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In Today's Edition

Happy Juneteenth!

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"Love is an untamed force. When we try to control it, it destroys us. When we try to imprison it, it enslaves us. When we try to understand it, it leaves us feeling lost and confused."

— Paulo Coelho

Explore Global Coastal Research Using the COAWST Applications Catalog

Explore Global Coastal Research Using the COAWST Applications Catalog By Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center June 18, 2026

Around the world, scientists are using the Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere-Waves-Sediment Transport (COAWST) Modeling System to better understand and forecast short-term changes in coastal conditions. To showcase the breadth of this work, the USGS developed the COAWST Applications Catalog—a collection of published COAWST-based studies spanning multiple countries, coastlines, and scientific questions. COAWST Applications Catalog Storm-driven wind, waves, and currents can dramatically reshape coastlines, threatening lives, infrastructure, and natural and economic resources. Predicting coastal change requires a modeling system capable of simulating the complex interactions among the ocean, atmosphere, waves, and sediment transport. To address this need, the USGS developed COAWST, a coupled modeling system designed to improve storm-path predictions, better evaluate coastal change, and support science-based decision-making. A Global Collection of Peer-Reviewed COAWST Studies The COAWST Applications Catalog highlights how researchers worldwide are using this system to advance our understanding of coastal processes and create actionable knowledge for communities and stakeholders. Each entry was identified through peer-reviewed journal

databases, ensuring the catalog represents high-quality, rigorously vetted work. Countries associated with each study reflect the institutional affiliation of the first author at the time of publication, highlighting the widespread global engagement with COAWST. The map at the center of the catalog features geographic coverage boxes that illustrate the study area used in each application. These visual summaries help users quickly explore where COAWST has been applied—from estuaries and deltas to open-ocean. The catalog is a living resource and will be updated with additional studies as they become available. Scientists who publish COAWST-based research are encouraged to submit their work for inclusion to John Warner (jcwarner@usgs.gov). For more information on the COAWST Modeling System, visit the COAWST web page .

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COAWST: A Coupled-Ocean-Atmosphere-Wave-Sediment Transport Modeling System Understanding the processes responsible for coastal change is important for managing both our natural and economic coastal resources. Storms are one of the primary driving forces causing coastal change from a coupling of wave- and wind-driven flows. To better understand storm impacts and their effects on our coastlines, there is an international need to better predict storm paths and intensities... Learn More September 29, 2020 COAWST Training Workshops Currently the Coupled-Ocean-Atmospherre-Wave-Sediment Transport Modeling System (COAWST) has 800 registered users from around the world. To advance the user community of the COAWST modeling system, the USGS has held trainings every two years since 2012. In general, the trainings provide both a hands-on tutorial of the system and fundamental information about the modeling components. Users from... By Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center COAWST Training Workshops September 29, 2020 COAWST Training Workshops Currently the Coupled-Ocean-Atmospherre-Wave-Sediment Transport Modeling System (COAWST) has 800 registered users from around the world. To advance the user community of the COAWST modeling system, the USGS has held trainings every two years since 2012. In general, the trainings provide both a hands-on tutorial of the system and fundamental information about the modeling components. Users from... Learn More September 29, 2020 COAWST System Components The Coupled-Ocean-Atmospherre-Wave-Sediment Transport

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Animals & Wildlife

Service Estimates 540 Whooping Cranes Wintered on Texas Coast in 2025-2026

Press Release U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Estimates 540 Whooping Cranes Wintered on Texas Coast in 2025-2026 Aerial Surveys Show an Estimated 540 Whooping Cranes Spent Winter Around Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Jun 17, 2026 Media Contacts Evan Monnett Image Details Each year, biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service complete aerial surveys for the Aransas-Wood Buffalo population of whooping crane . These cranes spend their summers in their breeding grounds at Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, before traveling 2,500 miles to the Texas coast to spend the winter in estuarine marshes, eating blue crab and Carolina wolfberry. In the 2025-2026 Survey Report , biologists estimated around 540 whooping cranes, including at least 57 juveniles, were present within the primary survey area, which comprises approximately 190,250 acres centered on Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The previous year's survey estimated 557 whooping cranes within the primary survey area. The slight difference between estimates is within the margin of error. Population estimates vary from year to year, but the long-term growth rate of the whooping crane population has averaged 4.24% since 1938. With the whooping crane's wintering range expanding in recent years, cranes are increasingly using habitat outside of the primary survey area. Biologists that monitor the species are relying more and more

