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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2018



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[CU Boulder professor links brain's expectations and pain sensation](#)

Daily Camera

(Nov. 19, 2018) – CU Boulder neuroscientists have completed a new study that shows expecting pain can create a self-fulfilling prophecy — even if the actual sensation is not that severe.

“The study is really a study of the dynamics of how self-fulfilling prophecies are formed,” said [Tor Wager](#), a psychology and neuroscience professor at CU Boulder.



[A giant sun storm during the Vietnam War likely exploded dozens of mines](#)

Motherboard

(Nov. 8, 2018) -- Led by [Delores Knipp](#), a space weather expert at CU Boulder, the study suggests that an unusually intense solar storm activated magnetic sensors in the undersea destructor mines, causing them to blow up en masse.

“The extreme space weather events of early August 1972 had significant impact on the U.S. Navy, which have not been widely reported,” Knipp said. “These effects, long buried in the Vietnam War archives, add credence to the severity of the storm: a nearly instantaneous, unintended detonation of dozens of sea mines south of Hai Phong.”



[CU Boulder researcher, area vet pursue gene therapy remedy with ailing dogs](#)

Daily Camera

(Nov. 4, 2018) -- Opioid-free gene therapy being tested now in more than 40 dogs, led by a researcher at CU Boulder and a Front Range veterinarian, could have significant implications for the treatment of chronic pain in humans. The initiative is led by CU Boulder neuroscience professor [Linda Watkins](#) and aims to better mute the effect of glial cells, a significant contributor to chronic pain.



[Why Colorado's unaffiliated voters don't elect unaffiliated candidates](#)

The Denver Post

(Nov. 26, 2018) -- Unaffiliated voters outnumber either registered Republicans or registered Democrats in Colorado, but that doesn't mean they vote for unaffiliated candidates.

"It's a naïve theory to assume that because people are unaffiliated that they don't have a leaning toward one of the two major parties," said [Ken Bickers](#), a political science professor at CU Boulder. "They don't really feel a strong connection to a major party, but that doesn't mean they don't feel some connection."



[Fire ant colonies could inspire robot swarms](#)

Fox News

(Nov. 19, 2018) -- "Recent studies have measured how fire ant [clusters] flow under stress and have opened a window into understanding these communication rules," explained CU Boulder professor [Franck Vernerey](#). "In this paper, we proposed a statistical theory that links these rules between individuals to their collective behavior and thus paves the way to understanding the origin of swarm 'intelligence.'"



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Obsession or addiction? Fortnite is what's on kids' minds](#)

KRDO

(Nov. 19, 2018) -- Fortnite is the most popular video game in the world right now. People can hardly put it down. But when does it go from being an annoyance to a serious concern? "There is some research out there that says it triggers essentially the same chemicals in the brain that drugs do," said [James Saunders](#), a behavioral specialist at UCCS.



[Hailstorms generate best Colorado Springs sales tax revenue in nearly two years](#)

KRDO

(Nov. 20, 2018) – Donald Trump stood by Saudi Arabia despite reports it was the crown prince who ordered Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi's death. "If he had done something differently it may have been irresponsible," said [Steven Pittz](#), an assistant political science professor at UCCS. Pittz said he's not surprised by the move and believes global leaders won't be either.



[Mental health issues mount on college campuses](#)

The Gazette

(Nov. 3, 2018) -- “We have way too many students struggling with mental health issues,” said [Stephanie Hanenberg](#), executive director of Health and Wellness at the UCCS Recreation and Wellness Center. UCCS, with nearly 12,600 students, mirrors national trends. The school is seeing an 8 percent yearly increase in the number of students seeking assistance.



[Colorado Springs job growth weakening, state’s revised employment numbers show](#)

The Gazette

(Nov. 28, 2018) -- “The fundamentals of the local economy are still strong, but we are seeing a lower growth rate,” said [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum. “The area is now growing at a more sustainable rate than it did in 2015 and 2016, when the local job market rebounded very strongly from all of the job losses in the last recession.”



[The vote investment: Money in the midterms](#)

KOAA

(Nov. 15, 2018) -- With high-profile races and Colorado's competitive nature in politics, the money showed up in races both big and small. This election turned out to become one of the most expensive ever, both across the nation and here in Colorado.

