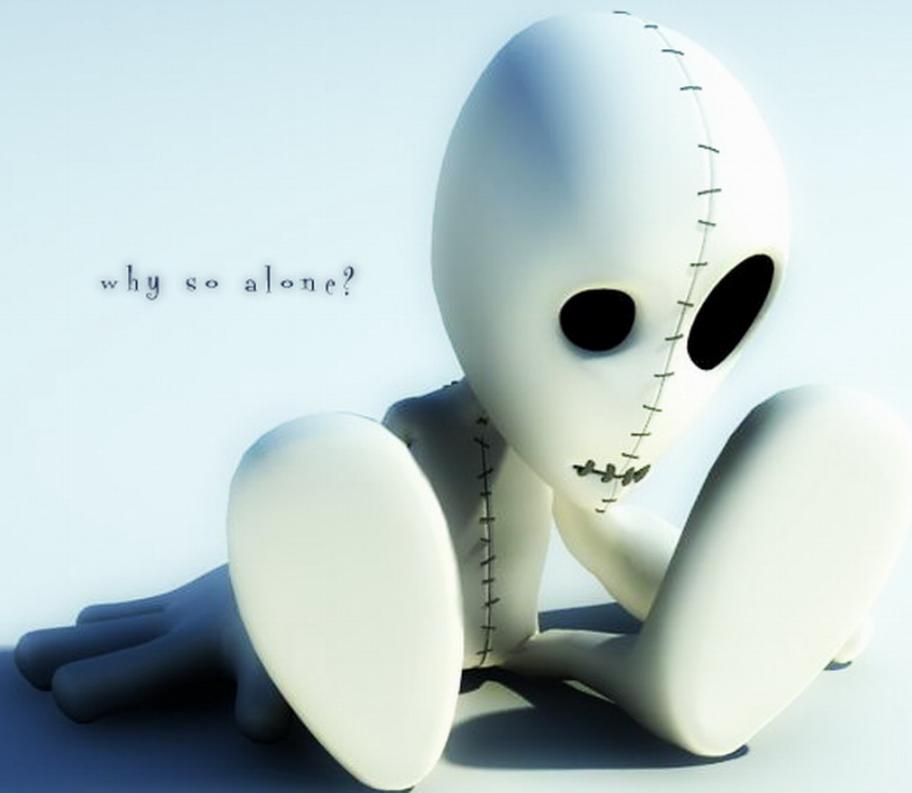


Current Events #8

why so alone?



