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Vol. 2 No. 11 March 16, 2026

Everybody's Talking

Restaurant rankings: The famous Michelin Guide, now a global authority on fine dining, began as something far removed from food. In rural France, the Michelin brothers were looking for ways to get more people driving, which would eventually boost demand for their tires. They launched a small book filled with practical tips for travellers, such as where to refuel, make repairs, or stop for a meal. Over time, its listings of restaurants gained influence, and the company started sending anonymous inspectors to evaluate quality. The star system was created, ranking restaurants from "worth a stop" to "worth a journey." Today, earning a Michelin star can transform a restaurant's future overnight.

Barrier innovation: Roads everywhere face the challenge of keeping drivers safe, and one solution gaining attention is the rolling barrier guardrail. Unlike fixed rails that can cause severe impacts, this design uses rotating cylinders that absorb impact and guide vehicles forward rather than letting them rebound into traffic or leave the roadway. The cylinders are made from durable materials, strong enough to handle weather while remaining effective for long periods. Though installation may cost more at first, reduced crash damage and lower medical costs make them worthwhile in the long run. Adaptable to highways, bridges, and sharp curves, these guardrails show how practical design can help reduce risks on busy roads.

Failure archive: In Edinburgh, Scotland, an unusual library is devoted not to great successes but to the many blunders of finance. The "Library of Mistakes" was launched by local financiers and academics who strongly believed that studying past failures could help prevent future ones. Inside, shelves are filled with detailed accounts of collapsed banks, scams, and infamous frauds. Visitors also find reminders of episodes like tulip mania, Ponzi schemes, and reckless investments that once brought institutions to their knees. The setting is modest but ambitious, and the library aims to become a leading archive of notable business missteps worldwide. The collection shows how even disasters ultimately can become knowledge.

Octopus town: In Jervis Bay, Australia, scientists found a gathering of gloomy octopuses living close together instead of alone. The octopuses created dens on the seafloor and interacted in ways that seemed more social than expected. Researchers observed both conflict and cooperation, suggesting the animals adjusted to living side by side. The area, nicknamed "Octlantis," formed naturally rather than around human-made objects, which surprised scientists. Some think the limited number of good hiding spots may explain the crowded conditions. While the reasons remain uncertain, the discovery shows these creatures are capable of more complex group living than once believed.

Quoteable Quotes

"I learned a long time ago the wisest thing I can do is be on my own side." —Maya Angelou
"You can't blame gravity for falling in love." —Albert Einstein

What's Happening

Austin Veterans Stand Down March 20, 2026, 10:00 am - 01:00 pm at Trinity Center 304 E. 7th Street, Austin. These events are designed to restore hope and dignity while connecting veterans with essential services and resources. Please visit www.mven.orgstand-down

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Trivia

1. Who is the donkey who lives in the Hundred Acre Wood?
2. It takes 40 gallons of ____ to make 1 gallon of maple syrup.
3. A pas de deux is a pastry, song, or dance for two?
4. Jim ____ was the lead singer of the band The Doors.
5. A hardy hole is found on a shoe—T/F?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 20 - April 19)

Your birthday month is a good time to review your accomplishments and establish new goals. This year may be the time to make plans to satisfy a spiritual longing. Lucky numbers: 8, 10, 18, 21, 39, 42.

TAURUS
(April 20 - May 20)

At week's end, you may feel very comfortable in your own skin. Can you use this confidence to expand beyond your normal boundaries and seize a new opportunity? Lucky numbers: 1, 26, 27, 35, 40, 45.

GEMINI
(May 21 - June 20)

For the past few weeks, you may have found that your usual quick and agile thinking process has been slowed and confused. That dynamic might begin to shift this week. Lucky numbers: 7, 10, 18, 29, 35, 39.

CANCER
(June 21 - July 22)

This week you may find yourself in a situation where you have big dreams but can't seem to implement them. Perhaps the cause is conflict about what you truly want? Lucky numbers: 4, 7, 15, 19, 29, 31.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 22)

This month may offer a boost of energy to support your natural optimism. Do you have an endeavour that could use this power, in order to achieve success? Lucky numbers: 5, 11, 26, 32, 45, 47.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

You may run into a midweek obstacle to your efforts. Rather than trying to break through the block, consider waiting a few days for the situation to change. Lucky numbers: 11, 12, 19, 31, 34, 44.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

It has been about six months since your birthday. Did you set new goals then? What progress have you made, and do your plans now need any adjustments? Lucky numbers: 15, 23, 38, 40, 44, 47.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

At the end of the week, you may find that your natural intuitive abilities are stymied. This could pass soon, so try to take a deep breath and wait a few days. Lucky numbers: 6, 7, 10, 28, 35, 47.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

For the past few weeks, you may have experienced issues with communication, your car, or electronic devices. Things could start to return to normal this week. Lucky numbers: 10, 16, 20, 35, 39, 41.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Usually Capricorns carefully consider the execution of their plans. For the next month, you may be impatient to be impulsive. How can you reconcile this conflict? Lucky numbers: 2, 3, 18, 34, 41, 45.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Aquarius individuals often seem to have a dispassionate demeanour. For a few weeks, you may be drawn to dramatic action. Be conscious of how to proceed. Lucky numbers: 12, 18, 19, 26, 31, 34.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 - March 20)

Early this week may be a good time to set new intentions toward your goals. However, you might want to wait a bit for things to settle before starting your efforts. Lucky numbers: 3, 4, 6, 15, 27, 40.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Taurus winners with the luckiest number being 27.

Did You Know...

Pricey purple: For centuries, purple almost never appeared on national flags, not because rulers disliked it, but because it was far too costly. Purple dye came from Mediterranean sea snails, making the colour so rare it was typically reserved only for royalty.

Whale songs: Humpback whales create long, flowing songs that travel through the ocean and spread from one group to another. These tunes shift over time, showing how whales share and reshape their music much like a cultural tradition.

Heel ban: In Greece, sharp high heels are not welcome at ancient landmarks like the Acropolis or Parthenon. Officials banned them to prevent tiny cracks and scratches on fragile stone, while also reminding visitors that these historic sites need protection.

Moon bricks: Scientists are exploring how the moon's dusty surface could become building material for future bases. By testing volcanic powder on Earth, they've shown it might be possible to shape lunar dust into bricks strong enough for shelters in space.

Hiccup odds: Everyone knows the sudden jolt of a hiccup, but men are more likely than women to experience them, and they generally last longer in men. While short bursts usually fade, stubborn cases sometimes need extra care to settle down.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Felix. *Felix who?* Felix my ice cream again, he's in trouble.

What did the tornado say to the sports driver? "Want to go for a spin?"

You can eat a sandwich any time of day. It's always a square meal.

What would life be like if there were no hypothetical questions?

Mama fish: "Don't bite that hook!"
Baby fish: "Why not?"
Mama fish: "You're too young to face the reel world."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. Eeyore 2. Sap 3. Dance 4. Morrison 5. False, on an arrival

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