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Everybody's Talking

Fiery clash: In Morelia, Mexico, a conflict over prime busking territory led to an extraordinary street brawl between a fire-breathing street performer and a mariachi band. Captured by surveillance cameras, the incident begins with a mariachi player chasing and headlocking the performer. The tables turn dramatically as the fire-breather starts exhaling flames, igniting the musicians' clothing. This intense clash occurred outside El Infierno, a local taco spot, with the fire-breather requiring hospital care. Such fierce competition among street performers in Mexico occasionally leads to violent encounters, though this might be the first involving fire breathing.

Towering failure: Goldin Finance 117, a 596-metre (1,955-ft.) skyscraper in Tianjin, China, holds the title of the world's tallest abandoned building. Originally intended as a luxury real estate centrepiece, the project was plagued by financial issues that halted construction multiple times. Despite efforts to resume work, the skyscraper remains unfinished. Its planned 128 floors were designed for hotels, commercial spaces, and operational services. Self-financing and market fluctuations led to the Goldin Group developer eventually abandoning the project. This towering structure now serves as a cautionary tale of over-ambition. Its failure prompted stricter regulations on skyscraper projects in China.

Cashew colossus: In Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, the Cajueiro de Pirangi (Cashew Tree of Pirangi) holds the title of the world's largest cashew tree. Its crown sprawls more than 8,000 square metres (86,100 sq. ft.) with a circumference of about 500 metres (1,640 ft.). It yields about 60,000 cashew fruits each year. Tourists flock to see this natural wonder, which grows sideways due to a genetic mutation, so its branches root upon contact with the ground. This remarkable growth makes it difficult to identify the original trunk. Believed to be over a thousand years old, the tree offers a unique spectacle that is best appreciated from a high vantage point. The tree is a major local attraction.

Unique vintage: In London, England, content creator Emilie Rae collaborated with Renegade Urban Winery to create a special wine. She personally stomped the grapes from Spain and Lebanon with her bare feet, producing a full-bodied cabernet sauvignon. Rae, who shares content online, is marketing the product to her dedicated followers. Despite nearly slipping and injuring herself during the process, she believes her fans will appreciate that she took part in producing the wine herself. Rae sees this project as a heartfelt tribute to her supporters, offering them a chance to savour a unique, lovingly made wine, though for a price. Each bottle is 100 GBP.

Quoteable Quotes

"Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest." —Larry Lorenzoni
"With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come." —William Shakespeare

What's Happening

NON profit organizations may submit events for **FREE** at www.coffee-news.ca/whats-happening

Trivia

1. The Mississippi River begins in the U.S. state of Minnesota, Montana, or Mississippi?
2. Hamlet sees the ghost of his mother or father?
3. Fish travel in schools. What about whales?
4. Calculus is a type of math that addresses rates of change—T/F?
5. The berries on the hawthorn tree are called what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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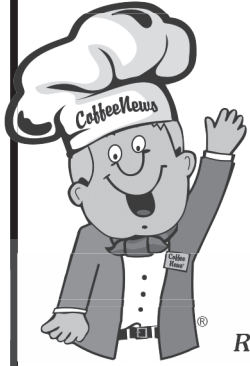
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Gingerbread for Cookies



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup – sugar
- 1/2 cup – molasses
- 1 1/2 teaspoons – ginger
- 1 teaspoon – allspice
- 1 teaspoon – cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon – clove
- 2 teaspoons – baking soda
- 1/2 cup – margarine
- 1 egg – beaten
- 3 1/2 cups – all-purpose flour

RECIPE PREPARATION

- 1 In a medium saucepan, heat sugar, molasses, ginger, allspice, cinnamon, and cloves to boiling, stirring occasionally.
 - 2 Remove from heat; stir in soda (it will foam up).
 - 3 Stir in margarine till melted.
 - 4 With a fork, stir in egg, then flour.
 - 5 On a floured surface, knead dough till mixed. Divide dough in half, wrap half with plastic wrap; set aside.
 - 6 Roll half the dough, with a rolling pin, slightly thinner than 1/4 inch.
 - 7 Cut with cutters.
 - 8 Bake at 325F on a cookie sheet for 12 minutes; cool on a wire rack.
- Makes about 3 dozen 3" gingerbread people. food.com

Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 20 – April 19)



You may have experienced the last 18 months as a condensed period of karmic resolution. As this phase starts coming to an end, what have you learned about yourself? Lucky numbers: 6, 17, 19, 30, 39, 42.

