



Becoming one of the family's adults

Editor's Note: As our 14-year-old reporters leave us in the new school year, we offer this reminder from one of them that growing up is a joyous and important process.

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is the Jewish celebration of coming of age. In a traditional Bar or Bat Mitzvah, the student prepares for months to learn their reading from the Torah, a set of scrolls that are handwritten in Hebrew, and contain the first five books of what is known as the Old Testament. When the time comes for the actual ceremony, the pupil will stand in front of the congregation, and read their Torah portion.

It makes me happy to think of all of the memories that have been dusted off and shared, as well as still remembered.

In some places, they may also lead part of the Shabbat services. A "Bar Mitzvah" would be for a boy, and a "Bat Mitzvah" would be for a girl. Another slight variation between the two, is that girls traditionally have their Bat Mitzvah at the age of twelve. Boys usually have their Bar Mitzvah at thirteen. For my Bat Mitzvah, I am studying my family history, which is a non-traditional ceremony, and learning about my ancestors who came from Russia and Poland. So far, I have learned almost everything my parents and living relatives can tell me about our family. Soon, I will have a ceremony of my own and during it, I will be sharing what I've learned about my family, and my favorite parts of the journey. I've been to many places in the U.S. and have been able to interview relatives about what they know. I have also gone to Germany, where we visited Dachau, one of the Nazi's concentration camps. We flew to New York where I met my great-great aunt, and asked her what she remembered about our family. My mom and nana took me to see the house they lived in. I've seen my dad's grandma's house, therefore my great-grandma. My cousins took me to see where my five-times-great grandparents are buried. I was able to see four generations of my ancestors; I am fortunate to have photographs of these people, so it is almost like seeing them in person. While in New York, we also visited my great uncle and aunt. I have family



photo/Lawrie Cate

in Florida too, so a short while after New York, we traveled to Florida, where I interviewed two more of my great aunts.

My aunts told me so much information about my dad's side of the family, my head almost exploded.

One thing they said was that one of my double great grandfathers was the youngest of eleven siblings.

Everyone was so knowledgeable about our ancestry, and it really enhanced my travels.

I have learned so much and I know that I will remember all of this history, and how much it means to me.

It makes me happy to think of all of the memories that have been dusted off and shared, as well as still remembered.

I'm grateful to my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-aunts and uncles, and everyone who contributed to this whole voyage of crazy stories and our mind-blowing past.



By Macy Gardner, 14, a CK Reporter from Golden

Unplug and take some time for the real world

These days we're stuck in the age of technology, between phones, computers, and more.

So cut loose, enjoy great views, beautiful wildlife, and the fresh smell of nature, on the Jean Lunning Loop Trail.

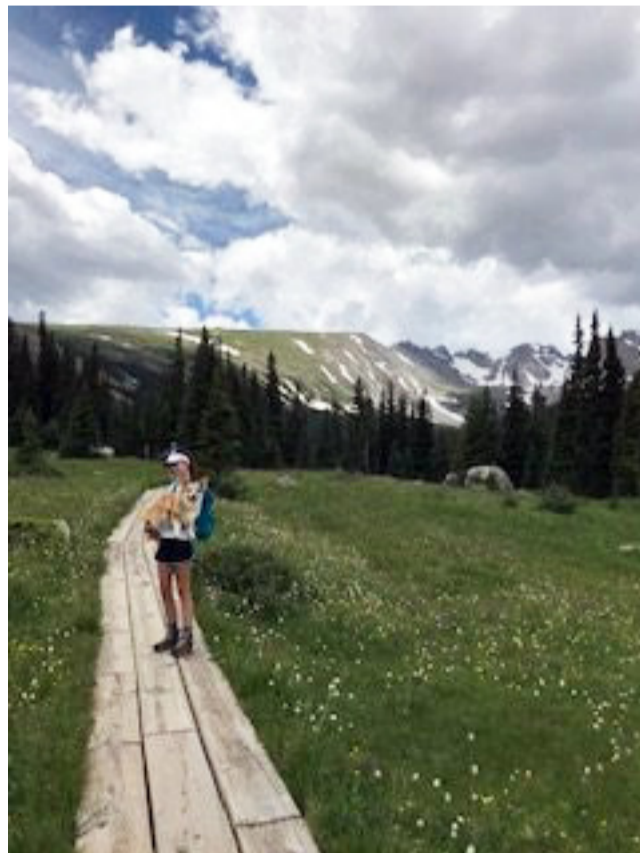
Disconnect from the Internet for a while, pull away from the stress of urban reality, and take a break on an easy hike for all types.

Living in Colorado, we're blessed to have wildlife and nature at the tips of our fingers, with the National Parks calling for us to come to hike, bike, explore, and more.

We are also blessed to have the 15th best National Park in the United States, out of the current 61 National Parks scattered among the states, which is just yet another reason why we should all take advantage of these terrific opportunities, and get out there!

I love hiking, which is why my mom and I love exploring in and around Rocky Mountain National Park.

Recently, we came across a hiking trail called the "Jean Lunning Loop Trail," and, after some research, decided it would be a great day hike.



photo/Victoria Gagner

The 2.8 mile loop trail is in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area near Ward and Nederland, and is a fairly easy hike, with well-kept trails, and bits of boardwalks to help cross marshy sections.

Along the trail you get a glimpse of Long Lake which the trail loops around, beautiful wildflowers, and the magnificent mountains that are still often dusted with snow.

I love this hike because of the beautiful wildlife and wondrous views it provides.

The trail is ranked easy, which is why I believe it would be great for anyone who's up for it.

There are a few small river crossings along the trail as well, which all feed into Long Lake.

Bikes and horses are a no-no on the trail, but our furry friends are allowed, and, from experience, it's a blast for dogs as well.

So what are you waiting for?

Disconnect from the Internet for a while, pull away from the stress of urban reality, and take a break on an easy hike for all types.



By Katherine Gagner, 14, a CK Reporter from Boulder



Writing Is Fun!

How Would You Like To Be A Real Reporter?

Find out about all the cool benefits when you apply to be a Colorado Kids reporter at Colorado NIE.com or by emailing dplewka@denverpost.com.

Fun book offers fascinating code lore

In "Can You Crack the Code?," by Ella Schwartz and illustrated by Lily Williams, the reader learns the elaborate history of coding, ciphers and cryptography.

Throughout the book, there are many interactive opportunities such as using the information and history in a chapter and using it to solve the code and crack the cipher as well as using different types of encoders and decoders to create your own secret message!

Though it was not what I expected at first, after reading, I felt like I had learned a lot more than I had thought I would.

There are also three small characters that appear several times throughout the chapters; Alice and Bob who send each other encoded letters and Eve, their classmate who is trying to crack the code and reveal their hidden messages.

Though at first it may seem as if it were a children's book, it opens the door to the history of coding, how it was used for secret communication during war and combat, and the evolution of coding technology.

Many of the chapters in this book contain loads of information on how coding was used during wars.

During WWII, a machine called "Enigma" was made to help the Germans communicate without the enemy knowing about their plans.

An Enigma machine looked like an ordinary typewriter from the outside, but the technology hidden under a simple disguise should not be underestimated.

With codebooks, the receiver on the other end was able to unveil the code and create their own messages to send back, offering information such as weather reports to the frontlines.

