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Everybody's Talking

Noisy home: Living beside a busy highway isn't most people's idea of peace and quiet. A woman in Guangdong province, northwest of Hong Kong, doesn't seem to care about that. Known as Ms. Liang, the woman refused to take a payout from the government to sell her house so the Haizhuyong Bridge in the city of Guangzhou could be built. Many other homeowners and businesses took the compensation, and the construction proceeded. To accommodate the house, which is located in a pit, four lanes of traffic had to be split to go around it.

Rare pasta: The island of Sardinia, Italy, is home to the rarest pasta in the world. Called su flindefu, which means "the threads of God," this pasta has been made for centuries to feed pilgrims who pass through the area. Today, however, not many people know how to make by hand the slimmer-than-angel-hair threads of pasta from semolina flour, water, and salt. One of those people is 60-something-year-old Paola Abraini, whose niece and sister-in-law also know the tricks of the trade. Abraini wants to teach others before making the noodle becomes a lost art, but su flindefu is so arduous to create, that few will step up to the challenge. Su flindefu could be called an "endangered pasta."

Attic antics: No one wants to discover that a stranger might have taken refuge in their home's attic, but that's just what happened to Monica Green of Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia. The mother of three had noticed a few signs that something might be awry, such as missing food and a disabled security system. But one day, she arrived home to find the door open, the TV on, and a plate of food on the kitchen table. She called the cops, and they discovered that someone had been living in the attic, possibly for as long as three weeks. Green has changed the locks, but still feels a little weird knowing that a stranger had been hiding in her attic for a while.

Try, try again: No matter where one lives, getting a driver's licence is a rite of passage for most people. The trouble is that many fail the test the first time (or even the second or third time) before finally gaining the right to drive. But for a man in England, the third time trying his driving theory test was just the beginning of his attempts. He finally managed to pass the test after failing it 157 times. These many efforts made quite a hole in the man's bank account; trying, and trying again, cost him over £3,000. His next step was getting through the practical exam. Hopefully he's better at actually driving than at the written test.

Quoteable Quotes

"To be awake is to be alive." —Henry David Thoreau
"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." —James Baldwin

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Trivia

1. Which Starr was a member of The Beatles?
2. What is the main ingredient in coq au vin?
3. If a text is abridged, is it translated or shortened?
4. A full moon's face is fully illuminated by the sun's light—T/F?
5. When was the first episode of the TV show Seinfeld aired—1989, 1999, or 2009?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Recipe of the month

Chocolate Covered Strawberry Christmas Trees

12 ounces dark green candy melts
1 pound of strawberries, stems removed
24 Oreo cookies
white icing
sprinkles
candy stars

Icing:
2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 tablespoons heavy cream
Add water by the teaspoon and whisk until the desired consistency is reached. You want it to be thick like toothpaste.

Prep Time: 15 min. Cook Time: 10 min. Yield: 24

- Set a heat proof bowl over a small pot of simmering water on the stovetop (double boiler). Slowly melt the candy melts in the bowl, stirring occasionally. Do not allow moisture to come in contact with the candy.
- Spoon or pipe a small amount of icing onto the top of each Oreo. This will adhere the strawberry to the cookie base.
- Once candy melts are fully melted, turn the heat to low while you dip the strawberries using a toothpick inserted into the cut end.
- Shake off excess candy coating gently. Using a second toothpick inserted into the pointed end of the dipped strawberry, carefully place the strawberry on top of the icing on the Oreo.
- Decorate with sprinkles and a candy star while the candy coating is still wet. It will usually dry in about 10 minutes.

Source: <https://lovelylittlekitchen.com>

Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 21 - April 20)



An opportunity exists for a deeper understanding of old wounds and to seek new information to help heal any lingering effects. Approach others gently in a discussion of these issues. Lucky numbers: 8, 15, 18, 25, 46, 47.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



You may experience an unexpected event. The situation may require discipline and hard work to address. Efforts you make now in this regard may reap benefits down the road. Lucky numbers: 3, 16, 17, 18, 21, 33.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Your direction and purpose may be on your mind. Research and gather information on new opportunities and be aware of your emotional response. The right one should generate an "aha" moment. Lucky numbers: 4, 12, 17, 21, 37, 44.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



You may have been focused for a while on dreams about your ideal situation. Perhaps you want to wait a bit to develop your plans, until you feel more grounded. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 35.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 23)



Your natural charm and easy connection to others has the potential to be enhanced now. Focus on this energy as a way to move past any obstacles that may occur. Lucky numbers: 5, 8, 22, 41, 42, 47.

VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)



You may feel confused or believe that you are being deceived by others. If so, find the belief that is controlling this pattern. Use your practical nature to implement a solution. Lucky numbers: 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 35.

LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)



Your heart may want to rule at this time. Your Libra energy is best used in artistic endeavours or playing the diplomat who can bring together people at odds. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 12, 44, 46, 48.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)



You likely have the drive and energy to work hard at achieving goals, particularly ones that spotlight you. Be sure to recognize the contributions of those who may assist you. Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 10, 15, 39, 43.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)



The Sun has returned to Sagittarius. Therefore, your natural optimism and communications skills have the potential to be enhanced right now. Be careful, though, of overreach when taking risks. Lucky numbers: 7, 27, 29, 40, 43, 47.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)



If you are focused now on your relationship, use this time as an opportunity for growth. This applies to the relationship itself, as well as to you and your partner. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 23, 27, 28, 48.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)



You may be of two minds: one voice encourages stability while the other wants change. Use your innate creativity to find a compromise that bridges the gap between the two. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 14, 16, 33, 37.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - March 20)



Neptune is taking a long journey through Pisces. You may feel strong intuition, great empathy, or just confusion and anxiety. Trust that all of it is shaping a better you. Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 11, 36, 39, 43.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners with the luckiest number being 7.

Did You Know...

Ode to poetry: English poet John Keats (1795-1821) wrote six odes in 1819, including "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "Ode on Melancholy." No one knows the order in which he wrote them.

Fish food: A fish-shaped food item in Japan, called taiyaki, isn't very fishy at all. It is actually a sweet treat made of a crispy flour shell with sweet bean paste inside. Traditionally, it's served warm.

Tooth talk: Parents will say that their baby is teething when the little one's teeth start to come through the gums. The medical term for teething is odontiasis.

Food lover's delight: The Mercado de San Juan (San Juan Market) is a famous traditional market in the centre of Mexico City. It is known for its high-quality offerings of fruit, vegetables, and meat, some of which can be quite striking, such as iguana and lion.

Loud call: The bird with the loudest call is the male white bellbird. This bird lives in South America and is only about the size of a pigeon. But its call can hit 125 decibels, which is not safe for human ears to hear. It's as loud as a fire truck siren.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Europe. *Europe who?* Europe early. Good morning!

What do teddy bears eat? Nothing. They are too stuffed!

Did you hear about the circus that caught fire? It was "in tents."

Teacher: All the other students in class forgot to do their homework. Did you forget, too?
Student: No, but tomorrow I'll try harder.

Why did the hen cross the road? Because she saw what you did to her eggs.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Ringo 2. Chicken 3. Shortened 4. True 5. 1989

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