

Utah eagles died from West Nile Virus



Dangerous diet

The Utah Division of Wildlife has solved a disturbing mystery, and what they learned was reassuring: The recent deaths of 27 bald eagles was not caused by poison, bacteria or other avian diseases.

It wasn't entirely good news. The birds had died of West Nile Virus. But that is treatable, and five sick eagles who were found after the problem was identified were successfully treated for the disease and released.

Eagles are often shown catching fish, and most people know they also hunt rodents, rabbits and other small animals. But eagles are scavengers, too, and apparently caught the virus from eating grebes (a waterbird that winters on the Great Salt Lake) that had died of the disease.

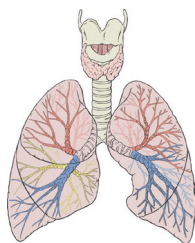
There's no danger to humans from the outbreak, since we nearly always get the disease from mosquitoes.

Photo: Ken Thomas

ColoradoKids

January 7, 2014

CK Reporter
Sam Martinez,
Lakewood



YOUR LUNGS HAVE A SENSE OF SMELL

If you smell smoke, your first thought is that there is a problem, and maybe danger.

That's your nose warning you, and whether you leave the house and call 911, move a pan of scorching food from the stovetop or remind your uncle to take his cigarettes out on the porch, you choose to take some kind of action based on that warning.

Researchers have recently learned that you can also smell things with your lungs.

Just as there are odor receptors in your nose, there are odor receptors in your lungs that warn of danger from smoke, chemicals or other strong odors.

The difference is that, while your nose tells your brain so you can decide what to do, the odor receptors in your lungs signal an automatic response, releasing a hormone that constricts your airways to protect them. They may also make you cough to clear your lungs.

SOCHI 2014

WORK, CROSS-TRAINING PAY OFF

Emily Azevedo laces up her shoes and heads to the weight room, a daily routine for any Olympic hopeful.



By Andrew Onodera,
12, a CK Reporter
from Centennial

A member of Team USA's 2010 Olympic Bobsled Team and a 2014 Sochi Olympic hopeful, Azevedo knows what it takes to become an Olympic athlete.

Azevedo never saw herself as an Olympian in the sport of bobsledding, she said,

"I was a gymnast until I was 16," she explains. "I dreamed of being an Olympian in gymnastics. Never did I think I would be an Olympic bobsledder."

When Azevedo was in high school, however, she realized that she was not a good fit for gymnastics so she focused on her other sports.

Her soccer coach encouraged her to participate in track and field and that became her new passion.

Eventually, she was able to run track at the University of California Davis.

After that, she decided that



Photo furnished by US Olympic Training Center

bobsledding was the next thing she wanted to try.

Azevedo credits her participation in a wide range of sports for her success in bobsledding.

Although her ambition was a major factor in determining her future, it wasn't just a dream that brought her to this point.

According to Azevedo, it takes "a stubborn will, lots of sacrifice, hard work, and determination" to become an Olympic athlete.

She says that her parents were always there for her and that they are a major reason she is an Olympic athlete.

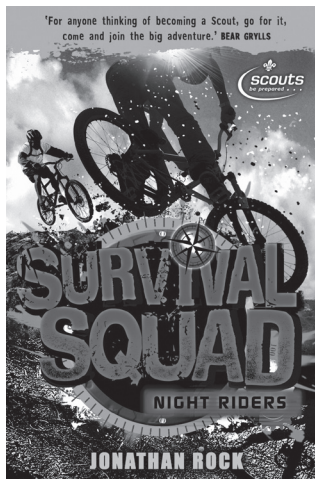
Her internal motivation comes from knowing there is always room for improvement.

Her advice to any aspiring athlete would be that, "anything is possible if you work hard enough."

Azevedo will learn in two weeks whether she has been selected to repeat as an Olympic team member and compete in Sochi.

Meanwhile, the things she has accomplished so far are already proof that dreams can become a reality through hard work and determination.

Series offers adventure and lessons in teamwork



The four-volume series “Survival Squad” series by Jonathan Rock should be high on the list for lovers of action and adventure.



By Mihir Mahale, 11, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

The series is set in England and takes the reader through various tough Scouting expeditions in a fun and inspiring manner.

The “Tiger Patrol” is a team of intrepid Scouts who come together and get ready to go through some exciting expeditions to earn their badges.

They have to face tough challenges such as getting lost in the moorlands with no sign of

civilization and only some bars and a map to help them.

They also have fun with paragliding, cycling and night hikes.

The team consists of boys and girls with very different personalities who each have to use their strengths to help the team survive dangers. (*Scouting has been co-ed in Great Britain for many years.*)

Connor, the patrol leader, holds in his anger and fright to help his squad achieve their goal and reach safety.

He gives his team the confidence to keep trying.

Everyone else in the squad listens carefully and tries to help with whatever they can.

Each adventure in the series has you wondering about the solution they will find, like when the “Tiger Patrol” gets lost in a

thick forest with no idea which way to go.

