

GENTLE.NEWS

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*"Dwell on the beauty of life. Watch the stars, and see yourself running
with them."*

— Marcus Aurelius

Technology & Innovation

NASA Engineer Retires After 40 Years

Brad Flick worked at NASA for almost 40 years. He helped build amazing flying machines. Now he is retiring from his job.

Brad started at NASA in 1986. He was a young engineer then. He worked on special airplanes that could do new things. Over the years, he learned more and became a leader.

Brad helped create the X-29 airplane. This plane had wings that swept forward instead of back. It was very different. He also worked on the new X-59 plane. This plane can fly faster than sound but makes less noise.

Brad went to college twice. First he studied electrical engineering. Later he studied how to be a good manager. This helped him lead teams of smart people.

In 2022, Brad became the director of his NASA center. He was in charge of many projects. NASA leaders say Brad was a great example for younger engineers. His work helped make flying safer and better for everyone.

Animals & Wildlife

Special Wildlife Refuge Welcomes Everyone Near Portland

A beautiful nature refuge near Portland, Oregon brings joy to many people. The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is a peaceful place where families can visit animals and enjoy nature.

The refuge sits just outside the busy city of Portland. People love to visit when they want to get away from city noise. They can walk quiet trails and watch birds and other wildlife. It helps people feel calm and happy.

Rebecca Gómez Chuck manages the refuge. She says it is a special place where everyone feels welcome. People from all backgrounds can come to learn about nature. The refuge brings the community together.

Local people helped create this refuge years ago. They asked the government to protect this land for wildlife. Now many animals have a safe home there. Over 100 refuges like this one help people in cities connect with nature.

The refuge is part of America's 250th birthday celebration. Special flags traveled there to honor places that protect wildlife. These refuges show how Americans care about saving nature for future families to enjoy.

Ocean Currents Keep West Coast Waters Healthy

Good news from the Pacific Ocean! Scientists have found that ocean waters along the West Coast stayed healthy this year.

Cold water from deep in the ocean rose to the surface. This brought lots of good nutrients with it. The nutrients help sea animals grow and thrive.

Many types of sea life did well this year. Young salmon grew strong in the rich waters. Small fish called anchovies were plentiful. Tiny shrimp-like creatures called krill filled the ocean. These small animals are food for bigger fish, whales, and seabirds.

The healthy ocean conditions helped many animals find plenty to eat. Squid populations grew. Seabirds had good fishing. Even though some parts of the ocean were warmer than usual, the cold currents kept the ecosystem balanced.

Scientists study the ocean every year to track how sea life is doing. They share this information to help protect ocean animals for the future. This year's report shows nature's amazing ability to stay in balance.

NASA Tests New Quiet Airplane Technology

NASA is working on exciting new airplane technology. They want to make planes that fly very quietly through the sky.

Scientists at NASA have built a special test plane called the X-59. This airplane can fly faster than sound but makes much less noise than regular jets. The plane had its first test flight in California.

The research team uses many different airplanes to test new ideas. They work with colleges and airplane companies to try out fresh concepts. Students get to help with these important projects too.

NASA has special buildings and equipment in California for testing airplanes. They have flight simulators and laboratories where scientists study how planes work. These tools help make flying safer and quieter.

The goal is to build better airplanes for everyone. Quieter planes mean less noise for people on the ground. This research helps airplane makers create improved aircraft for the future.

New Rules Help Make Important Medicines More Affordable

The Food and Drug Administration has good news about medicine costs. They are making new rules to help create cheaper versions of expensive drugs.

Some medicines called biologics work very well for serious diseases. But they can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. This makes them hard for many people to afford.

Scientists can now make similar medicines called biosimilars. These work just as well but cost much less. It's like having a generic version of an expensive drug.

The new rules will make it easier and cheaper to create these similar medicines. Companies can save up to 20 million dollars when making them. This means lower prices for patients.

These changes will help more people get the medicines they need. Patients will have more choices for affordable treatments that work well.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

MEDICINE

AIRPLANE

SCIENCE

SCIENCE

NATURE

REFUGE

OCEAN

