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Everybody's Talking

Pyramid crazy: Andrey and Victoria Vakhrushev from the village of Istinka near St. Petersburg, Russia, are enamoured by the Great Pyramid of Giza. In fact, they are so captivated by the ancient structure that they built a replica in their backyard. While much smaller than the original, the couple's creation is still a sight to behold. They thoroughly researched the project and applied similar specifications to scale. They ended up using about 400 tonnes of concrete blocks. Finding a contractor took a while, but eventually one agreed to take on the job

Sculpture garden: Xilitla, San Luis Potosi, in north central Mexico is the home of Las Pozas, a surrealistic sculpture garden. It was the brainchild of the late Edward James of England and was built between the 1960s and 1980s. A wealthy man, James loved orchids, and he grew many varieties on his Mexican property. However, everything was wiped out in a hailstorm in 1962. That's when he started building his tropical campus of interesting sculptures, with the help of his Mexican friend and foreman, Plutaco Gastelum. There are over 30 rock and concrete sculptures left today, going by such names as The Staircase to Heaven.

Tea time: It may come as a surprise that, in a tea-loving locale, the oldest tea shop in London began as a coffee shop more than 300 years ago. Today, the cafe is called Twinings Tea Shop, but when it opened three centuries ago, it was called Tom's Coffee House. It was started by Thomas Twining, who was in the business of importing commodities, including tea and coffee. His shop became known among his aristocratic customers to have some of the best tea in the city. Today, the shop still stands at 216 Strand, and the name "Twining" has gone down in history as a popular brand of tea.

Vertical cave: A deep cave in Mexico is called Sótano de las Golondrinas (Cave of the Swallows). Located in the forest in Aquismón, San Luis Potosí, this open-air cave shaft is over 370 metres (1,200 ft.) deep, and even deeper in some spots. Its name stems from the brightly coloured parakeets and swifts that settle down along the walls at night. In the morning, all the birds fly up and out of the cave, making a spectacular sight. The Cave of the Swallows also attracts human visitors who enjoy extreme sports. They jump in with a parachute or spend a full hour rappelling to the bottom using specialized ropes and gear.

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Quoteable Quotes

"There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart." —*Celia Thaxter*

"Human relations are built on feeling, not on reason or knowledge." —*Amelia E. Barr*

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Trivia

1. What is naan?
2. A catamaran has one hull or two?
3. Finish this adage: "You reap what you ----------."
4. A shipping vessel is often referred to as he, she, or it?
5. On what type of apparel would you find spurs?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Recipe of the month

Cheesy Broccoli Soup in a Bread Bowl

1/4 cup butter, cubed
1/2 cup chopped onion
2 garlic cloves, minced
4 cups fresh broccoli florets (about 8 ounces)
1 large carrot, finely chopped
3 cups chicken stock
2 cups half-and-half cream
2 bay leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup cornstarch
1/4 cup water or additional chicken stock
2-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
6 small round bread loaves (about 8 ounces each), optional
Optional toppings: Crumbled cooked bacon, additional shredded cheddar cheese, ground nutmeg and pepper

Prep Time: 15 mins. Cook time: 30 mins. Yield: 6 servings

❶ In a 6-qt. stockpot, heat butter over medium heat; sauté onion and garlic until tender, 6-8 minutes. Stir in broccoli, carrot, stock, cream and seasonings; bring to a boil. Simmer, uncovered, until vegetables are tender, 10-12 minutes.
❷ Mix cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into soup. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally; cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Remove bay leaves. Stir in cheese until melted.
❸ If using bread bowls, cut a slice off the top of each bread loaf; hollow out bottoms, leaving 1/4-in.-thick shells (save removed bread for another use). Fill with soup just before serving.
❹ If desired, serve soup with toppings.

Source: www.tasteofhome.com

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)
Your hobbies or interests may vary widely, but you could excel in whatever you do. Share your life experiences. This talent may bring you closer to those around you. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 17, 19, 23, 34.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)
Hone those creative talents. You may feel pressured to help others to solve their problems. It may seem like your audience is awaiting your next magical performance. Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 12, 39, 45, 48.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)
You may need to influence others in order for them to realize their potential in your circle of friends. Strong spiritual feelings may reflect positively on your life. Lucky numbers: 3, 13, 23, 30, 33, 48.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)
Try to contain your excitement until the secret is revealed. You may want to celebrate day and night. Your special feelings could be very hard to hide. Lucky numbers: 14, 19, 31, 43, 45, 46.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)
As your mental processes speed up, you may move much more quickly now. Try to make room for a lot of spontaneity and flexibility in your everyday schedule. Lucky numbers: 6, 22, 24, 41, 43, 49.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may feel like you need to start over, but you know that you must continue on your path. Find new ways to communicate your message to a larger audience. Lucky numbers: 12, 29, 31, 32, 34, 44.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may want to use your organizational abilities to bring your career to the next level. Keep promises to complete all the recent projects that you've taken on. Lucky numbers: 10, 34, 36, 39, 46, 48.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
This may be a time for you to prove something important to yourself. Keeping your promises could be the first step in redeeming your self-confidence and reputation. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 28, 38, 46, 47.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
You may need to push away your resistance to change. A fresh start might help. Find a strategy to create a new schedule to make your life feel a little easier. Lucky numbers: 4, 15, 16, 23, 29, 46.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Your position on modifications may be questioned by those in authority. Push your creative ideas to help them understand in what direction you want to go. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 18, 24, 28, 29.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
An inspirational event may move your heart to help family and friends who need you. Your sense of belonging could become much stronger as a result. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 18, 25, 31, 34.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)
You may feel that your talents have remained dormant. Recent events might have revealed that you need to awaken the child within you. Use your imagination to surpass previous success. Lucky numbers: 19, 29, 30, 37, 41, 49.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Gemini winners with the luckiest number being 3.

Did You Know...

Lost: The "Lost Generation" is the term used to describe the generation that became adults during the 1920s, right after World War I. They rejected the ideals of the older generation, including gender roles and what previously had been considered proper behaviour.

Rock outcrop: The Pinnacles of Gunung Mulu are spikes of limestone that reach upwards from the jungles of Malaysian Borneo. To get a good view of these blade-like protrusions, intrepid hikers must make their way along tough terrain.

Sweet treat: A sweet delight originating in Peru consists of sweet potatoes and squash. Called *picarones*, these fritters are deep fried and dunked in sweet syrup.

Light the way: Krill are small crustaceans that are related to shrimp and lobster. Krill is abundant in the Earth's oceans and is very important in the food chain. Most species of krill are bioluminescent, meaning they emit light.

Famous scientist: Charles Darwin (1809-1882) is author of *On the Origin of Species*, which was published in 1859. Between 1831 and 1836, he traveled to the South Pacific, during which he spent time studying the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands.

On the Lighter Side

Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use honeycombs.

Once in a while, it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

What is the most important thing to learn in chemistry class? Never lick the spoon.

If cowhands can be deranged, can electricians be delighted?

Upon hearing the alarm of the ambulance in the neighbourhood, two-year old Harry cried, "There goes the wee-woo truck!"

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Oven-baked flatbread 2. Two 3. "sow." 4. She 5. Cowboy boots

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