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**Everybody's Talking**

**Edible art?** A New Zealand art gallery in Auckland was brave enough to display a piece of art that many may not consider to be art. The piece in question is a pickle from a fast food cheeseburger, smudged with a bit of sauce. Australian artist Matthew Griffin flung the pickle up to the ceiling of the Michael Lett Gallery, where it stuck. According to experts in the art field, an art installation such as this serves to get people talking about what is art, what isn't art, and why. The piece is called "Pickle." Needless to say, the online response revealed a mixture of lovers and haters of the whole thing.

**Expensive date:** A man from Shanghai, China, wasn't pleased when he and his girlfriend broke up. So he requested payback for things he helped finance during their relationship, to the tune of approximately \$9,000 (USD). Astonishingly, he presented her with a detailed log of expenditures, requesting payback in part or in full for the items listed. For example, he demanded half the cost of a dinner bill for food they had shared, and the entire amount of a bill for a snack, which his girlfriend reportedly had eaten herself. The man had also helped care for his girlfriend's mother, and he wanted to be paid back for expenses related to that, too.

**Open road:** An ice road open during the winter months connects mainland Estonia to Hiiumaa, an island in the Baltic Sea. The longest ice road in Europe, it is approximately 25 kilometres (15.5 mi.) long. Ice roads have some unusual rules. No one is allowed to wear a seatbelt because if the car breaks through the ice, people have to be able to get out of the vehicle. No vehicles are allowed on an ice road after the sun sets. At all times, drivers must maintain a distance of 250 metres (820 ft.) between their vehicle and the one ahead to minimize the load on one part of the ice. And speed limits are strict.

**Sloped field:** People who play soccer can get worn out from running around the large field, but that's nothing compared to what the participants of extreme alpine soccer must endure. This game has the same rules as normal soccer, but is played on steep mountain slopes in Austria. In 2014, some soccer-loving locals in the Montafon valley decided to come up with a game that would be more challenging than playing on a flat field. Co-inventors Franz Mair and Peppi Knünz knew that players would be able to keep up with the pace in this physically demanding game. Needed attributes? Strong legs and stamina that are common in the Alps.

**Quoteable Quotes**

"Let go of who you think you're supposed to be; embrace who you are."  
—Brené Brown

"Happiness lies not in finding what is missing, but in finding what is present."  
—Tara Brach

**What's Happening**

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**Trivia**

1. Is the curled top of violins and cellos a scroll, curlicue, or bow?
2. Mafadi Mountain is the highest peak in South Africa—T/F?
3. A cubit, chain, or rod spans from elbow to the middle finger's tip?
4. Waiting for Godot author was Samuel Beckett, Arthur Miller, or Shakespeare?
5. Are fluffy, cotton ball-shaped clouds cumulus, stratus, or cirrus?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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