

NEWS BRIEFING

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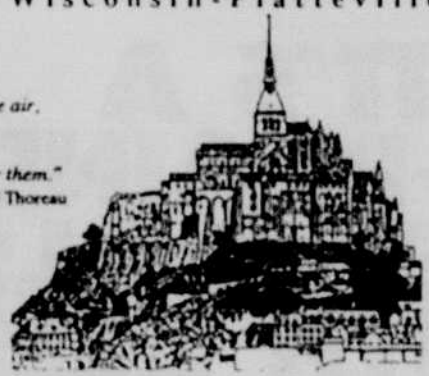
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GO DUCKS!

Tree-sitting activists climb down; some get arrested for trespass

GRANTS PASS (AP) — Two protesters who had climbed trees to stop logging on the Sugarloaf timber sale were arrested Tuesday, as well as the mother of one of them and a spiritual leader who tried to hike in to offer their support.

Two of the three protesters who had climbed trees marked for cutting over the weekend came down on their own and were taken into custody on trespassing charges by law enforcement officers on the ground, Siskiyou National Forest spokesman Steve Waterman said.

A third tree-sitter got away while the other two were being arrested, said Lt. Cliff Moore of the Josephine County sheriff's department.

"One stated the reason they came down was it was disturbing to hear the chainsaws and the trees fall," Moore said. "But they were wet. They probably were cold, too."

The Sugarloaf timber sale has become a focus of environmentalists' efforts to stop logging in old growth forests in the Northwest. Though the Forest Service took special pains to design the logging to minimize environmental damage and improve the health of the forest, opponents are angry that much of the timber volume is coming from large trees, some of them as much as 400 years old.

Man hit by a pickup truck near UO dies

(AP) — A Medford man has died of injuries sustained when he was hit by a pickup truck as he tried to cross a street near the University of Oregon.

Cole Anthony Roderick, 26, was attempting to cross the street at about 2 a.m. Sunday when he was struck by a 1982 Datsun pickup driven by Mark Steven Little, 38, of Creswell.

Roderick was transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center, where he died at 10:50 p.m. Sunday from head injuries suffered in the collision, according to a nursing supervisor.

Little was not injured. The incident remains under investigation.

Weather sole concern for Thursday launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Weather was NASA's sole concern as the countdown proceeded toward Thursday's launch of space shuttle Columbia on a two-week science mission.

Meteorologists said Tuesday that rain and clouds could delay the 9:35 a.m. liftoff. They said there was a 60 percent chance of good weather.

All else was on track for Columbia's first flight in more than a year. The shuttle flew last summer and then underwent months of maintenance and modifications.

Seven astronauts will split 12-hour work shifts during the 16-day mission. They will conduct experiments on crystals, fluids, fire, even potato plants.

The shuttle Discovery, meanwhile, is due to leave Wednesday for its periodic California tune-up. The cross-country flight, with stops in Fort Worth, Texas, and Salt Lake City, was delayed one day because of loose attachment bolts on the modified jumbo jet that carries shuttles.

Pagers go blank when satellite system accidentally turned off

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Millions of personal pagers across the country were rendered useless Tuesday when a computer operator inadvertently sent out a command that turned off thousands of satellite receivers.

Space Com, a Tulsa-based satellite transmission service, had to manually reprogram the receivers one by one. About 95 percent of service was restored by the end of the workday, and the remainder was expected to be back by Wednesday morning.

Space Com has contracts with five of the 10 largest paging companies. Its biggest contract is with Pagenet, which has more than 6 million pagers across the country. Pagenet could not estimate how many of its customers were without service.

"Have we had problems? We've had major problems resulting from this outage," said Pagenet spokesman Gary Hartman in Bridgeport, Conn.

'Playboy' for sale in Ireland after 34 years

DUNDALK, Ireland (AP) — Government censors have ruled that *Playboy* magazine can be sold in Ireland, overturning a 34-year ban that had sent its fans hopping over the border to Northern Ireland to buy it.

In this town a few miles from the border, the news got some commercial pulses thumping. Gerry and Margaret Molloy said they were eager to sell *Playboy* in their Dundalk shop, even though some neighbors disapproved.

"They say I'm an idiot [idiot], but I'm here to make money. There's a clear demand for the stuff and it's harmless," said Molloy, noting that other shops had sold *Playboy* under the counter for years.

The Censorship of Publications Board, which bans a range of periodicals and books from this predominantly Roman Catholic country of 3.5 million, approved *Playboy's* appeal for distribution rights on Monday. The magazine had been banned from the Irish Republic since 1961, but could go on sale here as soon as next week.

Female bullfighter from Spain wows crowd in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With a distinctive flourish, Cristina Sanchez became the first woman bullfighter to perform in Plaza Mexico, the world's largest bullfighting arena.

Before 40,000 spectators, Sanchez killed a bull named Caleno on Sunday night, impressing a crowd of many drawn simply by the prospect of seeing a female bullfighter. In reward for her grace and skill, she was given the bull's ear, an honor similar to a standing ovation in music halls.

Sanchez said bullfighting gives her enormous satisfaction. "I need this in order to live," she told Associated Press Television. "The bull, the danger, death, [it's] all that I need. When you enjoy bullfighting, you become addicted to it."

Some female bullfighters have performed before in Spain, but never in Latin America.

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