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Everybody's Talking!

Dynamic façade: The Al Bahar Towers in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., feature a responsive shading system inspired by Islamic mashrabiya screens. Controlled by computers, hexagonal panels adjust to the sun's position, reducing heat and glare while improving energy efficiency. The screens, positioned outside the buildings, allow for naturally tinted glass that enhances lighting and views while lowering air conditioning needs. Combining cultural heritage with advanced engineering, this design earned the towers an innovation award for sustainability. The façade shows how smart architecture blends tradition and technology to create beauty and function, even in harsh desert environments.

Sharing sheds: Men's Sheds are transforming the humble shed into hubs of community, connection, and creativity. These shared spaces, supported by the United Kingdom Men's Sheds Association, aim to combat loneliness by bringing men together to work on meaningful projects, share skills, and foster friendships. This year's "Shed of the Year" finalists showcase diverse initiatives, from crafting public transportation solutions to repurposing old buildings into workshops. These efforts not only benefit the men involved but also strengthen local communities. With every project, the movement proves that shared purpose and teamwork can turn simple spaces into powerful tools for change.

Pricey rice: Kinmemai Premium, crafted by Japan's Toyo Rice Corporation, is the world's most expensive rice, priced at ¥11,304 (JPY) per kilogram. Holding a Guinness World Record, this rice features hand-selected grains from top varieties, carefully flavor-aged for six months, creating a rich taste and a jewel-like appearance. Known for its superior nutritional profile, this rice contains six times the immune-boosting lipopolysaccharides of regular rice, along with more fiber and vitamins. Its unique polishing process removes only the waxy layer, making it rinse-free and easy to prepare. Kinmemai Premium proves that something as simple as rice can be a delicacy.

Moss makeover: A Dutch startup company is using everyday moss to transform what is often dull-looking concrete into eco-friendly expanses of green with unique visual appeal. The company uses a "bioreceptive" concrete that encourages moss to thrive without damaging the walls or support beams of buildings, bridges, and other structures. Moss not only absorbs CO2 and purifies air and water, it also provides habitat for wildlife, shields surfaces from weather damage, requires minimal upkeep, and even discourages graffiti. Now refining its innovation by using recycled materials, the company is collaborating to "green-up" unique projects like wind turbine bases. Moss is the star of this simple solution that blends beauty and sustainability.

Everybody's Talking!

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Quoteable Quotes

"If you're not making mistakes, then you're not making decisions."
—Catherine Cook

"The need for fellowship is as deep as the need for food."
—Joshua Liebman

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Trivia

- Does a diamond carat measure weight, cut, or shine?
 - Aslan is an elephant in the *Chronicles of Narnia*—T/F?
 - Prague is the capital of what country?
 - This music form is a mix of samba and jazz.
 - Which part of the human body has the thinnest skin?
- (Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Your Weekly Horoscopes

ARIES (March 20 - April 19)
 Did you acknowledge last week that you may need to deal with an old issue in your relationship? How are things going now? What might you need to do next? Lucky numbers: 11, 18, 19, 20, 22, 42.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
 Your tact and diplomacy may be highlighted at midweek. If others ask you to help bring a matter to a conclusion, you might want to seriously consider doing so. Lucky numbers: 12, 14, 29, 31, 38, 42.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
 The Taurus-born usually value stability. Midweek you may get an opportunity to shake things up. You might at least consider it, rather than automatically rejecting it. Lucky numbers: 1, 18, 23, 27, 30, 42.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 What do you need to let go of? The energy this week encourages you to release what no longer serves you. Remember the phrase, "When one door closes, another opens." Lucky numbers: 4, 6, 14, 17, 23, 27.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
 For the next few weeks, you may feel that you are taking one step forward and two steps backward. Wait it out. The situation might return to normal soon. Lucky numbers: 8, 18, 22, 32, 43, 46.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 For the next few weeks, be careful in what you say, in order to avoid accidentally putting your foot in your mouth. Showing restraint now could benefit you later. Lucky numbers: 14, 17, 20, 24, 31, 40.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)
 Your ability to communicate with others may run into obstacles for the next few weeks. Be aware of this and minimize interactions, where you can, until this passes. Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 10, 21, 38, 42.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
 Midweek may be a good time to contemplate what is working in your life and what is not. What might you need to begin and what do you think you need to end? Lucky numbers: 3, 5, 16, 22, 44, 45.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 At the beginning of the week, your Leo energy may naturally attract others to you. So, if you need assistance, ask for it. But remember to be fair in your request. Lucky numbers: 9, 13, 17, 25, 29, 47.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 Aquarians often focus on humanitarian causes, but have trouble connecting with individuals. This week may offer a chance to show a more heart-centered approach. Lucky numbers: 7, 13, 36, 41, 44, 46.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
 This may be a good week to bring projects to completion and gain the results. Conversely, if there are ideas that are no longer viable, they should be pruned out. Lucky numbers: 5, 6, 8, 14, 20, 21.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)
 Completing a task may require a lot of hard work from you at midweek. While this may be frustrating now, the eventual outcome could be well worth the effort. Lucky numbers: 2, 6, 7, 10, 32, 35.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Leo winners with the luckiest number being 9.

Did You Know...

- Star steps:** The famous celebrity footprints at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California (U.S.), began by accident in 1927, when actress Norma Talmadge stepped into wet cement. Since then, this tradition has truly left its mark.
- Knight's honor:** Maryland (U.S.) stands out with jousting as its official state sport. This medieval activity, complete with lances and charging horses, reflects the state's unique historical pride and love for traditional competition.
- Surprise comeback:** After removal, tonsils can partially grow back if a bit of tissue remains behind. This leftover tissue has the potential to regenerate, although not necessarily to their original size.
- Single-handed:** Early mechanical clocks used just one hand to tell time. For centuries, tower clocks showed only the hour or quarter-hour, as daily life moved at a slower pace, and this simple design avoided confusion from extra hands.
- Futon roll:** Japanese police have a unique approach to handling aggression. Instead of force, officers often wrap unruly individuals in large futons, rolling them up like a burrito to safely transport them to the station for a cooldown.

On the Lighter Side

Bartender to a brain: "I'm not serving you, you're already out of your head."
 Census taker: "How many people work in your factory?"
 Factory owner: "I'd say one out of 10."
 Knock! Knock! Who's there? Farmer. Farmer who? I hope I get a dog farmer birthday.
 How does a family of turnips travel across the country?
 In Rutabagos.
 On the steps of the New York Public Library, a woman was reading between the lions.

Answers
 Republic 4. Bossa nova 5. Eyelid
Trivia answers: 1. Weight 2. False, a lion 3. Czech
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