

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Stories may well be lies, but they are good lies that say true things, and which can sometimes pay the rent."

— Neil Gaiman

NASA Worker Helps Astronauts Talk to Earth

Erik Richards has an exciting job at NASA. He helps astronauts talk to people on Earth from space.

Richards loved space as a child. He watched the Space Shuttle missions on TV. This made him dream of working with spacecraft someday.

Now Richards works on the Artemis mission. This mission will send astronauts to the Moon. His job is very important. He makes sure the astronauts can talk to mission control on Earth.

Richards uses big antennas and satellites to do his work. The antennas are 59 feet wide. They are located in New Mexico. There are over 40 stations around the world that help spacecraft talk to Earth.

Richards says the best part of his job is working with people. He has learned so much during his career. Soon he will help astronauts on their 10-day trip to the Moon and back.

Scientists Study Ocean Seals and Sea Lions

Scientists are learning amazing things about seals and sea lions. These ocean animals help us understand how healthy our seas are.

In California, researchers have studied sea lions for 50 years. They can now predict when baby sea lions might need extra help. This long study helps protect these playful animals.

One special story involves Westley, a baby sea lion from Alaska. He needed help and got a second chance at life. Scientists flew him to California where he could get better care.

In the cold Arctic waters, scientists flew over 24,000 miles to count seals. They flew over frozen seas to see how many seals live there. This was the first time they counted seals across such a huge area.

Teams of scientists work together to study seals. They put small tags on seals to track where they go. Most seals on beaches are just resting and are perfectly healthy.

Diabetes Medicine May Help With Addiction Too

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about diabetes medicine. They found that certain drugs may help people with addiction problems too.

The medicines are called GLP-1 drugs. Doctors first used them to help people with diabetes. Later, they found these drugs also help people lose weight. Now researchers think they might help with addiction.

The scientists studied over 600,000 veterans with diabetes. They wanted to see if the medicine helped with other problems too. The results were very promising.

People taking these diabetes medicines had fewer problems with alcohol, smoking, and other harmful substances. The medicine seemed to work against many different types of addiction. This was surprising because most addiction treatments only work for one problem at a time.

The research gives hope to many families. It suggests that one medicine might help people overcome different kinds of addiction. More studies are needed, but this is good news for addiction treatment.

Animals & Wildlife

Amazing Ocean Hearts for Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day, let's explore amazing sea creatures and their hearts! Some ocean animals have no hearts at all. Others have many hearts.

Sea stars have no hearts. They move water through their bodies instead. This works perfectly for them! Sea stars also have many arms to give hugs. Most have five arms. Some special ones have 20 or even 40 arms!

Octopuses are incredible creatures with three hearts. Two hearts pump blood to help them breathe underwater. The third heart sends blood through their whole body. Each of their eight arms has its own brain too!

The hagfish wins the heart contest with four hearts! These humble fish clean the ocean floor. They recycle nutrients to keep the ocean healthy. Hagfish are amazing escape artists. They can make lots of slippery slime to stay safe.

Even without human hearts, these sea creatures show us love comes in many forms. From sea star hugs to octopus smarts, the ocean is full of wonderful surprises!

Technology & Innovation

Scientists Use New Technology to Count Arctic Seals

Scientists completed an amazing project in Alaska this spring. They used special cameras and computers to count seals from airplanes.

The team studied four types of seals that live on ice. These seals include bearded seals, ringed seals, spotted seals, and ribbon seals. All of these seals use floating ice as their home.

Spring is the perfect time to count these seals. The seals climb onto the ice to rest and grow new fur coats. This process is called molting. When seals molt, they stay on the ice longer. This makes them easier to spot from above.

The scientists used smart cameras with artificial intelligence. These special cameras can automatically find seals on the ice. The computers help count how many seals live in different areas.

This research helps protect the seals for the future. The information also helps local communities who depend on these animals. Scientists from government agencies and universities worked together on this important project.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SPRING

HEARTS

ARCTIC

SEALS

SPACE

EARTH

MOON

