

GENTLE.NEWS

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"If I can stop one heart from breaking, I shall not live in vain."

— Emily Dickinson

Four Astronauts Ready for Space Station Adventure

Four brave astronauts are getting ready for an exciting trip to space. They will travel to the International Space Station, a special laboratory that orbits around Earth.

The crew includes astronauts from three different countries. Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway are from NASA in America. Sophie Adenot comes from Europe. Andrey Fedyaev is from Russia. They will all work together as a team.

The astronauts will blast off from Florida in a spacecraft called Freedom. This trusty ship has flown to space several times before. It will carry the crew safely to their new home among the stars.

Once they arrive, the astronauts will stay for eight months. They will do many interesting experiments. Some tests will help doctors treat illness better. Others will help us grow food in space for future trips to the Moon and Mars.

The space station already has other astronauts living there. The new crew will join them and work side by side. Together, they will make discoveries that help people on Earth and prepare for amazing space adventures.

Animals & Wildlife

Utah Community Helps Wildlife and Water

In Utah, people are working together to help animals and save water. Utah is one of the driest states in America. Water is very important there.

Special wet areas called meadows grow near mountains. These meadows are like nature's sponges. They soak up water and help it last longer. Many animals live in these meadows. Deer, elk, and birds all need these wet places.

A group called Partners for Fish and Wildlife is helping. They work with local people who own land. Together, they are fixing old meadows and making new ones. This helps both animals and people.

The project is near a town called Koosharem. Many groups are working together there. They include wildlife experts and local landowners. Everyone wants to help.

These meadows do many good things. They give animals clean water to drink. They provide food and shelter too. The meadows also help people by keeping water in the ground longer. This makes the land better for farming and animals.

Long Island Students Win Science Competition

Two teams of smart students from Long Island won big science contests. Great Neck South Middle School and Ward Melville High School both took first place.

The students competed in Science Bowl games at a special lab. They had to answer hard questions about math, science, and computers. The questions covered many topics like animals, space, and chemistry.

The contest was very exciting to watch. Students had to buzz in fast with their answers. They raced against time and other teams. It takes quick thinking and good teamwork to win.

Now these winning teams get to go to an even bigger contest. They will compete against students from all across America. The national competition happens this spring near Washington, D.C.

The winners got medals, trophies, and banners for their schools. Even the second and third place teams got special prizes. Everyone worked very hard and should feel proud of what they learned.

Scientists and Soldiers Team Up to Find Tiny Lizards

Scientists are working with military friends to find a special little lizard in Texas. The tiny creature is called the Plateau spot-tailed earless lizard.

These lizards are very good at hiding. They live underground in burrows. When they come up, their brown spotted skin looks just like dirt and rocks. If they see people coming, they run fast into bushes.

The lizards are only about 5 inches long. They weigh as much as a nickel coin. During hot summer days, scientists walk around looking for them at an Air Force base in Texas.

Finding these lizards is hard work. The scientists tried walking over 40 miles looking everywhere. They could not find even one lizard by themselves.

Then the soldiers at the base offered to help. Many people on the base had seen the little lizards before. Working together, the scientists and military people had a much better chance of finding these shy desert animals.

Valentine's Day Creates Busy Time for Workers

Valentine's Day brings joy to millions of people each year. But did you know it also creates a very busy time for workers around the world?

Every February, people buy lots of flowers, chocolates, and gifts for their loved ones. This means many workers have to prepare months ahead of time to make sure everything is ready.

Chocolate makers start planning six months early. They work hard to fill store shelves by January. Flower growers harvest beautiful roses from far away places. Then they quickly send them on planes to reach flower shops on time.

Americans spend about 28 billion dollars on Valentine's Day gifts. The average family spends around 188 dollars on presents, candy, and special dinners. More than half of all shoppers buy candy, and many others choose flowers.

It's amazing to think about all the people working together to make Valentine's Day special. From chocolate makers to flower growers to delivery drivers, many hands help spread love and happiness during this sweet holiday.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SCHOOL

LIZARD

SPACE

WATER

EARTH

TEAMS

GAMES

