

As Americans gain weight, test dummies must adjust



At first, the idea of making fat crash test dummies sounds funny, and it kind of is, but it's the kind of "funny" that shouldn't make you laugh. Rather, it's the kind that makes you shake your head over the things science has to keep up with.

The crash test dummy pictured here is a new model from Humanetics that weighs about 275 pounds, and is necessary because people have become more obese than they were when dummies were first developed. That's no joke.

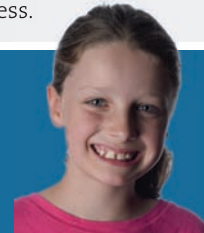
Neither is the half-million-dollar price tag on the dummies, which are fitted with high-tech sensors to analyze how accidents impact each part of the body.

Cars are crash-tested in order to save lives by making sure they are designed to keep people safe in accidents. But obese people don't fit properly in most car seats, and their weight is not proportioned in the way seat belts are designed. That makes them 78% more likely to die in a collision. Creating more realistic crash test dummies is serious, life-saving business.

Photo/Humanetics

ColoradoKids

November 4, 2014



CK Reporter
Lucy Rosenbluth,
Denver



FUNGUS WIPING OUT EUROPEAN SALAMANDERS; COULD COME HERE

This colorful fire salamander once brightened forests in the Netherlands, but is nearly extinct there, due to a fungal infection that has come to Europe from Southeast Asia.

Now scientists fear that imported pet salamanders could bring the disease to North America.

If it spread to the wild, through poured-out tank water or freed pets, they say, it could wipe out most of our salamanders just as white-nose fungus has nearly destroyed some types of bats.

The fungal disease causes holes in the skin through which infections can come, and tests of 17 species of salamanders from around the world resulted in death for all samples in 11 of those species.

Ecologists are urging the government to ban all imports of salamanders unless they are tested and shown to be free of the disease. Photo/Jens K. Müller

BRINGING INSIGHT TO THE SIGHTED

According to Eye Care America, someone in the world goes blind every five seconds.



By Brianna Wolle,
14, a CK Reporter
from Arvada

While that seems troubling, Karen Karsh, who's been blind since birth, says, "I don't think it's as difficult a disability as people think it is. It's not a horror story, I swear."

Karsh is a singer and songwriter who is on the board of the American Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Colorado.

Last year, ACBCO provided no-cost service to over 4,000 blind or visually impaired Coloradans, and the third-annual Raisin' Cane was one of their main fundraisers during Blind Awareness Month in October.

Raisin' Cane is a 7-block walk in downtown Denver, from the State Capitol to a celebration at the Broker Restaurant. Participants could walk partially blindfolded, fully blindfolded, or act as a guide.

Barbara Boyer, the executive director of ACBCO, explained that the event is to make public



Seeing their world Sighted participants, guided by volunteers from DU's Delta Gamma sorority, learn about being blind. Photo by Heidi Wolle

the topic of blindness.

My one-hour, 7-block experience of being fully blind was mind-blowing.

My guide did a phenomenal job of guiding me through downtown, but it was still the ultimate trust walk.

One thing I noticed was the cracks in the sidewalk: My cane kept getting stuck in them.

Another was steps, which were always bigger than I thought they

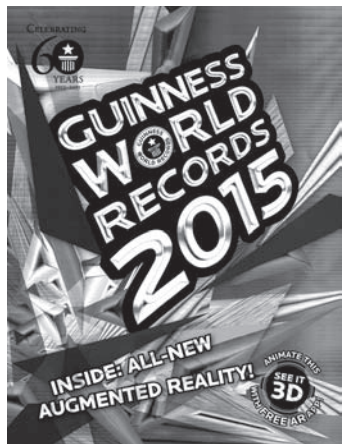
would be and were body-rattling.

Raisin' Cane raises awareness of the blind community and so brings help to them.

But Karen Karsh is proof that a disability is something to be handled, not 'overcome.'

"'Overcoming' is a weird word because stuff just goes on and on and doesn't go away," she said. "I don't know about 'overcoming,' I've just tried to be as normal as possible."

