

GENTLE.NEWS

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"let me live, love, and say it well in good sentences"

— Sylvia Plath

NASA's Tiny Rocket Could Change Space Travel Forever

NASA engineers have built something exciting. It is a small satellite about the size of a shoebox. But this tiny spacecraft could change how we explore space.

Most spacecraft need two separate fuel systems. One system is for fast moves. Another is for slow, careful adjustments. This means heavy tanks and lots of tubing. All that weight takes up precious space.

NASA's new design uses just one fuel tank. It feeds two different engines at the same time. The special fuel is called ASCENT. It is also safe and non-toxic, which is a big improvement.

This clever design saves a lot of weight and space. That extra room can be used for science tools instead. Future spacecraft could also launch on smaller, cheaper rockets. That makes space exploration more affordable for everyone.

Engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama built and tested the satellite carefully. Universities across the country helped too. If the mission succeeds, this technology could be used in many future spacecraft. It is an exciting step forward for space travel.

A Family's Love of Fish Farming in Hawaii

Ron and Estralita Weidenbach have been raising fish together for over 45 years. They met in Hawaii in the 1970s and fell in love with the idea of fish farming. In 1978, they started their company, Hawaii Fish Company, together.

They began in a simple way. Ron and Estralita raised their first fish in aquariums and backyard swimming pools. From those humble beginnings, they built something truly special. By 1982, they were the first in Hawaii to grow and sell live catfish.

Today, the farm has grown into something wonderful. The family raises tilapia in a large seven-acre freshwater pond. The pond sits on a beautiful former quarry on the North Shore of Oahu. Their fish have been sold to local markets and restaurants since 1985.

The couple raised three children on the farm. As kids, the children helped feed the fish and sort the catch. As they grew older, they took on bigger roles. Now all three are still part of the business. Their youngest daughter, Mikia, works on the farm every day.

The fish are raised with great care from birth to harvest. Baby fish, called fry, are born in special tanks. They grow until they are ready for the pond. It is a true family story, built on hard work, love, and a shared joy in nature.

Students Help NASA Dream Up the Future of Flight

Young students across America are helping NASA think about the future of flying. It is an exciting challenge for curious young minds.

NASA has invited middle school and high school students to join its "Dream With Us" challenge. This year, the theme is all about finding new fuels for aircraft. New fuels could make flying safer, cleaner, and more affordable.

Students are learning about a fuel called liquefied natural gas, or LNG. This fuel could one day power the planes we fly on. Teams of students work together to figure out how planes and airports would need to change to use it.

Aircraft design is also part of the fun. For many years, planes have looked much the same. Now, new materials and new technology mean planes can be built in exciting new ways. Students get to dream up what those new shapes and designs might look like.

It is wonderful to see young people thinking so boldly about tomorrow. Their fresh ideas and enthusiasm may help shape the future of air travel for everyone. The sky is truly the limit!

Water Power Keeps America's Lights On

Scientists at Oak Ridge National Laboratory have good news about water power in America. They just released a big report on how hydropower is helping keep our country running.

Hydropower makes electricity using the power of moving water. It is one of the cleanest ways to make energy. Dams and rivers work together to create power for millions of homes.

The report found some exciting things. A special kind of water power called pumped storage grew by 12 percent in recent years. This means more clean energy is available when people need it.

Pumped storage works like a giant battery. Water is pumped up to a high place when energy is plentiful. Then it flows back down to make electricity when people need extra power. It now provides 82 percent of America's large-scale energy storage.

Two scientists named Rocío Uría-Martínez and Megan Johnson led the research. Oak Ridge has tracked water power every year since 2014. Their work helps leaders make smart choices about clean energy. America's water power future looks very bright.

Scientists Find New Way to Fight Malaria

Scientists have made an exciting discovery in the fight against malaria. They found a weak spot on a tiny parasite that causes the disease. This could lead to a powerful new vaccine.

Malaria is caused by a tiny germ spread by mosquitoes. One type, called *P. vivax*, affects millions of people around the world. It is especially common in South America and Southeast Asia.

What makes this germ tricky is that it can hide in the liver. It stays quiet for months or years. Then it can wake up and make a person sick again. That is why malaria is so hard to beat.

Researchers at the University of South Florida found a new target on the germ's outer surface. Antibodies can attack this spot and stop the germ from reaching the liver. This could prevent the disease from coming back at all.

One scientist called it a "game-changing discovery." No one had found a new way to target this germ in over 40 years. The team hopes their work will lead to a vaccine that stops malaria before it can hide. That would be wonderful news for millions of people.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

VACCINE

ROCKET

FLIGHT

ENERGY

WATER

POWER

FUEL

