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Est. 1988

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Everybody's Talking!

**Snap-together homes:** A Belgium-based company, Gablok, has created an innovative do-it-yourself home-building kit inspired by LEGO bricks. The system uses insulated wooden blocks made from compressed wood and resin to form a home's structure, requiring no construction expertise or adhesives. Assembly is simple, involving just a screwdriver, ladder, and clear instructions, with some homes built in under a week. While the kit covers the structural shell, foundations and finishing are additional. The design also allows homeowners to easily expand or reconfigure their living spaces, adding flexibility.

**Ancient settlement:** Skara Brae, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a remarkably preserved Stone Age village in the Orkney Islands, Scotland, that offers a fascinating glimpse into prehistoric life. Dating back over 5,000 years, the site was revealed by a powerful storm in 1850 after being buried beneath sand dunes for centuries. Its stone-built dwellings, linked by paved alleys, were ingeniously designed with built-in furniture crafted from local stone, due to the absence of trees. The residents relied on cattle, sheep, and shellfish for sustenance and adorned themselves with beads and pendants fashioned from animal bones and teeth. Games using dice suggest a lively community spirit.

**Endless waves:** In Puerto Malabrigo, Peru, Chicama boasts the world's longest surfable wave, captivating surfers with its unparalleled length and perfection. This famed point break delivers thrilling rides stretching up to 2.5 miles (4 km), with five distinct sections, each offering unique challenges and speeds. The wave, sculpted by a perfectly positioned headland, forms under the influence of southern swells and offshore winds. While the ride is exhilarating, the physical demands are immense, as paddling back to the lineup is impractical. Instead, surfers return by walking or taking a boat. With its mesmerizing rhythm of endless waves, Chicama is a must-visit for those chasing the ultimate surfing experience.

**Subterranean serenity:** Below the surface of London, England, AIRE Baths London offers an immersive wellness experience infused with history. Built under the former home of *Peter Pan* author J.M. Barrie, this candle-lit spa invites visitors to soak in thermal pools inspired by ancient Greek and Roman rituals. From steaming hot baths to icy plunges, each pool offers a unique sensation, while a salt bath mimics the buoyancy of the Dead Sea. Guests can even indulge in a soak infused with antioxidant-rich wine. Vaulted brick ceilings and dim lighting create a tranquil retreat from the city above. Even Peter Pan himself might have paused his adventures for a soak in these enchanted waters.

Quoteable Quotes

"It's all a question of imagination. Our responsibility begins with the power to imagine."

—Haruki Murakami

"The finest kind of friendship is between people who expect a great deal of each other but never ask it."

— Sylvia Bremer

What's Happening

Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Commission – Honor a veteran by having their name engraved on "THE LINE" in the Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Park by going to: HonoredMission.org. This is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the experiences and sacrifices of our United States veterans, active-duty military and first responders from across this great nation. Visit the Memorial Park at 1776 Freedom Blvd., Conroe

Saturday Family Movies & Fun – Activities for the whole family in the Community Room on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Games for adults, origami or other activities for teens and games and other fun for kids. Movies, rated G to PG, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Malcolm Purvis Library, 510 Melton St., Magnolia.

Mahjong - All day on Aug. 8. Mahjong is a social and strategic tile-based game that offers a fun and engaging experience for players of all levels. Participants gather to enjoy friendly competition, challenge their skills and connect with others in the community. Free. Tomball Community Center, 221 Market St., Tomball.

BYOB Ceramic Classes - Need a fresh date night or girls' night out idea? Check out Mud and Merlot's BYOB ceramic class! Mud and Merlot is open three weeknights and all weekend long, to fit your busy schedule. Visit MudAndMerlot.net for more info.

Lake Conroe Centennial Lions Club Car Show - Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Walden Yacht Club's parking lot, 13101 Melville Drive, Montgomery. Trophies, music, 50/50 drawings and a raffle. Registration is \$35 - just drive in, park and visit the desk. For more info call Jan Jessen, 936-443-5672. Free, open to the public and fun!

Trivia

1. Bumble bees don't make honey—T/F?

2. She was the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

3. The first crossword puzzle was published in 1913, 1933, or 1953?

4. Who created the cartoon dog Snoopy?

5. The Edsel car was manufactured by General Motors, Ford, or Volkswagen?

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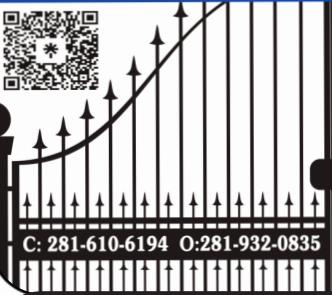

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## Your Weekly Horoscope

### ARIES

(March 20 – April 19)



Relationships may be a focus for you this week. Be aware of how the memories of an old issue could be impacting you now in your relationships.

