

# Best of Last Week: Yellow rivers, delayed aging, and iPhone shuts off implanted heart device

January 11 2021, by Bob Yirka

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It was a big week for Earth science as a team of researchers with members from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Colorado State University found that [a third of the rivers in the U.S.](#)

[changed from blue to green and yellow over the past several decades](#) due to increases in sediment and pollutants. Also, a team with members affiliated with a host of institutions across the U.S. reported that [a reawakened geyser did not foretell future Yellowstone volcanic eruptions](#)—after Steamboat Geyser reawakened in 2018, scientists worried that it might portend an explosive period in the park. And scientists around the world noted that [the Earth has been spinning faster lately](#)—maybe enough to force the addition of a negative leap second.

In technology news, a team with members affiliated with several institutions in Europe succeeded in [isolating single artificial atoms in silicon](#)—a way to enhance the performance of silicon-based integrated quantum circuits. Also, a team at the TCS Robotics Research Lab in India created [a system that could transform images of the human face into drawings](#)—called Chitrakar, the system uses the Jordan curve to create the cartoon-like faces. And an international team of researchers created [a new kind of paper that demonstrated photonic structures for AI applications](#)—they called it machine learning at the speed of light. Also, a team at Savitribai Phule Pune University developed [a framework to evaluate the cognitive capabilities of machine-learning agents](#).

In other news, a team of researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences developed [a new kind of gene therapy strategy to delay aging](#) using a genome-wide CRISPR/Cas9 screening system. Also, a combined team from the U.S. Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory and Stanford University captured [the first glimpse of polarons forming, in a promising next-gen energy material](#).

And finally, people with tachycardia who have implantable heart devices may be interested in research by a team at Henry Ford Hospital—they found that placing an iPhone near the implant site, such as in a breast pocket, could [shut the device off](#).

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