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Everybody's Talking
Ghost busters: In China, if a house is deemed "haunted," real estate agents have a tough job trying to sell the property to new owners. To provide proof that ghosts do not live in the home, agents can pay a haunted house tester ¥1,440 to stay in the place for 24 hours. These freelancers will travel around the country to test a home, sometimes setting up video calls with potential owners to show them that the place is ghost-free. The testers get paid for their efforts, but the work is not steady. One retired man who provides the service explained that the job is a good way to make extra income outside of a day job.

Sitting and talking: What better way to end the day than to sit and visit with neighbours? People in the southern Spain town of Algar have been doing that for centuries. After a hot day of working in the fields, an enduring custom is to pull chairs to the street, and sit and chat with anyone who joins the group. To try to maintain the custom in the face of social media, town mayor José Carlos Sánchez applied to the United Nations to recognize the tradition as an intangible cultural heritage. Sánchez did this to encourage people to socialize together rather than focus on their devices. Whether the U.N. will recognize the tradition is not yet determined.

Optical illusion: South African land artist and sculptor Strijdom van der Merwe created an installation called "Staircase to Heaven." If a viewer stands in front of it, the structure made of steel tubing appears to live up to its name as a stairway that ascends far up into the sky. However, the piece is actually an optical illusion. In reality, the 4.5-metre (14.8-ft.) high structure is a flat, vertical ladder, which is obvious when viewing the "staircase" from the side. Van der Merwe's original work is at Creation Farm in South Africa's Hemel and Aarde Valley; the sculptor worked with Taiwanese artist Chou Sheng-hsien to create a near-replica for the 2021 Nanhui Art Project in Taiwan.

Puzzle solver: Solving a Rubik's cube is one thing, but solving the difficult puzzle 300 times while riding a unicycle is quite another. That's what Jesse Bradford of Brooks, Alberta (Canada), did, and he earned a Guinness World Record in 2021 for the accomplishment. His parents helped the teenager practice because they were sure he had the ability to break the previous record. Caleb McEvoy had set that one in 2018 by solving 250 Rubik's cubes while on a unicycle. Bradford achieved the new record while riding laps in a recreation centre and having six volunteers witness his feat. He'd only learned to ride a unicycle in 2020.

Quoteable Quotes
 "Just go out there and do what you have to do." —Martina Navratilova
 "I don't have all the answers—I don't even have all the questions yet." —Nancy Ziegenmeyer

What's Happening
Sept 17-Ride for Kids in Crisis The ride is a fund raiser to support children in Ukraine, Myanmar, Congo, Yemen, Turkey and Afghanistan. You can bike, skate, run or walk to make a difference. To register go to www.glorychurch.ca or call 780-428-3041
Sept 24 - Pitch-in Morinville - Clean Sweep 9 Am to 3 PM. Lets pitch-in to help clean, restore and beautify Morinville! Register and receive a certificate, gloves and garbage bags. 780-939-7839
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Trivia
 1. _____ Desert is a plain in Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.
 2. Who sang the theme song for Skyfall, the James Bond movie?
 3. What is the fear of the number 13 called?
 4. The moon's diameter is wider than Australia's east-west width—T/F?
 5. Where might the number four be considered unlucky?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

This may be a good time to take stock of your efforts over the last six months. If they have not been fully successful, perhaps make adjustments or delay for another six months. Lucky numbers: 9, 10, 21, 27, 30, 47.



TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

You might experience a sudden or unexpected change in your relationships right now. If the effect is not positive, consider the points where any unresolved matters may have been triggered again. Lucky numbers: 11, 14, 18, 39, 43, 46.



GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

Your energy level may be very high right now. You might be able to use it to accomplish something that is normally outside of your abilities. Be careful not to alienate others. Lucky numbers: 3, 15, 17, 45, 47, 48.



CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)

At the beginning of the week, your intuitive abilities may be emphasized. You could easily connect with others on a deep level. Just be careful not to take on their emotional baggage. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 17, 25, 36, 40.



LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)

The astrological environment during the middle of this week might heighten any natural Leo enthusiasm that you may have. How could you use this moment to the best advantage for all involved? Lucky numbers: 14, 17, 31, 40, 42, 45.



VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

For the next few weeks, you may experience difficulties in communicating with others, especially regarding everyday matters. Keeping your emotions in check for the duration might be helpful to you. Lucky numbers: 6, 9, 24, 32, 37, 44.



LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

The Sun is returning to your Libra birth sign this month. This may provide you with an opportunity to adjust your current track or to develop a new plan for the coming year. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 14, 15, 24, 28.



SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Are you experiencing a conflict right now between what your ego wants and what your higher spirit desires? If so, can you find a compromise that will satisfy both parts of yourself? Lucky numbers: 10, 12, 18, 20, 31, 45.



SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You may be feeling frustrated in expressing who you are or what you want. To be successful, you might have to overcome a challenge that could bring you into conflict with others. Lucky numbers: 17, 19, 22, 25, 29, 41.



CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Early in the week, you may be feeling more emotional than usual. This period might be better used to seek insight on your life situation, rather than by taking any action. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 23, 29, 31, 33.



AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

There may be a serious tone to your relationships right now. Consider the places where an adjustment in your viewpoint could improve any problems in this area of your life. Lucky numbers: 13, 15, 28, 34, 35, 39.



PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)

This week you may be tempted to be pulled into a world of dreams and imagination. Try to be careful not to drift too far and lose your connection with ordinary reality. Lucky numbers: 4, 5, 7, 10, 19, 36.



Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Libra winners with the luckiest number being 15.

Did You Know...

Rising heat: Hot air balloons have been around since 1783, after the Montgolfier brothers of France—Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne—noticed that heated air collected inside a lightweight bag caused the bag to rise into the air.

Little oranges: Clementines are citrus fruits that are smaller, easier to peel, and sweeter than oranges. They are a fairly new addition to the citrus fruit family. Father Clément Rodier, a French missionary, developed them in Algeria in 1902.

Magazine magnate: American magazine publisher Condé Nast was born in New York City in 1873. He owned a number of well-known and successful publications, such as *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. When he was a student at Georgetown University, he edited the school newspaper.

Loyal companion: The Rhodesian Ridgeback is a dog breed from South Africa. Strong, muscular, and athletic, these great hunters can even help pursue lions. They are also very intelligent animals and loyal to their families.

Pencil pusher: The history of the pencil as we know it today can be traced back to Germany, when sticks of graphite (which were used for writing) were encased in wood. Friedrich Staedtler was the first to do this in 1662.

On the Lighter Side

Knick: "What does coincidence mean?"
 Knack: "Funny, I was just going to ask you the same question."

Why are barns so noisy? The goats have horns.
 A bit of advice: Never read a pop-up book on giraffes.

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Sherwood. *Sherwood who?* Sherwood like to see some fireworks.

Why are perfume sales people so smart? They have good scents.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Kalahari 2. Adele 3. Triskelidekaphobia 4. False 5. East Asia

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I wish everyone a fun-filled summer!

Hon. **Dale Nally**, MLA
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