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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2021



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[How a Pyramid Rose from the Ashes of a Colossal Volcanic Eruption](#)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

(Sept. 20, 2021) – “Events like eruptions and drought have often been considered a main factor in ancient collapse, abandonment, or decline,” says study author [Akira Ichikawa](#), a postdoctoral associate at CU Boulder. “My research suggests ancient people were more resilient flexible, and innovative.”



[R. Kelly's Defense Used a Strategy to Prop up Famous Men and Shame Female Fans](#)

NBC News

(Sept. 29, 2021) – In R. Kelly’s case, the tactic seemed to rely on portraying his accusers as opportunists looking to use the singer for his fame and money and exploit the #MeToo movement. This tactic is common in sexual violence trials, said [Aya Gruber](#), a law professor at CU Boulder.

“Victim-blaming is a part of defending,” Gruber said. “The defense attorney can play into some of the worst prejudices and stereotypes. It’s a terrible experience to be grilled, especially when you’re a victim of a sex crime.”



[Michael Bennet, Mitt Romney See the Effects of Climate Change During Bipartisan Float Down Colorado River](#)

The Colorado Sun

(Sept. 27, 2021) – [Waleed Abdalati](#), the director of the 900-scientist Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Studies at CU Boulder, kicked off the day with a flurry of doom. July 2021 was the hottest month ever recorded. The world has warmed 1.8 degrees since 1850. In that time, Colorado has warmed 2.2 degrees. Utah has warmed 2.6 degrees. These states are among the more rapidly warming areas on earth, Abdalati said.



[YWCA, NAACP presentation dispels myths around critical race theory](#)

The Daily Camera

(Sept. 21, 2021) – [Stephanie Renee Toliver](#), an assistant professor at CU Boulder, said students of color need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum and hear stories about those who look like them — and not just stories of slavery and other horrors experienced by people of color through history.



['Burn Scars' of Wildfires Threaten Drinking Water in Much of California and the West](#)

The Los Angeles Times

(Sept. 27, 2021) – Although debris flows can bring soil bacteria into water supplies, city utilities can disinfect them with chemicals like chlorine, said [Ben Livneh](#), a hydrologist at CU Boulder. But those disinfectants can themselves cause a problem: Organic matter from sediment can interact with these chemicals and create carcinogenic byproducts that are difficult and expensive to remove.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[How the Labor Shortage is Changing the Economy](#)

Fox 21

(Sept. 27, 2021) – Economists are hinging hopes of a recovery on how strong hiring is during the month of September as kids return to school – hopefully freeing up more adults to return to work.

“We really need to get these workers back into the active labor force, looking for work, and finding jobs at livable wages,” said [Tatiana Bailey](#), a Ph.D. economist and director of the Economic Forum hosted at UCCS.

Also: [September a crucial month for U.S. economy as millions remain out of work](#), Fox 21, Sept. 13, 2021



[Colorado Grain Chain Road Show at Pueblo Chile Fest](#)

KOAA

(Sept. 25, 2021) – The awareness comes after a recent study by the Colorado Grain Chain where they found that grains are left out of sustainable sourcing and farming discussions, even though it’s a popular portion of what consumers eat.

“It’s important to recognize the diversity of these grains and realize there is nutritional qualities, there is community qualities, there is culture and tradition

connected to these grains,” said [Nanna Meyer](#), associate professor at UCCS.



[Cybercriminals Hacking into Vehicles Pose dangers as Local Researchers Try to Stop Them](#)

KOAA

(Sept. 26, 2021) – We face cybersecurity threats every day on our devices and online accounts, but the hackers have now set their “sites” on something that could be even more dangerous, our cars. Researchers at UCCS are working to better understand these threats and are sharing some of what they know.

“They can control all the major functions of the vehicle. So, they can control your door locks, they can control your acceleration, your breaks, your turning,” said [Gedare Bloom](#), UCCS assistant professor of computer science.



[Devastating Floods Spur New Debate on How Best to Warn People](#)

The Washington Post

(Sept. 16, 2021) – It’s essential for key stakeholders in flash flood safety to build relationships during calmer times, said [Eve Gruntfest](#), a professor emerita of geography from UCCS. Gruntfest conceptualized the

WAS*IS program, a pioneering effort at the National Center for Atmospheric Research that integrated meteorology and social science. Grunfest's study of the behavior of survivors and non-survivors of the Colorado's catastrophic Big Thompson Flood inspired the development of the "climb to safety" signs now widespread in Western canyons. The flood killed 144 people in northern Colorado on the night of July 31, 1976.



[169 new laws went into effect in Colorado on Sept. 7](#)

Fox 31

(Sept. 7, 2021) – “Some laws take months or years to know the true impact,” said [Joshua Dunn](#), director of the Chair of the Department of Political Science and director of the Center for the Study of Government at UCCS. “The biggest thing I like to keep in mind is, sometimes we have to wait to see what the effect of these laws will actually be.”



