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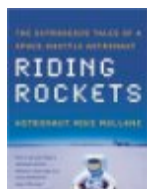
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NASA prepares to take first steps back to the Moon

A robotic scout to reconnoiter the Moon like never before and a sleuth that will dig into a tantalizing mystery at the lunar south pole are awaiting blastoff Thursday aboard an Atlas 5 rocket from Cape Canaveral.

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- **MOVIES:** [HIGH DEFINITION VIDEO](#)
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LRO: 21st century orbiter to map the Moon

When the next generation of lunar astronauts step foot on the Moon in the years ahead, the definitive travel guide compiled by an instrument-laden spacecraft launching this week will detail the best and worst places to go and the risks the crews could face.



LCROSS: A smashing way to answer watery question

Are polar craters on the Moon, eternally dark places where sunlight hasn't been seen for billions of years, harboring natural reservoirs of water ice that could be farmed by future colonists? That's a question that NASA's audacious lunar impactor experiment plans to answer.



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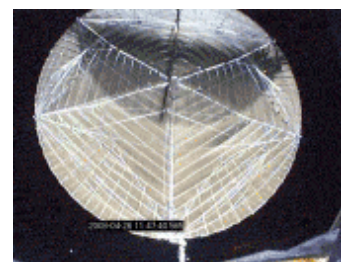
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Hi-Def Video

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Shuttle mission STS-125



Atlantis readied for final mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope.

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Shuttle mission STS-127



Endeavour's dual preps for standby rescue craft and June construction flight to space station.

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Shuttle mission STS-119



Take a loop around the International Space Station aboard the shuttle Discovery in stunning high definition.

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Launch of Kepler



Kepler planet-finder begins its mission to discover Earth-like worlds orbiting other stars in the galaxy.

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LRO and LCROSS



- **VIDEO:** COUNTDOWN REHEARSAL FOR ATLAS 5 ROCKET [PLAY](#) | [HI-DEF](#)
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News Headlines

Trouble aboard new Global Positioning System satellite

The U.S. military's newest Global Positioning System navigation satellite is suffering from unusual signal distortions that will keep it out of service for at least six months, the Air Force has announced.

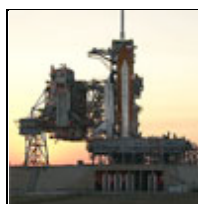
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Hydrogen leak scrubs Endeavour launch again

This morning's launch of space shuttle Endeavour has been postponed due to another leak in the gaseous hydrogen venting system between the launch pad and external fuel tank. NASA says the mission to the space station will be postponed to July.

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NASA sets Wednesday for shuttle Endeavour launch

Shuttle Endeavour will bump its way into the Cape Canaveral launch lineup and target a 5:40 a.m. EDT liftoff Wednesday, NASA officials have decided. That means the Atlas 5 rocket originally scheduled to launch at that day carrying two Moon-bound science satellites will be pushed back.

■ [FULL STORY](#)



Shuttle Endeavour launch date remains up in the air

NASA managers Sunday deferred making a formal decision on whether to reschedule the delayed shuttle Endeavour for launch Wednesday or whether to press ahead instead with launch of the agency's \$583



Current Shuttle Mission Patch

The official embroidered patch for shuttle Endeavour's flight to finish building Japanese section of the space station.



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Hubble Patch

The official embroidered patch for mission STS-125, the space shuttle's last planned service call to the Hubble Space Telescope, is available for purchase.



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Expedition 20

The official embroidered patch for the International Space Station Expedition 20 crew is now available from our stores.



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STS-128 patch

The official embroidered patch for shuttle Discovery's flight to deliver equipment and research gear to the space station.



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Fallen Heroes Patch Collection

The official patches from Apollo 1, the shuttle Challenger and Columbia crews are available in





NASA's new lunar orbiter and impactor experiment are being prepped for launch in May.

■ [FULL INDEX](#)

Delta 4 and GOES O



A Delta 4 rocket has rolled out to launch a new geostationary weather satellite.

