

HAPPY NEWS TEENS

Viral "Trashed Panda" raises thousands for animal shelter



USA

After a raccoon in Virginia, USA, went viral for causing chaos in a liquor store (a shop that sells alcohol), the internet turned the moment into something amazing. Photos showed the raccoon after it had knocked bottles off shelves and made a mess, earning it the nickname "Trashed Panda." The story was quickly turned into memes and then into merchandise, which has now raised more than \$250,000 (£186,000). The money will go to the local animal shelter that cared for the raccoon and supports other animals in the area.

Image Credit: Hanover County Animal Protection and Shelter/Facebook

Quote of the Week

You're never too young to change the world.

Malala Yousafzai

USA



Backpack rides to forever homes

A New York City man is helping shelter dogs find homes by carrying them around the city in a backpack. Bryan Reisberg first went viral when people spotted his own dog riding along on the subway, and he soon realised how much joy it brought to strangers. Now, he teams up with an animal shelter to carry adoptable dogs in a backpack labelled "Adopt Me," sharing their adventures online. So far, almost every dog he's featured has been adopted!

Image Credit: Bryan Reisberg

Mindful Minute

Spend 60 seconds thinking about a conversation that helped you recently. Could you help someone else through conversation today?



The grandma stands tackling loneliness

Grandmas are helping people feel less alone. In towns across the USA, bright purple "Grandma Stands" are popping up, where volunteer grandmothers sit and listen to anyone who wants to talk. The idea began in New York with just one grandma and has now spread across the country, with more locations planned around the world.

From relationship worries to life advice, visitors say the simple act of sitting down and being listened to by someone who's lived a lot, and truly cares, makes a huge difference.



Image Credit: Mike Matthews

Young changemakers recognised

Young people around the world are being celebrated after GLAAD announced its 2025 "20 Under 20" list, highlighting LGBTQ teens and young leaders who are shaping the future. Revealed in Teen Vogue, it recognises young people who are making a real impact through activism, music, science, sport, art and community work. GLAAD says the list is all about spotlighting courage, kindness and leadership, and reminding the world that young people can make a powerful difference.



Image Credit: GLAAD



The cutest noise complaint ever

Most people would dread getting a note from a neighbour about a "noisy" pet, but this one turned out very differently. Instead of complaining, a man wrote to his upstairs neighbour to say he could hear their cat's tiny feet pitter-pattering across the ceiling, and that it made him smile. He said the sounds brought him joy and asked the owner to tell their cat to "keep it up!"



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