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Everybody's Talking!

Sandscape dream: A wide park of pale-colored sand dunes hides countless clear pools of freshwater in a remote corner of Maranhão, Brazil. These sky-like lagoons appear in the rainy season, forming between tall, wind-shaped hills of sand. Unlike a desert, the area receives steady rainfall, creating a strange mix of dry sand and still water. Small villages nestled in the dunes offer calm spots for quiet walks or gentle river rides through mangroves and palm trees. Many visitors walk barefoot over soft dunes or explore on 4x4's, reaching pools far from the busy areas. From above, the scene looks like wrinkled bedsheets dotted with blue. On the ground, the quiet makes the area feel like a peaceful, hidden world.

Receipt rebellion: By giving its food names like "Basic Steel Stapler" and "Wireless Mouse," instead of the burgers and fries that they really were, a burger restaurant in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, grabbed attention. The gimmick was part of a tongue-in-cheek campaign meant to joke about slipping meals onto work expense reports. People ordering lunch could pretend they were expensing office supplies while really getting a burger combo. Though clearly not meant to fool accountants, the idea quickly went viral through online videos. The restaurant later clarified it was all in good fun, not a real scheme. Even so, it sparked lively debate over whether the joke was harmless or a little too close to crossing the line.

Flood fortress: In Tokyo, Japan, a massive underground structure quietly protects the city from increasingly intense rainfall and flooding. Nicknamed "The Cathedral" for its towering stone pillars and hushed atmosphere, the chamber sits beneath a network of tunnels built to hold and redirect floodwater. Overflow from rivers is channeled underground before being safely pumped out to sea. The system has saved homes and prevented widespread damage in the region. Its cool, misty interior resembles a sacred space and has even become a destination for curious visitors. Engineers are now expanding the system further, which is proof that Tokyo is preparing for what's coming, not waiting for it.

Pocket win: A young girl in Ipswich, England, sparked change after noticing her school trousers had fake pockets, while the boys' version had real ones. Frustrated by the lack of function, she wrote to a major clothing retailer and started a petition with dozens of signatures from classmates. Though the company didn't officially credit her efforts, new girls' trousers now include stitched bows and proper pockets. The company later responded by saying their designs focus on comfort and durability, without directly explaining the update. For the girl who raised her voice, the issue was simple: pockets matter to everyone. Whether or not her letter led to the shift, the shelves now speak for themselves.

Quoteable Quotes

"Are not flowers the stars of the earth?" —Clara Lucas Balfour
"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What's Happening

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Kim Cohen
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Trivia

1. Which 1980s British band was nicknamed the Fab Five?
2. What is the capital of Jamaica?
3. The tango is a famous dance that originated in this country.
4. The substance with the chemical formula "NaCl" is commonly known as this.
5. This popular breakfast cereal has a leprechaun as its mascot.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscopes

ARIES

(March 20 - April 19)



Action is a key for Aries, but a situation now calls for contemplation instead. Consider adjusting your view based on the insights emerging from your unconscious. Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 12, 16, 35, 46.

TAURUS

(April 20 - May 20)



Taurus-born often seek the "tried and true" path. For the next few months, you may have an opportunity to explore this motivation to see if it is still satisfactory. Lucky numbers: 10, 15, 17, 19, 38, 48.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 20)



Choose your words with others carefully for the next few weeks. Be sure your devices are backed up and your vehicle is in good working order. Expect travel delays. Lucky numbers: 11, 14, 21, 33, 34, 42.

CANCER

(June 21 - July 22)



For the next few months, you may find that matters resurfacing that you thought you were past. The issue may involve home or family. It is time for a better solution. Lucky numbers: 1, 15, 18, 32, 37, 45.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 22)



The energy early in the week may give you the courage of your convictions. This might be a good time to step into something new and to bring others along. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 19, 24, 40, 45.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



The midweek energy can help you deal with the myriad details of your project. Dig in and work through the minutia in order to bring it to completion now. Lucky numbers: 2, 13, 16, 24, 29, 37.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Your head and heart may be in sync at midweek. Select the choice that is in your best interests while not hurting others. It is OK to choose yourself first. Lucky numbers: 7, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



You may have an opportunity now to see into the dark and review a situation from the past. You could reach an understanding of how to more deeply relate with others. Lucky numbers: 1, 6, 8, 34, 37, 47.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Are you dealing again with a past issue? You may be tempted to battle your way out of it. Might it perhaps be better to wait and then reconsider the situation? Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 19, 21, 42, 45.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



For the next few months, you may be caught between a desire to move forward or to maintain the status quo. Weigh the pros and cons, but consider postponing action. Lucky numbers: 5, 21, 23, 38, 36.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



Early in the week, your will may be in opposition to that of others. Try to work toward a compromise, or perhaps take a step back for a few days and wait. Lucky numbers: 4, 13, 14, 22, 34, 35.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 - March 20)



Your mind and emotions may be at odds at midweek. Pisces tend to have their heads in the clouds, but you could be encouraged now to ground yourself to the Earth. Lucky numbers: 8, 10, 12, 15, 20, 33.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 37.

Did You Know...

Alias upgrade: Born Peter Gene Hernandez, singer Bruno Mars got his nickname "Bruno" from his dad, who thought he resembled wrestler Bruno Sammartino. He later added "Mars" to create a stage name that sounded unique and cosmic.

Sky shimmer: The northern and southern lights glow when solar particles crash into Earth's atmosphere, stirring up oxygen and nitrogen. These charged collisions create waves of green, red, and purple light, turning the sky into a silent show.

Synthetic spin: Polyester was born from a chemical mix of acid and alcohol, creating fibers strong enough for clothing and packaging. Later branded under names like Dacron and Mylar, this lab-made material quickly became a staple in daily life.

Desert duty: Camels can walk roughly 20 miles (32 km) a day while hauling up to 200 pounds (90 kg). They also provide milk, meat, and useful materials, earning them the nickname "ships of the desert."

Name marathon: The official name of Bangkok, Thailand, is actually a record-breaking string of 21 words, making it the longest place name in the world. The full name is rarely used in daily life, and most people stick to the much shorter and simpler name, Bangkok.

On the Lighter Side

How did the boat do in school? It sailed through.

Trees get sleepy too. They occasionally need a nap, forest.

When the coach called in a new pitcher, it was quite a relief!

Linda: "Are you unattached?"
John: "No, I'm put together sloppily."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Claire. Claire who? Claire the way, I'm coming through.

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Duran Duran 2. Kingston 3. Argentina 4. Salt 5. Lucky Charms

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