

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**



**[The super blue blood moon of 2018 may unlock secrets of the lunar surface](#)**

**Space**

(Jan. 25, 2018) – The Jan. 31 super blue blood moon had researchers hoping it would offer new insights.

“The whole character of the moon changes when we observe with a thermal camera during an eclipse,” said [Paul Hayne](#), a researcher from the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at CU Boulder. “In the dark, many familiar craters and other features can’t be seen, and the normally nondescript areas around some craters start to ‘glow,’ because the rocks there are still warm.”



**[An experiment above Idaho suggests humans can turbocharge snowfall](#)**

**Science Magazine**

(Jan. 22, 2018) -- The chaotic nature of weather makes controlled, natural experiments almost impossible.

“Once you seed, you’re contaminating the cloud. You can’t repeat the experiment because you’ll never have the same atmospheric conditions again,” said [Katja Friedrich](#), an atmospheric scientist at CU Boulder. But newer instruments convinced Friedrich and her colleagues that the time was ripe for another approach.



**[Western snowpack is low: How worried should we be?](#)**

**KUNC**

(Jan. 18, 2018) -- “The hole we’re in now in terms of the snow deficit is going to be really hard to pull out of,” said [Jeff Lukas](#), who studies long-term climate shifts at the Western Water Assessment, based at

CU Boulder. If you add up the numbers at all the SNOTEL (snow measurement) sites in the upper Colorado River, snowpack is at 63 percent of average. It's well below normal, halfway through the snow accumulation season. Essentially, time is running out to make up that deficit, Lukas said.

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## **The Falcon Heavy rocket will be one of SpaceX's biggest tests yet**

**Los Angeles Times**

(Jan. 12, 2018) -- The Falcon Heavy rocket, set to launch Feb. 6, benefits from the development of its predecessor, the Falcon 9, said **Phil Larson**, assistant dean at CU Boulder's College of Engineering.

"They know the Falcon 9 well," said Larson, who formerly worked at SpaceX and was a senior advisor for space and innovation in the Obama administration. "They already have a lot of great data, and I think this sets them up well for this demonstration launch."

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## **Monster black hole unleashes messy double 'burp'**

**Space.com**

(Jan. 10, 2018) -- "Black holes are voracious eaters, but it also turns out they don't have very good table manners," said **Julie Comerford**, an astronomer at CU Boulder. "We know a lot of examples of black holes with single burps emanating out, but we discovered a galaxy with a supermassive black hole that has not one but two burps."

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## **The future of America's satellites**

**Pacific Standard**

(Jan. 9, 2018) -- A huge range of people use government satellite data, from military personnel to natural-disaster responders to almost anyone who uses weather forecasts or mapping apps. It's also crucial to the future of climate-change research, which depends on satellite measurements of polar ice and sea-surface temperatures.

"This really is pervasive in our daily lives," said **Waleed Abdalati**, a geography professor at CU Boulder. "We look at this information as part of the national infrastructure, no different from highways and railroads and air traffic."



## [Lost Native American ancestor revealed in ancient child's DNA](#)

National Geographic

(Jan. 3, 2018) -- [John Hoffecker](#), who studies the paleoecology of Beringia at CU Boulder, says there is plenty of room for debate about the geographic locations of the ancestral splits. But the new study fits well with where the thinking has been heading for the past decade, he adds.

"We think there was a great deal more diversity in the original Native American populations than is apparent today, so this is consistent with a lot of other evidence," Hoffecker said.



## [Can your vacation make you happier?](#)

NextAvenue

(Jan. 4, 2018) -- "People get more happiness and enjoyment from planning and anticipating a vacation than from remembering and reliving a vacation," said [Leaf Van Boven](#), professor of psychology and neuroscience at the CU Boulder. "The trick is to make it fun, not like work."

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



## [National radon action month declared in Colorado](#)

Fox 21

(Jan. 4, 2018) -- Part of the reason homes in Colorado Springs see higher radon levels is because of the mountains.

