

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
Friday, November 18, 2022

Artemis I Lifts Off At Last!

At 1:47 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Launch Pad 39B at KSC turned night into day as NASA's SLS lifted off carrying the agency's Orion spacecraft on its way to the Moon as part of the Artemis program. The SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft were at Launch Pad 39B, where they rode out Hurricane Nicole last week. Following the storm, teams conducted thorough assessments of the rocket, spacecraft and associated ground systems, and confirmed there were no significant impacts from the severe weather.

An uncrewed Orion is on the first leg of a mission in which Orion is planned to travel approximately 40,000 miles beyond the Moon and return to Earth over the course of 25 1/2 days. The mission is part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach before flying astronauts on the Artemis II mission. The Artemis I mission is the first integrated flight test of the agency's deep space exploration systems: the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, and ground systems.

After reaching its initial orbit, Orion deployed its solar arrays and engineers began performing checkouts of the spacecraft's systems. About 90 minutes into flight, the rocket's upper stage engine successfully fired for approxi-

mately 18 minutes to give Orion the big push needed to send it out of Earth orbit and on toward the Moon.

Orion continued its journey to the Moon powered by its service module, which is the propulsive powerhouse provided by ESA (European Space Agency) through an international collaboration.

The journey isn't the only thing happening. A series of

10 small science investigations and technology demonstrations, called CubeSats, were deployed from a ring that connected the upper stage to the spacecraft. Each CubeSat has its own mission. They have the potential to fill gaps in our knowledge of the solar system or demonstrate technologies that may benefit the design of future missions to explore the Moon and beyond.

Orion is expected to fly by the Moon on November 21, performing a close approach of the lunar surface on its way to a distant retrograde orbit, a highly stable orbit thousands of miles beyond the Moon.

The Artemis missions are a beginning point, paving the way for a future lunar space station and serving as a stepping stone for astronauts on the way to Mars.



Photo credit - Bill Ingalls

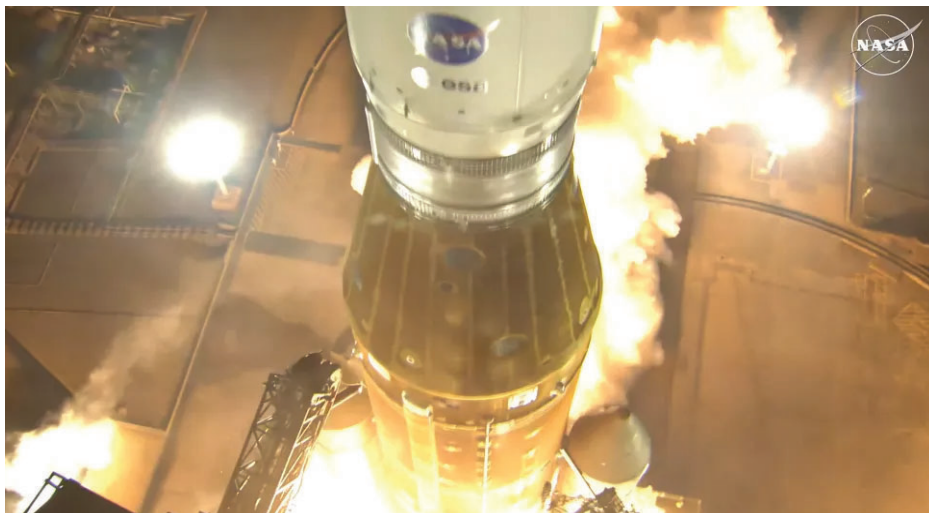


Photo credit - Marco Bello



Brevard County Fire Rescue Announces Certified Technical Rescue Team

Brevard County Fire Rescue announces state certified Technical Rescue Team to better serve residents and visitors.

A state certified Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is a multi-disciplined unit capable of conducting search and rescue in a structural collapse, rope rescue, vehicle and machinery extrication, confined space operations, trench rescue, excavation rescue and water rescue operations. The team is also disciplined in large animal rescue.

In addition to being a first on-scene Brevard County asset, the team will also be available to lend assistance statewide when requested.

In early November, Brevard County Fire Rescue underwent assessment and evaluation by representatives from the State of Florida. During the evaluation process, the department was graded on three specific areas; personnel readiness, logistical readiness and management readiness. Out of a maximum of 100 points, Brevard County Fire Rescue received an evaluation score of 96, passing the evaluation and earning the designation of a state approved Type I Technical Rescue Team.

The team is comprised of members from Station 48, centrally located in West Viera. Members from this station also make up the county's on-call hazardous materials team and will continue to serve the community in this capacity. The team consists of eight members, ready to respond immediately, and can be scaled up to support larger incidents. Each member is required to complete a minimum of 360 hours of training to be considered for the team.

