

GENTLE.NEWS

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Happy Labor Day!

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"Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one."

— Dr. Seuss

Students and Scientists Team Up to Study Sea Snails

A group of college students got a wonderful surprise this spring. They ended up helping real scientists with important ocean research in Puerto Rico.

The students were from Texas A&M University. They traveled to Puerto Rico to learn about ocean fieldwork. While there, they met scientists from NOAA, a U.S. ocean research agency. The timing worked out perfectly for everyone.

The NOAA scientists were studying queen conch. These are large, beautiful sea snails with pink spiral shells. They are well known across the Caribbean. The scientists wanted to learn how many conch live in Puerto Rico's waters. They also wanted to know if enough adult conch exist to have young ones.

The students jumped at the chance to help. They dove underwater alongside the scientists. Together, they covered more ocean ground than the scientists could alone. The students gained real skills they can use in future careers.

This kind of teamwork is good for everyone. The scientists finished their work more quickly. The students learned by doing something that truly mattered. Queen conch are important to ocean health and to Caribbean cultures. Helping protect them is a gift to the whole region.

Tiny Beach Birds Make a Big Comeback

A small, sweet bird called the piping plover is making a wonderful comeback. This little shorebird was once nearly gone from the Great Lakes. Now it is thriving again, thanks to many caring people.

In 2026, a record 99 pairs of piping plovers made their nests around the Great Lakes. That is more than ever before. The birds nested on all five of the Great Lakes this year.

Even more exciting, 184 baby plovers grew up strong and healthy this season. That is the highest number ever recorded. Thirteen zoos helped raise some of the chicks and release them into the wild.

Volunteers have worked for decades to protect these birds. They watch over nests and teach others about the plovers. Their hard work is truly paying off. Scientists hope the birds will one day reach 150 nesting pairs.

Everyone can help these little birds. When you visit a beach, give shorebirds plenty of space. Keep dogs on leashes near the shore. Small steps like these make a big difference for wildlife.

A Volcano Glows Beneath Antarctic Skies

Far to the south, where icy seas meet frozen skies, a remarkable sight was recently captured from space. A NASA satellite spotted something glowing bright and warm in the middle of one of Earth's coldest places.

Mount Michael is a volcano on a tiny, remote island called Saunders Island. It sits near Antarctica, surrounded by cold ocean waters. The volcano has a lake of liquid lava inside its crater at the very top. This lava lake glows with heat even in the depths of winter.

A special satellite called Landsat 8 took a photograph of the volcano. The image showed a red glow coming from the crater. It also showed a small puff of volcanic smoke drifting above the peak. Dark patches on the snowy slopes showed where heat from the volcano had touched the ice.

Saunders Island is part of a chain of small volcanic islands called the South Sandwich Islands. These islands stretch across a remote stretch of ocean. Very few people ever visit this far-off place, so scientists use satellite cameras to keep watch from above.

It is wonderful to think that even in Earth's coldest, darkest corners, nature still burns bright. This glowing lava lake has likely been active for many years. Satellites help us see and understand these hidden wonders, reminding us how alive and dynamic our beautiful planet truly is.

Scientist Wins Top Honor for Helping People Stay Healthy

A scientist named Lætitia Delmau has received a very special honor. She was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. This is one of the biggest awards a chemist can receive.

Delmau works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. She studies special materials called radioisotopes. These materials are used in hospitals to help doctors treat and diagnose illness. Her work helps make sure these materials are available in America.

Out of 262,000 members, only 1,442 have ever been named fellows. That means fewer than one in every 100 members receives this honor. It shows just how remarkable her achievements truly are.

Delmau is also known for being a wonderful mentor. She has spent years helping younger scientists learn and grow in their careers. Many chemists credit her as an inspiring role model and leader.

She was celebrated at a big science gathering in Chicago. She will be honored again at another event in New Orleans in 2027. Her career is a beautiful example of hard work and dedication.

Scientists Find Faster, Clearer Way to See Inside Things

Scientists at Stanford University and a top research lab have made an exciting discovery. They found a new way to detect radiation that is both fast and strong at the same time. This is very good news for medicine and technology.

Radiation is used in many helpful ways. It helps doctors see inside the human body. It is also used in security scanners and scientific tools. But older detectors had a problem. They could work fast or they could work well, but not both at the same time.

The research team tried something new and creative. They fired tiny charged particles called electrons into special materials. Then they used quick bursts of laser light to see what happened inside. What they found surprised them!

The signals they detected were much stronger than expected. They also found that tiny particles inside the materials bunched together in little groups. This changed how the materials handled light in interesting ways.

These new findings were published in a top science journal. They could lead to better medical scans that show more detail. Doctors may one day see inside the body more clearly than ever before. It is a wonderful step forward for science and for helping people stay healthy.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

ELECTRON

CHEMIST

SURVEY

ISLAND

CONCH

CHICK

LASER

