

GENTLE.NEWS

In Today's Edition

Science & Discovery

NASA Worker Lives His Childhood Space Dream

Animals & Wildlife

Island Fishers Help Ocean While Having Fun

Nature & Environment

Millions Help Save America's Beautiful Forests

Technology & Innovation

New App Helps People Explore Nature Safely

Life & Culture

Museums Offer Free Visits to Military Families

Activity Time

Word Search Puzzle

"Suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but - I hope - into a better shape."

— Charles Dickens

NASA Worker Lives His Childhood Space Dream

Elkin Norena always dreamed of space as a young boy. He watched a space shuttle launch on TV in his classroom. The power and wonder amazed him. He knew he wanted to be part of space exploration someday.

Today, Elkin works at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He helps prepare America's biggest rocket for important missions. The rocket is called the Space Launch System. It will carry astronauts around the moon and back home safely.

Elkin has helped launch more than twelve space shuttle missions. These missions helped build the space station. They also fixed the famous Hubble telescope that takes pictures of stars and planets.

As a boy in New Jersey, Elkin dreamed of becoming an astronaut. He moved to Florida and studied computer engineering in college. Now he gets to work with real spaceships every day.

Elkin's job is to watch over the rocket preparations. He makes sure everything is ready for launch. His childhood dream of exploring space came true in a wonderful way.

Animals & Wildlife

Island Fishers Help Ocean While Having Fun

In Hawaii, fishing is much more than a hobby. It helps families get food from the ocean. The sea is like a big refrigerator for island people.

Sometimes fishers have special contests called tournaments. These events bring the whole community together. People fish from the shore with simple poles. Others use big boats to catch large fish.

One special tournament 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 first place recently. They caught 278 pounds of these harmful fish! Henry has won many fishing contests before. He even won Fisherman of the Year two times.

Henry says he wanted to help protect the ocean. By catching the wrong kind of fish, his team helped the coral reefs. They also showed other people how to care for the sea. The tournament makes helping the ocean fun for everyone.

Nature & Environment

Millions Help Save America's Beautiful Forests

Good news for nature lovers! The Forest Service is spending \$80 million to save forests across America. This money will protect over 34,000 acres of beautiful woodland.

These are working forests owned by families and companies. The trees provide wood for homes and furniture. But they also give us clean air and water. Wildlife like deer and birds live there too.

The Forest Service works with each state to help forest owners. They want to keep the forests healthy for years to come. Most of these saved forests will stay open for people to visit.

Families can hike, camp, and enjoy nature in these special places. The forests also help protect nearby towns from wildfires. Healthy forests are stronger against fire and storms.

This program has been helping save America's forests for many years. It brings people together to care for our natural treasures. These beautiful woodlands will be protected for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Technology & Innovation

New App Helps People Explore Nature Safely

A helpful new phone app makes it easier to explore forests and trails across America. The app is called National Forests and Grasslands.

The Forest Service created this app to help visitors plan safe trips. It shows information about 30,000 parks and nature areas. The app also displays 165,000 miles of hiking trails.

People can use the app to find fun activities like fishing, camping, and hiking. It shows which trails are good for bikes or horses. The app also helps people find campsites with the features they want.

The best part is that the app works even without phone service. People can download maps before their trip. Then they can see where they are even in remote forest areas.

The app also shows important safety information and weather alerts. This helps people stay safe while enjoying nature. The Forest Service hopes this new tool will make outdoor adventures more fun and worry-free for everyone.

Museums Offer Free Visits to Military Families

Museums across Utah are opening their doors for free to military families this summer. This special program is called Blue Star Museums.

More than 40 museums in Utah are taking part. These include the Hill Aerospace Museum, Natural History Museum of Utah, and St. George Children's Museum. Military families can visit any of these places without paying.

The program runs during the summer months. It is a way to say thank you to people who serve in the military. Their children and spouses can also visit for free.

A special visitor came to Utah to celebrate this program. Mary Anne Carter leads the National Endowment for the Arts. She visited the state capitol and several museums.

While in Utah, Carter also saw exhibits about American history. One exhibit showed how writing helped start our country. She said Utah has strong support for arts and culture programs.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

TRAILS

ROCKET

SUMMER

FOREST

SPACE

TREES

OCEAN

