



Lily leaps over Grand Canyon



Despite having a hard time with her triple salchow, Lily leapt over the Grand Canyon on the family's short, short drive to Arizona over Thanksgiving break.

Lily continues to skate maniacally, to the point that she spends just mornings at East High School, which has 15,000 students and where Lily is a freshman (online classes round out the schedule).

to remain toward the right of the bell curve.

She gravitates toward technical subjects and, while a reasonable writer, appears to have no interest in it, which is a relief to her father.

Lily started driver's training in late December. Her parents will make sure she understands that cars do not do crossovers around icy turns, and that hockey stops are generally frowned upon.



She's also enrolled in a refresher course on the geometry of protest-sign holding. On this same sign, she wrote, "Chose the Enviroment."

There is some irony that Lily's academic performance seems

YOUR AD HERE

Sandcastle gets out of hand



The girls, pictured, spent several hours on their latest sandcastle project, which they situated in the mountains over Rye, Colo., to avoid rising seas.

Girls miss total eclipse



Despite ditching school to drive to Torrington, Wyo., they were unable to see past their enormous umbrella.

CAROL RUNS OFF WITH CHPPENDALE BUNNY

Carol's running off with a Chippendale Bunny would have alarmed Todd were it not for the family Google Home device, which confirmed that there are in fact no Chippendale bunnies. They are, rather, called ChipNotMonks.

Carol, when not cavorting with her ChipNotMonk, remained happily employed at Johns Manville and has become so experienced as a skating mom that she's considering going pro.

"In addition to managing a group of high-performing information technologists, my sequinning skills have caught the attention of the international skating-mom community," Carol said. "Time to really capitalize."



Carol, ChipNotMonk

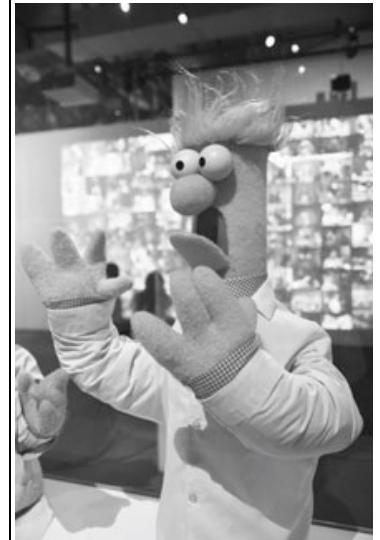
Carol wins big at Lowry Auction

Left-Center-Right-on! Carol's school-event win has her consulting with former lottery winners as far as next steps.

"They make highly prudent investment decisions," she said.



Forty-fifth president spotted in Seattle



REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!
because the 45th president won't

Neffs looking forward to USMNT Triumph at 2018 World Cup

After the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team's victory in metro Denver, the Neffs are looking forward to watching the boys make us proud in Russia at this summer's World Cup.



"This is the year it's all going to come together for our country, which has an unparalleled soccer tradition," Maya said.

Maya's not quite paralleling just yet



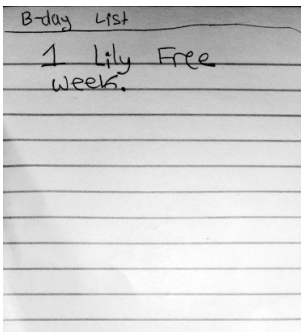
While of reasonable athletic ability, Maya's confusing the idea of keeping her skis parallel with that of arranging her skis linearly has hampered her progress somewhat.

Maya is now an sixth grader at the Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences, where she is not at all neurotic about her grades.



Her room has become so impassably cluttered that she has moved into a cardboard box.

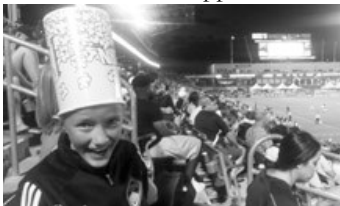
Maya's B'day wish list succinct, biting



Soccer is going well, though her father has suggested that a body mass index in the 0.003rd percentile is more suited to long distance running or slowly starving to death.

Her hobbies include knitting, playing piano when someone reminds her, and watching hours and hours of TV of unknown provenance on her iPad.

Maya is paying more attention to her appearance,



with a particular focus on converting erstwhile food containers into functional, attractive, understated fashion items. Her plan after middle-school graduation is to open a series of boutiques under the name YummyLook 3000TM.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST
because he really won't

Oscar enjoys six-man tent



The dog tried but failed at not howling at every whisper or rustle as the rest of the family squeezed into the auxiliary two-man tent.

This space for sharing-economying

Todd's right bicep huge



Todd's right bicep has gotten completely huge from carrying Oscar around like a football.

"I would switch arms, but my right arm seems to be much stronger," he said.

Todd continues to write for UHealth and is cranking on a book about the history of lidar (see www.lidarhistory.com) whose manuscript is due far sooner than he will probably get it done.

He continues to play soccer for a team sponsored by a marijuana dispensary, though his age is beginning to show in the way that the sun is beginning to get bright.

The Front Range DietTM
Because it's Good
Despite Mueller Investigating It



Todd randomly chooses worst photog ever for Grand Canyon family shot

Beacon available online

To mark the Beacon's 18th and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at toddniff.com/beacon.

TRAVEL REPORT

The Neffs big trip came courtesy of Carol's folks, who invited their children and families on an Alaskan cruise to celebrate Papa Don's 80th birthday and Grandma JoJo's and his 60th wedding anniversary. The ship's name, if Todd remembers correctly, was *Ginormous Frigging Boat Full of People*.



In keeping with life protocol, Lily actually figure skated en route to Skagway and Juno, from where we were unable to see Russia.

Skating kept Lily and Carol from Todd-cousin Matt Nelkin & fiancée Heather's wedding in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Todd and Maya spent some quality time with Uncle Cheeseburger and Sophie, with whom Maya spent hours in the hotel game area thanks to near-absent parental supervision.

A summer highlight was a visit from the Volz family, who drove from California to Denver, seeing en route more of the West than the Neffs have.

And over Thanksgiving, the Neffs drove to Arizona to spend a lovely week with Grandma Kay and Grandpa Doug in AZ and grow our hair together.

