

# GENTLE.NEWS

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## In Today's Edition

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Word Search Puzzle

*"Is 'fat' really the worst thing a human being can be? Is 'fat' worse than 'vindictive', 'jealous', 'shallow', 'vain', 'boring' or 'cruel'? Not to me."*

— J.K. Rowling

## **Technology & Innovation**

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### **New Technology Helps Scientists Study Fish**

Scientists are using exciting new technology to learn more about red snapper fish in the Gulf of Mexico. These colorful fish are very important to fishing families and coastal towns.

For many years, families have enjoyed fishing for red snapper together. It brings generations together and creates wonderful memories. Now, scientists want to make sure these fish stay healthy for future families to enjoy.

New computers and cameras help scientists count fish underwater. They can watch the fish in their natural homes without disturbing them. This smart technology works much faster than old methods.

Mississippi State University is creating a special card called the disCARD. It uses computer technology to help fishermen report their catches easily. The card combines old paper methods with new computer smarts.

These improvements help scientists gather information quickly. With better information, they can take better care of the fish. This means more fishing fun for families in years to come.

### **Everyday People Help NASA Make Space Discoveries**

More than 650 regular people have helped NASA scientists make amazing discoveries about space. These volunteers worked from their own homes to spot exciting things in the sky.

Some people found comets and bright flashes of light called gamma-ray bursts. Others watched beautiful dancing lights in the sky called auroras. Many used their backyard telescopes to study planets far from Earth.

People even used their cell phones to help with science projects. Some used ham radios to study the air high above our planet. All of these everyday helpers got to put their names on real science papers alongside NASA scientists.

When scientists make discoveries, they write papers to share what they learned. Other scientists read these papers to check if the work is good. Having your name on a science paper is very special for any scientist.

NASA is always looking for more volunteers to help with space discoveries. Anyone can join and become part of the team that explores our amazing universe.

### Scientists Study Frogs and Their Wetland Homes

Scientists are working hard to help native frogs stay healthy. They study frogs in wetlands across the Rocky Mountains.

The researchers look at what makes frogs sick or strong. They want to understand how frogs live in their natural homes. This helps them protect frog families for the future.

One special frog they study is the Columbia spotted frog. These frogs have pretty spots and live near water. The scientists watch how they grow and what they need to thrive.

Beavers also play a big part in this story. When beavers build dams, they change the wetlands. Sometimes this helps frogs, and sometimes it creates challenges. The scientists study both sides.

This research helps people know how to take better care of wetland areas. Healthy wetlands mean happy frogs. The work continues as scientists learn new things about these amazing creatures.

### Teachers Learn About Earth and Space Science

Teachers from across Virginia are learning exciting new ways to teach science. They are working with NASA, America's space agency, to bring real space science into their classrooms.

Thirty-eight teachers from seven school areas came together for special training. They learned alongside community groups who care about the environment. The teachers discovered how to use NASA's tools and lessons in their schools.

The program is called NASA eClips and GLOBE. It helps teachers show students real science that NASA scientists use every day. Students can even help collect information about our planet, just like real scientists do.

During their training, teachers did hands-on experiments. They learned how different types of land affect temperature. They studied how clouds change our weather. They also explored how soil helps our environment.

This partnership connects classrooms with real NASA research. It gives students a chance to be citizen scientists. They can contribute to important environmental studies while learning about Earth and space.

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Scientists Help Ducks with Special Leg Bands**

Scientists are helping ducks in a very special way. They put tiny metal bands around the ducks' legs. These bands help track where the ducks go.

In Louisiana, a scientist caught a beautiful Blue-winged Teal duck. The scientist was very gentle with the duck. They measured the duck and checked if it was healthy. The duck was a strong adult male.

Then the scientist put a small metal band on the duck's leg. The band has a special number on it. This number helps scientists know which duck it is. After a few minutes, the duck flew away safely.

The duck's information goes to a special lab in Maryland. Scientists there keep track of millions of ducks. They have records of over 8 million birds! Every year, they get information about 330,000 new birds.

When hunters or other scientists find these ducks later, they report the band numbers. This helps scientists learn where ducks travel. The information helps protect ducks and keep them safe. It's like a big puzzle that helps scientists understand how ducks live.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

CAMERA

WINGS

FROGS

STARS

DUCKS

WATER

BANDS

