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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2021



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Texas-like Blackouts Unlikely in Colorado](#)

Fox 31

(Feb. 17, 2021) -- About 90% of Texas is on its own independent power grid, the Texas Interconnect. It does not have to follow many federal energy regulations and does not regularly share power with other states. "It does make them a little more isolated," said [Kyri Baker](#), an assistant professor of building systems engineering at CU Boulder. "It's a little more challenging to balance supply and demand, especially under these extreme conditions."



[Here's What Planetary Scientists Think of Krispy Kreme's Mars Donut](#)

Futurism

(Feb. 18, 2021) -- "Well, it's a little bit smaller than Mars is in reality," said [Bruce Jakosky](#), a Mars researcher at CU Boulder and NASA. "And, of course, Mars is not actually coated with caramel or filled with chocolate cream. I take this as an abstract representation of Mars, and accept their view of what each component is intended to represent. My biggest disappointment with this is that the nearest Krispy Kreme outlet to me is too far away to get to on Thursday, given the other activities that are taking place."

Also: [As Perseverance Approaches Mars, Scientists Debate Its Sampling Strategy](#), Scientific American, Feb. 15



[CU study: Warming Climate Pushing Critters up Mountains](#)

The Daily Sentinel

(Feb. 11, 2021) -- New research has found that warming temperatures are pushing the range of small mammals in the state to higher elevations, which eventually could lead to localized extinctions. The peer-reviewed study was led by [Christy McCain](#), an associate professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

"It's frightening," McCain said. "We've been talking about

climate change in the Rockies for a long time, but I think we can say that this is a sign that things are now responding and responding quite drastically.”



[Most People Can't Tell the Difference between Art Made by Humans and by AI, a Concerning New Study Says](#)

Artnet

(Feb. 24, 2021) -- When the researcher [Harsha Gangadharbatla](#) saw the headlines three years ago about a painting created via artificial intelligence by the collective Obvious selling for \$432,500 at Christie's, he didn't just shake his head at the price. He wondered what this might teach us about how humans perceive art.

“For me, the interesting thing was the role of humans in producing art,” said Gangadharbatla, a professor of advertising at CU Boulder.



[CU to Launch Outdoor Economy Master's Program](#)

BizWest

(Feb. 26, 2021) -- Beginning in the fall semester, CU Boulder will offer courses in the Master of Science in Outdoor Recreation Economy (MORE) program, the first of its kind to offer online, interdisciplinary learning that

“focuses on the intersection of policy, economic development and the outdoor industry,” said MORE director [Joel Hartter](#), associate professor of environmental studies.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Disgusted by Spoiled Food? You May be Protecting Yourself from Disease](#)

Science

(Feb. 15, 2021) -- Researchers have shown disgust appears to protect the health of humans in relatively wealthy and sanitary cultures. But no one had studied whether disgust was protective for people living in traditional subsistence societies under conditions similar to those in which our hunter-gatherer ancestors evolved.

[Tara Cepon-Robins](#), an anthropologist at UCCS, surveyed 75 Shuar men and women in three Indigenous Ecuadorian Shuar communities and found that the Shuar who scored highest on the disgust scale had the lowest signals of infection.



[Pentagon Wades into Political Minefield in Hunt for Extremists](#)

Politico

(Feb. 24, 2021) – “There is no litmus test for ideology and people can hold in their head and in their heart pretty much whatever they want to,” said [George Reed](#), the dean of the School of Public Affairs at UCCS. “It’s when they start impacting other people through their behavior that it becomes prejudicial to good order and discipline.”

Reed formerly worked in the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division and investigated racial murders committed by soldiers at Fort Bragg in 1995 that uncovered a large group of white supremacists in the ranks.



[Colorado Springs Sales Tax Revenue Surges in December](#)

The Gazette

(Feb. 11, 2021) -- “One of the saving graces of the pandemic has been low interest rates. With many people working from home, they wanted more space and bought new homes despite double-digit price increases,” said [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum.

Also: [Colorado Springs Won’t Recover Jobs until 2022: Forecast](#), The Gazette, Feb. 25



[Opinion: Why are We Giving Religions a Tax Break?](#)

Colorado Springs Indy

(Feb. 17, 2021) – "While some places of worship act more as a for-profit business, the vast majority are nonprofits that fund projects that help their congregants and the wider society. Moreover, taxing churches, synagogues, mosques, etc. would be a practical nightmare. How would the IRS determine when a church is no longer a nonprofit?" asks [Jeffrey Scholes](#), associate professor of philosophy and the director of the Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life at UCCS.



[360: Term Limits in Congress](#)

KOAA

(Feb. 11, 2021) – The term-limits debate has arisen once again in the current political climate. Some argue term limits exist in the form of elections: If constituents want someone out, they don't have to reelect them.