on community scientists who report whooping crane sightings. These sightings are confirmed by resource professionals and help biologists estimate population size and better understand this iconic species. This year, an additional 52 birds were observed outside the primary survey area during this survey, based on data from aerial surveys conducted in the secondary survey areas, a whooping crane GPS tracking study, and the sightings reported from the public to Texas Whooper Watch, eBird, and iNaturalist. Eight of these whooping cranes remained at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma all winter, their first ever recorded overwintering in Oklahoma . This discovery was made in part due to visitors and birders at the refuge reporting sightings during the yearly Christmas Bird Count Christmas Bird Count The nation's longest-running community science bird project, the Christmas Bird Count occurs December 14 to January 5 every season and is coordinated by Audubon. Learn more about Christmas Bird Count . Conservation efforts across the Central Flyway and at and around Aransas National Wildlife Refuge have helped whooping cranes make a miraculous recovery. When listed as endangered in 1967 there were only around 50 of these birds left. Today the Aransas-Wood Buffalo Whooping Crane population is stable and has been estimated at over 500 for over 9 consecutive years. The report can be viewed and downloaded here . More information about the survey and whooping cranes can also be found on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge website or by calling the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station at: 361-349-1181. Story Tags Endangered and/or

Threatened species Migratory birds Press Release Published Jun 17, 2026
Wildlife Wonders Media Contacts Evan Monnett Latest Press Releases
Endangered Species Act U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Hold Virtual
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Recovery Jun 9, 2026 Endangered Species Act Finalized Habitat Protec-
tions for Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee May 29, 2026

Improved Quantum Interference Imaging of Atomic Nuclei

Improved Quantum Interference Imaging of Atomic Nuclei New data from near-miss collisions at RHIC will help physicists map the "glue" that holds visible matter together June 17, 2026 enlarge Kent State University postdoctoral research scientist Ashik Iqbal and Brookhaven Lab physicist Prithwish Tribedy stand in front of the STAR detector at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) at Brookhaven National Laboratory. The two were on a team that tracked the decay "daughters" of J/psi particles created in not-quite-colliding interactions of gold ions at RHIC. Their goal: Establish the foundation for using J/psi particles and their spin to map out the distribution of gluons within the ions. (David Rahner/Brookhaven National Laboratory) UPTON, N.Y. — Scientists studying particle collisions at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) usually capture what happens when atomic nuclei smash into one another at nearly the speed of light. But even when the nuclei don't collide, interesting things can happen. In a new paper just published in Physical Review Letters , members of RHIC's STAR collaboration describe a new way to use near-miss collisions at RHIC to study what's going on inside the nucleus. The approach advances the reach of RHIC, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science user facility at DOE's Brookhaven National Laboratory, into the next frontier in nuclear physics — a journey into the inner workings of the building blocks of matter. The technique relies on

particles of light, known as photons, that surround the nuclei as they speed around the 2.4-mile RHIC racetrack. Acting something like the beam of a giant X-ray machine, the photons around one nucleus can interact with particles called gluons inside a nucleus whizzing by in the opposite direction. By tracking the signals produced by those interactions, scientists can map out the distribution of the gluons — the gluelike particles that hold the nucleus together. “This as an extension of the many ways people have used light to probe hidden structures in our world — from using X-rays to see broken bones and reveal the 3D atomic structures of proteins, to capturing signals from the cosmic microwave background to study the evolution of the universe,” said Ashik Iqbal, a STAR collaborator from Kent State University who carried out this work as a major component of his postdoctoral research. “In this case, we’re using light to map out features at a scale much smaller than atoms to study the gluons that hold quarks together inside the protons and neutrons of atomic nuclei.” Nuclear physicists are particularly interested in gluons because they appear to play an outsized role in establishing the fundamental properties of protons and neutrons — the building blocks of nearly all the visible matter in our universe. Mapping out gluons is one of the central goals of the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC), a new nuclear physics research machine under construction at Brookhaven Lab that will build on RHIC’s infrastructure and science. At the EIC, virtual photons emitted by electrons will provide the “beams” that scientists use to reveal gluons’ arrangements and interactions within protons and nuclei. These new results from RHIC provide a