They also have to manage to survive on their own on a river with their instructor badly injured.

As the story develops, everyone’s personality also changes.

At the start, the members of the team are shy and they don’t work together, but their adventures teach them to work hard and as a team so they can overcome challenges together.

Jonathan Rock does a great job of emphasizing the importance of teamwork and trust.

I would recommend these books to anyone who likes mystery and action.

There are some bloody parts in them, but they end quickly, and I think they are a must-read for kids 9 and up.

Colorado Kids

is produced by

Denver Post Educational Services

Executive Editor: Dana Plewka

dplewka@denverpost.com

CK Editor: Mike Peterson

coloradokidseditor@gmail.com

We welcome your comments.

For tools to extend the learning in

this feature, look under

“eEdition lessons” at:

www.ColoradoNIE.com

eEditions of the Post are

free of charge for classroom use.

Contact us for information on all

our programs.

Denver Post Educational Services

101 W. Colfax Ave.

Denver CO 80202

(303) 954-3974

(800) 336-7678

A little too ‘graphic’ novel

CHERUB is a top secret group of kids who save the world. James is a troubled kid with only one destination, failure.



By Hayes MacGregor, 14, a CK Reporter from Morrison

In the graphic novel “The Recruit,” the first of the CHERUB series, when CHERUB picks James to be an agent, his whole life changes.

He is sent on a mission to stop a threat from eco-terrorists who are planning an attack on oil companies.

The mission sends James and a friend to a commune, where he finds that the threat is different than he thought.

He questions the importance of what he is doing, because he learns the cruel things that oil

companies do as well.

This realization threatens the mission, and he will have to face his morals to complete the mission.

On the back of the book, there is a note saying that the book is “not suitable for younger readers.” This is absolutely true.

The novel features mature subjects, and portrays kids in a bad light, smoking and doing other bad things. This was not at all necessary, and ruined the book for me.

The storyline itself was very compelling but it was overshadowed by the violent and mature themes.

The drawings are detailed and well thought out, but this book is not worth buying unless you

enjoy mature subject matter.

The story is very similar to Alex Rider, so fans of that series would enjoy these books.

Overall, I would give The Recruit 2 out of 5 stars.



NERVOUS? TRY NOT TO CALM DOWN

If you are nervous about a test or speaking in public, people may tell you to calm down.

Don’t listen to them. You should get excited instead.

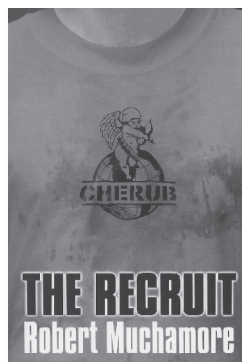
Experimenters at Harvard had people either say “I’m excited!” or “I’m calm” before taking a math test.

The ones who said they were excited did better.

Similar results came when the task was public speaking or singing karaoke: Even just saying “I’m excited!” or reading a note that said “Try to be excited” instead of “Try to be calm” made people do better.

One researcher suggested a reason: If you are excited, you’re usually concentrating on the good things you are expecting.

That’s better than trying to be calm, which can make you think of things that might go wrong.



BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

Emily Azevedo says she didn’t start out to be a bobsledder, but her training in other sports helped her succeed in that one. Look through today’s people doing jobs that could help them learn skills that they could use in their personal lives away from work. Which of those skills would you like to learn?

Youngest nation begins year in violence

The Republic of South Sudan is the world's youngest nation, and, as the new year dawned, one of its least happy.

South Sudan had been part of Sudan since that nation became independent in 1956. But its people had little in common with other Sudanese except for the Nile River and the history of being part of a larger Egypt.

Finally, after an armed rebellion, South Sudan voted to become independent and, on July 9, 2011, raised its flag for the first time.

It was hoped this would end the violence of that revolution, but the different ethnic groups in the new country were not getting along, and a new civil war broke out in December.

The country's president had fired a cabinet minister who rallied his own army, and about 1,000 people have died in the fighting since.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

Another 200,000 people have fled their homes to escape the violence and many are now living in refugee camps set up by the United Nations.

The government and rebels have been meeting in neighboring Ethiopia to try to iron out their differences, but a cease-fire that was supposed to come about at year's end didn't happen.

The United States began to take its embassy employees out of South Sudan last week unless they were absolutely necessary, and warned any



Care where needed A young South Sudanese mother gets medicine for her son and advice at a Doctors Without Borders tent in a UN camp where thousands are taking shelter from the violence. AP photo by Ben Curtis

American citizens there to leave before they found themselves trapped in a war zone.

The United States has joined other nations in making donations to help the refugees, and has been working with diplomats there in hopes of helping to bring peace back to South Sudan.

ck Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at www.ColoradoNIE.com



Save the Date!

Kids Camp Expo

Sat., Feb. 15, 2014 | **Infinity Park**
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. | 4400 E. Kentucky in Glendale

Visit with up to 100 camps!

