# ColoradoKids

## ColoradoNIE.com

CK Reporter of the Week Kyra Warneke, Golden

# **Comic Con sparks imaginations**

Many attendees

effervescent creativity

joined in on the action

a second time and she

explained, "It's fun to

cosplay and you get a

bunch of compliments.

There are also so many

dressing up too!

through cosplay, and even Galen, a service dog at

Comic Con, enthusiastically

Nell Oswald, 11, came back to Comic Con for

expressed their

enver Comic Con was an outstanding experience like no other. Innovation,

aspiration, and excitement mingled within every single attendee.

Comic Con was a place where people with a wondrous sense of ambitious admiration gathered to celebrate creative ideas that were sprung to life out of people with superpowers of the imagination.

An unimaginable number of people were present, united in an enormous celebration of their love for

comics and the positive impact on their lives.



It was seas of people expressing tsunamis of excitement!



activities!" All photos by Kira Zizzo

There was every comic book and TV show character imaginable cosplayed by devoted attendees.

Some cosplayers put their inventiveness to work and made their own show-stopping costumes. Many said they felt confident and empowered dressing up as their favorite character.

Indubitably, young and old got caught up in creative expression.

Meanwhile, rows and rows of vendors created a maze that people wove in and out of as they peered at definitely recommend for those who are excited about the comics, shirts, posters, food, action

figures, comic book sleeves, and more. There were interactive props that the

younger crowd enjoyed connecting with, while others captured the moment in a photo.

For those who wanted to learn more on specific topics, around 30 panels took place in both the Captain Colorado Stage and Night Lynx Stage, with panelists including Weird Al Yankovic, Millie Bobby Brown, and Billie Piper.

In the Captain Colorado Stage, there was an attempt to set a Guinness world record for the most cosplayers from

original comic books, though it unfortunately missed by a long shot.



Denver Comic Con is an experience I would

ideas and about characters coming off

pages and into our lives for the better. Comic Con was chock full of enough enthusiasm and inspiration to fuel Gotham City for years!



By Kira Zizzo, 13, a CK Reporter from Highlands Ranch

## **Graphic novel for young adventure lovers**

n "Five Worlds: The Sand Warrior," by Mark Siegel, Alexis Siegel, Xanthe Bouma, Matt Rockefeller and Boya Sun, Oona Lee is a young girl living in Chrysalis, the capital city of the Five Worlds.

She is also one of the clumsiest students at Sand Dancer Academy, a school where students come to learn how to harness their sand powers.

An Tzu is a boy from the poorest slums in the 5 worlds.

With a smart brain, and a knack of getting out of situations, An Tzu will help the team in many of their struggles.

Jax Amboy is admired by the whole galaxy as one of the best star ball players. But what's his real life outside of fame when he has no real friends, or real anything?

When a force of evil strikes Chrysalis, the three are brought together to stop evil forces before time runs out.

Or the world itself.

With limited days to light the beacon before evil takes over forever, Oona, An and Jax, along with some help from An's plant friend, will hopefully prevent evil from taking over Five Worlds.

Can these three unlikely heroes' come together and put aside their differences to save the world, as they know it? Or



will the world fall into the hands of evil?

This book was good but when I volunteered to review it, I thought I was going to have a summer-long reading project. It turns out I finished this book in less then a week. Why? Well, I'm not a fast reader; the book is a graphic novel! I love graphic novels but I just didn't know it was going to he one

Because of this on a scale of stars one to five I would give it a three, not because it was bad but just because I felt that it was just a little easier to read and, although it was good, it was just a too easy for someone my age.

I would say the age group for this book is 8-10.



By Katherine Gagner, 12, a CK Reporter from Boulder



The Denver Post • 1

## Witty writing, great illustrations work together

e've all been young, curious, and reckless. In a world where that is not accepted, punishments rain down on Xar, the only boy with those attributes. He is a leader, but has broken nearly, if not all, rules in the Wizard kingdom.

"The Wizards of Once," by Cressida Cowell, the internationally bestselling author of "How to Train Your Dragon," follows this boy on his trek to ultimately use his unique character to save the world from the witches.

