



The pistachios that need police protection!

Police on the Italian island of Sicily are preparing for this year's pistachio harvest. Police captain, Nicolo Morandi, says at least six officers are going to patrol in the daytime, and up to 12 at night, and if they feel they need to, they will launch the police helicopter!

The town of Bronte is home to the world's most-prized variety of the seed – the pistachio verde di Bronte. One kilogram of "Sicily's green gold" seeds, unshelled, typically costs £13.45. The pistachio trees grow on the slopes of Mount Etna, an active volcano. Unfortunately, because the pistachios are so expensive criminals try to steal them, often trying to make their escape with as many pistachios as they can.



Pictured: A typical photo of the pistachio verde di Bronte.

66 million-year-old Dinosaur eggs found!



Pictured: Some fossilised dinosaur eggs on display at Henan Geological Museum, Zhengzhou, China.

Four students found rare dinosaur egg fossils while on a walk through a rural area of southern China. They decided to report their find to a local museum for further examination, which later called in experts from the Chinese Academy of Science. The "strange stones" were confirmed as dinosaur egg fossils, dating back to the late Cretaceous Period which began 145 million years ago and ended 66 million years ago.

Dinosaurs alive during the Cretaceous Period include the Tyrannosaurus Rex, the feathered Velociraptor and the three-horned Triceratops. The first, and biggest to be found so far, fossilised dinosaur eggs were football shaped Hypselosaurus eggs found in France in 1869. These eggs were 30 cm long, 25 cm wide, had a volume of about 2 litres and may have weighed up to 7 kg!



Building sized rock causes road closure!



Pictured: Photos of the rockslide and rocks blocking the road from the San Miguel Sheriff's Twitter page.

A huge rockslide containing a boulder the size of a building has fallen into a major road in Colorado, blocking all traffic.

The road was closed indefinitely after one very large rock left a 2.5 metre crater in the ground. "The Sheriff is asking for your cooperation in avoiding the area so crews may concentrate on clearing the debris," Colorado Department of Transportation said.

Officials said a geo-technical team, equipment and supplies had been mobilised to the site, but they did not know when the road could be reopened. The boulder that remains embedded on the highway needs to be blasted into smaller pieces in order to move it.

Robot that flies like a hummingbird

Researchers at Purdue University have created a tiny robotic hummingbird that flies in the same way as the real thing thanks to artificial intelligence. This robot could have much better manoeuvrability than a drone as it can fly like a bird but also hover like an insect. The robots have 3D-printed bodies, wings made of carbon fibre and laser-cut membranes. They have engineered the flying robots to behave like hummingbirds, training them with machine learning algorithms based on various techniques the bird uses naturally every day. The researchers have built a robot weighing 12 grams, the weight of the average adult Magnificent Hummingbird, and another insect-sized robot weighing 1 gram. The hummingbird robot can lift more than its own weight, up to 27 grams. It is hoped the technology will have many uses, including assisting in search and rescue situations.



Pictured: A typical Bee Hummingbird.

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