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Reader of the Month
Sawyer Schmidt from Edmonton

Coffee News Fun Reading. Serious Advertising.

Everybody's Talking

Goat story: A pesky little bylaw that prevents farm animals from being kept in town isn't stopping Albert and Yoka Hoogendoorn from housing a goat on their property in Ingersoll, Ontario (Canada). The goat, named Bob, is getting elderly and is part of the Hoogendoorn family. When the couple moved into town from their farm, they brought Bob with them. Albert wanted to give their horned pet a nice home, so he built Bob a shed in the backyard, complete with heat and a salt lick. The neighbours get a kick out of seeing Albert and Yoka take Bob for walks. So far no one has complained to the authorities, so the bylaw has not been an issue.

Small town: There are small towns, and then there are really small towns. One such place is Hum, Istria, Croatia, a tiny, hilltop collection of medieval residences that is thought to be the smallest town in the world. At least that's what locals are using as a claim to fame. The population of Hum is somewhere between 20 and 30. It has two streets, a bell tower, a church, and a restaurant. The view is fantastic and the serenity palatable. Brick housing sits along cobblestone streets decorated with colourful flower pots. Busy in the tourist season, Hum is a tranquil place for townfolk to live when things quiet down for the winter.

Bugging the police: A Japanese man had a few things he wanted to say to staff members at the Saitama Prefectural Police department. In fact, when someone answered the phone, the 67-year-old man yelled that they should all be fired, amongst other things. He did so 2,060 times in a nine-day period. The calls, which averaged about one every six minutes, were taking up so much of the police department's time that something had to be done. Police went to his home and arrested him for preventing them from doing their jobs. His persistent phoning could have interfered with emergency calls to which police needed to respond.

Two owners: An uninhabited island in the Bidasoa River, which flows between Irun, Spain, and Hendaye, France, is quite small. Only about 200 metres (656 ft.) long, it's a sliver in the river, a few metres from the mainland of each country. Called Pheasant Island, it has a unique ownership: for six months a year, it is ruled by Spain, and for the other six months, it is ruled by France. Centuries ago, the countries struck the deal to end a long war. To honour the agreement, a monument was built in the middle of the island. Today, only a few visitors are allowed there and only for rare occasions, such as the change-of-ownership ceremony twice a year.

Quoteable Quotes

"Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also."

—Carl Jung

"If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word."

—Margaret Atwood

What's Happening

Ongoing - Fresh Community Market Whitecourt District Chamber of Commerce Presents: The Fresh Community Market. Held each Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm until September 23, 2023. For more information, please visit the Whitecourt Chamber of Commerce's website.

Ongoing - Whitecourt Farmers' Market The 2023 Farmers' Market Season will run on Tuesdays from 11am to 2pm until October 3, 2023. For more information on upcoming markets, follow the Whitecourt Farmers Market group on Facebook.

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