No one believes Xar when he claims that the witches are back. The witches that wreaked havoc on the land were killed off years ago.

But Xar knows that something has brought them back, and for the first time in his life, the boy is scared.

Xar is the son of the great Wizard leader, but, as if being reckless and curious is not enough, he is unable to do magic, making him a disappointment and an embarrassment to the Wizard kingdom.

Xar often escapes and breaks the rules with his friends and today is one of the most important escapades of his young life; today he is going to catch a witch!

He wants to prove once and for all to his father that he is not a failure, but someone to be proud of.

"The Wizards of Once" is one of the most enthralling and action-packed children's books I have ever read.

Adding to that, it has skillfully drawn illustrations depicting the important scenes every few pages. I believe I stared at the wolf



illustration for an entire minute before pulling myself away to find out what happened next.

"The Wizards of Once," though it is a children's book, can be read by any age with the same outcome: awe at how well-written and captivating the book is.

The story inspires kids to be curious and creative and to choose their own destiny while incorporating a bit of fun magic.

The book even has a miniature Spelling Book inside the front cover, a book that Wizards use to cast their spells.

With it, readers have the chance to create their own spells and learn more about the ones that the characters use.

It is a relatively short and quick read that is packed full of illustrations and information about the creatures and the magic in this fantasy world.

This witty story is a must-read for everyone with a bit of time on their hands.



By Natalia Goncharova, 14, a CK Reporter from Fort Morgan

### We asked you, you told us: Summer fun does not involve a whole lot of planning

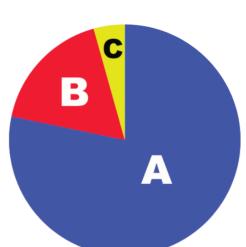
his summer is pretty laid-back, according to those who answered our question. By far, the biggest activity is whatever activity happens on a particular day: Nearly 80 percent of you are devoting your time to hanging out rather than taking classes or getting involved in organized activities.

Or maybe those are just the ones who had time to answer!

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

#### Which of these will be the biggest part of your summer?

A. Hanging out and doing things with family or friends 78%



B. Sports, dance or other organized physical activity 17% C. Art lessons, museum visits and similar enrichment 4% D. Summer school and other academics 0

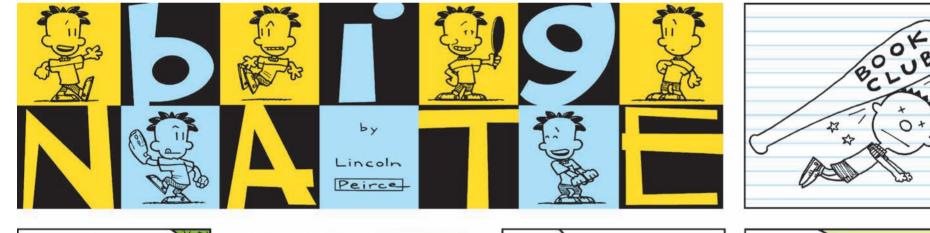
Our new question is inspired by Katherine Gagner's review on the front page this week:

#### Which of these statement best matches your feelings about graphic novels?

A. The good ones are as good as traditional novels.

- B. They're like candy: Mostly just for fun.
- C. I'd rather read graphic novels than traditional ones.
- D. None for me, thanks. Give me a "real" novel.

To answer this question, go to http://nextgen.yourhub.com









### Sea Pickles become a nuisance in West Coast waters



mong the odd things being Acaused by climate change is the sudden appearance of sea pickles on the West Coast as far north as Alaska.

Sea pickles aren't their formal name, of course, but these tubes, which can be two feet long but are usually shorter, have little knobs on their outsides that do kind of make them look like slimy pink pickles.

At night, however, they make

their own shining blue light show, which is why their actual name is "pyrosome," or "fire body."

Their bioluminescent beauty, however, is best enjoyed by people who aren't trying to fish at the time.

Fishermen in the eastern Pacific are finding the leathery little sea creatures clogging their nets and swarming over their hooks, creating a mess and keeping them from catching shrimp or fish.

