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Vol. 20 No. 48 November 27, 2023

Everybody's Talking

Beanbag garment: Have you ever wanted to sit down for a rest, but no chair or couch is available? Now a garment company in Japan called Takikou Sewing has made a beanbag, which are called "bead cushions" in Japan, that is wearable. With arm and neck holes, the garment curves outwards like a pear around the wearer's body. Someone sporting the creation can plunk themselves down anywhere and be assured of a comfy pillow, all the way around their body. Social media postings piqued people's interest. The beanbag outfit comes in several sizes and colours for kids and adults. The larger ones weigh about 5 kg (11 lbs.).

Subway dog: Heather Hamm of New York City had been thinking about getting a dog and had started to investigate where she might obtain one. Then she opened one of her social media accounts to find a post from someone explaining that a dog had been abandoned, tied to a railing, at a subway stop. Hamm immediately headed to the location and found two police officers investigating the situation. She asked if she could take the dog home, and they let her because the pup seemed to like her. The woman and the dog proved to be a great match. Hamm called her new best friend "Peaches," and now they are inseparable.

Protective jeans: If motorcyclists are involved in an accident, they are much more vulnerable to injury than motorists are. That is why a Swedish company called Mocyte decided to develop a new kind of airbag. Unlike the ones that pop out of a car's dashboard, this creation pops out of a pair of jeans. The Airbag Jeans are made of special material that looks like denim, with airbags built into the thighs and torso of the pants. The protection covers the bottom part of the spine, along with the thighs and hips. If the bags activate during an accident, they can be deflated and reused. The company also makes an Airbag Vest.

Big bird: Pets can be a variety of shapes and sizes, but only a few people are likely to have a crane for a companion. Mohammed Arif is one of them. From Uttar Pradesh state in India, Arif found an injured sarus crane in a field where he was working on the harvest. He took the feathered creature home with him and rendered some tender loving care. The bird lived in an outbuilding while recuperating, and whenever Arif came home from work, the crane would come to him and stay by his side. Back to good health now, the bird follows Arif everywhere, flying near him on motorcycle rides and accompanying him to the fields.

Quoteable Quotes

"The difference between hope and despair is a different way of telling stories from the same facts." —Alain de Botton

"In youth we learn; in age we understand." —Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

What's Happening

Nov 25 - Annual Santa Claus Parade The Whitecourt District Chamber of Commerce presents the annual Santa Claus Parade open to all businesses, service clubs and non-profit organizations to decorate a night-time float to promote and advertise their business. Downtown Whitecourt 7-8pm

Ongoing Drop-in Art Time The Lesser Slave Lake Regional Arts Council is holding free drop-in art times for people to work on any project they have on the go. On Wednesdays from 7-9pm at Old Tru Value, Main St. Slave Lake

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

Aries sometimes impulsively speak before they completely think through their words. Be aware of this dynamic for the next two months because it may create a conflict for you. Lucky numbers: 7, 15, 22, 28, 30, 31.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

Taurus-born are usually well grounded in their beliefs and actions. This week may present you with a situation that requires you to make an adjustment to ensure greater success. Lucky numbers: 11, 16, 33, 34, 36, 39.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

The beginning of this week may be a good opportunity to complete an endeavour you have worked on for the previous month. Evaluate what to change, but wait to act. Lucky numbers: 4, 10, 15, 16, 27, 34.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 21)

You may find yourself particularly emotional at midweek. Express this productively, if you can. Otherwise, take a step back for a few days until this energy passes. Lucky numbers: 14, 15, 20, 38, 40, 47.

LEO
(July 22 - Aug. 22)

Your ability to express the joy of your personality may be heightened at week's end. If you have time, perhaps you can seek an opportunity to take an enlightening journey. Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 28.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Unlike some other signs, Virgos generally don't seek out the spotlight. However, for the next couple of months, your precise and detailed work style could be positively highlighted. Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 15, 23, 35, 46.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

The qualities of Libras can make them good leaders. If you have been reluctant to step into this role, you may have an opportunity to do so in the next two months. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

The deep intuition of Scorpios sometimes results in relationship difficulties. Right now you may have an opportunity to find a mentor to offer techniques to improve those interactions. Lucky numbers: 2, 12, 20, 26, 35, 41.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

Sagittarians are excellent at communicating big ideas, but might overlook the details necessary for manifestation. Now may offer a potential to add a more grounded energy. Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 13, 34, 46, 47.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

This week you may be tempted to dig in your heels on something. Perhaps you should ask yourself if this is in alignment with your highest values, and act accordingly. Lucky numbers: 5, 17, 23, 34, 40, 42.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Aquarians often focus on serious issues of concern to large groups or humanity overall. While these are serious, you may want to consider adding more joy to achieve balance. Lucky numbers: 1, 2, 6, 9, 25, 29.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 19)

You may feel confused this week about how to proceed. Consider an adjustment to align your endeavours and efforts with whatever objectives you are passionate about achieving. Lucky numbers: 6, 9, 35, 38, 46, 47.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 7.

Did You Know...

Small but mighty: Eagles and hawks often come to mind as birds of prey. But Southeast Asia's black-thighed falconet (*Microhierax fringillarius*), only 14-16 centimetres (5.5-6.3 in.) long, can pounce on lizards and small birds.

Distance traveled: Most drivers know that a car's odometer shows how far the vehicle goes. Samuel McKeen of Nova Scotia, Canada, invented an early version of this instrument in 1854.

Indian food: Café Lota, in the New Delhi National Crafts Museum, is almost as much of a draw as the museum! The café features an array of dishes from all across India, such as Uttarakhand black bean curry.

Sundogs: Those beautiful, arched beams of coloured light that may appear beside the sun on a cold day are called "sundogs." They occur when the sun's light is refracted by ice crystals in the air.

Great painter: Canadian artist Lawren Harris (1885-1970) was an original member of the Group of Seven Canadian landscape painters in the 1920s and 1930s. The group's pioneering style was internationally known.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Yellow. Yellow who? Yellow! And how are you today?

What's the last thing a writer will ever write? The End.

I didn't know she had false teeth until things came out. In the conversation.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

Patient: "What's wrong, doc?"
Doctor: "You have 'pedestrian eyes.' They look both ways before they cross."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Both 2. Mt. Mulanje 3. Arthur Conan Doyle 4. True 5. Space

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