You can still be isolated outdoors

A lot is going on in our communities right now, and, with so many closures or activities suddenly off limits, what should we do or what can we do? You can head outside, of course! What is great about Bear Creek Park is that it's only about 30 minutes away from downtown Denver, with light traffic.

Bear Creek is in Lakewood, but it really feels as if you’re in another world. And you can also bring your (leashed) dog on some trails, and your horses, too!

During the summer, Bear Creek provides many outside activities near Big Soda Lake, which is known for hiking, picnicking, fishing, boating, swimming, and having lots of other fun ways to enjoy yourself. Year round, the park offers hiking, running, mountain biking, fishing, boating, camping, horse riding, and much more.

Bear Creek Park has 2,624 acres of climbable rocks and beautiful land to hike on. There are paved trails throughout, and the most interesting thing is the wildlife sightings you’ll have when you explore the park on one of the six soft-surface trails. There are more than 15 miles of trails in all. We followed Cottonwood Trail, Mt. Carbon Loop, and Owl Trail, which treated us to many wildlife sightings like an owl, some large fish, a herd of female elk, an eagle, and prairie dogs.

We followed Cottonwood Trail, Mt. Carbon Loop, and Owl Trail, which treated us to many wildlife sightings like an owl, some large fish, a herd of female elk, an eagle, and prairie dogs. We walked through. Along the way, I found many stones and rocks. Being out in nature, hearing the crunch of gravel under our feet, and the warm sunshine on our faces reminded me that there is lots to be grateful for.

You won’t be disappointed!

Summiting the world’s most dangerous peak

Many people think that, since Mt. Everest is the world’s tallest mountain, it’s also the most dangerous. Think again! A lot of climbers consider K2, the world’s second highest mountain located in the Himalayas, more dangerous than Mt. Everest. Into the Clouds by Tod Olson, is set in 1953, and is about three expeditions, each attempting to be the first to climb K2.

There are many photos, which show what the expedition looked like. They face high winds, lack of oxygen, bad news, storms, and much more during their long, hard trek. “Life is impossible,” the author states. “Think again!”

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The photos show campsites, how steep the mountain is, their route up the mountain, and so forth. The author put in immense amounts of details that will force you to read more. For example, when the climbers got frostbite, I could feel that I was getting frostbite, too, which made me understand how the climbers were feeling, making the book easy to follow.

However, at some points, the author doesn’t offer enough detail. He doesn’t talk about certain characters enough to let me know how that person contributed to the attempt. Also, the author sometimes makes an event unclear, such as when the climbers heard that an unexpected surprise has the power to recharge and reground us now matter what we are going through. So go outside to enjoy the experience!
You can’t spend all your time on schoolwork, and a group of authors and artists are providing free online workshops and fun for kids who are stuck at home. “Stimola Live” is a website that features live streaming events for little guys, middle schoolers and high school students. Over the next few weeks, they’ll have special programs that will entertain you and provide the kind of advice and guidance that can make you a better artist or a better writer or teach you a new craft!

For example, this Thursday at 2 pm, fantasy author Sam Taylor will offer a look at how she creates the fantasy worlds for her novels, one of which you can see illustrated at the right. Then, at 4 o’clock, nature writer Naila Moreira, who is also a professor of writing at Smith College (that’s her at the left), will have a 45 minute workshop on nature journaling for kids from 8 to 12. There are also art lessons and sessions in which writers read from their latest books, geared to different age groups.

To see what’s available and how to log on and enjoy them, go to https://www.stimolalive.com/
Korman’s latest explores heroism and reality

During the story, a split-second reaction is later explained to be a grave mistake, leading the characters to have been with one another.

The character who is prominent in this book is Trevor, a young boy whose great-grandfather tells him stories of World War II. Trevor believes that war is serious, but his father still thinks that Trevor’s idea of war is too glamorized. He and his great-grandfather are planning to retrace his steps from the war to the village of Sainte-Régine, where Jacob is to be honored as a hero and receive a medal. He is the last living member of Bravo Company and is ready to step foot back in France for the first time in 75 years, until Trevor’s father notices threats and comments on social media that could expose the truth of Jacob Firestone’s past.

Trevor experiences the place where Trevor exists because of his great-grandfather recounting stories. By switching between settings, time periods, and perspectives, Korman is able to foreshadow things, to indicate that the reader understands the tragedy, destruction and severe and serious repercussions of war.

Korman provides a gate into the reality of WWII, making sure the reader understands the tragedy, destruction and severe and serious repercussions of war. Trevor believes that war is serious, but his father still thinks that Trevor’s idea of war is too glamorized. By switching between settings, time periods, and perspectives, Korman is able to foreshadow things, to indicate that the reader understands the tragedy, destruction and severe and serious repercussions of war.

By Avery MacKenzie, 14, of Greeley

The solution to this week’s puzzle is on Page 4.

Heard any good books lately?

If you get tired of looking at your screen -- and with distance learning, well, you might -- here’s a way to kick back, stare at the ceiling and enjoy a good book.

Audible.com has opened up a free microsite with stories, geared for “Littlest Listeners,” “Elementary,” “Tween,” and “Teen,” that you can stream and listen to for free.

On this date in 1921, the first international women’s sports competition, “The Women’s Olympiad,” opened, in answer to the Olympic Committee’s refusal to include women’s events in 1924. Our answers will begin with “O” for “Olympiad.”

