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Everybody's Talking

Finding koalas Forest fires are very dangerous for wild animals, but in Australia, a border collie came to the rescue. The dog, named Bear, was trained by Detection Dogs for Conservation to find koalas that are hiding in the trees. Bear was chosen for the task because he is able to find the small mammals by their scent. When he locates a koala, he settles himself under the tree and waits for one of his human bosses to arrive. Then the humans figure out how to get the little animal down from its high perch.

Painter's message A house painter in Bolsover, Derbyshire, England, hadn't been paid for the work he'd done on a building, so he took matters into his own hands. On the front of the freshly painted, cream-coloured, two-story structure, Dean Reeves painted a message in black: "Want your house painting? Don't be like Terry. Pay the bill! Now you will!" According to Reeves, building owner Terry Turner had continually refused to pay all of the agreed upon amount until the painter completed extra tasks. When Reeves understood what the owner was doing, he decided to paint the message.

Up a pole Vernon Kruger must love heights and small places. Hailing from the town of Dullstroom, South Africa, he has lived in a 500-litre (132-US liquid gallon) barrel on top of a 25-metre (82-ft.) pole for many days at a time. And he's done it twice. The first time was in 1997, when he broke the previous record by staying in the barrel for 67 days. Recently, he broke his own record when he stayed there for 78 days. His stay wasn't easy. He had to sleep curled up and had to rely on others to send food and water up to him in a wicker basket. He used the stunt to raise money for charity.

Award winner Hibino Sekkei, an architectural firm in Japan, decided to bring nursery school children closer to nature through building design. Taku Hibino is the lead architect. His firm has gained a reputation for designing facilities for early childhood education. The renovation of YM Nursery, a school in Tottori prefecture, is a prime example. The design called for opening the school up to the sea and the forest through open spaces and sliding doors, which helps bring the outdoors inside. The firm won best in its category at the World Architecture Festival.

Quoteable Quotes

"Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal: My strength lies solely in my tenacity." —*Louis Pasteur*
"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavour." —*Vince Lombardi*

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. Which singer has been named "The King of Soul"—Otis Redding or James Brown?
2. The estimated time for a plastic bottle to decompose is 4 yrs., 40 yrs., or 450 yrs.?
3. Which elephant has larger ears, the African or Asian elephant?
4. Name the Prince in the Disney film Frozen
5. What implements do you need to row a boat?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Recipe of the month

Summer Fruit and Marscapone Tart

2 x 320g ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry
100g icing sugar
750g tub marscapone
600ml double cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
200g raspberries, a few halved
200g blackberries, a few halved
1 large mango, peeled and thinly sliced
6 nectarines or peaches, a mixture, sliced
4 passion fruits (look for ones with crinkly skins - they're ripe), halved, seeds and pulp scooped out
handful small mint leaves

Prep: 30 mins. Cook: 30 mins Level: Easy Serves: 15-18

❶ Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Unroll 1 pastry sheet, but leave it on the parchment. Place it on a baking tray, dust with 2 tbsp icing sugar, then cover with another sheet of parchment and another baking tray. Pour baking beans into the tray to weigh it down, or use empty cans. Bake for 30 mins, then check if the pastry is golden all over. If not, return for another 5 mins or so. Repeat with the other pastry sheet (or cook both together if you have enough trays). Once out of the oven, trim the edges with a large, sharp knife. Leave to cool.

❷ Softly whip the mascarpone, cream, vanilla and remaining icing sugar, then transfer half to a disposable piping bag fitted with a 1.5cm round nozzle (or just snip off the corner). Pipe blobs of the mascarpone cream over the surface of one piece of pastry, right up to the edges. Top with half the fruit and dust with a little icing sugar.

❸ Top with the second piece of pastry, more mascarpone cream (refilling the bag when you need to), the remaining fruit, a dusting of icing sugar and, finally, some mint leaves. Use a serrated knife to cut through the layers.

Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

You may be less competitive and more interested in creating harmony. You might also feel compelled to do something creative, something to express your love for beauty. Lucky numbers: 27, 29, 32, 34, 44, 49.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Creative and generous aspects of your personality may shine this week. Even though you do not always fit the normal mold, you definitely might have your own unique style. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 28, 39, 45, 48.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Good relations with your co-workers may enable you to spread your positive influence. Some interesting employment opportunities might arise for you. Lucky numbers: 11, 16, 19, 21, 23, 33.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)

All roads that you take this week might lead you to a sort of spiritual awakening. Use this precious time to help refresh and rejuvenate your positive energy. Lucky numbers: 5, 15, 17, 27, 36, 44.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)

You may have to show your true colours to those who doubt your honesty and loyalty. If your heart is in the right place, you should have nothing to worry about. Lucky numbers: 14, 24, 26, 30, 32, 43.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Family and friends may invite you to enjoyable gatherings. Take them up on their invitations and you may be able to find some new ways to share your own ideas. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 17, 35, 44, 46.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Your bright expectations may not turn out to be what you were really seeking. You might have to search elsewhere for what your heart really desires. Lucky numbers: 16, 19, 23, 32, 43, 49.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

A newfound venture may really appeal to you. To be sure of it, you might need to look past the pretty dressing and research the nuts and bolts of the operation. Lucky numbers: 5, 18, 29, 31, 36, 48.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Helping others is so beneficial to your soul. You may need to appreciate the talents you possess. Making small sacrifices for others might supply you with much inner wealth. Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 10, 15, 21, 37.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You may need to find new outlets for both your physical and mental health. Break away from seriousness and allow your sense of humour to kick in. Lucky numbers: 17, 18, 22, 35, 42, 47.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Trust your intuitive feelings to lead you in the right direction. Your ability to see the good in others may help you find more harmony in your life. You might discover that good times lie ahead. Lucky numbers: 14, 25, 27, 35, 37, 40.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)

You may find many new ways to exhibit your leadership abilities to a larger audience. The knowledge you possess in your field of expertise could help you shine. Lucky numbers: 12, 24, 26, 29, 36, 43.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Taurus winners with the luckiest number being 8.

Did You Know...

Urban centres: The two most populous cities in Ecuador are Guayaquil, a port city, and Quito, the county's capital. Other large cities include Cuenca, Santo Domingo, and Machala.

Heed the sign: Muehrcke's lines are white bands that cross a fingernail horizontally. They don't move as the nail grows. These lines may be a sign that the body is low on a protein called albumin.

Great source: The work of science-fiction author Philip K. Dick was the source material for a number of American blockbuster movies. They include *Blade Runner* in 1982, *Total Recall* in 1990, and *Minority Report* in 2002.

Eye colour: Estimates of the percentage of people with brown eyes range from 55 to 90, making brown the most common eye colour. Only about 8 to 10% of people have blue eyes. Even fewer, 2%, have green eyes.

Fruit or vegetable? Watermelon is designated as both a fruit and a vegetable. It's a fruit because it grows from seeds, and a vegetable because it belongs to the same vegetable family as cucumber, pumpkin and squash.

On the Lighter Side

What if dogs fetch the ball back only because they think you really like throwing it?

Boss: "Wake up! If you want to snooze, why don't you leave work and go home?"
Employee: "Oh no. I can't get paid to sleep there."

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?
A meltdown!

Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?
Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump.

A guest calls the waiter and complains, "How come there are no chairs at our table?!"
The waiter shrugs, "I'm sorry but you only booked one table."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Otis Redding 2. 450 yrs. 3. African 4. Hans 5. Oars

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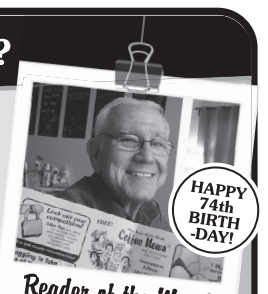

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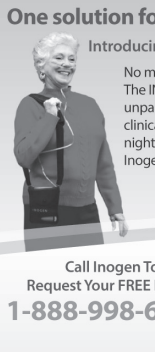

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