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Everybody's Talking

Old mine: A spooky but intriguing place can be found in an isolated part of northeast Ireland. It is the remains of the once-active Benbulbin Barite mine, which was in operation from the late 1800s to 1979. Barite (which also is called baryte) is a mineral that has many uses in a number of industries, such as aggregate in cement and as an aid in taking gastrointestinal x-rays. Today, the mine's buildings are gone, but many pylons, wire ropes, and wooden planks remain on the site. The mine is dangerous and is on private property, so anyone who wishes to visit needs to obtain permission from the owner.

Colourful addition: Gardeners wanting to spruce up their flower beds with some startling colours might want to look into Brassica oleracea, ornamental cabbage and kale. That's right, these vegetables are not just for eating. The most common colours for these plants are purple, white, and pink, and all three might be layered throughout the leaves in one cabbage or kale plant. The leaves of ornamental cabbage are flat, while in the ornamental kale they are frilly or ruffled. They are good plants to grow in cooler areas because they can survive temperatures well below freezing.

Wild race: A mountain biking race like no other has been taking place in France each year since 1995. It's called "Megavalanche" and requires contestants to race 2,600 metres (8,530 feet) down a glacier called Pic Blanc. What makes this race stand out is the mass start: about 2,000 riders all begin at the same time at the top, racing down, virtually out of control, at speeds of up to 120 kph (75 mph). The route is slushy and at some points riders actually have to touch their feet to the ground to keep from falling. All the while, helicopters are buzzing overhead and loud music plays, adding to the electric atmosphere.

Name calling: What's in a name? In the case of a young Indonesian boy from South Sumatra, it's his father's penchant for crossword puzzles and his love of the English alphabet. That's why the father, Zulfahmi, decided on "ABCDEF GHIJK" as a name for his son. As the child grew and started school, his friends laughed at him, but today he actually likes his unusual name. Day to day, he is known by the nickname "Adef." Luckily for Adef's two younger brothers, someone in the family must have objected: they are named Ammar and Attar, but Zulfahmi reportedly had wanted to name them "NOPQ RSTUV" and "XYZ."

Quoteable Quotes

"Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking."
—H.L. Mencken

"So absolutely good is truth, truth never hurts the teller."
—Robert Browning

What's Happening

Dec 22 - Story Time - Christmas 10:30 AM. Lloydminster Mall, 5211 44 Street

Jan 28 - Swimming and Snowflakes Come down and embrace the chilly weather at the Bioclean aquatic Center. The pool will be transformed into a winter wonderland with decorations, DJ, lights, free hot chocolate and more! For more info call 780-875-4497

Nov 25 - Home Alone Program Children need to feel comfortable, safe and ready to stay home alone. Guardians will be equipped with knowledge and resources to help children in their care to feel safe, responsible and empowered while at home. 5220 54 Street Cold Lake. 780-594-4495.

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Trivia

1. What does the Oort Cloud surround?
2. Who was the first woman to be chancellor of Germany?
3. The Egyptian Sphinx body was based on an elephant, lion, or scorpion?
4. Where are the Spanish Steps?
5. Mathematician William Oughtred designed this in 1632.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Your Aries traits, positive and negative, may be heightened this week. Your energy level could be high, which you might channel into successful endeavours. Try not to be hampered by past insecurities. Lucky numbers: 6, 9, 10, 15, 45, 48.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Most Taurus-born feel deeply but may not know how to clearly express emotions. You might get another chance now, particularly in a romantic situation. Adjust your approach as needed. Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 16, 23, 28, 30.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Have you recently found yourself in conflict with others about an important matter? Perhaps try a less intellectual approach. Sometimes humour can break the ice in tense situations. Lucky numbers: 11, 18, 27, 40, 41, 43.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Cancers easily sympathize with the problems of family and friends, wanting to fix the situations for them. That dynamic can have pitfalls, particularly now. You may want to tread carefully. Lucky numbers: 7, 11, 20, 22, 24, 28.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Are you frustrated right now by obstacles preventing you from getting what you desire? If you can't change your plans, you may want to wait a few days before continuing. Lucky numbers: 10, 15, 26, 28, 34, 41.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Is your work no longer providing a sense of satisfaction to you? Perhaps you could consider a change that might make you happier and allow you to be of service to others. Lucky numbers: 9, 15, 16, 33, 41, 46.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Look inside for any unacknowledged anger about a person or situation. If you can address it calmly, try to do so. Otherwise, consider waiting until next week to resolve it. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 32, 39, 43, 45.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

At the end of the week, your highly sensitive antenna about others may be out of whack. This might feel disconcerting, but in a few days things could return to normal. Lucky numbers: 6, 14, 16, 18, 26, 33.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

If you have been having a difficult time connecting with someone, especially a romantic partner, now may be time to resolve a problem. Your communication skills might receive a boost. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 18, 23, 34, 44.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

A conversation at the end of the week may uncover a new opportunity for you. Be aware of your environment and open in your interactions with others. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 25, 34, 41, 42.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Is there something you have always wanted to do, but it seemed too overwhelming? Now may be the right time to put in the hard work necessary to achieve it. Lucky numbers: 8, 12, 18, 21, 45, 47.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

If you recently have been feeling confused and out of sorts, that may begin to pass. However, it might take the next several weeks for things to settle, so don't act quickly. Lucky numbers: 1, 5, 8, 14, 24, 35.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Aries winners with the luckiest number being 9.

Did You Know...

Dangerous dust: In the United States in the 1930s, the name "Dust Bowl" was used to depict the region in the southern plains that was hit by extreme drought. Dust storms, known as "black blizzards," were common.

Ad hoc meaning: When a company or organization spontaneously forms a group to deal with a specific issue, it's usually called an "ad hoc" committee. In Latin, the phrase means "for this situation."

Tall falls: Even cliff divers should be afraid of this waterfall. Angel Falls in Canaima National Park in Venezuela is the tallest uninterrupted waterfall in the world at a height of 979 metres (3,212 feet).

Food boss: Kitchens in restaurants can have a variety of different chefs with unique training and experience. A sous chef, for example, looks after the details of the dishes and is the boss of the cooks on the food lines.

Eye-catching bark: The rainbow eucalyptus tree (*Eucalyptus deglupta*) would be quite a sight in a garden. As this huge tree's bark is shed, it changes colour, first to green and then to other bright colours, such as oranges, reds, pinks, and purples.

On the Lighter Side

Why was the pantry so good at telling the future? It knew what was in store.

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Bashful. *Bashful who?* I can't say. I'm too embarrassed.

How does a mirror travel on an airplane? First glass.

Person: "You ate the dictionary? Bad dog! Spit it up!"
Dog: "You took the words right out of my mouth."

What do you get if you cross a small rodent with an oil can? A mouse that never squeaks again.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Solar system 2. Angela Merkel 3. Lion 4. Rome, Italy 5. Linear slide rule

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