

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading."*

— Logan Pearsall Smith

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Fish Travel Amazing Distances to Find Home**

Every year, millions of fish take incredible journeys. Salmon, trout, and other fish swim thousands of miles through oceans and rivers. They are trying to reach the places where they were born. This is where they will have their babies.

Some fish travel farther than others. But all of them follow the same path their families have used for thousands of years. They remember the way back to their special home waters.

People are working hard to help these traveling fish. They remove old dams and barriers that block the fish. They clean up rivers and streams. This makes it easier for fish to complete their long trips.

In California, workers removed barriers on Alameda Creek. For the first time in 50 years, fish can swim freely to their old homes. Similar projects are happening in Idaho, Washington, and other states.

These efforts are working well. More fish are reaching their destinations safely. When fish can travel freely, their numbers grow. This helps keep our rivers and oceans healthy and full of life.

### Scientists See Far-Away Planet for First Time

Scientists have taken the best picture ever of a planet far from Earth. They used a special space telescope called James Webb to study the distant world.

The planet is called Kua'kua. It circles around a small star very far away. Scientists looked at the light coming from this planet to learn what it looks like.

They found that Kua'kua has a dark, rocky surface. The rocks might be like volcanic rock we have on Earth. The planet does not seem to have much air around it.

This discovery helps us learn about different kinds of worlds in space. There are thousands of planets out there that we know about now. But this is the first time we could really see what one looks like.

The scientists are excited about their new method. They can now study other far-away planets too. This might help them find planets that could have water or even life on them someday.

### **Native Tribes and Forest Service Share Care of Sacred Land**

A special wilderness area in South Dakota now has new caretakers. The U.S. Forest Service and eleven Native American tribes signed an agreement to work together. They will share the care of Black Elk Wilderness in the Black Hills.

This beautiful wilderness area covers thousands of acres of forest and mountains. It is named after Black Elk, a famous Lakota holy man. The land has always been sacred to the Great Sioux Nation tribes.

Under the new agreement, tribal members will help protect the wilderness. They will work on projects like planting trees and caring for wildlife. The tribes will also share their traditional knowledge about the land.

"Our most sacred lands are the Black Hills," said Wayne Boyd from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. "It is an honor for us to care for these lands." The agreement creates jobs for tribal members too.

Children from the tribes will get special chances to visit the wilderness. They can learn about their culture and history on these ancestral lands. The partnership helps preserve both the wilderness and Native American traditions for future generations.

### Scientists Find New Way to Test for Cancer

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about breast cancer. They found a new way to test for a serious type of cancer using just a blood sample.

This is very good news for patients. Before this discovery, doctors needed to take tissue samples from tumors. That was hard to do and uncomfortable for patients. Now they can use a simple blood test instead.

The research team worked at two universities in Texas. They used a special new method to study blood samples. This method can see things that older tests missed. It gives doctors much more information about what is happening in the body.

The lead scientist said this discovery could change how doctors treat patients. Blood tests are much easier than other methods. Patients will be more comfortable. Doctors can check on their progress more often.

This research gives hope to many families. The new test could help doctors catch cancer earlier. It could also help them choose better treatments. The scientists published their work so other researchers around the world can use these ideas.

### America Protects Ocean Fish for 50 Years

Fifty years ago, America made a smart choice about our oceans. Leaders passed a special law to protect fish and sea life.

Back then, big fishing boats from other countries came close to America. They caught huge amounts of fish from our waters. These boats were like giant vacuums in the sea. They took so many fish that some types almost disappeared.

American leaders saw this problem. They knew our oceans needed protection. Senator Warren Magnuson and Senator Ted Stevens worked together. They wanted to save fish for the future.

In 1976, Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This law created a special zone around America's coasts. It keeps our ocean waters safe for fish to grow and live.

Today, fifty years later, this law still protects our seas. More fish swim in American waters now. This helps both sea life and fishing families. It shows how good laws can make our world better for everyone.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

WILDLIFE

FOREST

OCEAN

RIVER

TREES

FISH

FISH

