

Gift

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Clinic and former USD men's basketball standout, Kudera is on the Howling Pack board of directors.

"It's great to be able to see the funding going in the right direction — something they really needed to jump-start things," he said. "An arena like this is a long time coming. The dome is a great place to play basketball, but when you're talking Division I, you need to keep pace."

The new facility, which will be connected to the south end of the Dome, would include a home for basketball and volleyball, as well as practice courts, coaches and administrative offices, a new training room, luxury boxes, and the Kinesiology and Sport Science (KSS) program.

A new arena, however, is not the only upcoming change to the USD athletic facility landscape.

The complete 2015 Master Plan for Athletic Facilities called for \$70 million in construction projects — renovations to the Dome, a new basketball/volleyball arena, and track and soccer complexes. USD received permission last year from the state Board of Regents to move forward with, for those to be directly impacted by having a new home, there was excitement surrounding Wednesday's news.

"It's the next step to it becoming a reality. It's definitely going to happen, it's just a matter of time now," USD volleyball coach Matt Houk said. "It's exciting for all of us."

Houk was at Wisconsin-Green Bay when the school began construction on a new arena, and said that project "added some buzz" to the campus.

"The kids are excited that things are going on," he said. "The fact that we can say to recruits, 'This is going to be your home,' it shows an absolute commitment from everyone."

That's the next step in the phase for USD: Raising the remaining \$30-35 million.

"As I see it, the challenge has now been issued to USD alumni and friends to match the Sanford gift and make our vision a reality," USD president Jim Abbott said in a release.

With nearly half of the project committed, Sayler said that should alleviate concerns from donors.

"That's the key. A lot of the discussions we've had before were about the dollar amount, that it might be overwhelming," Sayler said. "Now we can honestly say the end is in sight."

Kudera agreed, saying that it was only natural for early donors to be skeptical of a project that was still looking for significant financial backing.

"When almost half of this is taken care of, it's more of a realistic goal," he said. "Hopefully we can have some donors help finish this thing up."

Wednesday's gift was similar to the ones Sanford made with North Dakota State two years ago for \$10 million for facility improvements, and the one last week with South Dakota State for \$10 million for an indoor practice facility and human performance center.

When it comes to upcoming construction in Vermillion, however, the finish line is in sight, Sayler said.

"This whole project has united everyone in our department," he said. "We're all on board because we know this will benefit everyone."

"From administrators on down to athletes, it's a great thing."

Transitioning from a spacious environment like the DakotaDome to a new, more intimate arena will certainly take some time to adjust, but in the end it will be worth it, Kudera said.

"The dome has its own home court advantage — it's tougher to shoot in there and it can get really loud. But a true basketball arena has more advantages," he said.

"David Sayler and everyone else realizes that, so I think this will be a great thing."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at [twitter.com/jhoeck](#)

AM 1450

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WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Thursday, August 9

7:40 am Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau (Lisa Scheve)

8:15 am Yankton Chamber (Carmen Schramm)

Friday, August 10

7:40 am SD Magazine (Bernie Hunhoff)

8:15 am Shannon Trail (Laurie Larsen)

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Mars Crater Where Rover Landed Looks ‘Earth-Like’

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — The ancient Martian crater where the Curiosity rover landed looks strikingly similar to the Mojave Desert in California with its looming mountains and hanging haze, scientists said Wednesday.

"The first impression that you get is how Earth-like this seems looking at that landscape," said chief scientist John Grotzinger of the California Institute of Technology.

Overnight, the car-size rover poked its head out for the first time since settling in Gale Crater, peered around and returned a black-and-white self-portrait and panorama that's still being processed.

It provided the best view so far of its destination since touching down Sunday night after nailing an intricate choreography. During the last few seconds, a rocket-powered spacecraft hovered as cables lowered Curiosity to the ground.

In the latest photos, Curiosity looked out toward the northern horizon. Nearby were scour marks in the surface blasted by thrusters, which kicked up a swirl of dust. There were concerns that Curiosity got dusty, but scientists said that was not the case.

"We do see a thin coating of dust, but nothing too bad," said Justin Maki, imaging scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages the \$2.5 billion mission.

Scientists were giddy about the scour marks because they exposed bedrock below — information that should help them better understand the landing site.

Since landing, Curiosity has zipped home a stream of low-resolution pictures taken by tiny cameras under the chassis and a camera at the end of its robotic arm, which remained stowed. It also sent back a low-quality video showing the last 2 1/2 minutes of its descent.

The rover successfully raised its mast packed with high-resolution and navigation cameras. With the mast up, it can begin its shutterbug days in force, including taking a 360-degree color view of its surroundings as early as Thursday.

Grotzinger said he was struck by the Martian landscape, which appeared diverse. There seemed to be harder material underneath the gravelly surface, he said.

