

November FoF

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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2021



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Muddier Rivers are Jeopardizing Dams and Water Quality for Millions](#)

Scientific American

(Oct. 28, 2021) – A study found river flows had risen by about 5%, and sediment flows by 13%, in each decade since the 1950s. These increases accelerated after the mid-1990s, paralleling an uptick in regional warming and rainfall rates. As temperatures rise, glaciers – which are often covered and embedded with sediment – melt and leave behind large piles of this loose material, says study co-author [Irina Overeem](#), a geomorphologist at CU Boulder. Soils that typically remain frozen year-round thaw instead, making them easier to flush away, Overeem adds.



[It May Be Too Late to Find the Origin of COVID-19. The WHO Is Trying Anyway](#)

TIME

(Oct. 19, 2021) -- [Jose-Luis Jimenez](#), a chemistry professor at CU Boulder who is an expert on aerosol disease transmission, says the WHO's proposed panel has a major blind-spot: there are no airborne transmission experts on it. If the WHO had recognized earlier that COVID-19 can spread via tiny particles that hang suspended in the air – not just during close contact with an infected person or by touching a contaminated surface – it could have tweaked its public and scientific guidance early on to address that risk, perhaps preventing some cases and deaths, he said.

Also: [Concerned Parents Now Sending Youth to School with CO2 Monitors](#), Washington Informer, Oct. 20



[FEMA Says It's Still Working to Fix Racial Disparities in Disaster Aid](#)

The New York Times

(Oct. 27, 2021) -- “I don't think any of their policies are intentionally designed to be unequal,” said [Emily Gallagher](#), a finance professor at CU Boulder who has studied racial discrepancies in FEMA grants. She said the data showed instead that the agency's programs have favored disaster victims who are wealthy, own property and who are more likely to be white, over lower-income individuals and families, who are more likely to be people of color.



[Colorado's College Campuses Have Become COVID Vaccine Islands, With Lower Case Rates Than The Surrounding Areas](#)

Colorado Public Radio

(Oct. 19, 2021) – At CU Boulder, students are back on campus. They're filling the football stadium and classrooms, where they're required to wear masks. Vaccination for students and staff is north of 95%, which is higher than Boulder County's 84% of eligible residents having gotten at least one dose.

"I would call us a highly vaccinated institute," said CU's [Kristen Bjorkman](#), who was the school's COVID-19 scientific director for the past year.



[Analysis of Ancient Teeth Questions Theory that Native Americans Originated from Japan](#)

Live Science

(Oct. 13, 2021) – "The artifact similarities between ancient Jomon and at least some of the earliest known Native American sites lie in the stemmed projectile points," said co-author [John Hoffecker](#), an archaeologist at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at CU Boulder. These similarities led previous researchers to suspect that the knowledge to make those tools had been passed down from one culture to the other, he added.



[Prey tell: How Moths Elude Bats](#)

Knowable Magazine

(Oct. 26, 2021) -- Some species of tiger moths have different acoustic defenses. Physiological ecologist [Aaron Corcoran](#), who runs a bat lab at UCCS, discovered that certain tiger moths, upon hearing bat echolocation, could turn on a jamming signal. As the bat closes in, moths begin producing 4,500 clicks per second, throwing off bat ranging. With bats unable to discern target distance, moths could get away.



[Local School Boards Emerge as Hot Races in Pikes Peak Region](#)

The Gazette

(Oct. 11, 2021) – It’s no surprise to UCCS Professor [Joshua Dunn](#), chair of the political science department and director of the Center for the Study of Government and the Individual. Last year’s hotly contested presidential race could have led to heightened political interest locally, he said.

“It used to be that local and state races weren’t affected a lot by what’s going on at the national level,” Dunn said, “but this could be carrying down into school board races.”



[Colorado Springs Musician, Arts Advocate Announced as Executive Director at Ent Center for the Arts](#)

The Gazette

(Oct. 14, 2021) -- Musician and arts advocate [David Siegel](#) is the new executive director for Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS. Siegel, currently chief executive officer of the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, which invests in and supports local arts organizations and artists, will start his new job in January.

“I’m thrilled. I’m a product of this arts community and I adore this arts community,” Siegel said.



[Colorado Springs Economist: Labor Shortage, Inflation Will Slow Recovery from Pandemic](#)

The Gazette

(Oct. 13, 2021) -- [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of UCCS Economic Forum, said a worsening labor shortage, escalating inflation and declining housing affordability are all “headwinds” threatening to slow recovery from the pandemic. She made the comments in a forecast she recorded for the forum’s 25th annual economic forecast event.



[Colorado Proposal Aims to Increase Teacher Pay for Over 6,000 Rural Teachers](#)

Chalkbeat

(Oct. 4, 2021) -- In an attempt to change how much teachers get paid in Campo and rural areas across the state, three rural high school students, along with a UCCS professor, created a proposal that aims to increase teacher pay for over 6,000 rural teachers. [Robert Mitchell](#), a UCCS assistant education professor, said rural teachers often say that pay determines whether they stay in a community. Mitchell, who also teaches part-time in Campo, said educators in rural areas often teach because they love the job.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[Scream Therapy: The Mental Health Benefits of Horror Movies](#)

Healthline

(Oct. 14, 2021) -- “In the '30s, there was a lot of anxiety about what people consumed and whether it transformed them — especially children,” said [Andrew Scahill](#), an assistant professor in the English department at CU Denver and the author of “The Revolting Child in Horror Cinema.”

