Wednesday, November 11, 2026 *A free daily newspaper for easy reading*

GENTLE.NEWS

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"My library is an archive of longings."

— Susan Sontag

Scientists Map 165 Years of California's Coastal Dunes

California's beautiful coastal sand dunes are slowly getting smaller. A big new study looked at how much dune land has been lost since the 1800s. The findings show that about 60% of the dunes have disappeared over the past 165 years.

Sand dunes are more than just pretty scenery. They are home to many special plants and animals found nowhere else. They also act like a natural shield, protecting towns and roads from flooding when ocean waves push inland.

Scientists from several universities worked together on this study. They compared old maps from the 1800s with modern aerial photos taken from above. Special computer tools helped them spot exactly where dunes once existed along the coast.

The good news is that this new study gives scientists a clear picture of what still remains. Knowing where the dunes are helps people work to protect them. Conservation teams can now focus their efforts where they are needed most.

California still has beautiful dune areas stretching along hundreds of miles of coastline. With the right care, these special places can be preserved for future generations to enjoy. This research is an important first step in that work.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

America Saves Its Hidden Treasure Maps Underground

Scientists are making sure old records are not lost forever. The U.S. Geological Survey gave nearly $1.7 million to 26 states for a very special project.

The money will help states find and protect old maps and notes about what lies underground. These records show where water, minerals, and energy sources are hidden beneath the earth.

Many of these records are very old. Some were made by hand over 200 years ago. They have been sitting in filing cabinets and storage rooms across America. Now they will be carefully organized and kept safe.

This old information is more valuable than ever. It helps scientists find clean water, useful minerals, and energy sources. Best of all, it saves money. We already have the information. We just need to protect it and make it easy to find and use.

Think of it like finding a treasure map in your attic. These old records hold clues to what America needs most today. Scientists are excited to unlock these secrets. The past is helping to build the future.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Art and Music Help Veterans Heal and Connect

Every year, we celebrate Veterans Day to honor the brave men and women who served our country. Now, a special program is helping veterans heal through the power of the arts. It is called Creative Forces, and it is making a real difference in lives across America.

At a veterans' hospital in Tampa, Florida, music and movement are part of the care. Veterans work with creative arts therapists right inside the hospital. Many say the arts help them manage pain, feel more confident, and enjoy daily life again.

In North Carolina, veterans are learning pottery. A program called Clay and Camaraderie started as simple workshops. It has grown into a full studio. Veterans shape bowls, mugs, and vases with their hands. They say it brings peace and helps them feel connected.

In New York City, veterans are finding healing through dance. A company called Exit12 runs special workshops. Movement helps veterans express feelings that are hard to put into words. Many say it brings great relief.

These programs show that art, music, and movement are powerful tools for healing. Veterans across the country are creating, sharing, and finding joy together. The arts are helping them write a new and hopeful chapter.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

Space Tool May Discover New Worlds Far Away

Scientists at NASA have found a new way to look for planets far beyond our solar system. The new method uses ripples in space itself to find them.

These ripples are called gravitational waves. They are tiny waves that travel through space and time. Big objects in space create them as they orbit each other. Scientists can study these waves like clues.

A space telescope called LISA will help with this. LISA stands for Laser Interferometer Space Antenna. It is being built now and will launch in the 2030s. LISA will listen for gravitational waves in space.

Some stars called white dwarfs orbit close together. When a planet is nearby, it changes the wave signal. LISA can pick up that change from very far away. It could spot a large planet thousands of light-years away. That is an almost impossible distance to see!

NASA scientists also plan to use the James Webb Space Telescope to confirm any planets they find. Two new research papers share all the details. This exciting work could help us discover whole new worlds we never knew existed. The universe just got a little more wonderful.

Source: NASA

Brilliant Yellow Fish Surprises Scientists in New York Harbor

Scientists found a very special fish in New York last month. It was bright yellow and orange, like autumn leaves. This rare fish is called a burbot.

Burbot are normally brown and dull in color. But this one had a condition that turned it a vivid yellow-orange. Scientists say this happens to about one fish in a million. What a sight it must have been!

The fish was caught by a team from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were doing a routine check of the water in Oswego Harbor. They use nets and other tools to study what lives in the lake.

Finding such a rare fish is exciting news. It shows that the team's careful methods are working very well. If their tools can spot a one-in-a-million native fish, they can likely spot harmful newcomer species too. That helps keep our Great Lakes healthy.

The scientists felt very lucky that day. Hard work and a little good fortune made it possible. It is a good reminder that nature still has wonderful surprises in store for all of us.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

WILDLIFE MINERAL SAMPLE HARBOR

ORBIT WATER FISH

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