"I think political scientists are often critical of some of these arguments for term limits because they think that the goal isn't actually going to be accomplished," said [Joshua Dunn](#), department chair of political science at UCCS.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[Hit Takers: The Cutting-edge Engineering Making Football Helmets Safer](#)

Digitaltrends

(Feb. 5, 2021) – The Smart Materials and Biomechanics Lab at CU Denver, led by associate professor and self-proclaimed “polymer dork” [Chris Yakacki](#), has been hard at work inventing a new protective material for the next generation of football players. A long-term subject of investigation by Yakacki and colleagues has found liquid crystal elastomers respond to light or heat in a dynamic way similar to the way that muscles work.



[Pollution Affects Newborns' Weight and Gestation Time, Says Study](#)

Baby Gaga

(Feb. 16, 2021) -- “We discovered that increased light pollution is linked to some pretty severe health challenges. In pregnant women, this includes a higher chance of delivering a baby with a reduced birth weight, a shortened gestational length, and an increase in preterm births,” said [Laura Argys](#), professor of economics at CU Denver.



[How to Forgive Yourself \(and Actually Mean It\)](#)

SELF

(Feb. 20, 2021) -- Whether you made a few careless comments on a recent Zoom call, or you're tired of never sticking up for yourself, it can feel downright impossible to forgive yourself and let that stuff go.

[Robert Allan](#), assistant professor of couple and family therapy at CU Denver, said that you should remember that "making mistakes is human. We're all going to make them." There's a difference between saying, "What I did was terrible" and "I am terrible."



[After a Superintendent's Resignation, What Comes Next?](#)

The 74

(Feb. 21, 2021) -- Some locals are publicly asking whether a vision truly exists to replace the one at Denver schools that prevailed for more than a decade. [Paul Teske](#), dean of the public policy school at CU Denver, said that the coming year could reveal whether the local political class had turned permanently against education reform.

"In a way, what we have is a test of the stickiness of the reforms," Teske said. "Everybody's reading the tea leaves, at least on the Democratic side, about whether the pendulum's swung completely to the left, back to the

teacher's union. Or are choice and accountability stronger than we think, and maybe the two can co-exist?"



[Arizona GOP Rep. Debbie Lesko Takes Flak for Equating Hispanics with Undocumented Migrants](#)

Newsweek

(Feb. 16, 2021) – In a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Feb. 11, Rep. Debbie Lesko said Hispanics were “very good workers” but implied they weren’t American citizens. The committee was debating who should be prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccines first.

[John Ronquillo](#), an assistant professor at the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, said the comment was “about as outrageous as you saying Americans need the vaccine before Hispanics. Are there no American Hispanics? Do you know your state’s history or demographics?”



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[We Asked 175 Pediatric Disease Experts if It Was Safe Enough to Open School](#)

The New York Times

(Feb. 11, 2021) -- “Children’s learning and emotional and, in some cases, physical health is being severely impacted by being out of school,” said [Lisa Abuogi](#), a pediatric emergency medicine physician at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. “I spend part of my clinical time in the E.R., and the amount of mental distress we are seeing in children related to schools is off the charts.”

Also: [How to Help When Adolescents Have Suicidal Thoughts](#), The New York Times, Feb. 6



[Coronavirus has Stolen Some Kids’ Sense of Smell, and it Stinks](#)

The Colorado Sun

(Feb. 22, 2021) -- A new clinic and study opening at Children’s Hospital Colorado in early March will focus on helping teens and children age 5 and older regain their sense of smell. The theory is that through repeated exposure to certain odors, children can increase their sensitivity and retrain their nose to communicate with their brain.

[Kenny Chan](#), a professor at the CU School of Medicine and chair of the otolaryngology department at Children’s

Hospital, said previous research has found that “if you keep exposing known odorants to patients, that somehow it would get the connection going.”



[Black Coffee Can Be Good for Your Heart](#)

CNN

(Feb. 9, 2021) – The risk of heart failure remained the same for drinking no coffee or one cup per day in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study. But when people drank two or more cups of black coffee a day the risk decreased by about 30%, the analysis found.

“The association between caffeine and heart failure risk reduction was surprising,” said senior author [David Kao](#), medical director of the Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine at the CU School of Medicine.



[Study: Doctors' Negative Views of Disabled Patients Affect Quality of Care](#)

Atlanta Journal Constitution

(Feb. 4, 2021) -- In a survey of 714 practicing U.S. physicians nationwide, only 40.7% said they were very confident about their ability to provide the same quality of care to patients with a disability as they do to nondisabled patients.

“Our results clearly raise concern about the ability of the health care system to ensure equitable care for people with disability,” said senior author [Eric G. Campbell](#), professor of medicine and director of research for the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



[Boulder Police Officers Administer Narcan, Potentially Saving Man's Life](#)

Fox 31

(Feb. 13, 2021) -- Boulder County Public Health is reporting the fentanyl-laced drugs to be Xanax and Oxycodone 30 mg pills, believed to be imported from Mexico. Fentanyl, in its intended form, is a powerful drug often used in surgery.

“It’s one of the stronger opioids that there is,” says [Rob Valuck](#). “It’s a hundred times more potent than morphine.” Valuck, director of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, said in recent years, illicit drug makers have been mixing small amounts of fentanyl into counterfeit tablets, to provide a cheap, powerful punch.