

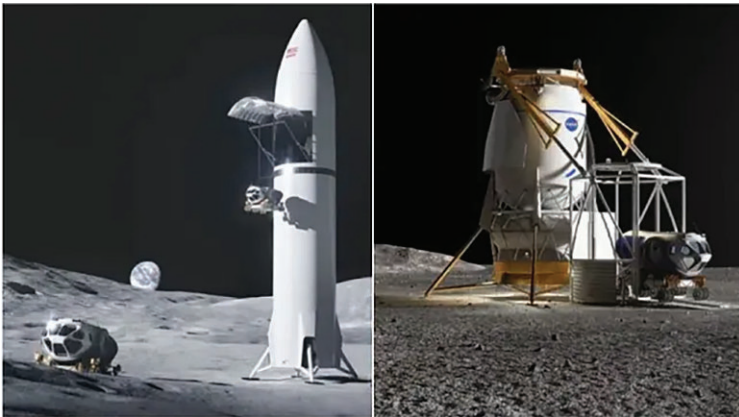
HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition December 6, 2024

NASA Chooses SpaceX And Blue Origin To Deliver A Rover And An Astronaut Base To The Moon

NASA has announced they want a lunar habitat on the surface of the moon in less than ten years. They have announced plans to assign demonstration missions for the two vehicles it has picked to land astronauts on the moon.

Both SpaceX and Blue Origin were awarded contracts for NASA's Human Landing System. Both have been in the process of designing their respective vehicles for returning astronauts to the surface of the moon. In a recent statement, NASA has given both companies a heads-up to expect to put those designs to the test in some upcoming qualification missions that will task them with sending large cargo to the moon.



Early conceptual renderings of cargo variants of human lunar landing systems from NASA's providers SpaceX, left, and Blue Origin, right. (Image credit: SpaceX/Blue Origin)

In 2023, NASA directed SpaceX and Blue Origin to build cargo variants of their lunar landers, the space agency indicated in a statement. Having two different lunar landing systems to choose from will give NASA flexibility for both crew and cargo missions, while also “ensuring a regular cadence of moon landings for continued discovery and scientific opportunity,” said Stephen D. Creech, NASA's assistant deputy associate administrator for technical at the agency's Moon to Mars Program Office.

For the lunar lander cargo variants, NASA is looking ahead to its planned campaign of developing a sustained human presence on the moon through the next decade. This will involve developing and delivering technologies like moon rovers and astronaut habitats, NASA says.

“Based on current design and development progress

for both crew and cargo landers and the Artemis mission schedules for the crew lander versions, NASA assigned a pressurized rover mission for SpaceX and a lunar habitat delivery for Blue Origin,” Human Landing System program manager Lisa Watson-Morgan said in the statement.

The pressurized rover Starship will deliver is being developed by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and is currently targeted to launch in 2032 to support missions after Artemis 6, according to NASA. Blue Origin's lunar habitat is slated sometime a year later, 2033.

NASA's Artemis Program aims to return astronauts to the moon for the first time since the end of the Apollo era in the 1970s, and to establish a permanent presence near the lunar south pole. That region of the moon is rich in water-ice, which NASA believes can be used to help maintain a lunar outpost and even contribute to the creation of other resources, like rocket fuel.

Ultimately, the space agency views the Artemis Program as a proving ground for future missions to Mars, but has a long way to go before aiming for the Red Planet.

NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket launched an uncrewed Orion spacecraft on the Artemis 1 mission in 2022, for a trip into lunar orbit and back. Artemis 2 will launch four astronauts on a shorter journey, circling the moon on a direct-return trajectory to Earth. The mission was originally scheduled for the end of this year, but was delayed to the end of 2025, which also pushed Artemis 3, the program's first crewed moon landing, to 2026.

NASA has selected three private teams — led by the companies Intuitive Machines, Lunar Outpost and Venturi Astrolab, respectively — to develop their versions of the Lunar Terrain Vehicle (LTV), the rover that Artemis astronauts will drive around the moon's southern polar region beginning in 2030.

“We look forward to the development of the Artemis generation lunar exploration vehicle to help us advance what we learn at the moon,” Vanessa Wyche, director of Johnson Space Center in Houston said in a statement. “This vehicle will greatly increase our astronauts' ability to explore and conduct science on the lunar surface while also serving as a science platform between missions.”

Holiday Parades Are Coming!

The 2024 Mims Christmas Parade will be held on December 7 at 10:30 a.m. Call 321-267-9652 for more information.

The 2024 Merritt Island Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7 from 10–11:30 a.m. The parade will begin at Merritt Island High School and end at Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School. The theme for this year's parade is "Snow Place Like the Space Coast". Mindy from Lite Rock 99.3 will be the emcee. For more information or to register to be in the parade, please call 321-633-1874.

Merritt Island also hosts a Christmas Boat Parade on December 7 from 5:30–9:30 p.m. The parade features decorated boats, festive house parties, and holiday cheer. The best places to view the parade are Ulumay Bridge or Watts Park.

