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GENTLE.NEWS

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"Happiness is holding someone in your arms and knowing you hold the whole world."

— Orhan Pamuk

School Children in Africa Grow Their Own Food

In the country of Cameroon, in Africa, something wonderful is happening. Children at a school called Blessed Bilingual Education Centre are growing their own food. They planted a leafy vegetable called huckleberry in their school garden. Recently, they enjoyed their very first harvest together.

The children learned to garden in a gentle, natural way. They use methods like composting and organic manure. This means they care for the soil without harsh chemicals. They even learned how to graft fruit trees to grow new plants.

A group called Support Humanity Cameroon helped start this program in 2024. They wanted children to learn about nature while doing something helpful. Students in other parts of Cameroon are doing the same thing. Many schools now have their own gardens.

Growing food at school helps children in a big way. When children eat well, they can focus and learn better. A good meal makes a real difference to a young mind. These gardens bring fresh food right to where children spend their days.

It is a simple idea with a beautiful result. Children are learning, eating well, and caring for the earth all at once. These young gardeners are making their communities stronger, one seed at a time.

This story originally appeared on Global Voices

Smart Computer Learns to Study the Big Bang

Scientists at a famous lab in New York have made a wonderful discovery. They built a smart computer program that can teach itself. It learns without anyone showing it what to do.

The team worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory. They study what the universe looked like long ago. They want to know what happened just after the Big Bang, when everything began.

Right after the Big Bang, matter was very different. It was a hot, thick "soup" of tiny particles. This soup is called quark-gluon plasma. Scientists can recreate this soup in a special machine today.

The machine smashes heavy particles together very fast. This creates tiny bursts of energy called jets. The new smart program finds these jets quickly. It spots them even when billions of other particles are in the way. That is very hard to do.

This discovery helps scientists learn how our whole universe was born. The smart program does in seconds what used to take much longer. It is a big step forward for science. Researchers are excited to keep exploring the mysteries of the universe.

Source: Brookhaven National Laboratory

Woman Helps Build the Next Moon Landing Ship

A woman named Katie Spicer has an amazing job. She helps build a spacecraft that will carry astronauts to the Moon. Her work is part of NASA's Artemis program.

The spacecraft is called the Blue Moon lander. It is being built by a company called Blue Origin. Katie works to make sure the lander is safe and easy for astronauts to use.

Katie thinks about every small detail. She asks questions like: Can astronauts grab the handrails easily? Can they push the buttons while floating in space? Are the bathrooms simple to use in a tiny spacecraft? These details matter a great deal.

Her goal is to make sure the crew can do their jobs safely. She checks that astronauts will have the right tools and training. She wants everything to work perfectly when it counts most.

The Blue Moon lander is planned to carry astronauts to the Moon in 2028. Katie's careful work will help make that dream come true. Her handprint will be on one of history's greatest journeys.

Source: NASA

Marine Veteran Finds New Purpose Protecting Wild Salmon

A young man named Delbert Henson grew up near a beautiful river in Northern California. As a boy, he loved reading books about sharks and dreamed of becoming a marine biologist. After high school, he joined the U.S. Marines and served his country proudly.

When Delbert left the Marines, he wasn't sure what to do next. Then his twin sister told him about a special program called Veterans Corps. This program helps military veterans find meaningful work in nature and science.

Today, Delbert hikes along remote creeks in Northern California, counting wild salmon. He helps scientists learn how the fish are doing and works to protect their habitat. It is important, rewarding work that he truly loves.

A fellow Marine veteran named Bryan Souza helped make this possible. Bryan had found his own happiness working outdoors with fish and forests. He believed other veterans would feel the same joy. "This job protecting forests and natural resources is super important," Bryan said warmly.

The Veterans Corps program is run by NOAA Fisheries. It gives veterans a full year of paid, hands-on experience. They learn skills for science careers or nature jobs. For Delbert, the boy who once dreamed of sea creatures, working beside a salmon-filled river feels just right.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Scientist Finds Smart Way to Save Fuel at Sea

A scientist named Jarrod Santora loves working on ships. He has sailed on research vessels for over 25 years. His job is to study fish and ocean life.

Jarrod works for a group called NOAA. They send ships out to sea to collect important facts about fish. These facts help people manage our oceans wisely.

Jarrod noticed that the ships kept careful records every day. They tracked how much fuel was used each hour. He saw a chance to help save fuel and money. By using less fuel during quiet times, ships could save more for the important work of gathering data at night.

Jarrod worked closely with ship captains and engineers. He learned about their challenges by truly listening to them. Together, they found smarter ways to run the ships. Their teamwork saved fuel without losing any important science.

This kind of curiosity and friendship made a real difference. Jarrod says a good book inspired him too. It was written by one of his heroes, an oceanographer named Henry Stommel. The book taught him to always keep asking questions. Jarrod's story shows that talking, listening, and caring can lead to wonderful discoveries — even out on the open sea.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

HARVEST ARTEMIS LANDER SALMON

MOON JETS FISH

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