TAURUS

(April 20 – May 20)



Expect the unexpected toward week's end, particularly related to your relationships with others. Can you find an outside-the-box solution to any conflict that emerges? Lucky numbers: 8, 13, 19, 21, 23, 34.

GEMINI

(May 21 – June 20)



You may find yourself surrounded by chaotic energy in this holiday week. Be sure to get enough rest and carefully think through any decisions you need to consider. Lucky numbers: 12, 13, 15, 16, 37, 46.

CANCER

(June 21 – July 22)



Over the next few weeks, others may wonder what happened to your nurturing personality. You might be focused on building your own successes, for a change. Lucky numbers: 9, 10, 16, 33, 43, 46.

LEO

(July 23 – Aug. 22)



You might be tempted to take impulsive action at the beginning of the week. Adjusting your view of the situation may allow you to make a more considered decision. Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 16, 17, 19, 27.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)



The energy for the next few weeks may support your practical and grounded nature. If you have postponed a project that requires a lot of work, now may be a good time. Lucky numbers: 1, 10, 22, 30, 40, 43.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)



Over the last 18 months, a number of insights about your shadow may have emerged from your unconscious. Are you ready to move on from its guilt and fear triggers? Lucky numbers: 16, 17, 19, 23, 28, 41.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)



Your intuitive abilities may be heightened mid-week, and could impact your emotional reactions. Please keep this in mind while interacting with others during the holidays. Lucky numbers: 3, 7, 8, 21, 32, 39.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)



Your natural optimism may be heightened at week's end. Enjoy the holidays, but remember the adage, "All things in moderation." Later you might be glad that you did so. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)



Have you taken the time yet to evaluate what you may have achieved this year and developed a set of plans for the new year? If not, why? What are you waiting for? Lucky numbers: 4, 18, 23, 28, 32, 43.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)



During the next few weeks, an opportunity may arise that you previously might not have considered. Could it help you accomplish your objective in a new way? Lucky numbers: 10, 15, 18, 21, 22, 30.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 – March 20)



You may find yourself of two minds about how to proceed. Focus on self awareness about the situation. If you're frustrated, avoid any temptation to argue with others. Lucky numbers: 7, 8, 14, 23, 37, 47.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners with the luckiest number being 3.

Did You Know...

Sky-high marvel: The Willis Tower, a Chicago, Illinois (U.S.), icon, formerly known as the Sears Tower, offers breathtaking views from its Skydeck, where visitors can see four different states on a clear day. This architectural giant was designed to sway gracefully with the wind.

Super cattle: Beefalo, a hybrid of cattle and bison, blend the traits of both species: the hardiness of bison with the milking ease of cattle. This innovative hybrid aims to improve meat quality and efficiency in production.

Tasty ID: Just like fingerprints, your tongue has its own unique "print." Scientists discovered that each tongue's shape and texture are one of a kind. This could even be used for future identity verification through advanced imaging technology.

Presidential pets: U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was known for having an eclectic collection of pets, including a hyena named Bill, a gift from Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia. Roosevelt taught Bill tricks while the animal was living at the White House.

Banana glow: While bananas look yellow to the naked eye, they reveal a secret under black lights: a blue glow! This happens because the chlorophyll in bananas breaks down as they ripen, causing the fruit to fluoresce and emit a blue hue under UV light.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Kissimmee. Kissimmee who? Kissimmee a frog and he becomes a prince.

Why does a mother kangaroo hope it doesn't rain? Because the kids have to play inside.

Humpty Dumpty is just a shell of his former self.

Did you hear about the paranoid bloodhound? He thought everyone was following him.

Mr. Crow: "I don't feel like going to work today."

Mrs. Crow: "Well, caw in sick."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Minnesota 2. Father 3. Pods 4. True 5. Haws

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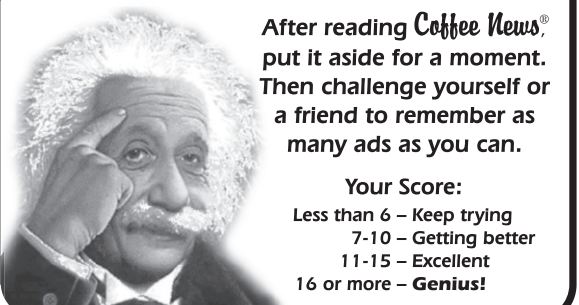
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