



The Horizon Newsletter

May 2020

Low Airline Fees and Adventurous People: and How They Worsen Our Lives.

By: Abhiram Dasari

As we all know, since March 30th, the state of North Carolina has been under an official stay-at-home order by the command of Governor Roy Cooper. Some states have been quarantined before that, some after. This has affected our lives and the lives of others in many ways, but there is one way that many of us haven't been thinking about, and for good reason. Due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, and the extreme unwillingness of people to travel, airline tickets have been extremely discounted due to low demand. However, while most are still staying at home, some are taking this as a sign to pursue their dreams of world travel.

According to NBC News, "As flight schedules are scaled down and airline stocks plunge, carriers are offering deals that have put air travel within reach for people who usually can't fly. It's a high-risk, high-reward trip, people say". To put this in perspective, Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelley has stated that the pandemic is a more serious challenge for the airline industry than the attacks of September 11th. As people continue to travel,

the rest of the world can only think one thing: "Why?". Why endanger the lives of others and yourself just to hop on a plane? NBC News asked this same question to Henkel, a 20 year old waiting to see the world. She states, "I feel like if the coronavirus would get even more serious and like wipe out a large amount of people, I might as well be somewhere having fun". It's this type of high-risk high-reward mentality that experts at the CDC say is perpetuating the virus. So don't be enticed by the low prices and "steals" for travel plans. Instead, #stayhomewithus, and help protect those who can't protect themselves.



Spinosaurus makes history as first known swimming dinosaur

By: Arya Bharti

Spinosaurus, considered to be the largest predator to ever walk the earth, has recently been declared the first semi-aquatic dinosaur. Some people point fingers to the plesiosaurs (often thought to be the Loch Ness monster) as the first, but they fall under aquatic reptiles and aren't considered part of the dinosaur family. But what makes Spinosaurus so unique? First excavated in 1912, scientists failed to determine how the creature might look or act. It had a massive finlike sail on its back, huge dagger-like claws and a 3 foot long jaw similar to that of a crocodile. Bigger than both T. rex and Giganotosaurus, it lived in the swamps and rivers of North Africa during the Cretaceous Period, about 112 million to 97 million years ago. Spinosaurus was considered to be an Apex Predatory, which means it had few to no

enemies to challenge it. Although it lived during the cretaceous period, Spinosaurus did not suffer the same dramatic end as other dinosaurs during the KT mass extinction event. Being heavily dependent on rivers and waterbeds, towards the end of the Cretaceous, climate change drove these fascinating animals towards extinction rather than a meteor.



The Rise of a Resurgent Russia

By Aaryan Kumar

Almost 30 years ago, the Soviet Union was in a state of financial collapse and its sphere of influence in Europe rapidly eroded. It was the height of embarrassment for a proud Russian nation, who had claimed the lion's share of glory during the bloody Eastern Front of WWII. But today the Russian nation is back on the rise. Russia has seen its neighbors fall to the opposing NATO block to try and stop them. In 2008 Russia invaded a Western-leaning Georgia, which resulted in a brutal and bloody war in the Southern Caucasus. Russia was also directly responsible for war crimes against the Georgian nation which included the ethnic cleansing of its people. Overwhelming evidence showed that the Russian military had knowingly overseen and possibly participated in war crimes against Georgia. International condemnation immediately came as several Western nations criticized

Russia for starting the first armed conflict in Europe since WW2. Parallels were drawn between Soviet war Crimes before, during, and after WW2 and the Cold War. Although trade restrictions were implemented, Russia did not learn her lesson, and when Ukraine underwent revolution, it seized on the opportunity to take Crimea from the pro-Western Government. This created a brutal insurgency war with Russian troops fighting alongside Ukranian rebels against the Ukranian military. If the West does not take drastic action, they will find a resurgent Russia and with it, the rise of another Cold War.

Speculations on Coronavirus Origination

By: Pavitra Madala

The coronavirus pandemic is a globally known topic and many people are concerned about the death toll that this virus brings. Until now, many people have known that the virus originated from the consumption of a bat, but recent intelligence reports have proven otherwise. Evidence shows that the Covid-19 virus leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The US Intelligence Service confirmed that Covid-19 is not man-made or genetically engineered, and thus investigation is taking place to provide further confirmation on the source of the virus. However, Covid-19 is rumored to have escaped the lab due to poor safety procedures after performing deadly bat virus experiments. China supposedly tried to cover this up by ordering actions such as the deep clean of Wuhan's wet market, the area where Covid-19 reportedly began to spread after leaking from the virology lab. To make the situation worse, many people left Wuhan after the outbreak, which helped facilitate the spread of the virus. However, China had denied all the claims made against their country and brought about further speculation that the United States brought the virus into Wuhan itself. Further investigation is still being done on the origin of the virus, but more information is yet to

come. Please remember to wash your hands!

