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Vol. 22 No. 12 September 29, 2025

Everybody's Talking

Mosaic healer: In Lyon, France, street surfaces are being quietly transformed but not by city crews. A shadowy artist is filling potholes with colourful mosaic patterns. The anonymous figure known as Ememem calls his work "flacking," a nod to the French word for puddle, and has become known locally as the "pavement surgeon." His designs appear in broken sidewalks, mixing geometry and charm where damage once was. Although he shares photos online, Ememem avoids the spotlight entirely, leaving behind only a signature image of a trowel. Inspired by a past in tiling and music, his work has become a form of public care, not protest. What began as a side project now adorns hundreds of streets, and counting.

Cosmic chill: For the first time, glowing auroras have been clearly captured on Neptune, thanks to the infrared capabilities of NASA's Webb Space Telescope. Unlike Earth's polar lights, Neptune's auroras appear nearer the planet's mid-latitudes, an oddity explained by the planet's tilted, lopsided magnetic field. The discovery gives scientists a fresh look into the ice giant's mysterious atmosphere, revealing not just the light show but also that Neptune's high-altitude regions have cooled significantly since their last recorded temperatures. Researchers believe the dramatic cooling may explain why the auroras stayed hidden for so long. The glow is impressive, but the temperature drop leaves scientists with a deeper puzzle to explore.

Coin quest: After years combing the same patch of farmland near Dudley, England, a retired welder with a metal detector uncovered a Roman coin like no other found in the British Isles. The coin featured Emperor Aulus Vitellius, who ruled briefly in 69 C.E., a volatile moment in Rome's history. Unlike typical discoveries from later centuries, this traced back nearly two millennia, making it exceptionally rare. It was later sold at auction to a collector, with proceeds shared between the finder and the landowner. The payout was notable, but the thrill of holding a lost piece of history was the true reward. How it ended up in an English field remains a mystery.

Table friends: A cozy cafe in Tokyo, Japan, has found a charming way to make solo dining less lonely. At the Moomin House Cafe, guests are seated with stuffed Moomins, which are plush, hippo-like characters created by Finnish artist Tove Jansson, to share their table. Diners enjoy pastries and breads shaped like the beloved characters, with recipes that nod to Finnish traditions. Originally a quiet spot, the cafe steadily grew into a favourite destination for both locals and visitors. Its "anti-loneliness" idea continues to resonate, offering a playful and heartwarming way to enjoy a meal. With several locations in Japan and a devoted fanbase, the Moomins remain a comforting presence for anyone dining alone.

Quoteable Quotes

"I don't believe people are looking for the meaning of life as much as they are looking for the experience of being alive." —Joseph Campbell

"The purpose of life is a life of purpose." —Robert Byrne

What's Happening

Each Wednesday from 11:45 to 12:45: Widows Support Group will be held at the River House at 179 Marine Street in downtown St. Augustine. Join other Widows for weekly support meetings. Free to attend. For more info, call 904-209-3655.

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Trivia

1. What vitamin do humans absorb from the sun?

2. Singer Elton John's "Candle in the Wind" is about this person.

3. What country is known as "The Land of the Rising Sun"?

4. Does Mercury, Saturn, or Jupiter spin the fastest on its axis?

5. This U.S. state has more lakes than any other state in the country.

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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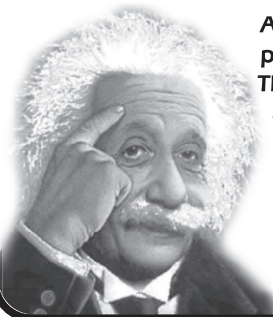


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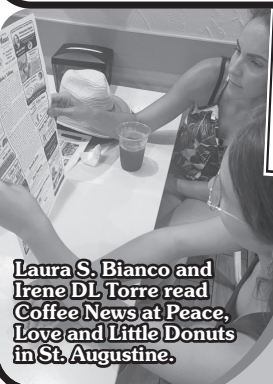
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES

(March 20 – April 19)



At midweek, information may emerge from your unconscious that puts you at a stalemate. How might you use this data to help you heal an old

emotional wound now? Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 20, 24, 33, 39.

