

This is a reproduction of a historic page to commemorate The News-Sentinel's 175th anniversary.

Saskatoon Moon... FORT WAYNE - Mostly cloudy, chance for rain or light snow with low tonight around 34. Cloudy Wednesday with a high near 34. Complete weather summary on P2A.

The News-Sentinel

Today's Chuckle Although man has learned enough through evolution to walk upright, his eyes still swing from limb to limb.

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50 Pages - 3 Sections

FINALLY, THEY'RE OUT Hostages Fly To Freedom In Algiers As Reagan Becomes 40th President

Reagan Praises Carter

WASHINGTON (UPI) - A calm, confident Ronald Wilson Reagan went to the White House today, congratulating President Carter on resolving the hostage crisis and preparing to leave for the Capitol for ceremonies making him the 40th president.

Editorial, Cartoon on Page 12A

Reagan's first official act on his Inauguration Day was a call from Carter at the White House for an updating on the hostage situation.

Carter told him "the planes are on the end of the runway" in Tehran, Reagan reported. "We're all delighted."

After eating a Danish pastry and drinking a cup of Sanka, the president-elect and his wife Nancy attended a 20-minute church service across Lafayette Square from the White House.

Ticket holders streamed on to the Capitol grounds when the guards opened the gates at 9 a.m. A crowd of up to 100,000 prepared to enjoy one of the warmest inaugurations on record as the temperature was a spring-like 54 degrees.

Press secretary James Brady said that within minutes of becoming president, Reagan would carry out a campaign pledge by signing an executive order imposing a freeze on the hiring of civilian employees by all executive departments and agencies.

Reagan will also sign the nominations of his Cabinet members already confirmed by the Senate, Brady said.

After reciting the 35-word oath of office at noon, Reagan arranged to deliver a 15-minute inaugural address that Brady said lays down his priorities, what he will do as president.

Brady described it as an "upbeat speech, a can-do speech," that will also have "an era of renewal."

Reagan, the man whose political climb began nearly 20 years ago in the scattered ashes of a moribund Hollywood movie career, takes the oath of office in the first inaugural ceremony ever held on the West Front of the Capitol. His left hand will rest on the Bible of his mother, Nellie; his view will encompass the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and his new home. At the White House this morning there was a heavy-handed sign of the transition: the few remaining Carter staffers clearing out their offices sported identification badges freshly stamped "void."

George Herbert Walker Bush, 56, former U.N. ambassador, liaison to China and once Reagan's strongest foe for the GOP nomination, succeeds Walter Mondale as vice president.



Christmas 'Just Around the Corner'

A lonely Christmas tree sits in a corner in the Paul Needham Sr., home in Bellevue, Neb. Mary Needham said several weeks ago that the family Christmas would wait for the release of her son.

Air Force Capt. Paul Needham, one of the 52 American hostages in Iran. The Needhams won't have too much longer to wait with the release of the hostages today. (AP Laserphoto)

Americans Prepare Greeting For Returning U.S. Hostages

By United Press International Americans today eagerly prepared to greet the release of the 52 American hostages with ticker-tape parades, thanksgiving prayer sessions, bell-ringing ceremonies and symbolic tributes of homage.

New York's majestic Empire State Building glowed red, white and blue in tribute to the hostages and a huge 52-yard yellow ribbon adorned the top of a downtown Oklahoma office building.

The National Park Service was poised to light the freedom-symbolizing torch atop the Statue of Liberty and the national Christmas tree in Washington to celebrate the hostage release.

At the Hillcrest Memorial Park in Hermitage, Pa., officials planned a jubilant celebration to lower the 443 flags - many now tattered - that have been solemnly raised since last February to commemorate each day of the hostages' captivity.

At least three major airlines - United, Braniff International and American - with the wholehearted approval of the Civil Aeronautics Board offered hostage families blanket free transportation within the

United States so they could speedily be reunited with their loved ones.

In California, the Fullerton Daily News-Tribune Monday began selling bumper stickers celebrating the impending release of the American hostages.

"Welcome Home" the black-on-yellow bumper stickers read on the first line.

On the second line, the word "Hostages" is crossed out and an American flag with an exclamation point is printed at the right.

In Reno, Nev., Jason French and John Hollister, two men who have handed thousands of yellow ribbons to passing motorists during the ordeal, invited ribbon-wavers in the area to a celebration champagne party. Local liquor dealers have donated 750 bottles of bubbly for the party.

In New York, National Parks Service officials planned to bathe the Statue of Liberty in bright light from 96 huge floodlamps at the exact moment the hostages leave Iranian territory in a symbol of the captives' regained freedom.

Officials said the massive torch on the statue will also be kept lit for 24

hours, and a 20-by-30-foot American flag will be unfurled.

Electricians worked throughout the day Monday installing colored lenses on floodlights at the Empire State Building and by nightfall the skyscraper glowed red, white and blue - instead of its usual gold. Ordinarily, it takes three days to change the lenses.

And New York City officials, despite difficulties caused by modern life, promised the city's traditional hero's welcome - a ticker tape parade - to the hostages. Officials said Monday they had asked Ronald Reagan to designate the Big Apple as the official host city for the hostages' return.

Of course because of computerization, ticker tape is not as abundant as it once was, so the city will have to order a few tons of confetti and distribute it along the parade route.

In Washington, a National Park Service crew placed hundreds of bulbs, yellow ribbons and other decorations on the National Christmas tree to prepare for a belated lighting to mark the release of the American hostages.

