

Our Night Sky for January 29, 2024

A short while ago I saw an item on YouTube stating that NASA was warning of some upcoming disaster. When I heard a second similar statement yesterday, I thought I should investigate this. There seems to be no shortage of posted stories in which NASA is warning of this or that. This item was that Voyager was sending warnings of 'possible' unidentified extraterrestrial spacecraft sitting outside our solar system. I won't waste your time explaining that this is nonsense. Right away you can sort out a wild idea as just too far out of normal that you can easily put the ideas to one side.

But with science this becomes a lot trickier. There is a place for speculation in science, that is how we progress. A reporter trying to increase drama or web views will next ask open ended question and broad unsubstantiated speculation, "Could this be", "What could this mean?" leaving the exaggeration to your imagination which they have guided into letting you think there is a spacecraft parked outside our solar system.

A scientist may speculate a new idea but next will try and find facts that support, or experiments that measure these new ideas.

For you and I the first step when something seems too far outside the box is to check a reputable science resource. If NASA is reporting it, chances are it has been checked and verified as many scientific references as needed and that all the material is available with nothing being hidden. NASA is a safe place to find facts about Our Night Sky.