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Vol. 21 No. 27 July 1, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Hot coffee: Most people like their lattes creamy and sweet, but not the customers of a coffee shop located in the city of Ganzhou in China's Jiangxi Province. That's where a new taste is tingling customers' senses: the taste of chili! The Jingshi Coffee Cafe decided to try something new as a nod to the area's spicy cuisine. The baristas infuse the iced "Spicy Latte" with dried chili. Once that's done, they sprinkle a little chili powder on top. While this sounds like an extremely spicy beverage, some think it's actually quite pleasant and not too hot. However, people in the area are accustomed to hot food, so buyer beware!

Tracking devices: Talk about having a lot of nerve! A Chinese woman, known as Zhu, owns a trucking company in Xiangyang in Hubei province. She didn't want to risk her trucks being pulled over by police and given fines for a variety of issues. In an attempt to prevent this, she went online and bought six GPS trackers, which she personally installed on police cars parked at the local police station. Unfortunately for Zhu, the cops discovered the little black boxes, and soon tracked the SIM cards. These led them directly to the guilty party. Her punishment was 500 Yuan (CNY) and eight days of detention.

Different pet: Dogs and cats are the most typical animals to keep as pets, but not for Tiffany Pierre and Gregory Guiot, a couple in the Wallonia region of Belgium. They have a pet boar. The couple loves Oscar, as they call him, but didn't actually plan to have the animal as a pet. Rather, Guiot found him in the woods when he was only a wee piglet. Feeling sorry for the creature, Guiot brought him home, intending to find an animal shelter. Over a year later, Oscar weighs 80 kilograms (176 lbs.) and is still with them. He is house-trained, sleeps on his own couch, and is, indeed, part of the family.

Coin-operated charm: In the heart of Queens, New York (U.S.), lies a unique dwelling that once buzzed with the hum of washing machines and dryers. Sampson Dahl now calls this former laundromat home, where he curates a vibrant community space. Adorned with eclectic finds from his set design job, the 800-square-foot (75-sq.-m) abode doubles as an arts venue. Friends and neighbours frequent the front room, transformed into a stage and salon for gatherings that range from musical performances to painting nights. Unsuspecting passersby, lured by the façade's old awning, occasionally wander into Dahl's unconventional living space, mistaking it for an actual laundromat.

Quoteable Quotes

"Friends, they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another's dreams."
—Henry David Thoreau

"Be patient where you sit in the dark. The dawn is coming."
—Rumi

What's Happening

July 24 - Chili Cook Off Join Two Hills Bike Week and FCSS for a chili cook off and Tex-Mex Block Party. Taking place on Mainstreet in Two Hills, Alberta from 3:00-6:00pm. For more info call 780-657-3540 or 587-280-2455.

August 30 - Alberta Day Celebration Join the Town of Vegreville for the ultimate celebration of Alberta at Pysanka Park! Immerse yourself in an evening filled with exciting activities that showcase the heart and soul of this vibrant province. For more info visit vegrevilledirectory.ca

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.

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Trivia

1. Drivers in Japan drive on the left side of the road—T/F?
2. Did boxing become an Olympic sport in 1900, 1904, or 1916?
3. An arctophile collects yo-yos, teddy bears, or trains?
4. Richard Bachman is the pen name of horror writer _____.
5. In which musical is the Kit Kat Club set?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

This week is the second of three moments this year in which an old issue may resolve. Where do you want that situation to be at the third moment, in late December? Lucky numbers: 12, 13, 17, 21, 30, 48.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

This week starts with a well-grounded energy. How might you use it to jump-start a week of successful endeavours? Resist the temptation to be stuck in place. Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 17, 20, 27, 29.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

At midweek, your mind may have greater capacity to process data. Use discernment in analyzing the information, narrowing down options to those that have the most potential. Lucky numbers: 4, 5, 6, 10, 16, 48.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)

Midweek may be a good time to initiate a new goal for the next month. Perhaps this would be the right moment to implement a new ritual of self care? Lucky numbers: 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 23.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

Leo energy is strong now, especially at week's end, so your public profile may be highlighted. Just be sure that your interactions with others are positive for all concerned. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 10, 13, 16, 37.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Virgos often operate in a "nose to the grindstone" mode. This is a good week to consider developing and implementing a more balanced life vs. work routine now. Lucky numbers: 7, 24, 34, 38, 45, 48.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

An important part of achieving balance in relationships is making sure that your own needs are met. Now may be a good time to initiate any needed changes in this regard. Lucky numbers: 2, 9, 12, 18, 43, 44.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You may feel that your intuitive channel of information is blocked at the start of the week. Take a deep breath and wait a few days until this dynamic passes. Lucky numbers: 13, 20, 21, 32, 34, 41.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Your heart and head may be in a stalemate at midweek. If you can't find a compromise, take a deep breath and wait a few days before you act on whatever presents itself. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 9, 13, 25, 34.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Are you prioritizing results over your relationship to people? Midweek may offer an opportunity for you to set a goal to connect more with others over the next month. Lucky numbers: 8, 9, 12, 24, 26, 37.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Be careful of power struggles with others at midweek. If you are in a stalemate situation, next week may be a better time to initiate a conversation to resolve it. Lucky numbers: 9, 12, 18, 22, 32, 38.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 20)

You may be entering a months-long period of retracing old emotional territory. Practicing meditation and keeping a journal might help you process events right now. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 19, 26, 28, 30.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Taurus winners with the luckiest number being 17.

Did You Know...

Lovable comedian: John Candy (1950-1994) was a beloved Canadian actor who belonged to Toronto's Second City comedy troupe. He starred in many movies, like *Ghostbusters*, *Home Alone*, and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*.

Leap year: February 29 occurs because Earth takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds to orbit the sun. Leap years prevent Northern Hemisphere summers from eventually shifting to December!

Red spice: Paprika is made from dried, ground *Capiscum annum* peppers. Most common is sweet paprika. Others are rich, sweet Hungarian paprika, fiery hot paprika, and boldly flavoured smoked paprika.

Bright blue: A lizard that lives in Australia has a unique feature. Known as the blue-tongued skink, this reptile can grow to two feet (0.6 m) long. It sticks out its bright blue tongue to surprise and scare away predators.

Not the real thing: Anyone selling butter-like products such as margarine in the state of Iowa (U.S.) cannot say "butter" on labels or advertising. This misdemeanour invites a \$625 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

On the Lighter Side

My phone has had to wear glasses ever since it lost its contacts.

I'm writing a screenplay about a seaside romance. It's a classic buoy-meets-gull story.

Farmer: "In the country, we go to bed with the chickens."
City folk: "In the city, we'd rather sleep in our own beds."

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Queen. *Queen who?* I'm as queen as a whistle!

What kind of snake is good at math? An adder.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. True 2. 1904 3. Teddy bears 4. Stephen King 5. Cabaret

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