University of Colorado **Denver**



[Why Older Couples Don't Need Marriage to Have Great Relationships](#)

Time

(Sept. 19, 2021) – They have passed through life’s major transitions — like having kids or an empty nest — that often change people. They know who they are and what they need. They understand what’s important to them and what isn’t. As CU Denver sociologist [Teresa Cooney](#) found in comparing later-life remarriages to first marriages, these older couples are better at problem solving and argue less.



[Why is Morrison Road Diagonal?](#)

Denverite

(Sept. 28, 2021) – The influence of the City Beautiful movement, which focused on grand civic centers and parks, prompted the creation of streets like Park Avenue to connect downtown to different open spaces. [Tom Noel](#), a Colorado historian and professor at CU Denver, said the idea of those diagonal roadways is borrowed from Paris. In the ultimate City Beautiful, roads all point to the city center, creating a star-shaped city.



[Study Shows Drivers and Cyclists Break the Law at About the Same Rate](#)

9 News

(Sept. 28, 2021) – A CU Denver civil engineering professor did a survey published in 2017 to try to determine why cyclists break the law and why drivers do, as well. What associate professor [Wes Marshall](#) found is that while drivers and cyclists both generally feel their decisions to break the law are reasonable, they do it for different reasons.



[The Mysterious Sex Lives of Dinosaurs](#)

Action News Now

(Sept. 20, 2021) – A type of scratching that male ground-nesting birds do signals they are strong and good nest builders. It's part of behavior called lekking, when males competitively dance and perform other courtship rituals to attract the attention of females. Dinosaurs engaged in similar mating behavior, according to fossilized “scrapes” left behind in 100-million-year-old rocks in the prehistoric Dakota Sandstone of western Colorado.

“The scrape evidence has significant implications,” said [Martin Lockley](#), professor emeritus of geology at CU Denver.



[Principals Need Social-Emotional Support, Too](#)

Education Week

(Sept. 14, 2021) – Knowledge and training in social emotional learning competencies will help principals become better leaders, improve relationships school-wide, and create stronger bonds with parents and communities, contends [Julia Mahfouz](#), an assistant professor in the School of Education and Human Development at CU Denver. She believes that educator-preparation and licensure programs should infuse SEL competencies into coursework.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[‘Race-Norming’ Kept Former NFL Players from Dementia Diagnoses](#)

The Washington Post

(Sept. 29, 2021) – In the case of Johnnie Dirden, his neurologist was so outraged that her diagnosis was overruled, she said in an interview, she quit the network of doctors evaluating players in the settlement.

“I just felt the patients were getting jerked around, rooked and cheated,” said [Maureen Leehey](#), professor of neurology at CU Anschutz. “It just wasn’t right.”



[A Federal Deadline for Colorado to Redesign Its Child Welfare System has Arrived](#)

The Colorado Sun

(Sept. 27, 2021) – Among the in-home programs expected to get a boost from Family First is multisystemic therapy, which targets kids ages 12-17 who are at high risk of going into the foster or juvenile justice system because of behavioral issues. The program has existed in Colorado for years, but with inadequate funding, said [Suzanne Kerns](#) at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at CU Anschutz. Therapists are reimbursed for the hour of in-person therapy through the state Medicaid program. But that nowhere near covers the cost of preparing for the work or traveling to family homes, up to an hour and a half apart in rural areas.



[Regional Differences in BMI Observed for Children in U.S.](#)

Healio

(Sept. 20, 2021) – Significant differences in BMI score were found among four U.S. regions after adjusting for sociodemographic factors. [Traci A. Bekelman](#), a research assistant professor in the department of epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health, said the findings reveal how a geographic region can influence children's BMI.



[CU Dean Hopes to Inspire Students of Color to Pursue Health Care Careers](#)

9 News

(Sept. 27, 2021) – As one of seven children of immigrants from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, [Elias Provencio-Vasquez](#) is no stranger to being the first to overcome some barriers. In his current leadership position as Dean and professor for the College of Nursing at CU Anschutz, Provencio-Vasquez hopes his own lived experiences will help other first-generation college students move forward in higher education and healthcare.



[Why You Need More Sleep When You Feel Sick — and How Much](#)

Well + Good

(Sept. 14, 2021) – Right around the time when you first get sick, a few changes in the body can prompt more sleepiness.

“Any acute viral infection causes a release from the body of inflammatory mediators, which can make us very drowsy,” said pulmonologist and sleep specialist [Neale R. Lange](#). “It’s an instruction set to our body to increase its temperature — which is why you’ll often get a fever in the first few days of being sick — because a higher temperature helps defend against the virus or bacterium.”

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