

GENTLE.NEWS

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"A book lying idle on a shelf is wasted ammunition."

— Henry Miller

Smart Program Funds Scallop Research Without Federal Money

Scientists are learning more about sea scallops in a very clever way. A government program called the Scallop Research Set-Aside Program is helping pay for important ocean research. And it does not cost taxpayers a single dollar.

Here is how it works. Instead of giving researchers cash, the program sets aside scallops from the ocean. Scientists then work with fishing crews to harvest those scallops. The sale of the scallops pays for the research.

This year, 14 new projects received more than one and a half million pounds of scallops. At about \$16 per pound, that adds up to \$25 million. Six million dollars will fund research. The rest supports fishing families and small business owners.

Sea scallops are very important to America. In 2025, fishermen landed over 23 million pounds worth \$417 million. The U.S. has the largest wild scallop fishery in the entire world. That is something to be proud of!

New projects this year use computers and cameras to study scallop populations. Scientists and fishermen work as true partners. Together, they help make sure there will always be plenty of scallops for future generations.

Japan and NASA Team Up to Explore Mars' Moons

Mars has two small moons called Phobos and Deimos. Scientists have wondered about these moons for a very long time. Now, an exciting space mission will help solve the mystery.

Japan's space agency is leading a mission to visit these moons. NASA, America's space agency, is helping too. Together, they make a strong team of space explorers.

The mission will travel all the way to Mars. A spacecraft will land on Phobos and collect rocks. Then it will bring those rocks back to Earth for study.

Scientists believe these moons might be very old asteroids. Or they could be pieces from a giant crash on Mars long ago. The rocks brought back will help answer this big question.

NASA is proud to share what they learn with the whole world. This teamwork between countries shows how much humans can do together. One day, people may even travel to Mars themselves.

Rescued Seal Pearl Finds a Loving New Home

A sweet young seal named Pearl has found a safe and happy new home. She now lives at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Pearl is a two-year-old gray seal with a curved spine. This means she cannot survive on her own in the ocean. She needs extra care and a safe place to live.

Pearl got her name from her beautiful shiny silver coat. She was found on a beach in New York in August 2025. Kind beachgoers spotted her and called for help right away. Rescue workers came quickly and took her to a safe place.

It turns out Pearl had been helped before. An aquarium in Connecticut called Mystic Aquarium had cared for her in the past. Scientists had given her special tags to track her travels. Pearl had quite an adventure before finding her forever home!

Now Pearl is settling in at the Maritime Aquarium. Caring staff are looking after her every day. She is safe, well-fed, and loved. Visitors to the aquarium will be able to see her and enjoy her playful nature. Pearl's story reminds us that kindness and teamwork can give animals a wonderful second chance.

Your Chromosomes Do More Than You Think

Scientists have made an exciting discovery about our bodies. The tiny building blocks inside our cells do much more than we knew.

Most people know that chromosomes help determine if a person is born male or female. But new research shows they do a whole lot more than that. They also help shape how our bodies fight disease and how we age.

Researchers from two major universities worked together on this study. They looked at how X and Y chromosomes affect the heart, the brain, and the immune system. They also studied how these chromosomes affect cancer.

For a long time, doctors believed hormones explained most health differences between men and women. Now we know chromosomes play their own important role too. They carry special instructions that help our cells stay healthy throughout our lives.

This discovery could lead to better treatments for many serious illnesses. Doctors may one day design medicines that work better for each person. Scientists say understanding our chromosomes could help people live longer, healthier lives. That is truly wonderful news for all of us.

Hawaii's Volcano Surprises Scientists With New Lava Vents

Hawaii's famous Kīlauea volcano put on a remarkable show this September. Six brand-new openings appeared in the volcano's crater. Lava flowed from these new vents for several days.

Scientists who study volcanoes were watching closely. They use special instruments to measure tiny changes in the ground. When pressure builds up deep underground, the ground slowly tilts and rises. This tells scientists that melted rock is pushing upward.

That is exactly what happened here. After earlier lava fountains stopped in August, pressure began building again. By early September, the ground had risen back to where it was before. Then it kept rising even more.

All that extra pressure found a new path to the surface. Six new vents cracked open along the crater wall. They stretched nearly half a mile in length. It was a wonderful natural event for scientists to observe and study.

Kīlauea is one of the most active volcanoes in the world. It sits on the Big Island of Hawaii. Scientists there watch it every single day. Each new eruption teaches them something fresh about how our remarkable Earth works.

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

- FISSURE HARVEST ROCKET HEALTH
- PHOBOS CELLS OCEAN

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