



## Friendly, well-trained workers

An assistance dog is one that helps the disabled and stands by its owners whenever it is needed. Bookies Bookstore recently hosted a “Canine Companions for Independence” event to educate the community about these amazing dogs.

We got to meet five dogs either training or already graduated.

There was Rumba, a graduate service dog, three trainees named Davin, Dubarry and Hannah, and a puppy less than a year old named Vidia.

Rumba has learned several skills in assisting his owner who is in a wheelchair. He can pick up items that were dropped and return them to her lap, he can turn lights on and off, and press buttons in elevators or at stoplights.

He can also pick items off shelves at the store and carry the bags back to the vehicle.

How do these wonderful dogs get trained for their life of helping people?

At Canine Companions for Independence, these dogs are trained to do all sorts of skills to help their future owners.

There are four main types of dogs: Service Dogs who assist adults, Skilled Companions who aide children, Hearing Dogs to accommodate deaf individuals and Facility Dogs who collaborate with a facilitator and visit hospitals or schools.

For a dog to become a handicapped companion, it must go through two to three years of training.

The two breeds that most often work as disabled companions are Labradors and Golden Retrievers or a mix of the two breeds.

The puppies are first bred within the program and cared for at the homes of a volunteer breeder until they are two months of age.

Then, until about they reach eighteen months, the puppies are cared for by volunteer puppy raisers



photo/Haley Deison

throughout the states.

After the puppies are released from the puppy raisers, they are given six to nine months of training at Canine Companions “college.”

They then become assistance dogs and are matched with a disabled individual. After eight to ten years of service, the dog retires and lives the rest of his or her life as a normal pet.

If a dog does not graduate and qualify as an assistance dog, they are typically adopted as pets by a “Plan B” owner.

They can also become facility dogs who don’t require quite as strict rules.

The handicapped community could never have these wonderful service dogs as their helpers and the dogs could never become helpers without the Canine Companions organization.

To learn more, see the link at [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com)



By Haley Deison,  
12, a CK Reporter  
from Arvada

## Umi is the new little star at the Denver Zoo

In the Malay language, the word “Umi” means life, and the new baby tapir at the Denver Zoo is sure full of life! Born on May 6, 2017, Denver Zoo’s latest addition, Umi the baby tapir, is now on display for the public!

Malayan Tapirs are endangered pachyderms that live primarily in South-East Asia. Another type of tapir lives in South America.

Even though they can be up to 8 ft. long and weigh up to 1,000 lbs, Malayan tapirs are masters of camouflage.

In fact, zookeeper Kelsey Barker described Umi’s colorful skin pattern as a “brown watermelon”.

Barker is a zookeeper at the Denver Zoo who works with tapirs like Umi and her mother, Rinny.

“What makes tapirs interesting to work with is the fact that there’s something new happening everyday,” she said. “They are really fun to work with.”

Zookeepers at the Denver Zoo take great care of the tapirs.

They took steps to have their habitat at the zoo resemble their habitat in the wild very closely, including such features as a large pool to swim in, plenty of shade, and soft sand to rest on.

Also, their diet is kept very similar to that in the wild. These herbivores eat plenty of fruit, bamboo, hay, and a special tapir cereal that the zoo gives them.

Tapirs are truly unique animals in appearance and personality.



photo/Lincoln Boyd

Their large stature and fascinating camouflage make them difficult to see in the wild, so having the opportunity to see them at all is a real treat.

Unfortunately, Malayan tapirs would also be difficult to see in the wild because they are now endangered mostly because of habitat loss.

The Denver Zoo is helping save these creatures by spreading awareness of their cause, because they are not very well known.

If you would like to help save tapirs, something very easy you can do everyday is to not buy products that contain palm oil, as the tapirs’ habitats are being destroyed in order to harvest palm oil.

The tapirs are in trouble and together we can help them stay here for many years to come.

Meanwhile, come see Umi at the Denver Zoo, during the couple hours

she is on display in the morning, and help tapirs make a comeback in the wild.



