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Earth has endured its fair share of mass extinctions over the past 4 billion years. But they aren't just freak accidents — researchers think there's a pattern to them, and the culprit is somewhere out in space. **BY SARAH SCOLES**

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Decades-long excavations are wrapping up in Turkey's Neolithic city of Çatalhöyük, where an egalitarian utopia may have once been the norm. **BY JENNIFER HATTAM**

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While it seems like teens throw caution to the wind, their brains are more in charge than you think. And they could teach adults a thing or two. **BY KAYT SUKEL**

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With the world's population increasing, natural disasters threaten more people than ever. New technology is key in helping us get to safety. **BY APRIL REESE**

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Not too long ago, when young women faced cancer, there weren't many fertility options. Now, pioneering researchers are helping preserve these patients' shot at motherhood. **BY KATHERINE KORNEI**



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Comets, asteroids and a hypothetical "Planet X" could all be responsible for Earth's past, and future, destruction. (Cover by Roen Kelly/Discover)

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Looking Up, and Ready for Drama

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An older man complains of severe vomiting and diarrhea, but all of his tests come back normal. Could the answer be right under his nose?

BY LOUIS JANEIRA

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Training My Aging Brain

With all of the recent academic arguing over the validity of brain training games, one writer decides to take things into his own hands. Or rather, his own brain.

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Revisiting Primordial Gravity Waves

Two years ago, researchers mistakenly thought they'd pinpointed the Big Bang birth of gravitational waves. Now they've learned from that, and they might be onto something.

BY STEVE NADIS

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Wine

In vino veritas, as the popular Latin saying goes. And we've got 20 truths of our own about that liquid grape goodness. **BY GEMMA TARLACH**