preview of this imaging technique and a way to test its assumptions. Using light to create particles and map structures The particles of light used in this imaging technique at RHIC are something of an artifact. They emerge as a cloud of electromagnetic energy that surrounds the positively charged ions traveling around the circular accelerator at close to the speed of light. When two ions traveling in opposite directions pass very close by one another without colliding, these “shockwaves” of energy can sometimes interact with one another to create new particles of matter and antimatter out of pure energy. At other times, the photons create new particles by interacting with gluons inside the nuclei. For example, an earlier STAR paper traced photon-gluon interactions that generated particles known as rho mesons. STAR scientists detected those particles by looking for pairs of oppositely charged pions — the “daughters” into which the rhos decay. By tracking the pions’ speed and the angles at which they struck the detector, the scientists suggested they could use ripples of interference generated by these quantum-entangled particles to map out gluon distributions within the nuclei. But because the rho particles decay so quickly, there was uncertainty about the origin of the interference — specifically whether it was coming from the decay “daughter” pions or the rho “parents.” In addition, the somewhat lightweight rho particles lack the “focus” to map detailed gluon features. enlarge Spin reveals a sharper way to image nuclei: In near-miss gold-ion collisions at RHIC, photons from one nucleus can briefly transform into particles that probe the gluons inside the other nucleus. This image compares two such probes. On the

left, short-lived rho (ρ^0) particles decay into pion pairs (π^-/π^+), producing one interference pattern (green wave). On the right, compact J/psi (J/ψ) particles decay into electron-positron (e^-/e^+) pairs, which have spin. That spin flips the sign of the observed interference pattern (blue wave), revealing that spin is shaping the interference signal. The combination of spin and the higher resolution enabled by the smaller J/psi particles add dimension and detail to the process of mapping gluons within nuclei. (Joanna Pendsick/Brookhaven National Laboratory) Flipping the interference pattern This new paper builds on that previous work by tracking the daughters of heavier mesons known as J/psi particles, which are also created in photon-gluon interactions. “The heavier yet more compact structure of J/psi particles should boost their imaging resolution,” said Zebo Tang, a professor from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) who is one of the newly appointed deputy spokespersons for the STAR Collaboration. “J/psi particles also live longer than rhos before decaying, giving more time for separation between their own interference patterns and that of the particles into which they decay — in this case, electrons and positrons.” Most importantly, these electron and positron daughters have a quantum property called spin, unlike the daughters of rhos. That spin completely “flips” the particles’ interference pattern compared to what the scientists saw when studying the rhos. “If you think of a repeating wave with alternating peaks and dips, the rhos and their daughter pions produced interference waves with essentially the exact same pattern — peaks lined up with peaks, dips lined up with dips.

But when we tracked the electron and positron daughters of J/ψ decays, they produced the opposite pattern — opposite from the rhos, their pion daughters, and even their own J/ψ parents. Wherever there were low points became high points, and the high points became low points,” said Prithwish Tribedy, a Brookhaven Lab/STAR collaboration physicist. The scientists saw the same flipped pattern in data from near-miss collisions using three different types of ions at RHIC — gold, zirconium, and ruthenium. In fact, the interference pattern became stronger with the smaller nuclei, which is exactly what theorists had predicted would happen if the interference was being driven by the decay daughters. “Seeing this flipped pattern and alignment with predictions in data from collisions using three different types of nuclei gives us confidence that the daughters are the true source of the interference,” said Kaiyang Wang, a student at USTC, who worked on this project as part of his PhD thesis. What is particularly exciting is that this measurement does more than just confirm a quantum interference effect. It allows scientists to use this information and a bit of backtracking to learn how gluons are distributed within atomic nuclei. Mapping out gluons In the case of either the rho or J/ψ decay, scientists can use the momentum distribution and angles at which the daughter particles strike the detector to infer spin information about their parent particles. This is easier for J/ψ than rho, but the method works for both particles. The parent spin, in turn, gives them information about the spin alignment of the photon that triggered the initial photon-gluon interaction, the orientation of the nucleus with which