The 2024 Cocoa/Rockledge Holiday Parade will take place on Saturday, December 14, from 10 –11:30 a.m. The parade will start at Rockledge High School and end at Lee Wenner Park. The theme for this year's parade is "Snow Place Like the Space Coast". Mindy from Lite Rock 99.3 will be the parade's emcee. To register to participate in the parade or for more information, you can call 321-633-1874.

The 2024 Titusville Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 6 p.m. at Titusville High School. The parade's theme is "Winter Wonderland" and will feature festive floats and holiday cheer.

The 5th annual Cocoa Holiday Boat Parade will take place on December 13, 2024 on Riveredge Blvd. and SR 520. For more information about participating in the parade, visit christmasparadeirc.com.

The Port St. John Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 21, 11 a.m. and will travel east on Fay Blvd. from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave.



PORT ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Port St. John Christmas Parade

Planning has begun for the 35th Annual Port St. John Christmas Parade. The parade will take place on December 21, 2024, 11 a.m. in Port St. John. The parade route will be east along Fay Blvd. from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. We are planning for 70-80 entries this year. Please send your entry in early. It's posted on www.happenings.net.

After all the school groups being forced to cancel last year, this year's parade theme - again - will be, "The Wonder of Christmas Morning." Floats and decorations should be planned toward the theme. All entries will be judged and plaques awarded. Categories include Theme, Christmas Spirit, Creativity, Marching Musical and Marching Non-Musical.

Fay Blvd. will be closed from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 when the parade ends.

For everyone's safety, candy may not be thrown from the floats and vehicles.

There is a \$30 charge for any float or vehicle which advertises a business. The fee does not go up if there are multiple businesses on the same float. Nonprofit community support groups and public schools are \$15, unless they display banners and logos for a business on their float or vehicle(s).

Call us to find out how to get your name on the parade shirts! Your business name will be added to all the Parade t-shirts, staff and public, for a minimum donation of \$75.00.

If there are noise considerations for your entry, please let us know immediately. We will try to spread out the bands and musical participants.

Any questions, suggestions or needs should be directed to Randy Rodriguez, 321-863-7499 or happenings1@bellsouth.net, or Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818 or Jhigginbotham@orionconnectivity.com.

HAPPENINGS wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Good Kwanzaa and joy, good health and peace to your family.

The weekly digital edition of HAPPENINGS is sponsored by Parrish Healthcare



Holiday Craft Fair, Market and Food Truck Event

Come out and do some Christmas shopping, find some treasures and enjoy some good food while you're at it! The event will include handmade crafts & gifts, holiday items & decor, home sale vendors and Food Trucks!

The Fair event will be at Edgewood Jr/Sr High School on Saturday, December 14th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 180 E. Merritt Ave., Merritt Island. Free Admission, Free Parking! Everyone is invited.

Edgewood's Project Graduation will be hosting this event to support their graduating seniors. Get more information at EPGCraftFair2@gmail.com or email Clinita Lynch at Brevardschools.org.





Parrish Medical Group Welcomes Obstetrician and Gynecologist Rahul Lohana, MD

Parrish Healthcare and Parrish Medical Group are pleased to welcome Obstetrician and Gynecologist (OB-GYN) Rahul Lohana, MD to the Brevard community.

Dr. Lohana joins Parrish Medical Group's OB-GYN practice, located inside Parrish Healthcare Center at 250 Harrison Street, Titusville (Titus Landing). He is a dedicated OB-GYN and specializes in female preventative care, pregnancy and family planning, general gynecology and menopause. Dr. Lohana possesses the knowledge, skills and expertise in the medical and surgical care of the female reproductive system.

He completed medical school at Liaquat University in Hyderabad, Pakistan. Dr. Lohana then completed his residency as an OB-GYN at the following medical centers: Flushing Hospital in Flushing, New York, St. Joseph's University in Paterson, New Jersey and Lincoln Medical Center in The Bronx, New York. He is also robotic and laparoscopically trained.

Dr. Lohana is proud to be an active member of the following professional organizations: Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America, Sindhi Association of North America and American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

New patients are welcome. Most insurance plans accepted. To schedule an appointment please call 321-268-6868. For more information about Dr. Lohana, Parrish Medical Group or women's health at Parrish Healthcare, visit parrishhealthcare.com/lohana.



Hiring Events in Brevard County

Open to the public, FREE to attend & walk-ins welcome! To speed your entrance, create a profile on www.employflorida.com. Bring your resume & meet the hiring managers. Interviews are available on-site!

Brevard County Public Works

Filling multiple positions for: Heavy Equipment Operators, Mechanics & CDL Trainer, Deputy County Surveyor, Survey Office Technician, Automotive Equipment Operator, Road & Bridge Program Manager, Construction Manager & Maintenance Superintendent

Thursday, December 12th, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Rockledge Career Center, 295 Barnes Blvd., Rockledge.

