

# Seahorses in shape to win the race at dinnertime



Tiny quick-draw artist

Seahorses are not the fastest swimmers among fish, but researchers at the University of Texas at Austin have found out just how quickly these little guys can move, and why they are such successful hunters. It's easy to figure out how seahorses got their name. But it turns out that their horse-shaped face is a big part of how they capture food.

Seahorses feed on copepods, a tiny crustacean that survives by quickly scooting away when it feels the waves made by approaching predators.

But the slow seahorse is able to get close gradually, then twist its arched neck with astonishing speed to attack. Its snout is shaped to make very few waves and so it is successful an amazing 90 percent of the time.

For a video of this hunter, see the links at ColoradoNIE.com Photo/Stickpen

# ColoradoKids

December 3, 2013



CK Reporter  
Salina Garza,  
Westminster



## BURNING MOUTHS OKAY BUT BURNING NOSES? NOT SO MUCH

There's no doubt living near some factories can mean very unpleasant pollution problems.

But, while paper mills can fill their neighborhoods with the rotten-egg smell of sulphur, people who live near bread factories may find the smell of baking bread pleasant, and most residents of Hershey, Pa., were proud of the smell of chocolate that filled their streets until new pollution controls ended it.

Now a judge in California has ordered Huy Fong Foods to close their factory or find a solution to the nose-burning fumes that result from making Thai-style Sriracha sauce.

The company says that things should improve now that harvest time is over and they won't grind more dried jalapenos until next year.

By then, they'll have to find a way to burn the mouths of their fans without burning the noses of their neighbors.

AP photo/Nick Ut

## NUTCRACKER INNOVATION

# SISTER, BROTHER PLAY SIBLINGS

Littleton Dance Academy brings something special to the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," this year: Sister and brother Madeline (12) and Tate (11) Ryner will dance the roles of siblings Clara and Fritz.



By Anna Brandner,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial

Clara is the lead character in the ballet, and her family has a Christmas party.

When Clara receives a Nutcracker doll as a special present, her pesky little brother Fritz snatches the doll and breaks it.

Madeline said, "It's fun to act like brother and sister in the performance and see how Tate learns new ballet steps."

They agree that they can easily act and relate to their roles: Tate has even broken something of Madeline's, a dried flower that held special memories.

Besides performing onstage, the siblings spend hours in class at the studio together.

Tate actually started with breakdancing four years ago.

Then, a year later he was inspired by a Colorado Ballet per-



Relatively talented Madeline and Tate Ryner Photo/Anna Brandner

formance, and together he and Madeline started ballet classes.

Tate's advice for boys interested in ballet is, "Work hard and don't get discouraged if you're the only boy, because you might get special treatment."

He said that he has gotten teased by other boys before but ignores them.

Dancer Alyssa Palazzo also gets to play Clara and be Tate's sister for two of the four upcoming performances.

Since Alyssa doesn't have a younger brother, you might think it would be harder for her

to pretend onstage.

"Actually it's kind of easy because I know him really well, and he's like a brother to me," Alyssa said.

"People should come because it's so professional and well done," she added.

"Everyone pours their heart into it, and it will make everyone's day."

Students and professionals, 135 in all, will dance the Nutcracker Dec. 7 and 8 at the theater at Colorado Heights University.

For ticket information, follow the link at ColoradoNIE.com

# Holiday film offers nice blend of story and music



**B**lack Nativity is an extremely good movie and I would love to see it again.



*By Reagan Hudley-Tate, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver*

There are ups and downs in mood, but that's what makes the movie so good in my opinion. "Black Nativity" is an emotional rollercoaster that kept my attention the whole time.

It's about a boy who is sent to his grandparents' house due to the money struggle that his mother is going through, and about his struggle to find out the truth about his birth.

The movie has a fair amount of singing but not enough to turn it into an opera. There is still plenty of story being told.

It's a play turned into a movie: Poetic, heartfelt, deep, and attention-getting.

It isn't very long, only 93 minutes, but that means it gets right

to the point without any unnecessary information throughout the movie.

I would recommend this film to anyone, of all ages, who likes realistic fiction.

The movie stars Forest Whitaker, Angela Basset, Tyrese Gibson, Jacob Latimore, Mary J. Blige, Nasir Jones, and Jennifer Hudson.

Overall, "Black Nativity" is a great movie and I can't think of one reason it would be a bad choice for a movie night.

## GAUGING THE GIFTS 2013

## Colorado Kids

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Denver Post Educational Services

Executive Editor: Dana Plewka

[dplewka@denverpost.com](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com)

CK Editor: Mike Peterson

[coloradokidseditor@gmail.com](mailto:coloradokidseditor@gmail.com)

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Denver Post Educational Services

101 W. Colfax Ave.

Denver CO 80202

(303) 954-3974

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## BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

The review of the "Nerf Cyber Hoop Game" says it has very different prices depending on where you buy it. Look at ads in today's paper for items you know the cost of. Make a list of things you think are a good bargain at their advertised price, and another of things you feel might be cheaper somewhere else.

# Slam dunk, then watch your replay

**"T**he Nerf Cyber Hoop" is a toy basketball hoop that hangs on your door and includes a free app you can get on your Ipad, Iphone, or Ipod.



*By Parker Secrest 10, a CK Reporter from Denver*

You can find it at a lot of retail stores but the price significantly varies from \$14.99 to \$29.99 so, shop around.

Assembly is very easy and

does not require adult supervision. This toy is for ages 8+ and is a great indoor toy.

After the assembly I started playing without the app and by myself. Then I decided to try the app with my brother.

The hoop was a lot more fun to use with someone else.

There are three game modes that you can play with the app: Dunk Contest, Head-to-Head,

and Rapid Fire.

