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"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

— Mark Twain

Ocean Treasures Hidden in the Deep Blue Sea

Most people think of beautiful beaches when they picture the ocean. But beneath the waves lies a whole hidden world full of wonder.

Scientists are learning more about the deep ocean every day. The waters of the Caribbean Sea are home to coral reefs, sea grasses, and amazing wildlife. These underwater treasures matter deeply to people and nature alike.

Exploring the deep sea is not easy work. Special cameras and equipment must travel far below the surface. These tools help researchers see creatures and landscapes never spotted before. Every new discovery teaches us something wonderful.

One exciting step forward is protecting a special underwater mountain ridge in the Caribbean. It is now part of a marine sanctuary. That means the ocean life living there is kept safe and cared for.

Protecting the ocean helps everyone. Healthy seas support fishing, tourism, and coastal communities. When we look after the deep sea, we look after our whole world. The ocean's greatest secrets may still be waiting to be found.

This story originally appeared on Global Voices

Scientists and Fishers Team Up to Study Calamari Squid

You may have enjoyed calamari at a restaurant. That chewy, tasty dish comes from longfin squid. These amazing creatures live along the East Coast of the United States.

Longfin squid are fascinating animals. They live for less than one year. In that short time, they grow very quickly. They travel south in the fall and north again in the spring.

Scientists wanted to learn more about these squid. Studying them is not easy. Their numbers change a lot depending on ocean conditions. So researchers teamed up with commercial fishing crews to gather better information together.

That teamwork paid off beautifully. In 2026, a panel of independent scientists reviewed the new research. They approved two brand-new models for tracking squid populations. These tools are much better than anything used before. They can follow the squid through their fast growth and seasonal travels.

This is a wonderful achievement. For the first time, scientists have strong, reliable ways to understand longfin squid. Fishing industry partners made this success possible. Together, scientists and fishers have built a smarter, kinder way to care for this important ocean creature. Their work will help protect squid populations for many years to come.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Arts Programs Bring Joy to All in South Dakota

A national arts leader recently visited South Dakota to see how the arts are helping people across the state. Mary Anne Carter heads the National Endowment for the Arts. She wanted to see firsthand where arts funding was going.

She traveled to Rapid City and the beautiful Black Hills. One stop was the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer State Park. The park sits in a rugged and stunning natural landscape. There she met with Theatre 605, a local theater group.

Theatre 605 received a $15,000 grant to support their work. They performed the musical 1776 this year with that funding. The show celebrated America's 250th birthday in a big way. The group also tours schools across South Dakota 40 weeks a year, bringing live theater to children in rural areas.

Theatre 605 also runs a special program called Expanding Stage. It brings together performers of all abilities and backgrounds. Costumes and props are adapted so everyone can take part. This program gives people confidence and a sense of belonging.

Carter also visited the Suzie Cappa Art Center in Rapid City. Artists of all abilities create and share their work there. She heard from artists about how art has changed their lives. Making art helps them express themselves

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

and connect with others. The arts truly have the power to uplift every community.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

NASA Wants New Astronauts for Moon and Mars Missions

NASA is looking for brave new explorers. The space agency wants people to join its astronaut team. These future astronauts will do amazing work.

They could walk on the Moon. They might even help plan the first trips to Mars. NASA is building a Moon Base too. It is a truly exciting time for space travel.

NASA leader Jared Isaacman shared his excitement. He said the people chosen could help write the next great chapter in human history. They will need skill, good judgment, and teamwork. They will also need great courage for these big adventures.

NASA picked 10 new astronaut candidates in 2025. More than 8,000 people had applied for those spots. Those lucky ten are now deep in training. They are learning everything they need to know for space.

Now NASA is opening the door again. A new group of explorers will be chosen by late 2027. Officials say the mission is waiting. The greatest adventure in human history still has room for new heroes.

Source: NASA

Why Yellowstone's Famous Pools Glow Brilliant Blue

Yellowstone National Park has some of the most beautiful pools in the world. They glow in stunning shades of blue. Have you ever wondered why?

It all starts with sunlight. Light from the sun travels 93 million miles to reach us. Along the way, Earth's atmosphere filters it. This changes which colors we see.

When sunlight enters a pool of water, something special happens. Water absorbs red, orange, and yellow light very strongly. But blue light passes through much more easily. So blue is what remains. The deeper the water, the more blue it becomes.

Some of Yellowstone's pools are very deep and clear. This makes their blue color especially vivid and bright. Other pools look milky blue. That happens when tiny particles scatter the light in different directions. Each pool has its own beautiful shade.

Scientists study these pools to learn more about light and water. It is wonderful to know that nature creates such beauty through simple science. Next time you see a photo of Yellowstone, you will know the secret behind that gorgeous blue glow.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

SUNLIGHT THEATER ROCKET GRANT

WATER MARS MOON

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