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Shuttle mission STS-126



High definition from orbit! New clips from Endeavour's mission to the space station.

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From the vault



Historical footage from the early days of the space program.

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Astronomy Now



The June 2009 issue of Astronomy Now, the UK's

million Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission aboard an unmanned Atlas 5 rocket.

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North Korea gambles as South readies own rocket

A dynamic mix of factors could worsen the already deteriorating military posture between the U.S. and North Korea as President Barack Obama hosts South Korean President Lee Myung-bak at the White House this week.

■ [FULL STORY](#)



Space shuttle Endeavour launch postponed by leak

NASA cancelled Saturday's launch of the space shuttle Endeavour because of a leak in the gaseous hydrogen vent system that developed late in fueling. Officials say the launch will be delayed until at least Wednesday and perhaps longer.

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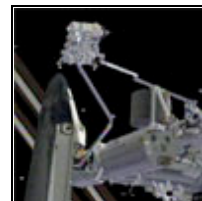
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Flight will be intricate dance of spacewalks and robotics

The shuttle Endeavour will launch on one of the most complex space station assembly missions yet attempted, a grueling 16-day flight to attach a Japanese experiment platform, deliver critical spare parts, replace massive solar array batteries and swap out a



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New DVD! One Giant Leap

Hosted by Corbin Bernsen, this award winning documentary marks the 50th anniversary of the U.S. space agency and features exclusive interviews with veteran astronauts.

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Expedition 18 patch & pin

The official embroidered patch and lapel pin for the International Space Station Expedition 18 crew is now available to from our stores.

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station crew member.

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Shuttle Endeavour's launch countdown gets underway

Countdown clocks at the Kennedy Space Center have started ticking toward Saturday morning's scheduled launch of the space shuttle Endeavour and the marathon 16-day mission to the International Space Station.



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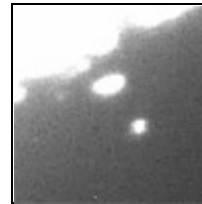
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A smashing end for Japan's lunar orbiter mission

An Australian telescope observed the controlled crash of Japan's Kaguya lunar probe into the moon Wednesday, an important warm-up act before a NASA impactor attempts a similar feat in October with much higher stakes.



- [FULL STORY](#)
- [EARLIER STORY](#)

Crew performs unusual spacewalk inside station

Working in spacesuits inside a compartment opened to vacuum, space station commander Gennady Padalka and NASA flight engineer Michael Barratt carried out a short 12-minute internal spacewalk Wednesday to finish rigging a port in the Zvezda command module for arrival of a new docking module in November.



- [FULL STORY](#)

OTHER HEADLINES Additional stories today

[A sleeping giant](#) -- Astronomers using the Submillimeter Array atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii have found a massive, quiescent object in a dark cloud that is likely to be the direct progenitor of a massive star or stars.

[Red giant star in Orion is mysteriously shrinking](#) -- The red supergiant star Betelgeuse, the bright reddish star in the constellation Orion, has

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Mission Reports



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steadily shrunk over the past 15 years, according to University of California, Berkeley, researchers.

[Ultracool stars take wild rides](#) -- Astronomers have found that stars of a recently discovered type, dubbed ultracool subdwarfs, take some pretty wild rides as they orbit around the Milky Way, following paths that are very different from those of typical stars. One of them may actually be a visitor that originated in another galaxy.

Endeavour astronauts jet into the Cape for launch

The Mark Polansky-led crew has arrived at the Kennedy Space Center for Saturday morning's launch of the shuttle Endeavour on the construction flight that will finish building the Japanese science facilities aboard the International Space Station.

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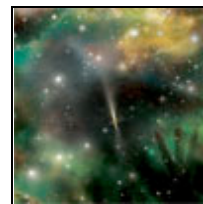
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Fog lifted on dark gamma-ray bursts across universe

Gamma-ray bursts, with their ability to pierce through gas and dust to shine brightly across the universe, are revealing areas of intense star formation and stellar death where astronomers have been unable to look -- the dusty corners of otherwise dust-free galaxies.

