

NASA rover Curiosity lands on Mars Thursday

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The robotic explorer Curiosity's daring plunge through the pink skies of Mars was more than perfect. It landed with spectacular style, said a NASA scientist, describing the first images of its mechanical gymnastics.

Hours after NASA learned the rover had arrived on target, engineers and scientists got the first glimpses of the intricate maneuvers it made to hit the Martian soil safely.

"It's a spectacular image," said NASA research scientist Luther Beegle. The photo, taken from an orbiting Mars spacecraft, shows Curiosity dangling from its supersonic parachute as it descended.

Extraordinary efforts were nèeded for the landing because the rover weighs one ton, and the Martian atmosphere is very thin, not offering much friction to slow the spacecraft down.

More images, including video of the landing and beautiful color shots of Mars, will follow in days to come. It will be weeks before Curiosity starts digging into the red planet's past.

Cheers and applause echoed

through the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory late Sunday after signals from space indicated Curiosity had survived the harrowing plunge.

landed with spectacular style, said a "Touchdown confirmed," said NASA scientist, describing the first images of its mechanical gymnastics. on Mars."

> Minutes after the landing signal reached Earth at 10:32 p.m. PDT, Curiosity beamed back the first black-and-white pictures from inside the crater showing its wheel and its shadow, cast by the afternoon sun.

"We landed in a nice flat spot. Beautiful, really beautiful," said engineer Adam Steltzner, who led the team that devised the tricky landing routine.

It was NASA's seventh landing on Earth's neighbor; many other attempts by the U.S. and other countries to zip past, circle or set down on Mars have gone awry.

The arrival was an engineering tour de force, debuting never-beforetried acrobatics packed into "seven minutes of terror" as Curiosity sliced through the Martian atmosphere at 13,000 mph.

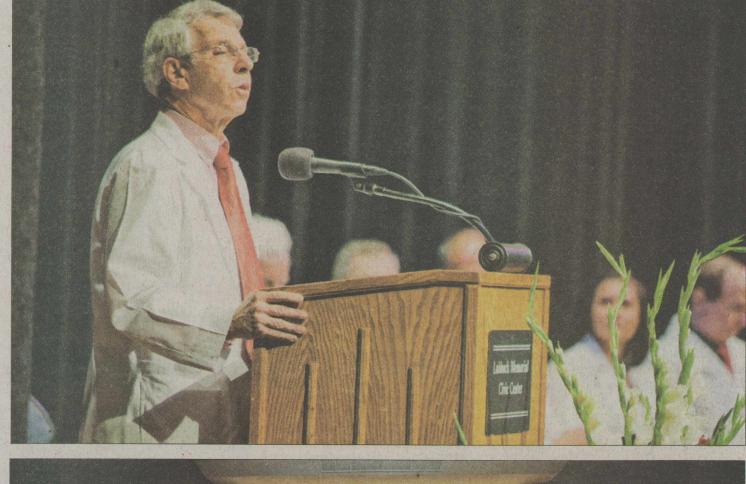
MARS continued on Pg. 2

Sikh temple shooter said to be white supremacist

OAK CREEK, Wis. (AP) — The gunman who killed six people at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin before being shot to death by police was identified Monday as a 40-year-old Army veteran and former leader of a white supremacist heavy metal band. Authorities said Wade Michael Page strode into the temple without saying a word and opened fire using a 9mm handgun and multiple magazines of ammunition. did," Potok said. "There is a of white suprematarely seen or he Potok said, descri about carrying ou Jews and other m Potok said t showing white s Sikhs, indicating tack was almost c of someone mi

"There is a whole underworld of white supremacists music that is

Coat of Honor





Page joined the Army in 1992 and was discharged in 1998, according to a defense official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not yet authorized to release the information.

Witnesses said the gunman walked into the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin in suburban Milwaukee and opened fire as several dozen people prepared for Sunday services. When the shooting ended, six victims ranging in age from 39 to 84 years old lay dead, as well as Page. Three others were critically wounded.

Page was a "frustrated neo-Nazi" who led a racist white supremacist band, the Southern Poverty Law Center said Monday.

Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the nonprofit civil rights organization in Montgomery, Ala., said Page had been on the white-power music scene for more than a decade, playing in bands known as Definite Hate and End Apathy.

"The name of the band seems to reflect what he went out and actually

rarely seen or heard by the public," Potok said, describing lyrics that talk about carrying out genocide against Jews and other minorities, he said.

Potok said there's no research showing white supremacists hating Sikhs, indicating that Sunday's attack was almost certainly an example of someone mistaking Sikhs for Muslims.

In a 2010 interview, Page told a white supremacist website that he joined the white-power music scene in 2000, when he left his native Colorado and started the band End Apathy in 2005.

He told the website his "inspiration was based on frustration that we have the potential to accomplish so much more as individuals and a society in whole," according to the law center. He did not mention violence in the website interview.

End Apathy's biography on the band's MySpace page said it was based in Nashville, N.C.

Joseph Rackley of Nashville, N.C., said Monday that Page lived with his son for about six months last year in a house on Rackley's property. Wade was bald and had tattoos all over his arms, Rackley said, but he doesn't remember what they depicted. He said he wasn't aware of any ties Page had to white supremacists.

SHOOTER continued on Pg. 2

PHOTOS BY SCOTT MACWATTERS/The Daily Toreador

TOP: DR. STEVEN Berk, the dean of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, discusses the value of work at the beginning of the annual White Coat Ceremony on Friday in the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. During the ceremony, students are given their white coats to symbolize their new responsibilities as a student of medicine. ABOVE: Friends and families of new medical students take pictures of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine class of 2016 at the end of the White Coat Ceremony.

By CAITLAN OSBORN STAFF WRITER

On Friday, 150 students donned white medical coats for the first time as members of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine during the White Coat Ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony is an initiation rite established by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993, designed to recognize students' responsibility to their patients prior to entering medical school. The HSC began its White Coat Ceremony tradition in 1997.

Dr. Steven Berk, dean of the HSC School of Medicine, said the Class of 2016 is the most competitive class to date in terms of the highest GPA and MCAT scores. The 150 students came from a pool of thousands of applicants, and the chosen students were shining examples of hard work and perseverance.

"It's also, I think, a very diverse class with respect to all of the other professions and things that they've done," Berk said. "There's a lot of various impressive backgrounds."

The Class of 2016 includes a law student, a member of a marching band, a tennis player and a contestant for Miss Rio Grande Valley. Some students have military backgrounds, some completed research projects and roughly 10 percent of the class has participated in mission trips across the globe, Berk said.

White Coat Ceremony welcomes School of Medicine class of 2016

During the White Coat Ceremony, Dr. Lauren Cobbs, assistant dean for student affairs, led the class in a customized oath that the students wrote themselves.

"As we accept this lifelong commitment, we the class of 2016 devote ourselves to the practice of medicine," they recited. "We will serve with compassion while respecting the unique histories, cultures and beliefs of our patients and their loved ones, knowing that our conduct is responsible for the well-being of those under our care.

"We promise to uphold a sound moral code and to maintain the highest level of integrity, both professionally and within our communities ... We humbly accept the privilege and responsibility presented by these white coats. We commit to this oath and we commit to the betterment of ourselves, our peers and humanity."

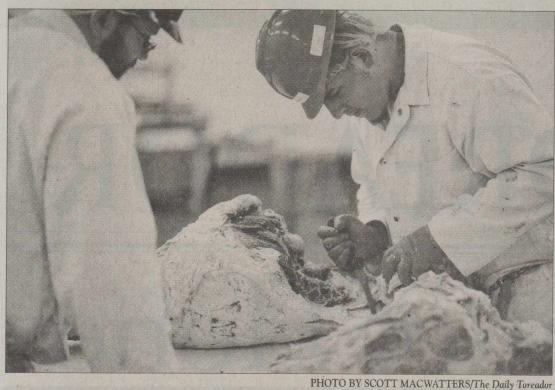
Berk welcomed the Class of 2016 and reminded the students that the purpose of entering a medical profession is to provide service to others.

