After Wildfires, Scorched Trees Could Disrupt Water Supplies

Santa Fe New Mexican (Associated Press)

(April 23, 2022) -- Already, a warming climate is leading to earlier snowmelt and leaving places more vulnerable to wildfire, said Noah Molotch, who researches water and snow cycles at CU Boulder. A burned area “exacerbates the impact of drought” by leading to even dryer conditions in hotter months, he said.
Give Fitbits (of Sorts) to the Trees

WIRED

(May 2, 2022) -- Using off-the-shelf accelerometers, researchers have been quantifying how trees sway differently over time: when they’re warmer or colder, hydrated or dehydrated, weighed down by snow or unburdened.

“I like to call it a Fitbit for trees,” said CU Boulder urban ecologist Deidre Jaeger. “It’s high-resolution monitoring of tree activity, just like we have high-resolution monitoring of our activity as a human being that tells us metrics on how much energy are we burning? How much sleep did we get?”

Cherokee Nation Can Gather Sacred Plants on National Park Land

New York Times

(April 27, 2022) -- The agreement will be in effect for five years and can be renewed. An employee at the National Park Service came up with the idea for such a pact around 2014 and worked with researchers at the University of Arizona to propose the agreement to the Cherokee, said Clint Carroll, a Cherokee citizen and an ethnic studies professor at CU Boulder.
UN Forum Set to Focus on Economic Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Marketplace

(April 25, 2022) -- “It’s an opportunity for tribes to have a seat at the table and negotiate the terms of these agreements rather than be forced to protest or litigate later,” said Kristen Carpenter, professor of Indian Law at CU Boulder. Carpenter said the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock make a good case for companies to seek affirmative consent.

Gigantic Deep Space Laser caused by Colliding Galaxies Observed

Cosmos

(April 12, 2022) -- Megamaser expert and co-author of the study, the CU Boulder Professor Jeremy Darling, said, “MeerKAT will probably double the known number of these rare phenomena.”

“Galaxies were thought to merge more often in the past, and the newly discovered hydroxyl megamasers will allow us to test this hypothesis,” he said.
**Conservative Supreme Court Justices Appear to Side with Football Coach Suspended for Post-Game Prayers**

The 74

(April 25, 2022) -- Joshua Dunn, a political science professor at UCCS, said that he doesn’t expect five justices to lean the district’s way, especially since this was a case that four of the conservative justices signaled they wanted to hear when Kennedy first petitioned the court in 2019.

Also: Suits Challenging Book “Banning” May Be Better Politics than Law, Education Next, April 12

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**Local Colleges Making it Easier for Students to Transfer from Two Year to Four Year Institutions**

KOAA

(April 21, 2022) – “Reach out as early as you can. We can give you the guidance and get you started on what classes to take then when you get to PPCC it can be very easy on you and with talking with your adviser,” Chris Beiswanger, director of admissions at UCCS.
How the Cost of College can Impact the Economy for Generations

Fox 21

(April 20, 2022) – UCCS PhD economist Tatiana Bailey believes student loans are further impinging the training that people need to work the livable wage jobs of today, which will in turn impact the worker shortage the U.S. is already seeing.

Also: Tatiana Bailey: Economic red flags and demographic headwinds could signal a recession ahead, The Gazette, April 17

Colorado Springs, Denver Musicians to Perform Benefit Concert for Ukraine

The Gazette

(April 28, 2022) -- Watching the war in Ukraine has been hard for Eugenia Olesnicky, left, and Haleh Abghari. Olesnicky, an associate biology professor at UCCS, is a first-generation Ukrainian-American who has watched some of her relatives flee to Poland, while others remain in the attacked country. And Abghari, a UCCS music instructor who grew up in Iran during the Iran-Iraq War, still has clear memories of taking shelter in the basement during air raids.
Ukrainian Student Awarded Emergency Funds to Continue Education

KOAA

(April 26, 2022) – “It is unbelievable. I did not expect this to happen, and you can ask anyone nobody expected this,” said Yaroslav Balytskyi, UCCS graduate student. Balytskyi expects to finish his PHD program in about a year, and the Institute of International Education is helping make it happen. He is one of two UCCS Ukrainian students receiving $2,500 to finish his education.

