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Volume 10:52 December 15, 2025

Everybody's Talking!

Submerged sculptures: After witnessing storm-ravaged coral reefs in Grenada, sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor decided to shape his work for the ocean. Instead of gallery walls, his concrete creations rest underwater, built to attract marine life and grow with the sea. The statues, made using scans or casts of local people, offer surface textures that invite algae, corals, and sea creatures to settle and thrive. He takes care to avoid harming the ecosystems; input from biologists and coastal communities guide each placement. Beyond just replacing damaged reefs, these structures also reflect the stories and culture of the people nearby. As tides shift, the artwork slowly transforms. In a way, each piece begins only after it's been left behind.

Lake lifeline: Once clogged with weeds, a famous lake in Srinagar, India, is now seeing a clever comeback, fueled by an unlikely source. Entrepreneur Maninder Singh created a system that turns invasive lake plants into valuable organic fertilizer. His team harvests the aquatic growth, processes it, and supplies local farmers with a sustainable product that boosts crops and cuts costs. The effort also clears away decaying weeds that once fouled the air during hot months, making the lake more inviting for both wildlife and visitors. Encouraged by success in Srinagar, Singh aims to bring this model to other overgrown lakes across India. Sometimes the best solution grows from the problem itself.

Primate phrases: Bonobos, which are small apes closely related to humans, are revealing a surprising skill in the forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They combine their calls to express complex meanings. Researchers found that these vocal patterns mirror how humans string words together. Some combinations simply stack meanings, while others subtly shift the message, like saying "bad dancer" instead of just "bad" and "dancer." The team built a reference of bonobo sounds, then tracked how they combined over time and across different social settings. Their findings suggest this ability may stretch far back into our shared evolutionary history. It seems these clever apes have been mixing and matching words all along.

Factory reset: Outside Barcelona, Spain, an old cement plant once thick with dust has become something entirely different. Architect Ricardo Bofill saw more than decay when he bought the place: he saw potential. Over time, he kept what others would scrap, turning giant chimneys and broken staircases into a blend of home and studio. Each odd corner was reshaped rather than removed, adding new purpose without erasing the old. With concrete towers still looming above, the space now holds lush gardens, wide windows, and open-air rooms. Though never truly "finished," the building became a place where past industry meets new ideas. Even now, it stands as a reminder that some projects are meant to keep evolving.

Quoteable Quotes

"Find out who you are. And do it on purpose." —Dolly Parton
"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." —J.R.R. Tolkien

What's Happening

Dec. 20TH: Kalamazoo Winter Market, 1204 Bank St., Kalamazoo, 8-1PM.
Dec. 20TH: Winter Solstice Drumming, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo, 10-11AM.
Dec. 20TH: Kalamazoo Indoor Flea Market, Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Kalamazoo, 9-3PM.
Dec. 20TH: LEGO Day at Antwerp Sunshine Library, 24823 Front St., Mattawan, 10-3PM.
Dec. 20TH: Kalamazoo Santa Con, starts at LFG Gaming Bar, Kalamazoo, 4PM.
Dec. 20TH: Stroll down Westwood's Christmas Card Lane, Kalamazoo, dusk.

Trivia

1. A merganser is a type of duck, wool, or tool?
2. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *Kidnapped*—T/F?
3. Is an Airedale a type of sporting, terrier, or hound dog breed?
4. The Lascaux ____ paintings depict Paleolithic images of animals.
5. A pence, farthing, and shilling are examples of this.


(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Coffee News® is a fun, family friendly, weekly publication delivered to restaurants, coffee shops, and waiting areas for their patrons to enjoy. You will find new and interesting Stories, Trivia, Jokes, Horoscopes, as well as What's Happening in your home town, and chances to Win a variety of prizes each week. Look for us all over throughout Kalamazoo.

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Recipe of the Week

Peppermint Brittle

Ingredients:
2 pounds white chocolate
30 small peppermint candy canes

Directions:
1. Line a large jellyroll pan with heavy-duty foil.
2. Place white chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave on medium setting for 5 to 6 minutes. Stir occasionally, until chocolate is melted and smooth.
3. Place candy canes in a plastic bag, or between two pieces of waxed paper. Using a mallet or rolling pin, break the candy canes into chunks. Stir peppermint into melted white chocolate. Spread evenly in pan, and chill until set, about 1 hour. Break into pieces by slamming pan on counter.

source: allrecipes.com

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Your Weekly Horoscopes


ARIES
(March 20 – April 19)

 Self love is going to be an important theme for you in the next few weeks. Look for opportunities that could reinforce a healthy sense of self, rather than a wounded image. Lucky numbers: 1, 2, 14, 29, 35, 36.