By Lincoln Boyd,  
13, a CK Reporter  
from Louisville



## Love to Write?

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Or email [dplewka@denverpost.com](mailto:dplewka@denverpost.com)



# Graphic novel intriguing though imperfect

Ah, Dystopia! The predictions of bleak future societies that will arise from the mistakes of the current world have risen to soaring heights of acknowledgement in recent years.

With numerous fictional phenomenons, the dystopian genre is becoming a staple in modern literature, one that is only added to by "Decelerate Blue," by Adam Rapp and Mike Cavallaro.

A graphic novel for young adults, Decelerate Blue is an enjoyable and awakening read, despite its mediocre writing and confusing events.

Angela is a rebellious teenager living in a society where immediacy is the first priority.

Controlled by a plan titled "Go, Guarantee, Go," people are implanted with chips that can be detected by scanner ports and classic literature is shortened to be less deliberate and more direct, among other regulations.

Frustrated by the lack of humanity and thought within her surroundings, Angela often acts against these laws.

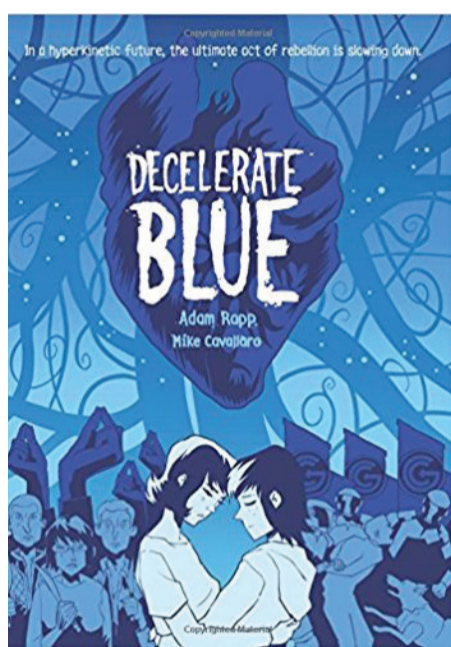
However, when her grandfather, the only person she truly connects to, informs her of a secret, her life takes a transformative turn in a new direction.

In itself, this concept is absolutely phenomenal. It experiments with an ever-present idea of speed in the digital age, for performing an action so simple as typing a complete word or phrase takes too much effort or time.

In a society where leisure and art are abhorred, people are colder and more removed, providing an accurate glance into the real world, where civilians have no interest in taking a moment to think.

These ideas and themes are complimented by the artwork, as details in the drawings are wonderful additions to the plot.

A color scheme of black and white is used for the majority of the book, which only emphasizes



a sense of removal, and color is used sparingly to signify intensely beautiful emotion. An angular style is used, appropriate for the topic presented.

Additionally, a particularly wonderful aspect of this already progressive book is its expertise in highlighting a same-sex relationship.

Unlike many stories that stereotype gays, the fact that their relationship is homosexual is barely acknowledged, removing any misconception that homosexuality is abnormal.

Unfortunately, these positive attributes must compensate for lackluster writing.

Filled with plot holes, such as why humans need to do laundry in a computerized world, much of its

dialogue seems forced.