1. This state is round on both ends and hi in the middle.
2. The most powerful of the Norse gods
3. Mid-sized, spotted and striped wildcat native to the US Southwest and South and Central America
4. An herb often sprinkled on pizza and used in other Italian dishes
5. In “Peter and the Wolf,” this woodwind instrument plays the part of the duck
6. This empire, based in what is now Turkey, toyed in much of southeastern Europe, the Middle East and north Africa. It was broken up following World War I.
7. Author of the “Magic Treehouse” series of books
8. The most powerful of the Norse gods
9. A traditional middle-European instrument
10. The shape of a Stop sign, and of the cage in which MMA fighters compete

(answers on Page Four)

Covid-19, lost rocket don’t stop Space X plans

However, it was not all good news, as the first stage of the rocket did not successfully land on board a ship poised to receive it. That particular rocket was on its fifth trip into space, and Musk’s goal is to develop rockets that can simply be refueled and reused like airplanes.

Despite that caution, however, SpaceX and NASA are continuing plans to launch two astronauts to the International Space Station in mid-to-late May as part of their preparation for a Mars flight in the future.

NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley will fly the Crew Dragon space-craft to the ISS, according to both NASA and SpaceX. Their length of stay remains uncertain, since they only need to get there and back to test the Crew Dragon, but there could be value in a longer-term mission to keep the station staffed.

During the story, a split-second reaction is later explained to be a grave mistake, leading the characters to have been with one another.

NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley in their flight suits. photo:spaceX

Sudoku

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

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4. An herb often sprinkled on pizza and used in other Italian dishes
5. In “Peter and the Wolf,” this woodwind instrument plays the part of the duck
6. This empire, based in what is now Turkey, toyed in much of southeastern Europe, the Middle East and north Africa. It was broken up following World War I.
7. Author of the “Magic Treehouse” series of books
8. It took this Greek hero ten very long years to get home from the Trojan War.
9. Technically, this is a fruit, but it’s often pickled and stuffed with a bit of pimento.
10. The shape of a Stop sign, and of the cage in which MMA fighters compete

(answers on Page Four)
Sparrow and Woodpecker

A Japanese Folk Tale

In a farming village in the country, there lived a merchant who kept a small store. He worked very hard, but the town was not terribly prosperous and, though he saved as much money as he could, he was not a wealthy man.

His wife had died some years before, but he had two daughters whom he loved very much.

The older daughter, Kitsutsuki, was very beautiful and took great care in how she dressed and did her makeup. She was always reluctant to do chores that might mess up her hair or clothing.

The storekeeper's younger daughter, Suzume, was also very attractive but spent her time helping around the store and house and never made very much fuss over herself.

One day, the merchant called his daughters to him. "I know you are becoming young women," he said, "and it is time that you each had a good kimono. One day, you may get married, and there will be other times when you must dress formally. For many years, I have saved money so that, when you come to this time in your life, you could go to the city and have nice kimonos made."

The merchant then gave them each a small purse of coins, and sent them off to the city to stay at the home of a respectable merchant family with which he had done business for many years.

Kitsutsuki and Suzume were very excited. They went to a fine tailor and had themselves measured for kimonos. But when they heard what these dresses would cost, they were heartbroken. They did not have enough money!

The sisters burst into disappointed tears and the tailor was touched by their plight.

"Perhaps there is a way," he said. "It is the beautiful, carefully colored cloth that makes these kimonos so expensive. But you seem like clever girls. If I make your kimonos from good white silk, you can dye and color them yourselves, and then you will have enough money."

The sisters thought this was a good idea, so the tailor began to work on the kimonos and they began to plan the beautiful colors and patterns they would add, once their white kimonos were ready.

It took many days for the tailor to make the dresses, for kimonos are very complicated garments. But at last they were ready, and the sisters tried them on, helping each other to tie the wide obis around their waists.

The kimonos were beautifully made, and the sisters were just beginning to talk about exactly how they would dye and color them, tracing with their fingers the places where the designs would go, when a visitor from their village suddenly arrived.

"Your father is very ill and you must come home at once!" he said.

Without even thinking to take off her new kimono, Suzume quickly gathered up her few belongings and ran out the door.

She hurried down the road towards their village, not stopping to eat or even to get in out of the storm when it began to rain. When she arrived at her home, her new kimono was no longer white, but spattered with mud and covered with dust.

Suzume went directly to her father's bedroom and, although he was very ill, she had a chance to sit by his bedside, hold his hand and comfort him until he finally closed his eyes forever.

Her sister Kitsutsuki, however, had told the messenger that she was not able to leave yet and would come as soon as she had finished dying and decorating her kimono, in case she needed to have it ready for her father's funeral.

Indeed, when she arrived back at the village, she looked very beautiful in the bright, new silk.

But Kitsutsuki had arrived too late to speak with her father before he died, or even for his funeral.

As the two sisters sat quietly together in the empty house, a voice came from the heavens.

"Suzume," it said, "your love for your father and your home caused you to stain your beautiful kimono with mud and dust, but those drab colors shall be for you a badge of honor. Forever you shall live near the homes of people, where you shall easily find your food wherever you look. You will even be able to eat the rice from the harvest fields, and you will always be surrounded by friends."

Then the voice went on: "Kitsutsuki, you are very beautiful, but you have no instinct for living around others. From this day forward, you shall live far out in the forests, away from the homes of people, and you will spend your time alone. As for food, you shall even be able to eat the rice from the harvest fields, and you will always be surrounded by friends."

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And ever since that day, the drab, brown and gray sparrow, Suzume, has lived in flocks around the houses of people and eaten cheerfully in their yards and rice fields, while Kitsutsuki, the beautiful woodpecker, has stayed out in the forest alone, seeking her food under the bark of the trees.