

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them."*

— Lemony Snicket

### **Young Star Creates Beautiful Bubble in Space**

NASA scientists have made an exciting discovery in space. They found a young star that is creating a giant bubble around itself.

The star is called HD 61005. It is much younger than our Sun. Scientists used a special telescope to take pictures of it. The telescope can see X-rays that our eyes cannot see.

The young star creates strong winds from its surface. These winds blow outward in all directions. As they travel through space, they form a huge bubble. Scientists call this bubble an "astrosphere."

Our own Sun has a similar bubble around it too. This bubble is called the heliosphere. It protects Earth from harmful space radiation. The bubble extends far past all the planets in our solar system.

This is the first time scientists have seen this kind of bubble around a star like our Sun. The discovery helps us understand how stars work. It also shows us more about how our own solar system formed long ago.

### Scientists Count Whales in Arctic Waters

Scientists from America and Canada worked together on an exciting project. They counted whales swimming in the cold Arctic waters.

The team spent almost a month flying over the ocean in small planes. They looked for two types of whales. Bowhead whales are very large and can live over 100 years. Beluga whales are smaller and white in color.

These whales are very important to people who live in the Arctic. Native communities have hunted these whales for food for thousands of years. It is part of their culture and way of life.

The scientists need to know how many whales live in these waters. This helps make sure there will always be enough whales for the future. When they know the numbers, they can protect the whales better.

Three teams of researchers flew in special planes for four weeks. They had pilots, scientists, and mechanics working together. Each evening, they checked the weather to plan the next day's flights. This important work helps both whales and people.

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Fish Hatchery Helps Families Enjoy Fishing Fun**

A special fish hatchery in North Dakota helps make fishing better for everyone. The Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery has been working hard since 1961.

The hatchery raises many kinds of fish. They grow northern pike, walleye, perch, trout, and salmon. Workers take great care of all the baby fish.

Last year, the hatchery released over 8 million young walleye into lakes and rivers. Most of these fish went to waters in North Dakota. Some fish also went to help other states like Wyoming, Colorado, and Idaho.

Fishing is very popular in North Dakota. One out of every four adults buys a fishing license each year. Families love spending time together by the water. They enjoy catching fish and making happy memories.

The hatchery helps bring joy to thousands of fishing families. It also helps local communities by bringing visitors who love to fish. This creates jobs and helps many people in the area.

### Beautiful Cloud Swirls Dance Around Korean Island

A NASA satellite took a stunning picture of swirling clouds near Jeju Island in South Korea. The clouds formed beautiful spiral patterns as they danced around the island.

Jeju Island sits about 60 miles south of Korea in the ocean. At its center stands a tall mountain called Hallasan. This mountain is actually an old volcano that has not erupted for nearly 1,000 years.

When wind blows past the tall island at just the right speed, it creates these amazing cloud swirls. Scientists call them special spiral patterns. The wind must be neither too weak nor too strong for the spirals to form perfectly.

The satellite image shows the clouds making graceful curves and loops behind the island. Sometimes these cloud patterns look wispy and light. Other times they form neat, parallel rows across the sky.

The ocean water around Jeju Island also showed colorful, swirling patterns on the same day. Both the air above and the water below were moving in beautiful, natural designs that NASA was able to capture from space.

## Technology & Innovation

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### **New Water Station Helps Keep Baltimore Harbor Safe**

Scientists have built a wonderful new water station in Baltimore Harbor. This special station watches the water levels every day.

The station sits on a new pier near Fort McHenry. It has smart sensors that check the water height all the time. It also has a tall tower that watches the weather.

This new station replaces an old one that was getting tired. The new one is much stronger. It can handle big waves, floods, and ice storms without breaking.

Teams of smart engineers built this station in December. They worked hard even though it was very cold outside. The station will work perfectly for many years to come.

This station is part of a big family of over 200 stations across America. They all work together to keep boats safe. They also help protect people who live near the water. The information helps everyone prepare for floods and storms.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

STATION

SWIRLS

HARBOR

WHALES

OCEAN

SPACE

WATER