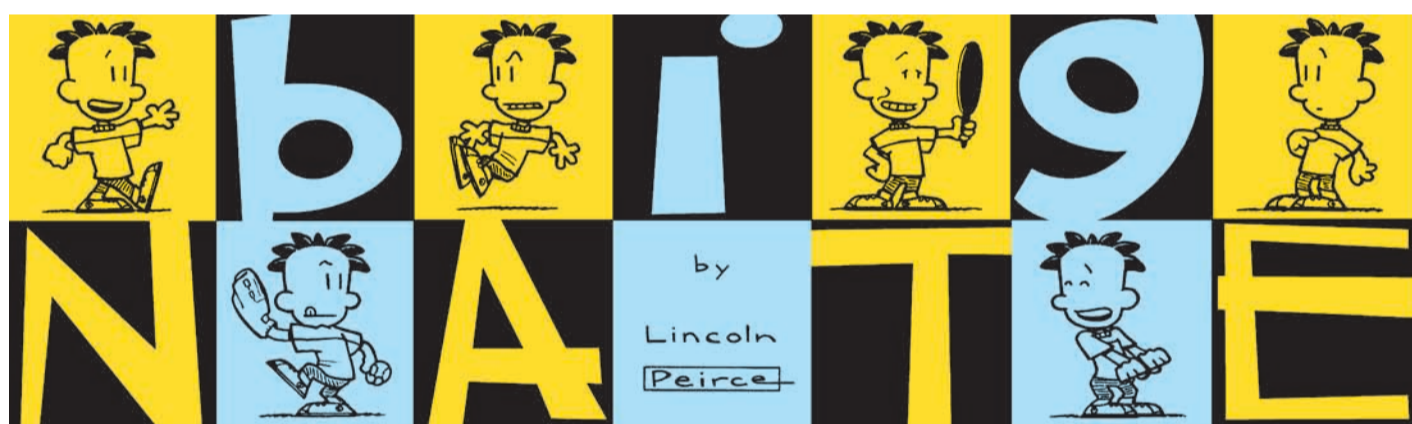
The timeline is choppy and abrupt, and the amount of time that passes by, or the progression from one event to another, is difficult to understand.

"Decelerate Blue" is a read for young adults, for it includes various mature themes and strong language.

A love letter to artists and thinkers, it is an interesting story with well-drawn artwork, as long as you look past a puzzling series of unexplained occurrences.



By Sanya Bhartiya, 14, a CK Reporter from Centennial



## Coffee drinkers live longer. Is their drink the reason?



Coffee lovers got some good news from the Imperial College London and the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

In a study of thousands of people in Europe, researchers found that people who drink three cups of coffee a day live longer.

Sort of. Maybe.

This is another one of those studies that sounds really good if it tells you something you wanted to hear, but, if you look a little

closer, might not mean what you hoped it did at first.

Even the people who ran the study admit that they'd need to do more research to make sure the use of coffee was actually what made the difference.

However, they did check for things like smoking and a healthy diet, to make sure that coffee was the big difference between those who were alive 16 years after their study began and those who had

died since then.

And they did find that it didn't matter if it was caffeinated or decaf coffee, so drinking Coke or Mountain Dew wouldn't make the same difference.

Still, as one doctor told the Independent newspaper, other things could come into it. For instance, he said, people who are sick might not drink as much coffee simply because they don't feel well.

photo/ Julius Schorzman



# Phamaly's production of 'Annie' is tons of fun

"Annie" was the most recent production of the Phamaly Theatre Company in the Stage Theatre at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, closing just this past weekend.

Phamaly "does theatre with people who live with disability," according to the program. The definition includes both physical and mental disabilities, so sometimes the disability is not able to be seen by the audience.

"Annie" is a well-known musical based on a comic strip from the 1920s. There was also a popular movie made from it.

The story is about a little girl named Annie who was an orphan.

Lots of things happen in the story from her living in an orphanage with a mean lady (*Miss Hannigan, played by Ashley Kelashian*) to living in a mansion with a guy who seems grumpy but is actually rather nice (*Daddy Warbucks, played by Leonard Barrett Jr.*).

I won't give the story away for those who haven't seen it, but there is a lot of kids, action and suspense involved, with, of course, lots of singing!

One of the actresses in Phamaly is Maria Ciobanu, who is also a Colorado Kids reporter and is going into seventh grade in August.

Maria played the main character, Annie, (in the red sweater, above), but she has also been in four other of the theatre's productions, including "James and the Giant Peach" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

As part of improving her skills, she told me, she takes singing lessons and practiced every day, especially the major parts of the show.

