



# countdown

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## STS-122 crew concludes launch dress rehearsal



◆ **Shuttle Update:** The astronauts assigned to the space shuttle Atlantis STS-122 mission to the International Space Station arrived at Kennedy for their launch dress rehearsal Nov. 17. The rehearsal

concludes today. The three-day dry run, or terminal countdown demonstration test, is a countdown dress rehearsal and a training exercise for the flight crew, which includes participating in a simulated countdown with the launch team located in Firing Room 4 of the Launch Control Center. The crew comprises Commander Stephen Frick, Pilot Alan Poindexter, Mission Specialists Rex Walheim, Stanley Love, Leland Melvin and European Space Agency astronauts Hans Schlegel and Léopold Eyharts. The actual launch is targeted for Dec. 6.

◆ **ISS Update:** Atlantis' payload, including the Columbus module, was installed in the orbiter cargo bay Nov. 11. Hypergolic propellant, which powers the maneuvering systems on both the orbiter and the solid rocket boosters, was also loaded. Columbus, built by the European Space Agency, or ESA, is approximately 23 feet long and 15 feet wide, allowing it to hold 10 large racks of experiments. Columbus is ESA's largest single contribution to the space station.

■ **Orion Flight Tests** — Workers broke ground Nov. 14 on the launch pad that will host the first of NASA's Con-

stellation Program flight tests. The agency will test a launch abort system for the new Orion spacecraft at the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range near Las Cruces, N.M. Orion's launch abort system will carry astronauts to safety in the event of a problem on the launch pad or during the spacecraft's climb to orbit. The first of five tests of the system, known as Pad Abort 1 or PA-1, is scheduled for fall 2008. Data from the series will help engineers refine the design of the launch abort system.



■ **Holiday Coffee** — Mark your calendars for 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 14. All Kennedy employees are invited to attend the Holiday Coffee at the Kennedy Learning Institute (located behind the Headquarters Building). Watch for more details!

■ **Blood Drive** — From 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 29, workers who present a photo ID can donate blood at the O&C Building. Walk-ins are welcome and appointments can be made by e-mailing Lillian Belmont at [LBelmont@floridabloodcenters.org](mailto:LBelmont@floridabloodcenters.org). Aside from helping others, benefits include a Club Red Program, \$10 Publix gift card, a Dunkin Donuts coffee coupon, half off admission to Gaylord Palm's Ice! event, free admission to Marine Land, and half off Universal Orlando's one-day/two-park or two-day/two-park tickets.

■ **Fall Concert Series** — For the next two Saturdays, everyone can enjoy the

## Columbus module installed and ready for mission

Kennedy Visitor Complex's Fall Concert Series at the Rocket Garden. The Lead singer of Foreigner, Lou Gramm, will perform Nov. 24. RPM: Rock & Pop Masters will perform Dec. 1. Badged, including temporary, NASA, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base employees, and NASA alumni can purchase up to six tickets for \$15 at the NASA Exchange stores and Patrick's Information, Ticket and Tours. Tickets cover admission to the Complex and all of its attractions. For more information, contact Janice Jackson at 867-1719.

■ **Holiday Closing** — The Kennedy Fitness Centers will be closing at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and will remain closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. The Fitness Centers will reopen on Nov. 26 at 5:30 a.m. For more information, please call 867-7829 or 861-3028.

■ **NASA 50th Anniversary Shirts Only \$5** — For a limited time, all KSC employees have the opportunity to purchase a NASA 50th Anniversary T-Shirt for only \$5. Shirts are available for purchase only online at <http://www.tcbpecialties.com/nasa50th.html>. Sale dates run from Nov. 1 to Dec. 31.

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