The Holiday Beacon

All the News that Fits on One Double-Sided Sheet

#### Lily's enthusiasm uncurbed by curb



Lily celebrated her first day of driving herself to school by tearing a 2x2-inch corner into the sidewall of her right-front tire. A vintage pink-granite curb near historic Denver East High School did the honors.

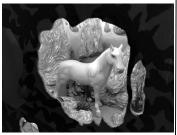
Fortunately, the cold, pounding rain was in the process of becoming wet snow at the time.

Heroic work by the AAA guy delivered the Ford C-Max Energii to a local tire purveyor, where management correctly recognized that her father would pay whatever they cared to ask for a replacement.

Lily has taken to using the term "low key" as a mysterious adverb, as in, "I low-key have no idea what she's saying."

The East junior skips out at about lunchtime most days to drive to a rink at Westminster, where she skates. She rounds

Pwodo the Horse, who disappeared mysteriously in 2016, discovered at Meow Wolf Santa Fe



out her academic obligations with a couple of Denver Online High School classes, for which missing homework assignments can be blamed on DNC operatives in CrowdStrike's Ukrainian server farm.

> YOUR AD HERE

Giant robot's love for giant metallic flower calms girls' AI concerns

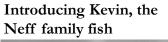


"Artificial general intelligence will present no threat to humanity as long as fearsome robots maintain their obvious affection for floral proxies," Maya explained.

## CAROL EMPTIES MAYA'S SOCCER BAG

Carol spent most of 2019 emptying Maya's soccer bag, which contained enough food packaging to have sustained the Trump legal team through weeks of Congressionalsubpoena dodging.

While Carol continues to work as an IT manager at Johns Manville in Denver, her career as a skating mom has suffered the dual setbacks of Lily's driver's license all but eliminating skater-ferrying duties and the considerable time commitment associated with emptying Maya's soccer bag.





Well, Maya's fish, but all try to feed him bug meal. The betta's near-constant motion in his fivegallon tank surprised all who thought bettas just floated inertly. The realization that pet-store sales cups afford no alternative had not been deeply considered.



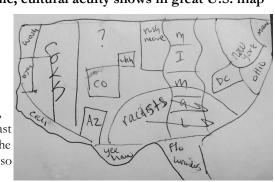
Maya's heads-up saves family from touching sticky stuff on table.



## **REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!**

Lily's geographic, cultural acuity shows in great U.S. map

Cartographers may quibble with Ohio being on the Atlantic seaboard, the corn belt extending into Nevada and Idaho, Utah being northeast of Colorado, and the stereotyping being so rampant.





### Maya feeds math homework to local tortoise Todd friend choice poor

in neck pain.

Health notice: attempting to read this without reorienting page can result



Maya's attempt to convince her math teacher that a tortoise had eaten her homework backfired when she learned that the assignment was to be submitted online anyway. "Next time, the turtle gets my Chromebook," she vowed.



The Hill Middle School eighth

grader continues to play soccer and perform piano duets with small mammals lacking obvious fingers. She hopes to extend the collaboration to include Kevin the betta fish, which will fulfil percussive duties by flopping

No animals were abused in the production of this Beacon



One, though, may have been unwittingly humiliated.

about on a bongo drum. Despite forewarnings, Maya touched her toe to

the surface of the sun, which, she learned the hard way, cooks along at 10,000 degrees.



Girls place second in worlds-worst body-letter competition



# REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST

Maya fails to persuade parents on giant-snail pet





Todd has taken to spending his free time as part of the "crew" of a pirate with no obvious circulatorysystem function. When Carol questioned his judgement, Todd said, "Hey, he's always buying the rum with pieces of eight, and he's got great stories of his days marauding off the Barbary Coast.' When not fraternizing with living-dead seafarers, Todd freelances, is working hard on a book about his friend and mentor John Rubadeau, and continues to play indoor soccer on a team sponsored by an marijuana dispensary.

Try The Front Range Diet™ Because it was "perfect" for Volodymyr Zelensky

Lily, Todd visit Upside-Down



"We saw no Demogorgons or foreboding scenery," Lily said. "Mostly, things were inverted."

**Beacon available online** To mark the Beacon's 20<sup>th</sup> and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at toddneff.com/beacon.

## TRAVEL REPORT

Among other guests, the Neffs enjoyed hosting the Breitenfelder boys in April prior to their Western adventures. They were ages 4 and 2 last time we saw them in the late 1990s. Also joining us for a few days were Hunter Nelkin, 10 mos., and his parents. We hope to see Hunter again before he has a beard.

Summer brought Pflanzes of Ireland to Denver and then Oregon, where we caught up with Hungarian Egans.



Trips included South Padre with the Eirichs, a jaunt to Santa Monica, some Labor Day boating with the Park City Neffs, and Thanksgiving in Arizona with the clan. Todd did a Moab MTB trip with experienced bikers who amid stunning vistas crushed his spirit and ground him into a sort of human paste.



Christmas brought the Neff parents to Denver, where the Monet exhibit provided a cultural touchstone against which Todd and Grandpa Doug could compare and contrast the brutality of an NHL game as witnessed from the third row<sub>27</sub>

