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Everybody's Talking

Sacred splash: In Heerlen, Netherlands, an empty church is getting new life as a swimming pool. Architects are preserving the historic charm while adding clever features, including an adjustable pool floor that allows the venue to host both swimming and cultural events. Glass walls shield stained glass and artwork from humidity, while church pews have been repurposed as seating and bar tables. The pulpit, once used for sermons, will now offer a perfect vantage point for the lifeguard. Swimmers enter through the original aisles, experiencing the blend of old and new. Designed to honour the building's past while meeting modern needs, this inspired project shows how thoughtful design can breathe new life into cherished spaces.

Shifting shade: Designer Joe Doucet of New York (U.S.) found himself unsure what colour to paint his house until the answer revealed itself in a mood ring. Using the same chemical idea, he created a paint that flips from white to black depending on the temperature, aiming to help homes stay cooler in the heat and warmer in the cold. The shift responds to outdoor conditions and could cut energy use without wires or moving parts. Still in testing, the early results show indoor temperatures are noticeably affected. The formula can be used with other colours, too, so a blue house would turn light blue in the summer and dark blue in the winter. The idea is to let the weather decide the colour, and hopefully save energy costs at the same time.

Petal parade: A springtime tradition transforms the streets of Noto, Italy, with vast carpets of flowers. During the Noto Infiorata Festival, local artists craft elaborate floral mosaics along Via Nicolaci, each design reflecting a chosen yearly theme. Thousands of petals are carefully arranged by hand, drawing visitors from near and far. What began as a tourism initiative has grown into a celebrated cultural event, filling the Baroque city with colour, scent, and art. Surrounding streets host concerts, markets, and displays of local crafts. For many, strolling through this fleeting gallery of blooms is a chance to experience Noto's rich blend of beauty and tradition, one petal at a time.

Tunnel trouble: In Nara, Japan, train operators faced an unusual challenge. Turtles were getting stuck on the tracks. To prevent accidents and protect the reptiles, a local railway company teamed up with an aquarium to build a turtle tunnel beneath the rails. Designed for these slow-moving travellers, the passage lets them safely pass under the tracks instead of risking a crossing above. Monthly checks keep things running smoothly, with any rescued turtles taken in for care. While the tunnel has already saved several shelled commuters, it's just one small fix in a much bigger picture. Other regions are now testing similar wildlife paths. For these turtles at least, there's finally a safer way to get from one side to the other.

Quoteable Quotes

"Freedom is the greatest fruit of self-sufficiency." —Epicurus
"We see what we believe rather than what we see." —Alan Watts

What's Happening

For Men who Love to Sing! The Cloverdale Chordsmen is a non-profit Barbershop Chorus that meets at 7:30 pm Monday nights at Christ the Redeemer Church, 16613 Bell Rd. Surrey. Men of all ages are welcome - if you can carry a tune please come and check us out! Contact president@chordsmen.ca or call/text 778-232-2624 for info.

Surrey Singles Over Sixty: Are you interested in making new friends? We are a group that meet for dinners, card games, dancing, picnics, etc. We are based in the North Surrey/North Delta area. New members are welcome. Please call Julie at 604-218-2946.

The **Cloverdale Stamp Club** is seeking new members! Our meetings are every 2nd Monday of the month at the Cloverdale branch of Surrey Libraries at 1:00pm. Come buy, sell and trade!

Are you a young mom under 25 or a young dad under 30? Visit www.youngfamilies.ca to access care and support!

Trivia

1. What colour is Kermit the Frog?
2. Featured in an Agatha Christie novel, this train started running in 1883.
3. What name is given to the science of sound?
4. Mushrooms are more closely related to animals than to plants—T/F?
5. Several Mesoamerican peoples used chocolate as what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

 It would be wise to monitor any angry feelings you have this week. Consider if they have been triggered by a return to your emotions surrounding an old wound. Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 14, 19, 22, 28.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

 Are you feeling a strong urgency to address or complete something right now? It may be helpful to take a deep breath and think through the situation before you act. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 15, 23, 35, 38.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

 For the next month, you may encounter an obstacle in a relationship. Seek a compromise that you both can live with, going forward. Waiting may not be helpful for the situation. Lucky numbers: 12, 20, 30, 37, 39, 42.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)

 This may be a good time to integrate your values and beliefs into your daily routine. It may require a review of where you stand to decide how to move ahead. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 9, 18, 40, 46.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

 Early in the week, your head and heart may be in opposition. If you can't reconcile the two, it may be best to wait a few days before taking any action. Lucky numbers: 6, 15, 22, 25, 37, 43.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

 In the past two-plus years, you may have experienced periods of disruption to your normally grounded approach. This dynamic might begin to improve in the next few months. Lucky numbers: 13, 21, 30, 31, 34, 45.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners with the luckiest number being 12.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

 You may find yourself being aggressive at the week's end. Ask yourself if this feeling is justified, or if you should take a breath and wait a few days before acting. Lucky numbers: 2, 10, 17, 20, 28, 44.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

 For the last few weeks, you may have encountered difficulties in communicating. This dynamic might begin to shift at the week's end. Try to focus on common ground. Lucky numbers: 11, 12, 15, 16, 22, 48.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

 Sagittarians often are free spirits and, for the next month, this desire may be strong for you. Explore new possibilities, but consider waiting a bit before implementing them. Lucky numbers: 4, 12, 20, 30, 35, 36.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

 Capricorns generally don't spend much time considering their values, but this may be a good time for you to do so. Look for new opportunities that are more in alignment for you. Lucky numbers: 5, 6, 15, 17, 24, 28.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

 The last month may have had various mishaps with equipment, communications, travel, and so forth. At the week's end, this situation could begin to shift, so try to be patient. Lucky numbers: 3, 21, 22, 24, 33, 42.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 20)

 For more than two years, Saturn has been in Pisces and stays until February. Hopefully, it has helped you develop a more grounded approach. You have a last chance now. Lucky numbers: 18, 21, 30, 35, 38, 45.

Did you know?

Lucky seven: U.S. and Canadian phone numbers weren't always seven digits long. Engineers found that the length offered enough combinations to expand the system, while still being short enough for people to remember, balancing function and memory.

Strings surprise: Before becoming a rap star, J. Cole spent years mastering the violin. By high school, he was first chair in the orchestra, performing familiar movie themes. That early passion for music carried into his later career.

Sea mystery: In the North Atlantic Ocean, the Sargasso Sea doesn't touch any land. Instead, it's defined by powerful ocean currents that form a natural boundary. Many sea creatures, including eels and turtles, travel through it during their long migrations.

Cosmic crop: Potatoes became the first vegetable grown in space. Thanks to a team-up between NASA and researchers in Wisconsin (U.S.), special "Quantum Tubers" were crafted using a mix of farming know-how and space science.

Dad delivery: Instead of moms, male seahorses are the ones who carry and birth their young. Their pouch works much like a uterus, nourishing the babies inside. It's a rare twist in nature's approach to parenting.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Achoo. Achoo who? Achoo my gum every day.

Where do owls learn the best? At night school.

Sign in a bank window: "Come in and see if you are loan-ly."

I suffered for months with ringing in my ears, then I got an unlisted ear.

Joy: "Where were you when the parade went by?"

Jim: "I was home waving my hair."

Joy: "Next time use a flag."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Green 2. Orient Express 3. Acoustics 4. True 5. Currency

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