Dunk Contest was my favorite,

because I liked dunking on the hoop. You can record your plays so you can see your shots or dunks.

The one thing that I didn't like about it were the sounds. They got little annoying sometimes. But

you can turn the volume down.

I recommend this toy for anyone who likes basketball.



# Fun, but doesn't do what it promises

**"T**he Zelfs Venus Fly Trap Spin Salon" is a really fun toy!



*By Reese Hitzler, 9, a CK Reporter from Littleton*

First, it is really cute. It comes with one Zelf. A Zelf is a magical creature with special powers and looks similar to a Troll doll.

Also, it comes with hair accessories like hair extensions and clips for the Zelf and the Spin Salon.

And what is a Spin Salon?

It is a pink plastic flower pot, complete with vines and a little door.

When you open it, it turns into the salon. Growing out of the top of is a Venus Fly Trap.

It opens its mouth when you press the clamps together.

Then you put the Zelf in the chair and its hair in the mouth. You then press the purple but-

ton and it spins the chair!

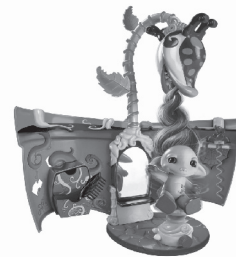
I had a great amount of fun with this toy.

One thing I didn't like was it didn't do what they said it would do: Style the Zelfs' hair!

It was a little hard to put the hair in the mouth of the Venus Fly Trap, so I would

rate it for ages 7+, instead of 5+.

But overall, I really liked this toy and I think you will, too!



# Latvian prime minister resigns over tragedy

When a tragedy occurs, who is responsible?

The Baltic nation of Latvia has been in mourning for 10 days, ever since the roof of a grocery store in the capital city of Riga collapsed.

Latvia, and Estonia and Lithuania, its neighbors on north and south, are known as the Baltic Nations because they are on the coast of that sea.

The disaster caused the deaths of 52 people, some in the first collapse, and others, including some rescue workers, when another portion of the roof fell in 20 minutes later.

It's not clear what caused the roof of the building to collapse. It was only two years old and had won an architecture award when it was completed.

However, workers were adding a playground and garden to the roof as part of an apartment building next door, and

it is thought that the additional weight may have been too much for the building.

Some people also suggest that the building had not met safety and building standards, and this has caused anger on top of the sorrow.

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis resigned last week. Now the nation will have to elect a new parliament.

The resignation came as a surprise, since Dombrovskis has been popular.

But in resigning, he said that the government needed to take responsibility for the tragedy.

The grocery store manager criticized the prime minister, saying he also felt responsible but did not feel "guilty" and would not resign.

The Maxima grocery store company, which is based in Lithuania, fired the manager for those insensitive remarks.



A little girl and her mother add to the candles and flowers at the site of the grocery store in Riga, Latvia, where 52 people died in a roof collapse.

AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis



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## Sudoku

Rules: Every row across, every column down and each of the six smaller boxes must contain numerals 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, one time and one time only. The solution to this week's puzzle is on Page 4.

			3	1	
4					
				5	1
	4		6		
			5	3	
	6	3			

# THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

Aseem Ganeshe is an average, multi-ethnic 15-year-old boy, except for one thing: He's a genius.



By Paige Bakke, 11, a CK Reporter from Englewood

Like all 15-year-old boys, he wants to be on a reality TV show. But there are some obstacles standing in his way.

Aseem is the main character in "Gifted," a play written by Carrie Printz.

It is a comedy and appropriate for ages 10 and up.

Printz came up with the character of Aseem while writing a monologue for a character as an assignment for a playwriting class.

She thought it would be interesting to write about a multi-ethnic family.

The play that resulted, "Gifted" won the Edge Theatre Company's 2012 Festival of New Plays.

Printz has loved writing stories since she was a little girl.

When she went to college, she took playwriting classes and really enjoyed them.

But then she got a job and had a family and forgot about her hidden talent, until five years ago when she got back into playwriting.

She hopes that families will enjoy laughing about "Gifted."

"I think that the audience will think a lot about their families and people they love while viewing the play," she said.

"Gifted" will be showing

Dec. 6-29 at the Edge Theatre Company in Lakewood.

Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m., will be a special performance for groups of middle- and high-school students.

Following the play, there will be a "talkback" with Printz as well as the cast,

where kids can ask questions and give feedback about the play.

There are special group prices for students.

You'll find a link for tickets at ColoradoNIE.com.

"Gifted" is a great play to see with your family during the holidays. You won't want to miss it!



# THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, CHILL WITH 'FROZEN'



"Frozen" should be at the top of everyone's holiday movie list.



By Kaden Porter, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

It tells the story of Anna, an optimistic and daring princess, who sets off to find her sister, Elsa, who ran away after accidentally trapping the Kingdom of Arendelle in an eternal winter.

Elsa is the newly crowned queen who has the power to create ice and snow.

Along the way, Anna meets Kristoff, a mountain man who cuts and sells ice for a living, and Olaf, a hilarious and affectionate snowman who likes warm hugs.

"Frozen" is fast and exciting in places, like when Anna and

Kristoff are being chased by wolves.

It is also funny at times, especially in the scenes with Olaf and Sven, Kristoff's loyal reindeer friend who acts more like a puppy.

The movie is sometimes sad too, such as when Elsa shuts out Anna when they were young after almost killing her with her powers.

The story ends with an important message: Love is stronger than fear.

It left me feeling happy. Even though the movie was in 3-D, nothing really popped out at the audience after the first scene.

This Disney film is rated PG for "scary action and mild rude humor."

A couple of scenes might be too scary for kids under age 8, but those scenes are over quickly.

This film is a must-see for all ages.

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