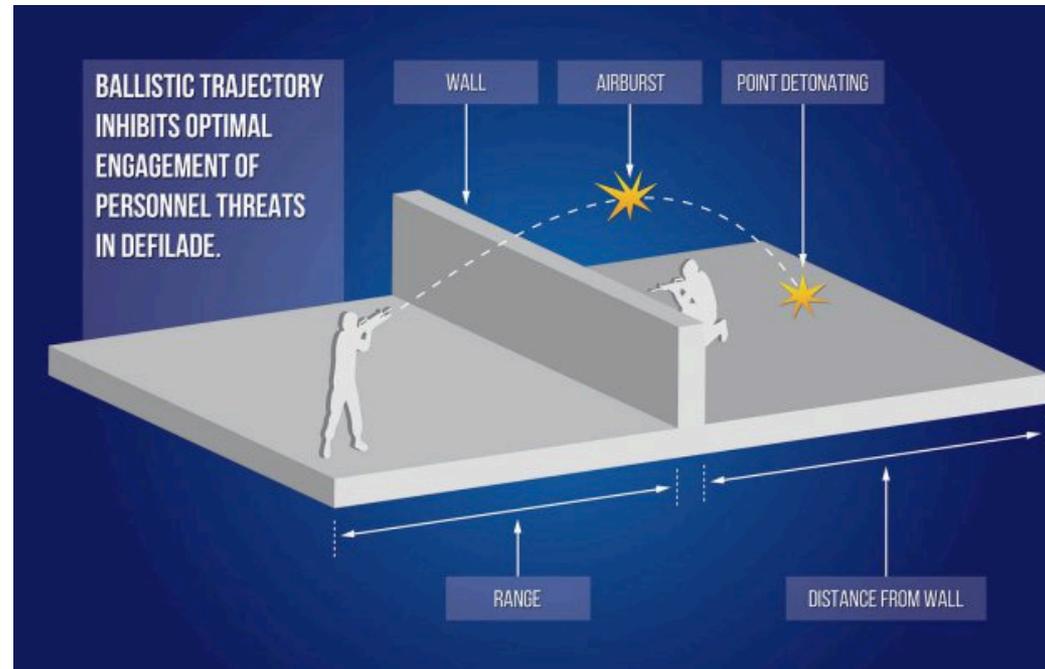
Hide and Deadly Seek

The U.S. Army is developing the **SAGM, Small Arms Grenade Munitions** round.

The **SAGM** is a new kind of grenade that can find an enemy hiding behind an object, a wall or other would-be cover. This is next-generation enhanced grenade lethality.

Just like other “smart” tech that can complete tasks without its user providing instructions, this smart grenade can find its target itself.

When the **SAGM** is fired, the grenade will recognize its surroundings and the cover used by the enemy for concealment. It then detonates over the target.



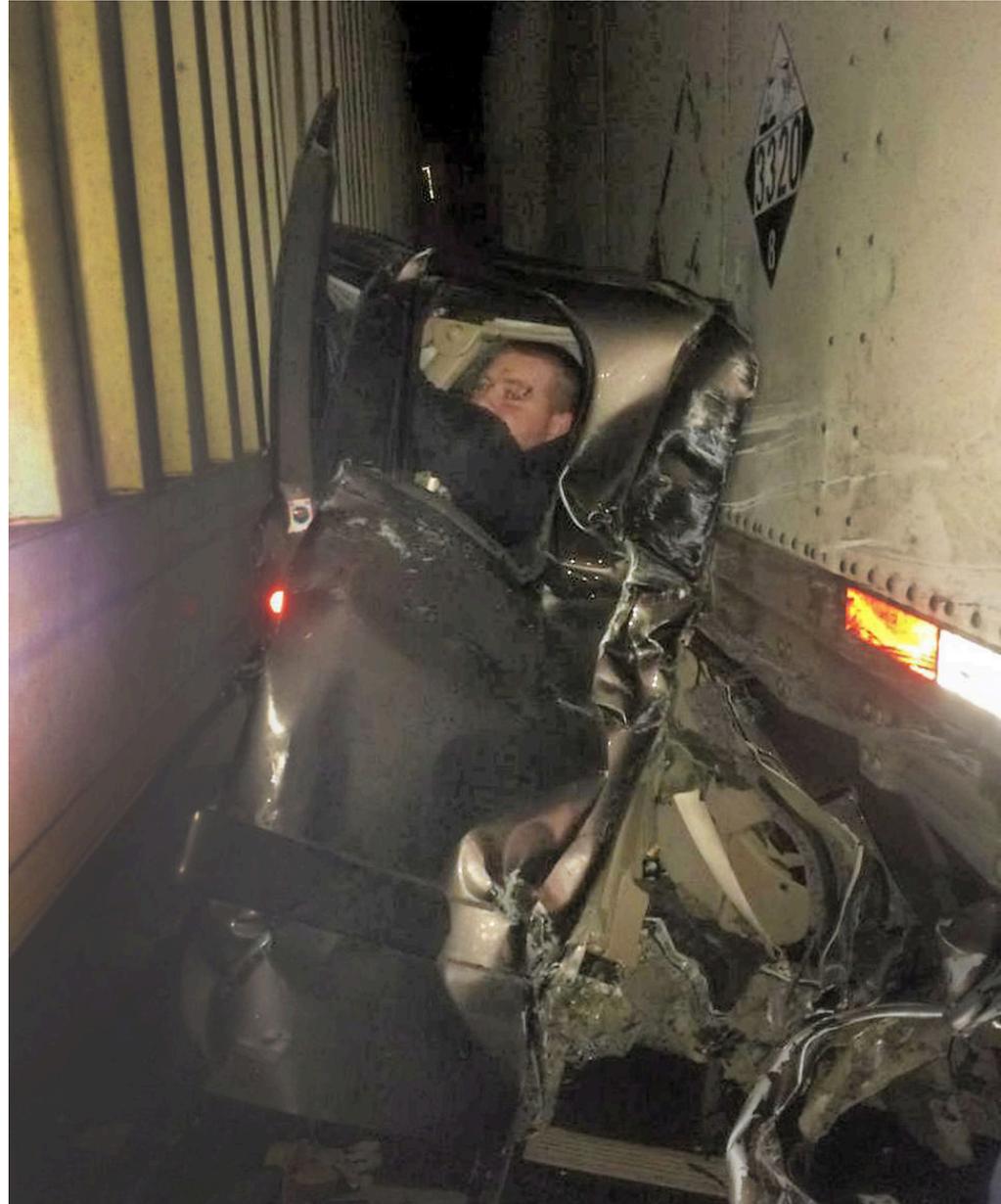
<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2015/01/15/smart-grenade-seeks-out-bad-guys/#.VL3LYgkvofM.mailto>

