



Chandra X-ray
Observatory Center

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NGC 2841: A large spiral galaxy about 50 million light years from Earth.
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/U. Mass/Q.D.Wang; Optical: NOAO/KPNO)

Caption: This X-ray/optical composite image shows multimillion degree gas (blue/X-ray) rising above the disk of stars and cooler gas (gray/optical). The rapid outflows of gas from giant stars and supernova explosions in the disk of a galaxy create huge shells or bubbles of hot gas that expand rapidly and rise above the disk like plumes of smoke from a chimney. Chandra's image of NGC 2841 provides direct evidence for this process, which pumps energy into the thin gaseous halo that surrounds the galaxy. Galactic chimneys also spread hot, metal enriched gas away from the disk of the galaxy into the halo.

Scale: Image is 5.75 arcmin across.

Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image

CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory