

GENTLE.NEWS

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"There are no faster or firmer friendships than those formed between people who love the same books."

— Irving Stone

Space Station Gets Special Delivery from Earth

A special delivery is heading to space! On April 8th, a rocket will carry supplies to astronauts living on the International Space Station.

The spacecraft is packed with 11,000 pounds of amazing things. Scientists on Earth are sending new experiments to space. The astronauts will help test these exciting projects.

Some experiments will study how to make better medicines. Others will help scientists learn about our bodies. One special experiment might even help us understand mysterious dark matter in space.

The spacecraft will launch from Florida on a big rocket. Two days later, astronauts will use a robot arm to catch it. They will carefully attach it to their space home.

The delivery will stay connected to the space station for six months. Astronauts will unpack all the supplies and work on the new experiments. This mission helps scientists make discoveries that could help people on Earth.

Animals & Wildlife

Louisiana Wetlands Come Back to Life

Good news is coming from Louisiana's beautiful bayou country. A special project is bringing back important wetlands that help wildlife thrive.

The Upper Barataria Marsh Creation Project has created over 1,200 acres of new marsh habitat. Workers moved millions of tons of mud and sand to build these new wetlands. The project helps repair damage from past storms and other problems.

Just one year later, the results are wonderful. White shrimp, brown shrimp, and blue crabs have moved into their new home. Red drum fish are swimming in the waters too. Many different birds are also visiting the area.

The new marshes provide safe places for animals to find food and raise their babies. As plants grow stronger, even more wildlife will call this place home. Fish, birds, and other creatures will have plenty of space to live and grow.

This project shows how people can work together to help nature heal. The Louisiana wetlands are becoming healthy again, creating a bright future for the animals that live there.

Nature & Environment

Forest Partners Work Together to Care for Oregon Land

Two groups are working together to take better care of Oregon's forests. The U.S. Forest Service and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe signed a special agreement in February.

The Native American tribe brings many years of wisdom about caring for the land. They know traditional ways to keep forests healthy and strong. The Forest Service is excited to learn from this knowledge.

Together, they have already built 37 miles of special fire breaks. These help protect the land from dangerous wildfires. The work keeps tribal lands, private homes, and national forests safer.

The new partnership will cover 155,000 acres across two beautiful national forests. That's a very large area of trees and grasslands. Both groups want to make the forests stronger so they can survive fires and other challenges.

"Taking care of our forests is very important," said tribal leader Carla Keene. The forests mean a lot to her people and to all of Oregon. When forests are healthy, everyone benefits from cleaner air and water.

Amazing Sea Creatures and Their Many Hearts

Did you know that sea animals have very different hearts than we do? Some have no hearts at all. Others have many hearts!

Sea stars are amazing creatures with no hearts. They use seawater to move food through their bodies instead. This works very well for them. Sea stars also have many arms to help them move and eat. Most have five arms, but some have ten, twenty, or even forty arms!

Octopuses are smart sea animals with three hearts. Two hearts pump blood to help them breathe underwater. The third heart sends blood all around their body. Each of their eight arms has its own brain too. That means they have nine brains total!

The hagfish has even more hearts than an octopus. These long, snake-like fish have four hearts! They live on the ocean floor and help keep it clean. Hagfish eat dead fish and plants that sink down. This helps the ocean stay healthy.

All these sea creatures show us how different life can be under the water. Their special hearts help them live in their ocean homes.

History & Heritage

Native Tribes and Forest Service Share Care of Sacred Land

A wonderful partnership has begun in South Dakota. The U.S. Forest Service and Native American tribes are working together. They will share care of the Black Elk Wilderness area.

This special place sits in the Black Hills. It is sacred land for Native tribes. Black Elk Peak is named after a holy man. The area has great meaning for tribal families.

Eleven tribes joined this agreement. They include the Cheyenne River Sioux and Rosebud Sioux tribes. The tribes will help protect the wilderness. They will also share their knowledge about the land.

Boyd Gourneau leads the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. He says children are most important. He wants kids to visit these sacred lands. They can plant trees and enjoy nature there.

Wayne Boyd from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe feels honored. His people will care for this wilderness. They will teach others about their culture. This creates jobs and brings people together. The partnership helps everyone learn from each other.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SCIENCE

HEARTS

SHRIMP

MARSH

STARS

SPACE

PEAK