Too Close for Comfort

Cleanup and investigation of a massive tangle-up on Interstate 84 in eastern Oregon continued Sunday, a day after more than 25 vehicles and 100 people collided in icy, foggy conditions.

At least 12 people were injured, but none were killed. The crash left one Tri-Cities, Washington, area man pinned between two semis in his crumpled Chevy pickup truck -- and most who saw the picture of his situation are likely shaking their heads in disbelief that he survived.

http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2015/01/i-84_crash_cleanup_continues.html#incart_2box



Long Live the King

World leaders have gathered in Saudi Arabia to pay their respects following the death of King Abdullah on Friday.

The dignitaries from more than 10 countries have met with the new ruler, King Salman.

He has pledged continuity in the country's foreign energy policies.

The new king moved swiftly to appoint heirs and ministers, including one prince from the ruling dynasty's third generation.



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30962740>

It's All Greek to Me

Anti-austerity Syriza party has won Greece's general election, putting the country on a possible collision course with the EU over its massive bailout.

With nearly 75% of the votes counted, Syriza is projected to win 149 seats, just two short of an absolute majority, though that number could change.

Left-wing party leader Alexis Tsipras, who wants to renegotiate Greece's debt, said "the Greeks wrote history".

The governing centre-right New Democracy has come a distant second.



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30975437>

The Hug Heard Round the Region

President Barack Obama arrived for his state visit to India today amid military pomp, extraordinary security precautions in New Delhi, and a warm hug from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a leader who was on America's "no visa" list over human rights issues at the time of his election last year.

The two men quickly got down to business. Within hours of his arrival a delighted Obama and Modi announced an agreement that could pave the way for billions of dollars in contracts for American nuclear power companies. Though details weren't released, the two men told a press conference that an "understanding" had been reached to modify strict liability laws to protect US nuclear suppliers in case of an accident.



<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2015/0125/Early-in-Obama-s-India-visit-a-nuclear-power-breakthrough>

Scratching Marks on a Cell Wall

The Oregon Board of Education approved more stringent requirements Thursday for how many hours public school students spend learning each year.

A loophole in the old rules had led some parents and students to complain their schedules were padded with study halls and empty periods.

Board Member Anthony Veliz, from Woodburn, said no child should have to receive a part-time education.

“What I want is more great instruction. That’s what I want for all kids.



<http://www.opb.org/news/article/board-tightens-requirements/>

Boko is Loco

Hundreds of Boko Haram gunmen on Sunday launched a predawn attack on the Nigerian city of Maiduguri and were locked in a fierce battle with government troops on the outskirts of the city, according to the military, residents and citizen vigilantes.

