

Asteroid 2024 YR4 is no longer a threat to Earth

Scientists have finally given the all-clear to Earth from a newly discovered asteroid

BY MARCIA DUNN
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL — Scientists have finally given the all-clear to Earth from a newly discovered asteroid.

After two months of observations, scientists have almost fully ruled out any threat from the asteroid 2024 YR4, NASA and the European Space Agency said Tuesday.

At one point, the odds of a strike in 2032 were as high as about 3% and topped the world's asteroid-risk lists.

ESA has since lowered the odds to 0.001%. NASA has it down to 0.0017% — meaning the asteroid will safely pass Earth in 2032 and there's no threat of impact for the next century.

Paul Chodas, who heads NASA's Center

for Near Earth Objects Studies, said there is no chance the odds will rise at this point and that an impact in 2032 has been ruled out.

"That's the outcome we expected all along, although we couldn't be 100% sure that it would happen," he said in an email.

But there's still a 1.7% chance that asteroid could hit the moon on Dec. 22, 2032, according to NASA. Chodas expects the odds of a moon strike will also fade.

The world's telescopes will continue to track the asteroid as it heads away from us, with the Webb Space Telescope zooming in next month to pinpoint its size. It's expected to vanish from view in another month or two.

Discovered in December, the asteroid is an



AP Photo/NASA

This May 18, 1969 photo provided by NASA shows Earth from 36,000 nautical miles away as photographed from the Apollo 10 spacecraft during its trans-lunar journey toward the moon.

estimated 130 feet to 300 feet (40 meters to 90 meters) across, and swings our way every four years.

"While this asteroid

no longer poses a significant impact hazard to Earth, 2024 YR4 provided an invaluable opportunity" for study, NASA said in a statement.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and

Educational Media Group and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

LOVE

FROM PAGE B5

by shrapnel over the left eye and another injury to her left flank. For her tremendous accomplishments during this battle, Reckless became the first animal to receive the military rank of corporal and later was promoted to sergeant. She also became the first horse in the Marine Corps known to have participated in an amphibious landing.

Books and songs have been written about her bravery, and after she was retired and brought to the United States after the war, she made appearances on television and special events. She was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959 by the Commandment of the Marine Corps. She gave birth to four foals in the U.S. and passed away in May 1968. Numerous statues and plaques have been made in her honor and for her exemplary

service to the Marine Corps, Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star, the National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal with 3 bronze stars, the United Nations Korea Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation, and the Animals in War and Peace Medal of Bravery, among others. In 1997, Reckless was listed by LIFE magazine as one of America's 100 all-time heroes.

I wrote a story a couple of years ago about another magnificent horse named Beautiful Jim Key and his ability to read and count. I love and admire all animals and more than just how smart and innocent they are, I'm amazed at how they love us unconditionally.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, and author. Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com.

REACH

FROM PAGE B5

• Leading a Church to Reach Rural Kentucky, led by Ronnie Stinson, Jr., pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church.

Returning to the conference lineup is a women's ministry track. Liz Encina, executive director-treasurer of Kentucky's Woman's Mis-

sionary Union, coordinated the women's ministry track along with the KBC's Evangelism and Mission Mobilization teams. Encina said the goal of the women's track is to inspire women to "live missionally in their families, community and wherever the Lord leads them."

The track will feature Sarah Sanborn, a Kentucky-born former IMB missionary, who

first become involved in ministry through a Baptist Campus Ministry of the KBC. Sanborn will share about her experiences as a missionary in eastern Europe at the women's track dinner.

The women's track will include two breakout sessions focused on equipping women in the church.

• Stephanie Newton, lead strategist for adult and multicultural

audiences at WMU, will speak on How to Get Your Small Group to be Missional.

• Tiffany Smith, strategies coordinator for Send Network, will lead a session on Gospel Multipliers: Inspiring Confident Leaders for Christ.

To learn more about the REACH Conference and to register, visit <https://www.kybaptist.org/reach/>.

www.timesleader.net

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Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

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