

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot."*

— Stephen King

### **NASA Picks Crew for Moon Mission Practice**

NASA has exciting news about going back to the moon. The space agency picked four astronauts for a special practice mission in 2027.

The crew will test important equipment in space. They will practice connecting with moon landing ships. This practice will help future astronauts land safely on the moon.

The team includes Randy Bresnik as commander. Luca Parmitano from Europe will be the pilot. Andre Douglas and Frank Rubio will be mission specialists. Bob Hines will be their backup crew member.

The astronauts will launch from Florida in a powerful rocket. They will fly around Earth to test all the systems. They will work with spacecraft made by two different companies.

This mission is a big step toward landing people on the moon again. The astronauts are starting their training right away. They are excited to help make space travel safer for everyone.

## **Technology & Innovation**

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### **Teacher Wins National Technology Contest**

A second-grade teacher from North Carolina won a big technology contest. She used artificial intelligence to help her students learn better.

The Presidential AI Challenge brought together teachers and students from across America. They worked together to solve problems in their communities using new technology.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is computer technology that can think and learn. The contest helped young people discover how this technology can make life better for everyone.

The National Science Foundation gave almost one million dollars to support the teams. Experts helped guide the students and teachers as they created their projects.

This contest shows how creative teachers and students can be. When they work together with new technology, amazing things can happen in classrooms everywhere.

### **Forest Service Helps Rural Schools and Communities**

The U.S. Forest Service is giving \$248 million to help rural communities across America. This money will go to counties that have national forests nearby.

The funding helps pay for important things in small towns. Schools get money for education programs. Counties can fix local roads and bridges. Communities can also prepare better for wildfires.

Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz says this shows how much they care about rural areas. The money helps keep forests healthy while supporting the people who live near them.

This program has been helping communities for over 20 years. Before this program started, many rural schools and services were struggling. Now they get steady funding every year.

In the past ten years alone, the Forest Service has shared \$2.4 billion with rural communities. This partnership helps both the forests and the people who depend on them stay strong and safe.

### Scientists Share Ocean Knowledge Through Books

Two scientists wrote a special book about tiny particles from the ocean. These small bits float in the air around us every day.

The scientists are named Ernie Lewis and Stephen Schwartz. They work at a research lab in New York. They wanted to learn more about ocean spray.

When waves crash, tiny drops of salty water go into the air. These particles are very important for our weather. They help make clouds and rain.

The scientists could not find enough information about this topic. So they decided to write their own book in 2004. Their book explains how ocean spray works.

Many other scientists still read their book today. It helps them understand our atmosphere better. The book has colorful pictures that show how everything works together in nature.

### Island Fishing Brings Community Together

Fishing means a lot to people who live on Pacific islands. It's not just for fun. It's how families get food from the ocean.

The ocean is like a big refrigerator for island communities. Fish from the sea help feed everyone. People treat the ocean with great respect.

Sometimes fishing becomes a fun competition. Hawaii has many fishing contests. Some people fish from the shore with simple poles. Others use big boats to catch large fish like marlin.

One special contest helps the ocean stay healthy. It's called "Eat the Invaders." Fishers try to catch fish that don't belong in Hawaiian waters. These fish can hurt the coral reefs.

Henry Ta and his team won this contest recently. They caught 278 pounds of fish that were harming the reef. Henry has won many fishing prizes. He wanted to help protect the ocean while having fun with his friends. These contests bring neighbors together. They help keep the ocean healthy. Everyone learns about taking care of the sea while enjoying a day of fishing.

## Activity Time - Word Search

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

### Words to Find:

CONTEST

STUDENT

SCHOOLS

FOREST

OCEAN

BOOKS

CREW

