

# Government moves to help solve bee crisis



One of the basic things that agriculture depends on is pollination, and the disappearance of helpful insects in recent years, particularly honeybees, has farmers of all kinds worried.

It's not just bees that are disappearing; monarch butterflies and other pollinating insects are also seeing their populations decline. But bees appear to be in the deepest trouble: The number of domestic honeybee colonies in the US has gone from 6 million in 1947 to just 2.5 million today.

Use of pesticides and destruction of habitat, plus some diseases, are suspected in the deaths of insects, but now the US Department of Agriculture is determined to find out what is happening to bees and find a solution.

A new program will try to pin down the causes, while other programs will encourage farmers to plant bee-friendly flowers and make other changes to help bees prosper.

Photo/Flagstaffphotos

# ColoradoKids

July 1, 2014



CK Reporter  
Logan Butler,  
Littleton

## FANTASY FILM, VERY REAL ACTORS

“Earth to Echo” is an out of this world movie with a down-to-earth cast of young stars.



By Andrew Onodera,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Centennial

Teo Halm, Ella Wahlestedt, and Reese Hartwig are three of the lead characters in the science fiction family movie, which premieres this summer.

Although Halm, Wahlestedt, and Hartwig, all 15, are not new to the business, this is the first major motion picture for each of them.

Perhaps that is why the trio of actors seems so much like regular teens.

Just like regular teens, they had to get to know each other before they became friends.

According to Wahlestedt, the actors had, “a week of bonding before filming the movie.”

That week of bonding included going indoor skydiving, bowling, and eating Italian food.

The actors said that it was a challenge to work with Echo, the digitally animated alien.

Echo's digital image was added later, forcing the actors to act



**Young stars** Teo Halm, Ella Wahlestedt and Reese Hartwig make some points about their movie. (Film review: Page 4) Photo by Andrew Onodera

without knowing exactly where Echo would be in the scene.

Halm said, “The challenge was pretending something was there that really wasn't there.”

Although “Earth to Echo” is a big movie, the actors haven't let it go to their heads.

Hartwig explains, “We are extremely lucky to be in a movie like this at such a young age.”

Being an actor while still in school is challenging both academically and socially.

While Wahlestedt is home-schooled, Halm and Hartwig both missed the first three

weeks of school while filming.

Then, when the advertisements started coming out for the movie, it was a little awkward for the actors.

Halm said that, “I didn't want people to realize what I was doing.”

When kids would ask about the movie, he would pretend he didn't know what they were talking about so he could avoid the unwanted attention.

Unwanted or not, these talented actors will be getting a lot of attention when “Earth to Echo” hits theaters tomorrow.



### CITY IN KANSAS SHUTS DOWN 'LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES'

You may have seen a “Little Free Library” in your own neighborhood.

They are becoming popular across the nation, and CK even had a story about one of the little boxes in Arvada, where people can take books to read or leave books for other people to enjoy.

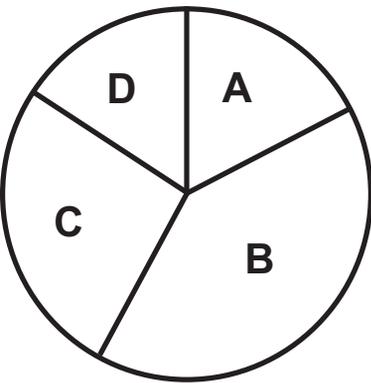
But Little Free Libraries are not popular with the city of Leawood, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City.

Leawood has decided the small boxes on poles are “buildings” like tool sheds and so are illegal in front yards.

They ordered the family of Spencer Collins, 9, to take down his Little Free Library or face a \$25 a day fine.

When the news got out, though, Spencer got support from around the country, including from Daniel “Lemony Snicket” Handler.

The Leawood City Council will meet July 7 to consider changing their rule.



# Camping, yes! But with some limits

The Great Outdoors is part of summer for CK kids, but there's no need to get carried away.