The militants launched a simultaneous attack on the town of Monguno and were apparently successful in taking control of the town and its military barracks.

"Our soldiers initially repelled the terrorists but they mobilized more fighters and came back in full force. They overwhelmed our troops and forced them to retreat," said the officer, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.



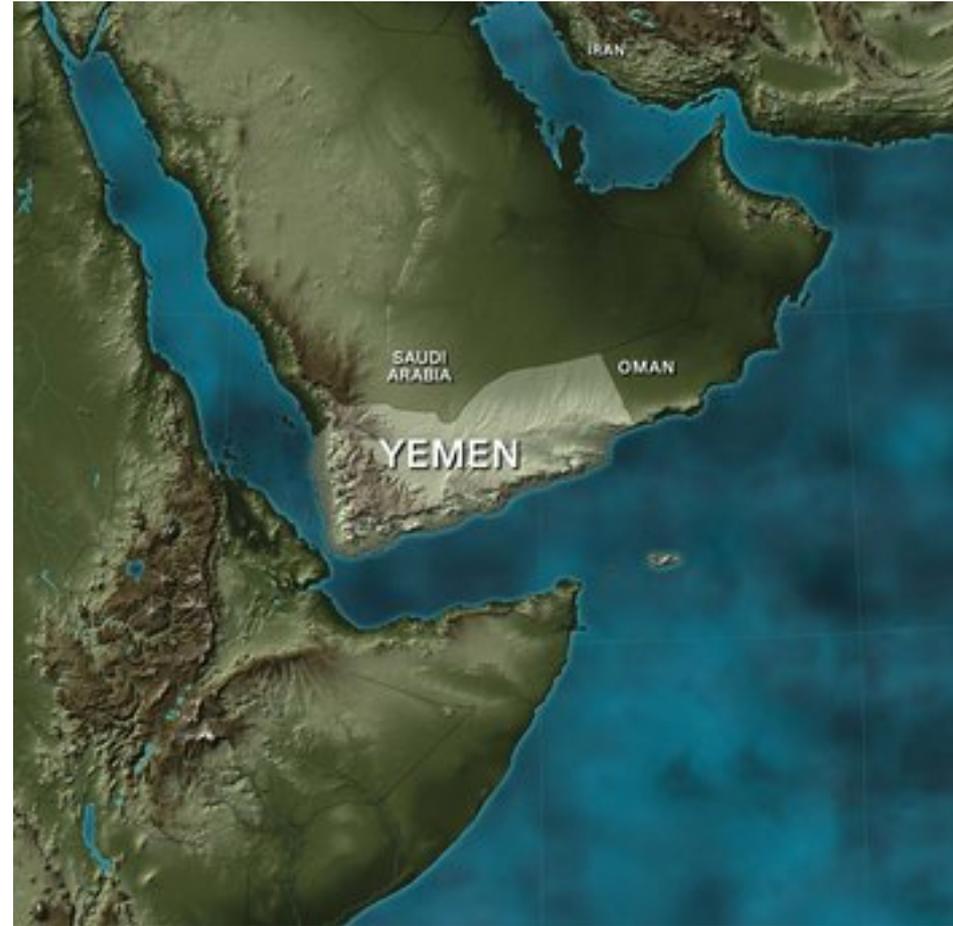
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/25/africa/nigeria-boko-haram-battle-maiduguri/index.html>

Lesser of 2 Evils?

The Syria-based terror group ISIS is active and recruiting inside the Middle Eastern state of Yemen, already a hotbed of terrorist activity, CNN has learned.

The disturbing information comes from a Yemeni official, who told CNN on Wednesday that ISIS has a presence in at least three provinces in southern and central Yemen, and there is now a "real competition" between ISIS and the Yemen-based terror group al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP.

