



# countdown

February 12, 2008

Vol. 13, No. 10

## Spacewalkers complete actions needed to install Columbus

◆ **Mission Update:** On Monday, following several hours of preparatory tasks by spacewalkers Rex Walheim and Stan Love, the space station robotic arm grappled the Columbus module. The preparations included attaching the power and data grapple fixture to the Columbus module, installing power cables on the Columbus module, and reinstalling the debris shields they removed earlier. At press time, the space station robotic arm had moved Columbus out of Atlantis' payload bay. Successful attachment to the Harmony module was expected later Monday.



### ◆ Shuttle Update:

Space shuttle Endeavour rolled from the Orbiter Processing Facility to the Vehicle Assembly Building Monday morning (photo below). It will next be attached to its external fuel tank and solid rocket boosters in preparation for its upcoming mission, STS-123, to the International Space Station targeted for March 11. Since Launch Pad 39A is in pretty good shape after the Feb. 7 launch of space shuttle Atlantis, Endeavour's rollout to the pad is on track for Feb. 18.



## Endeavour in VAB, ready for stacking on launcher platform

Endeavour's seven astronauts are scheduled to take part in the terminal countdown demonstration test Feb. 23 - 25.

NASA will discuss upcoming space shuttle mission STS-123 during a day-long series of media briefings from the Johnson Space Center beginning at 9 a.m. March 3. The briefings will be broadcast live on NASA Television and the agency's Web site. The mission will deliver the first section of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory and the Canadian Space Agency's two-armed robotic system, Dextre. Five spacewalks will be conducted during the flight.

The schedule of briefings follows:

- ◆ 9 a.m. -- Space Shuttle and Space Station Program Overview
- ◆ 10:30 a.m. -- STS-123 Mission Overview
- ◆ 12:30 p.m. -- STS-123 Spacewalk Overview
- ◆ 2 p.m. -- STS-123 Crew News Conference

### ■ Camp KSC Scholarships for Girls

— The Society of Women Engineers, or SWE, is now accepting scholarship applications for girls to attend Camp KSC this summer. SWE will be awarding 20 scholarships – 10 based on need, 10 based on academic achievement – to girls in third to eighth grades. If you know of any girls who would be interested, please direct them to the Web site [www.swe-sc.org/CampKSC](http://www.swe-sc.org/CampKSC) for more details. Applications are due by March 15. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Kersey at [judy.kersey@swe.org](mailto:judy.kersey@swe.org).

■ **BEST Friday Menu** — The special menu in the cafeterias this Friday is barbecue pork ribs, black-eyed peas, sassy rice and chocolate cake. The menu is in honor of African American History month.

■ **NASA Science News** — Would you like to name the next great space telescope? Here's your chance: NASA is inviting members of the public to suggest a new name for the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope, known as GLAST, before it launches in mid-2008. You can read the full story at [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/08feb\\_namethattel\\_escape.htm?list947891](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/08feb_namethattel_escape.htm?list947891).

■ **Space Station Auroras** — Astronauts onboard the International Space Station have been enjoying some colorful auroras this month caused by solar wind buffeting Earth's magnetic field. Some of their photos have been beamed back to Earth and you can see them on the Feb. 9 edition of <http://spaceweather.com>. Go to the Archives section to select the date. The presentation is titled, "A View From Above."



■ **Reminder** — For those who need a reminder, Thursday is Valentine's Day.

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.barrett@jbsc.nasa.gov](mailto:anita.barrett@jbsc.nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at [nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html](http://nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html).