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Vol. 21 No. 29 July 15, 2024

Everybody's Talking

Monkey trouble: For generations, tourists have delighted in interacting with the monkeys that inhabit the grounds of the temple in the city of Lopburi, Thailand. But now, frustrated authorities in the city have decided to relocate these mischievous monkeys to elsewhere. Approximately 2,500 of the macaque monkeys will be transferred to large enclosures away from humans. This decision follows an incident in which monkeys knocked a motorcyclist off his bike and kicked a woman in the back because they were after her food. Authorities say they don't want any humans, or monkeys for that matter, to be hurt, which is why they have decided to move the playful primates away from the temple.

Lots of marshmallows: If you're a kid who loves marshmallows, southeastern Michigan (U.S.), is the place to be. Every spring, several towns do a "Great Marshmallow Drop." Kids gather in a park and soon a helicopter appears, whirling overhead. What follows is an amazing sight: thousands of marshmallows dropping from the helicopter, followed by a frenzied scramble by the kids to collect them. However, these marshmallows aren't for eating; instead, kids trade them in for a prize bag that includes a colouring book, a one-day water park pass, and candy. According to officials, the marshmallow drops are simply a way to celebrate spring.

Historical gaming: In a twist of classroom creativity, a middle school teacher is gaining online fame for his innovative teaching method, which is incorporating video games into lessons. When the class topic shifted to Greece, the teacher, known as Mr. Mahathey, introduced his students to the "Assassin's Creed Odyssey" game. He used the game to illustrate the Battle of Thermopylae, and an online video of his lesson went viral. By using the game's map, Mr. Mahathey vividly explained the strategic positioning of the Greeks against the Persians. Comments flooded in, applauding the teacher for his innovative approach and recognizing the game's historical accuracy.

Celestial goodbye: Elizabeth Garcia had loved to travel and, after her passing, her family arranged one final trip. Her sister Jean fulfilled her wish for a unique farewell: sending the ashes of Elizabeth and her beloved cat into space. Elizabeth had long dreamed of space travel but never got the chance. With the help of Aura Flights, a company that specializes in space memorials, their ashes were launched into the cosmos. Riding a stratospheric balloon, the vehicle reached over 100,000 feet (30,480 m) above Earth's surface. Since this unique event took place in January 2023, interest in space memorials has increased, reflecting a growing desire for celestial farewells.

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"It is only the cultivation of individuality which produces, or can produce, well-developed human beings."
—John Stuart Mill

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Trivia

- Physicians' treatise of ethics is called the ____ Oath.
- Fructose is a type of sugar—T/F?
- "She sells seashells by the seashore" is an example of a ____.
- This fruit has a variety called the Winter Banana.
- The Saffir-Simpson scale measures earthquakes, hurricanes, or heart attacks?

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)

Early this week, you may find yourself finally willing to openly speak about the effects of an old emotional wound. Who do you trust to help you talk through the process? Lucky numbers: 4, 15, 20, 25, 35, 46.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

Taurus-born are often cautious about making significant life changes. But this week the planetary energies may present you opportunities to break out of your comfort zone. Lucky numbers: 7, 10, 18, 24, 28, 45.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

At week's end, you may find yourself in the mood for a fun, spontaneous weekend. Enjoy, but also be aware of any tendency to overindulge in sweets, alcohol, and the like. Lucky numbers: 2, 11, 19, 35, 41, 47.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

Your birthday month is coming to a close. How are you feeling so far in your new solar year? What should you keep and what should you let go of? Lucky numbers: 5, 11, 16, 18, 30, 46.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

You may find that your mind and emotions are out of sync at week's end. Can you find a balance of the two? Otherwise, take a deep breath and wait a few days. Lucky numbers: 15, 16, 23, 26, 29, 35.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Virgos can hold themselves and others to very high standards. But perfectionism usually is not achievable. This may be a good time to integrate more empathy. Lucky numbers: 11, 22, 33, 37, 39, 41.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Do you and your partner struggle to define your relationship roles? Might this be a good time to discuss the conflict? Otherwise, breathe and take a step back for a few days. Lucky numbers: 8, 13, 18, 19, 27, 48.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Is progress halted now on your endeavours? It may be helpful to be open to insights about opportunities for change that could overcome the obstacles. Lucky numbers: 1, 14, 18, 21, 26, 40.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You may be experiencing wanderlust now. Before you lock in a travel itinerary, do you simply need a vacation or is something more substantial motivating you? Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 21.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You may feel conflicted now. Your focus may be on completing work projects while those around you want to break out and have fun. Is there a way to do both? Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 25, 33, 34, 40.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You may receive many ideas at week's end about creating positive change for yourself or others. Taking some time to sort through them before acting may be helpful. Lucky numbers: 12, 13, 17, 21, 28, 31.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Your natural intuitive and creative talents may be heightened this week. Try to channel this into spiritual or artistic endeavors, rather than pushing through on mundane tasks. Lucky numbers: 9, 11, 17, 42, 43, 44.

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

Did You Know...

Sleeping giant: Albert Einstein is one of the world's most famous scientists. Perhaps one secret to his brain power is that he usually slept 10 hours a night. That's nearly one and a half times as much as the average person.

Noted brother: Most people recognize actor Tom Hanks, famous for *Forrest Gump*, among other great movies. Hanks' older brother is a noted biology professor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Unique proposal: Famous inventor Thomas Edison claims to have taught his future wife, Mina Miller, Morse code so they could talk to each other in secret. She said he even proposed to her using Morse code.

More than words: Studies indicate that body language constitutes 93% of a person's first impression of someone. The language of facial expressions, handshakes, eye contact, gestures, and personal space can say more than words.

Red lipstick: This concept wouldn't fly today, but during World War II, women were encouraged to wear red lipstick to boost morale, especially of soldiers. With the slogan "Beauty is their Duty," red lipstick was a patriotic symbol.

On the Lighter Side

Where does Thursday come before Wednesday? In the dictionary.

I call my car flattery. It gets me nowhere.

Rita: "You're always wishing for something you don't have."
 Nita: "Well, what else is there to wish for?"

If you buy a bigger bed, you actually get less bedroom.

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Zoom. Zoom who? Zoom did you expect?

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Hippocratic 2. True 3. Tongue twister 4. Apple 5. Hurricanes

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