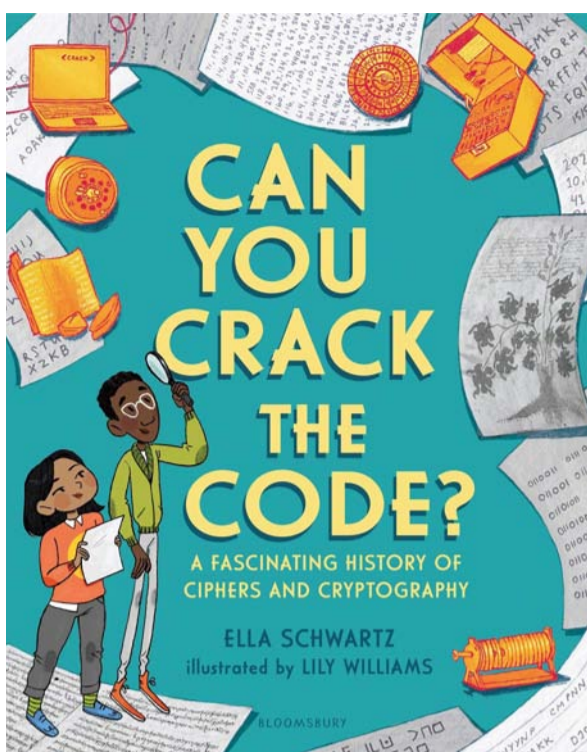
The Enigma code was solved by Bletchley Park; a group of mathematicians, cryptographers, chess players, crossword puzzle fans and many others, by developing the Bombe machine.

Though it was not what I expected at first, after reading, I felt like I had learned a lot more than I had thought I would.

When there were interactive parts of the book, I was expecting more "solve-it-yourself" for the entirety of the book rather than learning about the history, how to use the method then solve it yourself.

Throughout the book there was only a scarce amount of interactivity and more of a read-and-learn about the methods of cipher.

The book also provided real life examples of ciphers that were used, such as a 600 year old coded manuscript, the Kryptos code and modern day codes used by hackers, both good and bad.



By Avery MacKenzie, 13, a CK Reporter from Fort Collins

Ramp up your backyard war game armory

The Hyperstrike is awesome!

I was given the toy "Hyperstrike" to review. It sells on Amazon for about \$30 and is a kid bow and arrow.

The toy is entertaining to play with and you can't really get bored.

Hyperstrike is fun because you can shoot the arrow however far you want it to go, depending on how hard you pull back on the bow.

This was a big advantage over the Nerf guns that rule our neighborhood.

The kids on my street were very curious about the toy, and ready to play war.

When I first tried to play with the Hyperstrike, the arrow did not go far. I learned quickly that I was not experienced with using a bow and arrow.

Later when I tried, the arrow went further than I expected, about 100 to 150 feet.

After a few tries, the arrow went farther than 200 feet! Cool!

And the arrow makes a whistle sound when it's shot far.

I learned to make it go farther by pulling the bow back as far as I could.

The only bad thing with shooting it really far is that you have no idea where it might land. In my case, the arrow got stuck in my neighbor's tall apple tree.

To really enjoy this toy, it is very important to learn how to point the arrow and how much to pull back on the bow.

My younger sibling, Helena, age 7, didn't like the toy as much because she wasn't able to point and pull the bow very easy. Her arrows landed on the ground really close to her feet.

This is probably why the recommended age for Hyperstrike is 14 and up. However, I just turned 10, and I loved the toy!

I would rate the Hyperstrike 4.9 out of 5 because I loved everything except losing an arrow to a tree.

This is a great toy to use against the neighborhood kids!

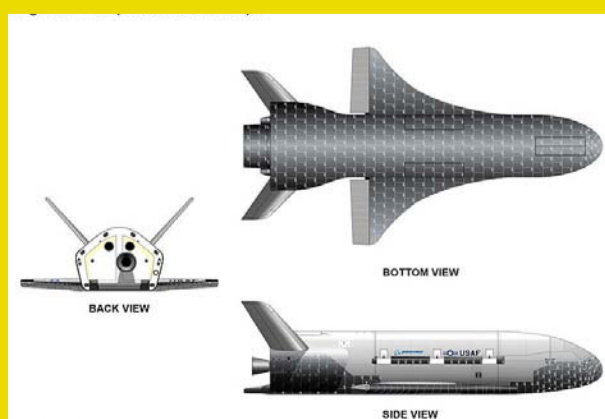


By Ema Perak, 10, a CK Reporter from Denver

Big Nate



Mysterious spaceplane reaches 725 days in orbit



The U.S. Air Force's Boeing X-37B spaceplane is setting records for the most time spent in orbit, but most people on Earth don't even know it's up there, much less what it's doing.

