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MONTHLY UPDATE FROM
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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LEADER JOINS CSU SYSTEM

Photo: Davis Bonner/The Rocky Mountain Collegian



CSU Director of Athletics Joe Parker helps to unveil the name of Canvas Stadium.

PARTNERSHIPS

IT'S OFFICIAL: CANVAS STADIUM

Canvas Stadium is the new name for Colorado State University's 41,000-capacity multipurpose stadium, which opened on the Fort Collins campus in 2017.

The newly rebranded Canvas Credit Union received naming rights to the facility through a \$37.7 million partnership agreement announced in April. A few weeks later, the stadium name became official.

The agreement – one of the largest collegiate athletic-venue naming deals in history – is part of an ambitious rebranding initiative by the former Public Service Credit Union.

The playing surface will continue to be called Sonny Lubick Field, honoring the legendary CSU coach who served from 1993 to 2007. ■

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RESEARCH

AGRICULTURE EMERGED FROM SURPLUS, RESEARCHERS SHOW

There's no doubt agriculture changed the course of human history as it emerged in equatorial regions beginning more than 20,000 years ago. Under debate, however, are the environmental and population conditions that propelled it.

A first-of-its-kind study suggests agriculture arose out of moments of surplus of both natural resources and new ideas, when environmental conditions were improving, and populations lived in greater densities, researchers at Colorado State and Washington University in St. Louis report in *Nature Human Behaviour*.

This finding contrasts with two competing hypotheses, which hold that agriculture advanced either out of necessity or from unique local conditions. Researchers believe that improving environmental conditions may have allowed people the luxury of tinkering with new ideas, and that having more people living in one place would allow ideas to be shared and honed, with sparks of innovation following. ■

RESEARCH

METHANE EMISSIONS ARE HIGHER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED

The U.S. oil and gas industry emits nearly 60 percent more methane than current Environmental Protection Agency estimates, amounting to 13 million metric tons of methane from oil and gas operations each year, according to a comprehensive study published in the journal *Science*.

That's significant because methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas. It is also the main ingredient in natural gas, thus a saleable product when recovered.

The study integrates several years of research by a community of scientists representing 15 institutions. They include Anthony Marchese, CSU professor of mechanical en-

gineering, and Dan Zimmerle, senior research associate at the CSU Energy Institute. Fifty oil and gas companies provided site access and technical advice for underlying research.



The new study estimates the current methane leak rate from the U.S. oil and gas system is 2 percent, versus the current EPA inventory estimate of 1.4 percent. While the percentages seem small, the volume represents enough natural gas to fuel 10 million homes – lost gas worth an estimated \$2 billion. The findings underscore a growing challenge for natural gas in an increasingly competitive, lower-carbon economy. ■

RESEARCH

INCOME GAP TRANSLATES TO SPENDING ON CHILDREN, STUDY REPORTS

As income inequality grows, wealthier parents feel compelled to spend more money on lessons, high-quality childcare, and education to ensure their children get ahead – or at least avoid falling behind, a study published in the *American Sociological Review* reveals.

Even so, rising income inequality does not significantly affect the amount of time parents at various income levels spend with their kids, according to the study, "Income Inequality and Class Divides in Parental Investments." It was co-authored by Orestes Pat Hastings, a CSU assistant professor of sociology. ■

HIGHER ED

COLLABORATION CAMPUS OFFERS NEW PATHWAY TO COLLEGE EDUCATION

The Arapahoe Community College Castle Rock Collaboration Campus, an innovative approach to higher education, has broken ground at The Meadows in Castle Rock. The campus will seamlessly deliver education and workforce training on the Front Range south of Denver.

The project involves Arapahoe Community College, the town of Castle Rock, the Castle Rock Economic Development Council, Colorado State University, and the Douglas County School District. ■

LEADERSHIP

PLANNING AND BUDGETING LEADER JOINS CSU SYSTEM



Henry Sobanet, director of the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, will join the Colorado State University System as chief financial officer Aug. 1. He served as a leader in state government budgeting and fiscal planning under current Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and former Gov. Bill Owens. ■