

Current Events #3



No Wi-Fi for You



Marriott has agreed to pay a \$600,000 fine after the Federal Communications Commission found the company blocked consumer Wi-Fi networks last year during an event at a hotel and conference center in Nashville.

At the same time, Marriott was charging exhibitors and others as much as \$1,000 per device to access the hotel's wireless network, the FCC announced Friday.

Federal law prohibits people from using a device that interferes with cellular, GPS or wireless networks.

http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/03/travel/marriott-fcc-wi-fi-fine/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

Nebraska...Why Nebraska?



An American cameraman helping to cover the Ebola outbreak in Liberia for NBC News has tested positive for the virus and will be flown back to the United States for treatment.

The freelance cameraman has been working in Liberia for three years for Vice News and other media outlets, and has been covering the Ebola epidemic. He began shooting for NBC on Tuesday. The network is withholding his name at his family's request.

http://www.oregonlive.com/today/index.ssf/2014/10/nbc_cameraman_tests_positive_f.html

Fighting for His Life

The first U.S. Ebola victim has been identified as Thomas Eric Duncan, a resident of Monrovia in his mid-40s. Many Americans became fearful Tuesday after it was revealed that someone had contracted the Ebola virus in the U.S.

Although Duncan developed symptoms in the U.S., he apparently contracted the disease in Liberia. He reportedly had direct contact with someone who was stricken with the Ebola virus on Sept. 15, just four days before he departed Liberia to head to the United States, senior Liberian government officials said.



<http://www.ibtimes.com/who-thomas-eric-duncan-ebola-us-victim-identified-liberia-citizen-1698074>

Still Listening



After the firestorm over Edward Snowden's disclosure of U.S. surveillance programs, the most contentious aspect revealed by last year's classified leaks will continue under reforms announced Friday by President Barack Obama.

Someone will still collect records of the numbers and times of phone calls by every American.

While access to the those records will be tightened and they may be shifted from the National Security Agency to elsewhere, the storage of the phone metadata goes on.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/01/17/politics/obama-nsa-changes/>

Angry Youth of America

Before authorities arrested him at O'Hare International Airport and accused him of attempting to provide aid to ISIS, a teen from the Chicago suburbs left behind a letter for his parents.

Mohammed Hamzah Khan, 19, wrote that he was leaving the United States and on the way to join ISIS, according to a criminal complaint. He invited his family to join him in the three-page letter, which authorities found in the bedroom he shared with a sibling in Bolingbrook, Illinois. But he warned them not to tell anyone about his travel plans, the complaint said.



http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/06/us/teen-isis-support-arrest/index.html?hpt=hp_t1%20were%20%20got%20my%20info

Sea Monkey Dance



Plankton, tiny marine creatures often thought of as mere drifters, actually aren't always so passive. Many move up and down in the ocean in dense layers throughout the day. These collective movements might produce currents large enough to mix seawater.

If so, this mixing may need to be accounted for in simulations of Earth's future climate, Dabiri says.

Wind-and tide-driven currents move nutrients, heat, and salt around the ocean, and help to regulate the planet's temperature, Dabiri says. In recent years, scientists have started to seriously consider whether collective animal movements—like plankton swimming up and down en masse—could also be contributing to currents.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140930-sea-monkeys-laser-ocean-animals-science/>

HeForShe

Emma Watson tackled gender politics and feminism in a powerful speech at a United Nations meeting in New York over the weekend.

The "Harry Potter" actress, 24, who was named a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador earlier this year, introduced her latest platform to the audience of delegates and representatives in an impassioned speech describing how she came to identify as a feminist.

"Why has the word become such an unpopular one?" Watson said, of feminism.

The HeForShe campaign, which is also headed by Wolf Blitzer, urges men and boys to advocate for gender equality, Watson said.



<http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/gossip/emma-watson-defends-feminism-u-n-meeting-article-1.1948222>

Marriage for All



The Supreme Court on Monday let stand appeals court rulings allowing same-sex marriage in five states, a major surprise that could signal the inevitability of the right of same-sex marriage nationwide.

