

GENTLE.NEWS

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"Silence make the real conversations between friends. Not the saying, but the never needing to say that counts."

— Margaret Lee Runbeck

Professor Spends Three Summers Making Science History

A physics professor has spent three summers doing exciting research at a famous science lab. Kristen Burson teaches at Grinnell College in Iowa. She has been working at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.

Professor Burson is studying tiny structures called nano cages. These are incredibly small containers. Scientists hope to use them to capture and separate special gases. These gases are called noble gases. They include helium and neon.

Each summer, Burson brings her students along. The students get to work alongside expert scientists. They use powerful tools not found at most colleges. This gives young people real experience in science. It helps them learn in exciting new ways.

The program has been a great success. Burson will keep working with Brookhaven beyond the summer visits. She also just received a \$300,000 science grant. This money will help her research move forward in important new ways.

Stories like this show how sharing knowledge makes science stronger. When colleges and big labs work together, everyone benefits. Students grow. Scientists discover new things. And the world gets closer to new breakthroughs that could help us all.

Scientists Add New Tools to Watch Yellowstone's Geysers

Scientists are working hard to keep Yellowstone National Park safe and well understood. They recently added new equipment to help watch over the park's famous geysers and hot springs.

A new monitoring station was set up near Old Faithful, one of the world's most beloved geysers. Scientists also gave a camera at Yellowstone Lake a fresh upgrade. These tools help experts learn more about what is happening underground.

The monitoring station is packed with clever instruments. One tracks tiny movements in the ground. Another listens for even the smallest trembles deep below the surface. Together, they paint a clear picture of the park's activity.

This is part of a big ten-year plan started in 2022. Scientists want to better understand how geysers and hot springs behave. An earlier station at Norris Geyser Basin recorded a geyser explosion in 2024. It was the very first time such an event was ever captured by these instruments. What an exciting discovery!

Yellowstone is one of nature's greatest wonders. Millions of people love visiting its bubbling pools and shooting geysers. Thanks to these caring scientists, this magical place will be watched over carefully for many years to come.

Lost Little Bird Makes History in Maryland

A tiny bird made a big surprise in Maryland this September. Scientists caught a rare warbler that had never been seen in the state before!

The bird is called a MacGillivray's Warbler. It has a bright yellow body and a gray hood. Around its eyes are bold white markings, like little eyebrows. It is a beautiful and striking little creature.

This warbler normally lives far away in western North America. Every year, young birds fly south for winter. They follow paths they were born knowing. But sometimes a bird gets lost and ends up somewhere new!

Scientists at the Patuxent Research Refuge caught the bird gently in a soft net called a mist net. One biologist said the big white eye markings caught his eye right away. The team carefully measured the bird and gave it a tiny leg band with a special number.

After much study, experts confirmed this was the first of its kind ever recorded in Maryland. The little lost bird made history! It was then released safely to continue its journey south. What a wonderful adventure for one very special warbler!

Why People Ignore AI When It Disagrees With Them

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is now part of daily life. Many people use AI chatbots to talk through problems and decisions. Researchers wanted to know how much AI actually changes our minds.

Scientists at the University of Michigan ran a study. They asked nearly 500 adults to think about a tricky situation. For example, should you forgive a friend who let you down? Each person made a choice and said how strongly they felt.

Then the AI responded. Sometimes it agreed with the person. Sometimes it disagreed. The results were very interesting. When AI agreed, people felt even more sure of their choice. But when AI disagreed, most people simply ignored it.

This surprised the researchers. They had hoped people might stop and think when challenged by AI. Instead, most just dismissed the AI's view. They did not change their minds. People seemed to trust their own judgment more than the AI.

This tells us something important about human nature. We all like to feel that we are right. Even a smart computer cannot easily change a made-up mind. Scientists will keep studying how AI and people can work better together. It is a fascinating area of research with much still to learn.

Ancient Corals Reveal Ocean's Changing Weather Patterns

Scientists have made a fascinating discovery about our oceans. They found that El Niño events have grown much stronger in recent decades. El Niño is a natural ocean event that warms parts of the Pacific Ocean.

Every few years, El Niño causes the tropical Pacific to become warmer than usual. Normally, winds push warm water from South America toward Australia. When those winds weaken, the warm water spreads back eastward. This is how an El Niño event begins.

Researchers studied ancient corals from the Galápagos Islands to learn more. Corals grow slowly over hundreds of years, like rings in a tree. They hold clues about ocean temperatures from long ago. Scientists used these clues to look back 1,000 years into the past.

What they found was remarkable. El Niño events today are nearly 40% stronger than they were 1,000 years ago. The biggest changes began about 200 years ago. One scientist said the findings help us understand how oceans and climate work together.

The research was published in the journal Science. Warmer ocean temperatures have brought some surprises, too. Fishermen near California recently caught tropical fish not usually seen there. Scientists say continuing to study our oceans will help us better understand our remarkable planet.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

PACIFIC COLLEGE BANDING CHATBOT
WINGS GRANT FISH

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