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Everybody's Talking

Reforestation in Turkey: Hikmet Kaya of Turkey may have retired two decades ago, but his years-long work in forest management lives on. Kaya was responsible for planning the reforestation effort that would turn an area of bleak hills near the town of Sinop into a flourishing forest. Starting in 1978, the former forest management chief toiled with his team and local villagers to plant 30 million saplings on 25 hectares (62 acres). Recently, Kaya returned to the area. As he stood in today's green, forested environment, he held a large photo of the once-barren and brown land. His work is important in this country, where loss of forests has been a concern.

Change of canvas: Painting delicate portraits and images of birds on porcelain is how a tattoo artist from Bucheon, South Korea, got her start. Today, Abii uses her abundant skill and artistic talent to create similar images on skin. Instead of using brushes and paint to decorate porcelain, she now uses a needle and ink, with skin as her canvas. Her creations are exquisite, sophisticated, and realistic; they contain lots of colour and intricacy, whether the design is a luminescent hummingbird in flight, a pair of cardinals resting on a leafy branch, or a mother and child. The artist admires the work of Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh, and incorporates their styles in her creations.

Doggie DNA: Dog walkers everywhere know that when a canine companion does its business on public land, the polite thing to do is scoop it up and dispose of it. However, a woman in Spain learned that the hard way. Hailing from Paterna, in the country's Valencia region, the woman had been on vacation in Benalmadena, over 600 kilometres (373 miles) from her home. When she didn't clean up after her Bull Terrier, authorities were able to track the pet using DNA, and she was fined. The doggie DNA database is primarily available to help owners find their lost pets, but in this case, the pet owner discovered it can have another use!

Love it or hate it: In the capital city of Bratislava, Slovakia, one unusual structure to visit is an upside-down pyramid. Designed by architects Stefan Svetko, Stefan Durkovic, and Barnabas Kissling, it is the Slovak Radio Building and is known as the Pyramid. People tend to either love or hate the eye-catching, inverted pyramid, which was completed in 1983 after a decade and a half of construction. Standing 80 metres (262 feet) high, it houses broadcasting studios and a concert hall. Another claim to fame is that within its walls is one of the largest organs in Central Europe, an instrument that has 6,300 pipes.

Quoteable Quotes

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."
—Steve Prefontaine

"The most sincere compliment we can pay is attention."
—Walter Anderson

What's Happening

Feb 19 - Family Day 2023 Annual event at the Eastlink Centre and Design Works Centre. Free activities at two locations including access to Eastlink facilities. Taking place from 8am-9pm, visit discoverthepeacecountry.com for more info

Feb 26 - Cross-Country Ski Try It Day Want to try cross-country skiing but not sure where to start Join us at this event! All ages welcome to this free event taking place at the Whitecourt Golf Country Club. Please pre-register at rec.whitecourt.ca

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Trivia

1. Where is LEGO Group's corporate headquarters—Canada, Denmark, or Belgium?
2. When was the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) founded?
3. What is Finland's highest peak?
4. What invasive, amphibious species was introduced to Australia in the 1930s?
5. Django Reinhardt is best known for playing this instrument.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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