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Vol. 22 No. 21 December 1, 2025

## Everybody's Talking

**Kindness fund:** When an elderly waitress in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (U.S.), shared that back pain and limited income kept her from retiring, a kind customer quietly recorded her story. That video soon went viral, sparking a wave of generosity. A crowdfunding campaign raised over \$300,000 (USD) to help support the waitress, named Betty, who had been working to make ends meet, well past the usual age. The funds are now being carefully managed through a trust to protect her benefits and future financial security. What started as a simple \$40 tip soon turned into a life-changing gift. It's a powerful reminder that small acts of kindness can inspire extraordinary and lasting outcomes when people come together.

**Fruit fusion:** A single mango tree stands as a marvel of patience and skill in the town of Malihabad, India. Decades of grafting, in which branches from different trees are joined to grow on one trunk, have transformed it into a living showcase, now producing over 300 mango varieties. Each grafted branch offers a different fruit, creating a tree like no other. The work began when grower Kalimullah Khan, guided by curiosity and a love of horticulture, started combining varieties on one strong tree. The process continues today, overseen by his son, who ensures the prized tree thrives. Visitors travel from far and wide to witness this botanical wonder, proof that nature, when nurtured by human hands, can surprise us again and again.

**Window wisdom:** An elementary school in Jacksonville, Illinois (U.S.), is proving that brighter classrooms can brighten minds. By adding dozens of new windows, Eisenhower Elementary swapped dim, outdated spaces for sunlit rooms that help students thrive. Studies show that natural light boosts learning and focus, and the school's results back that up. Teachers report better moods, improved student participation, and higher engagement across the board. The makeover is part of a broader effort to bring daylight back into school design. With so much success, the team behind this transformation hopes to inspire other schools to do the same. A little sunshine can make all the difference.

**Elk passage:** A rancher has made a unique deal that helps both his cattle and local elk. A conservation group now covers part of his land lease costs so elk can move freely across his property in Colorado (U.S.) during migration. Without this support, the rancher could face financial peril because the elk eat grass that is meant for livestock. The rancher also lowers his fences in winter to let the elk safely pass. This simple solution is helping restore old migration paths while keeping the ranch running smoothly. It also offers a rare example of how ranching and wildlife can coexist. The rancher says seeing the elk wander through each season is well worth the extra effort involved, and is a reminder of the land's shared purpose.

## Quoteable Quotes

"If you approach the mountain in fear, it will look bigger than it appears."  
—Tene Edwards

"The expert at anything was once a beginner."  
—Helen Hayes

## What's Happening

**Dec. 15th - Dec. 24th: Downtown Christmas Market held in the Downtown Plaza** and area streets. Holiday market with local artisans and vendors perfect for gift shopping and family strolling during Nights of Lights. Bring the entire family and shop local.

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# Trivia

1. Cooking food with brief, high, intense heat is called \_\_\_\_.
2. The Golden Mean is a math problem—T/F?
3. The \_\_\_\_ Years War between Britain and France was 1337-1453.
4. In knitting, this kind of stitch has fallen off the needle.
5. What is the usual speed of a seven-inch vinyl record?

**(Flip bottom of page for answers)**

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**(Over)**

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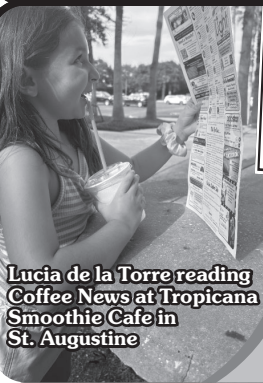
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## Your Weekly Horoscope

### ARIES

(March 20 – April 19)



Someone who is experiencing an emotional wound similar to one you previously faced may cross paths with you this week. What wisdom can you share with them now? Lucky numbers: 1, 2, 10, 13, 20, 34.