The development cleared the way for same-sex marriages in Indiana, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Gay and lesbian couples started getting married in those states within hours.

Most immediately, the Supreme Court's move increased the number of states allowing same-sex marriage to 24, along with the District of Columbia, up from 19. Within weeks legal ripples from the decision could expand same-sex marriage to 30 states.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/07/us/denying-review-justices-clear-way-for-gay-marriage-in-5-states.html?_r=0

DWDA

"My glioblastoma is going to kill me, and that's out of my control.

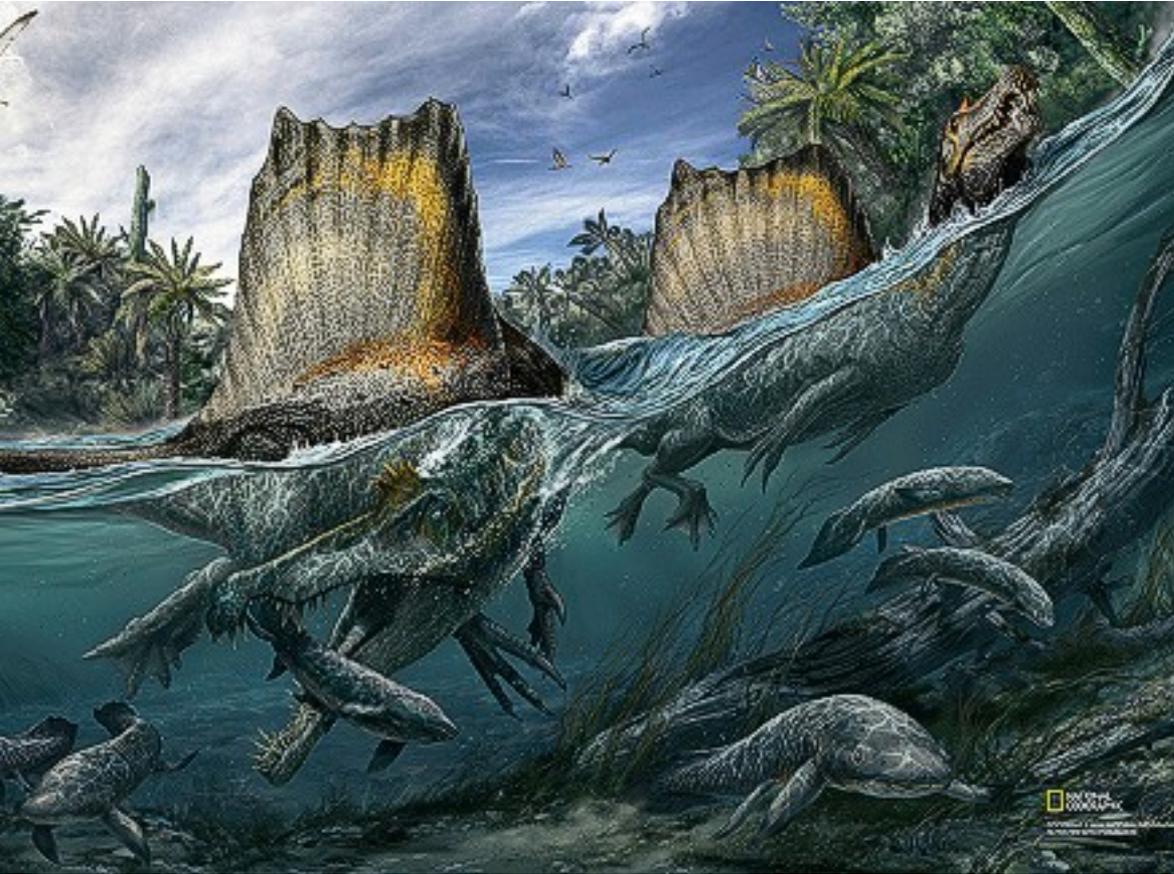
After exploring and weighing the options available to her, Maynard and her husband decided to move from San Francisco to Portland, Ore., where she would have access to Oregon's Death With Dignity Act (DWDA). Passed in 1997, the law "allows terminally ill Oregonians to end their lives through the voluntary self-administration of lethal medications, expressly prescribed by a physician for that purpose."