CEREMONY continued on Pg. 2



AUG. 7, 2012

BEEF BUTCHER



TYLER NEUMAN, A sophomore animal science major from Hondo, trims fat from beef in the Gordon W. Davis Meat Science Lab on Monday.

Shooter -

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'm not a nosy kind of guy," Rackley said. "When he stayed with my son, I don't even know if Wade played music. But my son plays alternative music and periodically I'd have to call them because I could hear more than I wanted to hear."

Page joined the military in Milwaukee in 1992 and was a repairman for the Hawk missile system before switching jobs to become one of. the Army's psychological operations specialists, according to the defense official.

So-called "psy-ops" specialists are responsible for the analysis, development and distribution of intelligence used for information and psychological effect. Fort Bragg, N.C., was among the bases where Page served.

The FBI, which was leading the investigation because the shootings are being treated as domestic terrorism, or an attack that originated inside the U.S., said it had no reason to believe anyone other than Page was involved.

Satpal Kaleka, wife of the temple's president, Satwant Singh Kaleka, was in the front room and saw the gunman enter the temple, according to Harpreet Singh, their nephew.

"He did not speak, he just began shooting," said Singh, relaying a description of the attack from Satpal Kaleka.

Kaleka said the 6-foot bald white man — who worshippers said they had never before seen at the temple - seemed like he had a purpose and knew where he was going.

"We never thought this could happen to our community," said Devendar Nagra of Mount Pleasant, whose sister escaped injury by hiding as the gunman fired in the temple's kitchen. "We never did anything wrong to anyone."

Late Sunday, the investigation moved beyond the temple as police, federal agents and the county sheriff's bomb squad swarmed a neighborhood in nearby Cudahy, evacuated several homes and searched a duplex. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent Tom Ahern said warrants were being served at the gunman's home. Residents were allowed to return to their homes Monday.

During the chaotic hours after the first shots were fired, police in tactical gear and carrying assault rifles surrounded the temple with armored vehicles and ambulances. Witnesses struggled with unrealized fears that several shooters were holding women and children hostage inside.

The first officer to respond was shot eight to nine times with handgun as the officer tended to a victim outside.

A second officer then exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who was fatally shot. Police had earlier said the officer who was shot killed the suspected shooter.

The wounded officer was in critical condition along with two other victims early Monday, authorities said.

Tactical units went through the temple and found four people dead inside and two outside, in addition to the shooter.

Jatinder Mangat of Racine, a nephew of the temple's president, said when he learned that people had died, "it was like the heart just sat down."

Balginder Khattra of Oak Creek, said Monday that his 84-year-old father, Suveg Singh Khattra, was among the six people police said were killed.

Ceremony -CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In time, you will appreciate the wisdom of Dr. William Peabody ... who said that medicine is not a trade to be learned, but a profession to be entered," he said. "Remember that you did not choose medicine to own a large home or become famous or important. You chose medicine because you ... are interested in healing mind, body and spirit."

Dr. Thomas McGovern, director of the Center for Ethics, Humanities and Spirituality, provided the benediction. He said the students have been initiated in a sacred calling by practicing medicine.

"All have been expressed in a sacred

Mars -CONTINUED FROM PAGE

In a Hollywood-style finish, cables delicately lowered the rover to the ground at a snail-paced 2 mph. A video camera was set to capture which would give Earthlings their first glimpse of a touchdown on another world.

JPL Director Charles Elachi compared the team to Olympic athletes. "This team came back with the

gold," he said.

The extraterrestrial feat injected a much-needed boost to NASA, which is debating whether it can afford another robotic Mars landing this decade. At a budgetbusting \$2.5 billion, Curiosity is the priciest gamble yet, which scientists hope will pay off with a bonanza of discoveries and pave the way for astronaut landings.