### TAURUS

(April 20 – May 20)



At the week's start, you may feel emotionally well grounded. How can you use this potential to advance something positive in your life? Don't let this opportunity slip away. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 15, 25, 37, 43.

### GEMINI

(May 21 – June 20)



The middle of the week is a good time to evaluate the endeavours you are working on. Which projects should you bring to completion now? Which should you weed out? Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 12, 20, 24, 37.

### CANCER

(June 21 – July 22)



The energy this week could give you ambition to succeed. The universe may offer various options to do so. You might need to make an adjustment to ramp up your efforts. Lucky numbers: 4, 24, 26, 32, 35, 37.

### LEO

(July 23 – Aug. 22)



The holiday season is fast approaching. At the week's end, enjoy yourself, but try not to overspend or overindulge in food and drink. All things are best in moderation. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 11, 15, 18, 21.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)



Virgos are good at focusing on details necessary to successfully complete endeavours. This ability is heightened at the week's end. How can you use it in your current projects? Lucky numbers: 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 45.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)



The next few weeks may be a good time to examine what you believe in and value. Does your life reflect them? If not, what changes do you need to make? Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 24, 28, 31, 39.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)



At the beginning of the week, avoid any temptation you might have to dig in your heels. How could you work with others to get past a stalemate in a current situation? Lucky numbers: 5, 7, 16, 25, 26, 39.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)



You may have an emotional reaction that is out of character for you during the middle of the week. Consider taking a deep breath and waiting a few days before acting. Lucky numbers: 11, 13, 22, 35, 38, 42.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)



If you run into a stalemate with others mid-week, take a step back. Consider initiating a conversation to listen to the needs of others, and how to take them into consideration. Lucky numbers: 15, 17, 25, 28, 31, 39.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)



Are you happy with your life? The energy early this week encourages you to actively seek out new opportunities that may give you more joy than you currently are experiencing. Lucky numbers: 3, 12, 16, 18, 20, 36.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 – March 20)



Pisces can have trouble completing the gritty details necessary to actualize their lofty goals. But at the week's end, the energy encourages you to focus your mind on the minutiae. Lucky numbers: 5, 18, 21, 23, 25, 48.

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

## Did You Know...

**Time twist:** In the Bering Strait, two islands sit just 3.8 kilometres (2.4 mi.) apart, but are split by a 21-hour time difference. Thanks to the International Date Line, their separate time zones make it tomorrow on one island and today on the other.

**Elegant exit:** When faced with surgery near the end of his life, Albert Einstein declined, calling it tasteless to delay the inevitable. He requested no shrines or public tributes, just a quiet exit and his ashes scattered in secret.

**Lace tips:** Those tiny plastic caps at the end of shoelaces have a name. They are called aglets, and they stop the laces from fraying and make threading easier. It's one of those everyday things you might not suspect had a name.

**Rare glare:** Green eyes show up in only about 2 percent of people worldwide. Many babies are born with lighter eye colours that deepen over time. But in places like Ireland and Scotland, green eyes are far more common than elsewhere.

**Swing science:** Golf balls weren't always dimpled. Then players noticed that rougher surfaces helped the balls travel farther. That simple shift led to a major design change. Dimples help reduce air drag, improving flight and distance.

## On the Lighter Side

How do you know when a dog is bossy? It barks orders.

Show me a magician's book and I'll show you a spellbinder.

Gardeners love their job. Every day is a bed of roses.

Customer: "I'd like to buy some lean steak."  
Butcher: "Would you like it to lean left or right?"

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Jupiter. Jupiter who? Jupiter the fly in my soup?

## Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Searing 2. False, ethics 3. 100 4. Dropped 5. 45 rpm

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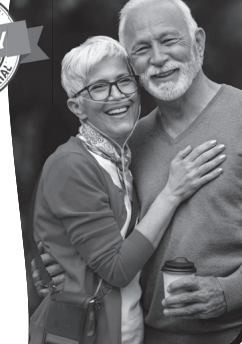
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