

Pluto: U.S. is only nation to visit every planet in solar system

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13 nerve-racking hours later. That's because NASA wants New Horizons taking pictures of Pluto, its jumbo moon Charon and its four little moons during this critical time, not gabbing to Earth.

In a cosmic coincidence, the encounter occurred on the 50th anniversary of Mariner 4's flyby of Mars that yielded the first close-up pictures of the red planet.

"I think it's fitting that on the 50th anniversary we complete the initial reconnaissance of the planets with the exploration of Pluto," said principal scientist Alan Stern.

The United States is now the only nation to visit every single planet in the solar system. Pluto was No. 9 in the lineup when New Horizons departed Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Jan. 19, 2006, but was demoted seven months later to dwarf status. Scientists in charge of the \$720 million mission, as well as NASA brass, hope the new observations will restore Pluto's honor.

"It's a huge morning, a huge day not just for NASA but for the United States," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said from NASA headquarters in Washington.

NASA marked the moment live on TV, broadcasting from flight operations at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, the spacecraft's developer and manager.

Inside "countdown central" in Laurel, Maryland, hundreds jammed together to share in the remaining final minutes, including the two children of the late American astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930, Clyde Tombaugh. The actual flight control room was empty save for a worker sweeping up; the spacecraft was preprogrammed for the flyby and there was nothing anyone could do at this point but join in the celebration.

The crowd waved U.S. flags and counted down from nine seconds, screaming, cheer-



Bill Ingalls/NASA via AP

Guests and New Horizons team members count down to the spacecraft's closest approach to Pluto Tuesday at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The moment of closest approach for the New Horizons spacecraft came around 4:49 a.m. PDT Tuesday, culminating an epic journey from planet Earth that spanned an incredible 3 billion miles and 9½ years.

ing and applauding. Chants of "USA!" broke out.

At a news conference afterward, Grunsfeld, Stern and mission operations manager Alice Bowman unveiled a picture of Pluto taken just Monday. The icy, impacted world — brassy-colored with bright, white spots at points northward and darker areas around the equator — drew oohs and aahs.

Even better pictures will start "raining" down to the ground beginning Wednesday, Stern said, "a data waterfall." But he cautioned everyone to "stay tuned" until New Horizons phones home Tuesday night. Only then will anyone know whether the spacecraft survived its passage through the Pluto system, five moons included.

"Hopefully it did, and we're counting on that," Stern told journalists. "But there's a little bit of drama because this is true exploration. New Horizons is flying into the unknown."

It takes 4½ hours for signals to travel one-way between New Horizons and flight controllers, the speed of light. The last time controllers heard from the spacecraft was Monday night, according to plan, and everything looked good.

New Horizons already has beamed back the best-ever images of Pluto and big moon Charon. Pluto also has four little moons, all of which were expected to

come under New Horizons' scrutiny.

Bowman said she has to pinch herself as she reflects on all the mission's accomplishments.

"To see Pluto be revealed just before our eyes, it's just fantastic," she said. She considers New Horizons like her own child and is simultaneously "nervous and proud" as she waits to hear back from it.

Pictures from the actual flyby, won't be transmitted until well afterward so the seven science instruments can take full advantage of the encounter. In fact, it will take more than a year to get back all the data — 16 full months, or until October or November 2016.

On the eve of the flyby, NASA announced that Pluto is actually bigger than anyone imagined, thanks to measurements made by the spacecraft, a baby grand piano-size affair. It's about 50 miles bigger, for a grand total of 1,473 miles in diameter.

Pluto is now confirmed to be the largest object in the so-called Kuiper Belt, considered the third zone of the solar system after the inner rocky planets and outer gaseous ones. This unknown territory is a shooting gallery of comets and other small bodies.

If a mission extension is granted, New Horizons will seek out another Kuiper Belt object before heading out of the solar system — for good.

Warriors roll to win, 15-0



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton's Joe Little, No. 7, pitches in a game earlier this season.

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Warriors opened the final week of summer play with a 15-0 romp over Neah-Kah-Nie Monday afternoon, in a Junior State baseball game at Huddleston Field.

Pitchers Joe Little and Zach Tapio combined on a

one-hit shutout, with Little picking up the win.

Little struck out four, gave up a hit and walked two in a starting role, while Tapio pitched the final two innings of the five-inning contest.

The Warriors jumped all over the Pirates early, as Warrenton scored four runs in the first inning, six in the second and five in the third.

Three Neah-Kah-Nie pitchers combined to walk 10 batters and hit three more, while the Warriors had six hits and took advantage of seven Pirate errors.

Justice Watson drove in three runs for Warrenton, which returns to action today in a doubleheader vs. Seaside, 4 p.m. at Huddleston Field.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL	Warrenton 465 0x—15 6 1	Watson 3, Tapio 2, Cochran, Ham, Foster, Rush. HBP: NKN, Cade; War, Watson, Cochran, McFadden. LOB: Neah-Kah-Nie 4, Warrenton 8.
JUNIOR STATE	Warrenton 15, Neah-Kah-Nie 0	Garrett, Davidson (2), Cade (3) and Bridge, J.Little, Tapio (4) and McFadden. W: J.Little. L: Garrett. RBI: War,
	Neah-Kah-Nie 000 00—0 1 7	

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40 hours/week
Salary Range is \$11.50 - \$13.50/hour, plus benefits (depending upon experience)

Position Summary:
Clatsop Community Action is hiring for a full-time (40 hours/week)

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For Complete Job Descriptions for and How to Apply: Please include a cover letter, job application and resume with your current contact information and submit to: CCA, 364 9th Street, Astoria, OR 97103 or email to: ebuce@ccaservices.org. Any job offer will be contingent upon the results of an updated background investigation and drug screening.

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CRS
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