"The wheels of Curiosity have begun to blaze the trail for human footprints on Mars," said NASA chief Charles Bolden.

President Barack Obama lauded the landing in a statement, calling it "an unprecedented feat of technology that will stand as a point of national pride far into the future."

Over the next two years, Curiosity will drive over to a mountain rising from the crater floor, poke into rocks and scoop up rust-tinted soil to see if the region ever had the right environment for micro-

promise which enshrines their hopes and dreams of service to humankind," he said. "You've committed yourselves to a life of service beginning with four years of training, where you will be presented with all the challenges that lie ahead. May this day be a special day of memorymaking and memory-keeping, which we all enshrine in our hearts.' Benjamin Elberson, from Frisco, said

he was excited and proud to be a member of the White Coat Ceremony.

"I've always had an interest in it, through my internships and different opportunities I've had," he said. "That love just grew. It's a commitment to improving the lives of others."

Kelsey Brinkley, from Rowlett, said she feels grateful to everyone who has

quest to find out whether primitive.life arose early in the planet's history.

The voyage to Mars took more than eight months and spanned 352 million miles.

NASA's last Mars rovers, twins Spirit and Opportunity, weighed much less and were easier to land back in 2004, cocooned in air bags. Curiosity relied on a series of

braking tricks, similar to those used by the space shuttle, a heat shield and a supersonic parachute to slow down as it punched through the atmosphere.

And in a new twist, engineers came up with a way to lower the rover by cable from a hovering rocket-powered backpack. At touchdown, the cords cut and the rocket stage crashed a distance away

The nuclear-powered Curiosity, the size of a small car, is packed with scientific tools, cameras and a weather station. It sports a robotic arm with a power drill, a laser that can zap distant rocks, a chemistry lab to sniff for the chemical building blocks of life and a detector to measure dangerous radiation on the surface.

It also tracked radiation levels during the journey to help NASA better understand the risks astronauts could face on a future manned trip.

There will be several weeks of health checkups before the sixwheel rover takes its first short drive and flexes its robotic arm.

The landing site near Mars' equator was picked because there are signs of past water everywhere,

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helped her on her way to study medicine.

"I had a great education and a family that supported me and helped me achieve my goal," she said. "I've known since I was about six years old (that I wanted to study medicine). I've just always been fascinated by the human body and my mom's a physical therapist, so it's always just kind of been where my life was going."

Berk said there are a range of skills and experiences the students will have during the course of their time at medical school, where they will expand their knowledge and work to better serve the people they care for.

"Really what we hope for them is that after four years they'll be trained to be the best possible physicians," he said. >>> cosborn@dailytoreador.com

meeting one of the requirements for life as we know it. Inside Gale Crater is a 3-mile-high mountain, and images from space show the base appears rich in minerals that formed in the presence of water.

Previous trips to Mars have uncovered ice near the Martian north pole and evidence that water once flowed when the planet was wetter and toastier unlike today's harsh, frigid desert environment.

Curiosity's goal: to scour for basic ingredients essential for life including carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur and oxygen. It's not equipped to search for living or fossil microorganisms.

The mission comes as NASA retools its Mars exploration strategy. Faced with tough economic times, the space agency pulled out of partnership with the European Space Agency to land a rock-collecting rover in 2018. The Europeans have since teamed with the Russians as NASA decides on a new roadmap.

Despite Mars' reputation as a spacecraft graveyard, humans continue their love affair with the planet, lobbing spacecraft in search of clues about its early history. Out of more than three dozen attempts — flybys, orbiters and landings — by the U.S., Soviet Union, Europe and Japan since the 1960s, more than half have ended disastrously.

One NASA rover that defied expectations is Opportunity, which is still busy wheeling around the rim of a crater in the Martian southern hemisphere eight years later.