TAURUS

(April 20 – May 20)



The determined nature of the Taurus-born sometimes manifests as stubbornness. For the next few weeks, can you adjust to add flexibility to your interactions with others? Lucky numbers: 2, 5, 15, 16, 21, 23.

GEMINI

(May 21 – June 20)



Geminis often display a quick mind and rapid-fire communication style. You soon may have an opportunity to try to soften this with more tact and diplomacy. Lucky numbers: 7, 9, 22, 33, 37, 39.

CANCER

(June 21 – July 22)



Are you stressing yourself by trying to figure out what someone thinks about you? Take a deep breath and consider if you should summon courage and simply ask them. Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 26, 34, 36, 40.

LEO

(July 23 – Aug. 22)



Your mind and heart may be pulling in opposite directions at midweek. It may be best to wait a few days for this dynamic to pass before taking any action. Lucky numbers: 9, 18, 23, 28, 34, 35.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)



At midweek, you may find yourself more emotional than usual. If you have an important decision to make, you might wait a few days for things to normalize. Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 21, 24, 25, 32.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)



Have you made new connections over the past few weeks that could help with your endeavours? This opportunity might pass in another week, so

take advantage of it now. Lucky numbers: 8, 9, 12, 14, 28, 39.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)



Scorpios can demand that people see hard truths, which is not always productive in finding a solution. Soon you may have an opportunity to take a gentler approach. Lucky numbers: 6, 17, 21, 39, 44, 47.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)



For the next few weeks, keep your eyes open for a new opportunity to achieve your goal. In the process, it is important that everyone involved be treated fairly. Lucky numbers: 5, 12, 21, 40, 41, 46.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)



Early in the week, it may fall to you to be the adult in the room. While this certainly might be frustrating, you could be the person best suited to do so. Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 14, 23, 24, 35.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)



Are you shouldering all the responsibility for completing a project? If you reach out for help, you may find you achieve a better result than if you had done it all yourself. Lucky numbers: 10, 17, 20, 26, 38, 42.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 – March 20)



Emotions may be close to the surface at the week's end. Detoxifying your physical body, as with aquatic therapy, may help you make a positive emotional adjustment. Lucky numbers: 11, 17, 25, 29, 46, 47.

Lucky numbers: This week's odds favour Sagittarius winners with the luckiest number being 21.

Did You Know...

Peak path: The Sandakphu trek winds through forests, valleys, and rugged peaks in the eastern Himalayas. It's not just a nature trip. Locals consider the trail sacred, with shrines and monasteries along the way. Views of Everest and Kanchenjunga add to the magic.

Snake wings: The Atlas moth has wing tips that look like detailed snake heads. When threatened, it flicks its wings in a way that mimics a striking snake. This clever defence helps scare off hungry predators in the wild.

Saddle stories: During the Great Depression, librarians on horseback delivered books to remote mountain homes in Kentucky (U.S.). With roads scarce and literacy low, these riders crossed creeks and climbed trails to bring reading materials to those who were cut off.

Beetle bloom: Long before bees arrived, beetles were already pollinating plants. Magnolia flowers still rely on these early pollinators today. Their thick, leathery petals are specially adapted to withstand the beetles' chewing.

Name flip: The French duo behind Daft Punk took their name from a review that called their earlier band's music "a daft punky thrash." Instead of taking offence, they embraced it, and turned the insult into a global electronic music identity.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Esther. *Esther who?* Esther any cranberry sauce?

What vitamin will sting you? Vitamin Bee.

Golf is a lot like taxes: you drive hard to get to the green and wind up in a hole.

A horse went into a pub. The bartender asked, "Why the long face?"

Son: "Dad, I'm hungry."

Dad: "Hello Hungry, I'm Dad."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Vitamin D 2. Marilyn Monroe 3. Japan 4. Jupiter 5. Alaska

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