"[Increased radon is] thanks to a wonderful mountain there on the west side – Pikes Peak, which is made out of granite, which has about five to 10 parts per million of uranium, which is relatively high, believe it or not," said [Jim Burkhart](#), chair of physics and professor at UCCS.



## [Basketball great Derrick White returning to UCCS for jersey retirement ceremony](#)

The Gazette

(Jan. 23, 2018) -- Derrick White's UCCS No. 14 basketball jersey will be retired in a ceremony before the Mountain Lions' Feb. 17 home game against Metro State, coach [Jeff Culver](#) said.

“For me, what made Derrick special was his ability to get better every year,” Culver said. “All players have weaknesses. He was able to attack his weaknesses one offseason at a time to a point that it made him borderline unguardable.”



## **UCCS' Ent Center for the Arts opens to students**

**KOAA**

(Jan. 16, 2018) – UCCS' gleaming, metallic, 92,000-square-foot, \$60 million [Ent Center for the Arts](#) is now officially open. The first day of the 2018 spring semester marked the inaugural day of classes and students' use of the facility, which is prominently positioned along North Nevada Avenue across from the University Village Colorado shopping center.



## **A Colorado university shines in U.S. News' online bachelor's program rankings**

**Denver Business Journal**

(Jan. 9, 2018) -- U.S. News' report looks at online MBA programs. The highest-ranking Colorado institution was CSU —tied for 42nd nationally. UCCS was next, at No. 54 nationally, followed by Colorado Technical University, at No. 172.

## **UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**



## **After Denver hired homeless people to perform day labor, more than 100 landed regular jobs**

**The Denver Post**

(Jan. 17, 2018) -- “One of the things that we learned was how difficult it is for folks to transition from being homeless to being expected to be at work five days a week, when you may not even have a place to put your stuff every day,” said [Danielle Varda](#), an associate professor at CU Denver.



## **Where NASA put up a parking lot, dinosaurs and mammals once crossed paths**

**The New York Times**

(Jan. 31, 2018) -- More than 100 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed Maryland. So did our ancestors — small mammals the size of squirrels or badgers — and the flying reptiles know as pterosaurs. Amazingly, the footprints of all these creatures of the Cretaceous era were preserved on a single 8.5-foot-long slab of sandstone

unearthed on the grounds of NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

"It's unusual to have such a large concentration of different kinds of tracks and small tracks in such a small space," said [Martin Lockley](#), an emeritus geology professor at CU Denver who studied the tracks.

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## [Speaking to the needs of women in counseling](#)

### Counseling Today

(Jan. 8, 2018) -- [Lisa Forbes](#), an assistant clinical professor in the counseling program at the University of Colorado Denver who also works with clients at an inpatient psychiatric unit at a nearby medical facility, said that it is important that counselors not make assumptions.

"You can read all the literature on this topic and know everything about women's rights and equality, but it might not be that way for the woman who is in the room with you. Take each client as their own person," Forbes said.

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## [Denver's competition for Amazon's second headquarters](#)

### Fox 31

(Jan. 18, 2018) -- The proposal from Newark, N.J., offers \$7 billion in tax breaks to Amazon. Now other cities could up their ante, said [Andrew Friedson](#), assistant professor of economics at CU Denver.

"This is exactly what I would do if I'm trying to touch off a bidding war between places," Friedson said. "You get a couple places you like and you say, 'Alright, you guys are finalists.' And they all start saying, 'Well, you have to up the ante because we're at the big table now.'"

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## [A new way to find the Tree of Life's missing branches](#)

### Atlantic

(Jan. 8, 2018) -- The primer is essentially a tiny snippet of DNA designed to bind to the exact gene you want to copy and sequence. But if you've never sequenced it before, then you don't know what the primer needs to bind to.

