

Researchers say magpies aren't really kleptomaniacs



Not guilty!

For centuries, magpies have been accused of being thieves, stealing shiny objects and taking them back to their nests. Detective stories, and even an opera by Rossini, have been based on the idea that, in the end, it turns out the real jewel thief was a magpie.

Well, magpies and their lawyers can relax. Research at the University of Exeter in England shows that magpies aren't particularly interested in shiny things, or even non-shiny things, if they can't eat them. In fact, given a choice of food by itself or food near unusual objects, they prefer the food that doesn't come with a helping of things they've never seen before.

(You might notice that this magpie doesn't have quite the same markings as the ones in your backyard. England has Eurasian magpies, while the ones in Colorado are the black-billed species.)

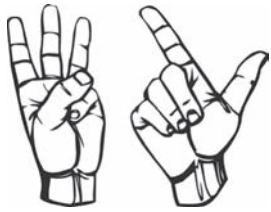
Photo/Justin Otto

ColoradoKids

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CK Reporter
Sophia Khan,
Northglenn



KIDS SHOULDN'T COUNT ON THESE TO HELP MUCH WITH MATH PROBLEMS

If you're one of those kids who hates memorizing, you might be someone who still stared at the ceiling and twiddled your fingers under the desk after your classmates had memorized the addition tables.

We all have strengths and weaknesses, but memorizing math facts is worth the effort.

Researchers say the sooner you know that 6 plus 3 equals 9 without figuring it out each time, the sooner your brain starts rewiring itself to solve more difficult problems.

A brain study at Stanford showed that, once you learn simple math facts, your brain stores them in a different part of your brain than the one where you figure things out.

Then, when you need 6+3, the "storage" part of your brain just flashes the answer like a pre-printed card, while the "figuring stuff out" part is free to concentrate on the actual problem.

Illustration: Abalg

PLENTY OF PLACES TO LEARN TO PAINT

Painting studios are popping up all over town! If you're looking for something local, and you like art, then a painting studio might be the place for you.



By Salina Garza,
14, a CK Reporter
from Westminster

Recently, I went to a few different local painting studios.

Each offers something different, but the prices are all the about the same.

Whimsy Paint and Sip Art Studio in Westminster is great to go to with family.

I went on a Family Day with my mom and sister and painted "Howl at the Moon."

The atmosphere was very comfortable and a lot of fun. We got to pick out aprons with sayings to go with our personalities to wear for the evening.

I also loved how the instructor would show you step by step how to paint, so you didn't get lost.

It was also cool that you don't have to paint exactly what the painting looks like. Some people used different colors, or changed the main image.

Gallery on the Go is great for junior artists. Gallery on the Go offers painting classes at your local rec center.

The paintings are aimed more at younger kids, so they are simpler. One of the owners, Shantelle,



Howl at the Moon by Salina Garza

was at the class I took, and she was very nice and helpful.

Snacks and drinks were provided and it was a really great time!

Her instructions were easy to follow, and it was fun.

She even asks what you want to paint next time, which makes you excited to come back.

Hobby Lobby (several locations) has a great class for more experienced painters, and is good if you want to paint with your grandparents.

They offer Bob Ross traditional style painting classes. The class I went to had more adults, the instructor was older, and the painting was more advanced than at Whimsy

and Gallery on the Go.

It was nice how the instructor was also willing to help you. The class seemed a bit lengthier in time than the others, which was also challenging.

As you can see, there are many different types of painting style classes to choose from: Whimsy Paint and Sip Studio is great for a day out with the family, Gallery on the Go is perfect for little artists, and Hobby Lobby classes are great for a date with the grandparents.

All of these are wonderful choices and I definitely recommend all of them.

Graphic memoir a wonderful story

CeCe Bell is the author and also the main character in "El Deafo."



By Sophia Hashimoto, 10, a CK Reporter from Englewood

Four-year-old CeCe has a perfect life, until one day, everything turns silent.

