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Everybody's Talking

Crazy roadway: A traffic structure called the Huangjuewan Overpass in Chongqing, in the southwestern part of China, is said to be one of the most complicated in the world. An aerial view reveals an octopus-like construction, with tentacles going off in eight different directions. The overpass has five levels of roadway, 20 ramps, and many lanes to connect three major thoroughfares. After over a decade of planning and construction, it finally opened to traffic in 2017. The designers claim it looks more complex than it is because there is good signage to keep traffic flowing. Apparently, drivers can even use satellite navigation to find their way through the structure.

Lights out: An electrician: An electrician from Ganeshpur, a village in Bihar's Purnia district of India, used his electrical know-how for his own advantage. To keep his relationship with his girlfriend a secret, he would cut off the power to the village just after dark so the two of them could meet in the schoolyard. Power outages happened regularly in the area, but no causes were apparent for this regular occurrence. So the villagers decided to investigate for themselves. When they discovered the young man's antics, they gave him a piece of their minds. However, they didn't report him to the police. Now the man and his girlfriend are married and they can be together, lights or no lights.

Square trees: Most people would think of tree trunks as being cylindrical, whether they are oak, ash, aspen, cypress, or any other species. Tourists in El Valle de Anton, Panama, however, may be surprised to discover that, in one area of the country, a certain kind of cottonwood tree grows with square trunks, and even the rings inside the trunk are square. Called the Valley of Square Trees, the area is located near a large dormant volcano called El Valle. Some of these trees trunks are perfectly square, with right angles, and others have square shapes not quite as obvious. As the trees mature, they seem to become less square and more like the typical, rounded shape.

Hot ice cream: Habanero, that hot pepper found in spicy main dishes, is featured in a special dessert in Hirata Village, Fukushima, Japan. Local farmers wanted a way to use the pepper crop that is a bit too spicy for local tastes. So they tried dusting dried habanero powder on soft ice cream, and challenged tourists to give it a try. The ice cream can be ordered as "very hot," "not as hot," and everything in between. If a customer can finish an ice cream cone, they get it for free. But in the event they get more heat than they bargained for, customers are first required to sign a waiver that absolves the proprietor of responsibility.

Quoteable Quotes

"The more we run from a problem, the more we're actually running into it."
 —Pico Iyer
 "The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities."
 —Stephen Covey

What's Happening

Aug 5-7 - Edmonton Heritage Festival Experience the world in a weekend without leaving Edmonton at the world's largest multicultural festival. Sample culinary treats, shop for artwork, and chat with folks from all over the world. Temporarily relocated to the Edmonton Expo Centre.

Jul 15 - Athabasca County 11th Annual BBQ Join Athabasca County for a Free BBQ, Airshow by Brent Hardy, Car Show much more! Located at the Athabasca Airport from 11am - 2pm

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Trivia

1. Larry Page and Sergey Brin started IBM, Google, or Pixar?
2. Manatees have whiskers all over their bodies—T/F?
3. Did lakes or hot springs attract Roman settlement in Bath, England?
4. Who wrote Inspector Morse books—Agatha Christie or Colin Dexter?
5. Is watermelon a cucurbit, allium, or brassica?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

Have you done the inner work to resolve an old karmic wound? If needed, this week may provide information available to you that could help you address it. Lucky numbers: 14, 21, 27, 29, 40, 47.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

The steadfastness of Taurus is an admirable quality, but sometimes change can be productive. You may receive unexpected information now that could help you see where change is needed. Lucky numbers: 5, 14, 18, 28, 34, 39.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

Geminis have an ability to see both sides of an argument. This can be frustrating to those with a fixed viewpoint. You may have an opportunity now to connect positively with them. Lucky numbers: 1, 5, 14, 37, 40, 45.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 21)

This season of Cancer energy can set the tone for you in the next year. The focus may be on your romantic partnership and might provide an opportunity to resolve problems. Lucky numbers: 9, 11, 16, 23, 27, 29.

LEO
(July 22 - Aug. 22)

Keep your eyes open now for new information. It may point you in the direction of a potential that you are passionate about manifesting in some area of your life. Lucky numbers: 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 48.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Virgos are often most comfortable when their sense of reality is grounded and practical. At midweek, you may find this dynamic disrupted. The situation could improve in a few days. Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 22, 23, 28, 31.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Libras have a tendency to avoid conflict. Now may be a time to consider having an open discussion about the issue. Be careful not to be "passive aggressive" during the conversation. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 15, 24, 38, 44.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You may find a strong empathy now for those who are suffering. Your insights can help them but you need to scope out whether others are amenable to the information. Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 6, 11, 30, 36.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

Having a personal philosophy and belief system is an important theme for Sagittarius. Now may be a good time to incorporate this into some form of service to others. Lucky numbers: 6, 18, 21, 32, 36, 42.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

You may be focused early this week on completing a project from the last six months. If it hasn't been particularly successful, you might want to explore any necessary adjustments. Lucky numbers: 11, 15, 33, 41, 45, 46.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Aquarius has an ability to pick up information from the ethereal realm. That skill may be heightened now, so be on the lookout. Carefully consider what to do with it. Lucky numbers: 10, 27, 29, 43, 46, 48.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 19)

Your intuition may work overtime midweek and you could become overwhelmed. Consider adjusting how you interact with your environment, and especially steer clear of the anger of others. Lucky numbers: 2, 7, 12, 19, 36, 41.

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

Did You Know...

Leading the music: Orchestra conductors started using a conductor's baton in the 1820s. German composer and conductor Louis Spohr was among the first. Before that, conductors often used a violin bow or rolled-up paper.

Colourful countryside: Near Reno, Nevada (U.S.), the Incandescent Rocks Scenic Area, called an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern," is quite a sight. Coloured by volcanic rock, the cliffs and buttes range from light pink to dark red.

Backyard breed: People who raise chickens in their backyards need to consider breeds that do well in small environments. Examples include the gentle Buff Orpington and the curious and friendly Salmon Faverolle.

A good year: The prolific, Canadian-born comedic actor Jim Carrey has made numerous movies. Three of his best-known ones were released in 1994: *The Mask*, *Dumb and Dumber*, and *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*.

Salty place: The state of Texas (U.S.) is home to several natural salt lakes. La Sal Del Rey is in Hidalgo County, north of the Rio Grande. Over the centuries, this lake has been an important source of the mineral.

On the Lighter Side

Sign outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Wicked. *Wicked who?* Wicked get dogs instead of cats.

Electricians are the friendliest people on the planet. They know how to make good connections.

Doctor: "I'm afraid you'll have to stop tap dancing."
 Patient: "Why?"
 Doctor: "Because I am trying to examine you."

When did the king ask for the royal joker? Jest in time.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Google 2. True 3. Hot springs 4. Colin Dexter 5. Cucurbit

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