

From our files: November 2007



-Messenger file photo

DON HAYDEN, a national vice commander of the American Legion, visited Govrie as part of an annual membership tour. The Le Center, Minnesota, man represents the American Legion in a 10-state area that stretches from Minnesota to Texas.

NASA capsule on way to moon after launch by giant new rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A space capsule hurtled toward the moon Wednesday for the first time in 50 years, following a thunderous launch of NASA's mightiest rocket in a dress rehearsal for astronaut flights.

No one was on board this debut flight, just three test dummies. The capsule is headed for a wide orbit around the moon and then a return to Earth with a Pacific splashdown in about three weeks.

After years of delays and billions in cost overruns, the Space Launch System rocket roared skyward, rising from Kennedy Space Center on 8.8 million pounds (4 million kilograms) of thrust and hitting 100 mph within seconds. The Orion capsule was perched on top and, less than two hours into the flight, busted out of Earth's orbit toward the moon.

"It was pretty overwhelming," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "We're going out to explore the heavens, and this is the next step."

The moonshot follows nearly three months of vexing fuel leaks that kept the rocket bouncing between its hangar and the pad. Forced back indoors by Hurricane Ian at the end of September, the rocket stood its ground outside as Nicole swept through last week with gusts of more than 80 mph. Although the wind caused some damage, managers gave the green light for the launch.

An estimated 15,000 people jammed the launch site, with thousands more lining the beaches and roads outside the gates, to witness NASA's long-awaited sequel to Project Apollo, when 12 astronauts walked on the moon from 1969 and 1972. Crowds also gathered outside NASA centers in Houston and Huntsville, Alabama, to watch the spectacle on giant screens.

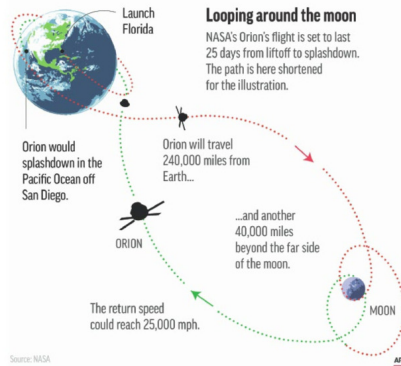
The rocket rode a huge trail of flames toward space, with a half-moon glowing brightly and buildings shaking.

The liftoff marked the start of NASA's Artemis lunar exploration program, named after Apollo's mythological twin sister. The space agency is aiming to send four astronauts around the moon on the next flight, in 2024, and land humans there as early as 2025.



-AP photo

NASA'S NEW MOON ROCKET lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Wednesday morning, as seen from Harbor town Marina on Merritt Island, Florida. The moon is visible in the sky.



Source: NASA

"For the Artemis generation, this is for you," launch director Charlie Apollo. She later told her team: "You Blackwell-Thompson called out, referring to all those born after Apollo. You have earned your place in history."

Messenger poll

This week's question: Were you surprised by the results of the 2022 general election?

Vote at: www.messengernews.net

The Messenger Poll is updated weekly. Answers and new questions will be published on Saturdays.

This date in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2022. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:
On Nov. 17, 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

On this date:
In 1800, Congress held its first session in the partially completed U.S. Capitol building.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin died at age 77.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1989, the Walt Disney animated feature "The Little Mermaid" opened in wide release.

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