

GENTLE.NEWS

In Today's Edition

Technology & Innovation

Boy From Small Town Grows Up to Work for NASA

Science & Discovery

Smart Computer Learns to Predict Sun Storms Early

Animals & Wildlife

Scientists Use Technology to Protect Rare Whales

Nature & Environment

Ocean Waves Help Scientists Predict Volcanic Eruptions

The World Today

A Scientist Watches Puffins at the Oregon Coast

Activity Time

Word Search Puzzle

"The capacity for friendship is God's way of apologizing for our families."

— Jay McInerney

Boy From Small Town Grows Up to Work for NASA

A young man from West Virginia always loved space. Now he works for NASA — right in his home state. His name is Fletcher Newell, and his story is truly inspiring.

Fletcher grew up in a small town called Grafton. In fourth grade, his class visited a nearby NASA building. That visit changed his life. He had no idea NASA was working so close to home.

Fletcher loved computers and taught himself to code. In high school, he even programmed his math calculator. He kept learning and building his own programs. He always wondered what amazing things computers could do.

As a high school junior, Fletcher joined a NASA internship program. He helped engineers organize important documents. Later, he studied systems engineering. In early 2025, he began working at the NASA facility full time.

This August, Fletcher and 50 of his new colleagues were officially sworn in as NASA employees. It was a proud and joyful ceremony. Fletcher said he always admired NASA from far away. He never imagined it would become his workplace and his community.

Smart Computer Learns to Predict Sun Storms Early

Scientists at NASA have built a clever computer program that watches the Sun. It can warn us about solar storms up to 12 hours before they start.

The Sun is always bubbling and churning with energy. Sometimes, powerful magnetic forces burst through its surface. These create dark spots called sunspots. Sunspots are a sign that a storm may be coming.

Solar storms send waves of energy across space. They can affect satellites and radio signals here on Earth. Knowing about storms early helps protect astronauts and important technology we all depend on.

NASA brought together scientists from several top universities and research centers. They used a type of smart computer learning called artificial intelligence. It finds tiny patterns on the Sun's surface that human eyes might easily miss.

This new tool is a big step forward for space safety. The earlier we spot a storm coming, the better we can prepare. Scientists are proud of what this teamwork has achieved. It is a wonderful example of how technology helps us understand our amazing universe.

Scientists Use Technology to Protect Rare Whales

Some of the rarest whales in the world are getting help from amazing new technology. Scientists are working hard to protect the North Atlantic right whale. Only about 380 of these beautiful creatures are still alive.

This past winter brought wonderful news. Scientists spotted 23 mother and baby whale pairs along the Southeast coast. Each new calf is a precious gift for the species. With so few whales left, every single baby matters greatly.

Special underwater listening devices help track the whales all year long. These tools can hear whale calls almost the moment they happen. Whales use these calls to talk to each other, just like we use our voices with friends.

Scientists also use drones to watch over the whales from above. The drones can even measure how well the baby whales are growing. Satellites in space help track where the whales travel. All this information helps keep the whales safe from ships passing nearby.

Many caring people and groups work together on this important mission. Their goal is to help ships and whales share the ocean safely. Thanks to this teamwork and smart technology, these gentle giants have a brighter future ahead.

Ocean Waves Help Scientists Predict Volcanic Eruptions

Did you know that ocean waves can help scientists predict volcanic eruptions? It sounds surprising, but it is true. Waves crashing on the ocean floor make a constant drumming sound. This sound travels deep through the Earth.

Special machines called seismometers record these sounds all over the world. Scientists in Hawaii use this information every day. Most of the time, they focus on signals coming from inside a volcano. But ocean noise turns out to be very helpful too.

Scientists use a clever method to study how fast ocean sounds travel through a volcano. Sometimes the sounds speed up. Sometimes they slow down. These changes are important clues about what is happening underground.

When hot melted rock, called magma, moves upward inside a volcano, it pushes on the rocks around it. This creates tiny cracks deep underground. These cracks cause ocean sounds to travel more slowly. Scientists can detect this slowdown and use it as an early warning sign.

This research gives scientists a better chance of knowing when and where a volcano might erupt. That means communities near volcanoes can be kept safer. It is a wonderful example of how carefully listening to nature helps us understand our amazing planet.

A Scientist Watches Puffins at the Oregon Coast

Have you ever stared at a rock for two days? That is exactly what scientist Jill Ory did. And she loved every minute of it.

Jill traveled to Cannon Beach in Oregon. She was there to watch tufted puffins. These charming birds live near a giant ocean rock called Haystack Rock. The rock is part of a protected wildlife refuge.

Tufted puffins are easy to spot. They have wild, golden feathers on their heads. Their bills are bright orange. Jill used a special scope to watch them up close. She saw puffins sunbathing, flying, and popping in and out of their burrows.

One sweet moment stood out. Jill watched two puffins face each other and bow. Then they rubbed their bills together gently. It looked just like a little kiss! Love was clearly in the air at Haystack Rock.

On her last night, one lone puffin gave Jill a special gift. It grabbed a beak full of grass and waddled into its burrow. Jill had never seen a puffin collecting nesting material before. It was a moment she will never forget. Nature always finds a way to surprise us.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

COMPUTER

SUNSPOT

SIGNAL

OCEAN

WHALE

MAGMA

NASA

