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Everybody's Talking

Dating game: If you are trying to meet that special someone, it's best not to damage their property in the process. But that's what Yoshito Harada of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, did. He got into the habit of slashing the tires on women's cars, then following them so he could offer to help. Recently, one of his targets remembered him from a previous tire-slashing incident, and she called the cops. It wasn't long before the police discovered that Harada had played this game several years earlier and had been caught. He paid compensation for the tires and didn't go to jail, but none of the ladies was interested in dating him.

Pandemic dress: Peyton Manker was not able to wear her homemade dress to her high school prom, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, lots of people saw her unique dress on social media. Manker, of Sparta, Illinois (U.S.), decided to enter a contest to make her dress out of duct tape, and she succeeded beyond her wildest dreams. She spent almost 400 hours and used about 40 rolls of tape to create her dress. The coronavirus-themed gown is royal blue and gold and contains colourful scenes depicting the pandemic, such as hospital staff with masks.

Tiger tales: Getting caught in floodwater is no fun, even for tigers. One such feline, a resident of the Kaziranga National Park in Assam, in northeastern India, was looking for shelter when it discovered a goat shed on someone's property in Kandolimari Village. Park officials identified the animal as a not-quite-full-grown, male Bengal tiger. Officials kept a close eye on the situation so nobody, including the tiger, would get hurt. During heavy rains, many animals in the park, including elephants and rhinos, must find sanctuary by moving to higher ground.

Tall and straight: Cactus plants can grow to be quite tall, and one in Takinogawa, Tokyo (Japan), leaves onlookers awestruck at its height. This cactus looks like a pole as it reaches for the sky on the side of a three-story building. No one is aware of the plant's age or genus, but it does appear that someone cares for the prickly thing. Metal rings are wrapped around the plant that attach it to the building, presumably so it won't topple over. The building is 10 metres (33 ft.) high, and this cactus is a little taller than that. Its top is slightly higher than the building.

Quoteable Quotes

"It is better to begin in the evening than not at all." —English Proverb

"If we had no winter the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." —Anne Bradstreet

What's Happening

Online event posting During the Pandemic, we are happy to post your online event in the What's Happening section of Coffee News. Please visit our website at www.coffee-news.ca to submit your event.

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Trivia

1. Mt. Whitney is located in which mountain range?
2. What do you call puppets controlled by strings or wires?
3. The official Mexican flag features what type of bird—caracara, condor, or raven?
4. What are the lower chambers of the heart called?
5. What popular sales event takes place the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S.?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)



Contentment, emotional well-being, and harmony may prevail in your personal relationships. You might want to relax and indulge in your pleasure-loving side. Lucky Numbers: 12, 21, 22, 33, 39, 41.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)



You may be feeling rather tender and soft-hearted. This might be a good time to pamper yourself and to spend time with the people who love and appreciate you. Lucky Numbers: 4, 16, 29, 34, 46, 49.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)



You may want to make a short visit or call people you really enjoy to tell them you love them. Positive connections might be made, and you could meet a new friend. Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 22, 29, 38, 49.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)



You may not be able to stand being idle now. You could feel sharp, clear, decisive, and articulate. You might want to communicate to others what you really want. Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 22, 27, 42, 47.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)



You may feel more aware of beauty and want to rearrange your décor. You might feel ready to discuss your personal needs. Cooperation could be possible now. Lucky Numbers: 10, 19, 24, 33, 40, 49.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



Your communication skills may be helpful right now. It might be easier to listen sensitively, not only to what others are saying, but also to what they are feeling. Lucky Numbers: 21, 28, 31, 38, 41, 48.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



Your mind may be on long-range plans. You might feel optimistic and enthusiastic about your ideas, but try not to be lax about important current details. Lucky Numbers: 4, 23, 34, 43, 44, 47.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



You may be feeling hospitable and want to have company or give a party at your home. Home improvements could also be favoured now. Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 22, 23, 30, 41.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Cooperation and assistance in business relationships may be prominent. Consequently, significant growth and progress in your career could happen. Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 30, 31, 37, 40.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



Take advantage of opportunities available to you. Rewards may prove to be very beneficial. The growth and progress in your career may feel personally fulfilling. Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 12, 14, 18, 21.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



You may be a peacemaker now, since harmony in your life seems more important than ever. You might attract people into your life who are a good influence. Lucky Numbers: 21, 26, 31, 36, 41, 46.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)



Communications of all kinds may play an important role in your life now. You might hear from someone who has important information for you. Lucky Numbers: 6, 9, 16, 19, 24, 37.

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

Did You Know...

Wilde wit: Poet and playwright Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1854. He was well known for his wit, humour, and drama, writing such masterpieces as *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Salome*, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Savoury snack: A savoury pastry that originated in Lithuania is called kibinai. These small golden, crescent-shaped pastry bites can be filled with various ingredients, such as mutton, mushrooms, cheese, and spinach.

Full circle: From the ground, a rainbow looks like an arch of coloured bands in the sky. Actually, it is not an arch but a full circle. The whole circle cannot be seen from the ground because the land interferes with the view.

Large and hot: The Chihuahuan Desert, which straddles the United States and Mexico, is the largest hot desert in North America. It covers approximately 200,000 square miles (518,000 sq. km).

Red sap: The Socotra Archipelago in the northwest Indian Ocean is home to the *Dracaena cinnabari*, better known as the dragon's blood tree. Looking a little like a plant umbrella, the tree was named for its red sap.

On the Lighter Side

Pedestrian to famous TV star: "Didn't I see you on television last night?"
TV star: "I'm sorry, I don't know. When I'm on TV, I can't see out."

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

What runs but can't walk? A faucet.

If you got into a taxi and it started driving backwards, would the taxi driver end up owing you money?


Memory is the key, but only if you remember where the lock is!

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Sierra Nevada 2. Manonnettes 3. Caracara 4. Ventricles 5. Black Friday

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 (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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- If desired, serve soup with toppings.

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