"If people see an opportunity for money to make a difference, they're more likely to donate," said [Joshua Dunn](#), chair of political science at UCCS.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[Seattle police return artifacts found at estate sale to Mexican government](#)

Seattle Times

(Nov. 20, 2018) -- The Seattle Police Department has returned to the Mexican government seven artifacts nearly sold off at a Capitol Hill estate sale last year. Such artifacts were commonly kept in homes and temples and often placed into tombs with the dead, said [Christopher Beekman](#), associate professor at CU Denver's Department of Anthropology. Returning the figures to Mexico requires not only proof that they are authentic but proof they were brought into the United States illegally, which can demand lengthy police investigations, Beekman

said. “So an event like this one is a pretty big deal.”



[Virtual reality helping provide glimpses of Denver’s real estate future](#)

The Denver Post

(Nov. 25, 2018) -- “It’s been coming for a little while,” CU Denver assistant professor of architecture [Kevin Hirth](#) said of the use of virtual reality in real estate. “I think V.R. has always seemed like an obvious kind of outlet, especially for the younger generation that grew up playing video games and things like that. To be able to move through a space and be able to see it dynamically, I think, is very appealing.”



[No evidence the White House video of Jim Acosta was doctored, or was it?](#)

Motherboard

(Nov. 8, 2018) – [Jeff Smith](#), the associate director of the National Center for Media Forensics at CU Denver, said he could detect duplicate frames in the White House video, which could indicate it was doctored.

“There are duplicate frames at the moment of contact; 2 additional frames for no apparent reason but one could surmise that it could give the false impression of a split second more contact than there actually was,” Smith wrote.



[Does any hope remain for Colorado's GOP?](#)

The Denver Post

(Nov. 8, 2018) -- According to [Tony Robinson](#), chair of the political science department at CU Denver, most of the seats flipped by Democrats this election were in districts that are affluent and educated. Democrats are becoming increasingly the party of the affluent, suburban and educated. The Colorado Front Range checks those boxes.



[Are new electronic payment systems causing customers to tip more?](#)

KGUN

(Oct. 31, 2018) – “The basic idea is to make it very easy for you, very convenient for you, and create an expectation that this is a norm,” says [Kevin Masters](#), a professor at CU Denver. “And this is what’s usually done.” Masters said the psychology behind the process is to cause stress for customers, which makes them tip no matter how much they decide.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[Experts detail proposals to improve clinician well-being](#)

Medscape

(Nov. 28, 2018) -- [Marc Moss](#), vice chair of clinical research at the CU School of Medicine, noted that burnout is an occupational health problem and said it needs to be viewed that way.

“We would never blame the coal miner for developing lung disease and say that there’s something they could do differently. This is a problem with our profession,” he said.



[Doctors give teen a brand new smile](#)

9News (Video)

(Nov. 20, 2018) -- Modern medicine takes many forms. Courtney Caudill was born with a condition called ectodermal dysplasia which, in her case, caused her teeth to come in misshapen. She came to call them shark teeth. That was until she underwent a life-changing procedure by [Kevin Moore](#) from the School of Dental Medicine at CU Anschutz.



[Mental health support for first responders](#)

9News

(Nov. 17, 2018) -- Responder Strong is an organization that helps first responders deal with mental health issues that may come up due to repeated exposure to traumatic calls. [Rhonda Kelly](#) of the National Mental Health Innovation Center at CU Anschutz explains the program.

“We’re working across branch boundaries, so we’re encompassing law enforcement to include sheriffs, state patrol, police and corrections officers,” Kelly said. -



[Feel like your anxiety is triggered by your social life and relationships? You’re not alone](#)

Well+Good

(Nov. 15, 2018) -- “People tend to feel anxious about the things and people that matter most to them, and interpersonal interactions tend to matter a lot to most people,” says [Rachel Davis](#), a psychiatrist at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

“Human interaction is critical for our emotional health, our sense of well-being, and our sense of connectedness. Our self-esteem and sense of purpose in life is often defined by or contributed to the ways in which others respond to and interact with us.” -



[Designer babies: The genetic editing experiment that has caused recent controversy](#)

7 News

(Nov. 28, 2018) -- Choosing a boy or girl seems a far cry from the genetic editing that could affect generations. “It could have unintended consequences and we could be causing harm,” said [Curtis Coughlin](#) with the Center for Bioethics and Humanities on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Coughlin, and other scientists, are concerned that this kind of genetic editing could cause genetic defects that last generations or harm other genes.

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