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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2020



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Faster, Painless COVID-19 Test Developed by CU](#)

Fox 31

(July 23, 2020) – CU Boulder announced a new, less expensive COVID-19 test that uses saliva collection instead of a nasal swab.

“We are facing a serious testing shortage in this country right now as more people want to get tested and diagnostics labs are overwhelmed,” said [Nicholas Meyerson](#), a postdoctoral associate in the Sawyer Lab at the BioFrontiers Institute. “We’ve developed a test that could get results to people much faster.”



[Controversial Cave Discoveries Suggest Humans Reached Americas Earlier Than Thought](#)

Nature

(July 22, 2020) -- Archaeologists excavating a cave in the mountains of central Mexico have unearthed evidence that people occupied the area more than 30,000 years ago — suggesting that humans arrived in North America at least 15,000 years earlier than thought.

“The growing body of evidence for people in Beringia before 15,000 years ago renders their appearance in places like Mexico 20,000 or 30,000 years ago less surprising,” says [John Hoffecker](#), an archaeologist at CU Boulder.



[University of Colorado Law School Director Part of Push against Washington Redskins Name](#)

Daily Camera

(July 18, 2020) – The Washington Redskins announced recently that it would change its NFL team name to terminate the use of the racist slur against Native Americans. One of the people involved in the push to retire the name was [Carla Fredericks](#), director of Colorado Law School’s American Indian Law Clinic and director of First Peoples Worldwide. Fredericks, who is Native American, has been advocating for the change for 15 years through her role working with institutional

investors that have shares in companies with business interests with the Washington team such as Nike, PepsiCo and FedEx.



[The Sky is Not Falling, but a Crazy Meteor Did Explode over Golden Tuesday Night](#)

The Denver Post

(July 29, 2020) -- [John Keller](#), director of the planetarium at CU Boulder, says it was “definitely” a meteor that disintegrated into smaller pieces, which continued to burn up in the atmosphere. One clue for him is that it was moving too fast to have been part of a falling human-made satellite, and must have come from somewhere else in our solar system.

Also: [Newly Discovered NEOWISE — the ‘Most Exciting Comet’ in More Than 20 Years — Will Be Visible this Month](#), The Denver Post, July 17, 2020



[25 Years after Returning to Yellowstone, Wolves Have Helped Stabilize the Ecosystem](#)

National Geographic

(July 9, 2020) -- While the Yellowstone area is vast and sparsely populated, much of Colorado is not — which means where wolves would be reintroduced, how many

would be allowed to roam the mountains, and how much humans would tolerate their presence are all potential challenges, says [Joanna Lambert](#), an environmental studies professor at CU Boulder and scientific advisor for the Rocky Mountain Wolf Project.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Play Therapy Can Help Kids Speak the Unspeakable](#)

The New York Times

(July 21, 2020) -- When kids struggle to regulate their emotions and thoughts, their behavior can just look like acting out to adults in their lives. But what they're searching for is a sense of control, said [Diane Stutey](#), an assistant professor in the department of counseling and human services at UCCS.

"They were seeking control in ways that could be seen in a school setting as acting out or misbehavior," Stutey said. "Really what they were trying to do is figure out, 'Where is my place where I am safe?'"



[Young Women on How TikTok Has Warped Their Body Image](#)

NBC News

(July 19, 2020) -- “Because there’s so much existential anxiety out there with the uncertainty around the pandemic, unfortunately, people are sort of doubling down on whatever path they were on,” said [Elizabeth Daniels](#), psychology professor at UCCS. “So if they were already restricting their diet a lot I think that’s getting worse.”



[GUEST COLUMN: Resiliency Pilot Program a Light during Challenging Times](#)

The Gazette

(July 16, 2020) -- Resiliency, the ability to respond to and recover from adversity, should be developed and strengthened before trauma occurs to an individual. That’s why Children’s Hospital Colorado and UCCS piloted the first-of-its-kind, one-on-one coaching initiative, “Building Resilience for Healthy Kids,” writes [Margaret Sabin](#), president of Children’s Hospital Colorado Southern Region operations.



[This is Not a Normal Mental-Health Disaster](#)

The Atlantic

(July 7, 2020) -- A pandemic, unlike an earthquake or a fire, is invisible, and that makes it all the more anxiety-inducing.

“You can’t see it, you can’t taste it, you just don’t know,” says [Charles Benight](#), a psychology professor at UCCS who specializes in post-disaster recovery. “You look outside, and it seems fine.”



[Colorado Springs Jobless Rate Moves Higher as People Return to Job Market](#)

The Gazette

(July 29, 2020) -- “This is probably going to get worse in the next six months because El Paso County is one of several counties where variances may be pulled due to rising numbers of (COVID-19) cases,” said [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum. Officials are deciding whether to withdraw the variances from state health rules, which could force some businesses and tourist attractions to close.

