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Everybody's Talking

Living on water: The Netherlands is known for an engineering ability that makes flood-prone areas livable. Waterbuurt-West is one of those creative ideas. Meaning "water quarter," Waterbuurt is a subdivision of floating homes on Lake Eimer in Amsterdam's IJburg development zone. There are more than 50 of these dwellings, which are actual homes, not houseboats. They won't float away because they are anchored to steel mooring poles; they only move up and down, not sideways, when the tide changes. The material used is light steel and wood, and they have basic but attractive living areas, kitchens, and outdoor patios.

Close call: A man from Sparta, Tennessee (U.S.), almost missed a \$1 million lottery prize. That's because he dropped his ticket while running errands. Nick Slatten had discovered that his ticket was the winner, then he and his fiancée briefly celebrated before he continued with his day. Among his stops was an auto parts store. When he returned home, the ticket was gone. In a frantic search, he revisited every place he'd gone that day. Finally, his luck returned and he found the ticket on the ground in the parking lot of the auto shop. If it had been picked up by anyone else, the finder could have claimed it as their own and won the money.

Flying home: Own a small plane? Want to park it in your driveway? People in the U.S. in this situation could buy a home in one of several hundred airparks. These are subdivisions with a shared runway and wide streets, allowing plane owners to land close to home, then taxi their craft right to their driveway. Some homes may even have hangars instead of garages! Of course, people who live in these fly-in communities must be fairly wealthy, as the property and amenities are quite expensive. However, those who can afford it can hop into their plane and quickly and easily go wherever they'd like, instead of having to fight traffic on the way to a destination.

Fake plate: Why would someone want to make a fake licence plate for a vehicle? Perhaps they lost their actual plates, or maybe they can't afford the insurance. Whatever the case, a man from Brantford, Ontario (Canada), must have had a reason for taking the chance of using fake plates. This man used a diaper box as his raw material. He cut a piece of cardboard to the dimensions of an Ontario licence plate, then he printed out what looked like the markings of a plate, complete with a licence number. Unfortunately for him, he was pulled over by police and taken to task for the forgery.

Quoteable Quotes

"Variety's the very spice of life." —William Cowper

"Life's a tough proposition, and the first hundred years are the hardest." —Wilson Mizner

What's Happening

Dec 9 to Jan 17-Online Classes open for registration-Adults 50 plus Learn something new! Classes start January 17-something for almost every interest. Non-credit classes in sciences, humanities, arts leisure. ELLA offers education, affordable, fun, non-credit courses for adults. Register now MY_ELLA.COM.

Dec 15 to 31-Many Moods of Christmas with Greenwood Singers Greenwood Singers return with their annual presentation of The Many Moods of Christmas! This online concert event will premier on Wednesday, December 15. Tickets available through Eventbrite's website

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

Hidden Coffee News Guy ADVENTURE

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Trivia

1. In what country did tai chi originate?
2. What are beavers known for building?
3. Which well-known franchise developed the Misty Freeze?
4. Finish this phrase: "Don't cry over spilled ____."
5. An arborist specializes in what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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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!

Source:
<https://www.tasteofhome.com>

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

People or circumstances may be causing frustration in your life. The best way to address this is to assess how to use information provided by them to improve your plans. Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 17, 36, 37, 39.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

This may be a good time to focus on nurturing yourself rather than focusing on the needs of others. There is the potential for improving your self-confidence and image. Lucky numbers: 15, 18, 22, 33, 43, 47.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There may be a conflict surrounding what you feel your purpose is and how to achieve it. Perhaps scaling back your ambition will lessen any tension you are experiencing now. Lucky numbers: 7, 8, 33, 35, 39, 41.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Yours is a sign that often gives priority to others. However, you may now feel that your own needs and ambitions should be the priority. If so, honour those feelings. Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 10, 17, 28, 38.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Leo sometimes finds it difficult to toe the line to bring projects to completion. Especially right now, you may need to dig deep and put in extra effort to succeed. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 10, 12, 25, 31.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

The new year can provide a blank slate for change. The energy now can take you in several different directions. Choose the path that is most authentic for you. Lucky numbers: 8, 20, 30, 40, 47, 48.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

The potential to be more grounded is in play now. This can help ease any existing challenges for a while, so you can work toward accomplishing your objectives. Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 18, 22, 38, 43.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You may experience sudden and/or unexpected insights about your professional calling. Any changes that you look to make as a result may take a while, so just be patient. Lucky numbers: 14, 16, 24, 25, 41, 48.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The circumstances surrounding you may be focused on how you see yourself. If this is true for you, work to strengthen the fire that is the core of your being. Lucky numbers: 23, 29, 34.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The astrological environment has a lot of Capricorn energy right now. As a result, you may be restless about one or more areas of your life, including your profession or relationships. Lucky numbers: 10, 12, 25, 29, 35, 36.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Your heightened ability to intuitively gather information continues strongly this week. However, be aware of how your feelings over the next few days may colour what you see or hear. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 7, 36, 41, 46.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

The end of the week may be focused on a romantic relationship. You may have important insights, but may want to wait a bit before acting on what you learn. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 14, 21, 22, 35.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 47.

Did You Know...

Drumbeat: People in North African, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern countries are likely to be familiar with the darabukka. This small drum is shaped like a goblet and made of clay or wood.

Right side: The appendix is a thin, finger-shaped tube located where the small intestine meets the large intestine, on the right side of the abdomen. Its exact purpose is not clear. If the appendix becomes inflamed, the condition is known as appendicitis.

Great book: *The Great Gatsby* was the third novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. One of the movies made from the book starred Robert Redford and Mia Farrow (1974) and another starred Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan (2013).

Famous city: The capital city of Ukraine is Kyiv, which can also be spelled Kiev. It is a port city located on the Dnieper River. It is home to the green- and gold-domed St. Sophia Cathedral, built in the 11th century.

Great Red Spot: Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun, has a feature called Great Red Spot. It is a storm system that has a reddish tinge. It is oval and is over 16,000 kilometres (9,942 mi.) wide. It can be seen from Earth through telescopes.

On the Lighter Side

Little Pete: Ouch! My new shoes hurt me!
Big Pete: They are on the wrong feet!
Little Pete: But I don't have any other feet!

Why did Dracula take cough medicine? He was coffin.

Did you hear about the mathematician who was afraid of numbers? He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

Why can't bananas grow any longer? Because they're long enough already.

If you boil a funny bone, it becomes a laughing stock. That's humerus.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. China 2. Dams 3. Dairy Queen 4. Milk 5. Trees

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