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## Everybody's Talking

**Tokyo's honesty:** If you misplace your cash in Tokyo, Japan, there's hope. In 2022, a staggering \$29.6 million (USD) in cash was voluntarily handed over to the police, setting a new record. Japanese law requires people to give back money they find, but there's a reward for the finder, up to 20 percent of the amount if someone claims it. After three months, if nobody claims it, the finder gets it all. Despite Tokyo's hustle and bustle, people turned in an average of \$81,000 every day in 2022. During cherry blossom season, Tokyo police caution about an increased risk of losing belongings, as more people stroll around admiring the beauty of the famous blossoms.

**Musical revival:** Beethoven's unfinished 10th Symphony remained a mystery long after his passing, and has been sparking curiosity for centuries. In 2019, a diverse team embarked on a mission to honour the famous composer's legacy through using artificial intelligence (AI). The AI decoded Beethoven's musical patterns over his entire career, analyzing every note the composer wrote. Meanwhile, researchers delved into the sketches for this symphony that Beethoven left behind, in order to decipher his intentions behind the piece. The AI seamlessly integrated its compositions with Beethoven's motifs, culminating in a full orchestral piece. The Beethoven Orchestra premiered the completed symphony in Bonn, Germany.

**Sealed secrets:** In the past, people protected their letters with complex folding methods, a technique called "letterlocking." Now scientists have cracked the code of one such letter without opening it. These letters were sealed with wax and carefully folded to stop anyone from opening them without permission, which would make any tampering quite obvious. The Brienne Collection, which houses thousands of undelivered letters from the year 1706 and earlier, posed an intriguing historical enigma, with hundreds of the letters "locked." The project involved using X-ray scanning and computer algorithms to decode the folding patterns, which could unveil centuries-old messages without damage.

**Desert discoveries:** In the expansive deserts of southern Peru, ancient drawings have emerged, etched into the earth long ago. Among these remarkable artworks that depict creatures like hummingbirds and monkeys, a colossal cat has been discovered. Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994, the Nazca Lines cover a vast area of about 450 square kilometres (174 sq. mi.). Recent archaeological work has revealed the well-defined lines of the feline figure, dating back to 200-100 B.C.E. and measuring 37 metres (121 ft.) in length. The discovery of these and other new figures sheds light on the ancient cultures that predated the Nazca civilization.

## Quoteable Quotes

"Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent."  
—Marilyn vos Savant

"The achievement of one goal should be the starting point of another."  
—Alexander Graham Bell

## What's Happening

**Aug 10 - Summer Street Fest** Summer Street Fest is a one-day event to bring together local businesses, artists, live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and community members to celebrate culture, art, music and dance. Taking place from 2-7pm downtown Whitecourt

**Aug 21 - Whitecourt Park Party** Meet up with neighbours at your local park. Pack your lawn chair and enjoy a BBQ! Percy Baxter Playground - 101 Mink Creed Road, 5:30-7:30pm

NON PROFIT organizations may submit fundraising events for FREE at [www.coffee-news.ca](http://www.coffee-news.ca). Please submit a minimum of 4 weeks in advance.

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## Trivia

1. This rod rotates the wheel of a car.
2. In the movie Citizen Kane, "Rosebud" is a friend, sled, or flower?
3. Rosie the \_\_\_\_\_ symbolized women's war efforts during WWII.
4. All lakes are freshwater—T/F?
5. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ Wonders of the Ancient World.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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