it collided, and the exact location of the gluon that created the parent particle. You can think of it as a super high-tech way of “geolocating” gluons at the subatomic scale. “The parent particles are ultimately what we are using to ‘see’ inside the nucleus, because they are the ones that are closest to the gluon-triggered action, but knowing that the daughters give us direct access to those interactions is what makes this imaging possible,” said Wangmei Zha, a professor at USTC who is a member of the STAR collaboration. The future of gluon imaging “This will be exactly the technique used at the EIC,” said Farid Salazar, a nuclear theorist at Temple University who helped develop the theoretical predictions used for comparison with the RHIC measurements and for the future science program at the EIC. enlarge This study strengthens the case for using the spin of particles produced by light to make sharper images of gluons inside gold nuclei. This method will be used at the future Electron-Ion Collider (EIC), where virtual photons (γ^*) emitted by electrons (e^-) during electron-ion collisions will provide the imaging beam. (Tiffany Bowman/Brookhaven National Laboratory) At the EIC, the photons will be emitted by electrons interacting with ions and the measurements will rely mainly on J/ψ decays. For one thing, the spins of the J/ψ decay daughters make it easy to infer the parents’ spin orientation. In addition, their compact size gives them the ability to see details at a finer scale. They are also easier to describe through mathematical calculations. This makes it much easier to derive the theoretical predictions scientists use when evaluating experimental measurements — to see if the data match theorists’ predic-

tions of how gluons are expected to behave. One of the major mysteries physicists hope to explore at the EIC is whether gluons — which can split and recombine — reach a state of “saturation” where these splitting and recombination processes balance one another out within atomic nuclei. Other STAR findings have already shown hints of gluon recombination, a necessary step to achieving the steady state of gluon saturation. With J/psi imaging using virtual photons, the EIC may be the first to reveal definitive evidence of this new state of matter, known as a “color glass condensate.” “RHIC operations have wrapped up , and work is beginning to transform the accelerator infrastructure at Brookhaven Lab into the EIC, but we’ll be conducting deep analyses of RHIC data for many years to come,” Brookhaven’s Tribedy said. “These analyses will undoubtedly produce many more discoveries — and help us develop the theoretical and experimental approaches for the EIC.” Additional collaborators on this analysis include Declan Keane and Zhangbu Xu from Kent State University, Daniel Brandenburg from Ohio State University, and Shuai Yang from South China Normal University. This research was supported by the DOE Office of Science, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), and a range of international agencies and organizations listed in the scientific paper. In addition to using the Open Science Grid, supported directly by NSF, the researchers made use of computing resources in the Scientific Data and Computing Facilities at Brookhaven Lab and the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC), which is another DOE Office of Science user facility at DOE’s Lawrence Berkeley National

Laboratory. Brookhaven National Laboratory is supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy. The Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States and is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. For more information, visit science.energy.gov . Follow @BrookhavenLab on social media. Find us on Instagram , LinkedIn , X , and Facebook . Related Links Scientific paper: "Evidence of Spin-Interference Effects in Exclusive $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$ Photoproduction in Ultraperipheral Heavy-Ion Collisions" Tags: EIC nuclear physics RHIC STAR 2026-22878 | INT/EXT | Newsroom

Exercise may help protect older adults against cancer

Scientists have discovered that aging muscle may contribute to cancer growth by releasing fewer extracellular vesicles, tiny particles that cells use to communicate with one another. Their study also found that composition of these particles changes with age, weakening protective signals that help suppress tumor development. Encouragingly, exercise appears to restore this protective function. Published in *Nature Communications*, the findings offer fresh insights into healthy aging and cancer prevention, as well as point to potential biomarkers and therapies tailored to older adults. The effects of aging muscle are especially evident in sarcopenia, a condition marked by loss of skeletal muscle mass and strength as one gets older. Working with collaborators from Singapore General Hospital and Cardiff University, the scientists found that sarcopenic muscle secretes fewer extracellular vesicles. As muscle ages, these vesicles also contain lower levels of miR-7a-5p—a microRNA or a very small RNA molecule that helps regulate gene expression by controlling the types and amounts of proteins cells produce. miR-7a-5p plays a role in restraining tumor growth. Importantly, the team also discovered that the release of extracellular vesicles from muscle is controlled by a biological pathway that declines with age but can be reactivated through exercise. “Muscle cells use extracellular vesicles to send messages and influence how other cells behave, but exactly how these messages are