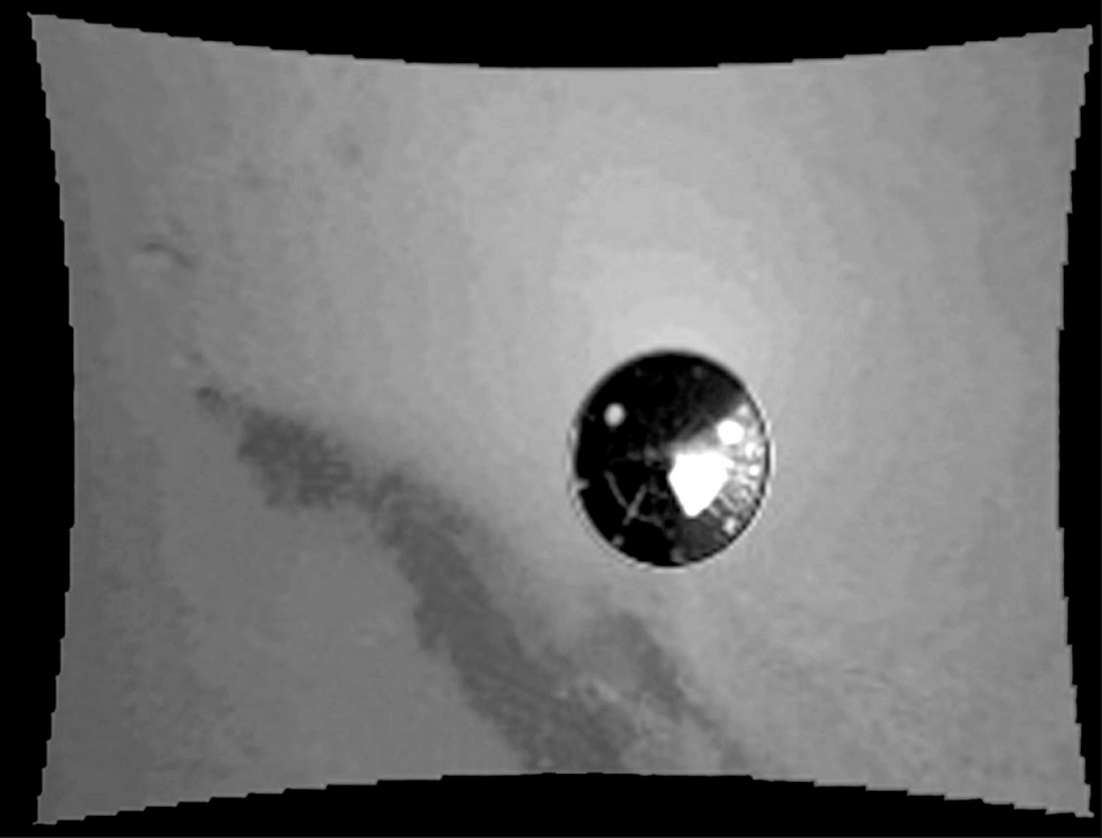
"It kind of makes you feel at home," he said. "We're looking at a place that feels really comfortable."

Mars, of course, is very different from Earth. It's a frigid desert constantly bombarded by radiation. There are geological signs that it was a warmer and wetter place once upon a time. One of the mission's goals is to figure out how Mars transformed.

After sailing 352 million miles and eight months, Curiosity parked its six wheels near the Martian equator, where it will spend the next two years poking into rocks and soil in search of the chemical ingredients of life. It is the most expensive and ambitious mission yet to Mars.

Its ultimate destination is a mountain towering from the center of the crater floor. Preliminary estimates indicate Curiosity landed four miles away from the base of Mount Sharp, thought to contain intriguing signs of past

TOUCHDOWN ON MARS!



NASA/JPL-CALTECH/MSSS/MCT

This image was obtained by NASA's Curiosity rover during its descent to the surface of Mars on August 5. The image was obtained by the Mars Descent Imager instrument known as MARDI and shows the 15-foot (4.5-meter) diameter heat shield when it was about 50 feet (16 meters) from the spacecraft. It was obtained two and one-half minutes before touching down on the surface of Mars and about three seconds after heat shield separation. It is among the first images Curiosity sent back from Mars.

water — a starting point to learning whether microbial life could exist.

Before the 1-ton, nuclear-powered Curiosity can start roving, it has to undergo several weeks of

tedious but essential health checks.

Since it was too heavy to land using traditional air bags, it used a heat shield, parachute, rockets and cables. An orbiting

spacecraft spotted the discarded spacecraft hardware, including the ballast weights that were shed soon after atmosphere entry.

Armstrong, First To Walk On Moon, Has Heart Surgery

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, was recovering Wednesday from heart surgery, days after his 82nd birthday.

It wasn't clear where the surgery occurred or where Armstrong was recuperating. A NASA spokesman who talked to Armstrong's wife, Carol, said only that the

former astronaut was recovering Wednesday. His birthday was Sunday.

A Facebook statement from NASA Administrator Charles Bolden wished Armstrong a quick recovery from cardiac bypass surgery.

"Neil's pioneering spirit will surely serve him well in this challenging time and the

entire NASA Family is holding the Armstrong family in our thoughts and prayers," the statement said.

Armstrong commanded the Apollo 11 spacecraft that landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, and he radioed back to Earth the historic news of "one giant leap for mankind." He spent nearly three hours

walking on the moon with fellow astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin.

A message Wednesday on Aldrin's Twitter account also wished Armstrong well.

Armstrong and his wife married in 1999 and made their home in the Cincinnati suburb of Indian Hill, but he has largely stayed out of public view in recent years.

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