When she has time, she would do a full run through practice of the show, which is two hours long.



photo/Michael Ensminger

The theater group practiced five days a week for four hours a day most days, with a six-hour practice on Saturdays. Sometimes they even went to nine hours in a day of rehearsal.

Maria said she has a lot of fun being in Phamaly shows, and doesn't really get stage fright because she has been in front of audiences since she was four, doing dance.

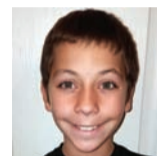
It probably also helps that she is very good friends with all of the other people in the show. She said the company is like a second family.

Auditioning to be in the show was hard. She had to prepare a song and a talking part to perform and when she got a callback to be seen again, she had to go over additional songs from the show itself. I can imagine how nervous she may have been!

Since many of the actors in "Annie" had disabilities such as cerebral palsy, dyslexia, autism, legal blindness, and ADHD, the play was adapted for them. For example Miss Hannigan was in a wheelchair.

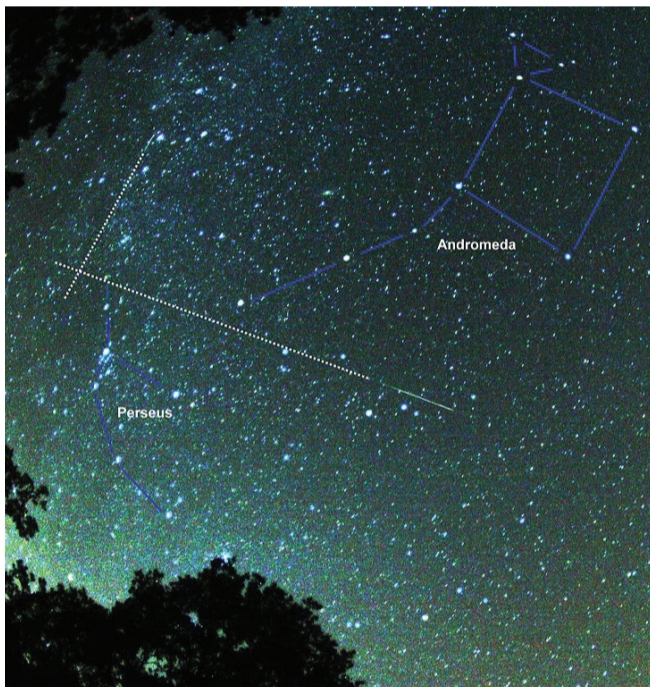
One of the best adaptations was a scene where the two New York City taxicabs were played by actors in wheelchairs.

I thought the show was amazing and tons of fun, a very good performance and seemed like lots of fun to perform, too.



By Ben Vanourek, 11, a CK Reporter from Littleton

# Don't wait for the eclipse to watch the sky



The solar eclipse August 21 is going to be a very big deal (see below), but you don't have to wait that long to see something spectacular in the sky.

This weekend would be an excellent time to wrap up your summer with a camping trip, because August 11 and 12 are the high points of the Perseid meteor showers.

Aside from camping being a good way to enjoy the last weekend before school starts again, if you live in the city, you'll want to be out in the country, away from the light pollution that dims the stars.

The Perseids are named for the constellation that they seem to be coming from, though Perseus is way too far away to be sending meteoroids our way.

What the shower really means is that Earth is passing through the trail of dust and tiny stones left by Comet Swift-Tuttle as it travels around the Sun.

Those bits of debris enter our atmosphere and burn up, leaving a streak of light that we call a "shooting star" or meteor.

Meteors happen all the time, but when we pass through a comet's trail, they happen much more often than usual, and, in the best years, the Perseids offer a chance to see more than one shooting star per minute.

This year, the Moon will be a bit of a spoiler, since it is three-quarters full and is in the sky most of the night, but it doesn't have as much power to ruin the show as the streetlights and parking lots of your town. And it's a lot easier to get away from them!

