

CAMPUS NEWS

World and National News In Brief

By Michael O. Wehrer, mrw5094@psu.edu

Fargo braces for massive floods

FARGO, N.D. – For residents of Fargo, N.D., the situation went from bad to worse when forecasters predicted that the Red River would flood to 43 feet, 2 feet higher than previously predicted.

Residents have already been working with the National Guard to raise their dikes to hold the surge back from the town.



Although there is a contingency plan in place to evacuate the city of over 90,000, four area nursing homes have already begun evacuations.

"A few of them said they don't want to go. I said I'm going where the crowd goes," said 98-year-old Margaret "Dolly" Beaucage, a resident of Elim Care Center. "I'm a swimmer, but not that good a swimmer."

City officials in Moorhead have called for voluntary evacuations for several hundred families on the city's south side.

Source: Associated Press

NFL makes rule changes

The NFL and the team owners have come up with 11 new rules to take effect in the upcoming season.

- Loose balls that could have been the result of a fumble or an incomplete pass are now subject to video review.

- Video replay can be used to determine if a loose ball stayed in bounds or hit the sideline.

- No more re-kicks after an illegal onside kick. It immediately becomes the other team's ball.

- The draft order has been reworked to reflect playoff results, not regular-season results.

- There's a new waiver period during the first two weeks of training camp, and the postseason waiver period will begin after the NFL's final game, whether it's the Pro Bowl or the Super Bowl.

- If a fumble or lateral goes out of bounds, the clock will stop only until the referee signals ready for play.

- Forming a "wedge" on a kickoff return is no longer legal. If three or more players line up shoulder-to-shoulder within two yards of each other, it will be a penalty.

- On onside kicks, the kicking team can't have more than five players bunched

together.

- A blindside block cannot be delivered with a helmet, shoulder or forearm to an opponent's head or neck. That'll be a 15-yard penalty.

- Contact to the head of a defenseless receiver will also draw a 15-yard penalty.

- A defensive player on the ground may no longer lunge or dive at the quarterback's lower legs.



These changes, especially those regarding the way that players can hit, have gone over well with most experts, but many fans are disgruntled, saying that the rules take the contact out of one of the most watched sports in America.

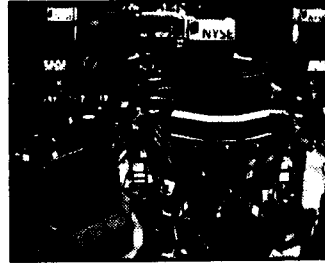
Some changes, like the rules against lower leg shots from the ground, are clearly a reaction to events of this past season, which saw Tom Brady go out with a knee injury in the first game. An injury that would keep him out for the rest of the season. The hit that leveled him is now illegal.

Source: Yahoo Sports

Financial experts predict end to recession by 2010

Chicago-based Dow Jones Indexes brought together a group of financial experts to assess the impact of the Obama administration's actions thus far.

The group judges whether or not the government has been effective in its effort to stem the recession and eventually turn the economy around.



Financier Gus Faucher said that "It is really unprecedented in the US to have nearly the entire country in a recession simultaneously."

Faucher also claims that the economy will pull out of its recession and at the end of this year, marking a duration of 24 months, which is double the average since World War II.

The unemployment rate is expected to top out at 10 percent early in 2010.

He says that the stimulus passed by the Obama administration helped the economy.

Source: Yahoo Finance

North Korea readys missile for launch

TOKYO – North Korea has announced its intention to launch what it calls a commercial satellite sometime between April 4-8.

Japan, a close neighbor of North Korea, has issued orders to be ready to intercept any falling debris.

Japan has a pacifist constitution that prevents it from intercepting a missile that is not headed for Japan, but it poses the capability to protect itself from any debris falling on it from a missile passing overhead.

According to North Korea, the missile's path would take it over Japan, dropping booster stages to the East and West of the island nation.

The US military has said that it could most likely shoot down a missile heading for the US if ordered to do so, but North Korea has warned that any such act would be considered an act of war.

China, Pyongyang's only neighbor that could be considered an ally, has remained low key and out of the spotlight, merely saying that it hoped "all relevant parties will remain restrained and calm."

Source: Reuters

Obama to send an additional 4,000 troops to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON – President Obama has announced plans to send an additional 4,000 troops to Afghanistan along with hundreds of civilian specialists in an effort to confront what a senior administration official calls "the central challenge facing [that] country."

The president also wants to send \$1.5 billion per year for five years to Pakistan, more than triple the current aid going to that country.

According to another official "Al Qaeda's central leadership has been moved from Kandahar, Afghanistan, to a location unknown somewhere in Pakistan, and in that location they're plotting against the United States. They are working with their friends and partners the Taliban, against American interests."

This shows a new strategy in US official policy towards Pakistan, where there has been tension recently regarding that country's apparently lackluster efforts to combat terrorist activity in their border with Afghanistan.

Source: CNN

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Make-A-Wish Basket Raffle and T-Shirt Sale
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Men's Varsity Tennis Match
Outdoor Tennis Courts
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ASB 2009 Reflection Ceremony (Reception)
Smith Chapel Living Room
5:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie

Bedtime Stories
in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

LEB Weekly Movie Bedtime Stories
in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

Open House
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Varsity Baseball Game
Outdoor Athletics Facility
at 10 p.m.

Varsity Tennis Game
Outdoor Tennis Courts
at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Varsity Tennis Match
Outdoor Tennis Courts
at 12:30 a.m.

Varsity Softball Game
Outdoor Athletics Facility
at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Stations of the Cross
Smith Chapel
at 12:15 p.m.

Varsity Softball
Outdoor Athletic Facility
at 1 p.m.

Varsity Water Polo
Junker Center
at 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

LEB Weekly Movie
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

Intramural Events
Junker Center
7:30 p.m.

TaeKwonDo Club
Junker Center Aerobic Room
9 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

GECAC Talen Search
Reed Building 114
at 10 p.m.

Varsity Baseball Game
Outdoor Athletic Facilities
2:30 p.m.

Varsity Water Polo
Junker Center
at 4 p.m.

Smith Reading Series
Smith Chapel
6 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
in Reed 117
at 10 p.m.

Take a Class Home for the Summer with Online Classes at Clarion University

Get a complete schedule at www.clarion.edu/summer

For more information:

Call 800-672-7171 or e-mail admissions@clarion.edu