And pyrosomes, being somewhat like jellyfish in texture, aren't going to show up on menus themselves.

Pyrosomes are not entirely new to the West Coast, but they've been more common in warmer southern seas, only a rare flash of light in the water farther north.

But as oceans warm, the bizarre sea pickles are coming north and fishermen wish they would be rare once more. AP photo/Ric Brodeur

# Geared for guys, but fun for all teens

he new 2017 "Spider-Man Homecoming" movie presents a younger, inexperienced, more friendly type of Spider Man.

The movie overall is great, but definitely directed to a certain audience. For example, there was a lot of humor in this film, part of which is Spider-Man trying to figure how his new suit works, and the many little puns

between civil conversations. The humor is spread across the movie until the end, which kind of mode the movie of the movie as down

which kind of made the mood of the movie go downhill, though it was saved by the very last punch line.

The humor impacts the movie by of making it more entertaining.

It also features many connections to real-life high school and balancing the pressure of being a secret super hero at the same time.

For instance, there is a school dance that took place, a school field trip for academics, and the everyday emotions of the staff and students.

During all of these, Peter Parker (*Tom Holland*) needs to identify how to solve crime without blowing his cover as Spider-Man, or letting his boss Iron Man (*Robert Downey*, *Jr*.) find out he is on a more serious type of mission.

With all this commotion some sacrifice at school has to happen as well, which leaves his friends wondering. Only one eventually finds out; not even Zendaya, the love interest, breaks the secret after he saved her life.

He also faces constant detention, always being distracted in class, and many people getting into his head.

One thing I really enjoyed is how they make it possible to understand his life. You can see how he feels, trying to keep his normal life balanced at the same time, and trying to prove himself for a better future.

The movie also includes a message of empowerment in the sense that, if Spider Man is nothing without his suit, he does not deserve that suit, which hooks you in at one of the most calm, less action-packed parts of the movie.

He is told this by one of the people he most looks up to: Iron Man. The best part is how he handles it. For me, this was probably, the best part of movie based on how deep it was.

> The movie starts out fast and then becomes slower as you get into it, making it seem like the same thing is happening over and over in a different context: A little interaction with Peter's peers, then a small fight with the criminals, and then another lesson learned, until the big fight at the end to finish it off.

The end of the movie is a bit of a cliffhanger, but maybe there will be a second movie to explain the rest.

If you're looking into the new Spider-Man movie as an adult, it might be a little cheesy with the teenage humor, while, as a teenage girl, I found it a little disappointing because of all the repeated fights and lack of friendly relationships, but funny, too, because of the silly things that happen when Spider-Man is working out his new suit.

All in all, I would recommend this movie to young teenage males. It's the perfect movie for that audience and they will very much enjoy it.



By Abigale Morris , 13, a CK Reporter from Aurora

Iceberg as big as Adams, Arapahoe counties

Some months ago, we reported on a large chunk of ice shelf that was cracking and threatening to break off the Antarctic Peninsula and float out into the ocean.

Now the European Space Agency is warning that there is only about three miles of ice left holding that chunk of ice in place.

Three miles might seem a lot, but the crack has grown to 124 miles long, so three miles is like that little string that held your baby tooth in when you were too scared to just yank.

And when this "tooth" comes out, it's going to be quite a bit larger than a baby tooth.

ESA satellite measurements show that the iceberg that will result is going to be about 6,000 square kilometers, or 2,316 square miles, in area.

That means, if you wanted to store it on the Front Range, it would cover all of Arapahoe and Adams counties, and, if you also laid it over the city and county of Denver, there'd still be about 500 square kilometers left.

And the total thickness of this gigantic ice cube will average about 657 feet, about them from falling into the ocean themselves, which would raise sea levels.



half the height of the Empire State Building, so that, if it does drift away from Antarctica and up towards the Falkland Islands, it -- or its pieces, if it breaks apart -- could become a serious hazard for ships.

There is some good news in this. Because this is part of the Larsen Ice Shelf, that means it's already in the water around Antarctica.