"It's an honor for Brevard County Fire Rescue to provide this service to our community. I am extremely proud of our hard working men and woman for achieving this goal and for strengthening the capability of our all hazard fire department," explains Fire Chief Patrick Voltaire.

Brevard County District 1 Commissioner Seeks Audit Committee Applicants

District 1 Commissioner Rita Pritchett is seeking applicants to fill an opening on the Brevard County Audit Committee.

Applications are available on the Brevard County website, <https://www.brevardfl.gov>, and by clicking on Advisory Boards listed under Frequent Searches.

For information on the Audit Committee, visit: <https://brevardfl.granicus.com/boards/w/cbe4088b3c65a780/boards>.

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary November Events

NOTICE: The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary education center & trails will be CLOSED Friday, November 11th, Thursday, November 24th AND Friday, November 25th.

Garden Workday

Saturday, November 12th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturday, November 19th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Grab your hat, sunblock, and water and come help maintain the butterfly garden at the Sanctuary! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Sanctuary School

Wednesday, November 16th, 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Turkey Time! Come learn about wild turkeys at the Enchanted Forest with fun activities and crafts! Registration is required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

FNPS Sea Rocket Chapter General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 16th at 6 p.m.

Join the Florida Native Plant Society's Sea Rocket Chapter for their General Membership meeting. Guest speaker Brean Duncan, will be giving a presentation of natural areas photography.

Tai Chi at the Forest

Every Saturday in November. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join instructor Kate Perez for a beginner level class on the porch! Loose-fitting clothing, and a water bottle are recommended. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Yoga in Nature

Every Sunday in November, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join local yoga instructors for a traditional class for all levels on the porch! Wear loose-fitting clothing and do not eat anything an hour before class. Bring water and a mat. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Guided Hikes

Openings Every Sunday in November at 10 a.m.

Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and walking shoes. Registration required no later than the day before the hike, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

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Four Florida Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations in the Synthase Collaborative Celebrate Veterans

Avow, Treasure Coast Hospice, St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care, and Haven Hospice, founding members of Synthase and part of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's We Honor Veterans program, will honor thousands of veterans the week of Veterans Day November 11. Each not-for-profit Synthase member organization honors veterans by traveling to facilities throughout more than a third of the state for Veterans Day with celebrations and veteran pinning ceremonies. The non-profit group honors more than 2,200 veterans in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Brevard, Collier, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Martin, Nassau, Okeechobee, Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Suwannee, Union and Volusia counties.

Events recognize veterans who are patients and employees, as well as veterans in skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, senior centers and at home with a commemorative pin and recognition of service.

Each hospice in the organization has been honoring this tradition for years and has accumulated many interesting veteran stories:

- Avow recently honored a 104-year-old veteran who flew several missions where most of his crew did not make it out alive. The 40-year-old organization will also honor its founder, Bruce Hayhoe, a Korean War veteran, with a Veteran Challenge Coin on Veterans Day. Avow's award-winning movie, *Life Lessons Learned in the Military*, which was created with veterans the organization serves, is available to organizations to view.

- St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care has honored a patient who was a veteran of the Women's Auxiliary Royal Air Force. She had family from England and a representative from the Air Force on a Zoom ceremony.

- Treasure Coast Hospice has collaborated with the Stuart Air Show to honor veterans. They were also able to facilitate a once-in-a-lifetime experience for lifelong Mets fan William Bunker, a 92-year-old U.S. Army and Korean War Veteran in their care. He and his music therapist, Caitlin Collin, recorded a rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," which was played on the jumbotron at Clover Park in Port St. Lucie during a St. Lucie Mets game – a joy for him and a forever memory for his family.

Avow, Treasure Coast Hospice, and St. Francis Reflections are Level 5 Partners with We Honor Veterans, a collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Level 5 Partners are among 3.8% of hospices participating in the program to achieve the highest level, demonstrating commitment to veteran-centric care.

All provide specialized care to veterans who are facing a terminal illness, including veteran-to-veteran volunteer

programs, training on conflict-specific medical and mental health concerns and providing help for veterans navigating VA benefits.

For information about events honoring veterans at each organization, contact:

- Avow: Collier County; Renee Stoll, (239) 261-4404, Renee.stoll@avowcares.org

- Treasure Coast Hospice: Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties; Maryellen Murphy, (772) 801-9572, mmurphy@treasurehealth.org

- St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care Hospice: Brevard County; Mary Larson, (321) 269-4240, mlarson@reflectionspsc.org

- Haven Hospice: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, Union, and Volusia counties; Jeremy Haupt, (352) 271-4655 jphaupt@beyourhaven.org

For more information about the services offered by St. Francis Reflections Lifestage Care, please visit ReflectionsLSC.org or call us at 321-269-4240.

