Tuesday, November 17, 2026

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GENTLE.NEWS

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"There is only one sin. and that is theft... when you tell a lie, you steal someones right to the truth."

— Khaled Hosseini

Astronauts See Earth's Dazzling Light Show From Space

Have you ever wondered what Earth looks like from space? Astronauts on the International Space Station have a truly magical view. They say looking back at Earth is just as breathtaking as looking out at the stars.

NASA astronaut Donald Pettit once wrote about the beauty of Earth at night. He said cities glowed like bright Broadway signs. Clusters of fishing boats on dark oceans looked like brand-new constellations in the night sky.

Astronaut Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly in space. She marveled at lightning seen from above the clouds. On Earth, we see lightning from below. But from orbit, it looks completely different and magical.

Sally described it beautifully. She said lightning spreads through clouds like bursting balls of light. During big storms, it looks like someone is tossing fireworks from cloud to cloud across the sky. What a wonderful image!

Recently, an astronaut captured all of this at once. Flying over the South China Sea, the station passed through a scene of city lights, fishing fleets, and lightning storms. One photograph caught it all in a single, stunning moment. It is a reminder of how beautiful our planet truly is.

Source: NASA

New Fishing Rule Protects Whales Along the West Coast

Fishermen and whales are both winners thanks to a smart new rule on the West Coast.

The rule changes how fishing boats set their gear on the ocean floor. Before, each string of fishing equipment needed two lines going up to buoys at the surface. Now, just one line is needed.

Those lines in the water are a danger to whales. The animals can get tangled in them. Fewer lines means fewer whales getting hurt. That is very good news for these gentle giants of the sea.

Fisherman Poggy Lapham loves the new rule. He says it saves him about 20 percent of his time on the water. It also saves him nearly $1,500 in rope and line costs. His boat works in waters over half a mile deep. Hauling gear from that depth can take more than 90 minutes.

Scientists, fishermen, and conservation groups all worked together to create this rule. Lapham says making it optional first is a wise choice. Crews can adjust at their own pace. He believes most fishermen will choose the smarter, faster way on their own.

Source: NOAA Fisheries

Nebraska Celebrates the Arts and Community Spirit

Nebraska is showing the country how the arts bring people together. The state has a rich tradition of art, music, and culture that touches everyone.

A national arts leader recently visited Nebraska to see this firsthand. Mary Anne Carter leads the National Endowment for the Arts. She traveled to Lincoln and Omaha to meet with artists and community members.

She visited the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln. There she spoke with local leaders about why the arts matter. They talked about how art helps people in small towns and big cities alike. Art supports schools, health, and human connection.

Nebraska's arts community is growing in exciting ways. Programs are reaching people of all abilities and backgrounds. Art galleries and museums are welcoming more visitors than ever before. The state takes great pride in sharing its culture with everyone.

America is celebrating its 250th birthday. Nebraska's arts leaders are helping mark this milestone with joy. The arts remind us of who we are as a nation. They bring out the best in our communities and in each other.

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

Mars Rover Finds Rocks That Hint at Ancient Water

NASA's Perseverance rover is exploring Mars right now. It has made a very exciting discovery. The rover found some unusually bright, white rocks on the Martian surface.

These glowing rocks stand out clearly against the dark, dusty ground. Scientists were immediately curious about them. They directed the rover to take a closer look.

Special instruments on the rover tested the rocks. The results were surprising and wonderful. The bright rocks are rich in a material called hydrated silica. This is a mineral that forms where water once existed.

On Earth, this same material forms near hot springs and underground water systems. Finding it on Mars is a big deal. It tells scientists that liquid water once flowed there long ago. Water is one of the key ingredients needed for life.

This discovery helps paint a picture of ancient Mars. It may have once been a much wetter, warmer world. Scientists are thrilled by these ghostly glowing rocks. Each new find brings us closer to understanding our neighboring planet.

Source: NASA

After 30 Years, Jim Mirandy Joins NASA's Team

Jim Mirandy has loved NASA his whole life. Now he has just made his dream come true. After 30 years of working with NASA, he has become an official NASA employee.

Jim works at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. It is one of the biggest rocket testing sites in the whole country. He makes sure that rockets are tested safely and carefully.

As a quality assurance specialist, Jim checks that everything is done right. He looks for anything that might cause a problem before it becomes one. "Discovery is an important job," Jim says. "We lead the world in space exploration, and we make the dream of reaching for the stars a reality."

Jim's work helps NASA's Artemis program. That is the exciting mission to send American astronauts back to the Moon. Every rocket test Jim oversees brings that dream one step closer.

Jim also helps keep his whole team safe every day. He leads safety programs and works with fellow employees to protect everyone at the site. After three decades of hard work, Jim is proud to help America reach for the stars.

Source: NASA

Activity Time - Word Search

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

Words to Find:

CULTURE SILICA MUSEUM CAMERA

ORBIT ROVER ROCK

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