By United Press International

Iran freed the 52 American hostages today on the 444th day of captivity in exchange for return of its \$8 billion in frozen assets.

The move gave Jimmy Carter a dramatic victory in the closing minutes of his presidency.

The liberated captives flew from the Moslem nation just after nightfall aboard two Algerian 727 aircraft.

Word of the release came at 11:35 a.m. EST by telephone to London from Tehran airport officials at the end of day of non-stop negotiations in four capitals involving bankers and government officials in the largest financial transaction in history.

The U.S. Treasury confirmed the \$8 billion was transferred to an Algerian account in London to be turned over to Iran.

Algerian officials said the hostages were expected to arrive in Algiers at approximately midnight local time (7 p.m. EST). The Air Algerie aircraft carrying the hostages and their baggage were expected to land at Ankara airport in Turkey for refueling.

Their freedom came just minutes before the engineer of the triumph, Jimmy Carter, surrendered his presidency to Ronald Reagan despite finally prevailing over the dilemma that contributed to his crushing election defeat Nov. 4 - ironically the anniversary of the seizure of the hostages in Tehran.

Related Editorial on Page 12A Indiana Hostages on Page 2C

Carter's hopes to greet the returning Americans while he was still chief of state were dashed Monday by the last-minute hitches that extended over two days. But President Reagan graciously invited Carter to go to Wiesbaden, West Germany and greet the Americans as Reagan's personal representative after the inauguration, and Carter accepted.

The liberated Americans include diplomats, 20 military guards, communications specialists and a businessman. About 20 are servicemen. The Americans ranged in age from 20 to 64. Two of the freed Americans were women and one was black.

Lights burned in government offices in Tehran, Algiers, Washington and London throughout the morning as officials worked out the final mechanism to deposit the assets in an Algerian account in London for transfer to Iran - the "go" signal for the long-awaited release.

The assets were frozen by Carter Nov. 14, exactly 10 days after the hostages were seized by 450 militants who stormed the U.S. Embassy to protest the hospitalization in New York of the exiled shah. For months until the shah's death of cancer in July in Cairo, the militants demanded the fallen monarch's return as the price for freedom for the hostages.

More than 90 hostages were initially taken hostage. Sixty-six were Americans. Thirteen American hostages - women and blacks - were released Nov. 19 and Nov. 20, with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling it a victory for oppressed minorities. A 14th hostage, Richard Queen, 23, of New York, who was suffering from multiple sclerosis, was freed July 11 as a "humanitarian gesture" by Khomeini.

The release on inauguration day (Turn to Page 14A, Column 1)

'And Grief Turned To Joy'

By United Press International Disappointment was transformed to rejoicing among the families of the 52 hostages today with word from the State Department that planes carrying their loved ones out of captivity would leave Tehran within hours.

Dorothy Royer, mother of hostage William Royer Jr., got a phone call early this morning at her Houston area home and her fast-dwindling hopes were boosted to new heights.

She said a State Department spokesman told her the hostages' plane would be leaving Tehran's airport "in a couple of hours."

"Now we have something to rejoice about," she said.

Joseph Subic Sr. of Redford Township, Mich., father of hostage Army Staff Sgt. Joseph J. Subic Jr., broke a 14-month silence to discuss the settlement that will end his son's 444 days of captivity.

"We feel the agreement was equitable," Subic told the Detroit News. "We feel that the money is theirs and that we are giving back to them that which is theirs. We feel that the Carter administration handled as best they could an unprecedented and difficult situation."

The families' apparent optimism was a marked turnaround from the consensus of opinion among the families Monday night, when their hopes had appeared shattered by new snags in arrangements to release the hostages.

But today, the families seemed more certain that their long-awaited hopes were on the verge of being fulfilled.

The rejoicing that accompanied Monday's early morning announcement that agreement had been reached to free the hostages gave way to bitter disappointment as the waiting continued.

"We're in a holding pattern," complained Mrs. James Boggs of Elyria, Ohio, mother James Hall, military attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Iran when it was overtaken 14 months ago. "When we see it (the release), we will believe it. It's just like the other times."

Richard and Theresa Gallegos of Pueblo, Colo., turned to prayer for solace and strength.

Reading Guide

Table with 2 columns: Section and Page Number. Includes: Access (2C-6C), Area News (14C, 20C), Comics (12C), Crossword Puzzle (10A), Deaths, Area (14C), Deaths, City (7C), Editorials (12A), Radio, TV (7B), Sports (1B-4B), Statistical Summary (13C), Theaters, The Arts (8A, 9A), Views in the News (13A).

Flu Termed 'Epidemic'

By SHARON LITTLE

Local health officials today said the flu situation in Fort Wayne-Allen County has reached "epidemic" proportions with overall school absences at between 20 and 25 percent.

Although Bethlehem Trinity School today was considering closing its doors for the remainder of the week after 93 of its 327 children were absent Monday, Health Commissioner Jane Irmischer, M.D., said she had not been notified of any others considering that action.

Noting closing a school is a matter to be decided by school administrators, not the health department, Irmischer said "we feel that as long as they can operate the schools with adequate faculty and maintenance, it is much better to keep the schools open."

(Turn to Page 14A, Column 3)

Stories of the Three Rivers

First in War The great Miami war chief Little Turtle defeated the United States Army on the banks of the Maumee near downtown Fort Wayne.

First in Peace He became a respected friend of our nation President Washington presented him with this sword as a symbol of a worthy adversary.

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