Also: [Here’s What the Numbers Tell Us about Colorado Coronavirus Unemployment](#), CPR, July 28



[The Hits Keep Coming at the 'Smash Lab' After a Big Donation from the NFL to Make a Safer Helmet](#)

CBS 4

(July 23, 2020) -- "We're the only company that can make liquid crystal elastomers. That sounds like a mouthful but it's an energy absorbing material that we think is going to revolutionize not only how we protect our head but also our bodies," said [Chris Yakacki](#), an associate professor of mechanical engineering at CU Denver, where he used the research to start the company Impressio.



[Surge Seen in Anti-Asian Hate Crimes since Start of Pandemic](#)

PsychCentral

(July 22, 2020) -- "Once again, we are seeing a pattern of scapegoating," said study co-author [Angela Gover](#), a professor at the CU Denver School of Public Affairs. "It is important to learn lessons from the past and not repeat history by blaming those of Asian descent for the current pandemic."



[Want to Reform Police Departments in Metro Denver? Hire More Women](#)

Fox 31

(July 15, 2020) -- Some conflict management experts say women are better at de-escalation which means fewer use-of-force cases.

“Men are more quick to make a decision, go with a decision and stay with it. Where women will explore and talk about different options,” said [Mary Dodge](#), a CU Denver criminology professor. “If you look at the intersection of gender and race, hiring more minority women would be so beneficial to these departments.”



[History Shows Opposition to Mask Orders is Nothing New](#)

9 News

(July 17, 2020) – As the old saying goes, history has a way of repeating itself. This holds true for anyone looking to compare today’s COVID-19 pandemic to the Spanish Influenza outbreak in 1918.

“It’s actually very interesting to see how things are almost the same as they were in 1918 in terms of the response,” said [Blair Gifford](#), a global health management professor at CU Denver. Though this is the first time most Americans are collectively having to practice safety exercises like social distancing, a lot of the measures aren’t new, Gifford said.



[The Tree at the Bottom of the World — and the Wind-Blasted Trek to Find It](#)

National Geographic

(July 7, 2020) -- “This is it,” says [Brian Buma](#), a forest ecologist from CU Denver. Few things in the natural world can be identified as the true end, the last of a kind, the edge, Buma tells me. He pulls a measuring tape from his daypack and starts appraising a recumbent trunk, one just a few inches south of the rest. “It strikes me that we should know where these things are,” he said.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[2020 Fourth of July Weekend was One of the Busiest Ever at UCHealth Burn Center](#)

Fox 31

(July 8, 2020) -- Doctors at the UCHealth Burn Center said the 2020 Fourth of July Weekend was one of the busiest they have ever had.

“This year we had a record number of admissions and consultations because of the amount of people doing fireworks at home,” said [Arek Wiktor](#), associate medical director of burn surgery at CU Anschutz. He said it’s

important to take precautions when using any kind of firework or explosive.



[Do Carbon Filters in Face Masks Offer More Protection Against Coronavirus?](#)

Mental Floss

(July 23, 2020) -- “Carbon and charcoal are meant to filter contaminants from water,” said [May Chu](#), a clinical professor of epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. “We don’t know if breathing in charcoal fragments or particles is good for your lungs.”

The same holds true for using vacuum cleaner bags or coffee filters. Some are made with silica fibers, or glass. That’s not anything you want in your lungs. “These are not designed for breathing,” Chu said.



[Around 12,000 Americans Die Of Heat-related Causes Annually, Research Report](#)

Technology Times

(July 14, 2020) -- Researchers have found that more than 80% of those dying from heat-related illnesses are over 60, and the baby boomer generation (those born between 1946-64) will be the hardest hit by climate change. One of the things included in the report are tips

on checking on your elderly neighbors or relatives. The advice comes from [Jay Lemery](#), a professor of emergency medicine at the CU School of Medicine.



[Multiple Vaccine Candidates Show Early Promise; Inhaled Interferon Helps Severe COVID-19 Patients](#)

WTVB (Reuters)

(July 20, 2020) -- Hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) carries a low risk of transmitting the coronavirus and bystanders who witness a cardiac arrest during the pandemic should not be afraid to perform it, doctors say. People are wary about close contact with others, so the pandemic is a real threat to bystander CPR, said [Sarah Perman](#), of the CU School of Medicine. She notes that the American Heart Association recommends hands-only CPR and precautions such as covering faces to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets that may carry the coronavirus.



[College Football Season Teeters on the Brink](#)

The New York Times

(July 13, 2020) -- Given budget crunches and coronavirus testing problems, should universities spend hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of a season to routinely test players, coaches and staff?

“Is this a good use of our resources?” said [Dawn Comstock](#), a sports epidemiologist at the Colorado School of Public Health. The ethical side of all this may give college philosophy classes, whenever and however they convene, plenty to consider.

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