



CLICK HERE TO STOP EMBARRASSING YOUR MAN SKIN WITH LADY-SCENTED BODY WASH.

Old Spice

VIDEO RADIO MOBILE U-REPORT IMAG



Full Coverage [Small Business](#) [Job Hunt](#) [White House Blog](#)

Watch Live [STRATEGY ROOM](#) [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#)

New York (change)

TODAY 32° 20° Partly cloudy
More Weather»

HOME | U.S. | WORLD | BUSINESS | POLITICS | ENTERTAINMENT | LEISURE | HEALTH | SCITECH | OPINION | SPORTS | ON AIR



PRINT

SHARE

AA

■ Terrorism

Future of U.S. Space Flight Up in the Air
January 29, 2010 - 3:52 PM | by: [Maggie Kerkman](#)

And then there were five. As NASA prepares for the next space shuttle launch February 7th, the reality that the program is coming to an end is really beginning to sink in. And with word that the Obama administration is nixing funding to the Constellation program, there are a lot of questions about what, if anything, will fill the gap once the shuttle is gone. The administration says NASA will actually get more money in a budget plan to be revealed Monday, but critics say that increase will not be large enough to cover the costs of Constellation, the program that was supposed to get the U.S. back to the moon.

Even prior to this news, there was talk about a five year gap between the shuttle and Constellation programs. Now without Constellation on the table, it's unclear what NASA's future would hold. Some have suggested private companies step into human spaceflight, providing a sort of space taxi. There are companies interested in doing this. But when we did a story last August on a NASA program designed to help such companies, it sounded like the idea was far from fruition. In an interview with Fox News, former Apollo astronaut Walt Cunningham said of commercial attempts, "They have no idea what kind of problems they're going to encounter." Still, another astronaut, Leroy Chiao, who was on an Obama commission reviewing NASA, says something has to be done. "If NASA's budget is going to be more or less flat for the next few years, then we cannot sustain what's been going on," Chiao says.

The mood here at Johnson Space Center is somber. A lot of people are wondering what will happen to their jobs after the shuttle program ends, which is scheduled to wrap up by the end of this year. Much of Clear Lake, the community that surrounds Johnson Space Center depends upon NASA employees to keep it thriving. What happens to all of them remains to be seen.



Maggie Kerkman
Dallas, Texas

4 comments

PHOTO GALLERY

Previous

Next

Johnson Space Center, Building 9

Image 1 of 4





TAGS

astronaut
augustine
constellation
NASA

SHUTTLE
Space
Leave a Comment
Sort: NEWEST
Sort: OLDEST
4 Comments



Campbell

Report

There is no longer a space race. That "race" has been over for decades. Obama does not want manned space travel because it would create jobs, new technologies and advances in science in the private sector for America. Obama does not want to create advanced and efficient space travel, human or otherwise. His administration told the state controlled media that NASA's plan to "colonize" the moon was shelved. There was never a plan to colonize the moon. The moon base was to be developed because it is far easier to launch from the moon to other parts of the solar system and beyond than from the earth requiring the development and use new propulsion systems. The whole point of the program was to create a self sustaining base to launch vehicles and for scientific research. Space exploration is about human exploration and discovery of the unknown. Obama continues to convince the American people everyday that he fears that unknown and the evolution of the human species.

January 31, 2010 at 7:28 PM

REPLY



gaetano marano

Report

- hey, politics, engineers, scientists, why are you lose your time? - you already have the solution to your problems! - just look towards this side! - there is only ONE person in the world that has... - said that the Ares-1 was "too expensive"... in 2005... - proposed the RIGHT shuttle-derived rocket (the FAST-SLV aka Ares-5-lite) in 2006... - said that the 5-segments SRB can't work... in 2006... - said that the Ares-1 can't fly... in 2007... - etc. etc. etc. - yes, he isn't american... but, who cares? - you just need to give away a retired Shuttle to have the solutions to your problems... - too much? - no, it's less than 1% of the money burned by NASA to (only) add a 5th segment to the SRB... - do you REALLY want to SAVE the Constellation and Moon program? - do you REALLY want to CUT the US spaceflight GAP? - do you REALLY want to save thousands space-related jobs? - if the answer is YES then read this article:
<http://ow.ly/10hxl> -

January 31, 2010 at 4:57 PM

REPLY



Longrunner73

Report

Looks like Texans need to quit complaining, pick themselves up by their bootstraps, go back to school to get re-educated for a new career, and quit asking for government handouts. Let's put the money into building nuclear power plants, which will employ people here, and help cut our energy dependency on foreign oil. We've been to the moon - done deal. Mars - one big cold rock that will always be there waiting for humanity to explore. The space race did not create any new technologies - it merely accelerated when they would be developed in the course of human history. The transistor, microchips, etc., were inevitable - the space race just made them possible sooner rather than later.

