FROM KING FEATURES WEEKLY SERVICE,

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

FOR RELEASE NOV. 16, 2026

By Lucie Winborne

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• Gaetano Donizetti composed one of opera's most famous insanity scenes, in "Lucia di Lammermoor," then later went mad himself due to syphilis and spent the last years of his life in an asylum.

• Young crows learn from their elders which humans should be avoided.

• After Isaac Newton died in 1727, he left behind notes, manuscripts and correspondence totaling more than 50 million words — enough to create about 150 novel-length books.

• "Game of Thrones" holds the questionable honor of being the most pirated television show ever made.

• Kansas has the fourth highest number of tornadoes out of the 50 states.

• At age 15, Oscar-winning actress Gillian Anderson was nearly fired from the nursing home where she worked ... for shaving her head.

• One acre of growing Christmas trees provides the daily oxygen requirement for 18 people.

• A 15-year-old girl who'd been born without a vagina still managed to became pregnant after her former lover caught her with another man and stabbed her in the stomach. Sperm from the second man then traveled from her abdomen to her reproductive organs.

• Loud music in bars motivates patrons to drink more alcohol in less time.

• Most of the Indian Ocean tsunami victims in 2004 were identified through DNA extracted from their molars. Since teeth are one of the hardest and most indestructible substances in the human body, they're likely to survive trauma.

• Most human trafficking in the United States occurs in New York, California and Florida.

• Several state prison systems impose financial sanctions on people who attempt suicide or harm themselves.

• Incan people in the Andes Mountains believed that cocaine was a gift from the gods.

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Thought for the Day: "If a strategy meets a goal, it's working. If a strategy meets a target, it's a success." — *Michael Porter*

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