

GENTLE.NEWS

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"I read a book one day and my whole life was changed."

— Orhan Pamuk,

Four Astronauts Train for Moon Mission

Four brave astronauts are getting ready for an amazing trip around the Moon. They are Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch from NASA. Jeremy Hansen is from Canada's space program.

The astronauts have been training since June 2023. Their mission is called Artemis II. They will fly in a spacecraft called Orion for about 10 days. The crew has given their ship a special name: Integrity.

This trip is different from visits to the space station. The astronauts will be much farther from Earth. If something goes wrong, they cannot come home quickly. So they must learn to solve problems on their own.

The training started with basic lessons. The astronauts learned how their rocket and spacecraft work. Now they practice harder tasks like takeoff and landing. They also learn about medical care and daily life in space.

This mission will test all the equipment for future Moon trips. The astronauts are excited to be the first people to fly around the Moon in over 50 years.

New Program Helps Make Medicine in America

The Food and Drug Administration started a new program this week. The program is called PreCheck. It will help companies build medicine factories in the United States.

For many years, most medicine has been made in other countries. Now the FDA wants to bring medicine making back to America. This will help make sure people can get the medicine they need.

The PreCheck program makes it easier for companies to build new factories here. The FDA will work with companies from the very beginning. This helps companies plan better and build faster.

Companies can now ask to join the program. The FDA will pick the first group of factories to work with this year. They will focus on factories that make important medicines that people need most.

This program will help make America's medicine supply stronger. It means more jobs for Americans too. The FDA worked with many companies to create this program.

Kids Learn Pioneer History at Oregon Trail Center

A special place in Oregon is starting new school trips for children. The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center will teach kids about pioneer families who traveled west long ago.

The center is launching three fun programs in 2026. This timing is special because America turns 250 years old that year. Kids will learn through hands-on activities and storytelling.

Young students in grades 2-3 will explore daily life on the trail. They will discover what pioneer children did each day. Older kids in grades 4-5 will learn about the hard choices families made on their journey.

The oldest group of students will think about land and who lived there first. All programs last two hours and include exciting exhibits. Teachers can bring their classes back each year to learn more.

The trail center staff provides everything needed for the visits. Schools can also take hikes and visit a gift shop. Best of all, these educational trips are completely free for all school groups.

NASA Works on Super Fast Flying Machines

NASA is working on amazing new flying machines. These aircraft could fly five times faster than the speed of sound.

Most rockets carry their own oxygen to burn fuel. But these new planes work differently. They breathe in air as they fly, just like we do.

This special design lets the planes fly much longer at super high speeds. NASA calls this "airbreathing" technology.

NASA gave money to two companies to help build these fast planes. One company got \$500,000 and another got \$1.2 million.

The goal is to make flying faster and easier for everyone. These super fast planes could change how we travel in the future.

Mars Rover Uses Smart Computer Brain to Drive

NASA's Perseverance rover on Mars got a smart upgrade. The rover now uses artificial intelligence to plan its own driving routes.

On December 10th, the rover drove 807 feet across the Martian landscape. But this time was special. A computer brain looked at pictures from space and planned the best path forward.

The AI studied photos taken from high above Mars. It spotted rocks, cliffs, and sandy areas. Then it drew a safe route for the rover to follow.

Scientists can now watch how their rover thinks. They see the different paths it considers. The rover picks the safest route, just like a careful driver.

This smart technology helps the rover explore Mars better. It can drive farther and avoid getting stuck. The rover is becoming more independent as it searches for signs of ancient life on the red planet.

Activity Time - Word Search

Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

Words to Find:

MEDICINE FACTORY SPACE TRAIN
MOON TRIP DRUG

Q	S	X	G	T	H	M	J	X	F	Q
T	C	U	R	Z	O	W	S	W	G	M
F	A	C	T	O	R	Y	P	K	K	O
C	Q	U	X	L	H	J	A	F	E	O
D	T	D	T	H	W	J	C	G	T	N
U	R	R	V	C	J	Y	E	Q	F	O
J	I	U	T	E	R	E	L	U	S	Q
N	P	G	C	P	V	O	N	Z	F	P
Q	T	R	A	I	N	P	P	L	U	B
O	N	L	N	Z	Q	X	U	Y	Y	D
L	M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E	W	F