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WEATHER

Partly sunny High mid-80s. Low mid-60s/16A

Jet tears open in flight

14-inch hole forces Rochester-to-Atlanta Eastern jet to land in West Virginia

Pan Am probe continues... 9A

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An Eastern Airlines jet carrying 111 people tore open at 31,000 feet Monday, causing the airliner to lose cabin pressure and forcing an emergency landing, authorities said. Two minor injuries were reported.

A Federal Aviation Administration official said cracks were found on the same plane's fuselage in two previous inspections.

There was no word on whether any of the passengers made connecting flights to Fort Myers from Atlanta.

Bobbie Mardis of the FAA's safety data branch in Oklahoma City also

"I looked up, and I could see sunlight shining through."

said mechanical problems forced the aircraft to make uncontrolled landings on two occasions since 1983.

The Boeing 727 en route to Atlanta from Rochester, N.Y., landed at Yeager Airport with a hole in the fuselage that opened up 14 inches in the lower fuselage, north of Charleston, officials said.

The jet, carrying 104 passengers and six crew members, lost cabin

pressure but experienced no other sudden trouble, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jack Burkert in Atlanta.

"The opening in the fuselage was about a three square hole," Burkert said. "Those things start with a crack and grow a hole."

There was no immediate indication of the cause of the tear near the top of the jet, which was about 23 feet out, Burkert said.

The passengers put on their oxygen masks, and the pilot flew the jet to 15,000 feet, an altitude that requires no pressurization, Burkert said.

Two passengers were taken to the Charleston Area Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries, a hospital spokesman said.

"They are being treated for injuries as a result of the decompression issue," said spokeswoman Cary Chen.

"When you feel cold air right away you know the outside was coming in," said Elaine Davis, 41, a passenger from Rochester, N.Y.

Passenger Sam Piazza, 55, of Boca Raton, said he and his wife of first thought a bomb had exploded. "We were crying along and you could hear the rattle of the metal and the pitch of the wind said all of a sudden you could hear a prop," he said.



Dion Sanders leaves Doug Campbell Stadium after Monday's practice in Tallahassee.

FSU's Sanders gets OK to play in Sugar Bowl

Sanders: Want to go out in style

Teammates react... 4A

By DAMIAN CRISTODERO News-Press Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University All-American cornerback Dion Sanders has been ruled eligible to play in the Jan. 2 Sugar Bowl against Auburn University in Jacksonville.

Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden said last Monday night that his arrest on charges of battery on a police officer and other conduct stemming from a scuffle with an auxiliary Fort Myers patrolman did not warrant Sanders' suspension from the team.

"I met with Dion in his room... I got a report that the weather was going to turn bad, and we decided to have a couple of days earlier than we intended to," said Vic Walters of Virginia, Va., who was fined \$100 for the same offense.

"That's all right," the 31-year-old Sanders said. "It's my last game at Florida State, my last everything. Just want to go out in style and have a great game."

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Officer back in hospital

News-Press Staff

A Fort Myers military police officer involved in a Christmas weekend scuffle with pro football prospect Dion Sanders was re-admitted Monday to Lee Memorial Hospital.

Auxiliary officer Elmer "Tony" Cal was listed in stable condition Monday night in the intensive care unit, hospital spokeswoman Sue Douglass said. Cal, 41, was treated at Lee

A DEATH ROW INTERVIEW WITH BRADLEY SCOTT



Now on death row at Florida State Prison in Starke, Bradley Scott, 37, was convicted of killing 12-year-old Linda Plauritz of Fort Charlotte by burning her alive in 1978.

From the Plains states? Be glad you're down here

By The Associated Press

A storm bearing up to 12 inches of snow and wind chills as low as 40 degrees below zero moved through the Plains and Midwest on Monday, closing highways and backing up air traffic just as holiday travelers were heading home.

"Everything around here is in bad shape because of the weather, and it's getting worse by the minute," said Ray Nola, a reserve officer with the Porter County, Ind., sheriff's department. At least 25 cars were involved in a pile-up on an interstate highway in the northern Indiana county police said.

Some 400 or so in the forecast from the Rockies and upper Plains for east to Ohio. Accidents and blowing snow closed segments of interstate highways in several states, in-

Scott: 'I'm no child molester'

Convicted of burning alive a 12-year-old, Bradley Scott talks about his family, fate

By DEVI SEN News-Press Staff Writer

STARBUCK — Convicted child killer Bradley Phillip Scott as certain he is innocent, he's willing to make his life now.

"Either they are going to kill me, or I'm going to die in the electric chair," Scott said during an interview last week at Florida State Prison. "If the appeal thing doesn't work through, I'm not going to stick around."

Scott, 37, was convicted on Jan. 28, 1984, and sentenced Feb. 9 to die in the electric chair for the murder of 12-year-old Linda Carol Plauritz.

"Either they are going to kill me, or I'm going to die in the electric chair," Scott said during an interview last week at Florida State Prison. "If the appeal thing doesn't work through, I'm not going to stick around."

Scott, 37, was convicted on Jan. 28, 1984, and sentenced Feb. 9 to die in the electric chair for the murder of 12-year-old Linda Carol Plauritz.

His attorney, Dennis Rebas of Fort Myers, says Scott is confident he will appeal successfully.

the state Supreme Court before he can be executed.

Linda was in the care of her older sister on that October day. She told her sister she was going to a convective store to get some bubble gum, get on her bike and disappeared down the street.

About six hours later, near midnight, her charred body was found in the center of a brush fire near Toledo Blade Boulevard in a wooded area of Charlotte County.

It took eight years to arrest Scott and this

INSIDE TODAY

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Poll: Americans like Reagan, but . . .

has bettered the nation.

The telephone survey was conducted among a random sample of 1,000 adults shortly after last month's election. Reagan leaves office Jan. 20.

The poll found two factors at the heart of Reagan's popularity. While he is not the most popular president since World War II, he has the highest regard for his leadership. He also scores well on defense and U.S.-Soviet relations.

Reagan's ratings lagged elsewhere.

White nearly two-thirds said his economic policies have been good for the nation, for example, a mighty 80 percent rated his handling of the budget deficit negatively.

Moreover, 34 percent said the poor are worse off economically as a result of Reagan's policies, and 72 percent said wealthy Americans are better off. Opinion was more divided on the middle class one-third called it worse off, a quarter said better off and the rest saw little change.

A third of respondents said they and their families were better off as a result of Reagan's efforts, and 14 percent said worse off. But they still overwhelmingly were asked to work Reagan's handling of the economy, and more than twice as many picked the word "worse" as "better" for the best.

The poll

- Fifty-two percent of those polled would not have voted Reagan for a third term, but that's down 14 percent from last spring.
The president had negative ratings on the handling of civil rights, education, housing, ethics in government, the deficit and welfare.
Reagan received high marks in defense, relations with the Soviets and other foreign policies. Sixty percent said Reagan has achieved what he set out to do.

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