

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS JULY 2017**

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**



**8-year-old ponders existence of mermaids, receives detailed letter from CU scientist**

**9 News**

(June 14, 2017) – Upon receiving a letter from an 8-year-old girl asking about the existence of mermaids, **Cora Randall**, professor in the Department of Oceanic & Atmospheric Sciences, responded to the youth.

“Your question about mermaids in an excellent one,” the letter started, which was printed on official CU letterhead. “I’m glad you decided to ask our department for the answer.” The letter said that despite what she’s seen on TV and movies, mermaids aren’t the real deal, but Randall encouraged her to keep her imagination active.



**Skewed reality: Fake news twice as influential as fact-checking sites, CU study finds**

**Daily Camera**

(June 19, 2017) – To the detriment of reality and facts, fake news outlets had around twice as much influence on the media landscape as fact-checking websites from 2014 to 2016, according to a new study co-authored by a CU Boulder researcher. **Chris Vargo**, assistant professor in the College of Media, Communication and Information, said that fake news websites — sites that look credible but are not actually real media organizations — outpaced fact-checking sites such as Politifact and Snopes.



## Total solar eclipse 2017: Colorado astronomer's tips on how, where to watch rare event

**7 News**

(June 19, 2017) – On Aug. 21 the best total solar eclipse in 40 years will make its way across the United States, providing sky watchers a rare chance to see the moon pass directly in front of the sun. **Doug Duncan**, CU Boulder astronomer and director of the Fiske Planetarium, offers tips for watching the eclipse.

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## Aspen leafing out early? Yes, this year is a peek into the future

**The Colorado Independent**

(June 15, 2017) – Some nights in March temperatures never fell below freezing even above 10,000 feet in elevation, said **Jeff Lukas**, a research integration specialist for the Western Water Assessment at CU Boulder.

“That’s pretty unusual,” he said. “This year is the future norm.”

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## Aging smart: CU Boulder scientists put out reliable info about growing older

**Daily Camera**

(June 10, 2017) – The Healthy Aging Project is a website providing evidenced-based, scientific information on how to lower the risk of chronic disease and help maintain physical and cognitive function as the years pass. Some of the information on the site comes from studies conducted at CU’s Integrative Physiology of Aging Laboratory, and other tidbits are vetted from scientific journals.

“There are scientists performing research relevant to healthy aging all over the world every day and publishing the results in good scientific journals, but 99 percent of the time, that’s where it stops.” said **Doug Seals**, CU professor in the Department of Integrative Physiology.

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## How one CU Boulder scientist views the invisible with help from NASA

**KUNC**

(June 5, 2017) – Since it established its orbit in 2004, the Cassini spacecraft has continued to thrill scientists – and the public – with images and data of Saturn’s rings and atmosphere. One of the excited scientists is CU Boulder’s **Larry Esposito**.

“Cassini is a mission that allows us to see things never seen before -- to go places no spacecraft has gone before,” Esposito said. “And what have we seen? Ghostly clouds, regular structure in the atmosphere of Saturn, what look like ripples and waves that have never been seen before. It tells us something about the dynamics, the behavior of winds in Saturn’s upper atmosphere.”



## Where in the United States is nature most likely to kill you?

**Popular Science**

(June 14, 2017) – Parasite infestations don’t differ much by region, although many of these tiny creatures need water to transmit between hosts and thus prefer moist areas.

“Wherever there is water, there are parasites,” said **Lisette Arellano**, a parasite ecologist at CU Boulder. Some of the most prevalent parasites in the United States are single-celled creatures called giardia. “People see these beautiful mountain streams and then they drink the water without filtering it and then they have explosive diarrhea for several weeks afterward,” Arellano says.

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



## How Hermione Granger went from literary witch to powerful feminist symbol

**Huffington Post**

(June 16, 2017) – “[Hermione] displays a kind of feminism that is accessible to people for whom the term feminism has been sort of systematically demonized,” said **Christopher Bell**, a professor of communication at UCCS and editor of *Hermione Granger Saves the World: Essays on the Feminist Heroine of Hogwarts*.



## New UCCS chancellor sees people, community as paths to success

**KRCC**

(June 15, 2017) – It has been slightly more than a month since Chancellor **Venkat Reddy** officially took over the top spot at UCCS, but he's no stranger to the school. He has spent 25 years there, starting as a finance faculty member, serving as dean of the Business School, and shepherding online education for the university.

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## Colorado Springs area unemployment rate rises to 2.9 percent in May

**The Gazette**

(June 28, 2017) – “I don't consider this bad news, especially with the labor shortage” the area is experiencing, said **Tatiana Bailey**, director of the UCCS Economic Forum.

“While it is fantastic to have a low unemployment rate, a lot of employers are saying they can't find qualified labor. To the extent unemployment creeps up because more people are joining the labor force, it is likely that at least some of them are qualified for the open jobs in our area, and that is a good thing.”

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## Tentacles of teacher shortage stretch far and near as educators work on solutions

**The Gazette**

(June 25, 2017) – “We are definitely feeling [the teacher shortage],” said **Valerie Martin Conley**, dean of the College of Education at UCCS, one of 19 state-approved teacher preparation programs in the state. “It's important to continue to prioritize education for our state leaders, across all levels, and that we guard against pitting early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary education against each other for a scramble for finite resources.”

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## Interim police chief chosen to lead UCCS department

**The Gazette**

(June 14, 2017) – **Marc Pino** will be head of the campus police department at UCCS after serving as interim police chief the past 10 months, the university announced. Pino was appointed following a regional search by a 12-person committee. He was named interim chief after Brian McPike resigned.



