



COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

Mines in the News: May 2025

Got a story or area of expertise that Mines Communications & Marketing should be pitching to the media?

Drop a note to our university media relations specialist Erich Kirshner at erich.kirshner@mines.edu

Editor's Note: Some links may require a subscription. Access may be available through [Arthur Lakes Library](#).

Faculty Experts

The Washington Post

[The most promising ways to destroy 'forever chemicals'](#)

Christopher Higgins, AMAX Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering, discusses emerging technologies aimed at breaking down PFAS, or "forever chemicals."

Reuters

[Pentagon's AI metals program goes private in bid to boost Western supply deals](#)

Ian Lange, professor of economics and business, expresses skepticism about the effectiveness of the Pentagon's AI model in predicting metal prices.

The Guardian (UK)

[US oil firms pumping secret chemicals into ground and not fully reporting it](#)

John Spear, professor of civil and environmental engineering, warns the subsurface may not be equipped to handle the chemicals from fracking and could spread them unpredictably.

The Washington Post

[Land under the country's largest cities is sinking. Here's where — and why.](#)

Pejman Tahmasebi, associate professor of petroleum engineering, discusses how detailed mapping of land subsidence can inform groundwater management and urban planning to mitigate infrastructure risks.

Inc.

[This startup invented wood that's stronger than steel](#)

Shiling Pei, professor of civil and environmental engineering, comments on the potential of Superwood in seismic applications, noting the importance of connection performance in wood structures.

Vineyard Gazette

[Scientists search for freshwater off vineyard shores](#)

Brandon Dugan, professor and associate department head of geophysics, talks about the expedition he is co-leading off the New England coast this summer to study offshore groundwater systems.

The Detroit News/Tribune Content Agency

[Trade war with China highlights auto sector's need for rare-earth mineral supply](#)

Lange explains why U.S. rare earth mining cannot compete with China's subsidized production.

Denver Gazette

[Can Colorado better source, produce rare earth minerals? Mining experts weigh in on how](#)

Lange, Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon and others sat down with the Gazette to talk about whether Colorado and other western states could produce rare earth minerals.

WOODCentral

[How Japan Has Adapted Standards to Make Its Buildings Quake-Proof](#)

Pei highlights the uncertainties surrounding the seismic performance of tall mass timber buildings as Japan updates its codes for high-rise construction.

Campus and Student News

Golden Transcript

[Two professors with local ties win prestigious national fellowships](#)

Jessica Smith, professor of engineering design and society, and University of Washington-Bothell professor Nora Kenworthy — a Golden High School Class of 2000 graduate — were among this year's recipients of the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Denver7

[Colorado School of Mines graduate bringing attention to both the future and history of mining](#)

Alexandra Nickle, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in mining engineering, leads tours of the Edgar Experimental Mine in Idaho Springs.

Golden Transcript

[Golden-area groups collaborate to design first-of-its-kind modular home](#)

Golden Hills residents have been working with the Neighborhood Rehab Project, Mines students and staff, and a local housing development company to design a first-of-its-kind modular home that's affordable, sustainable and scalable.

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