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www.coffee-news.ca Est. 1988

Vol. 19 No. 2 January 10, 2022

Everybody's Talking

Wolf dog: Rottweilers may have a reputation for being fierce dogs, but they are not wolves. But some zookeepers in central China hoped that visitors wouldn't be able to tell the difference. At the Xiangwushan Zoo in Xianning, Hubei province, the wolf enclosure was home to one of these domestic canines. An outraged visitor posted a photo of the Rottweiler on social media, and the zoo representatives had to explain the situation. They said the Rottweiler was actually a guard dog, and the wolf that was previously kept in the enclosure had passed away from old age. The zoo was ordered to remove the wolf enclosure sign so visitors wouldn't be confused.

Demanding man: A middle-aged man with a law degree from England's Oxford University seemed to think that his elderly parents owed him a living, and a good one at that. Faiz Siddiqui enjoyed a rent-free life in an expensive Hyde Park flat in London for 20 years, paid for by his parents, who also provided him with a generous weekly allowance. The older folks grew tired of it and wanted to cut off their support for their son. But the son didn't want to let go of his lavish lifestyle, so he sued his Dubai-based parents. With an attitude like that, no wonder he hadn't worked for a decade. His parents' lawyers were fighting the claim in the Court of Appeal.

Flower power: An artist from Melbourne, Australia, works with a unique medium to produce realistic results. Michelle Nguyen is a sugar flower artist who makes amazingly true-to-life flowers from edible ingredients. She crafts all types of flowers, from peonies to poppies and roses to tulips, not overlooking any detail. The flowers she creates look like they have just been picked from the garden. She uses fondant and food colouring, so they are safe to eat, but who would want to devour these beautiful blossoms? Nguyen has won awards for her work, and she offers workshops to teach others about her techniques.

Antarctic treasure: More than half a century after losing his wallet in Antarctica, of all places, an American man got it back. Paul Grisham of San Diego, California, spent 13 months during the 1960s working on the southern continent as a Navy meteorologist. He realized at the time that he'd lost the billfold, but then completely forgot about it in later years. Someone found it behind a locker in 2014, and the search for Grisham began. Finally, amateur sleuths located him through social media, emails, and snail mail. Getting the wallet back thrilled the nonagenarian and his family. Inside were relics of his past, including his driver's licence and his Navy ID.

Quoteable Quotes

"Truth is on the march and nothing can stop it." —Émile Zola

"There is only one success—to be able to spend your life in your own way." —Christopher Morley

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. What is tempeh?
2. According to the Periodic Table of Elements, what is the symbol for copper—Co, Cp, or Cu?
3. What is a hyperbole?
4. Chick Corea is a well-known restaurant chain or a jazz musician?
5. On what Hawai'ian island would you find Pearl Harbor?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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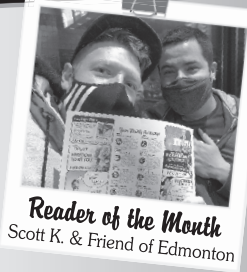
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



You may feel angry or resentful about a recent personal slight. If so, focus on the underlying issue and see how you can initiate positive change for yourself and others. Lucky numbers: 10, 15, 21, 22, 26, 35.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



There is a potential you may receive information, however unwanted, about a parental conflict. If this applies to you, you may want to avoid taking one side or the other. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 24, 36, 37, 45.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



You may feel a disconnect between your heart and mind about your role in a situation. What form of service will let you help others who need your skills and talents? Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 17, 21, 25, 32.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



Something in your current environment may be coming to a conclusion now. You may enjoy a sense of balance between your ego and emotions that allows an emotional reset. Lucky numbers: 2, 7, 12, 16, 32, 38.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 23)



Over the next few weeks, you may experience an increased level of communication to pitch your ideas and plans. If you encounter opposition, keep talking until you reach a compromise. Lucky numbers: 3, 11, 12, 15, 32, 34.

VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



There is an opportunity for you to understand more about who you are and what you value. Such information would encourage you to take action in alignment with your new understanding. Lucky numbers: 10, 17, 18, 21, 25, 47.

LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



You may encounter new information about the life experiences of your father. Consider how this new knowledge can give you a different perspective on any issues in your relationship. Lucky numbers: 1, 2, 13, 14, 19, 40.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



The potential exists for you to be very busy, which may increase your stress level. If this happens, find a way to relax and avoid snapping at others. Lucky numbers: 6, 9, 15, 22, 33, 43.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



A lot of new information may come your way, particularly about your ideas and plans. The environment is in flux right now, though, so you may want to wait before taking action. Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 15, 33, 41, 48.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



The possibility exists that old structures in your life may begin to break down. Be patient, as any deconstruction you experience has the potential to pave the way for something new. Lucky numbers: 8, 10, 11, 31, 35, 46.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



The next few weeks may be stressful in small, mundane ways. For example, equipment may break down or there may be a communications mishap. Be patient and wait it out. Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 10, 21, 21, 23.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)



You may feel restless and argumentative now. How can you channel that energy into action that expresses compassion to others and focuses on your higher purpose? Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 10, 18, 41, 42.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Cancer winners with the luckiest number being 12.

Did You Know...

Route 66: The famous highway in the United States called Route 66 was once nicknamed the "Main Street of America." One of the first highways in the country built for the use of motor vehicles, it runs from Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California.

Flying high: Astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon on July 20, 1969. His love of flying started at age 6 when he took his first ride in an airplane.

Famous nurse: Nurses are acknowledged on a special day that is celebrated around the world. International Nurses Day takes place on May 12. It marks the birthdate of Florence Nightingale, who is widely known as the founder of modern nursing.

Wee violin: An erhu is a kind of fiddle popular in China. It has two strings, usually tuned a fifth apart, that stretch over a small box covered with snakeskin at the front, and open at the back. It is played using a bow.

Water access: Located in southern Pakistan is the country's capital city of Karachi. It is an Arabian seaport, which serves not only Pakistan, but also the landlocked country of Afghanistan.

On the Lighter Side

Why did the cat cross the road? To find out what those jokes are about.

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Dissenter. *Dissenter who?* Dissenter fielder catches a lot of fly balls.

First farmer: Do you like raisin bread?
Second farmer: Can't say. I've never raised it.

What do you get if you cross a small rodent with an oil can?
A mouse that never squeaks again.

What do Wall Street cows invest in? Mootual Funds.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Fermented soy 2. Cuh 3. An overstatement 4. Jazz musician 5. Cahu

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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!



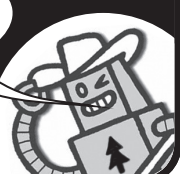
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