CU Boulder researchers spearhead bid to save vanishing Arapaho language

Andrew Cowell, chair of CU Boulder’s Department of Linguistics, presides over the Arapaho Language Project, and he is doing all he can to save a language spoken now by only about 200 people in the world. Although the Arapaho Language Project was launched in 2002, it was buttressed over the recent winter break with the addition of an online Arapaho dictionary, showing an Arapaho-English translation for about 30,000 words. Daily Camera, Jan. 18

How Bruce Lee exploded a stereotype with a one-inch punch

When they were portrayed at all in the 20th-century American movies, Asian men were often cast as servants, deviants or as wily and desexualized, said Daryl Maeda, a professor at CU Boulder, who is working on a cultural biography of the actor. The New York Times, Jan. 25

Religious freedom bill dies in Colorado House

“This law is not only about florists and bakers that are not wanting to participate in certain types of weddings,” said Melissa Hart, a constitutional law professor at the University of Colorado Law School. “The room for personal interpretation of this law and the opportunities for abuse are simply astonishing.” The Denver Post, Jan. 25
CU Boulder professor helps assess danger of primates’ extinction

Three-quarters of the world’s primates are declining in population and 60 percent are threatened with extinction, according to a new study. “At the rate we’re going, we’re not taking care of our home very well,” said study coauthor Joanna Lambert, a professor in the CU Boulder Department of Biological Anthropology. “The next few years will be critical.” Daily Camera, Jan. 21

CU Boulder study shows ring-tailed lemurs in dire straits

A study co-authored by a CU Boulder professor found that the decline in the ring-tailed lemur population could spell trouble for all lemur species on the island of Madagascar. Michelle Sauther, a professor at CU Boulder who has been studying lemurs for 30 years, said the study shows the number of ring-tailed lemurs among populations has dropped to fewer than 2,500. Daily Camera, Jan. 5

Tiny robots may someday fight superbugs inside our bodies

Prashant Nagpal’s lab analyzes the DNA of superbugs, then creates a highly targeted antibiotic, not in years, but in a few days. The CU Boulder professor makes the antibiotics out of quantum dots - tiny semiconductor particles. “Any time we think of semiconductors,” he said, “we always think, ‘Oh, it’s going to end up in a camera, or on top of our rooftops.’ What we’ve shown here is, you could use the same semiconductors, shrink them down and put them inside cells.” Voice of America, Jan. 5

United Arab Emirates to probe mysteries of Martian atmosphere in 2020

To be launched on a Japanese rocket, the NASA Hope mission derives its novelty largely from an unusual orbit that will enable it to cover the entire planet. “When something wiggles at the bottom of the atmosphere, how does that make other things, different things, wiggle at the top of the atmosphere? No previous mission has been able to tackle that question,” says David Brain, an atmospheric physicist at CU Boulder who is helping design Hope’s instruments. Science, Jan. 4
UCCS educating public about by-catch fish

At UCCS, Mark Hayes, left, director for dining and hospitality services, and Russell Saunkeah, executive chef, take sustainability of the dining hall services seriously. As part of upholding this commitment, they buy seafood from Sea to Table, a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based company that brings wild, fresh-caught seafood – cleaned, flash frozen and ready to cook – right to the school’s door. The Gazette, Jan. 11

UCCS now a haven for vets

Troops and veterans can get personalized help and a free cup of coffee at the new McCord-Herbst Student Veterans Center at UCCS. The center, open since September, is one of the amenities for military students that earned UCCS top honors as a Gold Level Military Friendly School from Victory Media, publisher of the GI Jobs magazine. The Gazette, Jan. 21

Experts say Colorado Springs’ commercial real estate, economy headed in the right direction

“We have a lot of really good, strong leading indicators nationally and locally,” said Tatiana Bailey, an economist and director of the UCCS Economic Forum. Local job growth and the types of positions being added, salaries and the numbers of new and expanded businesses all are positive, she said. “Overall, the fundamentals are very strong.” The Gazette, Jan. 19

Three business plan competitions in Colorado Springs in coming months

The Global Game Jam, Go Code Colorado and the Big Idea all offer great opportunities to entrepreneurs in the coming months. About 60 people are signed up to develop games during the ninth annual game creation event at the Bachelor of Innovation Lab of the Osborne Center at UCCS. The El Pomar Institute for Innovation and Commercialization is sponsoring the site, which also hosted jam sites in 2014-16. The Gazette, Jan. 18

Point/counterpoint: Should the United States be worried about Russian aggression?

