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Everybody's Talking

Painted illusion: Artist Alexa Meade blurs the line between reality and painting, transforming people and spaces into two-dimensional illusions. By painting directly onto live models and surroundings, she creates immersive installations where visitors become part of the artwork. Her work extends beyond galleries, with large-scale activations, brand collaborations, and even virtual reality projects. Using advanced imaging technology, she recreates her painted environments in virtual reality, allowing audiences to step inside her work in new ways. Whether through live performances, physical installations, or digital experiences, her art invites people to question what they see.

Opera revived: Morgiane, which may be the oldest surviving opera by a Black American composer, was finally performed, 138 years after its composition. Edmond Dede, a musician from New Orleans, Louisiana, overcame racial barriers to pursue his craft, eventually finding recognition in France. But the American classical world ignored him, so he worked as a conductor while composing in the shadows. His opera remained unheard until its lost manuscript surfaced in a Paris music shop and reached Harvard University's archives. OperaCreole and Opera Lafayette recently gave Morgiane the long-denied debut. Restoring Dede's overlooked legacy shows how Black composers have shaped classical music.

Shell sensors: In Warsaw, Poland, an unexpected team of mussels, fitted with sensors, helps monitor water quality. These mollusks are highly sensitive to pollutants, and their shell movements provide early warnings of contamination. Fixed to pedestals with safe adhesives, they send real-time data to monitoring teams. If multiple mussels close their shells in response to poor conditions, testing is triggered, and the water supply may be shut off. This natural detection system complements modern equipment, ensuring safer drinking water. After three months, the mussels are released back into the wild. By blending technology with nature, Warsaw keeps water clean with minimal disruption to the ecosystem.

Perception shift: Physical challenges don't just seem harder due to fatigue. They're also influenced by social support. Studies show that hills appear less steep when individuals are with a supportive friend or even thinking about one. This effect isn't due to mood but rather to the psychological boost that strong relationships provide. Just as carrying a heavy load makes a hill seem steeper, having social support makes it feel less daunting. Research suggests this influence comes from how social connections ease stress and enhance confidence in overcoming obstacles. The presence of support, real or imagined, doesn't just change emotions, but it also alters how people visually perceive the world.

Quoteable Quotes

"Progress is not achieved by luck or accident, but by working on yourself daily." —*Epictetus* "Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every

act creates a ripple with no logical end."

What's Happening

Every Thursday from 12:15 to 3:15: Open Game Play will be held at the River House at 179 Marine Street in Downton St. Augustine. Bring your own or use one of ours such as cards, scrabble, chess, etc. Free to attend. For more info, call 904-209-3655.

NON profit organizations may submit events for FREE at www.coffeenewsneflorida.com

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Trivia

- 1. How many bones are in the human knee?
- 2. This poetic form of Japanese origin has 17 syllables.3. The Mississippi River is considered the muddiest in the world—T/F?
- 4. Which tropical breakfast fruit has over 1,000 varieties worldwide?
- 5. What sport was first known as aquaplaning?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope



An old issue may be triggered for you this week. Take a deep breath before you speak or act, as you might be tempted to be impulsive in react-

ion to this reemergence. Lucky numbers: 9, 19, 20, 33, 34, 43.

(March 20 - April 19)

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)



You may feel emotionally well-grounded in the middle of the week. If you have been facing an issue that is difficult to tackle, this could be a

good time to try to do so. Lucky numbers: 10, 12, 33, 42, 43, 45.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



A lot of information may come at you this week, which might be related to vour relationships. Take time to analyze it for a few days before you take

any action. Lucky numbers: 11, 14, 17, 31, 43, 44.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)



Making an emotional connection to others is important for Cancers. But in the coming weeks, you may verbally stumble. Remember that not every

thing needs to be said. Lucky numbers: 6, 9, 12, 17, 21, 34.

(July 23 - Aug. 22)



A caution light may turn on for the next several weeks. Have a plan to back up your electronic devices, drive carefully, and take a deep breath

before you speak. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 17, 25, 38, 48.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Virgo's attention to detail is among your natural talents. This skill may be much needed for the next several weeks to avoid mistakes on the

part of yourself and others. Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 12, 24, 32, 42.

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Are you assessing the balance of effort between you and your partner? Try to resist a temptation to respond aggressively or

impulsively. Instead, foster honest discussion. Lucky numbers: 7, 8, 32, 38, 40, 44.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



Your level of intuitive insight may be overwhelming at times. At midweek, the energy can allow you to be more grounded. Consider how to maintain

that dynamic. Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 16, 29, 35, 47.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



You may feel you have too many opposing options from which you need to choose right now. Evaluate their pros and cons, but wait a few days to make a

decision. Lucky numbers: 15, 18, 20, 26, 36, 47. **CAPRICORN**

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



Over the next few weeks, you may have difficulty communicating your ideas to others. Consider how making an adjustment in your style of

presentation could help. Lucky numbers: 3, 6, 15, 17, 35, 41.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Today's world rewards those who practice oneupmanship. But for the next few weeks, this dynamic may fail, giving your low-key demeanour

a chance of success. Lucky numbers: 5, 13, 14, 17, 23, 31.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Too many are focused on



what they can get without thinking about others. Radiating the power of compassion and empathy may encourage others to

make an adjustment. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 6, 41, 44, 46.

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

Did You Know...

Coastal charm: Sweden's Gothenburg archipelago is a mix of history, nature, and seaside adventure. With car-free islands, Viking-age villages, and fishing traditions, its old-world charm meets modern relaxation by the sea.

Tofu tale: Tofu has been a part of Chinese cuisine for over 2,000 years, first made during the Western Han Dynasty. Since then, this versatile, soy-based food has spread across the world, becoming a staple in many different dishes.

Reptile reps: Lizards aren't just exercising when they do "push ups." They're sending a message. Some species use the movement to display strength, ward off rivals, or impress potential mates. For lizards, a good workout can mean survival.

Old timer's day: The oldest player to ever appear in a U.S. Major League Baseball (MLB) game was Satchel Paige. The right-hander pitched three scoreless innings at age 59 for the Kansas City Athletics against the Boston Red Sox on September 25, 1965.

Lucky fourteen: The 13 American colonies famously broke away from the British in 1776. It was 14 years later that the newborn nation gained its first addition, with the state of Vermont joining the union on March 4, 1791.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Pasta. Pasta who? Pasta ball! I'm open!

Who collects taxes in Hades? The Inferno revenue services.

The rubber man tried to join the circus, but he got bounced.

Good judgment comes from experience, and most of that comes from bad judgment.

Patty: "That cow just got married!"

Matty: "I guess that makes her a honeymooer."

Auswers

4. Banana 5. Water skiing

Trivia answers: 1. Four 2. Haiku 3. False, Yellow River

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