

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Always find opportunities to make someone smile, and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life."

— Roy T. Bennett

American Lab Wins Record 22 Science Awards

A famous science lab in Tennessee has won more awards than ever before. Oak Ridge National Laboratory won 22 top science prizes in 2026. This is the most awards the lab has ever received in a single year.

The awards are called the R&D 100 Awards. They are given each year to honor the best new inventions and discoveries. Scientists from universities, companies, and labs around the world compete. This year, 149 inventions were chosen as finalists.

Oak Ridge led 18 of the winning projects. That is more than any other organization this year. The lab also helped four other winning projects with partner institutions.

One winning invention helps protect the power grid. It uses smart computer technology to spot dangerous problems before they cause outages. Another prize went to a top scientist at the lab. Dr. Parans Paranthaman was named Researcher of the Year for his work in energy and materials.

Oak Ridge has now increased its award total three years in a row. The lab's work helps people every day in areas like energy, medicine, and manufacturing. It is wonderful to see American scientists doing such great work for all of us.

America Invests Big in the Science of Tomorrow

America is making a big bet on the science of the future. The National Science Foundation is giving \$290 million to eight research institutes. Their job is to explore quantum science — one of the most exciting fields in the world.

Quantum science studies the tiny building blocks of nature. These are particles so small we cannot see them. But they follow special rules. Scientists believe these rules can help us build amazing new tools and technologies.

Eight institutes across the country will share the funding. Each one will receive between \$28 and \$37 million. They will have five years to do their research. Three of the institutes are brand new. Five others have been working since 2020 and will now keep going with fresh support.

The work is already showing wonderful results. Scientists have found new ways to build powerful quantum computers. They have also created special sensors. These sensors may one day help doctors find illnesses much earlier. That could help save many lives in the years ahead.

Leaders at the Foundation say this research benefits every American. For over 40 years, they have been building the knowledge that makes this possible. Now it is time to go even further. The future of science looks very bright.

Robot Boats Help Scientists Learn About the Ocean

Scientists are using amazing robot boats to explore the ocean. These special vessels travel the sea all by themselves. No people need to be on board.

The boats are about 30 feet long. They sail through the water day and night without stopping. They measure water temperature, ocean currents, and salt levels. They also track fish and tiny sea creatures.

These robot boats help scientists in exciting new ways. Before, researchers mainly used them to make ocean maps. Now the boats answer bigger questions about sea life. They study whole ocean ecosystems and protected animals too.

The boats can go out even in rough winter weather. Regular ships sometimes cannot sail in bad conditions. Robot boats fill in those gaps very helpfully. This means scientists get a much fuller picture of the sea.

With every trip, researchers learn something new. They are discovering more about how ocean creatures live together. The technology keeps getting better with each mission completed. Our oceans are becoming better understood thanks to these wonderful little robot sailors working hard every single day.

Lost Islands Rise Again for Nesting Seabirds

Along the Texas coast, a beautiful story of hope is unfolding. Three small islands once sat in Dickinson Bay, near Galveston. Birds loved these islands. They used them as safe places to build nests and raise their young.

Over time, the islands slowly sank. Storms made things worse. By the 1980s and 1990s, all three islands had disappeared under the water. The birds lost their home. But the people who loved them did not give up.

In 2005, a group called the Galveston Bay Foundation rebuilt one of the islands. It gave the birds two full acres of nesting space. The birds came back right away. It was a wonderful sight.

That success inspired even bigger plans. Partners joined together to build a second island. Money came from many generous groups who cared about wildlife. Experts shared what they knew about where birds like to nest and raise their families.

Today, these rebuilt islands are busy and full of life again. Waterbirds are nesting, calling, and raising chicks in a place they had lost long ago. It is a reminder that when people work together, nature can heal and thrive once more.

Amazing Lab Takes a Million Photos of Life's Tiny Building Blocks

Scientists at a special laboratory in New York are doing something truly wonderful. They are taking pictures of the tiniest parts of living things. These parts are so small you could never see them with your eyes alone.

The lab is called the Laboratory for BioMolecular Structure. It opened five years ago. Since then, it has grown into one of the best science centers in the world. Researchers from all over America come here to do their work.

The scientists use very powerful microscopes. These machines can take over one million pictures of living cells every single year. The photos help researchers learn how our bodies work at the deepest level. This kind of knowledge can lead to better medicines one day.

The lab's director said the technology is growing fast. More and more scientists want to use it. The team is happy to welcome researchers and teach them how to make the most of these amazing tools.

It is exciting to think about what may be discovered next. Every picture taken at this lab could help unlock a mystery of life. The work being done here gives us all reason to feel hopeful about the future of science and health.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

RESEARCH QUANTUM SCIENCE SENSOR
OCEAN POWER FISH

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