For the foreseeable future, we should not be worried about Russian aggression. The reasons run deeper than media games and political rhetoric. Despite the apparent strength and charisma of Russian President Vladimir Putin, he is in a very tough spot. Russia has major problems that resist easy solutions. Demographically, Russia is a country in decline, writes Steven Pittz, an assistant professor of political science at UCCS. The Gazette, Jan. 28. The Gazette, Jan.
In this age of tweets and emojis, a love of language persists

All is fair in politics and the popular lexicon, and if the objective is to use words to get a point across, there’s no wrong way to succeed, said Tom Napierkowski, a professor of English history at UCCS. “Any functioning, living language is always changing. What people are doing with the language is the shape the language is going to take,” he said. The Gazette, Jan. 15

Revered longtime Colorado Springs theater director Murray Ross dies

Colorado Springs lost a pillar of its theater community and stalwart William Shakespeare aficionado when TheatreWorks founder and artistic director Murray Ross died following a short illness. The Gazette, Jan. 4

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

High debt can kill you, CU Denver study finds

The study “Killer Debt: The Impact of Debt on Mortality” found that there was a negative statistical correlation between delinquent debt and health, as measured by mortality. It also found that there was a positive correlation between credit-worthiness and health. Economist and CU Denver professor Laura Argys said the research sheds light on the extent to which macroeconomic shocks impact individual health. Denver Business Journal, Jan. 18

CU official named to hall of fame at University of New Mexico’s management school

Luella Chavez D’Angelo, vice chancellor for enterprise development at CU South Denver, has been named a 2017 inductee by the University of New Mexico Anderson School of Management's Hall of Fame. She is one of three 2017 hall of fame inductees. Honorees will be inducted at a ceremony on March 2 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Denver Business Journal, Jan. 10
How can cities like Denver balance creative freedom, affordability and safety?

Colorado Matters invited three people – including Michael Seman, who directs industries research and policy at CU Denver -- close to the issue to discuss the future of do-it-yourself spaces and affordable housing for artists. CPR, Jan. 23

Dinosaur Ridge neighbors say car lots don’t fit with sensitive site

Martin Lockley, a geology and paleontology professor at CU Denver for nearly 40 years, said by their sheer size and scope, car dealerships would diminish access to the treasure trove of prehistoric fossils and tracks that lie just to the west. He heaps much of the blame on Jefferson County, which he said should have played a more active role over the years in recognizing the importance of Dinosaur Ridge, which it owns. The Denver Post, Jan. 11

Those who want to fix Colorado road woes cast hopeful eye toward Washington

Paul Teske, dean of the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, said it’s not time to write Trump’s infrastructure promise off as hot air from the summer campaign trail. “At one level it makes sense; he’s a nationalist figure, he wants to make America great again, and when you talk about airports and roads and transportation infrastructure, those are things people see and are a visual sign of what America looks like,” Teske said. The Gazette, Jan. 21

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Oncologists could improve prognosis communication

Researchers from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus found that accurate prognosis of incurable cancer is vital to end-of-life decision making. The study looked at 64 doctor-patient conversations regarding cancer prognosis at four major academic medical centers and found that both patients and doctors tend to avoid end-of-life discussions regarding terminal cancer diagnosis. "It was surprising – at all four of these medical centers, the conversations that oncologists had with their patients tended to follow the same pattern," Sarguni Singh, oncology hospitalist at the CU Cancer Center and author of the study. UPI, Jan. 24
University of Colorado programs average more than 40 pounds of weight loss per participant

With 25 full-time medical researchers working at the center, plus more than 100 researchers working across the CU Anschutz campus for the Colorado Nutrition Obesity Research Center, the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center and is one of only 12 of its kind in the U.S. “We are a research-based, evidence-based center,” said Lauren Ott, assistant director of My New Weigh and a registered dietitian and program coach. The Denver Post, Jan. 10

Rural Colorado’s opioid connections might hold clues to better treatment

Jack Westfall, a family physician and researcher at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, works with a network of rural clinics and hospitals in the state. He says many doctors on the plains are feeling frantic. “We don’t know what to do with this wave of people who are using opioids,” he says. “They’re in the clinic, they’re in the ER, they’re in the hospital. They’re in the morgue, because they overdosed.” National Public Radio, Jan. 23

How Colorado lawmakers are reacting to Donald Trump— with state laws

Asked if news that Republican lawmakers in Colorado want to repeal the state’s exchange came as a surprise to people in the health care policy world here, Ben Miller, M.D., director of the Farley Health Policy Center at the CU School of Medicine, said it might not really be about policy at all. “Very little of the current health policy discussion has anything to do with evidence, science or policy,” he said. Colorado Independent, Jan. 12

Why Tom Price’s biotech stock has medical ethicists worried

Most doctors recite some version of the Hippocratic Oath, pledging to abide by it, Matthew Wynia, director of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, said. The oath does not cover financial conflicts of interest, but it does call on physicians to put their patients’ interests ahead of their own. Huffington Post, Jan. 26