

Best of Last Week: Reversing the climate clock, impact of screen time on children, and how red meat impacts gut bacteria

December 17 2018, by Bob Yirka



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It was a good week for space news as NASA announced that [the Voyager 2 space probe entered interstellar space](#)—the event marked the

second time that a human-made object has left the solar system. And an international team of researchers reported on how [Hubble found a far-away planet vanishing at record speed](#). They reported that the planet called GJ 3470b, is evaporating at a rate one hundred times faster than other planets of similar size. Also, a team at the University of Texas reported that they had found [evidence of dark matter dominating across cosmic time](#)—a very distant galaxy that appears rich with dark matter, behaving as theory predicted.

It was also an important week for climate news as a team at the University of Wisconsin reported on how they had found evidence that showed [humans may be reversing the climate clock by 50 million years](#)—by pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Also, a team of researchers from several institutions in the U.K. and one in South Africa suggested that [the lowly broiler chicken may be the hallmark of the Anthropocene](#)—the age of man-made impacts on the planet.

In technology news, Panida Songram, a researcher at Mahasarakham University, in Thailand, outlined her study that involved [using machine learning to detect unreliable Facebook pages](#). And a team of engineers at MIT announced that they had developed [a sun-soaking device that turns water into superheated steam](#).

In other [news](#), a team at the Francis Crick Institute announced that [they had cracked the CRISPR code for precise human genome editing](#) which could lead to improving the efficiency of the gene-editing technique. Also, a team at the National Institute of Health found that [heavy screen time appears to impact childrens' brains](#)—and not in a good way.

And finally, if you are one of the billions still eating red meat there was some [bad news](#)—a team at the Cleveland Clinic conducted concurrent studies which revealed [the role of red meat in gut bacteria and heart disease development](#). They uncovered the role that [red meat](#) plays in

impacting bacteria in ways that can lead to heart disease.

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