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Everybody's Talking

Safe surprise: In the Vermilion Heritage Museum in Alberta, Canada, 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-8.5-foot (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

Hello RV Campers! Consider joining our RV Club's friendly, fun bunch. Monthly May to Sept. Camp outs within about 2 hours of Calgary, and off season Sunday brunches. For more info, please Email June at juwil80@telus.net

Sundays. Bragg Creek Farmers Market. Running every Sunday from Jun16 to Sep 22 from 10am to 3pm. Still room for vendors and food trucks. Email info@braggcreekca.com for all the info.

GET IN WHAT'S HAPPENING - Submit your event to www.bvcoffeenews.ca and be seen here by thousands of readers each week. Please give 6 weeks notice

Trivia

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)
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Recipe of the month

Favourite Barbecued Chicken

2 broiler/fryer chickens (3 to 4 pounds each), cut into 8 pieces each
Salt and pepper
Barbecue Sauce:
2 tablespoons canola oil
2 small onions, finely chopped
2 cups ketchup
1/4 cup lemon juice
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon ground mustard
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

Prep Time: 15 min Grill Time: 35 min Yield: 12 servings

1 Sprinkle chicken pieces with salt and pepper. Grill, skin side down, uncovered, on a greased rack over medium heat for 20 minutes.

2 Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, make barbecue sauce by heating oil over medium heat. Add onion; sauté until tender. Stir in remaining sauce ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes.

3 Turn chicken; brush with barbecue sauce. Grill 15-25 minutes longer, brushing frequently with sauce, until a thermometer reads 165° when inserted in the breast and 170°-175° in the thigh.

The perfect recipe for May...
National Barbecue Month!

Source:
<https://www.tasteofhome.com>

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Your Weekly Horoscope

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 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 for Cancer-borns to 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)



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

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.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Nook 2. True 3. Alaska Peninsula 4. The Beatles 5. Sing

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