The craft, which does not have a crew, is similar in design to a shuttle, and the Air Force says it is a test vehicle for spacecraft that would not have to carry a human crew.

Like the shuttles, the X-37B is launched into orbit aboard a rocket but then is able to land on a runway like an airplane so that scientists can examine the experiments it has been carrying, and so it can be

used again for future missions.

But, as it comes close to two years in orbit, there's not a whole lot more known about the X-37B than there was when this particular one, the fifth of its kind, was first launched.

Space hobbyists have come up with several theories for what it might be. Some suggested it could be a military vehicle, but, without huge thrusters, it couldn't maneuver around for those kinds of missions.

Others think it could be testing a dynamic new type of space engine, which it might be.

But the Air Force isn't saying. diagram / Giuseppe De Chiara

Sports book delivers a powerful history lesson

"Games of Deception," by Andrew Maraniss, is a true account of the US Basketball team at the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany.

The author, Andrew Maraniss, begins the story of that team and that Olympics by introducing readers to the history of basketball.

James Naismith invented basketball in 1891 at a YMCA training school in Massachusetts, and his students went on to manage YMCA centers around the globe, bringing basketball with them.

It became a popular sport with US troops during World War I and by the end of the war, basketball had become a global sport.

The first time basketball was played at the Olympics was in 1936.

Although Maraniss is very interested in basketball, he really only spends a chapter or two describing the game and its beginnings.

"Games of Deception" is really about how Hitler came to see the 1936 Olympics as a chance to portray Nazi Germany as a unified, successful, country with great economic power.

Maraniss shows how Hitler achieved that propaganda goal by imprisoning homeless people and his political enemies, and hiring many workers to clean the parts of Berlin that Olympic attendees were going to see.

Hitler even used Olympic rituals to highlight German military power and his own role as leader.

The Opening Ceremony included a fly over by the Hindenburg, a huge German blimp with a swastika painted on it, and a performance by the Hitler Youth.

Games of Deception is a fascinating look at a part of history that is not found in textbooks or taught in school. I thought I knew a lot about Nazi Germany, but the story of how Hitler used the Olympics for propaganda was new to me.

Maraniss uses eyewitness accounts very effectively and that brings this history to life.

Maraniss even quotes Malcolm Metcalf, a javelin thrower at the 1936 Olympics, regretting his decision not to throw his javelin at Hitler because he "could have changed world history."

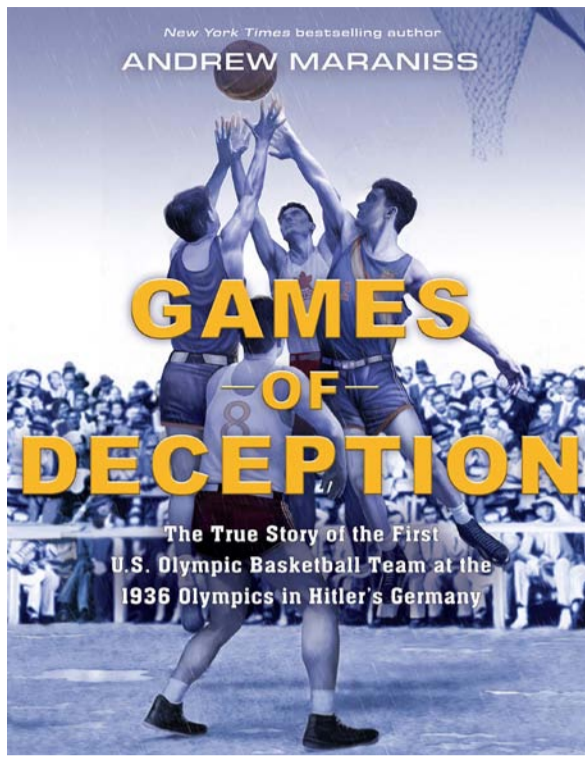
The part of "Games of Deception" that I did not like is the fact that the book talks about the 1936 Olympics and history, and then talks about basketball, but never really brings the two together.