TAURUS
(April 20 – May 20)

 Taurus individuals often have their nose to the grindstone. This week, however, consider raising your eyes to the sky and focusing on how to achieve your highest dreams. Lucky numbers: 5, 11, 20, 22, 33, 47.


GEMINI
(May 21 – June 20)

 At week's end, you may run into a stalemate between desires of your heart vs. those of your head. If you can reconcile them, consider setting your intentions into a new goal. Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 5, 7, 28, 35.

CANCER
(June 21 – July 22)

 This may be a good time to examine your beliefs and values. Do they align with your current endeavors? If not, what adjustment in your viewpoint would move you forward? Lucky numbers: 16, 24, 28, 29, 31, 38.


LEO
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

 Leos often have a child-like enthusiasm to start projects, but have difficulty completing them. In the next month, you may have an opportunity to integrate a more grounded energy. Lucky numbers: 6, 13, 16, 20, 35, 38.


VIRGO
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

 For the next month, the astrological energy has a grounded quality that should encourage you to feel comfortable in your own skin. Take a deep breath and enjoy this time. Lucky numbers: 12, 15, 24, 30, 36, 38.


LIBRA
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

 To maintain a calm environment, Libras sometimes focus on others, rather than on their own ambitions. But at the week's end, you may want to pursue your own desires. Lucky numbers: 14, 15, 21, 22, 37, 40.


SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

 The intuitive abilities of Scorpio may sometimes immerse you in the deep seas of the unconscious. Later in the week, seek an opportunity to better navigate these waters. Lucky numbers: 11, 17, 24, 30, 41, 44.


SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

 At the end of the week, your mind and emotions may be in balance. This could be a good time to consider your goals, and to set new intentions regarding them. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 10, 13, 27, 35.


CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

 Your birthday month is a good time to review your accomplishments and set goals for the new year. The energy this month could help you jumpstart these efforts. Lucky numbers: 7, 16, 18, 24, 39, 47.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

 Those with an Aquarius Sun often have lofty goals, but may have difficulty carving out small projects to advance them. The grounded energy this month could help you do so. Lucky numbers: 8, 17, 29, 40, 42, 47.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

 The energy this week may feel heavy or even oppressive at times. It may be helpful to acknowledge your feelings while simultaneously putting forth your best effort. Lucky numbers: 2, 5, 9, 14, 20, 23.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Capricorn winners with the luckiest number being 7.

Did You Know...

Floating feelings: Without gravity to pull them down, tears in space don't fall. They stay stuck to your face. Astronauts have to wipe them away instead. Even small and natural reactions work differently when there's no up or down.

Arc logic: A rainbow appears when sunlight bounces and bends at just the right angle through falling raindrops. This only happens when the sun is behind you and moisture is ahead in the sky. You'll never see one if you directly face the sun.

Mortgage miracle: British singer Ed Sheeran co-wrote "Thinking Out Loud" with his friend Amy Wadge when she was short on money. The song's massive success helped change her situation, providing financial security and easing her worries about expenses.

Calm companions: Cows do better if they have company. Studies show they stay more relaxed, learn faster, and even produce more milk when raised with a familiar peer. Like many animals, cows seem to thrive on close social bonds.

Giant underground: Hidden beneath the Malheur National Forest in Oregon (U.S.), a colossal fungus quietly spreads in soil by feeding on tree roots. The "Humongous Fungus" is one of the largest living things on Earth, stretching over 3 square miles (7.8 sq. km).

On the Lighter Side

Do you want to hear the story of a basketball player? It's a tall tale.

Tip: "Why are you putting iodine on your paycheck?"
Top: "Because I just got a cut in my salary."

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Distressing. *Distressing who?* Distressing has too much vinegar.

Why didn't the nut like the bolt? Because he was screwed up.

Tweezers will do in a pinch.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Duck 2. True 3. Terrier 4. Cave 5. British currency

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