





Everybody's Talking

Safe surprise: In the Vermilion Heritage Museum in Alberta, a heavy safe that had defied opening for over 40 years was casually unlocked by Stephen Mills, a visitor with no prior experience in safe-cracking. He spun the dial to a random combination, and to the shock of onlookers, the door swung open. Inside, instead of expected treasures, were merely some old restaurant order slips and a payroll sheet from the 1970s. The safe had been a challenging enigma for professional locksmiths and even the manufacturer, all of whom all tried and failed to unlock its secrets over the years, making the visitor's casual twist of fate all the more remarkable.

Lipstick lore: Ancient Iranians must have flaunted red lips over 3,600 years ago! The lip colouring emerged from a burial ground in Jiroft, in southeastern Iran, that had flooded and been looted, after which many items were recovered and taken to a local museum. This Bronze Age lipstick is a testament to timeless beauty. Resembling modern-day lipsticks, its hue comes from the mineral hematite, added to quartz, plant wax, and several ingredients that served as darkening agents. While its precise origins remain a mystery, experts believe it belonged to a local Bronze Age civilization. This discovery hints at the social dynamics of the area, where cosmetics played a role in power and authority.

Nature's shield: For years, experts have worried about the Great Wall of China succumbing to nature's relentless assault. New research unveils a surprising safeguard on earthen sections: a delicate layer of biocrust. Composed of cyanobacteria, moss, and lichen, this natural "living skin" shields the wall from wind and rain erosion. The portions of the wall built with compacted soil and gravel are vulnerable due to their material composition. But the biocrust acts as a natural armour, with some organisms secreting a cement-like substance that fortifies the structure. Tests reveal biocrust-covered areas boast increased strength and stability, offering a glimmer of hope against the march of time.

Cat masterpiece: At an auction in New York (U.S.), the "world's largest cat painting" sold for \$826,000 (USD). The weight of this mammoth piece, featuring 42 cats on a 6-by-8.5foot (1.8-by-2.6-m) canvas, required a reinforced wall. Commissioned in the late 1800s by cat enthusiast Kate Birdsall Johnson, who pampered hundreds of feline residents at her summer estate, the painting portrays their luxurious lifestyle. Each cat had a name and recognized it when called, and they were attended by a team of servants. Johnson bequeathed \$500,000 in her will for her beloved cats' perpetual care. That was a purr-fectly extravagant gesture!

Quoteable Quotes

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy." ~ Anton Chekhov "Smile in the mirror. Do that every morning and you'll start to see a big difference in your life." ~ Yoko Ono

What's Happening

Want an event, major attraction or sport publicized? E-mail countrycoffeenews@shaw.ca, fax 403-864-4459 or phone 403-304-4767 to have it printed here at NO CHARGE!

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Irivia

1. The capital of Greenland is Nuuk or Ilulissat?

- 2. Formicary is the technical term for anthill T/F?
- 3. The Near Islands are near what land mass?
- 4. "The Fab Four" was the nickname of which rock group?
- 5. Which has approximately 27,000 teeth earthworm or slug?

(Flip bottom of page for answers) C Published with permission of Country Coffee News

106th Annual Benalto Fair and 4-7, 2024 Bulls At The Buck Off Bull Riders Canada Thurs., July 4 | 6:30 p.m. Buck Off Saloon Thurs. - Slow Walkin Walter Fri. – Quinton Blair Sat. - Drew Gregory Slack Performance Thurs., July 4 |10 a.m. Pro Rodeo Fri., July 5 | 6:30 p.m. Sat., July 6 | 6:30 p.m. Sun., July 7 | 1 p.m. Tickets at the gate



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(Over)



Your Weekly Horoscope

LIBRA

SCORPIO

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

On and off this year.

you may find that

your relationships

are focal points for

Deep conversations now could

numbers: 7, 17, 28, 32, 35, 41.

an argument. If you can't find a

compromise, consider letting it

numbers: 10, 12, 18, 27, 28, 44.

new information about what you

believe. Should you incorporate

numbers: 3, 8, 10, 15, 38, 48.

Sagittarians like

having a coherent

worldview. This

week may reveal

At week's end, you

may feel that your

head and heart are

out of sync. How

Important insights

go for the moment. Luckv

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

these new ideas? Lucky

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

CAPRICORN

SAGITTARIUS

For the next few

weeks, be careful of

digging in your heels

about your side of

be key to this process. Lucky

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

ARIES

(March 20 – April 19) This year is a good opportunity to advance your purpose in this lifetime. However, now

you may need to let go of whatever growth and transformation. might be holding you back from doing so. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 18, 24, 42, 44.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

You may be tempted this week to be a couch potato and ignore your responsibilities. If you

dig in, though, your hard work could pay off at the end of the week. Lucky numbers: 16, 20, 32, 33, 36, 39. **GEMINI**

(May 21 - June 20)

The middle of this week may be a good time to set a new intention. What would

you like to focus on? Does this goal align with what you love and value? Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 14, 40, 43, 47.

CANCER

(June 21 – July 22) Are you feeling burned out? This weekend may be a good time

unplug and reduce your stress level. So focus on carving out space to do so. Lucky numbers: 5, 6, 34, 38, 47, 48. LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 22)

The expression of being "too clever by half" may be a risk for you in the next few

weeks. Try to focus on honesty and integrity in your interactions with others. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 29, 42, 43, 44. VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

new information. Carefully

to reject. Lucky numbers: 11, 12, 15.28.31.38.

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

Did You Know...

Cute dolphins: Dolphins are commonly thought of as gray creatures. But the pink river dolphin has freshwater habitats throughout the Amazon and Orinoco river basins in South America. Their survival is under threat.

Quite the load: The annual wife carrying championship in Sonkajärvi, Finland, is a big deal. Since 1992, hundreds of couples have entered the race, with the husband carrying the wife in the 253.5-metre (831.7-ft.) course.

Long tresses: Empress Elisabeth of Austria, known as Princess Sisi, had ankle-length, auburn hair. She was proud of it, though its weight gave her headaches and her hairdresser spent up to three hours on it each day.



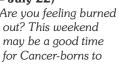








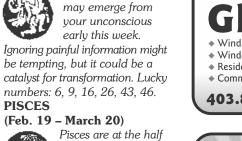


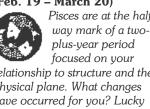


might you be able to create balance? If needed, take a deep breath and wait a few days. Lucky numbers: 4, 9, 19, 30, 38, 48. **AQUARIUS**

Things may feel chaotic and in flux for the next few weeks, and you might receive a lot of consider what to accept and what

physical plane. What changes have occurred for you? Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 16, 20, 21, 47.





plus-year period relationship to structure and the

Rainbow mountain: Montaña de Siete Colores (Mountain of Seven Colors, or Rainbow Mountain) is a popular Peruvian Andes attraction. The 5,200-metre (17,000-ft.) mountain's appearance is due to 14 colourful minerals.

Flashes of love: Ever wonder why fireflies emanate flashes of light? Males use specific patterns when looking for mates. If a female flashes back, the twinkling conversation continues until they find each other.

On the Lighter Side

Only one large petal remained on the old rose. Last bud not least! Magician: "I can turn this handkerchief into a flower." Little boy: "That's nothing. I can walk down the street and turn into an alley."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Vaughn. Vaughn who? Vaughn plus Vaughn equals two!

Why do hens lay eggs? If they dropped them, they'd break. The earth's rotation really makes my day.



4. The Beatles 5. Slug

Trivia answers: J. Nuuk 2. True 3. Alaska Peninsula

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(Over)