

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"The world was hers for the reading."*

— Betty Smith

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Old Farmland Becomes Beautiful Home for Fish and Wildlife**

A wonderful success story is happening in Florida. Old farmland has been turned into a beautiful place for fish and wildlife.

The project is called Robinson Preserve. It covers 700 acres along the coast. Years ago, this land was used for farming. Now it is home to many fish and wild animals.

The county spent \$17 million to make this change. They built wetlands and planted mangrove trees. They also added walking trails and towers where people can watch birds.

About 240,000 people visit each year. They come to walk, bike, and watch wildlife. Some people like to fish or paddle kayaks. Many visitors return again and again.

The preserve helps the local community too. It provides jobs for workers. Visitors spend money at nearby shops and restaurants. This brings millions of dollars to the area each year.

### **Mars Robots Take Amazing Pictures of Red Planet**

Two special robots on Mars have taken wonderful pictures. The robots are called Curiosity and Perseverance. They are exploring different parts of the red planet.

The robots are very far apart from each other. They are about as far apart as Los Angeles and Washington D.C. Both robots are looking at very old land on Mars.

Curiosity took over 1,000 pictures to make one big view. The pictures show interesting rock formations. These rocks look like giant spider webs from above. Long ago, water flowed through cracks in the rocks and left minerals behind.

Perseverance also took many pictures. It took almost 1,000 pictures near a crater called Jezero. The robot put all the pictures together to show a complete view around it.

Both places on Mars are cold deserts now. But scientists think water used to flow there long ago. The robots are helping us learn about Mars' past. They might even find clues about whether tiny life forms ever lived on Mars.

## **Technology & Innovation**

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### **New Tool Helps Communities Plan Water Use**

Scientists have created a helpful new tool for water planning. The tool helps communities know if they have enough water now and in the future.

About 27 million Americans live in areas where people use almost all the water that nature provides. Before this tool, it was hard to find good information about water supplies.

The new tool covers 80,000 watersheds across America. Water managers, farmers, and researchers can now get detailed information easily. They can see how much water is available and how much people need.

Some parts of America don't have enough water. Other areas have plenty of water. This tool helps people understand their local situation. It shows whether problems come from low supply or high demand.

Communities with lots of water can use this tool too. They can find ways to protect their water for the future. The tool helps everyone make smart choices about this important resource.

### Scientists Measure Water from Famous Old Faithful Geyser

Scientists have found new ways to measure how much water shoots up from Old Faithful Geyser. This famous geyser is in Yellowstone National Park.

The researchers watched 45 eruptions carefully. They found that each eruption uses about 7,370 gallons of water on average. That's enough water to fill a large swimming pool! Some eruptions used less water and some used more.

Old Faithful got its name in 1870 from explorers. They noticed it erupted very regularly. This made it perfect for scientists to study. The geyser helped people understand that Yellowstone should become America's first national park in 1872.

Scientists love studying Old Faithful because it erupts so often. They measure temperatures and watch videos of the water underground. They also study tiny living things that grow in the hot pools around the geyser.

Learning about geysers helps us understand how hot water moves underground. Old Faithful continues to amaze visitors and teach scientists new things about our amazing planet.

### **Moon Dust Could Help Build Moon Homes**

Scientists have found a smart new way to use moon dust. They want to turn it into building materials for future moon bases.

Moon dust has always been a big problem for space travel. It sticks to everything and can damage equipment. But now researchers think this same dust could actually help us build things on the moon.

A team at Rice University did some clever experiments. They mixed fake moon dust with strong building materials here on Earth. The results were amazing. The materials became 30 to 40 percent stronger.

This discovery could change how we think about living on the moon. Instead of bringing all our building supplies from Earth, we could use what's already there. The moon dust that once caused problems could become very useful.

The scientists are excited about this breakthrough. It means future moon explorers might be able to build sturdy homes and other structures using local materials. This would make long trips to the moon much easier and less expensive.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

PICTURES

SUPPLY

ROBOTS

BUILD

WATER

DUST

FISH

