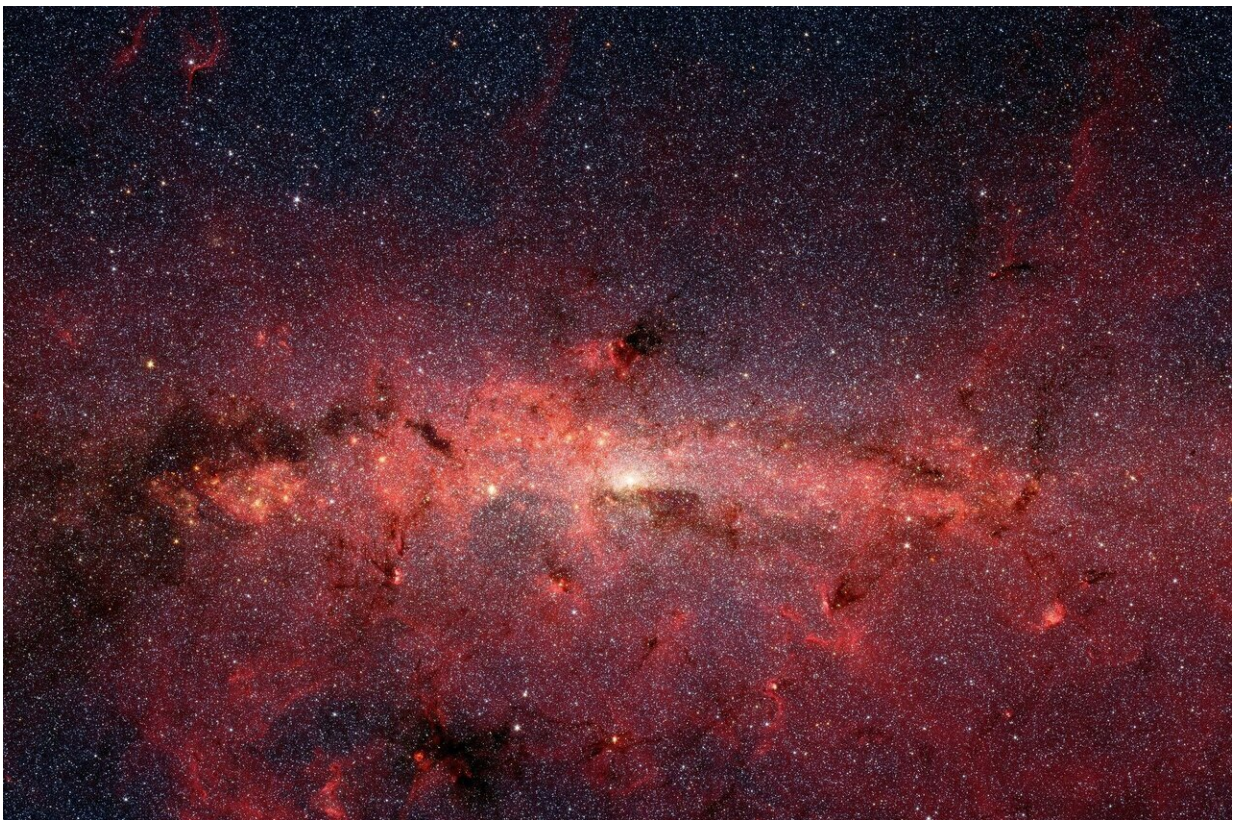


# Best of Last Week: A puzzling six planet ecosystem, chatting with the deceased and harm from smoking cannabis

February 1 2021, by Bob Yirka

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Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

It was a good week for space science as a team of researchers studying data from the ESO's VLT and other telescopes discovered [a puzzling six-](#)

[exoplanet system with rhythmic movement that has challenged theories of how planets form](#). Also, an international team of researchers found [the first evidence of water being created on the lunar surface by Earth's magnetosphere](#).

In technology news, a team of researchers at MIT developed a type of neural network that learns on the job, not just during its training phase—[the liquid machine-learning system adapts to changing conditions](#). And a team affiliated with multiple institutions in China developed [an electronic transfer tattoo system with a crease amplification effect](#)—the wearable or implantable device was able to integrate with human tissues to allow for real-time health monitoring. Also, several universities in Australia worked together to devise [a method to control the outbreak of crown-of-thorns starfish in Australia's Great Barrier Reef using UAVs](#)—prior research has shown that the starfish are responsible for destroying half the reef to date. And Microsoft recently applied for [a patent](#) for a system that would let people chat with loved ones who have died—virtually, of course, using learned personality and physical traits.

In other news, a team of researchers at UC San Francisco found that [a daily drink of alcohol can cause immediate detrimental effects for people with atrial fibrillation](#)—they found that alcohol can have an impact on the electrical properties that control heart contractions. Also, a team with members from the University of Washington, the National University of Quilmes and Yale University found that [on nights before a full moon, people go to bed later and sleep less](#). And a team with members from the U.S. and Australia found evidence suggesting that [competition among human females likely contributed to concealed ovulation](#)—it was not because it was useful for securing male partners to help raise and support children.

And finally, if you are a regular user of marijuana, you may want to

check out the results of a study by a team with members from several institutions in Australia and one in the U.K.—[they found harm in regular cannabis use regardless of the age when someone begins using it](#). More specifically, they found that regular use could be linked to negative life outcomes.

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