



Maya pioneers paddleboard piracy



Having noted the profit margins associated with intellectual-property and Somali piracy, Maya has taken up paddleboard piracy. She is believed to be the first to engage in the practice.

“Avast, ye waggyscals!” she proclaimed, having won control of a paddleboard sailing under the Avid4Adventure flag.

“I believe you mean ‘scalawag,’” the dispatched captain corrected.

When not breaking the Law of the Sea, Maya is a fifth-grader at Lowry Elementary School, where she is plotting to usurp control of the Bluebird school bus that whisks her there and back.

Maya plays soccer with a Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club’s under-12 girls team, where she swears some of the players look old enough to shave.

She has taken up leatherworking as a hobby, having commandeered her Grandpa Don’s old set of

Sibling civil war pauses briefly for fairy garden reconstruction

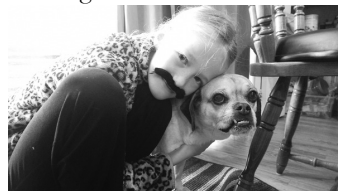


Dispute over placement of resin troll reignites conflict.

embossers, stampers, spacers, blades, needles, pliers, punchers and mallets.

“In addition to helping me exercise my creativity through the medium of animal skin, these could come in handy in my piracy operations,” Maya said.

While her parents are supportive of Maya’s aspirations in the field of piracy, Oscar is clearly opposed, and has been avoiding association with Maya. She has resorted to donning a fake moustache before approaching the dog, which may or may not be working.



Maya remains an avid piano player, and can be found sitting down to practice nearly anytime immediately after being ordered to do so by her father.

Girls skeptical of seafood buffet



Beacon turns to real news

“Everybody’s doing fake news anymore,” explained Beacon Chief Strategy Officer Maya Neff. “Plus, it’s shown to be ineffective in swaying even the feeblest minds.”

CAROL BEMOANS FATE OF SUCCULENTS

The tray of tiny plants weighed on Carol.

“That the beacon of the free world will soon be led by a mendacious thin-skinned race-baiting sexist political neophyte with an attention span shorter than his fingers is of some concern,” she said.

“But what really bothers me,” she continued, “is that these succulents have so little space for their roots.”

“Maybe we should free them before they end up on a registry,” Maya suggested.

Carol is leading an IT team at Johns Manville and doing lots of skating-mom-ing, laundry and consumables shopping in her copious free time.



Carol, Maya, succulents

New family hobby: logging

Todd and the girls took up logging in their spare time, donning harnesses, helmets and taking down beetlekill pine with heavy equipment. Next up: Bikram logging.



Lily, Maya celebrate billionth selfie



Their thousandth-millionth selfie included Oscar. “I have been in very few selfies,” he admitted. “But only because my paws are entirely incompatible with touchscreen technology.”

Team Neff takes 193rd in World Crab Soccer Championships

Lily and Maya finished dead last in at the 2016 crab-soccer worlds in Keszthely, Hungary, despite arduous preparations and training in the family basement.

Commentators suggested that, while tactically solid, the girls’ unconventional “pretzel decapod” form, which rendered their legs competitively vestigial, severely hampered their chances.

“We’ll be back,” Lily promised. “We won’t rest until we crack the top 185.”



Lily aims for monopedal sightseeing mark



This space for rent

Lily embarked on a campaign to visit America's notable sights while balancing/ bouncing on a single foot.

"Anybody can see Yosemite or the top of Mount Evans [Colorado] in their natural bipedal state," Lily said. "Except I guess people with three feet. Or no feet."

She now intends to descend the Grand Canyon and climb the Statue of Liberty on one foot.

Lily's continued focus on figure skating has proven symbiotic to the endeavor as her sightseeing foot is also her landing foot.

Lily is an eighth grader at Hill Middle School. With a growth spurt having launched her into the 5'2" neighborhood, she is not only taller than some of the sixth graders, but also passing her Grandma Kay on the growth charts.



Lily hits towering milestone

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST!

Maya's 'self-cleaning room' tech venture fails

Despite raising \$1.7 million via a misleading Indegogo campaign, artificial intelligence proves no match.



Todd looking more Oscarly



Seven years into his alarmingly close relationship with Oscar, Todd has succumbed to the fate of coming to resemble the dog. The wrinkles and graying are less of an issue than frozen-underbite headaches in cold weather, Todd says.

Oscar sees the logic in it. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," the dog said. "Plus, I'm substantially better looking."

Todd continues to write for a big hospital system and other clients, accumulating book proposals as well as actual books on his hard drive after filing.

While he continues to play soccer with a co-ed team named after a marijuana dispensary, his coaching days are over, Maya and teammates now playing competitively. He fills extra time driving to various rinks and fields.

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Beacon available online

To mark the Beacon's 17th and final issue, the publisher has posted the complete oeuvre online at toddneff.com/beacon.

TRAVEL REPORT

The Neffs rented a ginormous former B&B in Yosemite with the Pflanz Family, newly of Hamburg, in August. They were in equal parts astounded by the scenic beauty and the hordes joining them in astonishment.



Pflanzen, Neffs on banks of Merced

Other family trips included South Padre Island (to visit the Eirichs), No Name (camping), and Fountain Hills (the Thanksgiving Neff desert pilgrimage, to which they drove to bring a) the dog and b) the Kona Dawg). Carol and Lily visited Dallas for U.S. Figure Skating regionals; Todd skied Crested Butte and biked Fruita with neighbor-men, as has become welcome custom, in addition to a Steamboat trip to meet up with old soccer pals from Michigan.



Neffs, Neffs in Arizona desert

The girls took their revenge with a surprise November flight to Sanibel Island, Fla., with their Auntie Kathleen [Nugent]. They shelled until the ocean had been emptied of calcium carbonate.

