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Everybody's Talking

Aquatic rainfall: Usually the phrase "raining cats and dogs" is likely a story from someone's imagination. However, people living in the town of Lajamanu in the Australian outback report that it has rained fish in their community four times since 1974. The interesting thing is that Lajamanu, located in the Northern Territory on the edge of the Tanami Desert, is quite dry and is many miles from a lake or the sea. Weather experts think a strong storm, such as a tornado, picked up the fish from a body of water, and then dropped them a long distance away. A fish expert identified the creatures as spangled perch, a freshwater species that is common in Australia.

Cracked glass: Everyone has heard of art made of stained glass, but what about creations made by cracking the glass? That is the skill of Natnael Mekuria, an Ethiopia-born artist from Addis Ababa who lives in the U.S. It took a while for this patient fellow to find success. At first, he tended to break his laminated glass canvas instead of simply cracking it. He makes his images, which include portraits of celebrities, by using a hammer to tap a chisel into the glass and by applying different degrees of force. Mekuria has a huge following on social media and lots of interest in his unique style of art.

Clean streets: Nobody likes to see garbage on the streets. In Japan, litter collection has even become a contest. Spogomi (which means "sport" and "rubbish") entails teams of three to five people picking up as much garbage as they can within a set time frame. After collecting the garbage, team members must sort it into types, including plastic that can be recycled, metal cans, and items that can be burned. The winner is the team that not only picks up the most trash, but also correctly sorts it. Safety is a priority during the competitions; participants are required to wear gloves and stay away from busy roads. Over 88,000 people have participated since 2008.

Purple honey: The colour of honey usually ranges from dark amber to light gold, depending on the kind of flowers bees access to get nectar. But what about purple? In North Carolina (U.S.), bees are known to produce such a thing, but scientists have not been able to decipher exactly what causes the interesting hue. Purple honey, which is also called blue honey, tends to be found in the Sandhills region, but not all beekeepers or all hives produce it. This treat costs more than the typical colours, and tastes fruity. Some say it even tastes "purple," as though it was made with grapes or some kind of purple berry.

Quoteable Quotes

"Life well spent is long." —Leonardo Da Vinci
"The awareness of our own strength makes us modest." —Paul Cezanne

What's Happening

Oct 16 - Society of Western Canadian Artists Invites You
If you are an artist or loves art in general, then you are invited to one of our monthly meetings. We offer educational programs at each of our meetings, interesting workshops, and we hold art exhibitions. For more info please visit swcartists.ca.

Oct 21 - Shakers and Makers Quality Craft Market
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Trivia

1. Marzipan is made from almonds, Brazil nuts, or hazelnuts?
2. The brisket cut of beef is from the front of the cow—T/F?
3. This tree faced extinction a century ago but is coming back.
4. The Japanese holiday Omisoka is the first or last day of the year?
5. Dean Kamen is known for inventing what two-wheeled, motorized device?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)

For the last couple of weeks, you may have found yourself in situations where you had to cultivate a more diplomatic communication style. How is this working out for you? Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 17, 18, 20, 28.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

What are you passionate about? How can you communicate this to others so you can find an opportunity to achieve something that is in line with the values of everyone involved? Lucky numbers: 14, 15, 20, 23, 25, 33.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

At the beginning of the week, there may be an opportunity for you to express more enthusiasm. How can you use this energy to smooth over any issues with others? Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 10, 15, 27, 34.

CANCER (June 21 - July 21)

During the middle of the week, you may feel the stress of too much going on at once. For a few days, consider retreating to whatever calms you. Lucky numbers: 1, 11, 19, 30, 42, 46.

LEO (July 22 - Aug. 22)

Your heart and mind may be out of sync for a few days at week's end. If you have a decision to make, perhaps consider postponing it for a bit. Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 32, 44, 45, 48.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Your role as a partner may be in focus for the next three months. The universe is providing you an opportunity and encouraging you to change and grow in this area. Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 24, 28, 31, 45.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

At midweek, you may find others turning to you to help resolve a situation. Your tact and diplomacy might come in handy, so don't hesitate to call on these skills. Lucky numbers: 13, 14, 15, 19, 31, 46.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Others are sometimes not receptive to Scorpio's ability to see deeply into people and situations. However, for the next three weeks, they may be more receptive than usual to your insights. Lucky numbers: 5, 19, 26, 27, 42, 47.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

You may find that your thoughts and feelings are well balanced early in the week. How do you want to take advantage of it to achieve your heart's desire? Lucky numbers: 9, 27, 31, 33, 42, 46.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

At midweek, you may be feeling conflicted about something. Try to resolve the issue within yourself. Be careful not to project your emotional state onto others. Retreat, if needed. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 19, 22, 39, 40.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

For a couple days in the middle of the week, you may have an opportunity to do a reset for the next month. How do you want to use this energy? Lucky numbers: 2, 4, 12, 18, 20, 43.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Is there an issue in your relationships that you haven't realistically evaluated in the past? You might have an opportunity now to adjust your view and communicate it to others. Lucky numbers: 9, 19, 26, 37, 43, 47.

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

Did You Know...

Bachelor brothers: Wright brothers Wilbur and Orville were so involved in their work of inventing airplanes in the first part of the 20th century that neither of the brothers ever married.

Carrying device: Toboggans, used by children and adults alike, were invented by the Indigenous Anishinaabe to carry supplies and game over snow. The name is from the Chippewa *nobugidaban*, meaning "flat" and "drag."

Newsworthy channel: To news hounds, the 24-hour channel CNN (Cable News Network) seems to have been around forever. In reality, CNN first broadcast on June 1, 1980, from Atlanta, Georgia (U.S.).

Big boss on board: The captain was the boss of pirate ships that sailed on the high seas over the centuries. Next in line was the quartermaster, who made sure all orders issued by the captain were carried out.

Sweet bar: Chocolate candy was a treat for the rich before Milton Hershey first marketed his milk chocolate bar in the U.S. in 1900. Before Hershey Chocolate, he owned a company that made caramels.

On the Lighter Side

I call my alarm Jim, so I can tell people I hit the Jim every morning.

Did you hear about the man who bought a paper shop? It blew away.

Patient: "Doctor, I think I'm a moth."
Doctor: "You really need to see a psychiatrist."
Patient: "I know, but I was passing by and saw your light on."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Bean. Bean who? Bean here ages. What took you so long?

Want to check out my mind reading machine? I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Almonds 2. True 3. American chestnut 4. Last 5. Segway

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