

Monday, Dec. 9

“More than 50 polar bears overrun far-north Russian village”

A village in Russia's Far North has been overrun by more than 50 polar bears. All public activities have reportedly been called off in Ryrkaypiy, in the Chukotka region, and schools are being guarded so that the bears don't wander inside. Tatyana Minenko, head of Ryrkaypiy's bear patrol program, said they had counted 56 polar bears in the village. The animals were “both adult and young... there were females with cubs of different ages,” she said, adding that almost all of them appeared to be thin. Although the polar bears normally reside on Cape Schmidy, about 1.4 miles away, experts said the area has been experiencing warmer than typical weather. This means that sea ice is not yet strong enough for the bears to travel farther out to sea to hunt.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

“Archaeologists discovered 1,700-year-old Roman eggs”

Archaeologists in Britain discovered a basket of 1,700-year-old eggs from Ancient Rome — and accidentally broke three of them, releasing the “world's oldest stinkbombs”. The experts found four eggs in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire in a waterlogged pit that they believe may have been used as a “wishing well.” However, when they removed the eggs from the environment, three of the four eggs found broke, letting off what was described as a “potent stench.” In addition to the eggs, researchers also found dozens of coins, shoes, wooden tools and what has been described as a “very rare” basket. Experts added that prior to being used for offerings, the pit was likely used to malt grain for brewing beer.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

“Tiny magnetic particles enable new material to bend, twist, and grab”

A team of researchers has developed a soft polymer material, called magnetic shape memory polymer, which uses magnetic fields to transform into a variety of shapes. The material is a mixture of three different ingredients, all with unique characteristics: two types of magnetic particles, one for inductive heat and one with strong magnetic attraction, and shape-memory polymers to help lock various shape changes into place. The shape-changing process takes only a few seconds from start to finish, and the strength of the material at its locked state may allow it to lift objects up to 1,000 times its own weight.

Thursday, Dec. 12

“Our Large, Adult Galaxy Is As Massive As 890 Billion Suns”

Our home galaxy has a new, super-precise mass measurement: about 890 billion times the mass of our sun. That's 3.9 tredecillion pounds, a tredecillion being a 1 with 42 zeros after it (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000). That amounts to about 6 billion billion billion elephants, 296 quadrillion Earth masses or 135 times the mass of the supermassive black hole in an image released back in April. The new study relied on two key compilations of data. This information revealed how gas, stars and other material move in different parts of the Milky Way. Scientists can use this to produce a "rotation curve" that reveals how heavy the galaxy really is.

Friday, Dec. 13

“Bacteria living in your nose helps keep you from getting sick”

Your nose is full of life—and German scientists' exploration of exactly what lives in there led to the discovery that the bacterium *Staphylococcus lugdunensis* is really good at stopping several other antibiotic-resistant species from growing. This makes the nose one of your body's first lines of defense against harmful airborne microbes. Experiments with mice have revealed that *S. lugdunensis* produces a compound called lugdunin that prevents infection with MRSA. Although the development of a therapeutic drug is still in early stages, the results so far have confirmed lugdunin's potential for treating skin infections.