It won't fall into the water and raise the sea levels, because it's already floating, and it won't change sea levels when it melts for the same reason that, when ice cubes in a drink melt, it doesn't make the glass overflow.

But that's the good news.

The bad news is that the ice shelves around Antarctica act as blockages to keep the glaciers and ice rivers from sliding faster from the land into the ocean.

Once this enormous piece of shelf is gone, the remaining shelf will be that much weaker, and the enormous glaciers of

Antarctica, already beginning to melt as the climate changes, will have less keeping them from falling into the ocean themselves, which would raise sea levels.



# Sudoku

	U	•			
			5		
				2	3
1		3			
6		1			
				4	1

**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.

On this date in 1804, Vice-President Aaron Burr and former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton fought a duel in which Hamilton died, so our answers this week will begin with "H" in his memory.

- 1. A tall wading bird with a long neck and legs and a pointed bill
- 2. Most populous city in Texas, home to the Texans, Rockets and Astros teams
- 3. Ancient Greek poet who created "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey."

**4.** The name for a cage in which a rabbit lives or a piece of furniture with drawers and shelves.

- 5. City in Germany where President Trump recently met with other world leaders
- 6. The body of a ship, or the green top of a strawberry you'd throw away

7. Punctuation mark used to connect two parts of compound words like "merry-go-round," especially when they are broken by the end of a line like that one was.

- 8. One-time coal mining county in which you'd find Walsenburg
- 9. Most recent state to join the United States
- 10. Type of shark with its eyes at the ends of its long bar-shaped head

(answers on Page Four)

### NASA plans to test asteroid collision damage by creating one

et's start here: There is very little chance of an asteroid striking the Earth.

While tiny rocks and dust enter the atmosphere daily, something the size of a football only comes along every 2,000 years or so.

On the other hand, it would be a very bad thing if it did happen.

So, while there's no reason for you to worry about it, NASA is going to worry about it for you.

One of their ideas is that, if an asteroid were headed for the Earth, we might be able to knock it off course and away from us.

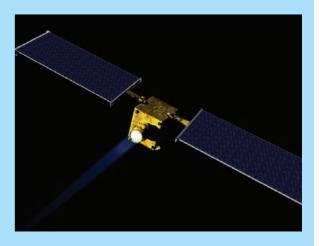
But that's the kind of idea you might want to test before the time when you need to make it work.

So NASA is now setting up a collision with one of a pair of twin asteroids to see what will happen.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test craft designed for this demolition derby in space is about the size of a refrigerator and will be traveling about three times as fast as a bullet.

The asteroid chosen is about 530 feet across, and NASA doesn't expect it to blow apart or go spinning out of the solar system.

But if the DART vehicle can disrupt its normal course even a little bit, that provides some confidence that, in the unlikely event a large asteroid were headed this way, NASA would be able to get it to miss. **illustration/NASA** 



## Beyond These Pages!

#### **Hot Links to Cool Sites!**

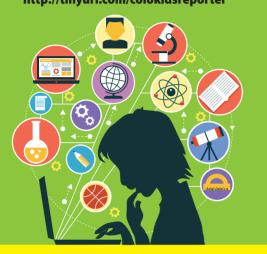
NASA's Space Place http://tinyurl.com/ckspace

NIE Special Report http://tinyurl.com/ckniereport

Headline Geography http://tinyurl.com/ckgeography

Pulse of the Planet http://tinyurl.com/ckpulseplanet

#### How to become a NextGen Reporter! http://tinyurl.com/colokidsreporter



To read the sources for these stories

Sea Pickles Ice Shelf Fracture NASA's collision go to http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks

### **Sudoku Solution**

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

## **The Path to Freedom**

#### Chapter Two: The Militia Called Out

(Luke Van Gelder was gathering firewood with his horses when his sister Sylvie told him the British have begun their invasion and the militia has been called out.)

dozen men were talking to Luke and Sylvie's father in the dooryard as they came out of the woods. Their mother and grandfather were standing at the door; the two younger children looking out around their mother's skirts.

"They want the horses," Sylvie warned him quietly, before they were close enough to be heard.