Find a good place where you can see a lot of the sky. This isn't the time to pitch camp in a canyon and you might even want to pick a lakeside camping ground out on the Eastern Plains where there are few trees and no mountains to block the view.

Then take a nap so that you can be up and awake around four or five in the morning Saturday, which will be the best time to see the showers.

Get a comfortable folding chair, a cup of hot chocolate and be ready to say "Wow" and "There's another one!" over and over. (Photo/ Brocken Inaglory Anton)

## Sudoku

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

**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.



## Brainteaser

**Tennis champion Roger Federer is 36 today, so our answers will each begin with the letter "T" for "tennis."**

1. A person who rents an apartment
2. A brand of hot sauce named for the Mexican peppers it's made from, but which is actually produced in Louisiana
3. Point of view in a story that uses "he" or "she" to describe the main character, instead of "I" or "you."
4. Herbivorous dinosaur of the Cretaceous period with three horns.
5. First in a popular series of novels by Stephenie Meyer
6. He became our tenth president in 1841 when William Henry Harrison died.
7. Punctuation mark often seen in Spanish in words like "cañon."
8. Korean martial art that includes head-height kicks, jumping and spinning kicks
9. City that is 10 miles northeast of Denver and in both Weld and Adams counties
10. The Lhasa Apso is a breed of dog that originally served as a watchdog in monasteries in this country.

(answers on Page Four)

## Are you ready to view the August 21 solar eclipse?

The eclipse is not quite two weeks away, and, if you haven't ordered your special viewing glasses, you'll want to do it right now.

When we spoke with Dr. Jeffrey Bennett in May, he gave us some good information about the eclipse, which you can find here: <https://nieonline.com/coloradonie/downloads/coloradokids/CK052317.pdf>

If you haven't already made plans to travel some place where the eclipse will be total, it's too late to get a motel room or campground, but you'll still get a very good show in the Denver area, where the eclipse will blot out about 92 percent of the Sun.

There's more information and links about the

eclipse at [ColoradoNIE.com](http://ColoradoNIE.com)

You will want those special glasses, because you can seriously damage your eyes by looking directly at the eclipse, but you can also watch the eclipse by punching a pinhole in a piece of paper, then letting the Sun shine through that hole onto a second piece of paper. By moving the two pieces of paper apart until you find the right distance, you'll get a sharp "picture" of the Sun and you can watch it disappear and reappear that way.

Of course, the fact that it begins at 10:25 am on a school day suggests that, unless you are traveling to where it is total, you'll be watching it with your class and teachers.

photo/Robbert Smit





# 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

Coffee and a Long Life

Perseid Meteor Shower

The Eclipse

go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/ckstorylinks>

# The Path to Freedom

## Chapter Four: Blocking the Path

*(Luke and Sylvie Van Gelder have gone with the local militia to help the Americans stop General Burgoyne's invasion. The first step is to slow down the British army by blocking the road.)*

"You know," Luke's father said, "every time I've gone to Fort Ann, I've seen this tree and thought how glad I was that it never showed up at our sawmill."

Luke laughed. The tree was, indeed, a mess.

No doubt, when it was just two feet tall, some deer had nibbled the growth bud at the top of its little trunk, so it sent out four more buds on each side of the wound, in hopes one of them would survive.

And all four of them did.

Now, some 60 years later, it was a large tree with a short, fat base and four trunks standing in the air like thick fingers on a giant hand, and the branches from each of those trunks had become woven and tangled with each other.

Had it come to the sawmill, they'd have never been able to cut a single straight board from it.

"I'll notch it," John Van Gelder said. "You get the saw."

Luke went back to the wagon for the long, two-man crosscut saw while his father carefully cut a notch in the tree with his ax, to make sure that, when it fell, it would fall right into the middle of the road, blocking the path from Fort Ann to Fort Edward.

For three days, the militia and local farmers had been turning that road into a tangled disaster, not only filling it with trees and brush but destroying the bridges over creeks and chopping up the pieces so they would have to be built fresh.