There you have the chicken-and-egg problem: "Every PCR primer is designed based on a previous sequence out there," said [Chris Miller](#), a microbiologist at CU Denver. "PCR primer bias is big."

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## [Coloradans seeking more school funding inch closer to 2018 ballot](#)

Chalkbeat

(Jan. 4, 2018) -- “I have to believe it’s going to be a big Democratic turnout,” said [Paul Teske](#), dean of the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver. “I actually think it’s a good time for a progressive ballot initiative. An income tax might not be popular, but given the climate in Washington and the 1 percent doing so well — it may not be a losing position.”

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## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



## [CU study: Medicaid expansion states were less likely to see hospitals close](#)

National Public Radio

(Jan. 8, 2018) -- [Richard Lindrooth](#), lead author and a professor in the Colorado School of Public Health, said once these new patients were covered, hospitals saw fewer uninsured admissions and increased Medicaid payments — helping their bottom line.

“It’s not as though Medicaid is an extremely profitable form of reimbursement, but it is something,” Lindrooth said. “On the margins it certainly helps the hospitals’ cash flow.”

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## [Seeking answers for Iran’s chemical weapons victims before time runs out](#)

Science

(Jan. 4, 2018) – A promising lead came when pediatric pulmonologist [Livia Veress](#) and colleagues at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus zeroed in on fibrin clots in rats exposed to mustard. When she dissected the animals, she pulled out of their lungs white clots called casts that looked like tree branches, she said.

“I realized I’d seen that before,” in children with plastic bronchitis, a rare complication of surgery to repair congenital heart defects, she said. Veress tested a clot-busting drug, tissue plasminogen activator, in rats exposed to normally lethal mustard doses and they all survived.

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## [Shooting that killed Douglas County deputy underscores danger officers face when confronting mental illness](#)

The Denver Post

(Jan. 14, 2018) -- A person experiencing a manic episode can be irritable or agitated for several days. Their behavior is hyper and excitable. They have feelings of grandiosity and no need for sleep, said [Debra Boeldt](#), a psychologist at the CU Anschutz National Behavioral Health Innovation Center.

“Their mind is just going all over the place and being easily distracted,” she said.

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## [Cuba has a lung cancer vaccine, but many American patients can't get it without breaking the law](#)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

(Jan. 10, 2018) -- In the two years since relations between the U.S. and Cuba were normalized under President Barack Obama, a growing number of lung cancer patients traveled to Cuba for a vaccine called Cimavax. Some see it as a groundbreaking cure, others fear the vaccine has been oversold.

[Robert Doebele](#), associate professor of medical oncology at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, recalls sitting in a meeting with a dozen other oncologists discussing the best way to market a drug. Someone in the room called out, “Do whatever Cimavax does!”

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## [Why the despair of suicide among the great beauty of mountain towns?](#)

Mountain Town News

(Jan. 5, 2018) -- Experts said residents in ski towns tend to lack intergenerational relationships and deep social attachments, which protect against suicide.

“They’ve moved away from their natural support systems, and they have to rebuild a support system,” explained [Michael H. Allen](#), professor of psychiatry at the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center.

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## **Colorado hospitals tried a new approach to treating pain – their use of opioids plummeted**

The Denver Post

(Jan. 25, 2018) -- [Heidi Wald](#), a professor at the CU School of Medicine, said the results come with caveats. The project didn't have a control group, so it did not measure whether opioid use also dipped at hospitals that did not participate in the program. The results also did not include measurements of patient satisfaction, which would reveal whether the alternatives controlled pain as well as opioids.

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## **Blood test in development could detect eight cancers, save more lives**

Fox 31

(Jan. 24, 2018) -- A promising new blood test is in development that could detect multiple types of cancer with a simple blood draw.

“It detects genetic mutations that are common in a number of different cancers and also a number of proteins that we see elevated in patients who have cancer,” said [Alexis Leal](#), a medical oncologist at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

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