards for January and February of this year but is in compliance so far this month.

The EPA order also noted that equipment designed to measure the treated effluent was not turned on when inspectors visited the plant Feb. 9. Inspection of the plant's operating log also showed that the equipment was turned off during

parts of seven other days in January.

Pima County faces fines of \$2,500 to \$25,000 a day if it fails to comply with reporting and monitoring requirements set out in the EPA's order.

State officials have questioned the accuracy of county's effluent reports as late as March 9, when Barry Hilton, an inspector for the health department, said an analysis of the Santa Cruz River near Marana showed much higher readings of bacteria and suspended solids than would ordinarily be expected 18 to 20 miles downstream from the county's two treatment plants.

Hilton noted that the average concentration of oxygen-demanding bacteria that the county said was discharging was about 19 milligrams per liter of water. Yet readings obtained at Marana showed a concentration 91 percent higher.

For fecal bacteria, the plants reported about three bacteria in each 100 milliliters of water; the Marana analysis showed 18.

Health officials acknowledged that the river at that point is largely effluent, and that a variety of factors could have affected the readings.

Another state report, issued last year, stated

that readings of oxygen-demanding bacteria reported by the laboratory at Ina Road have been "consistently lower" than tests run by the health department's mobile laboratory.

Charles Nowak, plant manager, who took over the operation since that report, said he has offered Hilton split samples of effluent, with the Ina Road laboratory doing its own analysis and the state officials doing theirs. He said Hilton has turned down such offers.

William Shaffer, manager of operations and compliance for the water-quality section of the Arizona Department of Health Services, said his agency is concerned about the accuracy of the county's reports.

"There have been enough inaccuracies or aberrations in the data submitted to us that I warrants a check," Shaffer said.

George Brinko, director of the county sewer department, said that although he is confident of the accuracy of the Ina Road laboratory, the department will begin splitting samples and sending half to an independent, out-of-town laboratory to

See COUNTY MAY, Page 2A

Weather

Main ingredient: clouds. Today will be partly cloudy and breezy with a 10 percent to 20 percent chance of rain. A high in the mid-40s and a low in the mid-30s are expected. Yesterday's high and low were 66 and 48.

Rain extended over most of central California yesterday. Rain also developed over the central Plains. Snow fell in the Rockies, and rain was scattered from the lower elevations in Colorado into Nevada and Northern Arizona.

Rain is forecast today for the Great Lakes and the Ohio Valley. Skies will be cloudy from Texas to Florida. There is also a chance of rain from the Northern Rockies to Northern Arizona with snow in higher elevations.

Yesterday's national temperature extremes were 4 at Caribou, Maine, and 91 at Lajitas, Texas. Details on Page 4A.



Hank finally wins — Henry Fonda wins his first Oscar for acting for his performance as the aging grocer, Norman Thayer, in "On Golden Pond." Story on Page 1C.

News

Police at Reid Park. Reid Park will be patrolled by two additional police units beginning this weekend. Officials say this is not a result of the stabbing death of a 19-year-old there Sunday night. Page 1B.

McNulty a candidate. Jim McNulty, a Blaine lawyer and a member of the Arizona Board of Regents, is the first Democrat to announce his candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives from the newly created District 5. Page 2B.

Effort on transients. The City Council votes to create a task force on transients, but councilmen say they doubt the group will solve the problem. Page 3A.

Lifestyle

Soda additives. The average American annually consumes 419 12-ounce cans of soda pop. Star consumer writer Leo Banks reviews what goes into each drink. Page 1D.

Mexico: Struggle with change

Tiempo Mexicano. The Mexican clock is ticking toward hours of decision — the Left is chipping away at the dominant Institutional Revolutionary Party. Page 7A.

Money

Not much help. President Reagan proposes a modest aid program for the housing industry but rejects "budget-busting bailouts." Page 1G.

Sports

Tar Heels win it. No. 1-ranked North Carolina edges Georgetown, 63-62, to give Coach Dean Smith his first NCAA basketball championship. Page 1F.

Jack Hartman. Jack Hartman, University of Arizona Director of Athletics Dave Strack says Kansas State Coach Jack Hartman has asked for another day to consider the UA's offer to become the Wildcat basketball coach. Page 1F.

Index

Bridge	3C	Nation	1A
Classified	37E	Obituaries	2E
Comics	4C	Public records	2B
Comment	87A	Solomon, M.D.	2D
Dear Abby	2D	Sports	14F
Entertainment	14C	Troubleshooter	1D
Horoscope	2D	Tucson, Arizona	4B
Lifestyle	14D	Tucson today	3C
Money	14G	TV guide	2C
Mexico	2C	World	1A