



countdown

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Discovery takes focus for launch in February



◆ Shuttle Update:

In about a week, space shuttle Endeavour will be transported approximately 2,500 miles from California to Florida on the back of a modified 747 jumbo jet. Once at Kennedy, Endeavour will be separated from the aircraft to begin immediate processing for its next flight, STS-127, targeted for May 2009.

With Endeavour and its crew safely home, the stage is set for the launch of STS-119, targeted for Feb. 12, 2009. Discovery will deliver the final pair of U.S. solar arrays, which will be installed on the starboard end of the station's truss. The truss serves as the backbone support for external equipment and spare components.

Lee Archambault will command the 14-day flight that will include four planned spacewalks. Joining him will be Pilot Tony Antonelli, Mission Specialists John Phillips, Steve Swanson, Joseph Acaba and Richard Arnold, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata. Wakata will replace Sandra Magnus on the station as a flight engineer.

◆ **ELV Update:** The NOAA-N Prime spacecraft arrived at Vandenberg Air Force Base on Nov. 4 aboard a C-5 aircraft. It was taken to NASA's Payload Processing Facility 1610 located on north Vandenberg. The following day the spacecraft was removed from its shipping container. On Nov. 6, the spacecraft was rotated from horizontal to vertical and mated to the payload attach fitting associated with the Delta II. The spacecraft

Dec. 5 KSC Holiday Coffee — Don't miss the annual KSC Holiday Coffee on **Friday**. All civil service and contractor KSC employees are invited to attend at one of the following locations: the O&C Bldg. Mission Briefing Room, 8:30-10 a.m., or the OSB II 5th Floor Conference Room, 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday, refreshments will be provided for second and third shift employees and management in the OSB I Lobby from 10 p.m. to midnight, compliments of NASA Senior Management.

was powered on by Lockheed Martin for the first time on Nov. 13. Electrical testing began Nov. 14. Spacecraft communications system tests are now under way.

The Delta II arrived at Vandenberg Nov. 13. Work by United Launch Alliance to stack the rocket at Space Launch Complex 2 is scheduled to begin today.

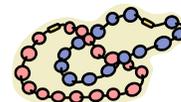
The NOAA-N-Prime is scheduled to launch Feb. 4 from Vandenberg.

■ **Visitor Complex Holiday Shopping Discounts for KSC Employees** — Now through Dec. 24, all badged KSC and CCAFS employees will receive a 30-percent discount at KSC Visitor Complex retail locations including The Space Shop at the main Visitor Complex and the gift shop at the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Select from hundreds of space-themed items like ornaments, toys, apparel, jewelry, books, mugs, mission merchandise and more. The Space Shop at the Visitor Complex will be open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To visit The Space Shop, present your badge at a group will-call ticket window (1 - 4) for entry. To receive your

NOAA-N Prime to launch Feb. 4 at Vandenberg

discount, please present your badge at the beginning of the transaction. This offer is not transferable and cannot be combined with any other discount. For more information, call 321-449-4400.



■ NASA Exchange

— A Jewelry Fair will be held 7 a.m.–2 p.m. Dec. 9-10 at the HQ café and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 11-12 at the MFF café. Also, the exchange stores are having a 20-percent-off sale on giftware items and 10-percent-off sale on memorabilia items. A nice selection of Webkinz also is available at 50 percent off.



■ Road Maintenance On NASA Causeway

— Saturday, NASA Causeway west-bound lanes will be closed between H Avenue and E Avenue from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. West-bound traffic will be detoured from NASA Causeway via H Avenue to 1st Street, to E Avenue and back to NASA Causeway. Use caution approaching the intersections and observe the posted speed limit.

NASA Causeway west-bound traffic will be restricted to one lane of traffic between H Avenue and E Avenue from Saturday at 7:30 p.m. to Dec. 13 at 7 a.m.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.