KSC COUNTDOWN

To improve life here · To extend life there · To find life beyond

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Swift spacecraft survives storm, looks to launch in late October

▲ **ELV Update:** The Swift spacecraft awaiting launch at NASA's Hangar AE on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station was undamaged by Hurricane Frances. It was stored in a shipping container for protection. Swift is being removed from the container today. The stacking of the Boeing Delta II launch vehicle on Pad 17-A is targeted to begin next week. The launch is being retargeted for the last week of October. Normal testing will resume on Monday.

The Swift observatory will pinpoint the location of distant yet fleeting explosions that appear to signal the births of black holes. Named for the nimble bird, Swift can swiftly turn and point its instruments to catch a burst "on the fly" to study both the burst and its afterglow. This afterglow phenomenon can linger in X-ray light, visible light and radio waves for hours or weeks, allowing detailed observations. Swift is a medium-class Explorer mission managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

▲ **Florida Disability Mentoring Day:** NASA civil service and contractor employees are encouraged to get involved in Florida Disability Mentoring Day at KSC Oct. 20. The event provides the opportunity for students with disabilities to spend one day with the KSC/CCAFS family. Employees take students to their work sites and provide a day-long enriching experience for the student. Students can learn firsthand about different types of careers, make the connection between school and work, and target career paths.

This is a great way for the KSC/CCAFS family to gain an understanding of what students with disabilities have to offer, identify potential recruiting targets and demonstrate community and professional leadership.

To participate in Florida's Disability Mentoring Day at KSC, please contact Cassandra Black no later than Oct. 1 via e-mail (*cassandra.d.black@nasa.gov).* For additional questions, please call Black at 321-867-3358 or Jennifer Skaja at 321-730-5301, ext 1135.

■ **2004 KSC Intercenter Walk/Run Postponed —** Due to Hurricane Frances, the Walk/Run at the Shuttle Landing Facility has been postponed until Sept. 21, beginning at 5 p.m. The 2-mile walk or run, 5K run and 10K run are **free** for all spaceport employees. Stop by either Fitness Center by Friday to pre-register.

Late registration takes place at the race. If you have any questions, please call Debra Orringer at 867-7829 or e-mail her (*OrrinDL@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov*)

KSC invites employees to take part in Disability Mentoring Day Oct. 20

■ ***Correction* —** The monthly health education table will be set up at the **SSPF** (next to the O&C Building – KSC Industrial Area) cafeteria today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Health & Education Wellness Program staff will distribute environmental health promotion information.

■ **NASA Science —** For the first time, scientists have demonstrated that precise measurements of Earth's changing gravity field can effectively monitor changes in the planet's climate and weather. This finding comes from more than a year's worth of data from the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, or Grace. Grace is a two-spacecraft, joint partnership of NASA and the German Aerospace Center.

Launched in March 2002, Grace tracks changes in Earth's gravity field, sensing minute variations in gravitational pull from local changes in Earth's mass. Read more about Grace on the Internet at **http://www.csr.utexas.edu/grace** or **http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/grace.**

■ **Did You Know?** Massages are available 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday – Friday (hours can be flexible). Get 30-minute massages for only $20 until Dec. 31. Gift certificates are available. Call Valerie Jaramillo, LMT #19362, at 867-4762, or e-mail *JaramVS@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov*.

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E-mail news to *Anita.Barrett@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov*. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815
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