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Vol. 21 No. 2 January 8, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Beautiful butterflies: The Schmetterlinghaus, or the Imperial Butterfly House, is a must-see for visitors to Vienna, Austria. The oasis inside the Art Nouveau-era greenhouse is verdant, with tropical plants, flowers, and waterfalls. However, the main attraction is not the flora but the fauna, specifically the butterflies that freely flit about and rest on branches or leaves, and search for nectar in flowers. About 400 butterflies live in the Schmetterlinghaus, where the hot, humid environment is perfect for the beautiful creatures. Visitors love to take pictures of these gentle insects of many species and many colours. The butterflies are not captured in the wild, but are bred on site or by approved butterfly farms.

The right foot: Three thieves in Huancayo, Peru, must have been quite surprised when they opened boxes of their stolen loot containing over 200 high-end sneakers. They discovered that all the shoes were for the right foot! No doubt they thought they'd be able to sell pairs of sneakers for cash, but they aren't likely to find many buyers for only right-footed shoes. The owner of the targeted store had boxed up shoes for the right foot of various brands and sizes to display at a sporting goods event. While the theft meant a big loss for the owner, police hoped to find the culprits and the stolen merchandise, as the heist was caught on the store's cameras.

Syrupy sweetness: Pancake lovers may wish to stop by the Maple Syrup Museum of Ontario. Located in the hamlet of St. Jacobs, near Waterloo, Ontario (Canada), this museum reveals the secrets and history of maple syrup-making in the area, including traditional and modern methods of sap collection, early Indigenous maple syrup production techniques, and various buckets and taps. Displays demonstrate collecting sap from maple trees while using horses as the means of transportation. The museum includes items such as candy molds that have been used to make syrup into other products. And of course visitors can buy pure maple syrup and other sweet items in many stores around the St. Jacobs community.

Faithful pet: An elderly man from the town of Moctezuma in Sonora State, Mexico, is lucky to have a loyal and loving pet dog. Octogenarian Gregorio Romero enjoys taking walks in the desert and sometimes makes his way to another village to visit. One day, he did not return and his family became worried. They requested a search and rescue, but after a week, no one had found a trace of Romera. Authorities decided to call in a special searcher: El Palomo, the elderly man's faithful dog. El Palomo sniffed here and there and led the search party over hills and down ravines until, finally, Romero was found. He was dehydrated, but alive and well, to everyone's joy

Quoteable Quotes

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." —Jane Goodall
"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." —Dalai Lama XIV

What's Happening

Dec 25 - Edmonton Lifelong Learners Assoc. Winter Online Session Wide range of online courses for mature learners 50. Taught by subject experts. Courses run January 15 - March 8 2024 on Zoom. Costs: \$80-100 per course; \$25 annual ELLA membership. Registration begins December 5 2023 at https:my-ella.com. Join us!

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Trivia

1. Phenology is a scientific study that combines meteorology and ecology—T/F?
2. The Story of the Kelly Gang, the first full-length, narrative feature film was released in 1888, 1906, or 1915?
3. The wedge-shaped stone at the top of an arch is called what?
4. The two times when the sun is directly over the equator are equinoxes or eclipses?
5. The month of July is named for Julius Caesar, Jules Verne, or the Roman god Mars?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)

You may want to ask yourself two questions this week: What is your life purpose? What are you willing to do to achieve it? Be sure to listen closely for the answers. Lucky numbers: 4, 8, 10, 18, 27, 48.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

An unexpected opportunity may surface this week. It might require much hard work to achieve, but could be worthwhile if it helps you fulfill a heart-felt goal. Lucky numbers: 14, 15, 21, 28, 30, 31.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

Early in the week, you may feel that you are being forced to choose between your heart and mind. Consider ways you can successfully push through that false dichotomy. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 12, 26, 30, 38.

CANCER (June 21 - July 21)

Did you start a project about six months ago? Is it progressing, or are you at a stalemate? To resolve it, be sure your heart and mind are in sync. Lucky numbers: 9, 15, 16, 19, 21, 25.

LEO (July 22 - Aug. 22)

Are you encountering pushback from others about something you are trying to accomplish? Turning down the heat and striving for a neutral temperament may be helpful. Lucky numbers: 10, 14, 28, 31, 34, 40.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Your practical, grounded, and detail-oriented qualities may be disrupted for a few days at the end of the week. Use the time to take a break and recharge your batteries. Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 17, 22, 43, 45.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Have you been feeling restless or dissatisfied recently in your relationship or at work? This itch may be a signal that it is time to break out of your comfort zone. Lucky numbers: 1, 16, 21, 28, 38, 42.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Scorpio intensity and intuition sometimes means difficulty connecting with others. Now may offer an opportunity to ease this dynamic. How can you hold onto this energy? Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 15, 17, 19, 30.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

Your expansive optimism may be in high gear for a few days at the beginning of the week. What would you like to achieve with this energy before it dissipates? Lucky numbers: 3, 15, 16, 22, 34, 38?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

You may find yourself in a deep, transformational conversation with someone else at the end of the week. Such moments don't come along every day and shouldn't be overlooked. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 24, 32, 34, 36.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

At midweek, you may receive an important insight, out of the blue. Consider pondering it for a few days before deciding how you want to proceed with this information. Lucky numbers: 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 38.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 19)

If you have a burst of energy early in the week, use it to accomplish what you need to get done. Then, at week's end, you might want to retreat for a few days. Lucky numbers: 7, 10, 15, 20, 37, 41.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners with the luckiest number being 3.

Did You Know...

Lighthouse history: High on a cliff in Gaspé, Québec (Canada), sits a lighthouse known as Cap-des-Rosiers. It has been guiding ships at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River since its construction in 1858.

Honey stores: Bees aren't the only insects to produce honey. Worker ants feed nectar to honeypot ants (*Camponotus inflatus*), who store the sweet liquid in their balloon-like abdomens until colony members need food.

Canadian writer: Mordecai Richler (1931-2001) was a famous Canadian novelist who brought many books to the reading world, including *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* and *Barney's Version*. He was also an essayist and social critic.

Good sausage: To dine on some really good sausage, try a restaurant in Regensburg, Germany. Wurstkuchl, or Sausage Kitchen, has been around since 1146 and run by members of the Schricker family since 1806.

Tough law: Children in Rehoboth, Delaware (U.S.), must follow the law about Halloween trick-or-treating. If Halloween falls on a Sunday, kids must go door-to-door for their treats on Saturday night instead.

On the Lighter Side

Have you heard the joke about the roof? Never mind, it's over your head.

I went to a great concert in Hawaii. People were dancing in the isles.

Laugh, and the class laughs with you. But you get detention alone.

Police officer: "I want you to go straight home."
Man: "I can't. I live around the corner."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Hatch. Hatch who? Have you got a cold or something?

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. True 2. 1906 3. Keystone 4. Equinoxes 5. Julius Caesar

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