In Thursday's issue, the article "SGA constitutional to reinstate the position of

NEWS

Supreme Court justice rule in favor of reinstating elected position," it should have said the Supreme Court ruled it was

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graduate vice president while the Student Senate was in a recess period." The DT regrets the error.

may be made

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NEWS

3 AUG. 7, 2012

Phelps collects 18th gold medal in final race

LONDON (AP) — As if 22 medal and two silvers. ceremonies over the last three Olympics weren't enough, Michael Phelps was summoned back to the pool deck for one more accolade.

This time, he received a trophy rather than a medal, an award that sought to sum up a career like no other.

"To Michael Phelps," it said, "the greatest Olympic athlete of all time."

Too bad it was silver.

Gold was the only color for this guy. In a final race that was more a coronation than a contest, Phelps headed into retirement the only way imaginable ---with an 18th gold medal. Reclaiming the lead with his trademark butterfly stroke, the one seen in his Olympic debut as a 15-year-old in Sydney a dozen years ago, he capped off a mind-boggling career with a victory in the 4x100-meter medley relay Saturday.

"I've been able to do everything that I wanted," Phelps said.

When it was done, he hugged his teammates - Matt Grevers, Brendan

Sounds familiar.

"Honestly, the first race kind of took the pressure off," Bowman said. "If it's not going to go too well, we should at least have fun while we're here. That helped us relax a little bit, then he started swimming well in the relays and he picked it up again."

Grevers had the Americans in front on the opening backstroke leg, but Kosuke Kitajima put Japan slightly. ahead going against Hansen in the breaststroke. Not to worry, not with Phelps going next.

He surged through the water in the fly, handing off a lead of about a quarter of a second to Adrian for the freesytle anchor. The Americans won going away in 3 minutes, 29.35 seconds, just off their own Olympic record from Beijing. Japan held on for silver in 3:31.26, with Australia taking the bronze in 3:31.68.

The U.S. men had never lost the medley relay at the Olympics, and they weren't about to now on the final night

couple words - I did it," he said. "I haven't written too much this week. I'm kind of taking everything in."

One of the moments he'll remember: All the swimmers from the other relay teams lining up to shake his hand behind the blocks once he was done.

"It's kind of cool," Phelps said. "The best part of the Olympics is you have people coming from all over the world competing in the best sporting event ever. That's just something you don't see every day."

We may never see the likes of Phelps again.

Of course, he was peppered with questions about a possible comeback, in a year when Ian Thorpe and Janet Evans both failed in their attempts to make it back to the Olympics after long layoffs.

"I don't think so," Bowman said. "We've had a great end to a great run and there's not much more he can do, I guess if he finds after a few years he's searching for something and thinks he can find it in swimming, he could look at it. But I

Phelps wasn't the only star of the

begin her senior year of high school when she gets back to Colorado, seems destined to be America's new star in the post-Phelps era after taking four golds, tying Amy Van Dyken at the 1996 Atlanta Games for the most by a U.S. female swimmer. The youngster also picked up a bronze while swimming seven events

A definite bit of symmetry there, though Franklin doubts anyone can ever replace Phelps.

"I don't think his shoes will ever be filled. They're so huge," Franklin said. "Hopefully I can make little paths next to him.'

And let's not forget Allison Schmitt, another swimmer with ties to Phelps. They trained together over the past year in Baltimore, becoming fast friends with all their goofy antics. But they sure took care of business in the pool, with Schmitt winning three golds, a silver and a bronze in London.

The Americans dominated the medal count at the pool, finishing with 16 golds and 30 medals overall.

Franklin grabbed the lead right away in the backstroke, Rebecca Soni stretched out the advantage in the breast, Dana Vollmer cruised through the fly and Schmitt finished it off in the free, pulling away for a time of 3:52.05, beating the mark of 3:52.19 set by China at the 2009 world championships.

bodysuits.



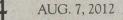
ROTOR RESEARCH

ROY GOLLAHON, AN incoming freshman pre-engineering major from Lubbock, and Exree White, a senior at Estacado High School, test a quad-rotor helicopter they're working on in the Engineering Key on Monday. Gollahon and White are working on the quad-rotor as part of the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program.





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