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Everybody's Talking

Plant lover: Joe Bagley lives in his own personalized jungle. His home is a one-bedroom coach house in Loughborough, Leicestershire, England, and it is filled to the rafters with all kinds of potted plants, from cacti to ivy and from tropicals to succulents. All told, he estimates that 1,400 plants live in his abode. His love of plants started when, as a boy of 13, his grandmother gave him a spider plant cutting. Since then, collecting and caring for plants has become his passion. Even his work involves plants: he works in a garden centre.

Close proximity: Those who live near busy highways may not be thrilled with traffic noise, but that's nothing compared to a situation in Cairo, Egypt. Designed to carry fast-moving vehicles, Teraet Al-Zomor Bridge is under construction just 50 centimetres (20 in.) from four high-rise apartment buildings. Apparently, the bridge is an important addition to the infrastructure, and the construction has a permit. The apartment dwellers will have to relocate, as the buildings will be torn down. For now, though, the view from some of the suites is definitely blocked, but hopefully the compensation to the renters will be worth it!

Big loaves: The country of Vietnam holds many tourist attractions, but one unlikely item has people talking – giant loaves of bread. Baker Pham Thi Bac of An Giang province in the Mekong Delta, started making the big loaves in 2018, just for fun. At about one metre (3 ft.) long and weighing approximately three kilograms (6.5 lbs.), the loaves taste great and are glazed with butter and seeds. Local people heard about the bread first and started asking for it. Then tourists joined in, wanting to take home a loaf or two as souvenirs – if they could figure out a way to carry them!

House for raffle: Katherine Jablonowska and Ryan Mclean wanted to do something different, so they took on a unique project. They bought a 19th-century cottage on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales and renovated it. But their goal was not to live there. Instead, they plan to raffle it off for £5 per ticket, with the lucky winner becoming the new owner. Originally a working barn, the home is now a beautiful, peaceful abode, with all the "bells and whistles" of modern life. When selling tickets, the pair is requesting a £1 donation, which they will match and donate to The Children's Society.

Quoteable Quotes

"Dance to the tune that is played." —Spanish proverb
"A little alarm now and then keeps life from stagnation." —Fanny Burney

What's Happening

Jan 16 to 17-Deep Freeze: A Byzantine Winter Adventure
This two-day festival brings together diverse cultures and revels in the magic and beauty of winter. Alberta Avenue - 118 Avenue NW and 91 Street, Edmonton.

Feb 1 to 28-Hypothermic Half Marathon 10K Virtual event - participate from any location you choose! Run in support of Justsocks.ca - a volunteer operated charity providing new socks to those in need across Canada. www.hypothermichalf.com

Nov 19 to Jan 18-Mom to Mom Online Group Online group where Moms can get together to talk about successes and difficulties of being a mom and sharing stories, each week working on a different topic. Thursdays 1-2 pm. Register at jasperplace-CFC.com

NON profit organizations may submit events for FREE at www.coffee-news.ca/whats-happening

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Trivia

1. What does the term "ipso facto" mean?
2. Mexican American performer Carlos Santana is known for playing what instrument?
3. What does a bibliophile collect or have a love for?
4. Author Agatha Christie is best known for writing what type of novels?
5. A brouhaha is a German joke or a ruckus?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Recipe of the month

Bacon Wrapped Stuffed Mushrooms

½ cup chopped green onions
2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened

20 fresh mushrooms, stems removed
1 pound sliced bacon, cut in half

Level: Easy Total: 30 mins Yield: 20 appetizers
Prep: 10 mins Cook: 20 mins

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the green onions and cream cheese. Stuff mushroom caps with the cheese mixture. Wrap each mushroom with a half-slice of bacon, and secure with toothpicks. Place on a baking sheet.
3. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until the bacon is cooked through.

An ideal addition to a party tray or a wonderful appetizer for a romantic Valentine Day meal.

Source: www.allrecipes.com

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'Tis St. Patrick's Day, To Be Sure!

Whether you have "green" in your heart or you are wearing a green t-shirt or hat or maybe you are carrying a four-leaf clover, on St. Patrick's Day we are all Irish.

St. Paddy's Day is all about fun and frivolity. It is green beer, Irish stew and the dollar store decorations that we don. It is also about getting together with friends and maybe spinning a few yarns (that's Irish for "telling a few stories" that may or may not be exaggerated... ha ha). Having a wee tibble when we get together is not unheard of, for sure.



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Our wish for all of us: May the roof above us never fall in. And may the friends gathered below it never fall out. *Sláinte.*

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)



Upcoming social and family gatherings may mean your schedule is full of fun activities. Your creative mind may be busy making plans.

Use this time to recharge yourself. Lucky Numbers: 2, 14, 21, 34, 40, 45.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)



Feelings of tenderness and love, especially for family members, may be very strong right now. You might feel very high spirits in hosting a party at home. Cheers! Lucky Numbers: 12, 17, 31, 37, 40, 42.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)



Take full advantage of any possible avenue of communication available to spread your message. This may be an excellent time for you to do some research or studying. Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 16, 22, 37, 41.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)



You may need to ask pertinent questions about your status. If you don't hold back, you might be in the driver's seat. Plan a getaway and take full advantage of some time off. Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 22, 23, 31, 40.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)



Many may try to lead, but you might have the secret to success. You usually love a happy ending, and this story could prove to be a real winner. Enjoy the success. Lucky Numbers: 10, 12, 20, 28, 34, 38.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



Don't be overly eager to launch your work goals until you have established a healthy family foundation. You may need to balance your career and your personal affairs. Lucky Numbers: 17, 19, 27, 29, 37, 39.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Leo winners with the luckiest number being 10.

Did You Know...

It's snowing! Accurately measuring the amount of rainfall is easier than measuring the amount of snowfall. One reason is that snow can stick to the side of the gauge, blocking falling snow from getting into the measuring container.

No arch: In people with flatfeet, the whole soles of their feet touch the floor when they are standing because their feet don't have arches. In some people, this condition causes problems, such as foot pain, but others don't have any symptoms.

Zucchini facts: People think of zucchini as a vegetable, but it is actually a fruit. Zucchini have beta-carotene and alpha-carotene, and the skin may be eaten along with the flesh because it is rich in antioxidants.

Funny lady: Maya Rudolph is an alumna of the famous American skit comedy show, *Saturday Night Live*. She performed on the show from 2000 to 2007 and became known for her impersonations.

Old tree: A living natural wonder of the world grows in the Abarkuh in Yazd Province, Iran. This Mediterranean cypress tree, known as Sarv-e Abarkuh, is thought to be between 4,000 and 5,000 years old.

On the Lighter Side

How are a green apple and a red apple alike? They're both red, except for the green one.

Why are movie stars so cool? They have a lot of fans.

She: "I have a doctor's appointment today, but I really don't want to go."

He: "Just call in sick then."

How do you get down from an elephant? You don't. You get down from a goose.

What disappears the second you start talking about it? Silence.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. By the fact itself 2. Guitar 3. Books 4. Mystery 5. A rucksack

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