

GENTLE.NEWS

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"A good traveler has no fixed plans and is not intent on arriving."

— Lao Tzu

Hubble Telescope Solves Mystery of Our Galaxy's Past

Our home galaxy, the Milky Way, is enormous. It holds hundreds of billions of stars. But it did not start out so big. It grew over billions of years by merging with smaller galaxies.

Now, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has made a wonderful discovery. It found clear proof that a small galaxy crashed into the young Milky Way long ago. This happened about 12 billion years ago. That is an almost unimaginable stretch of time.

Scientists made this discovery by studying star clusters. These are tight groups of stars that travel together through space. By looking at their age and movement, scientists pieced together this ancient story.

This discovery pushes our knowledge of the Milky Way back even further. We now know 1.8 billion more years of our galaxy's history than before. That is like finding a whole new chapter in a very old book.

The Hubble Space Telescope has been watching the skies for decades. It continues to surprise us with breathtaking finds. Every discovery helps us better understand the beautiful galaxy we call home.

Teams Around the World Design New Wheels for the Moon

NASA wants to build a base on the Moon one day. To do that, rovers need to travel farther across the rocky lunar surface. So NASA asked the public for help designing better wheels.

People from 49 countries answered the call. In all, 128 teams sent in their wheel designs. Five finalist teams were chosen to build real prototypes and test them.

On July 31, the teams gathered at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. They tested their wheels on a special rocky course called the Rock Yard. The wheels were fitted to a small rover named MicroChariot.

The new wheels needed to be light and strong. They also had to grip the ground at higher speeds and handle rough, bumpy terrain. The Moon is a very harsh place, so the wheels must be very tough.

NASA engineer Ed Herrera said every extra kilometer a rover can travel helps us explore more. Better wheels mean better science and more discoveries. It is exciting to think that everyday people helped make that possible.

NASA Cameras Catch Amazing Clouds From Wildfires

Did you know that wildfires can create their own clouds? Scientists have discovered something truly remarkable about these special clouds.

When a large wildfire burns, the heat and smoke can rise very high into the sky. Sometimes the smoke rises so high that it forms a giant storm cloud. These clouds are called fire clouds. They can grow taller than most mountains.

NASA has special cameras on satellites high above Earth. These cameras spotted a giant fire cloud over Utah. The pictures showed the cloud reaching incredibly cold temperatures at its top. Scientists use these pictures to learn more about fire clouds.

Fire clouds are powerful and surprising. They can even create their own lightning, rain, and hail. The smoke inside them can travel high into the sky and drift around the whole world. It can float up there for months or even years.

Scientists are working hard to understand fire clouds better. NASA's cameras help them study these amazing sky events from space. Every new picture teaches us something wonderful about our planet and its skies.

Baby Whales Bring Hope for a Rare Species

Some very exciting news comes from the ocean this winter. Scientists spotted 23 baby right whales born alongside their mothers. That is wonderful news for one of the rarest animals on Earth.

North Atlantic right whales are very rare. Only about 380 of them are alive today. Each new baby is a big deal. Scientists were thrilled to count so many healthy mothers and calves this season.

Teams of caring scientists work hard to protect these whales all year long. They use special underwater microphones to listen for whale calls in the ocean. They can hear a whale almost as soon as it arrives.

Scientists also use drones to watch the baby whales grow. Satellites help track where the whales travel. All of this information helps keep the whales safe from boats and fishing lines in the water.

It takes many people working together to help these gentle giants survive. The good news is that the hard work is paying off. More baby whales mean more hope for the future of this amazing species.

Scientist Wins Top Award for Changing the World

A brilliant scientist has been named Researcher of the Year by R&D World magazine. His name is Parans Paranthaman. He works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Paranthaman has spent his career turning science into things that help real people. He joined the laboratory back in 1993. Since then, he has written more than 500 science papers. He also holds 65 patents for his ideas.

His work covers many exciting areas. He helped create better materials for electric motors. He worked on coatings that keep water off glass. He even helped make safer face masks during the pandemic. His ideas have won ten major awards over the years.

Big companies have used his discoveries to make real products. Samsung, 3M, and others have built on his work. Fourteen companies in total now use technologies he helped create. His research touches electronics, power systems, and advanced materials.

Paranthaman is also a teacher. He works with students at the University of Tennessee. He helps train the next generation of scientists. His story shows how one dedicated person can make a big difference for all of us.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

BATTERY

HUBBLE

GALAXY

STARS

WHALE

CALF

MOON

