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**Everybody's Talking**

**Root signals:** In forests of the Dolomites in northern Italy, researchers observed trees adjusting their internal energy during a solar eclipse, with the largest, most established ones shifting long before any shadow crossed the canopy. Using low-power field equipment, the team detected electrical activity moving between trunks, including faint responses from broken stumps still rooted in place. It seemed to be a shared, timed reaction from the trees themselves. The findings hint at an underlying system of awareness, quietly led by older trees. Though not visible from the forest floor, the patterns suggested a kind of group timing. It may be that trees don't just grow together, but they "think" together, too.

**Steep ride:** In the Swiss Alps, a cable car climbs one of the steepest, open-air tracks in Europe. Originally built to move supplies for a mountain dam, it now carries visitors up the slope for the views. The car travels backward with no roof and just a bar across your legs, which adds to the thrill. It moves at a slow pace, but the sharp incline makes the ride feel more intense than expected. From the top, you can follow a lakeside trail or hike down to the village of Handegg. The mountain scenery includes forests, cliffs, and snowy peaks. The starting point is only accessible by stairs, so it may not suit everyone. Still, the ride offers a rare way to explore the high alpine landscape.

**Pinball panic:** Long before it became a popular pastime, pinball was seen in many parts of the U.S. as a dangerous threat to society. In the 1940s, the machines often were linked to illegal gambling and organized crime. Critics said they targeted young people and drained their money, especially since early versions didn't even have flippers, instead relying on chance. Mayors and judges launched aggressive campaigns against the games, raiding shops and smashing machines as part of public crackdowns. Pinball was blamed for encouraging bad habits, wasting time, and causing trouble in neighbourhoods. Despite the bans, the game's appeal didn't fade, it just went underground for a while.

**Pillar greenery:** Along a crowded expressway in Mexico City, towering supports have been coated with layers of climbing plants and living foliage. These upright plant walls use recycled materials and filtered rainwater, kept thriving by a sensor-based system that tracks moisture and temperature. The design not only softens the harsh lines of traffic, it turns old infrastructure into something unexpectedly alive. Commuters say the air feels fresher and the view more calming. Beyond the visual impact, the project has created jobs and inspired new ways of thinking about public space. It's a functional mix of greenery and design that makes better use of space most people had stopped noticing.

**Quoteable Quotes**

"Every now and then a man's mind is stretched by a new idea or sensation, and never shrinks back to its former dimensions."  
—**Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.**

"Simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures."  
—**Lao Tzu**

**What's Happening**

**Saturday, January 24th from 10am-3pm: Pickle JAM-Boree Festival will be held at Port Orange City Center at 1092 City Center Circle.** Community festival with live music, local vendors, food, and family-friendly activities; free admission.

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**Trivia**

1. A pangolin is a mammal—T/F?
2. Does nutmeg come from an evergreen or deciduous tree?
3. The \_\_\_\_ Decimal System catalogues items in a library.
4. What volcano in Italy destroyed the city of Pompeii?
5. Who wrote the book Wicked, a novel set in Oz?

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

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# Your Weekly Horoscope

### ARIES (March 20 – April 19)

You may get a boost of  
ambition and energy in  
the middle of the week.  
But be careful about  
being overly aggressive  
with others whose assis-  
tance you might need now. Lucky  
numbers: 14, 21, 30, 31, 37, 47.

### TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)

This week, you may get  
a sudden insight that  
has been trying to break  
through for a while.  
Energy and discipline  
now could be available to  
you to manifest this possibility. Lucky  
numbers: 10, 15, 24, 34, 43, 44.

### GEMINI (May 21 – June 20)

Geminis tend to accumu-  
late bits of information,  
simply to have the knowl-  
edge at hand. For the  
next few weeks, you may  
have an opportunity to  
use it to help humanity at large. Lucky  
numbers: 5, 12, 18, 36, 41, 43.

### CANCER (June 21 – July 22)

The focus for Cancers is  
often their immediate  
family and friends. How-  
ever, the Aquarius energy  
this month encourages  
you to adjust your view  
toward humanity as a whole. Lucky  
numbers: 3, 7, 24, 27, 34, 46.

### LEO (July 23 – Aug. 22)

It has been about six  
months since your birth-  
day. Did you set a new  
plan then? Now would be  
a good time to review  
progress and think about  
any changes you may need to make.  
Lucky numbers: 2, 4, 13, 29, 36, 39.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

You may experience a  
lack of confidence at  
midweek. This could pass  
in a few days, so be  
patient and acknowledge  
any feelings of depression.  
Retreat may be beneficial now. Lucky  
numbers: 8, 12, 13, 23, 28, 44.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

The desire to maintain  
peace can be very strong  
for some Libras, but also  
can create an unhealthy  
balance. You may feel  
strongly, midweek, that  
this dynamic needs to change. Lucky  
numbers: 6, 13, 25, 28, 45, 48.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Communicating your  
intuitive insights and  
truth to those who would  
prefer to turn away from  
them is difficult. At the  
week's end, you may have  
more endurance for this effort. Lucky  
numbers: 12, 17, 24, 25, 41, 44.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

A theme for Sagittarius is  
to develop a philosophy  
that is genuine, and they  
often advocate this to  
others. You may be inter-  
ested now in how this  
connects to humanity's evolution.  
Lucky numbers: 7, 11, 15, 18, 29, 46.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Capricorn ambitions often  
are directed at generating  
success in their own lives.  
This month, the universe  
may ask you to step out  
of your comfort zone to  
help others succeed. Lucky numbers:  
11, 21, 22, 26, 30, 46.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Pluto is fully anchored  
into Aquarius, signalling  
a critical period of human  
evolution for the next  
decade. Aquarius energy  
is strong now, providing  
an opportunity in this regard. Lucky  
numbers: 1, 8, 9, 28, 42, 47.

### PISCES (Feb. 19 – March 20)

This week you may find  
yourself going back over  
territory of the past sev-  
eral years. Now is the  
moment to achieve one  
final insight that you  
could take into the future. Lucky  
numbers: 4, 12, 13, 31, 33, 35.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Taurus winners  
with the luckiest number being 15.

## Did You Know...

**Flutter vision:** Butterflies can see ultraviolet patterns on  
flowers, invisible to human eyes, that help them find nectar.  
Some species also migrate remarkable distances, crossing vast  
landscapes each year on their seasonal journeys.

**Echo magic:** Ancient amphitheaters were built with curved  
designs and stone materials that carried voices across vast  
crowds. Even without modern equipment, their structure let  
every word and note ring out clearly.

**Berry bounce:** Fresh cranberries have a fun trick. If you  
drop one, it should bounce, showing it's nice and firm. This  
little test helps people pick the best berries for festive sauces,  
relishes, or chutneys at home.

**Billboard bans:** Some cities have taken down outdoor  
advertising altogether, removing giant signs from streets and  
buses. Supporters say these ads clutter public spaces, while  
critics argue they bring revenue and consumer choice.

**Green alarm:** That sweet smell of fresh-cut grass is actually  
a chemical distress call. When damaged, plants release airborne  
signals called green leaf volatiles (GLV). These warnings even  
attract helpful insects. Call it nature's version of a silent alarm.

## On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Jess. *Jess who?* Jess me and my  
shadow.

What only starts to work only when it's been fired? A rocket.

Some cats are great bowlers, such as alley cats.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong  
lane.

Teacher: "The plural of mouse is mice. What is the plural of  
baby?"  
Student: "Twins."

### Answers

**Trivia answers:** 1. Tree 2. Evergreen 3. Dewey  
4. Mount Vesuvius 5. Gregory Maguire

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