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Everybody's Talking

Replicated monument: The Taj Mahal in the city of Agra, India, was built in the 17th century by Shah Jahan, a Mughal emperor, in honour of his wife. It's a huge tourist attraction because of its history and detailed latticework. But another Taj Mahal exists that is smaller than the original. This one was built more recently by businessman Anand Prakash Chouksey in Burhanpur in the state of Madhya Pradesh. He wanted to present his wife with a special gift, so he had the building constructed on their large property, at a cost of 20 million Indian rupees. The couple lives in the home and allows visitors to come onto the grounds to take pictures.

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Costumed chase: Someone at Japan's Kamine Zoo, located in Hitachi City, may have seen an unusual sight. A zoo worker, dressed in a bear costume, was being chased by other zoo employees and emergency personnel. But the scene was all planned. The zoo and emergency agencies were participating in an escaped animal drill. The scenario was based on the assumption that an extremely intense earthquake could break a glass window and allow a bear to escape from its enclosure. Strategically positioning their vehicles, and using nets, the participants were able to corner the fake bear so they could return it to its enclosure.

Food criminal: Eating and running is criminal, but a Dutch man outdid himself by committing this crime 127 times over the course of a few years. The man, from the city of Delft, didn't cheat the restaurants by dining and dashing. Instead, he would fake illness just before the bill came. In a recent attempt, paramedics were called, but when they found nothing wrong with him, they refused to take him to a hospital. The restaurant owner, feeling sorry for the man, suggested he pay later and took his address. That exposed the scam because he'd given different information to the paramedics. Police investigated and found 127 complaints from other restaurateurs about the man.

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Speed traps: In Italy, a criminal has become known as "Flexman." People gave him the nickname because he uses a tool called an angle grinder, which was invented by a company called Flex, to cut down the poles that hold speed cameras. No one knows who Flexman is, but motorists are fans because they don't like paying the fines for speeding that's caught on camera. However, authorities are quite concerned about this vigilante's actions because he is harming the country's infrastructure and causing many thousands of euros in damages. Police say the speed traps work to make roads safer because they encourage drivers to slow down.

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 "Youth is wholly experimental." —Robert Louis Stevenson

What's Happening

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Trivia

1. A team in the sport of curling has 2, 4, or 8 members?
2. _____ is the official name of the surgical procedure called a "nose job."
3. Which is the only Central American country to not border the Caribbean Sea?
4. The dot over the letters "i" and "j" is called a bittle, sploot, or tittle?
5. Trinitrotoluene is more commonly known as what?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)
 Do you know what you want to do in this life-time? In the next few weeks, you may have opportunities to advance this effort, so be sure that you are clear. Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 14, 16, 26, 29.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
 Finding balance in your relationships may be your focus as the week closes. Is there something you are holding onto that could improve your relationships if you let go? Lucky numbers: 8, 10, 38, 40, 43, 47.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
 Be open this week to an "aha" moment. As much as you might be tempted, you may want to consider waiting a bit for the idea to settle down before acting. Lucky numbers: 4, 10, 13, 26, 31, 43.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 Over the next month or so, you may find your self-image challenged by others. Where might you need to make a change and where should you stand your ground? Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 18, 37, 40, 44.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
 A Gemini mind often races quickly, taking in as much information as possible. However, for the next few weeks, the energetic pattern will encourage you to slow down. Lucky numbers: 11, 18, 23, 33, 44, 48.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 You may find over the next few weeks that you need to adjust your communication style. Doing this might invite help for you to achieve your goals. Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)
 In the next few weeks, you may have a good opportunity to present your goals to others. Your communication style might be streamlined and well grounded right now. Lucky numbers: 13, 17, 24, 27, 28, 31.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
 Family issues, particularly regarding one of your parents, may be highlighted over the next six months. You might find yourself going over old ground in these relationships. Lucky numbers: 14, 25, 26, 37, 43, 46.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 Your keywords early in the week are leadership and courage. Toward what goal do you want to direct these qualities? How can you use these few days well? Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 18, 24, 26, 32.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 Pay attention to your intuition this week. Seeing things clearly may be difficult, so consider temporarily postponing important decisions until this dynamic passes. Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 17, 24, 38, 44.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
 In the middle of this week, be sure to pay attention to the little details. Right now, this effort may be focused on your health or on your work routines. Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 15, 21, 33, 48.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)
 This week's energy may support moving ahead on your spiritual ideals. Focusing on concrete endeavours now could help advance your goals, even if they are somewhat ethereal. Lucky numbers: 2, 13, 15, 25, 26, 42.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Leo winners with the luckiest number being 9.

Did you know?

Mr. Universe: Sean Connery, the Scottish actor who died in 2020 at age 90, wasn't always known as James Bond. He started out as a bodybuilder, and even competed in the Mr. Universe pageant, which jump-started his acting career.

Mouth for liars: The ancient carving Bocca della Verità (Mouth of Truth) is said to bite off the hands of liars. But it's actually harmless, even if someone sticks a hand in its mouth. The statue is located at Rome's Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin.

Filling breakfast: A hearty breakfast in India or East Indian restaurants around the world is a *masala dosa*. With a batter of rice and black lentils, this crepe is filled with potatoes, onions, and spices, and served with pickles and chutney.

Statue's footwear: In New York City, the Statue of Liberty has greeted immigrants arriving in the harbour since 1886. The giant lady wears sandals that are 25 feet (7.6 m) long. Her shoe size would be 879!

Get the message: Semaphore flag signaling is a communication system dating to the late 18th century. It was used to carry messages in the French army. Small flags held in various positions represent letters and numerals.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Wooden shoe. Wooden shoe who? Wooden shoe like to be my neighbour?

What's big, furry, and does a lot of sit-ups? The abdominal snowman.

Going to the Emerald Isle would be fun. Irish I could go this summer.

My teenage daughter thinks I am nosy. At least, that's what she says in her diary.

Teacher: "You're late but why are you crawling into class?"
 Student: "You said, 'Don't anyone dare to walk into class late!'"

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. 4 2. Rhinoplasty 3. El Salvador 4. Little 5. TNT

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