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## Everybody's Talking

**Unusual art:** Artist Reijo Kela of Finland must have been a bit bored when he decided to make some friends – literally. He came up with an art installation consisting of over 1,000 "people" made of wooden frames and dressed in colourful clothing. All the figures, which have heads of peat and hair of straw, face the same direction. Called "The Silent People," the installation is situated in a field near a highway, in the Finnish municipality of Suomussalmi. Drivers who are accustomed to the sight may not look twice, but those who don't know about it experience quite a shock when they first view the army of scarecrows.

**Unshorn sheep:** A sheep named Prickles has become a celebrity in Tasmania (Australia). The ovine got separated from Alice Gray's family farm in 2013 during intense bush fires. A lamb at the time, the family worried that she wouldn't survive in the wilderness. However, they were buoyed by a few sightings of her over the years, and finally, they managed to catch her, put her in a truck, and get her back to the farm. Prickles had not had her wool shorn for so long that she looked like a big ball of fluff. The family sponsored a contest for people to guess how much the wool weighed, and they donated the proceeds to a COVID-19 relief fund.

**Pancake perfection:** The small city of Ames, Iowa (U.S.), is home to The Grove Café. This little restaurant, which was founded back in 1948, serves such good food that it has been voted one of the 20 best breakfast restaurants in the country. Pancakes are the menu item that gets diners' attention. They are enormous and barely fit on a plate. At an inch thick and with perfect fluffiness, these pancakes can be ordered as a short stack of two, for diners who are really hungry. Toppings include butter, blueberry and raspberry jam, and whipped cream.

**Picturesque burglary:** If you are going to rob someone, try not to take a picture of yourself on the victim's phone. That's what Ashley Keast did after breaking into a home with the intent of stealing. Keast, of Rotherham, South Yorks (England), stole a SIM card and put it into a different phone before posting a selfie. He didn't realize that the photo was seen by the victim's co-workers, who called the cops. It didn't take long to find the thief, who was caught with the victim's £4,000 Rolex watch. Keast ended up in jail for his bad deed.

## Quoteable Quotes

"Anticipation was the soul of enjoyment" —Elizabeth Gaskell  
"There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." —William Shakespeare

## What's Happening

**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](http://www.hypothermichalf.com)

**Jan 12 to Mar 2 - Tuesdays. Navigating Motherhood** Are you expecting or have just had a baby If you are having feelings of depression, anxiety or being overwhelmed, you are not alone. Join us. online via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. 780-979-2385 or email [frn@leduc-county.com](mailto:frn@leduc-county.com)

**Jan 15 to 31 Valentails Fundraiser - Buy a Valentine, Save a Horse** Valentine cards for purchase featuring animals from Out of Africa Animal Sanctuary. 75 of proceeds will directly benefit the animals who are free from harm. View our fundraiser at [www.helpabuddyfund.org](http://www.helpabuddyfund.org)

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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](http://www.allrecipes.com)

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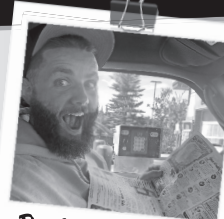
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## Your Weekly Horoscope

**ARIES**  
(March 21 - April 20)



Your energy level may be  
high. Your ability to con-  
centrate in your field of  
expertise might bring you  
much success. The world  
of imagination could  
seem very attractive to you. Lucky  
Numbers: 6, 24, 36, 40, 43, 47.

**TAURUS**  
(April 21 - May 21)



This may be a busy time  
for you, with many  
family celebrations to  
attend. You might enjoy  
being with friends and  
family, sharing pleasures  
and fun together. Enjoy! Lucky  
Numbers: 1, 16, 31, 46, 47, 49.

**GEMINI**  
(May 22 - June 21)



If you are a writer, this  
may be a magical time  
for inspiration of a very  
high order. Your natural  
sense of spiritual pur-  
pose and direction might  
be greatly enhanced. Lucky Numbers:  
17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32.

