

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"I dream my painting and I paint my dream."*

— Vincent Willem van Gogh

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Scientists Work to Keep Wildlife Healthy**

A special team of scientists is working hard to keep wild animals healthy and safe. The team is called the Disease Decision Analysis and Research group. They study animal health problems and find ways to help.

These caring scientists work with many different groups. They help state governments, federal agencies, and tribal communities. Together, they make plans to protect wildlife from getting sick.

The team is helping elk and bison in Wyoming stay healthy. They also study bird flu to keep wild birds safe. In Vermont, they are working to protect deer and moose from a disease called chronic wasting disease.

The scientists also care about smaller animals. They study ways to protect salamanders from a fungal disease. Salamanders are important parts of nature that live in forests and near streams.

This research helps wildlife managers make good decisions. The scientists share their knowledge with people around the world. Their work helps keep our wildlife healthy for future generations to enjoy.

### Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano Creates Amazing Lava Show

Hawaii's famous Kilauea volcano put on a spectacular show in March. The volcano has been active since December 2024. It creates beautiful displays of flowing lava every few weeks.

On March 10th, the volcano erupted for about nine hours. Hot lava shot up into the sky like giant fountains. These fountains reached almost 1,800 feet high. That's taller than most skyscrapers!

The lava came from two openings in the volcano's crater. As it flowed and cooled, it formed new layers of black rock. This is how Hawaiian islands grow bigger over time.

A special satellite took pictures of the volcano that night. The images showed the lava still glowing bright orange and red. Even from space, you could see how hot it was.

Scientists say this eruption added millions of cubic yards of new rock to the island. Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes. It creates these amazing natural fireworks shows regularly. People come from around the world to safely watch this wonder of nature.

### Scientist Uses Tiny Helpers to Make Useful Things

A smart scientist named Rebecca Wilkes has found a amazing way to help our planet. She works with tiny living things called microbes that are too small to see.

These special microbes can eat plastic waste and turn it into useful products. It's like magic, but it's real science! Rebecca teaches the microbes to break down old plastic bottles and make new materials from them.

Rebecca works at a big research center in Tennessee. She studies how these helpful microbes work. Her favorite microbe can eat a type of plastic found in many bottles and containers.

This exciting work helps our environment by using waste plastic. It also helps farmers by turning plant materials into valuable products. Rebecca's research creates new jobs and helps the economy grow.

The tiny microbes are like little workers in a factory. They take things we don't need and turn them into things we can use. Rebecca's work shows how science can solve problems and help make a better world for everyone.

### **Scientists Make Amazing Discovery About Space Matter**

Scientists in Canada have reached an exciting milestone. They are studying dark matter, a mysterious substance in space.

Dark matter makes up most of the matter in our universe. But it is very hard to find because it barely touches regular matter.

The scientists built a special underground laboratory. They made it incredibly cold - much colder than outer space. This extreme cold helps their detectors work properly.

The detectors are now ready to search for dark matter. Twenty-four research groups from around the world are working together on this project.

This discovery could help us understand more about our universe. Scientists are hopeful they will find new secrets about space and the matter that surrounds us everywhere.

### **FDA Makes Medicine Reviews Faster for Patients**

The Food and Drug Administration has good news for patients. They started a new program to help important medicines reach people faster.

The program is called the National Priority Voucher Program. It began last June. The FDA uses it to speed up reviews of very important drugs. These are medicines that could help many people who are waiting for better treatments.

So far, the program is working well. The FDA has given vouchers to 18 different medicines. They have already approved four of them. Two cancer medicines were approved in less than two months. This is much faster than usual.

Dr. Marty Makary leads the FDA. He said the program is a game changer for patients. He knows how hard it is when doctors don't have good treatment options. The program helps bring new therapies to Americans who need them.

The FDA wants to hear what people think about the program. They will hold a public meeting in June. Anyone can share their ideas about how to make the program even better for patients.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

MICROBES

PATIENTS

SCIENCE

PROGRAM

NATURE

SPACE

COLD