The book of superlatives returns for a 'records' year



Sixty years ago, Sir Hugh Beaver, the Managing Director of Guinness Breweries started the first "Guinness World Records" book, and the 2015 edition is just hitting bookshelves.



By Parker Secrest, 11, a CK Reporter from Denver

Sir Hugh began the book because he got into an argument about which game bird was the fastest in Europe, the golden plover or the red grouse.

Later he realized it was very difficult for he and his friends to determine which was faster, and he also realized that other people might have the same type of arguments.

A book that had the answers to those arguments might be a big success.

The book is full of pictures

with lots of captions so you can really get an idea of the records.

Some of the records look very painful and a bit gross.

A few of the records are the tallest man in the world, the heaviest weight lifted by a beard (*that's one of the painful ones*), the longest journey on a water jet, the first winner of the wheelchair marathon Grand Slam, and the newest slug (*that was one of the gross ones*).

The table of contents and an index make it really easy to find certain things in the book, and it would take a long time to

find the page you're looking for without them.

One of the really interesting features of the latest edition is that now you can see records in 3D by downloading an app on your mobile device that allows you to scan a page so it appears in three dimensions.



All the records at your fingertips! Including the one for longest nails. Photo/ Ryan Schude/ Guinness World Records

The app crashed a few times and the images sometimes disappeared but, other than that I didn't have any problems with it.

And, it's free! I recommend this book to everyone. Even

if they are too young to read it, they will enjoy looking at the pictures.

Colorado Kids

is produced by

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We welcome your comments.

For tools to extend the learning in this feature, look under "eEdition lessons" at: www.ColoradoNIE.com

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Stories without bylines were written by the editor.

BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

October was Blind Awareness Month, and CK reporters found stories about how blind people learn to adapt to being blind, ways they help each other and ways in which they are challenged.

Look through today's paper for an activity you enjoy. If you became blind, would you need to make changes in order to continue to enjoy that activity? Explain your answer.

Flashes of humor, but too much boredom

Summer couldn't get worse when, in "Skies Like These" by Tess Hilmo, we learn how a bumper summer for Jade takes an unexpected turn.



By Lauren Huttner, 12, a CK Reporter from Englewood

Jade is a city girl from Philadelphia who spends the summer at her aunt's house in Wyoming.

She is not happy with this.

The country feel is not her style. But then she meets Roy Parker, her aunt's neighbor.

Roy believes he is related to a legendary Western bandit named Butch Cassidy. He absolutely loves the country. We soon learn that Roy's fa-

ther's hardware store has been shut down by another store owner who is much larger and much more wealthy.

Now, Roy needs Jade's help to earn some money to get the store back in business.

Jade comes up with an idea to hold stargazing evenings on the top of her aunt's house.

Will it be enough to get the hardware store working again?

Because Roy idolizes Butch Cassidy, there are a lot of funny parts.

Roy tries to rob a bank the "Butch Cassidy" way or tries to earn money the "Butch Cas-

sidy" way.

It is hilarious what schemes he comes up with.

It is also funny to read Jade's reactions to the schemes.

This book had a lot of funny parts, but part of the book just dragged on and on, had no action and was boring to read.

However, the parts that dragged on were important to the story line.

I wish Tess Hilmo had added some action to the boring, and evenly distributed the humor.

I rate this book 3.5 out of 5 stars and recommend it to kids ages 9-12.



Zambia moves forward despite president's death

Zambia has been celebrating half a century of independence from Great Britain, and planning some changes to its constitution.

Then, last Wednesday, the nation got a shock when its president, Michael Sata, died.

Now the country will need to move forward without the leader they elected in 2011 to help with this process.

But, while Zambians mourn their president, they do not appear to be having the problems other nations might experience in their place.

At nearly the opposite corner of the continent, Burkina Faso has just seen its leader resign after crowds took to the streets to protest his refusal to give up power and allow new elections.

And much closer to Zambia, Americans have been warned by our State Department not to travel to Burundi, which is still recovering from a civil war

and has serious problems with terrorist groups.