Unique Trees from Nat Geo’s Photo Archives Mark Amazing Moments

National Geographic

(April 28, 2022) -- The search for the southernmost tree in the world led to Isla Hornos, the last scrap of land in the Tierra del Fuego. The expedition, led by Brian Buma, a forest ecologist at CU Denver, determined that the titleholder was Nothofagus betuloides, a 41-year-old Magellan’s beech just under two inches in diameter that stands two feet high.
Smiley’s Demolition Meant Denver Lost an Art Deco Building. But Here are Eight more in the City!

Denverite

(April 14, 2022) -- Smiley’s demolition meant the city had one less example of a relatively rare architectural style in Denver: Art Deco. It’s shorthand for Arts Décoratifs, according to Steve Turner, director of the Historic Preservation program at CU Denver and formerly the state’s preservation officer.

“To describe Art Deco to the average person, I would say, think of the buildings you saw in the Superman or Batman cartoons growing up,” Turner said. “It’s really a style that is contemporary with that period of time when those cartoons are being drawn in the ’20s and ’30s.”

Rights for Mobile Home Residents Advance without Rent Stabilization after ‘Threats’ from Polis

The Gazette

(April 25, 2022) -- In some Colorado cities, especially mountain towns, mobile homes account for up to 90% of affordable housing stock, said professor Esther Sullivan, who studies manufactured housing at CU Denver.

As introduced, House Bill 1287, would have capped lot rent increases in mobile home parks to 3% annually or the local rate of inflation. But lawmakers took this portion of the bill out.
3 Things to Know When Choosing Electives at a U.S. Graduate School

U.S. News & World Report

(April 12, 2022) -- All graduate electives are considered "advanced" since they contain content above the undergraduate level, says Mark Golkowski, associate dean of education and student success at the College of Engineering, Computing, and Design at CU Denver. What's more important, he said, is that upon completion of a graduate degree, a student has both breadth and depth in their field.

Denver’s Ozone Status Could Move to ‘Severe’

9 News

(April 12, 2022) -- Michael Orlando, a former petroleum engineer, is now a managing director with Econ One and an adjunct professor in the Global Energy Management Program at the CU Denver Business School. Regarding the gas modification, Orlando estimates that there could be about a 5%-10% increase in prices at the pump during the summertime because of the sale of reformulated gas, if the reclassification is approved.

“So at current prices, that would be about a 25-cent increase in price per gallon,” he said.
When the Walls Were Painted With Poison

WebMD

(April 25, 2022) -- What actually happens in a human body exposed to arsenic depends largely on the dose, says Michael J. Kosnett, associate adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Colorado School of Public Health.

When You’re Worried about Substance Use Where Your Child Plays

Colorado Parent

(May) -- Christian Hopfer, professor of psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine, said before making assumptions about substance abuse focus on observable information, i.e., open alcohol, marijuana, paraphernalia, or behaviors such as visible intoxication.
How to Tell Whether a Cancer is Caused by Plain Bad Luck

Scientific American

(April 26, 2022) -- The study “is a step forward because it’s allowing a better assessment of the particular contribution of the agent — smoking, UV, et cetera — toward the actual driving mutations,” said James DeGregori, a cancer researcher at the CU School of Medicine. “Let’s say you have a lung cancer with five driver mutations, you can say, ‘These three clearly have the smoking signature, so they were directly caused by the smoking.’”

Online Decision Aid May Help Older Adults Decide When to Stop Driving

Consumer HealthDay

(April 21, 2022) -- An online tool may help older adults with the decision of whether to stop driving, according to a study published online April 20 in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. Marian E. Betz, from CU Anschutz, and colleagues randomly assigned 301 licensed older drivers (aged 70 years or older) without significant cognitive impairment but with a diagnosis associated with an increased likelihood of driving cessation to either web-based information for older drivers (control) or the online Healthwise Driving Decision Aid.
States that Legalized Marijuana
Researching Mental Health Risks

NBC News

(April 29, 2022) -- Jon Samet, the dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, is overseeing the review team. He said the studies aren’t uniform in their methods or results and that it will be challenging to characterize the “messy data,” but he said he anticipates creating a public database of research that will be kept up to date.