

GENTLE.NEWS

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*"A DEFINITION NOT FOUND IN THE DICTIONARY Not leaving: an act
of trust and love, often deciphered by children"*

— Markus Zusak

Satellites Watch Coal Mines Change Over 50 Years

Did you know satellites can show how land changes over time? A special program called Landsat has been taking pictures of Earth since the early 1970s. That is more than 50 years of photos!

Scientists use these pictures to watch how our land changes. They can see cities grow and forests shift. They can also watch mines open, operate, and close. It is like a very long nature film from space.

One great example is in Wyoming. There, large coal mines sit in a region called the Powder River Basin. The land is full of wide open grasslands. The coal there sits in very thick beds underground.

Landsat pictures show the whole story of these mines. First, the green grassland appears. Then the mine opens and the land changes. Later, the mine closes and the land slowly returns to grassland again. It is a full circle, caught on camera from space.

These satellite pictures help us understand our planet better. Scientists study them to learn how land heals after big changes. It is wonderful to think that cameras in space have been quietly watching over our Earth for more than half a century.

NASA Spots a Wandering Giant Black Hole Eating a Star

Scientists have made a thrilling discovery in outer space. A giant black hole was caught doing something very rare. It was found far from the center of its galaxy.

Black holes are regions in space with very strong gravity. They pull in everything nearby, even light. Most giant black holes sit quietly at the center of galaxies. But this one had wandered far out to the edges of its galaxy.

When a star drifted too close, the black hole tore it apart. This created a brilliant flash of light. The glow was so bright it outshone the entire galaxy for months. Scientists call this a "tidal disruption event."

A smart computer program spotted the flash first. It sorted through half a million space flickers every single night. Then NASA's Swift telescope took a closer look. The black hole is about 750 million light-years away. It weighs one million times more than our own Sun.

Researcher Robert Stein said this discovery proves a new way to find hidden black holes. Scientists can now search for more wandering giants hiding in the darkness of space. Each discovery helps us better understand our vast, wonderful universe.

College and Wildlife Service Team Up to Protect Birds

Every spring, millions of birds make amazing journeys. Some fly thousands of miles from South America. They travel to summer homes across North America. It is a beautiful and remarkable feat.

But windows can be a hidden danger for birds. The glass looks invisible to them. Birds cannot always tell it is there. Sadly, many birds are hurt flying into windows.

One caring student in Omaha, Nebraska wanted to help. His name is Dorian Dunham. He studies at Metropolitan Community College. He began counting how many birds hit the windows at his school. In just one month, he found 51 collisions. Most were tiny warblers and sparrows.

Dorian reached out to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Together, they came up with a wonderful solution. Special patterns are applied to the glass. These help birds see the windows and fly safely around them. The college paid for the whole project. Wildlife experts guided the team every step of the way.

The good news is that anyone can help. Special window stickers and films are available for homes too. Even small changes can save many birds each year. It is a simple way to make a big difference for our feathered friends.

New Gadget Tells You When Your Body Burns Fat

Scientists have invented a small handheld device that can tell when your body is burning fat. It works by checking your breath. You simply breathe into it, just like a breathalyzer test.

When your body burns fat, it releases a gas called acetone. This gas comes out when you breathe. The new device detects that gas quickly and easily.

The gadget works together with a simple smartphone app. You do not need to be a doctor or scientist to use it. Anyone can get reliable results at home without a blood test.

Researchers tested the device carefully. They compared it to expensive lab equipment used by experts. The handheld gadget gave almost exactly the same results. That is a very exciting finding.

One day, this tool could help people manage diets and health conditions like diabetes. Doctors could use the readings to create personal plans for each patient. Every person's body works differently, and this device helps show exactly what is happening inside yours.

World-Class Scientist Joins Fight Against Cancer

A top cancer researcher has joined two of America's best science centers. Her name is Carolyn Anderson. She is now working at the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Dr. Anderson is an expert in a special kind of cancer treatment. It uses tiny amounts of radioactive material to find and destroy cancer cells. This treatment can target tumors very precisely. That means it causes less harm to healthy parts of the body.

For Dr. Anderson, this new job feels very personal. She studied at Oak Ridge many years ago. That experience helped shape her as a scientist. "Coming to Tennessee feels like coming full circle," she said warmly.

She will work with doctors, researchers, and students all across Tennessee. Together, they hope to turn new discoveries into real treatments for patients. Their goal is to help people live longer, healthier lives.

Tennessee has some of the highest cancer rates in the country. That makes this work especially important. Dr. Anderson and her team are bringing hope to many families. Their research could one day help cancer patients all across America.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

MEDICINE RESEARCH LANDSAT WARBLER
SPARROW COSMOS MINES

K	J	W	H	T	O	U	U	J	C	K
N	S	R	I	S	Q	S	M	W	X	F
C	R	P	S	P	E	O	E	A	Z	F
O	E	A	K	A	R	B	D	R	I	Q
S	S	K	M	R	B	C	I	B	E	L
M	E	D	I	R	X	L	C	L	N	A
O	A	R	N	O	J	C	I	E	F	N
S	R	X	E	W	N	R	N	R	S	D
Z	C	F	S	H	B	C	E	N	A	S
U	H	U	U	T	F	O	C	L	N	A
N	A	N	Z	V	U	M	P	D	A	T