“There was a worry over what people get titillated by in the horror genre,” Scahill said. “Early criticism on film came from

this place where horror cinema was seen as enabling sadism, essentially — that it gave flesh and body to fantasies that should not be reinforced.”



[Homelessness in Metro Denver isn't Waning. But Research from CU Denver and a Private Think Tank Offers Ideas to Help.](#)

The Colorado Sun

(Oct. 27, 2021) -- There's no single solution to resolving the crisis affecting more than 6,000 people in the seven-county metro region, according to researchers who spent months interviewing formerly homeless people and the leaders of organizations that serve them.

“The issue of homelessness in our communities is an incredibly complex and challenging one, and requires a clear understanding of the ways to both prevent people from experiencing homelessness in the future, and providing faster ways to recover from homelessness now,” said [Daniel Griner](#), director of design, innovation and strategy for the CU Denver Inworks Innovation Initiative.



[Morrison P.D. Chief Resigns Days after Conceding Ticket Revenue Would Fall \\$800K Short of Expectations](#)

9 News

(Oct. 20, 2021) – “I just don’t know how a little town like Morrison gets out of that sort of addiction to writing tickets to supplement their revenue,” said [Lonnie Schaible](#), an associate professor in the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver who focuses on policing. Schaible said a town that focusses solely on writing tickets can face problems.

“I think it’s a dangerous trap for a department to rely on as a sole source of revenue because it pushes a lot of abusive behavior,” Schaible said.



[What’s at Stake in the Denver School Board Election Two Years After a Historic Shift](#)

Chalkbeat

(Oct. 28, 2021) -- “This election will answer the question of whether the district continues on its current path of moving away from the ... reforms and toward this other conception of the district that the current board has been trying to articulate,” said [Parker Baxter](#), director of the Center for Education Policy Analysis at CU Denver. “Things like the district’s posture toward charter schools in general is still very much at stake, even if the rhetoric does not make that clear.”



[Lotteries and Other Cash Prize Incentives Made ‘Essentially Zero Difference’ to Vaccination Rates, Study Finds](#)

Forbes

(Oct. 15, 2021) -- In what they described as the “first study of its kind,” researchers from CU Denver looked at all 19 states that implemented cash drawings, such as the multi-million dollar lotteries held in New York, Maryland and Ohio. ... But when analyzed all together, there was essentially “zero difference” in vaccinations in states that held lotteries versus those that didn’t, explained [Andrew Friedson](#), one of the study’s authors who is an associate professor of economics at CU Denver.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[New Weight-Loss Drugs Could Shift the Scales](#)

C&EN

(Oct. 17, 2021) -- In the 1960s, FDA-approved weight-loss drugs were all derivatives of amphetamine, which suppresses appetite. One of those pills, phentermine, is still widely prescribed, says physician [Daniel Bessesen](#), a researcher at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. People taking phentermine on average lose between 5% and 10% of their

starting weight. For people whose insurance won't cover drugs like Wegovy, it's the best available option, Bessesen said. But this class of drugs can be addictive and cause dangerously high blood pressure, so the drugs can be taken for only a few weeks at a time.



[Liz Weston: Money Mistakes Could Signal Dementia](#)

The Washington Post

(Oct. 25, 2021) -- Researcher [Lauren Hersch Nicholas](#), a health economist and associate professor at the Colorado School of Public Health, says the study was inspired by horror stories of people suffering catastrophic financial losses because of undetected cognitive decline.

"They and their families had no idea that they were in the early stages of dementia until something happened, like the house would get foreclosed on," Nicholas says.



[How to Stay Safe While Trick-or-Treating During the Pandemic](#)

The Denver Post

(Oct. 20, 2021) -- Transmission of the coronavirus in Colorado has increased in recent months, notably among children and teens. But the trajectory of the pandemic is murky. New cases appeared to fall last week, while COVID-19 hospitalizations increased to their highest point this year.

“We know going into the winter months and people going indoors more, we expect (cases) may continue to increase,” said [Jini Puma](#), an associate professor at the Colorado School of Public Health.



[Too Hot to Handle: Can our Bodies Withstand Global Heating?](#)

The Guardian

(Oct. 20, 2021) -- Kidneys regulate blood concentrations of water and salt. So, the organs are the immediate interface between us and the climate crisis – because when it starts getting hot, we lose a lot of water and salt through sweat, says [Richard Johnson](#), professor of medicine and head of renal diseases and hypertension at CU Anschutz. Hormones produced in the brain are required by the kidneys to do their job, but when the heat affects the brain and disrupts the normal level of these chemicals, the kidneys (and other organs) suffer, he said.



[How Public Health Took Part in Its Own Downfall](#)

The Atlantic

(Oct. 23, 2021) -- Underdog narratives don't capture the full story of how public health's strength faded. In fact, “public health has actively participated in its own marginalization,” said [Daniel Goldberg](#), a historian of medicine at CU Anschutz.

As the 20th century progressed, the field moved away from the idea that social reforms were a necessary part of preventing disease and willingly silenced its own political voice. By swimming along with the changing currents of American ideology, it drowned many of the qualities that made it most effective.

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