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- NEXUS COMA CORRECTOR REVIEWED
- STEVE O'MEARA ON A BLACK RING IN CYGNUS

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SNAPSHOT

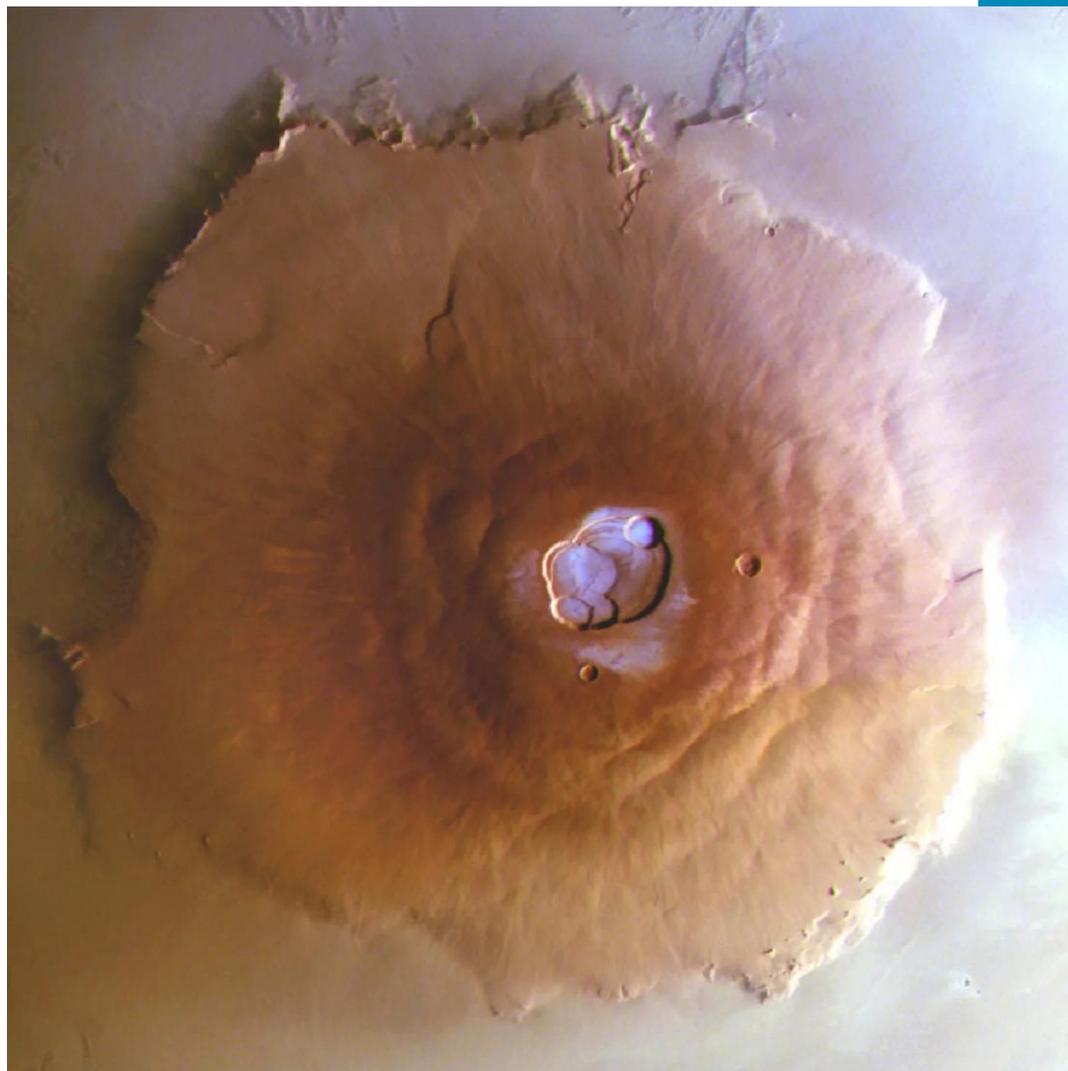
CHILLY SUMMITS ON MARS

Satellites spot ephemeral morning frost atop the tallest martian volcanoes.

The peak of Mars' Olympus Mons, along with other nearby volcanoes, sports frosty patches in the winter. This morning image of the tallest volcano in our solar system was taken by the European Space Agency's Trace Gas Orbiter and Mars Express orbiter. It shows the ice deposits, falsely colored blue, in the volcano's caldera (bowl-shaped features).

Scientists found that the icy patches collectively contain some 150,000 tons of water and are as thin as a strand of human hair. The team also found that wind travels at lower speeds within the caldera than the surrounding areas, allowing the frost to form for a few hours around sunrise during the cooler seasons before evaporating into the thin martian air.

—SHARMILA KUTHUNUR



ESA/CLIR/FU BERLIN, BOTTOM FROM LEFT: LEGO, ALEX P. KOK/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS CC BY-SA 4.0; ROBERTO MOLAR CANDANOSA/JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



HOT BYTES



BRICK BUILDING
Working with LEGO, ESA researchers have 3D printed LEGO-like bricks with meteorite dust. Future Moon explorers could print similar interlocking bricks from lunar soil to build structures.



AMONG THE STARS
Dutch celestial cartographer Wil Tirion died July 5 at the age of 81. He created two landmark sky atlases — *Sky Atlas 2000.0* and *Uranometria 2000.0* (co-authored with Barry Rappaport and George Lovi) — and contributed to many more.



ICARUS COULD NEVER
Keck Observatory data show that the Neptune-sized exoplanet TIC 365102760 b retains a puffy atmosphere despite a close orbit around its red giant host star, which should have stripped it away. The planet has been dubbed Phoenix.