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Everybody's Talking

Annoying renter: When rent is due, good tenants usually pay on time and in full. One renter in Australia pays on time, but not in full, which has so annoyed the landlord that he posted the situation on a peer chat group for advice. Apparently, the tenant shorts the landlord by one cent every month, which isn't much, but the landlord says it's the principle of the situation. He emailed the tenant, asking him to remedy the situation, but the tenant said the law lets him round up or down if amounts are between one and nine cents. The tenant even asked for certain repairs. When the lease expires, the landlord doesn't plan to renew it

Grainy home: Living in a grain silo doesn't seem like a comfortable option, but one near Odessa, Washington (U.S.), may appeal to outdoorsy people. Actually, the abode is comprised of four small silos, three of which are 1,325 square feet (123 sq. m) of interconnected living space; the fourth is a garage. The home, and the 386 acres around it, has many amenities and lots of space, including a fish pond and much rural land for hiking. The current owner, who fixed up the silos to be livable, uses the place as a summer home, but wants to sell it to someone who will be able to enjoy it more often.

Fixing imperfections: Who says a hole in a piece of clothing means the end of the garment? Certainly not Heather Cameron, a textile expert from Gabriola Island off the west coast of Vancouver, Canada. Cameron uses visible mending to fix problems in used clothing, which means that she decorates the flaws rather than hiding them. She might sew a sunburst of yellow stitches around an oval hole, or cover an imperfection with a patch shaped like a guitar or something else that holds personal meaning for the owner. The artist has held well-attended workshops in the area for like-minded people to learn the skill.

Flowery hair: How would you like to have your hair formed into a lily or a chrysanthemum? If so, a hair stylist for you is Nguyen Phat Tri of Vietnam. Although he has a degree in biotechnology, the stylist knew he had a knack for the arts that he needed to pursue. After studying makeup and hairdressing, he started experimenting with floral hair designs, which can take a couple of days or more to complete. He first sketches the design, finds raw material, and finally works with real hair. Many of his customers are bridal parties, who want unique hairstyles for the special day. Celebrities also like his services.

Quoteable Quotes

"Everyone has the fire, but the champions know when to ignite the spark."
 —Amit Ray
 "A good traveler has no fixed plans and is not intent on arriving."
 —Lao Tzu

What's Happening

Feb 1 - Winter Walk Day Join us for a 30 minute walk that starts outside the front steps of City Hall, weaves its way through the Fort Heritage Precinct, Legacy Park, and back to City Hall. Please come dressed for the weather!

May 1-7 - Mental Health Week Mental Health Week is an annual national event that takes place the first week in May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect, and engage with others on all issues relating to mental health. Visit fortask.ca for more info

Feb 19 - Witbit Swim Free Witbit Swim at the Westlock Aquatic Centre. February 19, 2024, from 12 to 5 p.m.

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Trivia

1. The British parliament has 365, 425, or 650 members?
2. Skylab was the first U.S. space station—T/F?
3. How thick is a hockey puck in the National Hockey League?
4. Louisa May Alcott or L.M. Montgomery wrote the book Little Women?
5. On a Ouija board, a planchette, pick, or strum spells out the words?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

You may find yourself in some type of stalemate at the beginning of the week. Be careful about being impulsive or angry in conversations. Tact could go a long way now. Lucky numbers: 9, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

Taurus-born usually offer practical, grounded viewpoints. Midweek, you may have an opportunity for intuitive insights. Consider incorporating them into your repertoire. Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 15, 24, 28, 29.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

At week's end, you may find that your heart and your mind are in a stalemate about a situation. Postponing an important decision for a few days might be helpful. Lucky numbers: 7, 19, 32, 41, 42, 46.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 21)

This week you may be having communication difficulties with others. Does this situation mirror a conflict within yourself? If so, adjust your view accordingly. Lucky numbers: 14, 15, 21, 25, 28, 44.

LEO
(July 22 - Aug. 22)

About six months have passed since your birthday. Did you initiate new endeavours then? If so, how are they progressing? Are there any that you should consider ending? Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 34.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

This week you may have an opportunity to shine by communicating to others your attention to detail. Be sure to get credit for your contribution to any joint effort. Lucky numbers: 4, 9, 15, 24, 30, 41.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Your tact and diplomacy might be useful at the beginning of the week to resolve a situation. Just make sure that the agreement is fair to all involved, including you. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 6, 12, 15, 30.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Intuitive insights may come at you very quickly in the middle of the week. Use discretion and discernment about how much of them you want to share with others. Lucky numbers: 17, 19, 23, 28, 36, 37.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

This may be a good week to consider, or reconsider, what you truly believe in. How might you want to align your belief system with your goals and endeavours? Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 7, 16, 20, 46.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

Your serious demeanour and attitude may be best channeled into your work this week. In communicating with others, displaying a lighter tone and view might be helpful. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 23, 24, 39, 41.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Aquarians can sometimes use a lofty style to communicate their humanitarian goals. This week, however, you may be able to seek out a more grounded way to connect. Lucky numbers: 5, 11, 12, 30, 39, 44.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 19)

Sometimes your intuitive nature has a difficult time connecting with those who don't share it. Midweek may bring an opportunity to approach them in a more grounded way. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 29, 35, 41, 47.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 9.

Did You Know...

Looking larger: Decorators have tricks to make small rooms look larger. These include using at least two sources of light, hanging a large mirror, and using a dark paint colour. Darker shades make things look farther away.

Fifth ocean: The Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic Oceans were considered the four oceans of the world until 2000. That year, a fifth ocean was recognized: the waters around Antarctica were designated as the Southern Ocean.

Code names: Each country participating in The Olympic Games has a three-letter code used during the games. Some include: Canada (CAN), United States (USA), Bolivia (BOL), Ghana (GHA), and Malaysia (MAS).

Paint set: When French artist Henri Matisse was young, he worked as a law clerk, but didn't like it. He started painting at about age 20, when his mother gave him a box of paints while he was recuperating from an illness.

Bird toes: Birds usually have four toes, with three in front and one behind. Some birds, like parrots, owls, and woodpeckers, have four toes arranged in a "K" or "X" formation, which helps them climb.

On the Lighter Side

Want to hear a joke about paper? Never mind, it's tearable.

Why can't a bike stand on its own? It would but it's two tired.

What's the tallest building in your city? The library. It has a lot of stories.

Lizzy: "My mom has the worst memory?"
Susy: "She forgets everything?"
Lizzy: "No, she remembers everything!"

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Sheep. Sheep who? Sheep-ers, it's just me!

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. 650 2. True 3. 1 inch (2.54 cm) 4. Louisa May Alcott 5. Planchette

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