That competition manifested itself in a gun-battle between the two groups in Yemen's eastern provinces last month, the same official said, though he did not have specifics on the casualties that resulted from that incident.



<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/21/politics/isis-gaining-ground-in-yemen/index.html>

You're a Good Dog Beagle2

A British-built space probe which vanished 11 years ago has been found on the surface of Mars, making it the first European spacecraft to land successfully on the red planet.

Beagle 2, part of a European Space Agency's Mars Express mission searching for extraterrestrial life, had been due to land on Mars on December 25, 2003, but disappeared on December 19.

Space experts at London's Royal Society Scientific Institution said on Friday that the tiny Mars lander had been found in recent images from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.



<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2015/01/long-lost-spacecraft-found-mars-20151161525451267.html>

Turn on the AC



US scientists have said that 2014 was the hottest year on record, marking the third time in a decade that a new record has been set.

With the exception of 1998, the 10 warmest years on record have now occurred since the year 2000, analysis of surface temperature measurements show.

Both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA reported on Friday that 2014 was the hottest year in 135 years of record-keeping.

NOAA said 2014 averaged 14.6C, 1.24 degrees above its 20th-century average. It had previously reported that Earth set yearly heat records in 2010 and 2005.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2015/01/2014-was-hottest-year-record-2015116155740204453.html>

State of the Union VI: Return of the Jedi

President Obama claimed credit on Tuesday for an improving economy and defiantly told his Republican adversaries in Congress to “turn the page” by supporting an expensive domestic agenda aimed at improving the fortunes of the middle class.

Released from the political constraints of a sagging economy, overseas wars and elections, Mr. Obama declared in his sixth State of the Union address that “the shadow of crisis has passed,” and he vowed to use his final two years in office fighting for programs that had taken a back seat.

He called on Congress to make community college free for most students, enhance tax credits for education and child care, and impose new taxes and fees on high-income earners and large financial institutions.



<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/21/us/state-of-the-union-obama-ambitious-agenda-to-help-middle-class.html>

Slip-Sliding Away

Water often damages metals, causing rust, wear and decay.

Thanks to an innovative laser process, however, metal is getting its revenge.

University of Rochester scientists Chunlei Guo and Anatoliy Vorobyev have developed a technique using extremely precise laser patterns that renders metals superhydrophobic; in other words, incredibly water-repellent.

Imagine a much more powerful Teflon -- except that Guo and Vorobyev's material isn't a coating but part of the metal itself. Water actually bounces off the surface and rolls away.



<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/22/us/feat-metal-repels-water-rochester/index.html>

Beam Me Up?

Even after decades of battling one of the world's biggest killers, the treatment of cancer is still an inexact science.

Successful methods such as chemotherapy work by killing the cancer cells, but they also destroy healthy tissue.

Health practitioners have been searching for a magic bullet that goes straight to the source of the cancer -- and everything from monoclonal antibodies, which carry cancer drugs direct to cancer cells, to straight surgery to cut out tumors have been used with varying degrees of success.

In Belgium, engineer and nuclear physicist Yves Jongen is pioneering a new therapy that targets cancers with proton radiation; a therapy that offers precision and minimal side effects.



<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/22/tech/mci-proton-therapy/>

The Sky is Falling

NASA images released Monday reveal the asteroid, officially known as 2004 BL86, has its own small moon. The grainy, black and white photos show the asteroid, about a third of a mile in size, spinning through space, with its 230-foot-wide moon trailing behind.