According the most recent data 1,173 people have had DWDA prescriptions written, and 752 patients have died from ingesting medications prescribed under the DWDA. To qualify under DWDA, a person has to be a mentally competent adult and a resident of the state of Oregon.



<https://www.yahoo.com/health/one-womans-quest-to-die-with-dignity-and-what-it-means-99374572007.html>

Sharknado for Real



Few dinosaurs have as interesting a back story as the spinosaurus. In life, it dominated the waterways -- a 50-foot-long behemoth that employed its blade-like claws and conical, razor-sharp teeth to annihilate its prey. It chomped down on sharks for breakfast.

Ninety-five million years after its extinction, this strangely aquatic dinosaur -- the only one of its kind that we know of -- has had to contend with Nazis, bomb raids, armed gangs and mysterious moustachioed men. Its story has all the makings of a spy novel.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/03/world/africa/the-dinosaur-that-ate-sharks-for-breakfast/>

Getting Sick Trying to Help

A nurse here became the first person to contract Ebola within the United States, prompting local, state and federal officials who had settled into a choreographed response to scramble on Sunday to solve the mystery of how she became infected, despite wearing protective gear, and to monitor additional people possibly at risk.

The news further stoked fears of health care workers across the country, many of whom have grown increasingly anxious about having to handle Ebola cases. The confirmation on Sunday of the second Ebola case in Dallas — four days after the death on Wednesday of the first patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, 42, a Liberian who arrived in this country in September — opened a new and more frightening chapter in the unfolding public health drama.



<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/13/us/texas-health-worker-tests-positive-for-ebola.html?hpw&rref=health&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&version=HpHedThumbWell&module=well-region®ion=bottom-well&WT.nav=bottom-well&r=1>

Synod Says “Play On”... “Wait”



In a marked shift in tone likely to be discussed in parishes around the world, an assembly of Roman Catholic bishops convened by Pope Francis at the Vatican released a preliminary document on Monday calling for the church to welcome and accept gay people, unmarried couples and those who have divorced, as well as the children of these less traditional families.

The bishops’ report, issued midway through a landmark two-week meeting, does not change church doctrine or teaching, and will now be subjected to fierce debate and revision at the assembly.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/14/world/europe/vatican-signals-more-tolerance-toward-gays-and-remarriage.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&version=HpHeadline&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

He's Back

After 40 days of seclusion, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has made a public appearance, an outing that could help quell rumors about his health and status. Kim visited a new housing complex, according to state media that released photos of the event – but without attaching a specific date to it.

North Korea has confirmed only that Kim has been in “discomfort.” The newly released photos show Kim using a cane, possibly confirming theories that he underwent ankle surgery. More than a month ago, he was seen limping as he walked.



<http://www.opb.org/news/article/npr-kim-jong-un-makes-first-public-appearance-in-more-than-a-month/>

Run Away Quickly

If you can't take the heat... head to the poles. That's what fish are doing anyway.

A new study published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science looked at historical data for more than 800 commercial fisheries around the world and found that fish are heading to deeper waters and higher latitudes as the world's oceans warm.

“It is already happening,” said lead author William Cheung, an associate professor at the Fisheries Center at the University of British Columbia and lead author of the study. “In the last few decades many species are shifting their distribution and what we are projecting is that this trend will continue.”



<http://earthfix.opb.org/water/article/globally-fish-populations-are-heading-to-the-polls/>

Real Men?

On Friday, the Sayreville High School football team was supposed to host a rival team in a homecoming game. But instead of taking the field, seven Sayreville, New Jersey, players were taken into custody, arrested and charged in flagrant sexual assaults on younger players. Many have referred to the incident as pervasive locker room "hazing."



<http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/12/opinion/robbins-sayreville-football-sex-assault/index.html>