She doesn't know the challenges that lie ahead of her, or what she will encounter with her sudden disability, but already she feels like she is different than everybody else.

In first grade, CeCe gets a new hearing aid, the Phonic Ear.

With it, she has the ability to hear whatever is going on around her... almost like a superhero!

The name "El Deafo" is a secret superhero name that CeCe calls herself.

But, the Phonic Ear is enormous and is strapped to her chest.

CeCe is convinced that everybody will make fun of her at her new school.

As the years go by, CeCe makes some friends, but then also loses some, either from fights, or just moving away. True friendship is hard to find!

She is determined to find that faithful "sidekick" for her superhero self!

This jubilant story was very interesting to read, because it was designed as a graphic memoir rather than just as written text.

It was filled with humorous pictures and conversations.

I couldn't put the book down! This story taught me to never judge a book by its cover.

"El Deafo" is an inspiring story that gives the message that it's okay to be different.

The author, CeCe Bell, is able to connect with the reader by



describing how she felt growing up deaf.

I would recommend this book to children 10 and up, because it doesn't have difficult word choices and it has fun pictures.

This book is uniquely written, humorous and lighthearted.

While it is not action packed, it tells a wonderful story.

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We welcome your comments.

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Stories without bylines were written by the editor.

BEYOND THESE FOUR PAGES

Kyrgyzstani children who need help have a center now where they can go. Look through today's paper for pictures and stories about organizations in your community that help people with problems.

CORRECTION

The affiliation of ISIS forces in Iraq was incorrectly given in last week's CK. Although Kurdish Muslims and ISIS oppose each other, both are Sunni.

Have fun with this inventive book

"Project Kid: 100 Ingenious Crafts for Family Fun," by Amanda Kingloff, is a book that is a whole new take on how to make fun crafts.



By Ashley Gaccetta, 10, a CK Reporter from Longmont

Who knew you could make a liquid soap bottle into a rocket ship that any little kid would want to play with?

The crafts that Amanda Kingloff provides are fun and easy for any family to make.

At 10 years old, I found it hard to do some of the crafts. Adult supervision is needed for most of them.

All projects include scissors and some type of glue, and make sure you use the type of glue Amanda has shown.

Other projects include the use of pliers, a hot glue gun, Mod Podge and food coloring.

I found some crafts inappropriate for children, like beer bottles made into a book case holder, but you could substitute water bottles.

The Birdy Bottle Book-end project will make sure your books are straight.

Pencil Bloom will make an ugly pencil into a beautiful flower.

Robot Bank will hold all your coins and dollars.

A Fairy Wreath is a wreath you can wear with a bunch of beautiful flowers surrounding it.

And I would highly recommend trying the Painted Feather Peacock Fan, a project you could do on a hot day to keep you

cool in a fashion forward way.

You can find most of the materials around your house.

The only material you are most likely not to find is the feathers.

In my opinion the book was fun and had a lot of cool projects to do.

On the other hand I sometimes I didn't

have the right materials to do the project so I had to go and buy them at craft stores.

I recommend this book for the ages 8 and up.



Center keeps Kyrgyzstan's poor children safe

Kyrgyzstan (*KEER-giz-stan*) is a Central Asian country with a history of problems, from 1876, when it was forced to become part of Russia, to 2009, when, twenty years after independence, they overthrew a tyrant and had fair, free elections.

But the Kyrgyzs (*KEER-giz*) still have a very poor economy that has been particularly hard on the country's children.

Some poor Kyrgyzstani children are homeless, while the children of migrant workers may also go hungry or be forced into child labor.

The United Nations fund for children, UNICEF, has worked with other international aid agencies to help the children of Kyrgyzstan, by opening the Center for Protection of Children in the capital city, Bishkek.

The Center provides homeless children with a place to stay as well as food and clothing.

But it does more, with counsel-

ing for homeless and other poor children, as well as a school for them and additional training in skills to help them earn a living when they are older.

Now Danchurchaid, an aid group from Denmark, has stepped in with a new program called "Stop Silence about Violence against Children!"

