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Space & Astronomy:

Astronomical Events: Skywatchers were treated to a rare celestial alignment. On the morning of September 2, the planet Mercury was visible close to the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo, appearing low on the eastern horizon before sunrise.

SpaceX Launch: SpaceX successfully launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on a Starlink mission. This adds to the company's busy manifest, which also recently saw the successful tenth test flight of its Starship megarocket on August 26, which included the first-ever payload demonstration.

Artemis Program Update: NASA is continuing preparations for the Artemis II mission, the first crewed flight of the program. A final piece of the SLS (Space Launch System) rocket hardware for the mission has arrived at Kennedy Space Center for integration. The Artemis II mission is currently scheduled for launch no later than April 2026.

Canada's Lunar Rover: Canada has unveiled its first-ever lunar rover. The rover, developed in collaboration between the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and domestic tech firms, is designed to explore the Moon's surface, conduct scientific experiments, and search for water ice. The mission is part of Canada's broader collaboration with the NASA Artemis program.

Upcoming Lunar Eclipse: The news also highlighted an upcoming astronomical event: a total lunar eclipse on September 7, 2025. This "blood moon" is expected to be visible to over 7 billion people and will have a totality lasting

approximately 82 minutes, making it one of the longest in recent memory.

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MCQS

1. What astronomical event was visible on the morning of September 2, 2025, according to the provided text?

- a) A total solar eclipse.
- b) The planet Mars appearing close to the star Sirius.
- c) The planet Mercury being visible near the star Regulus.
- d) A meteor shower.

Answer: c)

The news report specifically mentions that on the morning of September 2, the planet Mercury was visible close to the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo.

2. What was a key achievement of the recent tenth test flight of SpaceX's Starship megarocket on August 26?

- a) It successfully landed on the moon.
- b) It carried a crew of astronauts into orbit.
- c) It achieved the first-ever payload demonstration.
- d) It completed a full orbital flight.

Answer: c)

The text states that the tenth test flight of the Starship megarocket included the "first-ever payload demonstration," a significant milestone for the vehicle's development.

3. What is the scheduled launch date for the NASA Artemis II mission, as mentioned in the news?

- a) September 2025.
- b) No later than April 2026.
- c) The date has not been set yet.
- d) November 2025.

Answer: b)

The news confirms that the Artemis II mission, the first crewed flight of the program, is currently scheduled to launch no later than April 2026.

4. What is one of the primary goals of the lunar rover unveiled by Canada?

- a) To establish a permanent lunar base.
- b) To collect lunar rocks for a museum.
- c) To search for water ice on the Moon's surface.
- d) To deploy communication satellites in lunar orbit.

Answer: c)

The text states that Canada's new lunar rover is designed to explore the Moon's surface and "search for water ice," which is a crucial resource for future lunar missions.

5. What is notable about the total lunar eclipse expected on September 7, 2025?

- a) It will only be visible in the Western Hemisphere.
- b) Its totality will last for over 80 minutes, making it one of the longest in recent memory.
- c) It is the last lunar eclipse of the decade.
- d) It will coincide with a solar flare.

Answer: b)

The news highlights that the upcoming lunar eclipse will have a totality lasting "approximately 82 minutes," making it one of the longest in recent memory.





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