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Everybody's Talking

Sausage stop: While inserting money to get chocolate bars or chips from a vending machine might be familiar, if you happen to be in Germany, you also can get bratwurst and bockwurst sausages. These unusual vending machines have been around for a few years and are both popular and convenient, especially late at night when someone is craving a sausage. People who work late also appreciate the machines if grocery stores are closed by the time they have a chance to get food. Some of the machines even offer eggs, milk, produce, butter, and prepared sides like potato salad. The products are vacuum-sealed, and the machines are temperature-controlled to ensure safety.

Bee delay: You often hear of weather halting outdoor sports events, but this time it was buzzing bees that stopped the play. During a quarterfinal tennis match at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California (U.S.), play was interrupted for nearly two hours. The players had to pause their game while a worker used a vacuum to remove bees that had swarmed onto the overhead camera. The unexpected delay provided an unusual spectacle for the audience, who watched as the court was carefully cleared of the insects. The players, who had been swatting away the bees, were fortunate that no one was stung.

Tourist trouble: Residents of Fujikawaguchiko (Japan), a town about 62 miles (100 km) west of Tokyo, were fed up with tourists who littered, trespassed, parked illegally, and broke other traffic rules. Tourists, eager to capture a perfect view of Mount Fuji, would flock to the town with their cameras, causing disruption. In response, the town installed a large, 66-foot (20-m) by 8-foot (2.5-m) mesh barrier to block the view of the snow-capped mountain. An official stated it was regrettable that it had come to this, adding that over-tourism is the biggest problem facing the iconic mountain. The measure aims to restore peace and order for the local community.

Ring recovered: A woman in Wales lost her engagement ring in 1970, while feeding hay to cattle on her family farm. She now has it back, thanks to a detectorist, which is someone who explores the ground with a metal detector. Marilyn Birch, a senior resident of Pontardawe in Neath-Port Talbot, described recovering the ring as an emotional reunion. All those years ago, she had retraced her steps in hopes of finding the ring, but to no avail. Recently, detectorist Keith Phillips obtained permission to search the land for treasures and found the ring buried about 8 inches (20 cm) deep in a field, a discovery that left its owner speechless.

Quoteable Quotes

"Reality itself is gorgeous. It is the plenum; the fullness of total joy."
—Alan Watts

"The whole future lies in uncertainty: live immediately."
—Seneca

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. The 1982 film Conan the _____ starred Arnold Schwarzenegger and James Earl Jones.
2. Sleeping Beauty fell asleep when she pricked her finger on a rose thorn—T/F?
3. A pinochle deck has 26, 48, or 52 cards?
4. What is the capital of Portugal?
5. The "V" in the acronym ROYGBIV stands for what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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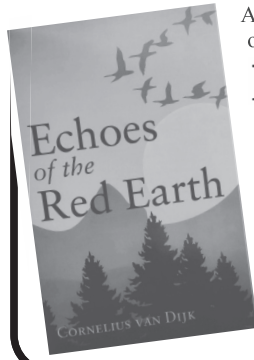
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 20 - April 19)



Lots of energy swirls around you this week. You may be tempted to take an aggressive stand. But you might want to consider where forgiveness could serve you better. Lucky numbers: 10, 18, 25, 34, 42, 48.

TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)



Did you pay attention to the hard truth that may have been revealed to you last week? This information could follow you, so you might want to address it now. Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 19, 34, 40, 42.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 20)



You may be presented with many ideas and opportunities this week. Take time to sort through and evaluate them against your values and goals. But maybe wait to take action. Lucky numbers: 13, 14, 17, 27, 33, 45.

CANCER

(June 21 - July 22)



Cancers can be introverted by nature. But this week you may have a desire to expand your social circle and participate more fully. What might be the best way to manifest it? Lucky numbers: 9, 20, 25, 30, 40, 48.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 22)



Your thoughts and feelings might be out of sync for a few days at week's end. Can you reconcile this stalemate? If not, then waiting for this dynamic to pass may be best. Lucky numbers: 2, 4, 16, 17, 25, 39.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Virgos often focus on precise facts and details. But sometimes, consider trying an intuitive leap of faith. The next few weeks may provide an opportunity to test this premise. Lucky numbers: 11, 25, 26, 28, 33, 40.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Libras gravitate to beauty and may avoid the darker parts of their unconscious. At week's end, an opportunity may arise to unearth information that can help your development. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 10, 13, 18, 40.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



For the next few weeks, you may feel an urgency to blurt out whatever insights you have, no matter how dark, to others. Thinking before speaking could be important. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 19, 36, 43, 46.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



You may feel the need to bust out of restrictions at the beginning of the week. Consider taking a time-out to analyze what changes you might truly need in your life. Lucky numbers: 1, 10, 14, 24, 32, 44.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



This may be a week of two steps forward and one step back. Though frustrating, you may want to consider postponing important discussions or decisions for a couple of weeks. Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 15, 32, 37, 41.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Are you digging in your heels now because you have a strong feeling about something? Finding some detachment about the matter could help point the way to a solution. Lucky numbers: 7, 19, 32, 38, 41, 42.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 - March 20)



Are you experiencing an issue in a relationship now? Are there ways you could adjust your communication style to more clearly express your thoughts to the other party? Lucky numbers: 5, 15, 28, 38, 43, 48.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Cancer winners with the luckiest number being 30.

Did You Know...

Space growth: Scientists have discovered that astronauts can grow taller in space. In fact, living in microgravity can increase their height by up to 3%. A man who is 6 feet tall (1.8 m) could gain 2 inches (5 cm) in height!

Avocado truth: You might not think of avocados as fruit, like apples or oranges. But biologically, that's exactly what they are because they contain seeds. Their unsaturated fats are a healthy benefit of eating them.

Frightening frog: The tiny 1-inch (2.5 cm) poison dart frog has enough poison to kill 20,000 mice. It safely stores toxins in its skin to fend off predators. The species have brightly coloured bodies and are native to Central and South America.

Fierce predator: The giant Allosaurus dinosaur, with its 8-inch (20.3-cm) claws and 70 teeth, could hunt prey easily by running at 21 miles (33 km) per hour. All those teeth meant it was built to eat meat.

Sound sensitivity: If you can't stand certain sounds that don't bother other people, you may have a condition called misophonia. It's when a person is emotionally affected by common sounds like eating or even breathing.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there? Ogre. Ogre who? I'm ogre here, come find me!*

Why was the broom confused? It didn't know which witch was which.

Swimmers do pool-ups to get strong.

Our poodle is like one of the family, but which one?

Barber: "Your hair is getting thin."
Customer: "Who wants fat hair?"

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Barbarian 2. False 3. 48 4. Lisbon 5. Violet

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