That was the message from our readers when we asked you about camping out.

Over 80 percent of you favored getting out into the wild.

The only major disagreement was over how much wild you really wanted to get out into, and for how long.

Here's what we asked you, and what you told us:

It's camping season! How do you like the Great Outdoors?

A. I'd live in a tent in the woods all summer! 18%

B. One or two nights in a sleeping bag is about right. 40%

C. Campsite, yes, but I want a cabin or an RV. 26%

D. You know, people live in houses for a reason. 16%

For our next question, read

the story about webcams below.

**How do you feel about the decision the researchers made?**

**A. They were totally wrong.**

**B. They should have waited, but fed it at the last minute.**

**C. Let it happen, but shut off the webcam.**

**D. If you don't like reality, don't watch real-life webcams.**

To answer this question, go to [www.nextgen.yourhub.com](http://www.nextgen.yourhub.com)

ck Kids and adults can find live links to information about stories in Colorado Kids at [www.ColoradoNIE.com](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

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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](http://www.ColoradoNIE.com)

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## Beauty plus mystery

The first butterflies came the day after the funeral. Tara's grandmother had died in a car accident on her way to a car visit her.



By Kaiya Cox, 10, a CK Reporter from Aurora

In "When the Butterflies Came" by Kimberley Griffiths Little, Tara hadn't seen Grammy Claire for a year and she was counting down the days until her grandmother came home from her scientific lab on the Island of Chuuk where she studied mysterious butterflies.

Tara's house was dirty and unstable and they couldn't afford it ever since their rich daddy moved to Hollywood for his movie business.

After the funeral, mama ran away and Tara hasn't seen her since.

Later that day Tara receives a letter saying that she and her sister Riley are moving in with Grammy Claire's very trusted butler, Reginald.

Along with the letter, she finds a key.

Through a journey of keys and clues, Tara has to uncover a mystery that only she can solve.

It even ends up with her going to the Island of Chuuk herself and she finds out that there was trouble brewing long before Grammy Claire died.

Her grandmother had been studying some unique butterflies.

One of these, the Giant Pinks, are enormous, twice the size of a regular butterfly.

They have the softest, prettiest shade of pink, ribbons of green along the edges, and brown spots right in the middle of each wing.

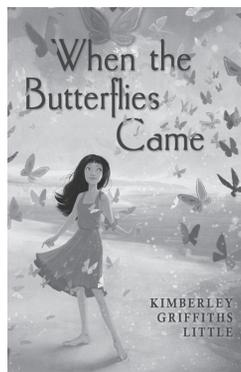
Another kind are tiny, purple butterflies that seemed to sing a delicate kind of music when you are close enough to hear it.

Tara has to save the butterflies and protect Grammy Claire's scientific work.

I recommend this book for readers ages 8 and above.

There were many plot twists and characters to keep track of, as well as some fun and challenging vocabulary.

"When the Butterflies Came" is a good scientist vs bad scientist story with a spectacular surprise ending. I read it cover to cover and could not put it down.



**WEBCAM WATCHERS GET MORE REALISTIC VIEW THAN THEY WANTED**

Webcam fans from around the world were watching a pair of baby eagles in a nest in Maine when they got a lesson in nature that many of them did not appreciate.

As the parents began to get the babies ready to go out on their own, they stopped coming to the nest so often to feed the eaglets.

Both eaglets felt the effects of hunger, but one in particular had problems with it.

As he weakened, viewers contacted the Biodiversity Research Institute, which runs the webcam, saying that someone should go to the nest and feed the baby eagles.

But as one researcher said, the animals on webcams are wild animals, not pets. Another added that webcams "are not baby monitors."

Researchers did not interfere with the animals they were studying, and one of the eaglets died.

Was that the right decision? See this week's "We Asked, You Answered," above.

## BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

A story on Page One talks about how a city decided not to allow a Little Free Library because of a local law against buildings in front yards.