They tore up the corduroy roads through swampy areas, they cut beaver dams to flood the road and they did whatever else they could to make it impossible to use the road without a great deal of repair work.

It wasn't intended to stop General John Burgoyne. Only the Continental Army could do that.

But the American General, Philip Schuyler, was still gathering troops while Burgoyne was bringing 7,000 British and German soldiers south from Quebec. They had already taken Fort Ticonderoga and were headed for the road between Fort Ann and Fort Edward.

That road was really little more than a cart path. Roads were not paved in those days, but well-traveled roads were beaten down into smooth, hard-packed highways.

Roads out in the countryside were not well-traveled. They even had tree stumps in the middle of them. As long as the stumps were less than a foot tall, they wouldn't strike the bottoms of the carts, and horses and oxen could simply step over and around them.

So, between the fact that roads weren't easy to travel over to start with, and the fact that the summer of 1777 had been very rainy, it was already hard for a farmer with a cart to go from Fort Ann to Fort Edward and back.

Now the patriots were making it nearly impossible, especially for an army that was bringing heavy cannons, ammunition and supplies for 7,000 men.

If it was sometimes fun to find new ways to tangle the road, it was no joke: Every day Burgoyne's men spent hacking their way through tangles and building new bridges was a day Schuyler could spend building up his army.

Every extra day before the two armies met was an extra chance for the Americans to stand up to the British.

Luke and his father sawed away at the wide, single trunk at the base of the tall, tangled, four-trunked tree until, with a crack and a crash, it fell just where John Van Gelder had notched it to fall, nearly end-to-end in the road below.

"Now let's cover it with more," John Van Gelder said, picking up his ax and starting on a smaller tree standing just above where the large tree had fallen.

As he spoke, however, a militia officer came up the path and called out to Luke.

"We need your cart," he said. "There's an abandoned farm about four miles from here with a barn full of wheat and a flock of chickens."

Luke glanced at his father, but John Van Gelder nodded. "Let me get my own gear out of it," he said. "Who's going with him?"

"We're sending eight militia," the lieutenant said. "They'll keep their guns ready and their eyes open, and they'll help him load when they get there."

"All right. Give us a minute," John Van Gelder said. He buried his ax in the tree he'd been working on, picked up the two-man saw and started back down the cart path to where David and Jonathan were hitched patiently to the wagon.

"Go with them," he said. "If there's trouble, remember that you're a wagoner, not a soldier. Duck under the wagon and let them sort it out. And when you return, come back to our militia."

"I'm not scared," Luke assured him.

"I'm sure you'll be fine," his father said, "but remember that you are part of our militia company. Don't let them take you to cart for anyone else. Soon enough, we'll join up with others, probably the Albany boys, and the Continentals, when they get here. But you're part of us, and don't let anyone steal you or our horses away."

"I'd never let anything happen to David and Jonathan," Luke said, and his father reached over to tousle his hair.

"I know you wouldn't," he said, with a sad smile.

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

## Sudoku Solution

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

## Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. tenant 2. Tabasco 3. third person 4. triceratops 5. Twilight  
6. (John) Tyler 7. tilde 8. taekwondo 9. Thornton 10. Tibet

# ColoradoKids

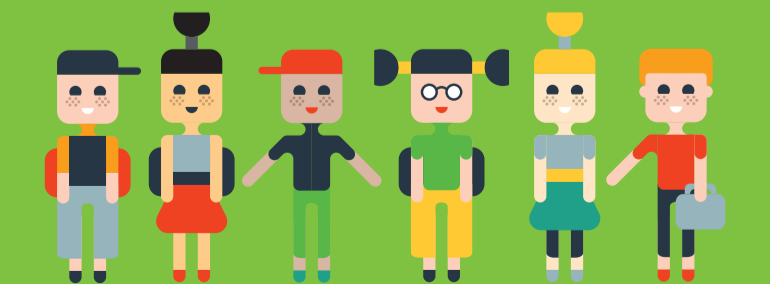
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