Fox Lake Winter Festival of Crafts

The 29th Annual Fox Lake Winter Festival of Crafts will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 19 at Fox Lake Park, 4400 Fox Lake Road, Titusville.

The Fox Lake Winter Festival of Crafts will feature handcrafted artwork by 200 local artists and artisans. This is a great family event to enjoy food trucks and holiday shopping! Fox Lake Park is also pet friendly. The public is invited to attend this FREE event!

For more information, contact Erika Whitt, Community Center Coordinator, at 321-264-5037 Monday – Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The 15 MINUTES OF FAME Indie Film Festival

The 15 Minutes of Fame indie film festival will host over two dozen short films produced by aspiring filmmakers from all over the U.S., including several from Florida. The festival will showcase documentaries, animation, narratives, web series, PSAs, commercials and trailers. Genres include comedy, drama, and thrillers.

The program will take place on Saturday, November 19th, at Holiday Inn's Space Coast Convention Center in Cocoa, located at I-95, exit 201. Admission is free, and no tickets are required. The festival is produced by Brevard filmmakers Ray and Migdalia Etheridge. For films and show times, go to Etheridgeproductions.com

For more information, email rayandmigdalia@aol.com.

New Brevard County Fire Rescue Rating May Decrease Resident Insurance Premiums

Residential and commercial property owners in Brevard County could potentially see lower insurance rates as a result of the county's latest public fire protection services rating from the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). Brevard County Fire Rescue (BCFR) is pleased to announce the updated designation from the ISO's Public Protection Classification rating of a Class 3/3X effective Tuesday, Nov. 1.

A Class 3 department allows residential and commercial property owners the opportunity to potentially obtain lower insurance premiums along with receiving exemplary fire protection services. The ISO rating is used to measure the quality and effectiveness of fire protection in a community. The rating scale ranges from one to 10 with a Class 1 being the best possible score.

As part of its evaluation, the ISO collects information on fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) Program helps establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties and provides insurance companies with reliable, up-to-date information about a community's fire protection services. The formal assessment process consisted of four major areas:

- Fire Department (staffing, equipment, training, and emergency response capabilities)
- Community Risk Reduction (Safety Education, Code Enforcement, Fire Investigations)
- Water supply system (highlighting the water supply a community uses for fire suppression).
- Fire alarm and communications system (which centers on facilities and support for handling and dispatching alarms).

BCFR has been working over the years to improve the services provided to the community by investing in personnel, equipment and communications. BCFR has improved from a class 4/9, to a class 4/4X, and now a class 3/3X. This rating reflects the hard work and dedication of the Board of County Commissioners, the men and woman of BCFR and the continued support of the community. This rating could bring about lower insurance premiums for businesses and residents in unincorporated Brevard County.

With this classification, Brevard is listed in the top 15% of fire departments across the nation, and is one of only 3,583 – out of 40,756 communities surveyed -- to achieve the Class 3 rating in the United States.

For more information on the class 3/3X rating and how this could potentially affect your insurance rate, documentation to verify the new rate and other helpful information, please visit the FAQ section of the BCFR website at www.brevardfl.gov/FireRescue.

Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams to Focus on Central Brevard

As the Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams complete canvassing in north and south Brevard, efforts will continue in the Cocoa, Rockledge and Cocoa Beach areas. The DSAT will be equipped to provide residents with information on FEMA disaster assistance, provide guidance on the application process, provide basic information about application status and other eligible assistance, and collect new information or documents for case files. FEMA DSAT members will be identifiable by blue shirts, blue vests or both, and will operate between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Homeowners and renters in Brevard County who had uninsured losses from Hurricane Ian may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. FEMA may provide financial help with temporary housing expenses, basic home repairs and other essential disaster-related needs.

Ways to apply:

Visit Disaster Recovery Center (2331 Harry T. Moore Ave. Mims, FL 32754). Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Visit www.disasterassistance.gov.

Download the FEMA App for mobile devices.

Call toll-free 800-621-3362. The line is open every day from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Port St. John Public Library 6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John 321-633-1867

Mary Lena Penna, Library Director

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.. Wednesday, 12-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

Computers are available, and we also offer scanning, wireless printing and faxing.

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon: **Humanatee Yoga for Beginners or Intermediate.** \$5 Instructor Fee.

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.: **Young Readers Storytime.** Ages 6-12.

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.: **Little Listeners storytime.** Ages 2-5.
11/12 & 11/26 10 a.m.-noon: **Pokemon Club of Port St. John.** All ages welcome.

11/16 6 p.m.: **Friends of the Port St. John Library membership meeting.**

Santa is coming to the library! Saturday, December 3 at 10:30. Free event, call for details.

All Brevard County Libraries will be closed Friday, November 11 in recognition of Veteran's Day, as well as Thursday and Friday, November 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.