By comparison, Zambia is a peaceful country that has its own problems but seems to be handling them.

Like many African nations, it has a very serious problem with AIDS, and, like many developing nations throughout the world, it has the kind of poverty that comes when people from rural areas come to the city and find there are no jobs there for them.

But Zambia, which was known as Northern Rhodesia when Great Britain held it as a colony, has rich copper mines and other natural resources, and has been developing economic ties with China in hopes of improving its economy and the lives of its people.

As nations throughout the Third World struggle to solve their problems, Zambia will be an interesting example to watch.



Zambia's vice president Guy Scott greets defense and security chiefs shortly after taking over as acting president, following the death in London last Tuesday of President Michael Sata. Scott, a white Zambian of Scottish descent, has become the country's acting president. AP Photo



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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.

2					6
					4
		6	3		
4	3		6		
		2			
	4			1	

TRUE STORY SHOWS HOW QUICKLY LIFE CAN CHANGE

“Nobody knows why bad things happen to good people.”



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

One minute, you can see everything clearly around you. The next it's all black because you have been blinded.

You have had a goal for life, a great career waiting for you but it is demolished in one minute.

That is exactly what happened to Travis Freeman. The movie “23 Blast” tells his story.

Travis Freeman (Mark Hapka) and Jerry Baker (Bram Hoover) have been playing football on the same team since they were in the pee-wee league, where they would connect on long passes.

Everybody knew that they were going to have a bright future in football.

Now, and this is the big deal; both of them have to help Corbin High to make it to the playoffs for the first time in 10 years.

Then the devastating tragedy happens. Travis Freeman gets a serious eye infection, which the

doctors can't cure.

The infection gets worse and one morning, Travis wakes up to find that he is blind.

While Travis is pondering on about what to do and slowly making a recovery, the Corbin football team is sinking and tempers are rising.

It would take a miracle to get Corbin High back into the playoffs but it would take an even bigger miracle to get Travis back on the field.

“23 Blast,” directed by Dylan Baker, is an inspiring movie because it shows how one moment can change an entire life.

Kids who know a lot about football would really enjoy this movie because this movie is based on a true story about a football player in Kentucky.

I would recommend this movie for kids 11+ who love to play sports as well as watch them, but, even for people that don't play sports, this movie shows how important it is to pursue a goal.

There is some teen drinking in this movie so I would recommend watching it for the first time with a parent.

This is one of the best movies I have ever seen.



RADIO, PODCASTS MAKE PRINT MORE ACCESSIBLE

There are touching stories behind the readers of Audio Information Network of Colorado's blind news program, which is available by radio or podcast.



By Thandi Glick,
10, a CK Reporter
from Denver

Ron Bostwick, who imagines he is reading to his mother every time he puts on the headset, reads the Denver Post every Tuesday from 9 to 10 am.

And that's what this program was started for: To read to others.

When the founder, a blind man named David Dawson, came to Colorado, he realized there was no way for the blind to get news and information from print resources.

He strived to create this organization, and almost 25 years later, AINC has started two new projects.

The first is just beginning to air Spanish language programs. Rossana Longo-Better heads this program, which, as she explains, is not simply for the blind.

“There are so many Spanish speakers who cannot read in English,” she says, “and some, even, who cannot read in Spanish.”

The second new program that they have begun is for children. Some children may be print-disabled, for reason which can include dyslexia, blindness, or any other form of disability in which the person cannot read very well.

This can prevent children from learning as quickly as other children in their class.

The child services program aims to help these children catch up to their classmates through audio information.

To participate in this program, people sign up at aincolorado.org.

This program is entirely volunteer based and free, and runs on donations and grants.

If you'd like to become a volunteer reader, there are no age restrictions, but those interested must first pass a test of strength of voice, emotion, and clarity of reading.

For information on how to listen to these programs or how to volunteer, go to <http://www.aincolorado.org>.



Ron Bostwick (reader) and Ryan Osentowski (audio technician).
Photo by Thandi Glick

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