

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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Module 3 - Edition 2



Space News

Anusha

NASA Tests New Mars Drones: A New Era of Space Exploration.

NASA is pushing the boundaries of space exploration with advanced drone technology designed to revolutionize our study of Mars. These drones promise unique perspectives and capabilities beyond those of traditional rovers and orbiters, marking a significant leap in Martian surface exploration.

Drones offer unparalleled mobility, allowing rapid traversal of vast distances, navigation through complex terrains, and access to previously unreachable areas. This aerial capability enables quick reconnaissance, detailed mapping, and targeted investigation of geological features, potentially uncovering new evidence of past or present life. However, the path to Martian aerial exploration has not been without its challenges: in 2024, a prototype drone crashed during its mission, highlighting the difficulties of operating in the harsh Martian environment.

Despite this setback, NASA engineers are rigorously testing new drone prototypes in simulated Martian conditions, incorporating lessons learned from the crash. These tests focus on ensuring the drones can withstand the thin atmosphere and extreme temperatures, refining designs, and enhancing autonomous navigation systems. The goal is to overcome these challenges and pave the way for future successful drone missions on the Red Planet.

World News

By Gregor & Max

Trump attempting to acquire Greenland

Recently, US president Donald Trump has made several statements in which he has voiced that he wishes to incorporate the overseas territory of Greenland, currently owned by the Kingdom of Denmark.

Greenland currently operates as an autonomous territory, meaning that they operate with their own governing body. However, they frequently receive aid from Denmark and are technically owned by the Kingdom of Denmark. The land has been owned by Denmark since 1721, after a missionary quest went there and established a mission. It was officially incorporated into the Kingdom of Denmark in 1953 and has remained in this state since.

Recently President Trump has made remarks about the landmass' strategic military location, stating that "[the USA] needs Greenland for national security". Trump has also stated "We [the USA] need to have it," according to the BBC. It has also been speculated that another reason for Trump's 'need' for Greenland are the large natural gas and oil reserves below the ice. Greenlanders are protesting Trump's attempted acquisition, as some fear that the US are trying to take their beloved home. They have turned down monetary offers, ranging from ten to a hundred thousand USD(\$). At the time of writing, Trump was ramping up the severity of his threats and some people fear the possibility of war, although others say that other outcomes are likely.

Movie Review

By Gregor

Interstellar (2014)

Directed by Christopher Nolan, Interstellar is a large-scale science-fiction movie set nearly forty years from now, in 2067, where we follow Cooper, a retired astronaut in an alternate apocalyptic Earth. In this Earth, humanity is running out of food due to excessive dust storms. Because of this, Cooper is tasked with visiting three planets deemed habitable for humanity; however, he has to leave his family, most notably his daughter Murph. Despite this, he continues with the mission, with the first leg of the journey taking them through a wormhole orbiting Saturn, taking them to Gargantua, a black hole with planets deemed habitable orbiting it.

The first they visit is Miller's Planet, which orbits closest to Gargantua, having a side effect of accelerating the passage of time. This planet seems normal at first; however, a short while after landing, they are hit with a gargantuan tidal wave, likely caused by the immense gravity of the black hole. They leave and, after reuniting with their main ship (the Endurance), find that twenty-three years have passed.

After listening to messages left by Cooper's family they depart to Mann's Planet, an ice world which has sent a signal claiming habitability. Unfortunately, the signal was a lie, and the planet was unsuitable for habitation, Mann simply wanted to get back home by any means necessary. He betrays Cooper, and after hijacking his ship he attempts to leave everyone behind for his own sake. But will he succeed?

Overall rating: 8.5/10 Incredible score and somewhat realistic physics and rendering of the black hole.



Nature news

Sebastian

Is climate change our fault, and should we be worried?

Global warming and climate change appear in the news every day showing worrying data about temperature increases. Almost every year we are breaking UK records for temperature with 2025 officially being the hottest and sunniest year on record. Some people say that, in terms of the greater scale of time, the Earth is coming out of an ice age and historical evidence shows a previous pattern where the Earth has had an inter-glacial (opposite of an ice-age) after a long ice age. However, there is a lot of evidence to suggest that humans are also influencing climate change.

The Earth has multiple layers in its atmosphere, one of which is known as the greenhouse layer. It traps heat which has travelled from the sun. The Earth needs this layer to support life otherwise it would be too cold and all life on Earth would die. But humans have been producing greenhouse gases. The main gases are nitrous oxide, methane, and carbon monoxide which all make the greenhouse layer thicker, trapping more heat continuously. Humans are not the only source of these problems, as volcanoes release copious amounts of carbon monoxide, thickening the greenhouse layer.

