WACKY WORLD

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Gator comes into the fore

AN alligator was caught on camera approaching a group of golfers on a Florida course while a member of the party nonchalantly took his shot.

Michael West said: "He was going about his business. It was great to have a dinosaur watch me play."

Looks like no meow pepsi..

FIRE crews responded to a Walmart store in Tennessee to rescue a kitten heard meowing from inside a Pepsi vending machine.

The rescuers coaxed the cat to safety and it was adopted by the employee who first heard its cries.

He's got that loving eeling

AN animal-loving Kentucky man is becoming famous on TikTok after converting the basement of his house into an eel pit.

Nick Tobler said he has 11 or 12 American eels in the underground pond as well as tarantulas, a caiman and a lungfish.

Bear cub got a head start

A WILDLIFE biologist in North Carolina came to the rescue of a bear cub seen wandering with a plastic food container stuck over its head.

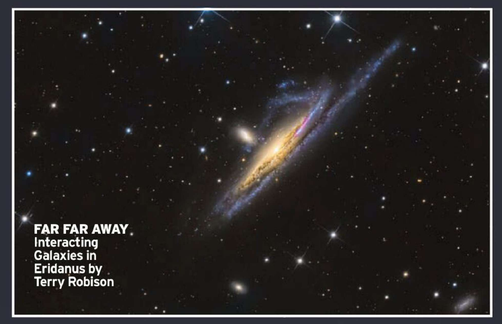
The mother watched from nearby as the expert held the cub and removed the container.

Four pages of puzzles inside

NORTHERN LIGHT Electric Wizardry by Shane Turgeon

SPACE TAIL Comet C/2021 A1 (Leonard) by Lionel Majzik

PUT A RING ON IT Saturn and its Moons by Flavio Fortunato



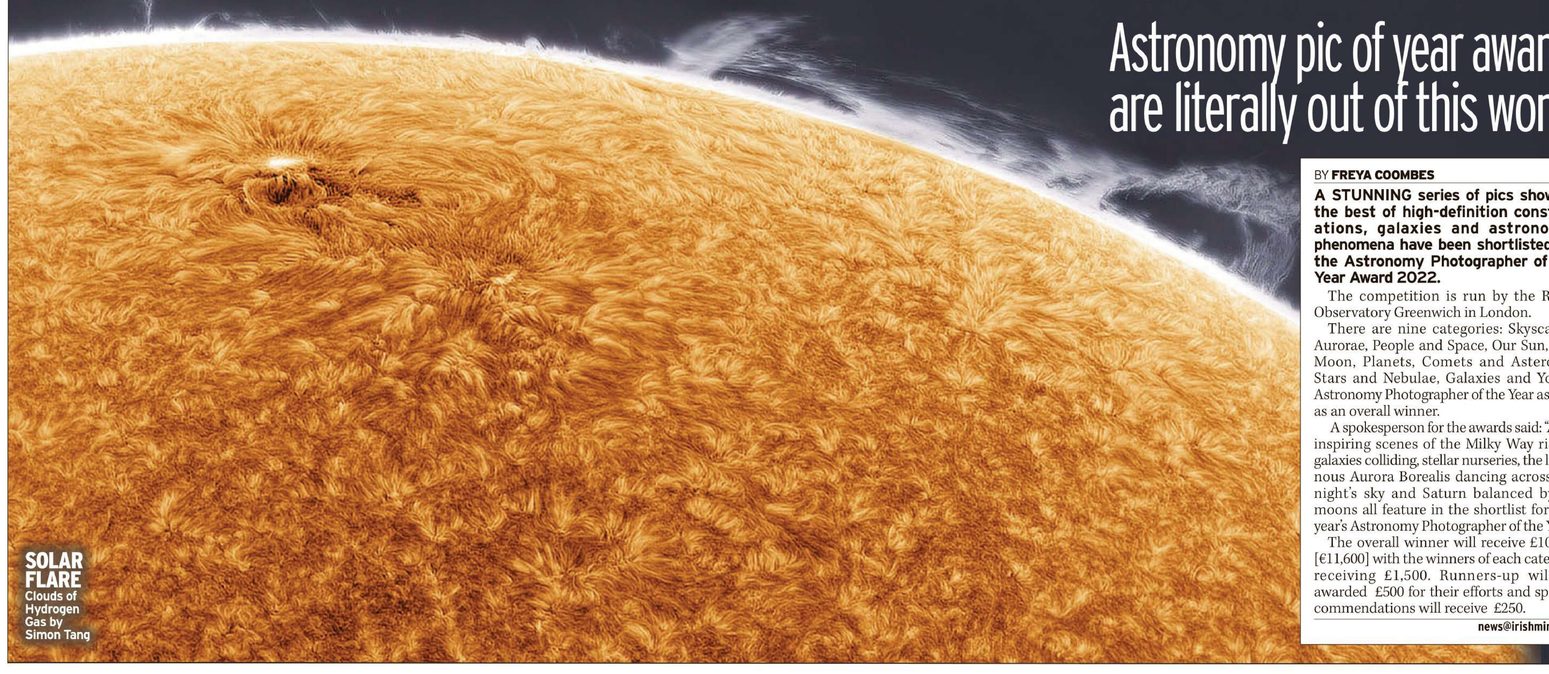
FAR FAR AWAY Interacting Galaxies in Eridanus by Terry Robison

