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Vol. 21 No. 7 February 12, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Wild picnic: In Brazil, adventurous diners can enjoy their food while suspended over an enormous waterfall. A company called Rota Aventura has all the equipment set up for the experience, which includes a picnic table dangling on metal cables above Cascata da Sepultura, a large waterfall in the country's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. Customers are carefully strapped onto the table, which is then rolled out on the cables. At a cost of \$450 USD for 15 minutes, the experience may seem a bit expensive, but how else can a tourist view a waterfall from such a great height, and eat dinner at the same time?

Lots of neighbours: Anyone who enjoys high density living does not need to look any further than the Regent International apartment building in Hangzhou, China. Originally meant to be a high-end hotel, this building now is home to about 20,000 residents, which is bigger than many small towns and cities! The giant, S-shaped, luxury building has between 36 and 39 floors, which vary by side of the building. Residents have access to many conveniences, such as swimming pools, shops, cafes, grocery stores, and a food court. Anyone who is a homebody would love it because you don't even have to leave the premises to get what you need.

Peace at last: There will finally be peace in a neighbourhood in El Masnou, Catalonia, Spain. For five years, a severely inconsiderate man constantly played very loud electronic music, despite the fact that he knew it was annoying his neighbours. People living in adjoining homes called police numerous times, complaining about noise so loud that they could feel vibrations from it. Police gave the man numerous warnings, which he never heeded. Finally, he was taken to court, where a judge gave him a one-year, three-month prison term. He also was required to pay retribution to his neighbours, and is not allowed to have any kind of electronic music-related career.

Baking contest: Do you think you have the skills to run a bakery? There's a contest with a chance to win Erwin's Fine Baking and Delicatessen, owned by Robin and Shawn Haley, in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. The couple is challenging prospective owners to submit an essay about why they'd be good successors, along with a \$1,000 CDN entry fee. If the Haleys get 500 respondents, they'll go ahead with the contest. If not, they'll refund the money. If the contest happens, they'll choose 10 finalists, and those participating will not get their money back. The Haleys hope to find a winner who has all the skills needed to be successful in the endeavour

Quoteable Quotes

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist." —Indira Gandhi

"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for." —Fyodor Dostoyevsky

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. The currency code for the Bangladeshi taka is BDT, BLS, or BTK?
2. In Britain, Boxing Day is celebrated on December 13, 26, or 31?
3. This famous sign sits on Mount Lee in California's Santa Monica Mountains (U.S.).
4. In Peter Pan, Captain Hook's ship is the Jolly Roger or Treasure Chest?
5. In Greek mythology, anything touched by this king turned to gold.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
 (March 20 - April 19)

At the beginning of the week, you may find you have plenty of energy to push forward on your goals. Don't doubt your abilities. Courage could be key for you now. Lucky numbers: 5, 24, 26, 29, 39, 46.

TAURUS
 (April 20 - May 20)

You may find yourself very busy and stressed at week's end. Things might be a bit overwhelming right now, but watch for new, unexpected opportunities. Lucky numbers: 12, 16, 26, 28, 35, 41.

GEMINI
 (May 21 - June 20)

At week's end, you may find yourself changing your mind about something several times. If you need to make a decision about it, you might want to wait a few days. Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 10, 25, 37, 47.

CANCER
 (June 21 - July 21)

Cancers often direct their efforts toward those in their immediate circle. For the next few weeks, perhaps consider making an adjustment to support the wider human family. Lucky numbers: 2, 10, 13, 14, 21, 44.

LEO
 (July 22 - Aug. 22)

Over the next few weeks, you may find yourself frustrated and irritable. To break the stalemate, perhaps consider how to better align your values with your endeavours. Lucky numbers: 9, 16, 38, 39, 40, 44.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

As Virgos mature, service to others often becomes an important focus. A change in your view about something could mean that such an opportunity surfaces now. Lucky numbers: 11, 12, 17, 18, 26, 40.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Are you feeling a "slow burn" with someone right now? If you can keep control of your temper, this might be a good time to work out the issue. Lucky numbers: 8, 18, 22, 27, 41, 47.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

For the next month or so, you may encounter challenges regarding finances or relationships. Might the universe be using these matters to encourage a transformation for you? Lucky numbers: 6, 13, 18, 19, 24, 27.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20)

You might find the line blurring between friendship and romance with someone in your life. You may want to wait a month to clarify which is the right choice for you. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 13, 32, 39, 41.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

Capricorns often focus on projects that bring personal success. Over the next few weeks, an opportunity may emerge that encourages you to expand your efforts to others. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 5, 24, 25, 37.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

For the next month, you may be willing to fight to accomplish goals that are aligned with your values and beliefs. How might you recruit others to help in your cause? Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 19, 21, 38, 42.

PISCES
 (Feb. 19 - March 19)

This week may be a good time to launch a new creative project or activity that you may have been hesitant to begin. Your intuition could be channeled into this endeavour. Lucky numbers: 10, 17, 20, 22, 33, 36.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Aries winners with the luckiest number being 39.

Did You Know...

Hot and dry: The Sahara Desert in northern Africa is huge, covering about 25 percent of the continent's land. A large portion of this hot desert is covered by sand dunes; such areas are known as "ergs."

Ancient philosophy: Some people use the Chinese philosophy of *feng shui* when decorating, wanting to create harmony in the home. Translated to English, *feng* means "wind" and *shui* means "water."

Quite quilly: Porcupine quills are made of keratin, like human hair but more rigid. Each quill has muscle at its base. When threatened, the porcupine can make them stand up. Like human hair, porcupine quills shed.

Do not eat: Seeing deer in your yard is great, but not if they are eating your plants. Gardeners can thwart the animals by planting bee balm, Japanese painted ferns, lungwort, and others that deer usually avoid.

La or le: French uses feminine (*la*) or masculine (*le*) articles. With few exceptions, countries whose French names end in "e" are feminine, the rest masculine: *la* Bolivie (Bolivia) and *la* Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

On the Lighter Side

Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry, and your mother takes your temperature.

Teacher: "Tell me something that did not exist 50 years ago."
 Student: "Me!"

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* To. *To who?* No, it's "to whom?"

In a tank, one goldfish asks the other, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"

What do nuclear scientists eat for dinner? Fission Chips.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. BDT 2. 26 3. Hollywood Sign 4. Jolly Roger 5. Midas

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