

NATURAL PHENOMENA EDITION

MARCH 21, 2024

MEDIA LITERACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In the 21st century, it has become increasingly challenging to recognize which images are “real” vs. those that have been created using artificial intelligence (AI). Experts have estimated that by 2025, over 90% of online content will be created by AI, leading Congress to discuss regulations around image-making and protections for creators (VandelHei & Allen, 2023). Due to this tremendous increase, media literacy is more essential than ever as we continue to consume massive amounts of visual content on a daily basis. This poster presentation will focus on three fauxtograph images showcasing natural phenomena in a realistic way.

VandeHei, J. & Allen, M. (2023). Behind the curtain: what AI architects fear most (in 2024). AXIOS.
<https://www.axios.com/2023/11/08/ai-fears-deepfake-misinformation>



CURLING IN VENICE

by Suzanne Voigt, BFA in Photography

Breaking news in Venice, Italy! Even when the canals saw some ice coverage in 2012 and 1929, nothing could have prepared Venice for the recent cold front that came through last week, causing temperatures ranging from 5 - 19 degrees. With these low temperatures, the water in the canals fully iced over, stranding some gondoliers and tourists as well as providing an excellent rink for a local curling team to practice their skills in preparation for their upcoming tournament in Rome.

The captain of the team commented, “I am a native Venetian and have never seen anything like this. I started learning the game of curling when I was 5 and always have had to travel outside of Venice, to local rinks to practice. This recent freeze has provided a spectacular opportunity to play my favorite sport right here in my hometown, which is magical.” Local meteorologists claim that climate change is the main cause of this drastic drop in temperatures in and around Venice as well as other parts of Italy and Spain. Only time will tell how long these freezing temperatures will last!

NORTHERN LIGHTS OVER CHARLOTTE

by Dominique Rodriguez, BFA in Photography

Excitement is in the sky with Carolina News. The aurora lights were visible on January 15, 2024, at 7:45 pm EST. It was visible over parts of the United States that night. Such as the Carolinas and Virginia; even though the aurora Barrales or northern lights were viewed in this region previously in 2023 on two separate occasions, this time, they will be even more visible in the sky with the clear skies and light pollution. This is one of the most exciting news in the Carolinas because of populated cities, such as Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro; with the light pollution last year in 2023, the northern lights were not visible at all, but



tonight, even though the city's lights were on, you will still be able to see it. here were reported sightings in Charlotte, North Carolina. Local Charlotte photographer Brittani Briggs captured the Charlotte skyline with the lights in the sky and many other people in the frame taking photos of the sky. "This night will be one of the nights. I will always remember it because it is the most unexpected and remarkable experience I had living in North Carolina," Brittani Briggs posted on her Instagram page. There, you can see the beautiful phenomenon of the Aurora lights clearly, as can be seen in Carolina and Virginia.



MEGALODON SPOTTED BY SWIMMER

by Zoe Leigh Turner, BFA in Print Media

Jaw-dropping news! A marine monster, believed to have been extinct for the last three million years, has been spotted off the coast of North Carolina. Three times larger than the beast of Jaws, the megalodon is a prehistoric creature that dominated the oceans between 23 million and 3.6 million years ago. However, new evidence suggests that maybe this gigantic fish never left our oceans. A photo from World War II, a boat attack in 2013, and now a brand new photo showing what is no doubt a humongous megalodon fin off the coast. It would seem to be undeniable that our mega monster shark is back roaming the

oceans. Scientists say it's range is tropical to subtropical waters near the shore and coastal waters. Stay vigilante, stay aware if you dare enter the water again. Remember... it's mouth is the size of you.