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Everybody's Talking

Feathery feat: Artists use many different mediums to craft their work, but pigeon feathers are not often the choice of material. That's what Kate McGwire of London, England, used to create an art installation called "Discharge." With about 10,000 gray and white feathers, which she considers to be overlooked material, she made what appears to be a huge outflow of liquid emerging from the top of a library bookcase. Where the "flow" hits the floor, more pigeon feathers form what looks like a churning pool. The piece stands five metres high (16.4 feet) and is part of a larger exhibition.

Quiet work spot: Those who want to find a private place to work in Japan now have an option. Whether they want to get out of their noisy home or do some work while waiting for a flight, they can book a Telecube. These small pods are about the size of a phone booth (remember them?), and they are becoming more and more available. The comfortable little booths are soundproof and have everything a worker needs, including a desk, a place to sit, power outlets, and video conferencing software. And if a user has difficulty with any of the technology, a support service is available around the clock to help.

Leaning towers: Most people have heard of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, but the leaning towers of Santos may not be quite as well known. Santos is a city located on shore of the Atlantic Ocean, southwest of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Many of the hundreds of buildings in its skyline lean to one side. Some lean a tiny bit, not visible to the naked eye, but others are noticeably tilted by as much as a few feet. The buildings lean because building codes were more lax when these towers were constructed, compared to today, and foundations were not as deep. However, authorities claim these leaning towers are not in danger of falling over.

Castle hotel: European-style fairy castles aren't a common sight in China. But visitors to the Wanfeng Lake Castle (also called Jilong Castle Country Club), on Wanfeng Lake in Guizhou province, can enjoy a bit of European atmosphere. This castle-like, luxury hotel, which was built in 2011, is complete with a bridge connecting the island resort to the mainland. Wanfeng Lake is surrounded by jungle and foliage-covered peaks. The resort boasts a spa and entertainment club, as well as conference and dining rooms. Guest rooms offer views of the beautiful lake. This castle hotel is reminiscent of the famous Neuschwanstein Castle, near Füssen, Bavaria, Germany.

Quoteable Quotes

"Ask the young: they know everything!" —Joseph Joubert
 "There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in." —Graham Greene

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. What is the total pounds of lunar rocks and soil brought back to Earth by the Apollo crews?
2. Zubin Mehta is a famous physician, conductor, or CEO?
3. Jim Nabors played what character in the TV sitcom Mayberry R.F.D.?
4. What is the surname of "Peanuts" comic characters Lucy and Linus?
5. The Scottish dish called champit tatties primarily consists of what vegetable?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Congratulations to November's **Coffee News Guy** contest winners!

Barry Johnson
Jenn Bredo
Dianna Ridgeway
Carol Williams

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Recipe of the month

New Year's Eve Pineapple Cheese Ball

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 can (8 ounces) unsweetened crushed pineapple, drained
1/4 cup finely chopped green pepper

2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
2 teaspoons seasoned salt
1-1/2 cups finely chopped walnuts

Optional: Assorted crackers and fresh vegetables

Total Time: 20 min. prep + chilling
Yield: 1 cheese ball (3 cups)

1 In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, pineapple, green pepper, onion and seasoned salt until blended. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Shape into a ball (mixture will be soft); coat in walnuts. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with crackers and vegetables if desired.

An ideal addition to any festive holiday party or get together!

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



Aries can be big thinkers at times, and their lofty ideas don't always get fulfilled. However, for the next few weeks, hard work may help you achieve your ambitious goals. Lucky numbers: 2, 7, 16, 22, 39, 48.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Sudden and unexpected changes may happen. You may also come up with some new ideas. If so, perhaps a friend can help you take advantage of the opportunity they offer. Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 13, 15, 41, 42.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Be aware that the concept of "mother" may become a focus in the near future. If so, this may refer to your role as a mother or as a child. Lucky numbers: 9, 10, 15, 42, 43, 45.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



For the next few days, you may want to nest in your home. This can manifest in ways such as a desire to cook a delicious meal or to redecorate. Lucky numbers: 13, 16, 17, 25, 34, 44.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 23)



During this time, you may be attending a lot of social events. If so, simply focus on having fun. Skip conversations on hot button topics such as politics. Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 16, 18, 29, 48.

VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



Some Virgos have a strong perfectionist streak. If this describes you, take a deep breath during this time. Not everything has to be perfect to enjoy yourself. Lucky numbers: 1, 11, 16, 19, 41, 48.

LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



You may be thinking about your role in the world. If so, think outside the box about how the Libra talent for artistic and creative endeavours may apply to you. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 30, 38, 40, 48.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



Scorpios have the potential to see below the surface of people and situations. Is this true for you? If so, the opportunity exists to see this ability in a different light. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 4, 17, 29, 35.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



Over the next few weeks, you may experience a lot of frustration. If so, be careful about getting angry. Wait it out and things may improve on their own. Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 18, 29, 34, 37.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



The Sun returns to your sign. Any relationship issues may ease, even if they are not resolved. You may find that you want to focus now on your career or business. Lucky numbers: 4, 22, 23, 25, 43, 45.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



You may continue to be in a period of seeking new experiences. However, the potential now exists for the environment to shift in an unexpected direction. Examine your options carefully. Lucky numbers: 4, 12, 18, 25, 43, 45.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)



You have an opportunity for the next 7-10 days to receive concrete information. It can help you ground your ideas, so they can be manifested more easily than usual. Lucky numbers: 1, 11, 16, 19, 41, 48.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Capricorn winners with the luckiest number being 25.

Did You Know...

Long road: The Trans-Canada Highway in Canada runs east-west across the whole country, from Victoria, British Columbia, on the Pacific coast to St. John's, Newfoundland, on the Atlantic coast. It is 7,820 kilometres (4,860 mi.) long.

Verbal cues: Writers who employ onomatopoeias are using words that, when read aloud, make the sound of what is being described. Examples include "splash," "hiss," and "achoo."

Sound device: More often used today as a toy or novelty item, a bullroarer is a device once used in rituals and for communication in various countries around the world. It is a flat piece of wood that makes low-pitched, howling sounds when whirled on a cord.

Ear wiggling: The outer ear, which is the part that is visible, is called the auricle or the pinna. It is usually immobile, but some people can move their ears a little bit.

Marriage material: Superstar American singer Madonna has been married to two men in show business. She was married to American actor Sean Penn from 1985 to 1989. In 2000, she married British director Guy Ritchie. They divorced in 2008.

On the Lighter Side

Girl: What are you reading?
Boy: A mystery.
Girl: But that is a math book.
Boy: Yes, it's a mystery to me.

Why did the mummy take a vacation? He needed to unwind.

What do you call a sheep that squeals on her pals? Ewe dirty rat.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Cow. Cow who? Cow much longer are you going to put up with all this mooing?

What happened when the lion ate the comedian? He felt funny.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. 842 lbs. 2. Conductor 3. Gomer Pyle 4. Van Pelt 5. Mashed potatoes

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