

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"Letting go means to come to the realization that some people are a part of your history, but not a part of your destiny."*

— Steve Maraboli

### **NASA Engineers Complete Big Water Project**

NASA engineers just finished an amazing water project in Mississippi. They worked on a huge reservoir that helps keep rockets safe during testing.

The giant water tank holds 66 million gallons when it's full. That's enough water to fill about 100 Olympic swimming pools! The reservoir is 800 feet across and 25 feet deep.

To fix an important water pump, the team had to drain most of the water out. They pumped 40 million gallons in just three days. The water level dropped lower than it had been since the 1960s.

The new pump will supply 3,000 gallons of water every minute. This water helps put out fires and keeps the rocket test areas safe. The whole system protects the people who work there.

Now the reservoir is filling back up with fresh water. Soon it will be ready to help with more exciting rocket tests. NASA's careful planning made this big job go smoothly.

### **Astronauts Take Beautiful Photo of Earth From Space**

Astronauts on a mission to the moon took an amazing picture of Earth. The photo shows our whole planet floating in space like a big blue marble.

What makes this picture special is that Earth looks bright, but it's actually nighttime. The moon's light is shining on our planet instead of the sun's light. You can even see tiny lights from cities where people live.

The astronauts were flying in a spacecraft called Orion. They took the photo while traveling toward the moon. From where they were, Earth was blocking the sun. Only a small bit of bright sunlight showed around the edge.

The picture also shows beautiful green lights called auroras. These pretty lights happen when particles from the sun meet Earth's air. They glow around the North and South Poles like nature's own light show.

Scientists love photos like this because they help us see Earth from far away. It reminds us how special and beautiful our home planet is as it travels through space with the moon and sun.

## **Animals & Wildlife**

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### **Ocean Animals Are Making a Great Comeback**

Amazing news from the ocean! Many sea animals that were in trouble are now doing much better.

Right whales had a wonderful year. These huge, gentle whales had 23 babies this past season. That's the most babies born since 2009! Scientists saw about 129 different whales swimming in warm southern waters. When whales have more babies, it means they are getting healthier.

Sea turtles are also doing great around the world. These ancient ocean travelers were once in big trouble. Now their numbers are growing thanks to people who protect their nests on beaches. A scientist said sea turtles are very tough animals. When we give them help, they do well.

Hawaiian monk seals are swimming happier too. These special seals live only in Hawaii. They used to get tangled in old fishing nets and plastic trash. People worked hard to clean up the ocean. Now 70 percent fewer seals get stuck in garbage.

Even salmon fish are doing better along the Pacific coast. All these success stories show that when people care for animals, wonderful things happen in nature.

### **New Medical Treatments Coming Faster for Patients**

Scientists are finding better ways to help sick people get new treatments sooner. The Food and Drug Administration announced new rules to speed things up.

These special treatments are called gene therapies. They can help fix problems inside our bodies at a very tiny level. Gene therapy is like giving our cells new instructions to work better.

Many people with rare diseases have been waiting a long time for help. These new rules will help doctors and scientists work together faster. They can share what they already know instead of starting over each time.

The scientists want to make sure all treatments are still very safe. They will not skip important safety steps. But they can use information from past studies to move more quickly.

This is great news for families dealing with serious illnesses. New hope may come sooner than before. Scientists are working hard every day to find better ways to help people feel better.

## **Technology & Innovation**

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### **New App Helps People Explore Nature Safely**

The Forest Service has created a helpful new phone app. It helps people plan safe trips to forests and parks.

The app is called National Forests and Grasslands. People can download it for free on their phones. It works like a pocket guide for nature lovers.

The app shows over 30,000 places to visit outdoors. People can find hiking trails, camping spots, and fishing areas. They can also see places for canoeing and bike riding.

Before going on a trip, people can check the weather and trail conditions. They can download maps that work even without phone service. This helps keep everyone safe in remote areas.

The new app replaces 30 older apps that were hard to use. Now everything is in one place. This makes it much easier for the 164 million people who visit national forests each year to plan their adventures.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

THERAPY

SCIENCE

TRAILS

ROCKET

WHALES

SEALS

PUMP

