

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"Was it hard?" I ask. Letting go? "Not as hard as holding on to something  
that wasn't real."*

— Lisa Schroeder

### **NASA Opens Powerful New Wind Tunnel for Future Flight**

NASA has opened an exciting new research building in Virginia. It is called the Flight Dynamics Research Facility. Scientists will use it to test planes, rockets, and spacecraft of the future.

The special building has a giant wind tunnel inside. Wind tunnels blow strong air over small models of aircraft. This helps scientists see how a real plane or rocket would fly. It also helps make sure future vehicles are safe.

This is NASA's first major new wind tunnel in over 40 years. It is located at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Researchers there have helped make flying safer for many decades.

The new facility will be used to test many kinds of flying machines. These include passenger planes, drones, and space capsules. A space capsule is a small pod that carries astronauts back to Earth safely.

NASA's leader said this building gives talented teams the tools to keep making new discoveries. America has always led the world in flight and space. This new wind tunnel will help make sure that continues for years to come.

### **World's Biggest Camera Photographs Half a Million Galaxies**

A powerful new telescope has taken one of the most amazing pictures of space ever made. It shows over half a million galaxies in a single image. That is truly breathtaking!

The telescope is called the Rubin Observatory. It sits in Chile and uses the largest digital camera ever built. This giant camera has 3.2 gigapixels. That means it captures incredible detail across vast stretches of the sky.

The image shows many different kinds of galaxies. Some have beautiful spiral arms, like pinwheels. Others are round and smooth. Some galaxies are even bumping into each other! The light from many of these galaxies has traveled for billions of years to reach us here on Earth.

Scientists chose this particular patch of sky very carefully. It has very few nearby stars blocking the view. This lets the telescope see deep into the universe. Looking far into space also means looking far back in time. It is like a window into the ancient history of the cosmos.

This wonderful image helps scientists learn how galaxies grow and change over billions of years. Every galaxy in the picture is an entire world of stars. The universe is so much bigger and more beautiful than we can imagine. What an exciting time to explore the skies above us!

### **Rare Frogs Get a New Home in Mississippi**

A very rare frog is making a comeback. Nearly 500 dusky gopher frogs were set free in Mississippi in June 2026. This is wonderful news for one of America's rarest animals.

The frogs were released onto a private farm called Woodland Cottage. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Currie, welcomed the frogs to their land. Kind landowners like them make a big difference for wildlife.

The dusky gopher frog had almost disappeared. For many years, only one small group of these frogs was left in the wild. They lived in just one pond in a Mississippi forest. Scientists worried they might be lost forever.

The Currie family spent more than 20 years making their land ready for wildlife. They worked with nature groups and government helpers. Together, they planted the right trees and cared for the land. Their hard work finally paid off.

Now these tiny frogs have a safe new place to live and grow. Conservation teams will keep watching over them. Every frog released is a step toward a brighter future. It is a true team effort, and it is working.

### **New Science Hub Will Help Build a Stronger America**

A big new research center has opened in the United States. It will help make better cement and concrete. These materials are used to build roads, bridges, and homes.

The center is called ACCENT. It is based at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Scientists there will study how to make concrete stronger and longer-lasting.

America needs a lot of concrete right now. New homes and roads are being built across the country. This center will help make sure builders have the best materials possible.

ACCENT will use computers and smart technology to study concrete. Scientists will test new ideas and share what they learn. All of this information will be stored in a large, open database for everyone to use.

The goal is to move good ideas from the lab into the real world faster. That means better buildings and safer roads for all Americans. It is an exciting step forward for science and everyday life.

### Young Students Help Save the Chesapeake Bay This Summer

Every summer, young college students get a chance to help protect one of America's greatest natural treasures. The Chesapeake Bay is a beautiful body of water shared by several states. This summer, four interns are working hard to keep it healthy.

These students spend 12 weeks learning from experts. Each intern gets a personal mentor to guide them. They also meet with other young people doing similar work. It is a wonderful way to learn and grow.

One intern is Kate, a college student from New York. She grew up in Oregon, playing at the coast and hiking mountains. Nature has always been close to her heart. Now she studies how to protect it as a career.

Kate is doing something very special this summer. She is figuring out the value of oyster reefs in the bay. Oysters help clean the water and give fish a safe home. Her work could help bring in money to protect them.

These internships are made possible through teamwork. A group called the Chesapeake Research Consortium helps make them happen. These bright young people give us all hope. The Chesapeake Bay is in very good hands indeed.

# Activity Time - Word Search

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

**Words to Find:**

CONCRETE      HABITAT      STUDENT      OYSTER  
FOREST      STARS      FROG

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