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Vol. 20 No. 21 May 22, 2023

Everybody's Talking

Lucky man: For more than three decades, a Swiss man named Julio has been enjoying long nature walks, and while doing so, he looks for four-leaf clovers. Many cultures believe that four-leaf clovers bring good luck, and if that is true, Julio must be a very lucky person indeed! He has found thousands of them, and has even added five-, six-, and seven-leaf versions to his massive collection, which has been laminated. The first time he found a four-leaf clover, he was nine years old and with his grandfather, a memory that is especially nostalgic for him.

Device preservation: Once it becomes obsolete, giving up a well-loved cell phone or other electronic device might be a sad thing to endure for some people. Lin Xi, an entrepreneur from China's Shandong Province, decided to help those folks out. She learned how to take apart the devices and creatively combine the pieces into framed works of art that can become part of a home's decor. She started by making art with her own old electronic items, and then she advertised. It didn't take long for her to develop a long list of clients, some with first-generation mobile phones from decades ago and others with newly outdated iPhones.

Cheat sheets: Some students cheat on exams by passing notes, but a few years ago one student at Spain's University of Malaga took the art of cheating a few steps further: he used a needle attached to a mechanical pencil to etch about a dozen ordinary pens with tiny printing that contained information to help him pass a law exam. Professor Yolanda de Lucchi confiscated the pens and put them in her desk, where she recently found them again. Upon studying the pens, she realized the seized "cheat sheets" really were works of art, not to mention examples of extreme diligence on the part of the cheater.

High ATM: People can find automatic teller machines (ATMs) in many places around the world. However, coming across such technology high in the mountains at a border-crossing route between Pakistan and China might be a surprise. But such a thing exists at the Khunjerab Pass in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan province, at an elevation of 4,693 metres (15,400 ft.). Belonging to the National Bank of Pakistan, it's been there since 2016 and uses solar and wind power. To keep the machine full of cash, a bank employee must travel through dangerous mountains. The machine is mostly used by locals, border guards, and a few travelers who like to pose next to it for photos.

Quoteable Quotes

"In darkness, you only need to see just as far as your headlights extend. As long as you keep going, it is enough." —Alexandra Bracken
 "Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong." —Ella Fitzgerald

What's Happening

May 26 - 27 - UFest Edmonton UFest Edmonton Ukrainian Festival is a celebration of Ukrainian culture, food, music, visual arts, crafts and dance. Taking place Friday 5pm-11pm and Saturday 11am-11pm, Borden Park 11020 75a St NW 102, Edmonton AB T5B 2C5

May 25 - Merlot Meets Monet Merlot Meets Monet is a signature event of the Alberta Diabetes Foundation ADF, at the Li Ka Shing Centre on the University of Alberta campus. Merlot Meets Monet is a wine-tasting and art auction. \$50 at www.albertadiabetesfoundation.com

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Trivia

1. A blacksmith who shoes horses is a ____.
2. Ski resorts Mount Mawson and Ben Lomond are in what Australian state?
3. The Colossus of Rhodes was a statue of what Greek god?
4. This leading abstract expressionist artist, born 1904, was from Rotterdam, Netherlands.
5. In what country is the Laerdal Tunnel?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
 (March 21 - April 20)

Are you sending mixed signals to, or receiving them from, your partner? When the two of you discuss the matter, be conscious of where an old wound may come into play again. Lucky numbers: 9, 20, 24, 32, 34, 38.

TAURUS
 (April 21 - May 21)

Taurus are typically conservative when making decisions. But the energy right now encourages you to stretch your comfort zone. Just don't boomerang too far in the opposite direction. Lucky numbers: 2, 15, 22, 24, 29, 39.

GEMINI
 (May 22 - June 21)

Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. You may not recognize them because they're different from those you might have pursued before, but it may be time for a change. Lucky numbers: 4, 12, 16, 31, 33, 39.

CANCER
 (June 22 - July 22)

Your emotions may be strong at the beginning of this week. While you might be tempted to retreat into your shell, you also could channel them into a positive endeavour. Lucky numbers: 11, 17, 23, 30, 37, 42.

LEO
 (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Do you normally act from gut instinct? Now may be a good time to incorporate data into your process. You might find that this balance is more successful for you. Lucky numbers: 14, 16, 17, 18, 26, 37.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Your practical, grounded nature is highlighted at the end of the week. This may be a good time to show others your work ethic and what you're capable of accomplishing. Lucky numbers: 15, 22, 33, 34, 35, 37.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Is your love life undergoing a change right now? You may be tempted to keep the status quo, but try to examine what you need, then consider any necessary changes. Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 16, 37, 38, 40.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

A karmic lesson may resurface for you, which isn't a coincidence. If you can muster the courage to deal with it this time, you might not have to face it again. Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 18, 29, 30, 31.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You may not be feeling your normally confident self. The next few weeks could be difficult, but you might find that you understand yourself better at the end of it. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 17, 21, 29, 43.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Capricorns can sometimes be more serious than necessary, both with themselves and with others. If this is you, there may be an opportunity to be more nurturing to yourself and to them. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

At midweek, you may find that your head and heart are out of sync on how to move forward with something. You might want to wait a few days before acting. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 11, 30, 40, 42.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20 - March 20)

Are there obstacles in your path right now? Rather than letting them discourage you, can you find a way to make changes that will allow you to leap over them? Lucky numbers: 13, 16, 23, 27, 30, 42.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 33.

Did You Know...

Different sizes: The blanket octopus lives in tropical and subtropical waters around the world. The female can be up to 40,000 times larger than the male, and can lay as many as 100,000 tiny eggs.

Ancient tea: Used for centuries by Indigenous North Americans, cassina (or yaupon) is a tea made from holly. It is making a comeback in the U.S. With a complex, floral flavour, it's related to South America's holly-based yerba maté.

Special day: Mother's Day, which is reserved to commemorate mothers, was created by an American woman named Anna Jarvis in 1908. She later regretted the idea when, in her opinion, the day became overly commercialized.

Sweet treat: In the hills of West Bengal, India, in a town called Kalimpong, locals and tourists alike enjoy eating a delicacy called the Kalimpong lollipop. It looks a bit like a hotdog, but is made from condensed milk.

Bat cave: Devetashka Cave, located in northern Bulgaria, is a beauty. Scientists believe that people used the cave as shelter for millennia. A bat sanctuary today, the 2-km (1.2-mi.) long cave has seven holes in the roof that let in light.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Weasel. Weasel who? Weasel while you work!

Where do you keep a wild squash? In the zoo-chini.

Ned: "I saw a doctor today about my poor memory."
 Ted: "What did he do?"
 Ned: "Made me pay in advance."

What happened when the giraffe wrote a book? It's a long story.

On a plumber's truck: "We repair what your buddy tried to fix."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Farrier 2. Tasmania 3. Helios 4. Willem de Kooning 5. Norway

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