



Maya: “Nothing says ‘social distance’ like a walrus outfit



Maya is gratified that the General Conference on Weights and Measures has accepted her measurement, “dog” as its latest SI unit. “Dog” will join the second, meter, kilogram, kelvin, ampere, mole and candela.

Maya was able to minimize the need to wear a mask by habitually wearing a walrus outfit of uncertain provenance.

“I find that, for some reason, people tend to keep their distance when you wear a walrus outfit,” she said.



Maya now has her learner’s permit. Her mother has delegated training to her father, who is reminded of why the development of autonomous vehicles is taking so much longer than expected.

Lego-Man unmoved by girls’ evil-eye pressure to don mask



He did, however, ultimately agree to use hand sanitizer.

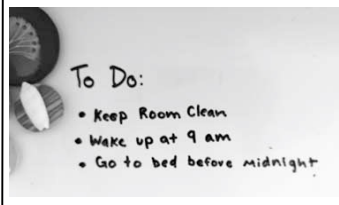
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Is Clinically Proven to Counteract
Pandemic Binging**



Maya is a freshman at Denver East High School in which she has never been. Her remote-learning ceramics class has been particularly enlightening.

YOUR AD HERE

Maya 0-for-∞ with white-board pandemic to-dos



Maya’s burger-eating team places second in Phoenix



The team was narrowly edged by the Gainesville Gluttons.

CAROL DISCOVERS PADDLEBEERING



On a pleasantly risky October trip to Sanibel Island, Carol became a paddlebeering aficionado.

“It’s like paddleboarding, but without all the hassle of paddling. Or even getting in the water. Plus it’s much easier to drink beer this way,” she explained.

When not paddlebeering, Carol spent several months working in the basement as a Johns Manville IT manager, including a glorious week-plus doing a midnight-to-8 a.m. shift when she otherwise would have been managing and drinking beer in Germany.

Lily low-key (which means “really” or “totally” or “very much”) enthused about pandemic puzzle project)



Oscar outgrows bed



REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!

This space left unintentionally blank.

Girls take pandemic “bubble” literally

Lily and Maya’s misinterpretation of “pandemic bubble” led to several uncomfortable hours in an actual undersea bubble. They emerged mainly because their bubble lacked restroom facilities.



Lily top three in ugliest-overalls competition



Lily's East High School senior overalls placed third in the Ugliest Overalls of the Rockies competition, narrowly edged by a SARS-CoV-2 themed entry and one dyed with Rudy Giuliani's sweat gravy.



Despite the pandemic closing the rink for a time, Lily managed to stay fit by working out in the garage.

"These dangling bicycles and hula hoops are definitely inspiring," she said. "Plus the garage door opener provides

Oscar dabbin' on the haterz

While Lily insisted that this caption would make sense – and, perhaps, be funny – to people far younger and more lit and fire and low-key slappy and so forth than her father is, he remains dubious.



excellent lighting." Lily now has a main squeeze. Despite his being undeniably handsome and possessing big, expressive, brown eyes, her parents worry about his penchant for sleeping most of the day, then demanding food and brief outdoor excursions, sometimes to defecate in the yard.



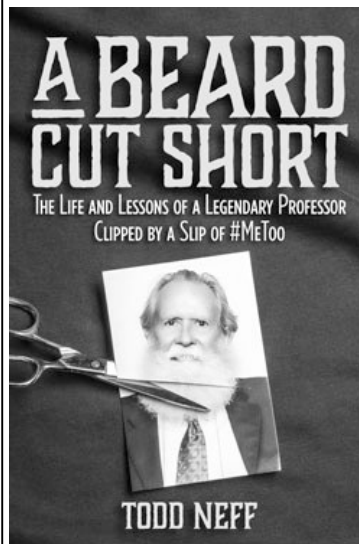
Lily is relieved that the artistic work she and a friend put into painting the East High School parking space she waited three full years for is not being marred by such affronts as those imparted by her car's tires.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST

Todd hires personal trainer



Todd soon regretted hiring his first-ever personal trainer, who offered no actionable training advice and insisted on napping on a vital quadrant of Todd's purple mat.



Todd wrote about Covid-19 for *UHealth Today* and, in December, released a book about his U of M professor, mentor, and friend John Rubadeau. The book combines a biography, life and grammar lessons, and an investigation. It involves no lasers or spacecraft despite Todd's best efforts to squeeze both in.

The Front Range Diet™
Perfect for disgraced-loser fat-orange one-term presidents

Beacon available online
To mark the Beacon's 21st and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at toddniff.com/beacon.

TRAVEL REPORT

The coronavirus pandemic whacked a long-planned trip to the U.K. and Ireland (the latter to see their friends the Pflanzes and the Machas), but the Neffs were consoled by their ability to have this great box of Lucky Charms delivered by Instacart.



The family instead spent a pleasant week in Steamboat, and Carol used the extra vacation time to reorganize the pantry and read excessively over an unexpectedly long holiday break.

A KN-95-muffled flight to Florida did avail some time in Sanibel Island in October, where the girls searched in vain for elusive junonia shells while Todd played Captain Ahab and hunted dolphins on a paddleboard.

They escaped the cold for a strangely family-free Thanksgiving week at Todd's parents' home in AZ, bringing both the dog and the Dawg, as Todd's antiquated, leaden mountain bike is known around here.

We wish you a happy holidays, a healthy 2021, and speedier vaccination than we expect for ourselves.