delivered and received is not fully understood,” says Assistant Professor Tang Hong-Wen from the Cancer & Stem Cell Biology Signature Research Programme at Duke-NUS Medical School, and senior author of the study. “Our research uncovers this hidden process, showing that as muscles weaken with age, these signals can change in ways that can promote tumor growth.” “Clinically, we observe an association between advanced cancer and low muscle mass. This is a novel study which illustrates how healthy muscle can potentially inhibit tumor growth,” says Kenon Chua, a consultant in the orthopedic surgery department at Singapore General Hospital and one of the authors of the study. “We observe that healthy muscles secrete many physiologically important molecules. With advanced age, it is even more important to engage in regular resistance and aerobic exercises in order to maintain healthy muscle volume. This is important not only for function and mobility, but also for general health,” says Chua. “We hope that the insights from our research can help us develop new targeted therapies for our patients; as well as convince more people of the benefits of regular exercise.” With their study, the scientists have established a direct biological link between aged muscle and tumor growth. Together, the findings reveal a muscle-to-tumor communication pathway that could be targeted to develop new therapies aimed at preventing cancer progression. “This study opens new avenues for therapeutic strategies to preserve muscle health and reduce cancer risk, while also underscoring the importance of physical activity in aging,” says Professor Lok Shee Mei, interim vice-dean for research at

Duke-NUS Medical School. “We hope that policymakers in Singapore and across the region will use this evidence to support greater investment in healthy aging programs and exercise-based interventions.” Next, the scientists plan to validate their findings in human samples and determine whether extracellular vesicles—particularly the miR-7a-5p they carry—could serve as biomarkers for assessing cancer risk associated with sarcopenia. This research was supported by the Singapore Ministry of Education; the Diana Koh Innovative Cancer Research Award; National Academy of Medicine; and the National Research Foundation, Singapore. Source: Duke-NUS The post Exercise may help protect older adults against cancer appeared first on Futurity .

The World Cup at the Library

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup gets underway, billions of fans around the world are tuning in to watch the world's most popular sporting event. The tournament, co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, likely will be the largest and most watched in history, with over 6.5 million fans filling stadiums across all three countries, according to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's global governing body. The 39-day tournament began on June 11 in Mexico City and concludes with the final in New Jersey on July 19. A record 48 countries are playing this year, a 50% increase from the 32 teams usually competing. To mark the occasion, the Library's Hispanic Reading Room is showcasing a colorful display, "For the Love of the Game," that explains the evolution and appeal of a sport that has become one of the world's most influential cultural forces. The display complements a new World Cup LibGuide developed by the Library's Latin American, Caribbean and European collections specialists. Among the 15 items featured in the display are a rare photo album documenting the inaugural 1930 World Cup in Uruguay, memorabilia from later tournaments, a book titled "1283" about Brazilian global soccer icon Pelé — three-time World Cup champion and scorer of 1,283 goals — and another showcasing the legacy of the late Argentinian midfielder, Diego Maradona. "When the World Cup started in 1930, it was kind of an unproven concept, but today it is clear

that when you host the World Cup, you become the center of attention in the world,” said reference librarian Henry Widener, lead curator of the display . “We put together a display that explores nine decades of World Cup history and soccer’s growing popularity in American culture.” He’s not kidding about that homegrown popularity. A 2025 survey published by The Economist found that 10 percent of Americans say soccer is their favorite sport — narrowly edging out baseball for third behind football and basketball. The U.S. is also the biggest foreign market for the four largest European leagues, according to the same survey. Other display highlights include a newspaper image depicting Uruguay’s shocking upset of Brazil, 2-1, in the decisive game of the 1950 World Cup. And of course there’s a Panini collectible sticker album, now a tradition, that was introduced in 1970. As any fan will happily tell you, soccer is about far more than the 90-minute drama on the field. For nearly a century, the game has helped shape national identities, triggered fierce rivalries and helped people bond over shared memories. An original ad from the first World Cup, held in Uruguay in 1930, is part of the display. Prints and Photographs Division. Photo of the ad: Shawn Miller. Widener was born in Texas and is torn between Mexico and Brazil as his pick for winning this year’s World Cup. “As someone who has traveled a lot and talked to people from different places ... if I mention the World Cup, people talk about it like it’s the most important thing in the world to them,” he said. “It really does bring people together.” While football-like games have been played for more than 2,000 years around the world, the modern

version traces its roots to England in 1863. Once the rules were codified, the game spread across trade routes and, by the time of that initial 1930 World Cup, soccer had become an international phenomenon. The United States first hosted the World Cup in 1994, introducing millions of Americans to soccer's four-year craze and helping to fuel the sport's amateur and professional growth. As fans gather in stadiums and around their TVs and watch parties over the next month, Library visitors can discover how this simple game — with its prolonged shout of “Goooooooooaaal!” — became a global language. Subscribe to the blog— it's free!

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

