

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 Tests Rocket That Will Carry Astronauts to the Moon

NASA and SpaceX are working together to send astronauts back to the Moon. It is an exciting milestone in space history.

Engineers recently tested a model of a powerful rocket called Super Heavy. The tests took place at NASA's Ames Research Center in California. Scientists studied how air moves around the rocket at very high speeds.

The team used a small model just over one percent the size of the real rocket. Wind tunnel tests like these help make sure the rocket is safe. They show how the rocket handles forces during its journey through the atmosphere.

This rocket will be part of a mission called Artemis III. The goal is to land astronauts on the Moon's surface. NASA plans for this to happen in 2027. Another Moon landing is planned for 2028 as well.

NASA often works with private companies like SpaceX on big projects. Together, they share knowledge and resources. This teamwork helps make space travel safer and more successful for everyone.

Team Saves Tangled Humpback Whale in Monterey Bay

A humpback whale got a happy ending thanks to some very dedicated people in California.

The whale had been tangled in fishing ropes for over a month. The ropes were wrapped tightly around its tail and were hurting the animal badly.

Whale watching boats spotted the whale in late May. Their captains took photos and shared them with a rescue team. The group was called Marine Life Studies. Those photos helped the team plan a rescue.

On July 11, the whale swam close to the rescue team's offices. That was their chance. A trained team went out and carefully cut the ropes away. The whale was freed and could swim safely again.

The rescue worked because many people joined together. Whale watching crews, scientists, and other groups all helped. Founder Peggy Stap said, "We could not do it without them." The captains and naturalists had trained with the rescue team and were ready to help when it mattered most. It is a wonderful reminder that when people care and work together, even a giant whale can get a second chance at life in the open ocean.

Fifty Years of Caring for Gulf Waters

The Gulf of America is home to amazing sea life. It has spiny lobster, red snapper, shrimp, and much more. These rich waters feed millions of people every year.

For fifty years, fishermen and government agencies have worked together. They share information and make decisions as a team. This teamwork has kept Gulf waters healthy and full of life.

The Gulf leads the whole country in recreational fishing. Families and hobbyists love casting their lines in these warm waters. The fishing economy brings in twenty billion dollars each year.

Many groups work together to protect these waters. Scientists count the fish and track their health. Rules are put in place to make sure fish populations stay strong.

Thanks to careful management, the Gulf continues to thrive. Fresh seafood from these waters reaches tables across the country. The next fifty years look just as bright and hopeful.

Nature Comeback: A Lovely Greenway Gets New Life

A beautiful green path in Wisconsin is getting a wonderful makeover. The Valley Creek Corridor runs through Port Washington, near Lake Michigan. It connects parks, neighborhoods, and the harbor.

This greenway stretches nearly two miles. It passes through nine public parks. People love to walk and enjoy nature there. The area has forests, meadows, wetlands, and scenic bluffs along the lake.

Workers started restoring the land in 2023. They began at two parks on opposite ends of the path. At one park, they are bringing a forest back to health. At the other, wildflowers are replacing plain grass lawns near the lakeshore.

The work includes planting native trees and flowers. These plants are natural to the area. They help birds, butterflies, and other wildlife find food and shelter. The land becomes healthier every year.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helped pay for this project. Local and national groups worked together to make it happen. Thanks to their care, this lovely greenway will be enjoyed for many years to come by all who visit.

America's Grasslands Share Millions With Local Communities

The U.S. Forest Service has wonderful news for many American communities. It is sharing over \$52 million with 65 counties across the country. The money comes from national grasslands managed by the government.

These grasslands earn money in helpful ways. Farmers graze their animals on the land. Energy companies also use parts of the land responsibly. A share of that income goes straight back to local communities.

Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz explained why this matters. He said the payments help communities share in the benefits of public land. Schools and roads are two of the biggest winners from this funding.

North Dakota receives the largest share at over \$41 million. Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma also receive generous payments. Dozens of other states share in the remaining funds too.

The Forest Service has cared for America's land for over 100 years. It manages 193 million acres of beautiful public land. This programme is a lovely example of nature and communities working together for everyone's benefit.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SNAPPER

WETLAND

LOBSTER

RESCUE

HARBOR

FOREST

NASA