GREEN DAY An Icelandic Saga by Carl Gallagher

INDIAN SUMMER Chidiya Tapu by Vikas Chander

Sunsational shots

Astronomy pic of year awards are literally out of this world



SOLAR FLARE Clouds of Hydrogen Gas by Simon Tang

BY **FREYA COOMBES**

A STUNNING series of pics showing the best of high-definition constellations, galaxies and astronomic phenomena have been shortlisted for the Astronomy Photographer of the Year Award 2022.

The competition is run by the Royal Observatory Greenwich in London.

There are nine categories: Skyscapes, Aurorae, People and Space, Our Sun, Our Moon, Planets, Comets and Asteroids, Stars and Nebulae, Galaxies and Young Astronomy Photographer of the Year as well as an overall winner.

A spokesperson for the awards said: "Awe-inspiring scenes of the Milky Way rising, galaxies colliding, stellar nurseries, the luminous Aurora Borealis dancing across the night's sky and Saturn balanced by its moons all feature in the shortlist for this year's Astronomy Photographer of the Year."

The overall winner will receive £10,000 [€11,600] with the winners of each category receiving £1,500. Runners-up will be awarded £500 for their efforts and special commendations will receive £250.

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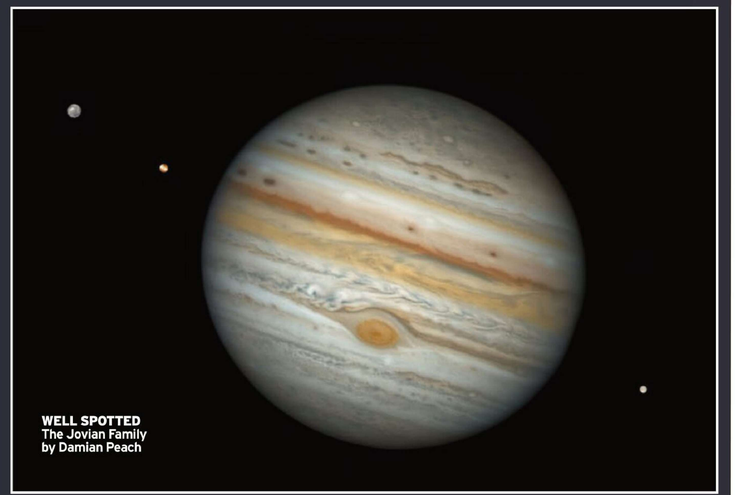
LA LA LAND Moonrise Over Los Angeles by Sean Goebel



WELL SPOTTED The Jovian Family by Damian Peach