Look through today's paper for other examples of local laws being applied. List the ones you think were fair, and the ones you think were not. Which of your lists is longer?

# Ancient Welsh town emerges from the sea

There was once, the old stories tell, a kingdom in the west of Wales, a rich land known as Cantre'r Gwaelod.

Among the magical things in this land there was a well that flowed with water, and this magical well was watched over by one of the fairy folk, a girl named Mererid.

Then one day, Mererid let herself be distracted, the magical well overflowed, and the land of Cantre'r Gwaelod was submerged forever in the waters off the coast of Britain.

Archaeologists like that sort of story, not because they want to prove that fairies are real, but because the stories provide clues

about events in the far distant past.

Those ancient stories can be valuable in many ways.

For instance, a native group in Canada was trying to prove that the land they lived on was truly theirs. They told of a magical bear who had come to earth and became angry.

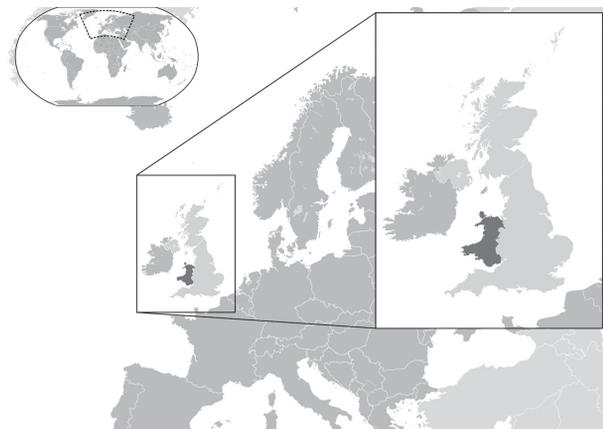
The bear swiped off the top of a mountain with his mighty paw and buried the people's village.

When archaeologists examined the area, they found that a mud slide had destroyed a village there thousands of years before, and the court agreed it proved the natives truly owned the land.

Now archaeologists in Wales are examining areas near the seaside town of Borth, where sometimes old tree stumps can be seen when the tide is very low.

Storms this past winter changed how the tides flow in Cardigan Bay and other parts of the west coast near Borth, and more of the submerged forest is becoming visible.

A forest is not a kingdom, of course, and so, while finding proof of an old forest is interesting, it does



not prove that there was a real village there.

But recently, researchers for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales came across something quite different and very interesting indeed.

They found an ancient walkway where people had laid branches or small logs side by side across the ground so they could walk there without sinking into the mud.

They haven't got a precise date for the walkway, but it looks to go back 5,000 or 6,000 years, to the Bronze Age.

It doesn't prove fairies and magic wells are real, but it proves people really did live there.



## Youth Journalism Day

for 4th-8th grade students

Friday, July 18 • 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Student Cost for the Day: \$50 (includes breakfast & lunch)

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Call  
303-954-3974  
with questions.



## Brain teaser



On this day in 1963, Americans began using ZIP Codes on their mail, so identify the places associated with these ZIP Codes:

1. This Colorado university, 80523, has "Rams" as its mascot.
2. Letters to the mayor of this "Windy City" go to 60602.
3. 95814 gets your letter here: California's state capital.
4. This park, home to Old Faithful, can be found at 82190.
5. The first shots of the Civil War were fired at this fort, 29482.
6. This famous author was from Hannibal, Missouri, 64301.
7. If you go to 96813, you'll find yourself in this state capital, the farthest west of all American state capitals.
8. US space flights are tracked in this Texas city, 77058.
9. "Twilight" is fiction, but 98331, this town where it's set, is real.
10. Lewis & Clark began their trip where the Missouri River meets the Mississippi, in this city: 63103.

(answers on Page Four)

# ‘EARTH TO ECHO’ IS A FUN FAMILY FANTASY

“Earth to Echo” tells the story of four friends who come together for one last adventure before they have to say goodbye.