## What's the UCCS connection to the Colorado Rapids?

**9 News**

(June 1, 2017) – It turns out UCCS has partnered with the Rapids for a soccer management business degree, the first business degree in the United States with a soccer business management track. The main goal is to give students sports-specific business knowledge. The program started in August 2015. The first class of students will graduate in spring 2019.

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER



## Denver takes big step toward career-focused Swiss education model

**Denver Business Journal**

(June 12, 2017) – The CareerResidency program is done in partnership with CareerWise Colorado, a nonprofit focused on designing and launching a statewide youth apprenticeship system offering a range of career pathways — some to college, some straight into the workforce — to students ages 16 to 20. Local community colleges and CU Denver have also signed on.

“Each one of you deserves to be here and each one of you will thrive. I hope that you find a vocation that brings you livelihood, joy and purpose,” said **John K. Bennett**, associate vice chancellor for innovation initiatives at CU Denver.



## Houston's trailer parks offer cheap housing in a pricey city, but with a catch

**Houston Press**

(June 1, 2017) – **Esther Sullivan**, a sociologist at CU Denver, spent two years living at trailer parks in Texas and Florida. Her study, published in April, looks at what happens when people are evicted from trailer parks in these states.

For many, evictions became a semi-regular part of life. “These aren't one-time traumas,” Sullivan said. “There were significant numbers of residents in parks that had previously been evicted.”

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## How much has Illinois' budget crisis cost each state resident?

**WBEZ**

(June 1, 2017) – In two years with no budget, the state of Illinois has racked up billions of dollars in new debt. How much is that per resident? For help with the math, I called **Todd Ely**, a public finance professor at CU Denver. When the fiscal year ends, the state's backlog of unpaid bills will be \$11.6 billion dollars higher than when the budget impasse started. And the U.S. Census Bureau estimates we've got about 12.8 million people here. That is about \$906 per person. But that's not the full tab. Ely says the pension math is harder, but the bottom line is at least a grand for every man, woman and child in the state.

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## Get a look at Denver's first pop-up park

**303 Magazine**

Beyond the mural, many other areas of the park are representations of collaborative efforts. Everything from the architectural entrance designed by students of CU Denver down to the high-tech gravel tested by the Colorado School of Mines has a sense of community involvement. There's almost no detail left untouched.

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## As pot comes out of black market, regulators face scrutiny

**The Spokesman**

(June 21, 2017) – “Marijuana is unique because it's so front and center in the public eye,” said **Lewis Koski**, a government consultant who



teaches public policy at CU Denver. Koski said government employees who regulate any business face tension. Regulators know the industry they're monitoring well and in the case of the marijuana business those regulators have no guidance from federal authorities and little precedent to rely on.

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## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



### Man-killing cancers you might not spot until it's too late

#### Men's Health

(June 12, 2017) – Most people associate lung cancer with smoking, but that doesn't paint the whole picture, says **David Ross Camidge**, professor of medical oncology and lung cancer researcher at the CU Cancer Center. While smoking is linked to the majority of lung cancer cases, the disease still strikes people who have never even touched a cigarette, he said.

But the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force has narrow guidelines for who it recommends receive CT scans for lung cancer screening. "So if you're a guy in your 30s and you've never smoked, you're never going to qualify for a screening test," Camidge said.

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### Science has finally revealed the best time of day to weigh yourself

#### Reader's Digest

(June 22, 2017) – A 2012 study in the Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics found that people who lose weight are less likely to gain it back if they regularly weigh themselves.

"You need to know that number on a consistent basis to help you manage your weight to make better decisions about your health," said **Holly Wyatt**, medical director of the Wellness Clinic at the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center.

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## How Pasteur's artistic insight changed chemistry

**The New York Times**

(June 14, 2014) – “He’s considered a benefactor of mankind,” said **Joseph Gal**, a chemist and professor emeritus at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. In a paper published last month in *Nature Chemistry*, Gal explains how a young Pasteur fought against the odds to articulate the existence of chirality, or the way that some molecules exist in mirror-image forms capable of producing very different effects. Today we see chirality’s effects in light, in chemistry and in the body – even in the drugs we take.

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## National MS Society key in funding research, technology

**CBS 4**

(June 19, 2017) – **Jeff Hebert**, a certified multiple sclerosis specialist at the CU School of Medicine, developed a series of exercises that he has been studying in patients.

“This comes out of the world of vestibular rehabilitation,” Hebert said. “If they can balance themselves better and integrate those sensory systems better, the brain then kind of calms down and does not provide that symptomatic fatigue as much.”

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## Transcript: New study looks at frequency of oil and gas explosions in Colorado

**Colorado Public Radio**

(June 2, 2017) – “What I would tell people is read your deed carefully and be aware of what’s going on around you,” said **John Adgate**. “My message would be that accidents happen and we need to manage the risks as best we can.”

Adgate chairs the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Public Health, located at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The report says there were at least 116 fires and explosions at oil and gas operations in the state in a 10-year period between 2006-15.

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## How seniors are driving safer, driving longer

### Consumer Reports

(June 1, 2017) – Older adults don't get enough credit for their safe driving habits, says **Emmy Betz**, an emergency room physician and associate professor at the CU School of Medicine who researches senior-driving safety.

"Older drivers are more likely to use seat belts and follow speed limits," Betz says. "They are less likely to drive at night or while intoxicated, or to text while they drive."

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