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Everybody's Talking

Bird guard: In Menlo Park, California (U.S.), schools have turned to life-size coyote statues to keep crows and geese from covering play areas with droppings. The idea came from a Canadian suggestion that these figures help scare off geese in public parks, and staff hoped the same trick would help their fields stay clean. Once placed near lunch spots and open spaces, the models quickly reduced the mess that custodians had struggled with for years. Nearby schools later added their own statues after seeing the results. Some neighbours even phoned in warnings before learning the coyotes were fake, adding humour to the mix. The statues now stand as easy, low-maintenance helpers for busy campuses.

Peanut patch: A long-running study has found that a simple skin patch can help toddlers become less reactive to peanuts by introducing tiny amounts of peanut protein through the skin. The treatment guides the immune system to handle small exposures, lowering the chance of a dangerous reaction from an accident. Children who started on a placebo later used the real patch and showed steady gains as their tolerance improved. Many could handle small amounts of peanuts without strong symptoms, and the patch's safety record stayed solid throughout the treatment. Mild skin irritation was the most common issue. Parents still need medical guidance, but the results point to a practical way of reducing risk.

Roman routes: A group of researchers has built a detailed online map showing the old roads stretching across the Roman world, working much like a Google Maps-style guide for ancient travel. Their project used records, landscape studies, and satellite images to create a clearer view of how people once moved across long distances. The map displays major routes and smaller paths, making it easier to picture trips between far-off cities. It also adjusts earlier guesses by following natural terrain, since Roman roads often curved around mountains. Travellers can explore these ancient paths much like modern directions, seeing how roads linked distant regions. It's a simple tool that helps bring the empire's movement to life.

Pattern heritage: In a village in Burkina Faso, families build thick earthen homes that are later coated with painted designs reflecting Kassena traditions. Men shape the walls during the dry months, and before the rains arrive, the community gathers so women can add protective and decorative patterns. The oldest women choose the designs, and younger helpers learn by taking part in the work. Local pigments provide red, white, and black colours with meanings tied to courage, honesty, and the unseen world. Symbols range from animals to simple shapes linked to daily life. As people walk through the clustered homes, they see how practical construction has become a way for the community to show its shared culture.

Quoteable Quotes

"I don't go by a rule book ... I lead from the heart, not the head."
—Princess Diana

"It's no wonder that truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to make sense."
—Mark Twain

What's Happening

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Actual Size

Trivia

1. This children's author originated the word "nerd"?
2. Including its pedestal, is the Statue of Liberty 100, 215, or 305 feet tall?
3. A cucumber is a fruit—T/F?
4. Who wrote Peter Pan?
5. SONAR stands for _____ navigation and ranging.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Recipe of the month

Grilled Chicken
Salad with Blueberry Vinaigrette

2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (6 ounces each)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
Vinaigrette:
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup blueberry preserves
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 teaspoon ground mustard
1/8 teaspoon salt
Dash pepper
Salads:
1 package (10 ounces) ready-to-serve salad greens
1 cup fresh blueberries
1/2 cup canned mandarin oranges
1 cup crumbled goat cheese

Prep Time: 20 min Cook Time: 10 min Yield: 4 servings

1 Toss chicken with oil, garlic, salt and pepper; refrigerate, covered, 30 minutes. In a small bowl, whisk together vinaigrette ingredients; refrigerate, covered, until serving.
2 Grill chicken, covered, over medium heat until a thermometer reads 165°. 5-7 minutes per side. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing.
3 Place greens on a serving plate; top with chicken, blueberries and mandarin oranges. Whisk vinaigrette again; drizzle over salad.
Top with cheese.

The perfect salad recipe for
July, Blueberry Month!

Source:
https://www.tasteofhome.com

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