Wednesday, October 28, 2026

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GENTLE.NEWS

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"No persons are more frequently wrong, than those who will not admit they are wrong."

— François de La Rochefoucauld

New Dwarf Planet Found Beyond Pluto's Orbit

Scientists have made an exciting discovery in space. A powerful new telescope has spotted a possible dwarf planet far beyond Pluto. This is a wonderful find!

The telescope is called the Vera C. Rubin Observatory. It sits in Chile and watches the night sky carefully. A scientist named Matthew Holman made the discovery. He works with Harvard and Smithsonian researchers.

The new object is called 2026 ED138. It travels slowly around our sun, far out in the cold, dark edges of our solar system. It sits even farther away than Pluto does.

Scientists believe it may be one of the largest and brightest objects ever found in that distant region. They are still studying it to learn more. A special world group called the Minor Planet Center announced the exciting news to astronomers everywhere.

The Rubin Observatory is just getting started. It will spend years mapping billions of stars and objects in space. Experts expect many more wonderful discoveries like this one in the years ahead. The universe is full of amazing surprises waiting to be found!

Source: SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Amazing Rock Towers Shaped by Ancient Volcanoes

Long ago, a giant volcano erupted in what is now Arizona. That happened about 27 million years ago. The eruption was enormous. It spread ash and rock over a huge area of land.

Over millions of years, wind and rain slowly shaped that hardened rock. The result was something truly wonderful. Tall rock towers rose up from the ground. Some stand hundreds of feet high. Others have giant boulders balanced right on top.

The Apache people who lived there gave it a perfect name. They called it "The Land of the Standing-Up Rocks." It is easy to see why. Visitors walk through canyons filled with hundreds of these tall spires. Some groups have so many towers they look like a crowd of stone giants.

The area was made a national monument in 1924. That means it is protected and cared for. People can hike or drive through and enjoy the amazing views. The rock formations have names like Big Balanced Rock and Heart of Rocks.

These rocks are a reminder of how powerful nature can be. They are also a reminder of how beautiful our world is. The ancient volcano left behind a true wonder. Millions of years of wind and rain turned it into something breathtaking for all of us to enjoy.

Source: NASA

Friends Team Up to Protect Caribbean Seabirds

Beautiful seabirds have long made their homes on tiny islands near the U.S. Virgin Islands. Birds like the Red-billed Tropicbird and Roseate Tern nest there each year. These islands are peaceful, protected places.

Sadly, wild rats found their way to some of these islands. The rats were eating bird eggs and baby chicks. This caused the bird numbers to slowly drop. Something needed to be done to help.

A group of caring wildlife experts stepped in. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined hands with a nonprofit group called Island Conservation. Together, they set out to check six small island nesting sites.

The team looked at old bird survey records. They also walked the islands to see what was happening today. Their careful work will show where birds need the most help. Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park helped pay for this important project.

This is a wonderful example of people working together for nature. By sharing their skills and resources, these groups are giving Caribbean seabirds a brighter future. The birds may soon have safe, thriving nesting grounds once again.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Smart Computer Helps Scientists Hunt for Tiny Ghost Particles

Scientists have built a clever computer program to help solve one of nature's greatest mysteries. It is called SPINE, and it works like a very sharp set of eyes for researchers around the world.

SPINE was created at a science lab called SLAC in California. It uses a type of smart technology called machine learning. This means the program learns from experience, just like a person does.

SPINE helps scientists study tiny particles called neutrinos. These are among the smallest things in the universe. Trillions of them pass through your body every single second. You cannot feel them at all. They are sometimes called ghost particles because they are so hard to catch.

Studying neutrinos is very tricky. When scientists do catch one, they see a very complicated picture of tiny tracks and signals. SPINE looks at these messy pictures and figures out what happened. It does this job far better than older computer programs could.

Scientists hope neutrinos will answer big questions about the universe. Why does anything exist at all? What is the universe truly made of? SPINE is now being used in several major experiments worldwide. Each day, it brings scientists one step closer to those wonderful answers.

Source: SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Good News: Fewer Drug Overdose Deaths Across America

Something wonderful is happening across the United States. Far fewer people are dying from drug overdoses. This is very good news for families and communities everywhere.

Since May 2023, overdose deaths have been dropping sharply. Scientists are working hard to understand why. Researchers from several top universities studied the numbers carefully.

For many years, experts thought a medicine called naloxone was the main reason. Naloxone can save a person's life during a drug overdose. Many people know it by the brand name Narcan. It became much easier to buy in recent years.

But the new study found something surprising. The drop in deaths does not seem to be mainly because of naloxone. The number of overdoses fell greatly. Naloxone use fell too, at about the same rate. This tells scientists that something else is helping people stay safer.

Researchers looked at records from over 5,000 emergency services teams across the country. They found that drug overdoses fell more than 20 percent below what was expected. This is a remarkable achievement. Scientists are now excited to find the true reasons behind this hopeful trend. More answers are coming soon.

Source: Futurity.org

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

PARTICLE RESEARCH NEUTRINO VOLCANO

ISLAND HEALTH SPINE

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