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Everybody's Talking

Lost in the maze: Those who don't mind getting lost might want to visit the rare Elizabethan hedge maze in the VanDusen Garden in the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, on Canada's west coast. Planted in the fall of 1981, the maze is made of over 3,000 pyramidal cedars, which have been growing ever since. Some people come to test their sense of direction as they walk through its cool passageways, while others enjoy finding a quiet spot to contemplate life. Those who are afraid of getting lost can view the maze from an observation terrace and watch others try to find their way out!

Sandy art: Visitors to a beach in Basque Country in Spain could be forgiven if they ran away in fear because they saw a big bull sitting in the sand. However, what they saw wasn't a real bull. It was a sculpture created by sand artist Andoni Bastarrika. For a decade, the artist has been making sand sculptures mainly to entertain people, but images of this life-size bull went viral on social media and made him famous. Bastarrika uses his hands to get the shape of his subject, and then moves to brushes, sticks, and toothpicks to sculpt the fine details. In addition to creating his own art, he also teaches sand sculpting workshops.

Stay home! The originator of Batman probably never envisioned the caped crusader as a virus fighter. However, that was the case in the Mexican city of Monterrey, Nuevo León, during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. A man dressed up in a real Batman suit drove around the city in a Batmobile, taking it upon himself to tell people to stay at home. He blasted a recorded message from the vehicle asking people to keep their distance from each other. The vigilante apparently was Candelario Maldonado, a Batman impersonator known in the city.

Cat sense: Dogs tend to get all the recognition for being heroes in times of trouble, but a cat in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Newfoundland (Canada), deserves some credit for being a "watch cat." The black and white feline, called Joey, is owned by Scott White. Just after midnight, White had put some food in the slow cooker, expecting it to be ready in the morning. However, he woke up a few hours later to find Joey pacing around the bed and whacking him with a paw. Turns out the slow cooker had caught fire. Without Joey, the house might have burned down.

Quoteable Quotes

"But how cool, how quiet is true courage!" —Fanny Burney
"In youth we learn, in age we understand." —Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

What's Happening

Nov 20 to Jan 2-Magic of Lights Head to Castrol Raceway for a new holiday tradition! You'll embark on a 2.5 KM drive through experience from the comfort of your own vehicle. Be mesmerized as multiple holiday themes come to life with hundreds of thousands of sparkling LED lights!

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Trivia

1. What is a sabbatical?
2. Often used in meal preparation, what are capers?
3. Which gland in the human body generates tears?
4. What musical instrument did Ravi Shankar champion worldwide?
5. The longest river in Europe is the Danube, the Rhine, or the Volga?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Recipe of the month

Holiday Haystack Cookies

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup milk chocolate chips
3 cups chow mein noodles

½ cup roughly chopped almonds
½ cup shelled pistachios
2 tablespoons assorted holiday sprinkles

Level: Easy Total: 1 hr 15 mins Yield: 24 cookies
Active: 15 mins

1. Heat 2 inches of water in a pot to a simmer. Add the semisweet and milk chocolate to a bowl and place over the pot of simmering water. Allow to melt, stirring occasionally, 4 to 5 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, add the noodles, almonds and pistachios to a large bowl and set aside.
3. When the chocolate has melted completely, pour over the noodle and nut mixture. Mix until everything is well coated in the melted chocolate.
4. Using 2 spoons, drop tablespoon mounds onto 2 parchment-lined baking sheets. Sprinkle the holiday sprinkles over the top. Allow to dry completely before storing, about 1 hour.

Source: www.foodnetwork.com

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