In other words, Maraniss does not really use the basketball team as a way to describe or explain the history.

He uses the basketball team to talk about basketball, and the other chapters to talk about Nazism and Germany in 1936.

I would still recommend "Games of Deception."

It is very interesting, reveals a history that you may never even have heard about before picking up this book, and would be appealing to someone who might not read a history book, but could be interested by a book about sports.



By Aidan Muldoon, 12, a CK Reporter from Denver

Amazon forest burns as world quarrels

We've seen photographs from space of the smoke from wildfires before; NASA and other agencies have long used satellites to track fire, dust storms and other atmospheric disturbances.

But the photographs of the Amazon forest shot by Italian Astronaut Luca Parmitano from the International Space Station show more smoke from more fires than ever before.

It is the dry season in the Amazon and it's not unusual for there to be wildfires.

But this year there are reportedly 73,000 individual fires currently burning, 85% more than last year, and there's a strong suspicion that the fires have been deliberately set to destroy the jungle so that developers can take over the land.

But beyond that, everything seems to be about quarreling.

The Amazon rainforest is called "the lungs of the world," and few honest scientists doubt that it is important to our environment, both for absorbing carbon dioxide and for generating fresh oxygen.



photo/European Space Agency

Even the honest scientists, however, disagree over how much of each the forest does, and there are also dishonest scientists who deny that there is a climate crisis at all, despite all the evidence.

Meanwhile, the Amazon has long been a target of deforestation, with companies cutting down trees both for logging and to open up land for cattle ranching.

The current government of Brazil is friendly to developers and there are reasonable rumors suggesting that the developers themselves have been setting fires and that the government has been slow to work at putting them out.

At the recent G-7 summit meeting, the participating nations pledged several million

dollars to help Brazil.

At first, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro turned the money down, but later agreed to accept it.

But even if the fires are extinguished and the developers turned away, it will take decades for the plants and animals to return to the burnt rainforest.

Sudoku

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

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

On this date in 1838, Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery and began his life as a free man writing and speaking out in favor of abolishing slavery, so our answers today will begin with "A" for "abolition."

1. Pronghorns aren't really these, but that's what we call them anyway.
2. Someone who is equally comfortable using their right or left hand is this.
3. This prickly vegetable looks like a pine cone. Steam it, then peel off each leaf, dip it in butter and scrape the pulp off with your teeth.
4. The mountain range that runs down the spine of South America
5. Not much is known of this Greek storyteller, but his fables still contain wisdom, more than 2,500 years later.
6. This Pitkin County ski resort town is a good starting point if you want to drive over Independence Pass, or a good ending point if you already did.
7. Moose, deer and elk have these; They're like horns but they fall off once a year.
8. Our second and sixth president shared this last name.
9. If this organ near your intestines gets infected, have it removed. You don't need it.
10. Large constrictor-type snake found in the Amazon.

(answers on Page Four)

Oklahoma victory over opioid maker may lead to similar actions

Johnson & Johnson, the huge pharmaceutical company better known for baby shampoo and other over-the-counter health products, lost a lawsuit last week over its production of chemicals used in opioids.

The State of Oklahoma sued Johnson & Johnson for \$17 billion, saying that the company had not been honest in how they promoted opioids.

According to the lawsuit, the company claimed that the drugs were more effective against various types of pain than they were, and did not sufficiently warn doctors or patients about the dangers of addiction.

The judge gave the state much less money than it asked for, and critics said the \$572 million was only a small portion of the profits made from opioid sales.