By Andrew Onodera, 13, a CK Reporter from Centennial

Tuck, Alex, and Munch are a trio of friends who live in a small Nevada community that is being uprooted by the government in order to build a freeway.

When cell phones in their community start receiving strange images on their screens – a phenomenon the boys call “barfing” – they begin to suspect that there might be more to the government’s plan than just a freeway.

When Munch discovers that the picture on the phones looks like a map of the nearby desert, the trio decides to use their last night together to follow the map.

The map leads them to various spaceship parts and eventually, to Echo.

Echo is an alien who crashed his spaceship and needs help to

get home.

Emma then joins the trio as an unlikely ally whose quick thinking is a valuable asset to the group.

One thing leads to another and the group ends up uncovering something bigger than they could have ever imagined.

While there is a science fiction element to the movie, this is really a movie about friendship and belonging.

Tuck, Alex, and Munch are outcasts who find each other and become friends.

While Emma is more socially accepted by her peers, she feels like an outcast in her own family.

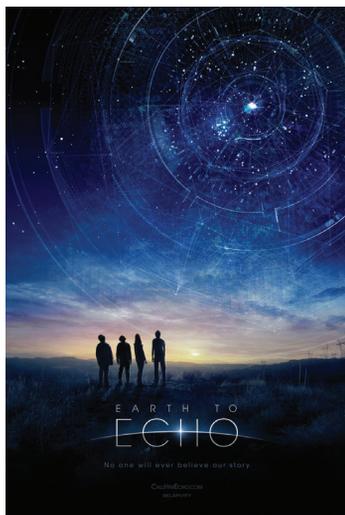
Echo becomes the glue that binds the group together.

Everyone will enjoy this movie: Science fiction fans will be satisfied with

the science fiction scenes that occur while finding Echo, while others, looking for more than science fiction, will feel an emotional connection with the characters.

The PG Rating is appropriate considering that there are scenes of moderate teenage rebellion.

“Earth to Echo” is an entertaining summer film for the whole family.



# LONG, FAMILIAR PLOT BUT IMPROVED IMAX

Texas inventor Cade Yeager (Mark Wahlberg) gets caught up examining what his daughter Tessa (Nicola Peltz) thinks is just more junk.



By Megan Goldin, 14, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

Soon, they find out that this piece of junk is a Transformer, a species the government is trying wipe out.

Partnering with the autobots, the Yeagers end up in an adventure that gets them on the wanted list, too.

If you’re a Transformers fan, the continuation of the story in the fourth movie “Age Of Extinction,” will not disappoint you.

However if you have not seen any or some of the other movies you will not be at a disadvantage: Director Michael Bay does a great job of telling the back story of the connected previous movie.

With a three-year break since the last Transformers film, they made up for it in length.

This two hour forty-five minute movie might seem long

unless you love action.

In order to keep all viewers interested I think that they could’ve split the movie into two parts, particularly since you may find some scenarios repeated and predictable.

You will still be entertained, however, by the changes of setting and changes of heart the characters experience.

The language usage is moderately adult and something to be cautious of. For that reason, I would pay attention to the PG-13 rating it is given.

Bay is the first to use new cutting edge IMAX technology, which gives you a closer, clearer view of the major action scenes in the movie.

Besides a new cast, the plot hasn’t changed from past movies.

As with the other movies in the series, it is filled with suspense, thrill, and a touch of humor.

Optimus Prime and his personality-filled autobot team have surely met their match.

They have the option to flee from Earth or help the humans in a war they have brought upon themselves.

The choice is a surprising one that you may not see coming.



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## Brain teaser Solution

(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow! 7 right - Great! 5 right - Good  
3 right - See you next time!

1. Colorado State U. 2. Chicago 3. Sacramento
4. Yellowstone National Park 5. Fort Sumter
6. Mark Twain (S. Clemens) 7. Honolulu
8. Houston 9. Forks, Wa. 10. St. Louis