Career Workshops in Brevard, Flagler and Volusia Counties

Free to Attend and Walk-Ins Welcome!

NextGen Information Session

For young adults ages 17-24 who have a high school diploma or equivalent and not enrolled in school. Must be actively seeking employment. Session includes overview of no-cost assistance available, eligibility review, program application and next step instructions to enroll.

Tuesday, December 10th, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Palm Coast Career Center, 20 Airport Rd. E, Palm Coast
Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/nextgen-information-session-palm-coast-tickets-1082327283039?aff=oddtcreator

Exploring a Career Change

Are you exploring new careers and thinking about transitioning? This workshop will discuss researching job options, your transferable skills, as well as resume, and interviewing tips.

Thursday, December 12th, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Daytona Beach Career Center, 359 Bill France Boulevard
Daytona Beach

Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-a-career-change-daytona-beach-tickets-1001363764977?aff=oddtcreator

Essential Soft Skills

Find out what soft skills are and why employers are looking for them. Gain access to the Florida Ready to Work website where you can earn two credentials. Access the Essential Soft Skills course ware and assessments to ensure you have the skills employers want!

Thursday, December 12th, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Orange City Career Center, 846 Saxon Blvd, Orange City
Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/essential-soft-skills-orange-city-registration-1057501177489?aff=oddtcreator

Paint Party

Join the Friends of the Port St. John Public Library on Saturday, December 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a Paint Party. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers.

Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up. Deadline to register at the Reference Desk by Wednesday, December 11. The Port St. John Library is located at 6500 Carole Ave., PSJ.



Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., PSJ

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

Adult Programs:

The Library will be closed on December 24-25.

Adult Programs:

Paint Party with the Friends of the Port St. John Library. Saturday, December 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Join the Friends of the Port St. John Public Library for a paint party every first Saturday of the month. During this class you will create custom wooden door hangers. Adults and teens ages 16+. \$40/per person. Payment is due at sign up. Deadline to register at the Reference Desk by Wednesday, December 11.

Community Support Advocate: Mondays, December 9 and 23 from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.: The community support advocate provides assistance with housing, SNAP, social security, healthcare and insurance, and senior resources.

Memory Kits - Brevard County Libraries is now offering Memory Kits available for check out at select locations. Memory Kits are specially designed activity kits that include resources and hands-on activities for persons living with dementia, Alzheimer's and other forms of cognitive impairment. Each kit includes curated materials such as interactive books, puzzles, arts and crafts, and guided discussion prompts for caregivers. Kits currently focus on three different themes: 1960s Nostalgia, Animals, and the Great Outdoors.

Family Programs

Spice Club: Friday, December 20 at 3:30 p.m.: Come to the meeting to pick up a spice kit and share food, recipes, and cooking adventures.

Meet Santa at the Port St. John Public Library on Saturday, December 7th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Photos with Santa Clause, crafts, gifts, and raffle for prizes. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Port St. John

Library.

This month come visit the library and check out our community puzzle.

Youth Services:

Sensory Sundays: Every Sunday from 2:00-3:00 p.m., children can join the library staff for quiet time with sensory bins and activities. Sensory bin activities are exciting and engaging ways for kids to explore different textures, colors and materials. Designed for children ages 6-12, these activities help develop fine motor skills, encourage imaginative play and offer a hands-on learning experience. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

STEAM Activity Time: STEAM is every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Port St. John public library in the meeting room. Come build and make things with us! We will have activities centered around science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This event is for ages 6-11 and requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

No STEAM on the 24th or 31st.

Read Your Way to K: Babies: Baby story time at the Port St. John Public Library is from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for some songs, short stories and surprise activities. This event is for babies ages 3 and under and requires parent or adult supervision at all times. No story times on December 27th.

Read Your Way to K: Toddlers: Toddler Story Time at the Port St. John public library is from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Friday morning in the meeting room. Join us for songs, stories, and a craft. This story time is for toddlers ages 3 to 5 and is intended to prepare toddlers for preschool with active listening, group participation, developing fine motor skills, and socializing with others. This event requires parent or adult supervision at all times.

STEAM kits are available in Youth Services!

Notice of Construction at

Intracoastal Waterway Park

Beginning Monday, January 6, 2025, Intracoastal Waterway Park will be temporarily closed to public traffic. The park closure is due to a natural gas main relocation project which is expected to last until Friday, January 31, 2025. Sign boards will be placed at the park entrance to alert the public on Monday, December 9, and remain throughout the remainder of the project. Concurrent to the project will be boardwalk repairs due to damage from Hurricane Milton.

Intracoastal Waterway Park is located on State Road 520 at the east side of the Hubert Humphrey Bridge, Merritt Island. For the latest information on the closure, please visit the Intracoastal Waterway Park web page at:

<https://brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/ParksByCity/ParksInMerrittIsland/Intracoastal>.