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00:00:00,900 --> 00:00:05,090

“Here’s some of the stories trending This Week at NASA!”

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00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:06,090

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00:00:06,090 --> 00:00:07,330

NASA held a news conference April 4 at the

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00:00:07,330 --> 00:00:12,620

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, with participation from NASA headquarters, to preview the final

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00:00:12,620 --> 00:00:16,510

phase of the Cassini spacecraft’s mission to Saturn.

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00:00:16,510 --> 00:00:22,670

On April 26, Cassini will begin its “Grand Finale” – a series of deep dives between

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00:00:22,670 --> 00:00:24,730

the planet and its rings.

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00:00:24,730 --> 00:00:30,179

No other mission has ever explored this unique region that is so close to the planet.

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00:00:30,179 --> 00:00:35,870

Cassini will make 22 orbits that swoop between the rings and the planet before ending its

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00:00:35,870 --> 00:00:41,020

20-year mission on Sept. 15, with a final plunge into Saturn.

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00:00:41,020 --> 00:00:46,140

The mission team hopes to gain powerful insights into the planet's internal structure and the

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00:00:46,140 --> 00:00:51,730
origins of the rings, obtain the first-ever sampling of Saturn's atmosphere and particles

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00:00:51,730 --> 00:00:57,350
coming from the main rings, and capture the closest-ever views of Saturn's clouds and

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00:00:57,350 --> 00:01:00,110
inner rings.

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00:01:00,110 --> 00:01:01,110
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00:01:01,110 --> 00:01:02,270
Prelaunch training continues for Expedition

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00:01:02,270 --> 00:01:06,230
51/52 – the next crew headed to the International Space Station.

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00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:12,440
NASA's Jack Fischer, and Fyodor Yurchikhin of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, participated

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00:01:12,440 --> 00:01:18,320
in traditional ceremonies in Star City, Russia April 3, with members of the back-up crew.

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00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:23,300
Two days later, the group headed to the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan for final preparations

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00:01:23,300 --> 00:01:27,280
for the launch of Fischer and Yurchikhin on April 20.

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00:01:27,280 --> 00:01:31,930

The pair is scheduled to spend four-and-a-half months on the space station.

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00:01:31,930 --> 00:01:38,940

NASA, Orbital ATK and United Launch Alliance (ULA) are now targeting April 18 for the launch

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00:01:38,940 --> 00:01:44,370

of Orbital ATK's seventh contracted commercial resupply services mission to the International

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00:01:44,370 --> 00:01:46,100

Space Station.

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00:01:46,100 --> 00:01:51,860

ULA has developed a plan to resolve an earlier booster hydraulic issue, and is moving forward

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00:01:51,860 --> 00:01:54,070

with launch processing.

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00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:59,090

Orbital ATK's Cygnus spacecraft will lift off on an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral

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00:01:59,090 --> 00:02:01,240

Air Force Station in Florida.

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00:02:01,240 --> 00:02:06,369

Cygnus will carry several tons of supplies and experiments to the space station.

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00:02:06,369 --> 00:02:07,369

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00:02:07,369 --> 00:02:12,030

NASA's acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot was in Colorado Springs, Colorado the week

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00:02:12,030 --> 00:02:13,569
of April 3.

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00:02:13,569 --> 00:02:19,040
During the trip, Lightfoot visited the facilities of several NASA industry partners.

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00:02:19,040 --> 00:02:24,549
On April 5, he visited Lockheed Martin, one of the American companies supporting development

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00:02:24,549 --> 00:02:27,099
of NASA's Orion spacecraft.

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00:02:27,099 --> 00:02:32,810
The next day, Lightfoot visited Ball Aerospace, which is working on several NASA missions,

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00:02:32,810 --> 00:02:38,349
including the James Webb Space Telescope, and he visited Sierra Nevada Corporation.

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00:02:38,349 --> 00:02:44,069
Sierra Nevada is developing its Dream Chaser spacecraft to deliver cargo to the International

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00:02:44,069 --> 00:02:49,759
Space Station under NASA's Commercial Resupply Services 2 (CRS2).

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00:02:49,759 --> 00:02:50,759
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00:02:50,759 --> 00:02:52,260
On April 3, NASA announced the winners of

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00:02:52,260 --> 00:02:54,959
its Human Exploration Rover Challenge.

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00:02:54,959 --> 00:03:00,469
Ramon Quinones Medina High School of Yabucoa,
Puerto Rico, won first place in the high school

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00:03:00,469 --> 00:03:04,010
division, with a time of 4 minutes, 12 seconds.

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00:03:04,010 --> 00:03:09,069
The University of Puerto Rico at Humacao Team
1 won the college/university division with

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00:03:09,069 --> 00:03:11,930
a time of 4 minutes, 21 seconds.

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00:03:11,930 --> 00:03:16,930
The annual event managed by Marshall Space
Flight Center, challenges students to design,

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00:03:16,930 --> 00:03:23,359
build, test and race lightweight, and human-powered
vehicles both as a research project, while

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00:03:23,359 --> 00:03:29,579
highlighting NASA's commitment to inspiring
new generations of scientists, engineers and

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00:03:29,579 --> 00:03:31,829
explorers.

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00:03:31,829 --> 00:03:32,829
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00:03:32,829 --> 00:03:40,400
On April 6, former NASA astronaut and U.S.
Senator John Glenn was interred at Arlington

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00:03:40,400 --> 00:03:43,540

National Cemetery in Virginia.

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00:03:43,540 --> 00:03:52,489

Glenn, who passed away Dec. 8, 2016 at the age of 95, served four terms as a U.S. senator

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00:03:52,489 --> 00:03:59,089

from Ohio, and was one of NASA's original seven Mercury astronauts.

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00:03:59,089 --> 00:04:08,239

His flight on Friendship 7 on Feb. 20, 1962, made him the first American to orbit Earth.

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00:04:08,239 --> 00:04:14,939

The riveting flight united our nation, showed the world that America was a serious contender

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00:04:14,939 --> 00:04:22,870

in the space race with the Soviet Union, and secured for him a unique place in the annals

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00:04:22,870 --> 00:04:26,219

of history.

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00:04:26,219 --> 00:04:28,650

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And that's what's up this week @NASA ...