

GENTLE.NEWS

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"People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned."

— Saul Bellow

Community Saves Rare African Language From Being Lost

In a quiet region of Nigeria, something wonderful has happened. A rare language called Kam has been saved for future generations.

Kam is spoken in 29 small villages in Nigeria. Only about 10,000 people speak it. Until recently, nothing had ever been written down about this language. There were no books, no dictionary, and no recordings.

A kind professor named Dr. Jakob Lesage decided to help. He did something very thoughtful. Instead of working alone, he trained 14 local Kam speakers to document their own language themselves.

Together, the team worked for ten years. They created a grammar guide and a digital dictionary. They also made 307 audio and video recordings. A special website now shares the Kam language with the whole world.

The project finished in early 2026 with a joyful celebration. The local king and his royal guests joined in the festivities. Thanks to this teamwork, the Kam language will live on. Future children will be able to learn the words their grandparents spoke. It is a beautiful gift from one generation to the next.

Scientists Find New Way to Hunt for Water on the Moon

Scientists have found a clever new way to search for water on the moon. They believe ice is hidden under the moon's rocky surface. Finding it could help future astronauts survive long trips to the moon.

A team of researchers built a special computer model. It helps predict how moon rocks behave underground. They used a science called seismology to do this. Seismology studies waves that travel through the ground.

Here is the exciting part. Rocks with ice in them respond to these waves differently than dry rocks. This means scientists can tell where ice might be hiding. It is a bit like an X-ray for the moon's surface.

Future moon rovers will carry small drills. These drills create tiny waves in the ground. Scientists can then use this new model to read the results. It could point them right to frozen water buried deep below.

NASA's Artemis program plans to send people back to the moon soon. Astronauts will need water for longer stays, and carrying enough from Earth is not practical. Finding moon water would be a wonderful solution. This discovery brings that dream one big step closer.

Leaf Plates From Nepal Are Good for the Earth

In Nepal, people have made plates and bowls from leaves for a very long time. They use leaves from the sal tree and banana plants. These simple plates are part of daily life and special celebrations.

Leaf plates are used at weddings, festivals, and religious ceremonies. They are also used at village feasts and street food stalls. Families have passed down this tradition for many generations.

Now, small businesses are making these plates to sell around the world. One company in Nepal employs women from more than one thousand families. This gives many women a steady income and meaningful work.

These leaf plates are very good for the environment. They take very little energy to make. They leave behind almost no pollution, unlike plastic or foam plates.

Leaf plates are also safe for food. They contain no chemicals. People in Europe and America are buying them because they care about the earth. This old tradition from Nepal is helping the whole world go green.

Photographer Brings Old-West Camera Magic to Utah

A photographer named Josh Schutz is doing something truly special in the Utah desert. He is taking pictures using cameras and methods from the 1800s. These are the same tools used by the very first photographers of the American West.

Schutz works with large, old-fashioned cameras. He also uses a small portable darkroom he brings with him. His photos are made one at a time by hand. No two pictures are exactly alike.

The methods he uses have wonderful names. They include tintypes and ambrotypes. These old techniques create rich, beautiful images. They look like something from a history museum.

His work connects us to the earliest days of American photography. Those first photos helped people fall in love with the wide open West. They also helped protect these lands for future generations. Schutz hopes his photos will do the same today.

America is turning 250 years old soon. This feels like the perfect time to look back at our history. Schutz says photos can change how people feel about the land. His images remind us how much beauty there is to treasure and protect.

Music Expert Says Goodbye After 44 Wonderful Years

Do you remember 1982? That year, the movie "E.T." came to theaters. The very first CDs appeared in stores. And a young man named Ray White started working at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Ray worked in the Music Division. He had studied history and singing at the University of Maryland. He loved music deeply, from classical to Broadway show tunes. He knew something wonderful about almost every piece of music ever written.

For over 44 years, Ray delighted visitors, students, and scholars. He had a gift for storytelling. He could hold up a piece of old sheet music and bring it to life with fascinating tales. People young and old left his presentations smiling and amazed.

Ray still gets goosebumps handling rare treasures. Recently, family members of composer George Gershwin visited. They are planning celebrations for the 100th birthday of "An American in Paris." Ray helped make that visit truly special.

Now Ray is retiring. The Library of Congress will miss him greatly. But what a legacy he leaves behind! Forty-four years of sharing the joy of music with the world. We wish Ray a very happy, well-earned rest. Thank you, Ray, for the music!

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

LANGUAGE FOREST MELODY WAVES
MUSIC DICT BOWL

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