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Vol. 32 No. 3:17 April 27, 2026

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Everybody's Talking

Painted revival: In Stornara, a small town in southern Italy, faded walls have become canvases for renewal. Once nearly deserted, the community invited artists from around the world to fill its streets with vivid murals, turning empty storefronts and crumbling homes into works of art. What began as a local project led by artist Lino Lombardi has grown into an annual festival that now draws thousands of visitors each year. The colourful transformation has boosted tourism, opened new businesses, and even encouraged families to move back. Each mural reflects the town's history and spirit in vivid detail. Today, Stornara is recognized as a model for how art can revive small communities.

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Sweet support: Locals in southern Florida (U.S.) rallied behind ice cream vendor Don Tomas after a short video captured him pushing his cart for miles under the hot sun. Without a truck or trailer, he's spent years walking neighbourhood to neighbourhood, earning smiles and loyal customers along the way. When a passerby recorded his determination and shared it online, the clip quickly gained traction and inspired a fundraising campaign. More than \$20,000 (USD) has been raised, helping Tomas secure better transportation and equipment for his rounds. Known for his upbeat attitude and tireless work ethic, he's now locally recognized as an inspiring example of everyday perseverance.

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Ancient voyage: A team of researchers from Japan and Taiwan recreated a prehistoric sea journey to understand how early people may have travelled between islands thousands of years ago. Using replicas of 30,000-year-old tools, they hollowed out a single cedar trunk to craft a canoe and paddled it from Taiwan to Yonaguni Island, Japan. The group relied on the sun, stars, and ocean swells for direction while navigating powerful currents in the East China Sea. The 140-mile (225 km) trip took nearly two days of continuous paddling. Their success suggests ancient travellers could have completed similar crossings, using skill and determination to explore new regions long before modern navigation existed.

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Canine hero: In Siyathi village, India, a young dog named Rocky became an unexpected hero when torrential rain triggered a sudden nighttime landslide. Sensing danger, he barked loudly until his owner woke up to find cracks forming in the wall and water seeping inside. The man quickly gathered his family and rushed out to alert others in the village. His urgent warnings allowed neighbours to escape before the slide destroyed multiple homes. Locals credit the dog's sharp instincts and his owner's quick response for preventing tragedy. Rocky was briefly trapped during the chaos, but later was safely rescued, earning lasting gratitude from the community he helped save.

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☛ Sylvan Lake Municipal Library hosts a **Pub Trivia Night** Wednesday, May 6 at the Diamond Valley Den (formerly the Viewpoint Lounge, 4823-49 Avenue) at 6:30 p.m. Drop in, bring a few friends, order drinks and snacks, and test your knowledge! Build your team (max 6 players) or play solo; contact the venue to reserve your table. For complete details, visit library website.

☛ **Mayor's State of the Community Address and Networking Event** will be held May 7 at the NexSource Centre, Strategis Group Multi-Purpose Rooms 1-3, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about a range of municipal and non-municipal programs designed to support and grow local businesses.

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- Trivia**
1. The novel *Phantom of the Opera* was written by Jules Verne – T/F?
 2. What is the longest river in the Czech Republic that flows to the North Sea?
 3. Which two chess pieces can't move diagonally?
 4. Are cats the only animal that purr?
 5. This famous chef wrote the cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Recipe of the month

Pina Colada Zucchini Bread

4 cups all-purpose flour
3 cups sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
4 large eggs, room temperature
1-1/2 cups canola oil

1 teaspoon each coconut, rum and vanilla extracts
3 cups shredded zucchini
1 cup canned crushed pineapple, drained
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or chopped pecans

Prep Time: 25 min Cook Time: 45 min Yield: 3 loaves

- Preheat oven to 350°. Line 3 greased 8x4-in. loaf pans with parchment; grease paper.
- In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. In another bowl, whisk eggs, oil and extracts. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in zucchini, pineapple and walnuts.
- Transfer to prepared pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean, 45-55 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Gently remove paper.

