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H&R BLOCK

Vol. 21 No. 4 January 22, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Gas guzzler: Huge, big box shopping malls are the norm all over the United States, but now there is a huge gas station, complete with stores, a restaurant, and a large rest area, in Sevierville, Tennessee. The complex, owned by gas station chain Buc-ee's, is 74,000 square feet (6875 sq. m), with 120 gas pumps outside. And this station has a soft spot for the little guy: it does not allow big transport trucks to come in and gas up, which creates safety for small vehicles and family vans to navigate the services. Buc-ee's is a well-known chain across the southern part of the country. It intends to build more of these large stations.

Clean thief: It seems a burglar in the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, just wanted a place to hang out for a while. The 20-something-year-old man broke into a bakery by shattering the glass of the front door. Security footage showed him sitting in a chair, heading into the washroom for a couple of minutes, and then, surprisingly, sweeping up the broken glass. He even used the store's phone to snap a few selfies. He walked out with one item: a six-pack of cupcakes. Less than a week later, store owner Emma Irvine got a call from the man, who apologized and offered to pay for new glass. Irvine couldn't help but be forgiving of his antics.

Tall tale: A lawyer in Rio de Janeiro wanted to purchase numerous items in a mall, but apparently didn't want to pay for them. Rodrigo Barcelos de Oliveira went shopping for a motorcycle helmet, shoes, designer clothing, swimming trunks, a dog bed, and more. Later, he called police, claiming he'd been kidnapped, forced to turn over his credit card and PIN number, and held captive while the thief shopped with his card. Unfortunately for Oliveira, police found video footage of him shopping and carrying bags in the mall. That made him a suspect, so police searched his home and found all the stolen items. The man now has several charges against him

Dine and wash: Loyal customers of a HaiDiLao hotpot restaurant in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, China, can earn much more than food discounts; they can accumulate points to have their hair shampooed on site. The restaurant set up a salon so their regular clientele can have the smell of food washed out of their hair. Not that people complain about the yummy aroma of hotpots. During a meal, it smells delicious! The problem is that it tends to cling to people's hair so that, after a dining experience, they walk around smelling like a kitchen. To be eligible for the service, customers must collect points through dining at any of the chain's locations.

Quoteable Quotes

"What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do."
 —Aristotle

"You need to let the little things that would ordinarily bore you suddenly thrill you."
 —Andy Warhol

What's Happening

Feb 16-19 - Grande Prairie Alberta Winter Games The 2024 Winter Games will bring together youth athletes from across the province to compete in 18 different sport competitions all held within the City of Grande Prairie, County of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview. Visit cityofgp.com for more info

Feb 17 - Winter Carnival Taking place in Festival Park from noon to 4pm. Come down for a free Winter Carnival in Whitecourt

Feb 19 - Family Day Fun Free Family Day fun at the Westlock Rotary Spirit Centre. 9603 100 St Westlock AB

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Trivia

1. Frets, strings, or struts are the metal ridges along a guitar's neck?
2. The original Orient Express train route began in Paris and ended where?
3. Alexander the Great's favourite dog was Bucephalus, Peritas, or Laconius?
4. Mach speeds are subsonic, transonic, supersonic, or hypersonic?
5. Ole Kirk Kristiansen invented LEGO, Hot Wheels, or Monopoly?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)



Several times this week, your attention may be drawn to your purpose in this lifetime. This might be a good time to look for a new opportunity to manifest that purpose. Lucky numbers: 3, 11, 13, 28, 42, 43.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)



This may be a good week to communicate with others to find a new opportunity. However, it may take several weeks before it kicks into high gear, so be patient. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 30, 31, 37, 44.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



Gemini often change their minds as they incorporate new ideas. This can be frustrating to others. For the next few weeks, consider ways to mitigate this effect on others. Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 23, 32, 36, 47.

CANCER (June 21 - July 21)



You might feel especially emotional at the beginning of the week. You may want to retreat into your shell for a few days, until the heightened feelings settle out. Lucky numbers: 9, 15, 16, 31, 47, 48.

LEO (July 22 - Aug. 22)



The middle of the week may be a good time to tie up loose ends and complete projects. Are there any that aren't working and you think might need to be ended? Lucky numbers: 13, 17, 29, 38, 39, 45.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Your natural attention to detail may be especially strong at the end of the week. How do you want to use this energy? Make sure others are aware of your contribution. Lucky numbers: 2, 10, 24, 25, 29, 42.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Are you usually the one who has to carry all the responsibilities in your romantic relationship? If so, you may find yourself looking now for a stable and reliable partner. Lucky numbers: 5, 12, 18, 19, 36, 47.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



Have you been experiencing sudden or unexpected obstacles in the last few months? This may start to ease, although it could take weeks before you start to feel the effects. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 12, 24, 44, 47.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)



Over the next few weeks, keep your eyes open for new opportunities to achieve your goals. In selecting one, consider which are most in alignment with your values and beliefs. Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 14, 15, 21, 43.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)



Capricorns often can be seen as too serious or stoic. But your stability and commitment may be positive relationship strengths, so express them to a current or prospective partner. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 41.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Your birthday month starts a new year for you. During this solar return period, you may want to consider new goals and projects that are in alignment with your values. Lucky numbers: 11, 14, 23, 37, 41, 44.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 19)



Your strong empathy may be in high gear at the end of the week. You might come across an opportunity that helps you or helps someone else solve a problem. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 20, 25, 35, 37.

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

Did You Know...

Don't spit! If you feel like spitting, don't do it in public in the town of Goodyear, Arizona (U.S.). It's illegal, and you might end up with a \$2,500 fine and jail time, if you get caught.

World's largest: Not part of any mountain range, Mount Kilimanjaro is one of the world's largest, free-standing mountains. Near the Kenyan border in Tanzania, the volcano formation stands 5,895 metres (19,340 ft.) high.

A good chew: An American named Thomas Adams (1818-1905) invented a machine that could make chewing gum as we know it today. He used a natural product called chicle, a gum that comes from the *Manilkara zapota* tree, which grows in Central and South America.

Safe succulents: People with pet cats who also like to have succulents in their homes need to ensure that the plants are non-toxic for felines. Safe varieties include Christmas cactus, hens and chicks, dragon fruit cactus, and others.

Don't be scared: If you see a chuckwalla in the deserts of southwestern North America, don't be afraid. These medium-sized lizards from the iguana family are herbivores. They'll run away if they feel threatened and are not poisonous.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Bunny. *Bunny who?* Bunny thing is, I've forgotten.

What happened when metal and microwave fell in love? They met and sparks flew!

The best views in Paris are atop that famous tower. You can certainly get an Eiffel.

Did you hear about the elephant who went to the beach? He wanted to see something new in trunks.

Dad: "Are you at the top of your class?"
Son: "No, I'm someone who makes the top half possible."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Frets 2. Istanbul 3. Peritas 4. Supersonic 5. LEGO

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Frank H. from Sylvan Lake
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Steven R. from Lethbridge

August 1 Draw Winners:
Fiona L. from Edmonton
Paige H. from Red Deer
Ellery T. from Calgary

September 1 Draw Winners:
Emily J. from Sherwood Park
Preston H. from Edson
Sandy P. from Calgary

October 1 Draw Winners:
Cassi S. from Edmonton
Walker A. from Calgary
Karen P. from Okotoks

November 1 Draw Winners:
Yolanda P. from Edmonton
Bob P. from Calgary
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December 1 Draw Winners:
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