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Vol. 21 No. 12 March 18, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Ice cream paradise: In Cuba, both tourists and locals can indulge in ice cream to their hearts' content, and for very little cost, when they visit Parque Coppelia in Havana. Also known as la catedral de helado (the ice cream cathedral), this venue serves an astounding 30,000 ice cream lovers per day. At any one time, there could be 600 people of all ages clamouring for a serving of the sweet treat. The world's largest ice cream pavilion, Parque Coppelia is so big that it takes up a whole city block. For Cubans, going to this place is a tradition. People have been eating ice cream there since it was built in 1966.

Runway ruckus: Flight delays most often are caused by weather or mechanical problems. But at New Zealand's Wellington International Airport, neither of those scenarios was the reason an Air Chathams flight couldn't take off as planned. The delay was because airport staff members were scrambling to get a baby penguin off the runway. The six-week-old fledgling korora, a blue penguin, must have taken a wrong turn somewhere and ended up on the tarmac. The little guy obviously couldn't fly away. The bird was taken to Wellington Zoo, where veterinarians said it was thin and underweight, but otherwise in good health. They planned to take care of the baby until its feathers became waterproof.

Tough read: Anyone who has participated in a book club knows that, at each meeting, members discuss a different book. Not so for a book club in Los Angeles, California (U.S.). Members of this club met for 28 years to discuss, page by page, Finnegans Wake by James Joyce. Gerry Fialka started the club in 1995. Because the author uses many languages, and even creates words, deciphering the meaning of the book took a long time. The book can be so confusing that many readers can't keep the characters straight, or know exactly where a scene is set. Members of Fialka's club have come and gone, but some original readers are still involved.

Banana predicament: An unnamed Japanese man just wanted to provide some greenery in an urban area. Without permission from authorities, he planted three banana trees on the median boulevard of a busy street in Kurume City, Fukuoka Prefecture. Then, for two years, he tended those trees, carefully watering them and watching them grow. No one told him to stop during that whole time. Finally, drivers started to complain that the trees affected visibility. City authorities showed up at the site and told him to remove his beloved vegetation. Fortunately, friends of the man agreed to take the trees to their homes and continue to take care of them.

Quoteable Quotes

"The only journey is the one within." —Rainer Maria Rilke

"Don't fear failure. Not failure, but low aim, is the crime." —Bruce Lee

What's Happening

Mar 16 -St. Albert Singers Irish Pub Night Join Calvin Vollrath, the North American Fiddle Champion, for a spirited evening of Irish music. Come enjoy a full family-style Irish dinner, a cash bar, raffles, and a sing-a-long. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Tickets \$40 contact Barb at sasgmanager@gmail.com.

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Trivia

1. The Guinness Book of Records co-founders were surnamed Guinness, McWhirter, or Mulvaney?
2. Captain Von Trapp in the film The Sound of Music had how many children?
3. The disease scurvy is caused by a deficiency of vitamin B, C, or D?
4. Vanilla is almost always used in the manufacture of chocolate—T/F?
5. Queen Marie Antoinette of France was married to Louis XIV, XV, or XVI?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

Your birthday month is a good one to plan for the next 12. This year, in particular, it is important to set goals in line with your values and life purpose. Lucky numbers: 8, 15, 23, 32, 42, 43.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

Is there something close to your heart that you wish to manifest in the world? The next two weeks may be a good time to talk to others about this desire. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 15, 29, 30, 31.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

It can sometimes be hard for Geminis to decide on what they want. Now may be the right time to do so because this month is good for initiating endeavours. Lucky numbers: 4, 16, 21, 28, 39, 43.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)

Cancer folks may have a tendency to be timid. The next month might be a good time to dig deep into your psyche to understand why this pattern exists. Lucky numbers: 7, 16, 28, 41, 46, 47.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

At the beginning of the week, your natural enthusiasm and joy may radiate. If you seek the aid of others, be sure the endeavour is a win-win for all involved. Lucky numbers: 10, 12, 17, 22, 42, 47.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Midweek may be a good time to start projects that require the precise and detailed work that is natural for you. Be sure to remind others that you have this talent. Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 14, 20, 28, 31.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

As you approach the six-month mark since your birthday, consider reviewing the goals and plans you established then. Which ones should you continue? Lucky numbers: 9, 12, 18, 39, 41, 48.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Interactions with others sometimes show your intensity, not always to your benefit. For the next month, try to help others see you as courageous rather than argumentative. Lucky numbers: 6, 13, 20, 22, 33, 44.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Be careful in the next month of making impulsive statements that may hurt someone else. If this happens, be sure to quickly make amends to that person. Lucky numbers: 16, 22, 30, 35, 44, 45.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

The next month's astrological energy may fuel your ambition. Be sure to foster cooperation toward a common goal and avoid conflict about who is in charge. Lucky numbers: 14, 17, 18, 23, 25, 27.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

This may be a good week to find the courage of your convictions. How can you use this toward the humanitarian goals that Aquarians find important? Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 6, 33, 34, 36.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 20)

Pisces may have difficulty manifesting their ephemeral ideals in the world. For the next few weeks, seek a grounded way to accomplish these goals. Lucky numbers: 3, 15, 18, 21, 41, 43.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Gemini winners with the luckiest number being 21.

Did You Know...

Big park: Some national parks in Canada are larger than some countries. Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta and the Northwest Territories is 44,807 sq. km (17,300 sq. mi.), which is larger than Denmark.

Break a leg: American actor Cuba Gooding, Jr., has starred in many hit movies. His first professional entertainment job was as a break dancer performing with singer Lionel Richie at the closing ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Crop damage: Farmers in Africa have a nickname for the red-billed quelea bird: feathered locust. Large flocks of these winged creatures can eat so many seeds that they wipe out whole crops.

Say yes: The speaker of the question, "Will you marry me?" is usually a man. And even in the age of gender equality, young couples still seem to believe it's the man's responsibility, according to a study by Cornell University.

Good coffee: Those who like espresso have Angelo Moriondo to thank. He is credited with being the first person to patent an espresso machine. He came from an entrepreneurial family in Italy and patented his invention in the 1880s.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Alda. Alda who? Alda kids like my knock-knock jokes!

What are the best steps to solve a complex math problem? The steps to the teacher's desk.

The thing about whiteboards is that they are remarkable.

A small area of undeveloped land might not seem like much, but to me it's a lot.

Teacher: "Can anyone name a liquid that won't freeze?"
Student: "Hot water!"

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. McWhirter 2. Seven 3. Vitamin C 4. True 5. Louis XVI

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