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Vol. 21 No. 18 April 29, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Trapped raccoon: It was a different kind of emergency, with staff from both the humane society and the fire department in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, coming to the rescue. When a delivery driver discovered a raccoon stuck in a sewer grate, he called the humane society. They responded and realized they'd need the help of the city's fire department. Personnel worked together to extricate the animal. This wasn't easy because the raccoon's fur was covered in ice due to the extreme cold temperatures that day, and the animal was trapped head first, with three-quarters of its body below the sewer grate. After some care by the humane society, the raccoon recovered and was released into the wild

Big building: An enormous, modern castle, built to look like a medieval gem, is the source of mystery in Poland. Called Stobnica Castle, it is located in the Notecka Forest nature reserve in the western part of the country. Building started in 2015, and in 2018 people started wondering what it was all about. No one knew who owned it or they acquired a building permit. The reserve is protected by the European Union's Natura 2000 network. Since then, court battles ensued, along with revoked permits and arrests of individuals involved. But construction continued and the mystery remains. The huge building apparently is intended to be a private residence, with 14 floors and a 70-metre (230-ft.) tower.

Smart birds: Scientists already knew that birds can be pretty ingenious. Now researchers in the Netherlands have found that corvids and magpies sometimes take materials that humans manufacture to keep feathered creatures away, and instead use the items to build nests. Called "evil architecture" by urban designers, structures like metal anti-bird spikes are designed and intended to repel birds from nesting on roofs. But some birds have outsmarted the designers. Instead of staying away, the birds are snatching the spikes and pointing them inward to form lattices for their nests. Magpies are known to build roofs over their nests, too, using things like spiky branches. The birds may even be using these human inventions to deter other birds

Convenient boogie: There is a big red button located in the washrooms of a chain of convenience stores in the U.S. state of Kentucky that has people dancing up a storm. It seems that the button transforms the bathroom into a disco dance party room. The big red buttons can be found inside Hop Shops and, when pushed, they activate coloured lights, a disco ball, and music. Presto, the room becomes a miniature dance club! The company began with just one disco bathroom, but they were such a hit that now six Hop Shop locations in the north part of the state feature them, attracting disco dancers from far and wide.

Quoteable Quotes

"Keep true to the dreams of thy youth." —Friedrich Schiller

"The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them." —Michel de Montaigne

What's Happening

April 27 - Fabulous Fabric Frenzy Sale Sale runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Strathearn United Church 8510 95 Ave. Edmonton. Huge selection of fabric, yarn, notions, craft supplies at rock bottom prices. All profits support the Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

May 2 - Spring Tea and Rug Show Edmonton Rug Hooking Guild. Admission \$5. 11 am - 2 pm. Pleasantview Community Hall, 10860 57 Ave Tea and Homemade Snacks - All Are Welcome!

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Trivia

1. Which is not considered a Balkan State—Macedonia, Austria, or Serbia?
2. In what city is Capitoline Hill?
3. Algae blooms give this sea its name.
4. The spice saffron is harvested from the tulip, lily, or crocus flower?
5. About 1.3 million Earths could fit into the Sun—T/F?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)



For the next month, you may have the potential to be running on all cylinders, eager to get things done. If your efforts serve a higher purpose, all the better. Lucky numbers: 10, 32, 34, 37, 40, 42.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)



Love, joy, and creativity could be your key words for the next few weeks. What might you want to manifest in this regard, and how could you accomplish it? Lucky numbers: 18, 22, 31, 39, 45, 46.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



Your self-confidence may receive a boost over the next few weeks. Before this dynamic passes, how might you use the energy to overcome current obstacles? Lucky numbers: 13, 20, 22, 30, 33, 41.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)



For about the next six weeks, be careful of taking impulsive actions that may substantially increase the risks of a major mistake or accident. Look before you leap! Lucky numbers: 4, 8, 9, 31, 38, 47.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)



You may feel somber or subdued early this week. While this dynamic might fade in a few days, do these emotions indicate something you need to face now? Lucky numbers: 9, 16, 17, 20, 23, 26.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Have you been living in a fog for the past month? This pattern may be starting to disperse, but you might feel another burst of it during the middle of this week. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 20, 32, 37, 42.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



For the next few weeks, getting your needs met might be a strong desire. This may be a revelation, as Libras often prioritize the needs of others over their own. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 45.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



Over the next few weeks, you may encounter a relationship issue. Explore if this could be because your values might not be in alignment with those of your partner. Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 12, 19, 28, 29.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Are you working on a project that could use some assistance from others? This may be a good week to ask for help from those who share your values. Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 8, 11, 19, 40.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



You may be tempted over the next few weeks to dig in your heels with others about a goal. Are there common values to build a win-win solution with them? Lucky numbers: 20, 23, 32, 34, 42, 46.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



You may experience a conflict this week with your relationship or finances. This situation might reflect an issue in your psyche that needs to be addressed. Lucky numbers: 1, 2, 11, 14, 15, 41.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)



The beginning of the week may offer a brief window for an opportunity to advance your higher ideals. Don't let your fears discourage or hold you back now. Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 15, 17, 27, 43.

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

Did You Know...

Older and heavier: Research on aging in America shows older folks are becoming overweight. A study by the National Center for Health Statistics found that 40% of all Americans between ages 65 and 74 are overweight.

Wooded land: Getting lost in the woods can be a bit too easy, and especially so in Canada. The North American country boasts almost 10% of the world's total forest cover. What a lot of trees!

American money: In the U.S., paper currency is comprised of up to 75% cotton and 25% linen. The cotton, and especially the linen, increases the durability, flexibility, and distinctive look and feel of the bills.

What's the difference? Alpacas and llamas are two very similar creatures, but alpacas are considerably smaller than llamas and were bred specifically for their fibre. Alpaca fibre is used to make a wide range of knitted items.

Pickle power: Who knows what power pickles hold? Julius Caesar and other Roman emperors must have thought they held a lot, because they fed pickles to their legions, believing the crunchy food increased their strength.

On the Lighter Side

Why didn't the monocles get together? They didn't want to cause a spectacle.

I'm competing in the stair climbing competition. Guess I better step up my game.

Did you hear about the King Arthur stamp? It's for over knight delivery.

Bell: "Are you a toe dancer?"
Bill: "Why, no."
Bell: "Then please get off my toes!"

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Radio. *Radio who?* Radio or not, here I come!

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Austria 2. Rome 3. Red Sea 4. Crocus 5. True

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