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GENTLE.NEWS

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"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups."

— George Carlin

NASA Prepares Four Astronauts for Moon Landing Mission

NASA is getting ready to send people back to the Moon. Four astronauts will travel to space in 2027 to practice and prepare for this big goal.

The astronauts are Randy Bresnik, Frank Rubio, Andre Douglas, and Luca Parmitano. They will ride aboard a spacecraft called Orion. Their trip will last about 14 days.

During the mission, the crew will not travel to the Moon just yet. Instead, they will orbit Earth and practice important skills. They will test how different spacecraft connect and work together. This kind of practice helps keep everyone safe.

NASA is using three separate spacecraft for this mission. Each one launches on its own rocket. Testing them together is something NASA has never tried before. Every lesson learned brings the team closer to landing on the Moon.

The goal is to land astronauts near the Moon's South Pole in 2028. NASA's mission manager Jeremy Parsons said it well. "Every lesson we learn here gets us closer to landing on the Moon." It is an exciting time for space exploration. The whole world will be watching as humanity prepares to walk on the Moon once again.

Source: NASA

Giant Oyster Reef Grows in Chesapeake Bay

Workers are building something wonderful in Chesapeake Bay. A crane on a barge drops huge loads of stones into the water. Those stones will become the foundation for a brand new oyster reef. The reef will cover more than 70 acres of the bay's bottom.

Oysters are amazing little creatures. They clean the water around them as they feed. One oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water every single day. Healthy oyster reefs also give fish and other sea life a safe home.

This project is part of a long success story. For years, workers have been restoring oyster reefs across Chesapeake Bay. By 2025, they had brought back 1,900 acres of healthy reef. Nearly all of those restored reefs are doing very well today.

The goal is to keep going. Scientists and conservationists want to restore 2,000 more acres by the year 2040. The government gave $10 million to help make that happen. It is the largest amount ever given for this kind of reef-building work.

One project leader called this "the opening chapter of the next story." That is a beautiful way to think about it. The bay is getting healthier, and the oysters are coming back. Nature, with a little human help, is doing something truly wonderful.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Scientists Learn When Bears Visit Human Neighborhoods

Bears are wonderful wild animals. They roam forests and mountains across America. Sometimes they wander close to where people live. Scientists wanted to understand why this happens.

A new study looked at bear activity in Maryland. Researchers found something very interesting. During dry summers, bears are more likely to come near homes and farms. When forests dry out, bears have trouble finding enough food and water.

Bears need to eat a lot to stay healthy. When their natural food is hard to find, they may look elsewhere. They sometimes visit yards, parks, and farms instead. Scientists studied 840 reported bear visits over four years, from 2020 to 2023.

The research helps people who look after wildlife. They can now better predict when and where bears might appear. This helps communities stay safe and also protect the bears. Both people and bears deserve to live well side by side.

Scientists hope this study leads to better care for black bears. These beautiful animals are an important part of nature. Learning more about their habits helps everyone. When we understand bears better, we can appreciate them from a safe and respectful distance.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Scientist Makes History With Two Major Honours

A scientist named Rekha Rao has done something truly special. She has worked at Sandia National Laboratories for 35 years. This year, she received two major honours at the same time.

Rekha was elected a fellow of two important science groups. One is called the Society of Rheology. The other is the International Association for Computational Mechanics. Being a fellow means other experts admire your work greatly.

She made history with these awards. She is the first person from Sandia ever to receive the fellowship from the international group. She was also the first woman to lead a related science group in America.

Rekha travelled to Munich, Germany to accept one of her awards. More than 5,000 scientists from around the world came to that event. "Getting international recognition was just really amazing," she said. She was proud that the honour recognised both her service and her skills.

Rekha first fell in love with science as a university student. She heard a talk about using maths to predict how materials behave. She said it felt like magic. That spark of wonder led to a wonderful career helping her country for more than three decades.

Source: Sandia National Laboratories

Music Makes Food Taste Even Better

Did you know that music can change how your food tastes? A new study from the University of Copenhagen has found something truly wonderful. When we listen to music while eating, our brains work differently than when we eat in silence.

Scientists used special brain scans to watch what happens inside the brain during meals. They found that music and taste share some of the same brain regions. When music and flavor arrive together, the brain responds more strongly than with taste alone. This was the first time researchers could actually see this happening inside the brain.

One researcher put it beautifully. She said that flavor is not just a property of food. Flavor is an experience created by the brain. That means we help create the taste of our food ourselves!

This discovery opens up exciting possibilities. Playing gentle, enjoyable music at mealtimes could make food more pleasurable for everyone. Something as simple as turning on a favorite song could make your next meal taste even better.

So next time you sit down to eat, try playing some music you love. Your brain will be working its quiet magic, blending the sounds and flavors into something richer. Eating well and feeling good may be as simple as adding a little music.

Source: Futurity.org

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

RESEARCH OYSTER ORBIT TASTE

ORION BRAIN BEAR

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