**CANCER**  
(June 22 - July 22)



Your imagination and  
intuition may be height-  
ened, which could benefit  
any creative or artistic  
endeavour. Your thoughts  
might tend to be very  
dreamy or fantastic. Lucky Numbers:  
2, 10, 15, 36, 43, 45.

**LEO**  
(July 23 - Aug. 23)



Be aware of your own  
energy level and be sure  
to save some energy for  
the near future. Time  
may mend wounds, but  
your emotional scars may  
need more healing. Lucky Numbers: 4,  
5, 13, 26, 38, 44.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



You may choose to begin  
some sort of self-improve-  
ment effort. Once your  
life is put into a better  
perspective, you might  
feel more confident that  
your goals are attainable. Lucky  
Numbers: 7, 13, 17, 23, 37, 43.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



You may be more con-  
scious of the price you  
might need to pay to real-  
ize your ultimate dreams.  
Don't allow it to dis-  
courage you from turning  
your ideas into reality. You can do it.  
Lucky Numbers: 4, 14, 16, 29, 32, 45.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



You may attend an artis-  
tic event that exposes you  
to new styles that differ  
from your own. These  
new contacts may provide  
you with some exciting  
ideas. Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 19, 25,  
37, 40.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Now may be a good time  
to have someone special  
to share good times. You  
might need to try to  
create a more equal shar-  
ing of love and nurturing  
in your relationship. Lucky Numbers:  
16, 25, 26, 35, 36, 45.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Communications may  
come from unexpected  
places. You might crave  
more stimulation. Your  
strong sense of adventure  
could greatly influence  
your imagination. Lucky Numbers: 13,  
16, 22, 25, 37, 48.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



This may be a productive  
time to learn more about  
love and about what  
your true values may be.  
Remain calm and look  
more objectively at your  
relationships. Lucky Numbers: 11,  
17, 30, 34, 46, 49.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 20 - March 20)



A conflict of interest may  
arise due to a lack of  
respect others might be  
showing you. Your leader-  
ship qualities might help  
them appreciate your  
professional approach. Lucky Numbers:  
10, 11, 19, 30, 31, 39.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Cancer  
winners with the luckiest number being 2.

## Did You Know...

**Rare bird:** The blue-throated macaw is a brightly coloured  
bird that lives in northern Bolivia. It grows to be 60 to 91  
centimetres (two to three feet) from head to tail, and some live  
to be 50 years old. They are on the endangered list.

**Buggy place:** The city of Montréal, Québec (Canada), has a  
very unusual museum called the Insectarium of Montréal. This  
museum displays thousands of insect specimens for those who  
are fascinated by such creatures.

**Savoury breakfast:** A favourite breakfast sold by street  
vendors in China is jianbing. This made-to-order, crêpe-like  
food is filled with green onion, cilantro, and vegetables, and  
topped with hoisin sauce and spices.

**I love you:** In Paris, an art installation called *Mur des Je  
T'Aime* ("I Love You: The Wall") was built from lava tiles by  
Frédéric Baron and Claire Kito. On the tiles, the artists have  
written "I Love You" in 311 ways, using about 250 languages.

**Born singer:** Sia is a pop singer from Adelaide, Australia.  
After limited early success in Australia, she moved to England,  
where she pursued a solo career. One of her early albums,  
*Healing is Difficult*, was released in 2001. She now lives in  
the United States.

## On the Lighter Side

Falling in love is awfully simple. Falling out of love is simply  
awful.

What stays in the corner all the time but travels around the  
world? A stamp.

Why didn't the dinosaur cross the road? Because there weren't  
even any roads during the Jurassic Period!

What do lawyers wear to court? Lawsuits.

Dentist: "You need a crown."

Patient: "Finally, someone who understands me."

## Answers

**Trivia answers:** 1. Eyes 2. Petty falsehood 3. Julia  
Louis-Dreyfus 4. Velvet and crochet 5. Snake oil

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