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Everybody's Talking!

ATM alchemy: What if the local ATM bought gold, instead of dispensing cash? Such a device is turning heads in Shanghai, China. Customers drop in old jewelry or coins, and the machine uses heat and sensors to analyze, melt, and evaluate each item. After it confirms the gold's quality, a direct deposit goes to the user's account, based on up-to-the-minute market rates. The process requires no forms and only accepts items above a certain weight and purity. The idea quickly gained attention, with crowds lining up and appointment slots filling fast. Some online viewers have raised questions about safety and accuracy, but others see it as a modern answer to old-fashioned pawning. For now, it's drawing plenty of interest, and plenty of gold.

Stride ride: Walking got a rethink when a Dutch designer wondered what would happen if treadmills hit the street. Built like a bicycle but powered differently, this ride replaces the usual pedals with a moving treadmill belt, letting people walk in place while cruising ahead with help from an electric motor. The contraption, called a Lopifit, can roll faster than a casual stroll but doesn't leave riders out of breath or drenched in sweat. It handles like an e-bike but feels more like a sidewalk on wheels. The idea became a real transport option that's now popping up in cities across the world. Riders don't need cycling experience, just a desire to walk farther than usual. It might look strange, but it definitely turns heads.

Cancer scanner: A team of American high school students have created an app that could change lives. Using AI, their oral scan app spots potential mouth cancers from a simple smartphone photo, offering an accessible tool in rural areas when dental care can be scarce. The app, originating in the state of Arkansas (U.S.), was designed to be quick, intuitive, and usable worldwide. Its ease of use could make early detection available to more people. The students entered the app in a national competition, and secured a \$50,000 (USD) grant for their school. Awards are exciting, but the team's real win is already clear: their work is raising awareness and drawing attention at medical conferences. A small app is creating a big ripple.

Hive revolution: In fields where blossoms no longer meet demand, a new feeding solution has given honey bee colonies a fresh chance. Developed to mimic the full spectrum of nutrients bees find in pollen, a bar-like supplement has shown promise in helping hives stay active through tough seasons. Trials revealed stronger colony growth and survival where natural sources fall short, especially during pollination of crops like blueberries. The formula includes a rare plant molecule thought to support larval health and adult vitality. Fed directly inside the hive, it reaches bees in all stages of life. Instead of relying on what's blooming, beekeepers might soon rely on this as a steady resource.

Quotable Quotes

"Worrying is like paying a debt you don't owe." —Mark Twain
"Friendships that have stood the test—Time and change—are surely best." —Joseph Parry

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. A peanut is a legume—T/F?
2. What was the first Mickey Mouse film to include sound?
3. The only butterfly known to migrate in two directions is _____.
4. Which planet in our solar system has the most moons?
5. In what year did East Germany and West Germany reunify?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)



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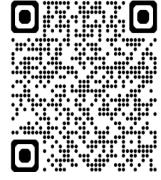


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GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

The theme of shoring up a healthy self-image continues this week. Look for information that can deepen your insights in this regard. It may come from unexpected sources. Lucky numbers: 18, 25, 26, 27, 36, 38.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

You may have an opportunity this week to initiate disciplined change in your life. You may want to take advantage of it now to avoid a more disruptive change next spring. Lucky numbers: 8, 20, 30, 34, 43, 47.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

Geminis often use mental frameworks to approach the world. The next few weeks may offer chances to use your physical senses instead, perhaps a positive adjustment for you. Lucky numbers: 2, 10, 22, 26, 37, 46.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)

Splashy is not a word one would typically associate with Cancers. However, this weekend may be a good time to step out of your comfort zone and indulge. Lucky numbers: 1, 13, 16, 18, 33, 47.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

Are you running into obstacles in a project involving a number of other individuals? If you step up and lead, you could help foster a result that would be beneficial to all. Lucky numbers: 3, 6, 15, 38, 42, 44.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Virgos are good at managing the mundane aspects of life. This is important, but placing these efforts in a larger context is equally so. You are encouraged to do this now. Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 15, 19, 28, 45.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Cancer winners with the luckiest number being 33.

Did You Know...

Ear grabber: Tested against hundreds of popular tracks, the Spice Girls' "Wannabe" stood out as one of the most instantly recognized tunes. In an experiment, people picked it out faster than most other songs, proof that its catchy melody was hard to miss.

Land fish: Mudskippers aren't just fish with lungs. They spend much of their lives on land, so these amphibious creatures breathe through their skin and their mouths' lining. By carrying water in their mouths, they keep their gills moist and supplied with oxygen.

Blazing bolts: A lightning strike can reach temperatures several times hotter than the surface of the sun. This extreme heat makes each bolt a powerful force, creating not just brilliant flashes but also the risk of severe burns.

Lens legend: In 1674, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek looked through a self-made microscope and discovered tiny, wriggling creatures in a drop of lake water. This cloth merchant secured his place in science history by being the first person to describe bacteria.

Pineapple patience: Growing a pineapple takes serious time, often stretching from a year and a half to several years. Even if the plant never bears fruit, growing it is still a fun and eye-catching way to bring a tropical vibe indoors.

On the Lighter Side

Anne: "Why are all the cars honking their horns?"
Charlie: "It's 'beep' year."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Worm. Worm who? It's worm here. Please open a window.

Why did the doctor keep checking his TV? To see if it was operational.

Venetian blinds are made by shady characters.

Santa's best toymaking elf struck out on her own. Now she's extremely welfy.

Answers

4. Saturday 5. 1990

Trivia answers: 1. True 2. Steamboat Willie 3. Monarch

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The Night Before Christmas

A Coffee News® poem:

Tis the night before Christmas
and soon, the New Year
So, we offer a wish to the ones we hold dear.
May your blessings be many, and your troubles be few,
May you find much success in all that you do.
To our business friends, sales. Working? Time-and-a-half.
Our accountants, deductions. To our readers, a laugh.
To our food-service friends, a good dinner crowd.
Our working-class heroes, burdens light as a cloud.

To our young friends, some patience. To our busy friends, rest.
To our treasured old folks, even more treasured guests.
To our Mothers, some long overdue appreciation,
To our Dads, a long overdue golf vacation.
We hope that our little brown paper served well
With smiles or rings on cash register bells.
We aim to please and we aim to amuse,
Peace be with you, thanks for enjoying Coffee News.

Lastly, I wish to extend a heartfelt and genuine THANKS to all of our restaurant partners, business friends and colleagues and to our faithful readers who have embraced Coffee News and the restaurants who provide it.

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