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Scientists are Digging Through Triple-Star System's 125 Years of Data Scientists have combined modern spacecraft data with vintage observations to piece together a 125-year-long story of the antics of a nearby triplestar system dubbed HS Hydra and predict its future.

When the first of those observations were made, in 1893, HS Hydra was just another star twinkling in the heavens. Now, it's a strange, dynamic system and one that may have a few more surprises in store. Astronomers may soon unearth those surprises, thanks to NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

Blue Origin Launches Capsule to Space with Astronaut Perks

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin company launched a new capsule into space Thursday to test all the astronaut perks before people strap in. Thursday's flight with a dummy named Mannequin Skywalker lasted 10 minutes and reached 66 miles (106 kilometers) above West Texas. Both the New Shepard rocket and the capsule landed successfully. It was the 14th flight to the fringes of space for a New Shepard rocket. The first was in 2015.

Phys.org

Newsletter

Curiosity Rover Reaches its 3,000th Day on Mars



It's been 3,000 Martian days, or sols, since Curiosity touched down on Mars on Aug. 6, 2012, and the rover keeps making new discoveries during its gradual climb up Mount Sharp, the 3-mile-tall (5-kilometertall) mountain it has been exploring since 2014. Geologists were intrigued to see a series of rock "benches" in the most recent panorama from the mission.

MarsDaily.com

2020 Tied For Warmest Year on Record

rthSky.ora

A NASA analysis, announced today (January 14, 2021), says that 2020 was Earth's hottest year since modern record-keeping began 140 years ago, effectively tying 2016, the previous record-holder. A separate, independent analysis by NOAA concluded that 2020 was the second-warmest year in their record, just behind 2016.



Venus was Once More Earth-Like, But Climate Change Made it Uninhabitable



We can learn a lot about climate change from Venus, our sister planet. Venus currently has a surface temperature of 450 (the temperature of an oven's self-cleaning cycle) and an atmosphere dominated by carbon dioxide (96 per cent) with a density 90 times that of Earth's. Venus is a very strange place, totally uninhabitable, except perhaps in the clouds some 60 kilometres up where the recent discovery of phosphine may suggest floating microbial life. But the surface is totally inhospitable.

Newsletter

Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover to Capture Sounds From the Red Planet

When the Mars Perseverance rover lands on the Red Planet on Feb. 18, 2021, it will not only collect stunning images and rock samples; the data it returns may also include some recorded sounds from Mars. The rover carries a pair of microphones, which – if all goes as planned – will provide interesting and historic audio of the arrival and landing at Mars, along with sounds of the rover at work and of wind and other ambient noise.









How to Protect Ourselves?

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.





Copyright: cdc.org

Newsletter

Astronomy Picture of the Day

A Plutonian Landscape

Image Credit & Copyright: NASA, Johns Hopkins Univ./APL, Southwest Research Institute

This shadowy landscape of majestic mountains and icy plains stretches toward the horizon on a small, distant world. It was captured from a range of about 18,000 kilometers when New Horizons looked back toward Pluto, 15 minutes after the spacecraft's closest approach on July 14. The dramatic, low-angle, near-twilight scene follows rugged mountains formally known as Norgay Montes from foreground left, and Hillary Montes along the horizon, giving way to smooth Sputnik Planum at right. Layers of Pluto's tenuous atmosphere are also revealed in the backlit view. With a strangely familiar appearance, the frigid terrain likely includes ices of nitrogen and carbon monoxide with water-ice mountains rising up to 3,500 meters (11,000 feet). That's comparable in height to the majestic mountains of planet Earth. The Plutonian landscape is 380 kilometers (230 miles) across.



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