However, other pharmaceutical companies have agreed to pay states without having to go to court, and many states have come together for a giant lawsuit in Ohio which, if they win, will provide much, much more than \$572 million.

Many of those companies are apparently ready to make settlements rather than face trials.

The next question will be how states can best spend the money awarded to help patients and prevent future addiction.

photo/INeverCry



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 CK Reporter!

<http://tinyurl.com/COkidsReporter>



To read the sources for these stories

X-37B

Amazon Wildfires

Opioid Settlement

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Brainteaser Solution



(see Page Three)

10 right - Wow!

7 right - Great!

5 right - Good

3 right - See you next time!

1. antelope 2. ambidextrous 3. artichoke 4. Andes 5. Aesop
6. Aspen 7. antlers 8. Adams 9. appendix 10. anaconda

Hidden Treasures

Things we think you wouldn't want to miss.



Celebrate Vulture Awareness Day!

International Vulture Awareness Day is September 7 and schools will be closed.

Okay, mostly because it's Saturday, but that's not the point.

The Denver Zoo will celebrate the occasion with zookeeper talks, animal demonstrations, and education stations to let you get to know the personal side of "nature's cleaners."

Vultures face dangers of habitat destruction as well as deliberate poisoning by people who don't understand their important role in keeping the landscape clean and in proper balance.

Activities begin at 10 am and go to about 4 in the afternoon, making a full day when you'll be able to learn about the vital role vultures play for healthy ecosystems around the world, how Denver Zoo is working to ensure their survival and what you can do to help these important, interesting animals.

The pretty girl in this picture is a very special part of the zoo's efforts, not just for vultures but for animals in general.

Aztai was born in Mongolia, at the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve where the Denver Zoo partners with local conservationists to help preserve animals in the region.

Denver Zoo staff found four-month-old Aztai beneath her broken nest with significant fractures to her left wing. They nurtured her with food and shelter, but, with permanent damage to the wing, knew she couldn't make it in the wild.

So, in 2012, Aztai came to Denver, where she became both a symbol of the zoo's worldwide efforts at conservation and an important teacher about vultures in general.

You can learn more about Aztai and her cousins on International Vulture Awareness Day!

CK Calendar

Tuesday, September 3

Second Star to the Right Bookstore on Pearl Street will have a "book launch" -- the debut of a brand new book -- at 6:30 for Colorado author Lindsay Lackey's new middle grade novel "All the Impossible Things." Meet the author, see the book!

Thursday, September 5

Author Jeff Seymour will discuss and sign "Nadya Skylung and the Masked Kidnapper," the sequel to Nadya Skylung and the Cloudship Rescue at 7 pm at Tattered Cover's Aspen Grove bookstore.

Friday, September 6

"Aquarela" opens. This documentary film shows water around the world, from giant ice forms to spectacular waterfalls.

Friday, September 13

"Extreme Sports: Beyond Human Limits" opens at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Explore the psychology science behind some of the riskier sports, such as wingsuit flying, ice and rock climbing, parkour and free diving with simulations and other activities.

Friday, September 20

The seven-acre corn maze at Chatfield Farm opens for weekends. For exact dates and other details, visit <https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/corn-maze>

Friday, September 27

"Abominable" opens. In this PG-rated, animated Dreamworks film, a young girl and her friends attempt to bring a yeti back from Shanghai to his home in Nepal, avoiding the villain who would dearly love to capture a yeti.

Friday, September 27

"Maize in the City" opens. This colossal collection of corn mazes and other activities in Thornton offers a variety of activities for people of all ages. For ticket prices and other details, visit <https://www.maizeinthecity.com/>

Friday, October 4

Deadline for Tattered Cover's 36th Annual Scary Story Contest. Young Colorado writers from kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to write an original mystery, suspenseful thriller, or humorous Halloween tale. Last year's winning stories and this year's entry form are here: <https://www.tatteredcover.com/scary-story-contest>

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