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GENTLE.NEWS

In Today's Edition

"A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved."

— Kurt Vonnegut

Scientists Work to Help Rare Bumblebees Survive

A special bee is getting some well-deserved help from scientists. The rusty patched bumblebee is a rare and beautiful creature. Researchers are working hard to protect it and help it thrive.

This little bee is important for our food supply. Bees help flowers and crops grow by moving pollen from plant to plant. Without bees, many fruits and vegetables we love would disappear from our tables.

A team of scientists created a new system for tracking wild bees across the country. Many groups worked together on this effort. Their plan helps experts collect better information about where bees live and how they are doing.

Other researchers studied what rusty patched bumblebees like to eat. They looked at pollen collected from the bees to find out which plants the bees prefer. They found that bees enjoy a wide variety of flowers, especially in late summer.

This food research is very exciting. It helps land managers know which plants to grow to feed the bees. By planting the right flowers, people can create cozy homes where these precious bees can live and flourish.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Space Telescope Reveals Secrets of a "Black Eye" Galaxy

Scientists have exciting news from space. Two powerful telescopes have given us amazing new views of a faraway galaxy.

The galaxy is called Messier 64. Many people call it the "Black Eye Galaxy." It earned that name from a dark band of dust near its center. This dust blocks some of the light from its bright core.

The Hubble telescope showed us darkness in that dusty band. But the newer Webb telescope sees something wonderful there. Webb can detect a type of light our eyes cannot see. Using this ability, Webb reveals the dust glowing in red. The dust is lit up by brand-new baby stars being born inside it.

Scientists also discovered something surprising. The gas inside this galaxy spins in two opposite directions. The inner gas and outer gas rotate against each other. Where the two swirling currents meet, new stars are born. Experts believe this happened because M64 once collided with a smaller galaxy long ago.

This discovery changed how scientists think about galaxies. They once believed spiral galaxies like our own Milky Way had quiet, peaceful histories. M64 showed them that galaxies can crash and merge together. Webb's new images will help scientists learn even more about this fascinating galaxy and its remarkable past.

Source: NASA

Tiny Insects May Help Find Harmful Chemicals in Nature

Scientists have made an exciting discovery. Locusts may be able to help keep our environment cleaner and safer.

Researchers at Michigan State University found something remarkable. The brains of locusts can detect certain harmful chemicals. These chemicals are called PFAS. They are found in nonstick pans, waterproof clothing, and firefighting foam.

PFAS chemicals are hard to find and remove. They stay in water and soil for a very long time. That is why people call them "forever chemicals." Scientists need better tools to find them early.

The research team tested locusts by exposing them to these chemicals. The insects' brains reacted in a unique way to each one. Each chemical left its own special pattern in the brain. Scientists are calling these patterns "odor fingerprints." This means locusts may one day work like tiny chemical detectors in nature.

This discovery gives scientists great hope. Living creatures like dogs and insects can detect chemicals better than most machines. Now locusts may join that special group. Researchers believe this finding could lead to better ways of protecting our water and land. Nature, it turns out, may hold the key to some of our biggest challenges.

Source: Futurity.org

Nine New Ocean Sponges Found in Alaskan Waters

Scientists have found nine new kinds of sponges living deep in the ocean near Alaska. These amazing creatures were discovered in the Gulf of Alaska and near the Aleutian Islands. The finds bring the total number of known sponge types in Alaska to 232.

Sponges are some of Earth's oldest living animals. They have been on our planet for more than 600 million years. That is long before dinosaurs ever walked the earth. They survive without a brain, heart, or any organs at all.

These remarkable animals work like living water pumps. They pull huge amounts of seawater through their bodies to find food. As they do this, they help keep the ocean clean and healthy for other sea creatures.

Sponges also act like trees in an underwater forest. Young fish and crabs hide safely inside tube-shaped and barrel-shaped sponges. This helps protect baby rockfish and other small sea creatures from danger.

Scientists are also building a large library of ocean life using the new sponge information. This helps researchers learn more about what lives in our seas. Every new discovery helps us better understand and care for the wonderful, living world beneath the waves.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Heroes Save Rare Trout From Danger in New Mexico

Deep in the mountains of New Mexico lives a very special fish. It is called the Gila trout. Only a few small groups of these fish still exist in the world today.

Scientists had been watching over one group of Gila trout for many years. They knew the fish lived in a hard-to-reach creek deep in the wilderness. They made careful plans in case the fish ever needed help.

In 2026, that moment came. Wildfires burned through the forest near the creek. Heavy rain was coming. Rainwater can wash ash and mud into streams. This can harm fish living there. The team knew they had to act fast.

Nearly 170 people worked together on the rescue. They hiked into the wilderness and carefully collected 78 Gila trout. Fish biologist Eileen Henry helped lead the effort. She said her team was always ready and prepared with the right equipment.

The rescued fish are now safe. Their genes will help keep the species alive for future generations. It was a true team effort, and it worked beautifully. These tiny fish now have a bright future ahead of them.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

POLLEN GALAXY BUMBLE SENSOR

FOREST CREEK STARS

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