The perfect way to celebrate National Zucchini Bread Day on April 25 – or any time you want a delicious loaf!

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

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 – April 19)

Aries often juggle many projects, starting them quickly but not always completing them all. But an opportunity for endurance may be available to you at mid-week. Lucky numbers: 1, 18, 21, 24, 32, 48.

TAURUS
(April 20 – May 20)

You may seek to wrap something up at the end of the week. If needed, try to gently communicate this intention to others whose involvement you might need to succeed. Lucky numbers: 5, 14, 20, 22, 30, 45.

GEMINI
(May 21 – June 20)

You might want to spend time talking to others about what you want to achieve. An unexpected person or opportunity may be able to aid you with your endeavour. Lucky numbers: 4, 8, 13, 14, 33, 34.

CANCER
(June 21 – July 22)

If you are in an awkward situation with someone, communicating mid-week may be easier. This might open an opportunity for you to succeed where you didn't before. Lucky numbers: 7, 14, 20, 27, 34, 40.

LEO
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

Leos often like to keep things sunny, rather than looking at shadows. At midweek, this dynamic may create a conflict to face to successfully complete your endeavours. Lucky numbers: 6, 17, 18, 30, 31, 42.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Virgos often are not good at showing off their ability to navigate and complete tasks. The end of this week may be a good time to highlight your talents to others. Lucky numbers: 2, 10, 28, 32, 33, 46.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners, with the luckiest number being 14.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Your Libra tact and diplomacy may be heightened early this week. If a situation needs resolution, now might be time for you to step up and negotiate between the parties. Lucky numbers: 3, 10, 11, 14, 18, 35.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

If you run into difficulty finishing a project at week's end, think through recent conversations about it. A different approach to communication may ease the stalemate. Lucky numbers: 10, 17, 28, 36, 40, 45.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Your mind and emotions may be in sync for a few days at the end of the week. This might give a boost to achieving one of your goals, so try not to let it pass by. Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 21, 23, 28, 32.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Are you having difficulty now completing a goal? This is unusual for ambitious Capricorns. It may help to do a deep dive into your psyche to find the cause. Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 28, 35, 41, 45.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You may be presented with lots of options to achieve your goals. If you become overwhelmed trying to choose, look for the one that aligns with your values. Lucky numbers: 17, 19, 24, 26, 33, 43.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

Intuitive Pisces can see information, but may have trouble communicating it to others. End-of-the-week energy could help evolve a more grounded presentation style. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 16, 24, 37, 44.

Did You Know...

Shadow superstition: Groundhog Day began as a belief among settlers in Pennsylvania (U.S.) that the animal's shadow could reveal the length of winter. A visible shadow meant more cold weeks ahead, while no shadow was taken as a sign of early spring.

Cookie craze: Girl Scout Cookies began as a part of simple bake sales and grew to a nationwide tradition. What started in one small community later expanded into a seasonal fundraiser, with new flavours, packaging, and online orders keeping the tradition alive.

Bet book: Dr. Seuss, the famous children's author, once accepted a challenge to write a story using only 50 words. The result was Green Eggs and Ham, and from a playful bet came one of his most celebrated books.

Heart finger: In many Western traditions, a ring on the left ring finger signals marriage, rooted in the old belief that a vein ran from this finger to the heart. Over time, it came to symbolize love, stability, and lasting devotion.

Shakespearean chickens: The idea of calling cowards "chickens" can be traced to William Shakespeare, who used the image of frightened soldiers scattering like birds. From there, the term stuck and grew into phrases like "chicken-hearted."

On the Lighter Side

Why was the mushroom the hit of the party? Because he is a fungi. People who buy books on lawn care become good weeders. Ed's parents have another son named Ed. Two Eds are better than one.

Diner: "Is there any stew on the menu?"
Waiter: "Yes, but I wiped it off."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Meghan. Meghan who? All these knock, knock jokes are meghan me irritated!

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. False, Gaston Leroux 2. Elbe 3. Rook and knight 4. No 5. Julia Childs

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