Including day and overnight options. Talk directly with Camp directors to get the scoop on the best summer camp experience for your kids.

➔ Educational • Sports • Arts • Music
Dance • Wilderness • Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts • Special Needs • Religious
Science • Technology • and many more!

For more information, visit KidsCampColorado.com

Contact Sarah Weiss at 303-954-1492 or [email specialevents@denverpost.com](mailto:specialevents@denverpost.com) or **THE DENVER POST**
denverpost.com

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.

	1				
		3	1	6	
			2	5	
	2	1			
6		5			
				3	5

SAVING CORAL REEFS STARTS WITH CARING

Last month, even in the midst of bitterly cold weather, 278 people came to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science one night for a talk on coral reef conservation by Stephanie Wear of the Nature Conservancy.



By Brooklyn Webb, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

Wear is lead scientist for coral reef conservation at the Conservancy, where, as an intern, she helped establish the first

territorial marine park in the U.S. Virgin Islands and later developed the Reef Resiliency Program.

She shared colorful photographs and video clips of coral

reefs, including a BBC mini-broadcast that has yet to be revealed to the public, a special treat for the audience.

The focus of her talk was on the secret of reef conservation: it is 10 percent science and 90 percent about the relationships between the people and the

reefs. Wear encourages people who live near the reefs to protect them as a resource.

Reefs offer a significant source of food, jobs, tourism, and overall money for the countries that have them, she said.

According to Wear, coral reefs also provide food to a half billion people worldwide.

In addition, reefs are “underwater pharmacies,” providing chemicals currently used to make cancer-fighting medicines. We are hundreds of times more likely to find future cures in the ocean than on land, even in the rainforests.

Wear’s current work is on

poop: sewage pipes and waste going into oceans.

Through this, she is connecting environmental and human health, making it more relevant

for us to protect the

reefs.

However, in Colorado, a landlocked state, what can we do to help the cause?

Wear says that it is up to us, and our daily choices.

Maybe turning off that bedroom light will determine the survival of the coral reefs.

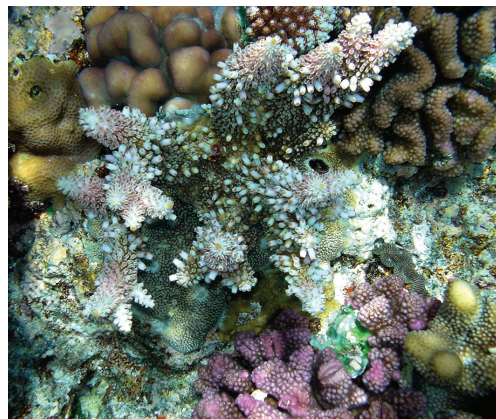


Photo by Brocken Inaglory

THE LUTHIER’S CRAFT

You may not realize how much work goes in to building a guitar, but it’s a complex, delicate process.



By Ben West, 13, a CK Reporter from Denver

Makers of stringed instruments like guitars are called “luthiers” (LOOT-iers).

There are only 50 classical guitar luthiers in Colorado, and only a couple thousand in the U.S., and this may be for a good reason: Building a guitar takes a lot of experience, dedication, and hard work.

Bill Neese, a well-known luthier from Greeley, has been practicing this craft for years, and speaks from experience about what it is like to make a classical guitar.

He is a retired geologist, but finds his passion is working with people and making guitars for them so that when they play, there is more meaning and a story behind their guitar.

His favorite part of this involved process is in the finished product, seeing and hearing his customer actually play the new guitar for the first time.

It is not easy to get to that stage, he says, and some of the most challenging parts are building the design around the sound hole of the guitar, and staying completely focused every second of his work.

Focus is key, because he is cutting wood to the tenth of a millimeter perfecting the guitar.

Although Neese feels that creating the rosette (the pattern around the guitar’s sound hole)

is a challenge, he also finds it enjoyable because on every one of his guitars there is a new variation in the pattern.

There are ten to 15 different types of wood in each guitar he makes, and, on average, each of Neese’s guitars contains

between 5,000 and 6,000 pieces of wood from about five different countries and, as you might imagine, it is hard to glue and assemble those thousands of pieces of wood together.

He also needs a barometer and humidifier to keep the rooms he works in at the right humidity so the guitar doesn’t crack in the dry Colorado air.

All in all, guitar making is an experience within itself, and few people think of how much work it can be to make a simple instrument like a guitar.



Photo by Ben West

YOU’LL FIND FULL-LENGTH VERSIONS OF THESE STORIES AND MORE AT

nextGen

YourHub.com/NextGen

IF YOU ENJOY WRITING AND ARE 14 OR UNDER, WHY NOT JOIN US?

S
u
d
o
k
u

5	3	6	2	4	1
2	1	4	5	3	6
6	4	3	1	2	5
1	5	2	4	6	3
4	6	1	3	5	2
3	2	5	6	1	4

S
o
l
u
t
i
o
n