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Space & Astronomy:

Skywatching Events

The nights of August 6th and 7th offer a "Cosmic Triple-Feature." Skywatchers can see a ramping-up Perseid meteor shower and a dazzling duo of planets. The Perseids are expected to peak on the nights of August 12-13, but activity is increasing now. The planets Venus and Jupiter will be a brilliant pair to see before sunrise, while Saturn will be visible from late night until dawn. There are also hopes of potential auroras at high latitudes.

Space Missions and Discoveries

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has recently imaged black holes stealthily feeding on stars within dusty galaxies. Using its powerful infrared sight, JWST was able to peer through dense cosmic dust to observe these tidal disruption events (TDEs) for the first time. The data provides new insight into black holes that were previously considered to be dormant.

On August 7th, SpaceX is targeting a Falcon 9 launch for the KF-02 mission, which will deploy a batch of 24 satellites for Amazon's Project Kuiper internet service. The launch will take place from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. This is the second time Project Kuiper has used SpaceX for a launch, despite the two being direct competitors.

In other news, NASA has officially terminated its Lunar Trailblazer mission after months of unsuccessful attempts to recover the small orbiter. The mission, designed to map water reserves on the Moon, lost communication shortly after launch due to power issues.

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MCQS

1. Which celestial event is expected to peak on the nights of August 12-13, 2025?

- a) A conjunction of Venus and Jupiter
- b) The appearance of auroras
- c) The Perseid meteor shower
- d) The visibility of Saturn

Answer: c) The Perseid meteor shower
The news report states, "The Perseids are expected to peak on the nights of August 12-13, but activity is increasing now."

2. What new discovery did the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) make regarding black holes?

- a) It found black holes that had been previously considered dormant.
- b) It imaged black holes feeding on planets.
- c) It discovered a new type of black hole.
- d) It found the first-ever black hole.

Answer: a) It found black holes that had been previously considered dormant.
The text explains that the JWST imaged black holes feeding on stars, providing "new insight into black holes that were previously considered to be dormant."

3. What was the purpose of NASA's terminated Lunar Trailblazer mission?

- a) To deploy internet satellites
- b) To observe the Perseid meteor shower
- c) To map water reserves on the Moon
- d) To study black holes

Answer: c) To map water reserves on the Moon
The news states that the Lunar Trailblazer mission was "designed to map water reserves on the Moon."

4. What is the name of the SpaceX mission launching on August 7, 2025, for Amazon's Project Kuiper?

- a) Project Kuiper KF-01
- b) Falcon 9
- c) KF-02
- d) Lunar Trailblazer

Answer: c) KF-02

The report specifies, "SpaceX is targeting a Falcon 9 launch for the KF-02 mission, which will deploy a batch of 24 satellites for Amazon's Project Kuiper internet service."

5. What planets are visible as a "brilliant pair" before sunrise on August 7, 2025?

- a) Venus and Saturn
- b) Jupiter and Saturn
- c) Venus and Jupiter
- d) Mars and Venus

Answer: c) Venus and Jupiter

The text mentions that "The planets Venus and Jupiter will be a brilliant pair to see before sunrise."

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