

GENTLE.NEWS

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"My Best Friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read."

— Abraham Lincoln

NASA Launches Powerful New Space Telescope

A brand new space telescope has launched into the sky. It is called the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. It blasted off on August 30, 2026, from Florida.

The telescope is now on a very long journey through space. It will travel one million miles to reach its new home in orbit. That trip will take three months.

This amazing telescope has special powers. It can see vast areas of the sky at once. It also sees light we cannot see with our eyes, called infrared light. This helps it look deep into the history of the universe.

Scientists hope Roman will answer big questions about the cosmos. It will search for hidden matter and energy in space. It will also look for planets beyond our own solar system. NASA says this telescope is one of its greatest achievements. It was finished early and came in on budget. That is a wonderful success.

One NASA leader said Roman will be a discovery machine. It will bring us closer to understanding our place in the universe. People around the world are excited to see what this remarkable telescope finds. The best discoveries may still be ahead of us!

Tiny Snails Get a Big New Home in Arizona

A team of caring wildlife workers is helping one of the world's smallest endangered animals. They are saving a tiny snail called the Three Forks springsnail. These little creatures live in the cool mountain springs of eastern Arizona.

The snails are so small they could fit on your fingernail. A wildlife manager named Jeff Sorensen carried about 50 of them in a small container inside a cooler. He and his team gently moved the snails to a new spring nearby. That half-mile walk gave the snails a brand new home.

This kind of move is a big deal for these snails. They spend their whole lives within just 20 feet of their spring. Moving them even a short distance is a careful and important job. The team wanted to help the snails spread to more safe places.

Many groups are working together to protect these snails. The Phoenix Zoo, the U.S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy all help out. Together, they are creating new wild populations of the snails. Their teamwork is already showing wonderful results.

Arizona is home to 13 different kinds of these special springsnails. The Three Forks springsnail lives only in one small area in the White Mountains. Thanks to these devoted workers, this mighty little snail has a brighter future ahead.

New Pill Offers Hope for Rare Muscle and Skin Disease

A new medicine has been approved to help people with a rare disease called dermatomyositis. This is exciting news for patients who have waited a long time for better treatment options.

Dermatomyositis affects the muscles and skin. The immune system mistakenly attacks the body, causing muscle weakness and skin rashes. It can make everyday life very difficult for those who have it.

For many years, doctors had very few good options to treat this disease. They often used medicines made for other conditions. Now, for the first time, there is a pill made specifically for dermatomyositis.

The new pill is called Lisraya. It is taken just once a day. It works by calming the part of the immune system that causes harmful swelling in the muscles and skin. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved it in August 2026.

Doctors are very encouraged by this news. A large study with 241 patients showed the pill works well. A top FDA doctor called it "a meaningful step forward." Patients and their doctors now have a proven treatment made just for this disease. This approval brings real hope to people who have been waiting for answers.

Science Leader Takes Charge of Computers and Data

A top research center in New York has chosen a new leader for its computer science work. Brookhaven National Laboratory picked Nick D'Imperio for a very important job.

Nick will lead a team of 158 people. They work on computers, artificial intelligence, and science data. These tools help researchers make big discoveries every day.

Nick has been doing this work for years. He has a strong background in powerful computers and smart software. His colleagues trust him and know he gets things done well.

His team supports some amazing science projects. One studies tiny materials smaller than a grain of sand. Another looks at beams of light to learn how things are made. A future project will study the tiny building blocks of all matter.

The laboratory's director praised Nick warmly. He said Nick has great vision and understands the challenges of modern science. With Nick leading the way, computers and data will help unlock exciting new discoveries for everyone.

Students and Scientists Team Up to Study Sea Creatures

A group of university students got a wonderful surprise this spring. They joined real scientists on an underwater research trip near Puerto Rico.

The students were from Texas A&M University. They were already in Puerto Rico learning about ocean research. Then they discovered NOAA scientists were working nearby. NOAA studies fish and ocean life for the United States.

The scientists were counting queen conch. These are large, beautiful sea snails with pink spiral shells. They are very important to Caribbean waters and culture. Scientists look for them in seagrass, sand, and near mangrove trees.

The students dove into the water to help with the surveys. Together, they covered much more ground than the scientists could manage alone. Everyone benefited. The students gained real experience. The scientists got more help than expected.

NOAA visits one Caribbean island each year to check on the conch population. This year was Puerto Rico's turn. Scientists want to make sure enough adult conch are living and reproducing. It is slow, careful, important work. Now, thanks to this happy meeting, the research came together beautifully.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

ROCKET

PLANET

SPRING

COSMOS

SNAIL

SKIN

DATA

