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Everybody's Talking!

Rain roof: Fresh water is gathered in a way that's become part of everyday life in Bermuda, and central to how homes are built. Because there are no lakes or rivers, each house uses a stepped white roof to catch rainfall and guide it into an underground tank for drinking and washing. The method dates back centuries and is still used on new buildings. Builders carve the roof slabs from the same limestone used for the foundation, letting the stone help cool the house in hot weather. During storms, the sturdy design holds up well, which is one reason the tradition hasn't changed. Many families still watch their tank levels closely, knowing their roof is the main reason the island can support so many people.

Cow groove: On a farm near Bolton, England, a local jazz group recently played a live set for a herd of dairy cows to test whether gentle music might support better milk production. Staff invited the sextet after hearing that slower tunes could influence how comfortably the animals settle while feeding. The musicians mixed lively pieces with quieter ones as the cows wandered closer, watching from behind the fence. Several of the cows lingered nearby throughout the performance, seeming to take an interest in the shifting rhythms. The idea came after a short online video showed the animals responding well to recorded music. Farmers say the trial added a light moment to the day and may guide future routines.

Beaver builders: A beaver colony in the Brdy region of the Czech Republic surprised officials by finishing a series of natural dams long before any planned construction could begin. Their work formed a wetland in the exact spot where a major restoration project was meant to take place, saving authorities a significant amount of funding in the process. The animals used an old gully that once carried water away from the area, turning it into a calm set of pools that help many species thrive. While agencies were still sorting out permits, the beavers simply moved ahead on their own. The result shows how animals sometimes solve problems long before people finish talking about them.

Auction spotlight: Three landscape paintings by artist Bob Ross brought in about \$600,000 (USD) at a U.S. fundraiser for public television, renewing interest in the gentle painter behind the long-running art show. The pieces came from a carefully held collection that preserved many of the scenes he became known for throughout his career. His calm style still attracts viewers, even though his work rarely appears in major auctions. The paintings were released to support stations facing budget pressure, and the bids rose quickly. Some discovered Ross through online videos, while others watched him on TV, but they're still drawn to his approach. The success has encouraged organizers to offer more pieces later on.

Quoteable Quotes

"You have to be where you are to get where you need to go."
—Amy Poehler

"One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."
—Malala Yousafzai

What's Happening

Nicholas Boggs - Baldwin: A Love Story Monday, August 17, 4:00 PM • Tuesday, August 18, 11:00 AM

Carla Kaplan - Troublemaker: The Fierce, Unruly Life of Jessica Mitford Monday, July 27, 4:00 PM • Tuesday, July 28, 11:00 AM

Peter S. Canellos - Revenge for the Sixties: Sam Alito and the Triumph of the Conservative Legal Movement Monday, August 24, 4:00 PM • Tuesday, August 25, 11:00 AM

THE MOUNT - Edith Wharton Cultural Center - Tickets: Mount Members: \$27 - Non-members: \$32 - Teachers free on Tuesdays - EdithWharton.org | Lenox, MA

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Actual Size

Trivia

- George Lucas directed not only Star Wars: A New Hope but also American ____.
- Your body contains enough iron to make a nail—T/F?
- Benjamin Franklin flew this in a thunderstorm to understand electric charge.
- The Spring Equinox is the longest day of the year.
- Michael Jordan played basketball for the Bulls, Celtics, or Lakers?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscopes

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)



This week may be a good time to communicate with others about your life goals. However, be considerate of those close to you who may not be fully on board. Lucky numbers: 9, 10, 12, 18, 29, 42.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)



This week you may have conflict with others. Resist temptation to aggressively respond. Is the dynamic triggering an emotional wound buried in your consciousness? Lucky numbers: 1, 9, 13, 18, 24, 37.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)



Is there a project close to your heart that you haven't yet been able to manifest? Speaking with others about it this week may present an opportunity to jumpstart it. Lucky numbers: 8, 14, 27, 30, 34, 43.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)



The next month may give you an opportunity to play a new, nurturing role with others. Just be aware that not everyone will accept and act upon your advice. Lucky numbers: 4, 5, 29, 44, 47, 48.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)



This week may include beginnings or endings, the full effect of which you may not immediately see. Flowing with this change might not be easy but is necessary. Lucky numbers: 9, 14, 36, 40, 44, 48.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)



Your attention to detail may be heightened mid-week. Use the dynamic to help your endeavors. But be careful about being a perfectionist, with yourself or others. Lucky numbers: 16, 17, 25, 26, 30, 39.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)



Your Libra charm may be enhanced as the week unfolds, heightening your ability to successfully ask for what you want. First, consider what you truly desire. Lucky numbers: 3, 18, 28, 29, 30, 42.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)



Your ambition may be boosted this week. Consider how to take advantage of it, but avoid temptation to manipulate the situation to disadvantage others involved. Lucky numbers: 5, 6, 12, 30, 39, 41.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)



Your natural enthusiasm may be dampened for a few weeks. This might be a chance to adjust your view point about what you realistically will be able to accomplish. Lucky numbers: 7, 24, 32, 36, 43, 47.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)



A relationship may be your focus for the next several months. It might be time to review what is and is not working for you. Then discuss it with your partner. Lucky numbers: 2, 5, 17, 30, 35, 48.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)



You may be eager now to manifest a goal close to your heart. A new beginning might be on the horizon but consider waiting a few weeks before proceeding. Lucky numbers: 6, 18, 22, 37, 39, 44.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)



Your intuition and empathy may be short circuited at midweek. This could be disturbing, but consider how to ground these skills more effectively in the future. Lucky numbers: 11, 20, 22, 32, 42, 46.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Libra winners with the luckiest number being 3.

Did You Know...

Dusty drizzle: So-called "blood rain" isn't actually as mysterious as it sounds. The phenomenon occurs when desert dust mixes with passing rain clouds, tinting the drops and leaving behind a thin, reddish film. The rare effect can travel far on the wind.

Penny pick: Portland, Oregon (U.S.), got its name from a coin flip after two founders disagreed on what to call their new settlement. One wanted to honor his hometown of Boston, while the other hoped to use the name Portland, and the winning toss decided it.

Bread beginnings: The sandwich may be named after an English earl, but people have been eating bread filled with food for centuries. From ancient flatbreads to modern subs and PB&Js, the idea of stacking flavors between bread has never gone out of style.

Border pull: About 90% of Canadians live within roughly 160 kilometers (100 mi.) of the U.S. border. This broad stretch offers gentler weather and easier connections, which is why most of the country's largest cities grew there rather than farther north.

Giant bloom: A rare plant in Indonesia's rainforests produces the world's largest single flower, stretching several feet across. The *Rafflesia arnoldii* draws nutrients from a host plant and releases a powerful scent that makes its presence hard to miss.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Apple. Apple who? Apple on the door and it still won't open!

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily.

I changed my cell phone name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

I had a pun about misplacement, but I lost it.

Customer: "Do you have any camouflage jackets?"

Clerk: "We have dozens but I can't find them."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Graffiti! 2. True 3. Kite 4. False, Summer Solstice 5. Bulls

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