Huge asteroid flies by Earth 01:44

PLAY VIDEO

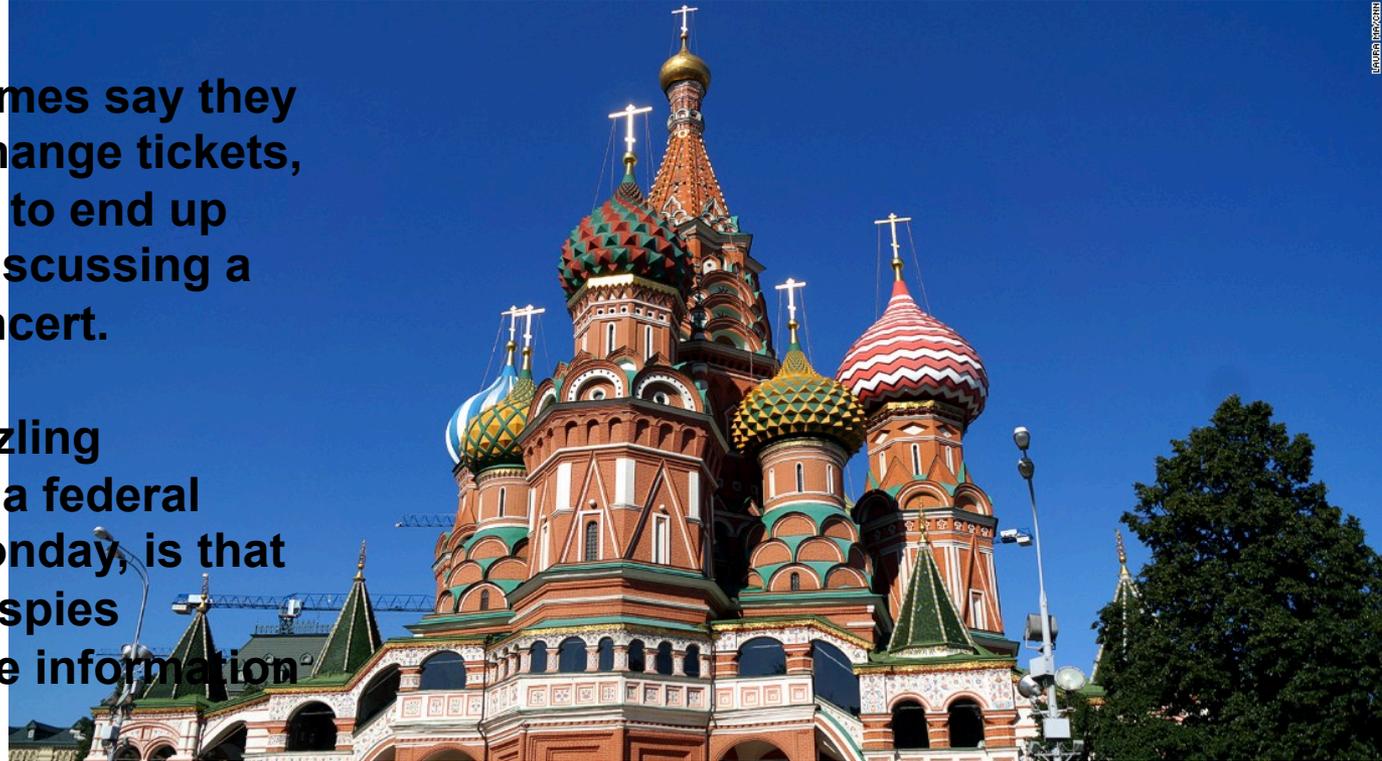
Asteroid 2004 BL86 came about 745,000 miles (1.2 million kilometers) from Earth, or about three times as far away as the moon, just after 11 a.m. ET Monday, according to NASA.

It was far enough that it didn't pose a threat to Earth, but close enough to give scientists and amateurs a chance to observe a large asteroid up close.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/26/us/asteroid-flyby/index.html>



Yes Comrade, I like the Knicks



The men would sometimes say they needed to meet to exchange tickets, but they never seemed to end up actually attending or discussing a sporting event or a concert.

The reason for the puzzling behavior, according to a federal complaint unsealed Monday, is that the men were Russian spies exchanging intelligence information in New York City.

But the FBI was watching and listening to them. On Monday in New York, authorities arrested one of the men, who they say had been working as a covert agent for the Russian government.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/27/us/new-york-alleged-russian-spy/index.html>