

GENTLE.NEWS

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"You should never be surprised when someone treats you with respect, you should expect it."

— Sarah Dessen

Scientists Work Hard to Help Bats Across America

Bats are busy little creatures. They fly at night and eat insects. They help keep nature in balance. Now, scientists are working hard to make sure bats stay healthy and safe across North America.

A big program called NABat watches over bats all around the country. Teams of scientists collect information about where bats live and how many there are. This helps people who care for forests and wild places make good decisions for bats.

One important job is finding the best resting spots for bats. Bats need safe, cozy places to sleep and raise their babies in summer. Scientists studied four kinds of bats to learn what makes a perfect resting place. This knowledge helps protect those special spots.

Scientists also made new maps showing where one bat called the Northern long-eared bat likes to live. These maps help people find the best areas to look for bats and keep them safe. Better maps mean better care for these helpful little animals.

All of this work is good news for bats and for nature. When bats do well, forests and farms do well too. It is wonderful to know that so many caring people are looking out for these amazing nighttime flyers across the land.

Scientists Create Better Maps of Ocean Rocky Reefs

Scientists have made better maps of rocky reefs along the U.S. West Coast. These reefs sit on the ocean floor from California all the way up to Washington State.

Rocky reefs are special places in the ocean. Many fish and sea creatures make their homes among the rocks. Fish like rockfish love to live, feed, and grow there. These reefs are rare and worth protecting.

A team of scientists from NOAA and USGS worked together on this project. They gathered the best information available about where the reefs are found. Their new maps show the reefs more clearly than ever before.

The new maps reveal something interesting. Rocky reefs are spread out in more places than people once thought. But they also appear in smaller patches than expected. This detail helps experts know exactly where to look.

These better maps will help protect the reefs and the fish that depend on them. Managers can now find the most important areas and keep them safe. It is good news for the ocean and all the creatures living in it.

Scientists Win Top Honor for 25 Years of Discovery

A team of scientists has won a very special award. Eleven physicists from Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York were honored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Their award recognizes 25 years of amazing discoveries.

The scientists worked with a giant machine called the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider. It is known as RHIC for short. This machine is about two and a half miles around. It smashes tiny particles together at very high speeds.

One of their biggest discoveries was truly surprising. When gold particles collided inside the machine, they created a nearly perfect liquid. This liquid is similar to what existed at the very beginning of our universe. That was almost 14 billion years ago.

The team included engineers and physicists working together. Some built the collider. Others studied what happened during the experiments. Together, they answered deep questions about what everything in the universe is made of.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright presented the award in person. It is one of the highest honors a science team can receive. This discovery helps all of us understand our universe a little better. These dedicated scientists have truly made history.

Tiny Jumping Robot Fits in the Palm of Your Hand

Engineers have built a tiny robot that can hop like a frog. It is called DirectHop. The whole robot weighs about as much as a paperclip.

DirectHop uses a small electric motor and three folding legs to jump. It can leap high enough to clear a stair step. Best of all, it can control exactly how high it jumps. That is very hard for robots to do.

After it lands, the little robot can flip itself upright and get ready to jump again. It fits right in the palm of your hand. Scientists say it works beautifully in tests.

Hopping uses far less energy than flying. That means these robots could work longer on a small battery. One day, a team of them could explore farms, factories, or even other planets.

The team at the University of Washington is very pleased. They say DirectHop solves three big challenges at once. More improvements are on the way. It is an exciting step toward helpful little robots that can go almost anywhere.

New Drug Shows Promise for Alzheimer's Prevention

Scientists have exciting news in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. A researcher at the University of Missouri has found that a drug can improve blood flow to the brain. Better blood flow may help protect memory and thinking skills.

Dr. Ai-Ling Lin has been studying people who carry a gene called APOE4. People with this gene have a higher chance of developing Alzheimer's. Reduced blood flow to the brain can appear years before any memory problems begin.

Dr. Lin tested a drug called rapamycin on adults aged 45 to 65. Participants took a small daily dose for four weeks. Those who carried the APOE4 gene showed clear improvement in brain blood flow.

One finding was especially meaningful for women. Women with the APOE4 gene showed the greatest improvement of all. This matters because nearly two-thirds of all Alzheimer's patients are women.

Researchers believe catching these changes early is the key. If doctors can slow brain aging before symptoms appear, they may prevent the disease entirely. This hopeful research brings us one step closer to a future without Alzheimer's.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

ROCKFISH HABITAT HABITAT ROBOT
WINGS ROOST JUMP

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