Think through why. Lucky numbers: 4, 5, 17, 26, 27, 40.

### TAURUS

(April 20 – May 20)



Loyalty is an important value for Taurus. This week, be on the lookout for any opportunities to work with people who are as loyal to you as you

are to them. Lucky numbers: 3, 15, 24, 37, 41, 47.

### GEMINI

(May 21 – June 20)



Geminis are undergoing a long transition. For the next few weeks, focus on nurturing yourself and others. This may be awkward, but could be beneficial for you. Lucky numbers: 16, 21, 28, 35, 43, 46.

### CANCER

(June 21 – July 22)



For the next few weeks, your focus may be on home and family. This might be a good time to make any needed changes, such as addressing communication issues. Lucky numbers: 1, 7, 18, 29, 32, 38.

### LEO

(July 23 – Aug. 22)



At midweek, your Leo sun could shine brightly. This may be a good time to present ideas for which you need more support, and your persona may make a difference. Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 13, 17, 33, 35.

### VIRGO

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)



For the next six months, you may find yourself facing an old emotional wound. Although difficult, this could offer an opportunity to see how well it has healed. Lucky numbers: 9, 12, 14, 25, 31, 47.

### LIBRA

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)



Your ability to achieve a balance with others may be heightened early in the week. If you are experiencing a relationship issue, now might be a good time to address it. Lucky numbers: 5, 10, 12, 27, 31, 37.

### SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)



You may feel at midweek that you are at a turning point, but are not sure which way to go. Lean into your intuition and look for information that could help you decide. Lucky numbers: 6, 11, 16, 20, 27, 48.

### SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)



Sagittarians often focus on the big picture. For the next few weeks, however, it may be more helpful to shift to the small circle of your personal relationships. Lucky numbers: 7, 12, 28, 33, 40, 41.

### CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)



Is there an emotional wound that you refuse to see, even as it is creating conflict for you? It would be helpful not to resist the whispers of your higher self. Lucky numbers: 16, 17, 19, 27, 36, 41.

### AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)



Over the next few weeks, you may hit a snag in your relationship. Having a heartfelt discussion could be helpful about what adjustments might need to be made. Lucky numbers: 8, 11, 17, 21, 38, 39.

### PISCES

(Feb. 19 – March 20)



What endeavor are you passionate about nurturing into fruition? The next month may be a good time to start manifesting it. Do so in alignment with your highest values. Lucky numbers: 10, 13, 18, 25, 28, 34.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Pisces winners with the luckiest number being 34.

## Did You Know...

**Dotted genius:** At just 15, Louis Braille invented the Braille system by simplifying an earlier writing method used by the French military. His six-dot code became universal, allowing blind readers to navigate the world through touch.

**Selfless squirrels:** Red squirrels show remarkable care by adopting orphaned relatives, ensuring their shared genes live on. Even when resources are limited, they make room for family, showing one way that nature balances survival with generosity.

**Biodiversity leader:** Earth's most biodiverse country, Brazil set aside vast protected areas to safeguard ecosystems. The country used national strategies and conservation efforts to preserve countless species and promote sustainable practices.

**Isolated life:** Tristan da Cunha is the most remote, inhabited place on Earth, accessible by a lengthy sea voyage. This tiny, South Atlantic Ocean farming community rests on a volcanic island, surrounded by rugged terrain and diverse wildlife.

**Puzzle twist:** When Ernő Rubik scrambled his newly invented Rubik's Cube, he had no idea how to solve it. First it was a design experiment, then a perplexing challenge. When he cracked the code a month later, the beloved puzzle was born.

## On the Lighter Side

Artificial snow produces snow flakes.

I suffered for months with this ringing in my ears until I got an unlisted ear.

Rich: "Why do you work so hard?"  
Mitch: "I'm too nervous to steal."

Knock! Knock! Who's there? Mint. Mint who? I mint to tell you sooner that I was coming over.

Why do people dip bread into melted cheese? Because they have fonduing it!

### Answers

Trivia answers: 1. False 2. Margaret Thatcher 3. 1913 4. Charles Schultz 5. Ford

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