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Est. 1988

Vol. 19 No. 26 June 27, 2022

Everybody's Talking

Muddy lady: An octogenarian from Sikeston, Missouri (U.S.), doesn't mind getting a bit muddy. In fact, Mildred Wilson has no problem getting really muddy, and she proved it by participating in the Tough Mudder race, not once, but twice. Encouraged by her son, Wilson first checked with her doctor to make sure she was healthy enough to get through the race, which includes wading through muddy pits and crawling under and over obstacles. Then she trained at her local gym to be sure she was fit enough to compete. Wilson completed her first Tough Mudder in 2019, then did it again in 2021, to the admiration of her family and the other competitors.

Passion for running: Wang Lang of Liaoning, China, didn't realize how much she would love running when she took it up at age 50. Twenty years later, the sport clearly is a passion for the now 70-something-year-old grandmother. She has run over 100 marathons during that time. She started running simply to keep fit, but soon found herself preparing for these long races. To stay in shape, she trains by running 20 kilometres (12 miles), six days per week. She has run even longer races, including the 168-kilometre (104 mile) Liaoning marathon. Wang Lang has become known as "Super Granny."

Crop land: A large amount of land in India is considered desert and therefore not available for cultivation. One man, however, found a way to change that. Anand Dhawaj Negi, an ex-government worker and son of a farmer, was able to convert a few acres of desert land in Himachal Pradesh by working patiently to test farming practices and types of crops. Over a 20-year period, Negi (who passed away in early 2021) figured out how to best work the land so it would grow kidney beans, potatoes, green peas, and more. Part of his reason for taking on this project was to inspire others to successfully cultivate their own crops using his scientific practices.

Underground space: A few years ago, when Andres Canto was a young teen, he had a fight with his parents. The youngster from Alicante, Spain, was mad that his mom wouldn't let him go into town wearing a sweatsuit. So, he let his anger out in what turned out to be a productive way: he started digging a hole in his backyard with a pickaxe. Canto enjoyed digging, and a few years later, with the help of a friend he brought to the project, he ended up with a cave. Careful builders, he and his friend figured out how to support the roof. The cave now has many features, including several rooms, stairs, an oven, and a stereo. While Canto doesn't live there full time, he does like to hang out in his cave, and has found a way to bring in electricity and heating.

Quoteable Quotes

"Criticism is easy, art is difficult."
—Philippe Néricault

"If you keep a thing seven years, you are sure to find a use for it."
—Sir Walter Scott

What's Happening

July 29 to 31-The award winning Blueberry Bluegrass Festival back. The biggest bluegrass festival in Canada July 29 - 31 in Stony Plain. Terrific music on an outdoor stage and two indoors stages. On-site camping, parkin' lot pickin', workshops, and plenty of jamming. Bring the whole family. blueberryblugrass.com

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Trivia

1. Which U.S. president was formerly a Hollywood actor?
2. Who wrote the songs for the 1930s Broadway musical "Anything Goes"?
3. The 1980 Winter Olympics were held in what upstate New York (U.S.) village?
4. What is the highest peak on the African continent?
5. Eli Whitney invented what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

A person you have recently met may present you with an opportunity. You might want to wait a bit to be sure it is a good match for both of you. Lucky numbers: 5, 14, 18, 22, 37, 42.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

Your mind may be very clear and quick this week, with a good ability to communicate well with others. In those interactions, it might help to stay alert for unexpected opportunities. Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 18, 24, 39, 41.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

This week you may have an opportunity to focus on nurturing your relationships. How well do you and your partner support each other? Perhaps it is time to initiate a discussion. Lucky numbers: 4, 12, 20, 23, 26, 32.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)

Now may be a good time to take stock of what you have accomplished over the last six months. What course correction might you need to put into effect for the future? Lucky numbers: 11, 14, 18, 29, 41, 43.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)

Your mind and feelings may be in sync at the end of the week. It might be a good time to think through any issue that may have been generating conflict. Lucky numbers: 10, 11, 19, 25, 41, 47.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You may be frustrated by how busy and confusing things might be right now. To avoid conflict with others, perhaps look for the deeper meaning of the situation in which you find yourself. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 17, 22, 30, 35.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Are you experiencing opposition to your endeavours from others? Consider digging deep to find energy to keep going, while looking at where you might need to change your plan to be successful. Lucky numbers: 8, 13, 16, 21, 22, 45.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You may be experiencing greater optimism and empathy toward others. How can you use this potential to create a positive effect for you and those close to you? Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 17, 27, 30, 38.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Right now you may find yourself having conversations with many people. Perhaps you should listen to and consider what they say, even though you may find some of their ideas annoying. Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 17, 23, 40, 46.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Are you finding yourself feeling obsessive about a problem? You may be tempted to argue about it with others. Perhaps adjusting your view of the situation would be helpful. Lucky numbers: 15, 21, 32, 36, 37, 44.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

For the next few weeks, you may feel highly ambitious to take action toward achieving your goals. Hard work and a patient attitude could allow you to make steady progress. Lucky numbers: 14, 17, 23, 24, 25, 48.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)

You may be entering a period of months in which you might find yourself examining past issues. If so, this period could offer you an opportunity to see the situation differently. Lucky numbers: 2, 14, 23, 26, 27, 36.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Aquarius winners with the luckiest number being 17.

Did You Know...

Hurricane names: In North America, tropical storms and hurricanes have only been given names since 1953. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chose short, familiar female names to identify the storms. By the late 1970s, male names were added.

Smallest country: A country that draws the rich and famous, Monaco is also known for another reason: at just 0.77 square miles (2 sq. km), it's the second smallest country in the world. Vatican City in Rome is the smallest country, at 0.27 square miles (0.7 sq. km).

Happy purr: While pet felines often purr, their cat family relative the tiger can't do the same. Instead, tigers blow air through their nostrils and produce a hearty snort sound called a chuff.

Light sleeper: A dolphin is a light sleeper; only half of its brain is asleep at a time. This is called unihemispheric sleep and is believed to be necessary to remind the dolphin to come to the surface to breathe. It also serves as protection against predators.

Strange name: The food called Bombay Duck is not actually duck—it's fish that is often dried and salted. It may have gotten its name from the mail train, called the Bombay Daak (or Dak), that transported the odiferous fish from the ocean to India's interior cities.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Alma. *Alma who?* Alma cookies are gone, bring me some more!

Did you hear about the two boa constrictors who got married? They had a crush on each other.

What do you call a Roman emperor when he catches a cold? Julius Sneezzer.

I was going to buy some thin sandals when I went on my trip. But then I flip-flopped.

Matt: "Why are you bringing a ruler to bed?"
Pat: "I want to see how long I sleep."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Ronald Reagan 2. Cole Porter 3. Lake Placid 4. Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania 5. Cotton gin

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