January 31, 2010 at 11:32 AM

REPLY



vivek

Report

what will happen to the astronauts at ISS if an emergency occurs or if they need help from ground?

January 30, 2010 at 10:17 PM

REPLY

About this blog

FOX News covers the action from all the angles. Get constant updates from our in-the-field reporters and producers and read stories you'll only see here.

[Subscribe to Posts](#)

Advertisement



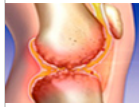
Credit Card Debt Bailout

New program slashes the credit card debt you owe by 50%! Trusted, USOBA accredited debt reduction. [Learn more](#)



Arizona Drivers Overpay?

6/17: Obama backs new insurance regulation. See if you qualify for new 2010 rates starting at \$1/day [Learn more](#)



How to Stop Joint Pain!

Suffering with joint pain? Click here. Shocking joint relief discovery by Cambridge, MA researchers... [Learn more](#)



Mortgage APRs Hit 3.62%

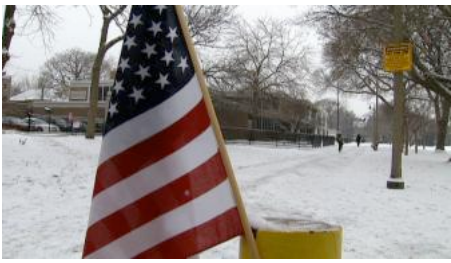
Only 85,000 homeowners have taken advantage of Obama's refinance plan. Calculate new payment. [Learn more](#)



Pheromones:

Are bending the laws of attraction and sexual chemistry. [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)







January 16, 2010
A car the size of a toy from the ICF (Interim) Unit and his dog in the ruins of the Mark III
Photography: ICF Spokesperson





[view posts](#)

Adam Housley
Alicia Acuna
Anita Vogel
Ayse Wieting
Ben Evansky
Bill Hemmer
Brooks Blanton
Carina Sonn
Caroline Shively
Conor Powell
Dan Springer
Dana Lewis
David Lewkowict
Dr. Manny Alvarez
Eric Shawn
Greg Burke
Gretchen Gailey
James Rosen
Jill Dobson
Jonathan Serrie
Kathleen Foster
Kimberly Schwandt
Laura Prabucki
Maggie Kerkman
Malini Wilkes
Marla Cichowski
Michael Sorrentino
Mike Levine
Nicholas Kalman
Peter Doocy
Reena Ninan
Robert Lee
Ruth Ravve
Serafin Gomez
Shira Bush
Steve Harrigan
Tom Jachman
Yonat Friling
Adam Petlin
Amy Kellogg
Ashley Dvorkin
Becky Diamond
Ben Ramos
Brian Wilson
Cappy Cochran
Carl Cameron
Claudia Cowan
Courtney Friel
Dana Karni
David Lee Miller
David Piper
Eric Barnes
Faith Mangan
Greg Palkot
Jake Gibson
Jamie Colby

Jim Murphy
Jonathan Wachtel
Kelly Burke
Laura Ingle
Lindsay Stewart
Mal James
Marianne Silber
Meredith Orban
Michael Tobin
Molly Line
Orlando Salinas
Phil Keating
Rick Leventhal
Ron Ralston
Scott Heidler
Shannon Bream
Steve Brown
Svein Schwab
William La Jeunesse

Popular Tags
Categories
Archives
haiti earthquake
H1N1
Afghanistan
Economy
Israel
job hunt
Haiti
South Carolina
Unemployment
Taliban
CDC
Robert Lee
Vaccine

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Home](#) [U.S.](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Health](#) [Business](#) [SciTech](#) [Entertainment](#) [Video](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Leisure](#)

[Careers](#) [Internships - FNCU](#) [Fox Around the World](#) [RSS Feeds](#)

[Advertise With Us](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Contact Us](#) [Email FOXNews.com](#) [Newsroom](#)

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. © 2010 FOX News Network, LLC. All rights reserved. All market data delayed 20 minutes.