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GENTLE.NEWS

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"I have learned now that while those who speak about one's miseries usually hurt, those who keep silence hurt more."

— C. S. Lewis

Giant Iceberg Drifts North on a Long Journey

A massive iceberg has been slowly drifting through the icy waters of the South Atlantic Ocean. NASA scientists have been watching it travel for over three years.

The iceberg is called A-81. It broke off from a large sheet of Antarctic ice in January 2023. It is enormous — about 600 square miles in size. That is bigger than many large cities!

Since breaking free, the iceberg has traveled more than 1,400 miles north. Ocean currents carried it slowly along the coast of Antarctica. Then it drifted up toward a remote island called South Georgia.

NASA used a special satellite camera to take a photo of the iceberg on October 20, 2026. Scientists say it has slowed down near the island. The shallow underwater shelf around South Georgia is helping to stop it — just as it has stopped other icebergs in the past.

Scientists are watching A-81 closely. They say large icebergs like this one are a wonderful reminder of nature's power and scale. It is amazing to think that a chunk of ice the size of a city can float thousands of miles across the open ocean!

Source: NASA

Mars Rover Helps Keep Future Astronauts Safe From Dust

NASA's Perseverance rover has been doing important work on Mars. It has spent over 1,600 Martian days studying the red planet's dust. Now its findings could help keep future astronauts safe and healthy.

The rover carries small squares of spacesuit material on board. Scientists studied how tiny dust particles stuck to these samples. Some particles were so small they could enter a person's lungs. This discovery will help engineers build better spacesuits for Mars missions.

Mars dust is different from dust on our Moon. It is less scratchy but contains more minerals like sulfur and iron. Big dust storms on Mars can swirl particles high into the air for a long time. Understanding this dust helps NASA plan ahead for astronaut safety.

NASA has faced dust challenges before. During the Apollo Moon missions, dust scratched visors and damaged spacesuits. Some astronauts even had sneezing and itchy eyes from lunar dust. Scientists are determined to do better for future Mars travelers.

This research will be used to design safer suits and living spaces on Mars. It will also guide health guidelines for astronauts one day. NASA is turning this challenge into a smart solution. The first humans to walk on Mars will be better protected because of Perseverance's hard work today.

Source: NASA

10,000 Trees Planted by Joyful Community Volunteers

More than 2,000 volunteers came together in south Texas to plant 10,000 trees and shrubs. It was a wonderful day of community spirit and love for nature.

The event was called the Rio Reforestation. This year marked its 32nd anniversary. That means people have been doing this good work for over three decades.

The volunteers worked quickly and with great energy. In just two hours, all 10,000 plants were in the ground. The trees included Texas ebony and elbow bush. There were 38 different types of plants in all.

The new trees will help wildlife in the area. Birds and animals need trees for food and shelter. Planting native trees helps connect wild areas so animals can roam safely.

One volunteer leader said the event brings families together every year. Some people who helped plant trees long ago now bring their grandchildren. Together, they carry on a proud tradition of caring for nature.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Scientists and Fishers Team Up to Study Squid

You may know calamari from restaurant menus. It comes from a sea creature called the longfin squid. These amazing animals live along the East Coast of the United States. They are caught mainly from Rhode Island to New Jersey.

Longfin squid are fascinating but tricky to study. They live less than one year but grow very fast. Their numbers change a lot depending on ocean conditions. They also travel with the seasons, moving south in fall and north in spring.

For years, scientists wanted to understand squid populations better. They needed help from the people who know squid best. So researchers teamed up with commercial fishermen. Together, they shared knowledge and gathered important information.

That teamwork paid off beautifully. In 2026, a panel of experts reviewed brand-new scientific models. These models passed all required tests with flying colors. They are much better at tracking how squid grow and move through the seasons.

This is a big win for ocean science. Better models mean better care for this important species. Managers can now make smarter, more confident decisions. The findings will be used right away to help guide the squid fishery.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Sensitive People Respond Most to Social Warmth

Some people feel things more deeply than others. They are often called "highly sensitive people." Scientists have long wondered what makes them tick.

A new study from Washington State University has some surprising findings. Highly sensitive people do not react more strongly to things like loud noise, bad smells, or hot and cold temperatures. That may come as a relief to many people.

Instead, these folks are most affected by the people around them. A warm, friendly neighborhood gives them a bigger boost of happiness. A cold or unwelcoming place may leave them feeling uneasy. It is really about people, not physical surroundings.

Lead researcher Kim Meidenbauer says this is actually good news. Being highly sensitive does not mean every part of life feels overwhelming. It simply means that kind people and warm places matter more to you. That is a beautiful thing to know about yourself.

Scientists also found that this trait runs in families. Genes may explain nearly half of why some people are more sensitive than others. So if you have always felt things deeply, you were likely born that way. You are not alone, and there is nothing wrong with feeling the warmth of the world a little more fully.

Source: Futurity.org

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

ISLAND SURVEY SQUID TRAIT

TREES OCEAN DUST

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