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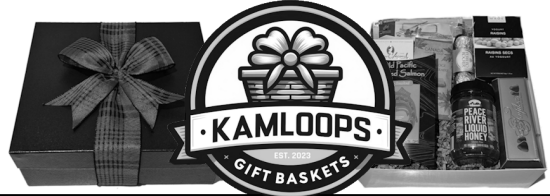
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Volume 2:48 February 16, 2026

Everybody's Talking!

Burning waters: Deep in the Peruvian Amazon, Shanay-timpishka is a river whose name means "boiled with the heat of the sun." Flowing for miles through dense rainforest, its waters reach temperatures hot enough to kill animals that accidentally fall in. Unlike other thermal rivers linked to volcanic regions, this one is heated by underground springs releasing geothermal energy into the current. Steaming waterfalls tumble into pools, giving the river an almost unreal appearance. It's sacred to local communities, which tie the marvel to cultural practices and healing traditions. Scientists study its origins, while conservationists call for stronger protections.

Wood spark: A Finnish forestry company is using leftover tree pulp scraps to rethink how batteries are made. They've taken lignin, the stiffening compound in wood, and developed a new way to turn it into carbon that's fit for battery use. This carbon can replace graphite, but with far less heat and pollution needed to produce it, making the process more sustainable. Unlike traditional methods that depend on mining and fossil fuels, this approach relies on waste from paper manufacturing. Early results show this design supports energy flow efficiently, helping speed up device charging times. This group sees their tree-based approach as a promising way forward from less sustainable options.

Roadside rescue: A pair of French travelers had barely begun their Australian adventure when a collision with a kangaroo left them stranded near a small rural town. With no insurance and little money left, they weren't sure what to do, until local residents stepped in. A nearby family offered them shelter, while neighbors came by with warm meals, conversation, and support. What began as a setback slowly turned into an unforgettable few weeks of shared dinners, local events, and learning how to fix up the car together. Donations and repairs followed as the town rallied around them. The trip didn't go as planned, but it gave them something richer than a photo album. Sometimes being stuck is what gets you grounded.

Breeze shift: Some engineers are reimagining wind power without the sweeping blades or towering structures we've come to expect. One compact design vibrates instead of spinning, quietly producing electricity in places large turbines can't go, like rooftops or along busy streets. Others use tethered kites to gather energy from high above, while some draw power from the air pushed aside by passing vehicles. These tools are nearly silent, easy to install, and leave a smaller mark on wildlife and scenery. Instead of dominating landscapes, they blend into everyday settings, offering subtle ways to generate power. It's a quieter revolution, tapping the wind in new and unexpected ways.

Quoteable Quotes

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." —Martin Luther

"Just be yourself, there is no one better." —Taylor Swift

What's Happening

Toastmasters meet weekly, 7PM Okanagan College, #131, 2552 10 Ave NE. Build confidence, meet friends, improve communication. Come to learn, stay for the fun.

Gardeners' Day – hosted by Shuswap Garden Club Dig in for a full day of inspiration at Gardeners' Day, Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 5th Ave Activity Centre — an event for gardeners of every experience level. Enjoy four presentations, including two inspiring keynote presentations. Tickets include a Subway lunch, refreshments, and goodies. Draw at day's end — must be present to win. Seating is limited, with door tickets available if space permits. Find all the details on Facebook at the Shuswap Garden Club.

Do you have an event you wish to advertise free:
Send the info to Coffeenewstns@gmail.com

Trivia

1. How many lakes comprise North America's Great Lakes?
2. Who was Darth Vader's voice in the *Star Wars* movies?
3. Cyclones are rated by barometric pressure and _____ speed.
4. This famed knitting character appeared in *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.
5. Is yeast a bacteria, fungus, or mold?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscopes

ARIES

(March 20 – April 19)



This week you may be taking two steps forward and one step back on many fronts. This could be difficult for Aries, but waiting and being patient might be the best action. Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 7, 32, 41, 47.