"They can't have the horses," Luke replied, putting his hand on David's smooth, brown cheek as they walked along.

Sylvie smiled over at him.

"They're going to take the horses,

little brother. I'm just telling you. They're taking all the horses and carts, all over. And the oxen."

As the cart and two horses approached the little house, John Van Gelder looked away from the uniformed men he'd been talking to.

"Go ahead and unload the wood," he called out to Luke.

Sylvie went to stand with their mother; Luke led David and Jonathan around to the back of the house to the woodpile and began to take the firewood from the cart and stack it on the pile.

Four of the men in front of the house were neighbors, with packs on their backs and their hunting rifles in their hands. The others were in uniform, militia from Albany.

Albany militia had come by before to remind the men of Fort Edward to be ready to march away when the time came. Now that time had come, and John Van Gelder would be leaving with the other men in the neighborhood, to join General Schuyler's army and face Burgoyne.

They had warned the local militia to be ready, but they hadn't said anything about horses. When the cart was empty, Luke was tempted to take David and Jonathan to the barn, unhitch them and take off their harness, but he knew better. He led them back around to the front of the house.

And he decided to lie.

"If the horses are going along, I'll volunteer to go, too, as a wagoner," he said to the officer of the Albany militia.

The lieutenant looked him up and down for a moment. "Are you sixteen years old, son?" he asked.

It was only a little bit of a lie, only two years. A year and a half, really. And Luke was tall for his age, with strong arms and shoulders from swinging the ax and helping at the sawmill. "Just turned," he said, and tried not to look at his father.

Behind him, his mother stepped forward from the doorway and started to speak, but Opa, her father, put a gentle hand on her shoulder, and Luke's father kept the secret as well.

"We can't leave until morning," John Van Gelder said. "The horses have been out working all day and they'll need a feed, and we'll have things to gather together for them and for the boy. But I can load the cart with oats for feed, and that will help with them and with the others you're gathering up."

"Good," the lieutenant said. "We can use another wagoner and, if he knows the horses, so much the better."

"More than that," he went on, "we can use someone who knows how to use an ax. Our job right now is to block Burgoyne by destroying the road from Skenesborough. Tear up the bridges, drop trees across it, anything to slow his army."

"That shouldn't be hard," John Van Gelder said. "With the rain we've had this summer, that road is already a mudhole. I haven't been up towards Fort Ann, but I've heard from some who have, and they didn't have an easy time."

"That's good," the lieutenant said. "And bring those oats; we can use them for the horses and oxen and we might need them for the men, once we meet up with Schuyler. We're looking for rations for the troops."



#### Brainteaser Solution (see Page Three)



1. heron 2. Houston 3. Homer 4. hutch 5. Hamburg 6. hull 7. hyphen 8. Huerfano 9. Hawaii 10. hammerhead Luke spoke up. "I just saw the sow," he said. "Her pigs are big enough to butcher, and not a mile back in the woods."

"I can find her," Opa said. "I can have two or three fresh pigs skinned out and ready for you inside a week."

The lieutenant shook his head. "No, you stay around the cabin," he said. "Burgoyne's got Huron scouts spread out all around, and we had parties of woodcutters and hunters killed around Ticonderoga before it fell. Nobody goes out into the woods now without an escort. If you go to get those pigs, you'll take six men with you."

Opa looked disappointed; he wanted to help but was too old to go off to war himself.

"I'm not sure I'd be able to sneak up on that old sow with six men following along," he said, and the men from the local militia laughed.

"We're more worried about what might sneak up on you," the lieutenant responded, also laughing. "But it's good to know they're around. We need to know what we can count on, because the Congress isn't being very generous with supplies. I may send those six men back in a few days, if you'll agree to guide them."

He looked around the dooryard at the other men. "We'll be moving on, but we'll expect to see you two men and the horses tomorrow. Just follow the road; you'll find us. Bring axes, saws, shovels, pry bars, anything you've got. What we can't tear up, we're going to cut down."

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#### For a teaching guide, go to http://tinyurl.com/ckserial

# ColoradoKids

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.

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