- [FULL STORY](#)



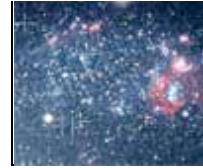
A new way to measure



cosmic distances

Ohio State University researchers have found a way to measure distances to objects three times farther away in outer space than previously possible, by extending a common measurement technique.

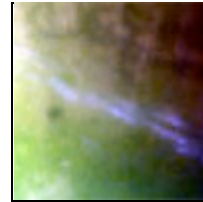
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Cassini finds Titan's clouds hang on to summer

Cloud chasers studying Saturn's moon Titan say its clouds form and move much like those on Earth, but in a much slower, more lingering fashion. The forecast for Titan's early autumn - warm and wetter.

■ [FULL STORY](#)



Shuttle and crew in HD

Shuttle Endeavour is just a week away from launching on its space station construction mission. The shuttle's recent launch pad switch and the astronauts' countdown dress rehearsal activities at Kennedy Space Center are presented here in standard and high definition video.



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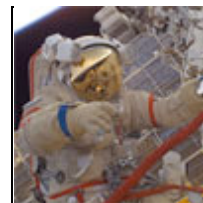
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Spacewalkers prep station for new Russian module

The space station crew carried out a spacewalk Friday, the first of two needed to rig the Russian Zvezda module for attachment of a new docking port. The EVA by commander Gennady Padalka and NASA flight engineer Michael Barratt began at 3:52 and concluded at 8:46 a.m. EDT, accomplishing all of the planned tasks.

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Endeavour crew completes practice countdown

Despite cloudy and raining weather that would have scrubbed a real space shuttle launch attempt, Endeavour's seven astronauts climbed aboard their spacecraft at pad 39A for a practice countdown Thursday morning.

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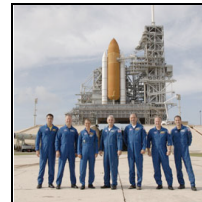
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Shuttle Endeavour cleared for launch next week

While the shuttle Endeavour's crew reviewed emergency procedures at the launch pad Wednesday, NASA managers held an executive-level flight readiness review and cleared the ship for blastoff June 13, at 7:17 a.m. EDT, on a complex space station assembly mission.

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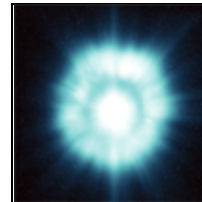
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Mysterious supernova may have had carbon origins

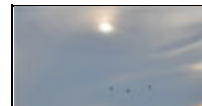
A weird explosion in space that confounded astronomers in 2006 may have been the destruction of a rare star with an unusual amount of carbon dust surrounding it, according to research carried out by scientists at the University of Warwick.

- [FULL STORY](#)



Welcome home, Atlantis!

Shuttle Atlantis completed its cross-country ferryflight atop a 747 carrier jet Tuesday



evening, returning home to the Kennedy Space Center after a two-day trip from Edwards Air Force Base in California.

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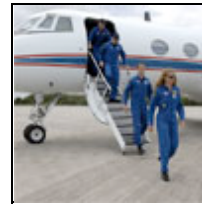
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Endeavour crew set for countdown practice run

Space shuttle Endeavour's seven astronauts arrived at the Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday to participate in emergency training exercises and a countdown dress rehearsal for next weekend's launch.

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U.S. military spacecraft aid search for missing Airbus

U.S. Air Force Defense Support Program missile warning satellite data collected early Monday over the central Atlantic, is being examined to see if it captured a possibly fiery breakup or impact of the Air France Airbus A330 that disappeared en route to Paris from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Expanded space station crew off to smooth start

Orchestrating the work of six full-time astronauts aboard the International Space Station is a bit like "herding cats," a Canadian crew member told reporters Monday, adding that living in the surreal weightlessness of space was like floating in a Salvador Dali painting.

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