TAURUS

(April 20 – May 20)



Taurus usually desires stability, but you may be craving freedom. Consider how to make progress, but not rip up the status quo. Wait a few days to implement. Lucky numbers: 10, 14, 25, 33, 37, 48.

GEMINI

(May 21 – June 20)



“When one door closes, another one opens” may apply early this week. Before charging through the new door, you might want to take a peek on the other side. Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 18, 30, 43, 48.

CANCER

(June 21 – July 22)



Lady luck may well be on your side this week. How might you be able to take advantage of this dynamic, while being conscious of what action is the bridge too far? Lucky numbers: 8, 26, 28, 32, 36, 37.

LEO

(July 23 – Aug. 22)



Do your head and heart agree on a goal? If not, could you develop a plan that takes the conflict into account? Then you might be able to proceed with your intentions. Lucky numbers: 2, 12, 20, 27, 29, 44.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)



It has been about six months since your birthday. Have you made progress toward your goals? Take time to see which ones are ready to complete, change, or drop. Lucky numbers: 9, 16, 19, 21, 22, 30.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)



Is there an issue in your life that has been on a slow burn? At midweek, you may be tempted to act aggressively. Instead, consider relying on your normal diplomacy. Lucky numbers: 3, 15, 25, 29, 41, 46.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)



The theme of stubbornness continues this week. The desire to dig in your heels may involve a problem in yourself or with others. Find a win-win solution for all. Lucky numbers: 13, 16, 30, 36, 44, 46.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)



Is there something that you used to believe but that no longer works for you? Can you easily let it go? Otherwise, consider whether any resistance you feel is valid. Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 13, 15, 33, 41.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)



For the next month, your normal level of ambition and drive may be muted. This might be a good time to downshift and consider some change in your priorities. Lucky numbers: 7, 10, 14, 26, 36, 48.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)



Now is the beginning of a long-term period of transformation for Aquarius. Within this, the next couple of weeks may see a significant ending or beginning in your life. Lucky numbers: 4, 24, 35, 36, 37, 38.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 – March 20)



Your birthday month is always a good time to review your life goals. How much progress did you make last year, and what do you want to achieve, starting now? Lucky numbers: 11, 18, 29, 32, 35, 47.

Lucky numbers this week: This week’s odds favor Cancer winners with the luckiest number being 37.

Did You Know...

Mini marvel: One of the world’s tiniest reptiles can perch on a fingertip. This tiny, newly discovered chameleon shows how incredibly scaled-down animals can be, while maintaining all the essentials of their larger cousins.

Volcanic flashes: When a volcano erupts, ash clouds can create static sparks near the ground, while ice crystals clash higher up to unleash lightning. These strange bursts of light turn eruptions into dramatic shows that scientists are still working to explain.

Butter boost: In Tibet, mornings often begin with yak butter tea, a rich mix of tea, salt, and butter that warms the body and fuels long days in the harsh mountain climate. More than a drink, it’s also a gesture of hospitality.

Plastic pavement: Some road builders blend waste plastic into the road mix. The result can be more flexible, longer-lasting surfaces that reuse discarded material instead of sending it to landfill, an idea that is gradually gaining interest around the world.

Pebble presents: In the frozen Antarctic, penguins win affection by carrying small stones to their partners. These gifts help build sturdy nests that keep eggs safe and dry, turning a simple pebble into the perfect symbol of love.

On the Lighter Side

Teacher: “Correct this sentence: ‘It was me who broke the window.’”
Student: “I wasn’t the one who broke the window.”

Knock! Knock! *Who’s there?* Cello. *Cello who?* Cello there!

What does a bankrupt frog say? “Baroke, baroke, baroke.”

Never trust an escalator. They are always up to something!

The magician was driving down the street when “poof” he turned into a driveway.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Five 2. James Earl Jones 3. Wind 4. Madame Defarge 5. Fungus

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