In every nation, even our own, children who are badly treated sometimes have to be taught to tell someone about it, and they need to know that it will be safe for them to speak up.

But the problem is even greater for children in a nation where poverty is so bad that there may not be a safe place for children to go for help, or anyone who will be able to help them.

Danchurchaid, UNICEF, and the Kyrgyzstani professionals who run the Center are working to see that the children of Kyrgyzstan have a place, and people, they can go to in times of trouble.



Kyrgyzstani kids get a meal at the Center for the Protection of Children in Bishkek, in this screenshot from a DanChurchAid video about the Center.

You'll find a link to that video and an article about the Center for the Protection of Children at ColoradoNIE.com



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

Back To School Time!

Be sure to be ready for the school year with ColoradoNIE.com. Brush-up on current events and review what happened in Colorado and the world this summer.

ColoradoNIE.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.

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

LOOK UP AND SEE THE RESEARCH GOING ON

Loud airplanes from NASA and the National Center for Atmospheric Research can be heard and seen throughout Colorado, flying low and slowly gaining altitude.



By Clary Reichley,
9, a CK Reporter
from Denver

What are these military-style planes doing?

NASA and NCAR scientists are using them to take air samples, with the cooperation of Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corporation and other researchers.

Denise Henry, outreach manager at Ball Aerospace, is constantly out in the community, answering questions about what these planes are doing.

“The air we breathe affects every single person,” Henry states, and that is what Ball is focusing on: air.



Simple tool Denise Henry demonstrates a simple version of the spectrometer at the Erie Air Show *Photo by Clary Reichley*

The planes are taking air samples to improve our knowledge of air pollution, not only along the Front Range, but also in Southern California, Houston and Washington D.C.

NASA, NCAR, Frappe (*Front Range Air Pollution and Photochemistry Experiment*), and Ball Aerospace are all partners in this effort.

They will each collect different information, but it will all be put into the same database.

Ball Aerospace has created a spectrometer to measure the different pollutants and gases in the air, turning them into different colors.

This spectrometer is called GEO-TASO which stands for “Geostationary Trace Gases and Aerosol Sensor Optimization.”

The spectrometer turns the information into a graph which is then turned into a color-coded picture of the area.

Paula Wamsley has a doctorate in physics and also works at Ball Aerospace, with her main focus being Earth science.

“This research is supposed to help individual scientists answer their own questions about air pollution,” Dr. Wamsley says, “That is our main goal.”

STANDING TALL WHEN GOOD TIMES SEEM OVER



Sometimes you don't love something until you let it go. The De La Salle High School football team felt this way when their eleven-year winning streak ended.



By Thomas Krumholz,
12, a CK Reporter
from Denver

The movie “When The Game Stands Tall” is based on the true story of how this heavy-hearted football team becomes a better family to each other, gets back on its feet and tries to get to the championship.

Then the unexpected happens; one of their players dies.

The team is hit hard and then bad things start lining up for this winning team.

They feel sorry for themselves after their

streak ends.

The teenage boys try to get themselves back on their feet and win another championship for their coach and the memory of their friend.

Some of the players on the actual De La Salle football team went on to be Broncos, like D.J. Williams.

This is a wonderful movie for football fans and kids 10 and up. (*It gets really intense in some scenes when players disagree, which might be too much for younger kids.*)

The movie has great style:

When the field is supposed to look hot, you can see heat waves rising from the grass!

You see each play on the field and hear the clash of helmets as they hit each other.

“When The Game Stands Tall” has an entertaining plot, style, and feel.

Go see this inspiring movie and enjoy it as I did!

Youth-written stories that appear here also appear on

nextGen

YourHub.com/NextGen

COME READ MORE STORIES, AND MAYBE WRITE ONE YOURSELF!

S u d o k u	4	1	5	9	3	2	S o l u t i o n
	9	3	2	1	5	4	
	2	9	4	5	1	3	
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	3	2	1	4	9	5	