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Everybody's Talking

Strange sight: People looking out their kitchen windows in northern Scotland usually don't expect to see a monkey in their yards. But Carl Nagle, a resident of Kincaig, saw just that. A monkey was by the fence, eating nuts that had fallen from the birdfeeder. Nagle observed that the monkey looked as though he knew he shouldn't have been there. The little fellow turned out to be an escapee from the Highland Wildlife Park, where a troop of 37 Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, make their home. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland runs the park, which is located within the Cairngorms National Park in Kingussie

Sunken dreams: Empires of the Deep was an expensive cinematic venture funded by Chinese billionaire Jon Jiang about a human-mermaid love story. It started as the cornerstone of a trilogy. This ambitious project aimed not only to grace the silver screen but also to launch an animated series, video game, and even a theme park. However, the undertaking encountered turbulent waters. The screenplay underwent 40 drafts, with A-list actors like Sharon Stone and Monica Bellucci briefly flirting with the project before leaving. Directors came and went, and the film languished in post-production for years. Despite an underwhelming trailer, the film has never been released.

Happy reunion: A dog named Lottie and an escaped male cockatiel called Ernie had a happy reunion in a suburb of Manchester, England. Ernie had disappeared from his home during a storm and was found several weeks later, singing on a bench in a community 6.4 kilometres (4 mi.) away. He was turned over to local animal services, where his chattiness charmed his caregivers. They recorded the bird singing and put the recordings on social media. Ernie's owners saw it, and soon the bird was reunited with his best friend, Lottie. Now the two are back to their old antics, with Ernie perching on Lottie's back for free rides.

Nasal notes: A woman from Aurora, Ontario, Canada, sure knows how to whistle. LuLu Lotus recently earned a spot in the Guinness World Record book with her ability to whistle through her nose. She set the record with a blast that reached 44.1 decibels. Inspired by a documentary she had watched about a person who had set a world record, Lotus knew she could really nose whistle, and when she discovered no one had ever applied for the record, she went for it. She met the strict requirements for earning the distinction by working with Aercoustics Engineering, Ltd., acoustical consultants in the nearby city of Mississauga.

Quoteable Quotes

"Always do what you are afraid to do." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The opposite of war isn't peace. It's creation." —Jonathan Larson

What's Happening

May 1-7 - Mental Health Week Mental Health Week is an annual national event that takes place the first week in May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect, and engage with others on all issues relating to mental health. Visit fortask.ca for more info

May 11 - Plantopia Expo A plant swap and shop event raising funds for a new playground at Leo Knickerson Elementary 10 Sycamore Ave. Plant and other assorted vendors will be present as well as door prizes, silent auction. Expo runs for 11-4pm \$5 admission 14 under free

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Trivia

1. Are oboes and bassoons single or double reed instruments?
2. Who was the subject of Auguste Rodin's sculpture "The Thinker"?
3. This science fiction author co-wrote the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey.
4. Which archipelago nation won independence from the U.S. in 1946?
5. France's Bordeaux region only produces red wine—T/F?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)



This week your unconscious may offer information about an old trauma. How might you use this understanding for yourself and to help others with their wounds? Lucky numbers: 10, 14, 18, 27, 29, 32.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)



A sudden or unexpected opportunity may arrive midweek. This might be a good time to develop a plan to capitalize on it, but perhaps you should wait a bit to begin. Lucky numbers: 7, 17, 27, 29, 33, 36.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)



At midweek, you may find yourself receiving an avalanche of information. For a few days, try to just let it happen, and then you might be able to sort through it. Lucky numbers: 15, 21, 22, 32, 39, 42.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)



At the end of the week, you may be feeling that you want to hide in your shell. Retreating for a few days, if you can do so, might be just what you need. Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 18, 20, 29, 35.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)



You may feel stuck in the mud at the beginning of the week. Instead of resisting, try to use it as an opportunity to find any flaws in your plans going forward. Lucky numbers: 8, 20, 25, 27, 39, 41.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Your talent for precise and detailed work may be highlighted. Don't get so lost in the trees that you can't see the forest, which is the purpose of the work. Lucky numbers: 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Libras usually are thoughtful and careful in communication. But early this week, you may find yourself being impulsive and or angry, so be aware of this potential. Lucky numbers: 3, 11, 12, 29, 35, 41.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



You may feel conflicted this week about what you want. But if you work to understand the source of this issue, you might be better able to find a solution. Lucky numbers: 5, 16, 22, 30, 36, 37.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



At midweek, you may find yourself in a stalemate with someone else. If you can't find a solution with them, try waiting a couple of days for the dynamic to ease. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 24.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



You may run into an obstacle to your efforts at week's end. Rather than trying to bulldoze through it, is there a gentler approach to resolving the issue? Lucky numbers: 6, 13, 17, 27, 44, 46.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Your humanitarian goals often can be lofty and difficult to attain. The grounded energy in the first half of the week may help you find a new approach to them. Lucky numbers: 2, 4, 7, 33, 35, 47.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 20)



At the beginning of the week, a grounded energy may help you accomplish a goal that otherwise might be hard for you to manifest on the physical plane. Lucky numbers: 4, 11, 16, 24, 33, 39.

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

Did You Know...

Hot shot: American actor, director, and writer Ben Affleck, who commands millions for his work, isn't just good at Hollywood things. In 2004, he won the California State Poker Championship, earning a cool \$356,400.

Wooden barrel maker: Pirates on ships of the past had many roles. On larger ships, the "cooper" was responsible for the wooden barrels that stored food, water, and other items. A very important position indeed!

Shivering: People are bound to get the shivers when reading this fact. In 1947 in Snag, a small village in Canada's Yukon, a temperature of -63 C (-81.4 F) was recorded. That's about the same temperature as the surface of Mars.

Red and white: Bird watchers love to spot northern cardinals because of their brilliant red plumage. These birds don't migrate, so seeing their bright colour against a snowy background is a treat.

Big jump: If you thought dogs could jump higher than cats, you'd be wrong. With their powerful back legs, the average cat can jump up to seven times their height, which is much greater than their canine friends.

On the Lighter Side

Is there a silent C in Connecticut? No, but there's a noisy ocean offshore.

When you borrow money, find a pessimist. He won't expect you to pay it back.

Joe: "When did you decide to be a parachutist?"
Mo: "When the plane caught on fire."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Window. Window who? Window you think we'll tire of knock-knock jokes?

Why do puffins carry fish in their beaks? Because they don't have any pockets.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Double 2. The poet Dante 3. Arthur C. Clarke 4. The Philippines 5. False

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