So, is this one of humanity's new great mysteries or is it our fault and we just need to accept it? All mysteries aside, should we be preparing for the worst, or just continuing our everyday life like climate change was never an issue?

Football News

Max

Sunderland's Shock Start to the Premier League Season!

Sunderland, well known for their Stadium of Light, have been out of the premier league for eight years... until recently that is. After the Black Cats beat Sheffield United 2-1 at Wembley last season in the play-off final, Sunderland are back and have had a smashing start to the 2025-2026 season. At one point in the season, they were even in the top five. They have won games against teams such as Chelsea and their rivals Newcastle United, as well as pulling draws against Man City, Liverpool and Arsenal.

As of the 27th of January 2026, Sunderland are in 11th place in the Premier league table with eight wins, nine draws, and six losses.

At the top of list for players keeping Sunderland in games, when hope looks lost, is Dan Ballard. The Black Cats centre-back has shone for his team this season: at the age of 26 he has made eighteen appearances this season, with two goals as a center back, four clean sheets, and two blocked shots. He has zero assists so far; however, the stats alone do not show the masterclasses this man has produced for the footballing world. He himself has been crucial for the team with average match ratings of 7.04. His teammate Robin Roefs has also kept Sunderland going, as he has three man of the matches and averages a match rating of 7.17.

I guarantee a lot of football fans of the Premier League are relieved that a team that has been promoted isn't expected just to drop back down again. But there are still many more games to come.

Wildlife News

Ted

Cow Veronika astonishes scientists by using tools.

Veronika was an ordinary cow living an ordinary life. Or so we thought. This curious, clever cow has challenged the stereotype of cows being primitive, simple creatures by doing something no cow has done before: using tools.

This mooing marvel has spent years in the Austrian countryside perfecting the art of scratching herself using rakes, sticks, and brooms. Animal intelligence specialists have discovered Veronika using both sides of an object for different things: for example, using the soft side of a brush for her sensitive belly, and the hard side for her robust back. Until now, this behaviour of using a multi-purpose tool has only been documented in chimps, and never in cattle. Chimpanzees are the most common animal to use tools. They crack nuts with rocks and get bugs with sticks. But even with ten thousand years of living with cattle, nobody has ever seen this peculiar behaviour.

Witgar Wiegela, the organic farmer who owns Veronika, has said that “You should save the nature to protect yourself. Nature diversity is the key to surviving on our planet.” So, next time you see a cow, think of Veronika, and remind yourself that all creatures have value.

History News

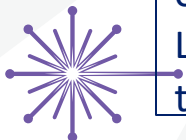
Anusha

Remembering the past: holocaust memorial day

Each year, we dedicate a day (27th January) to remembering the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and other genocides. It is a time for the world to reflect on the depths of human cruelty and to reaffirm our commitment to preventing such atrocities from ever happening again.

The Holocaust was a period in WW2 where millions of Jews and people of other backgrounds were murdered for their identity. It was a systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. Beyond the Jewish community, millions of others were targeted, including Roma, people with disabilities, homosexuals, and political dissidents. Understanding the scope and scale of this tragedy is crucial, but it's equally important to connect with the individual experiences of those who suffered. Through survivor testimonies, diaries, and historical accounts, we can gain a deeper understanding of the human impact of the Holocaust and the importance of empathy and compassion.

As we commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, let us also remember the acts of resistance and bravery that occurred during this dark period. From individuals who risked their lives to hide Jewish families to organized efforts to sabotage Nazi operations, there were countless acts of courage that offer a glimmer of hope amidst the horror. By honouring these stories of resistance, we can inspire future generations to stand up for what is right, even in the face of overwhelming adversity. Let this Holocaust Memorial Day serve as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can endure and triumph.



Food Review

Scott

Popeyes Review

There is a (not so) new restaurant in town. It is located in Lincoln, on the corner next to the Stonebow Arches, and was previously a clothing store. The chicken is crispy and easy to eat. There are a variety of menu items including: chicken sandwiches, tenders, box meals, wings, big and mega sauce, milkshakes, wraps, ice creams, boneless wings etc. It is very delicious, but very greasy, and it now stands at a 4.4-star rating. The employees are polite and the seating is very comfortable. Sometimes it is very busy, and the line may be trailing out of the door.

Overall, I think it is pretty good, but some people don't really like it because it is greasy and gets your hands messy. "First time in. The food was lovely and hot. Didn't have to wait too long for the food. Plenty of choice and value for money", was a comment in one five-star review. Personally, I recommend the "Hot Honey Sandwich" as it doesn't get your hands greasy, it tastes very good, and is very filling: overall, it is easy to eat and very tasty. The meal deals are highly recommended to save money and get an extra drink and fries, in either regular or large size.