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Everybody's Talking

Hot coffee: Most people like their lattes creamy and sweet, but not the customers of a coffee shop located in the city of Ganzhou in China's Jiangxi Province. That's where a new taste is tingling customers' senses: the taste of chili! The Jingshi Coffee Cafe decided to try something new as a nod to the area's spicy cuisine. The baristas infuse the iced "Spicy Latte" with dried chili. Once that's done, they sprinkle a little chili powder on top. While this sounds like an extremely spicy beverage, some think it's actually quite pleasant and not too hot. However, people in the area are accustomed to hot food, so buyer beware!

Tracking devices: Talk about having a lot of nerve! A Chinese woman, known as Zhu, owns a trucking company in Xiangyang in Hubei province. She didn't want to risk her trucks being pulled over by police and given fines for a variety of issues. In an attempt to prevent this, she went online and bought six GPS trackers, which she personally installed on police cars parked at the local police station. Unfortunately for Zhu, the cops discovered the little black boxes, and soon tracked the SIM cards. These led them directly to the guilty party. Her punishment was 500 Yuan (CNY) and eight days of detention.

Different pet: Dogs and cats are the most typical animals to keep as pets, but not for Tiffany Pierre and Gregory Guiot, a couple in the Wallonia region of Belgium. They have a pet boar. The couple loves Oscar, as they call him, but didn't actually plan to have the animal as a pet. Rather, Guiot found him in the woods when he was only a wee piglet. Feeling sorry for the creature, Guiot brought him home, intending to find an animal shelter. Over a year later, Oscar weighs 80 kilograms (176 lbs.) and is still with them. He is house-trained, sleeps on his own couch, and is, indeed, part of the family.

Coin-operated charm: In the heart of Queens, New York (U.S.), lies a unique dwelling that once buzzed with the hum of washing machines and dryers. Sampson Dahl now calls this former laundromat home, where he curates a vibrant community space. Adorned with eclectic finds from his set design job, the 800-square-foot (75-sq.-m) abode doubles as an arts venue. Friends and neighbours frequent the front room, transformed into a stage and salon for gatherings that range from musical performances to painting nights. Unsuspecting passersby, lured by the façade's old awning, occasionally wander into Dahl's unconventional living space, mistaking it for an actual laundromat.

Quoteable Quotes

"Friends, they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another's dreams." —Henry David Thoreau

"Be patient where you sit in the dark. The dawn is coming." —Rumi

What's Happening

August Long Weekend - Aqua Days Held on the August Heritage Day long weekend at Kinsoo Beach, Aqua Days offers something for each and every member of the family, including balloon animals, a vendor alley, live entertainment and fireworks. Check www.coldlake.com for more info.

August 30 31 - Feast at the Beach Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce brings a family-friendly, food and music filled festival to the shores of Cold Lake. Attendees have a range of food trucks and beer gardens to choose from as well as access to the Kid Zone. Visit feastatthebeach.ca

July 24 - Chili Cook Off Join Two Hills Bike Week and FCSS for a chili cook off and Tex-Mex Block Party. Taking place on Mainstreet in Two Hills, Alberta from 3:00-6:00pm. For more info call 780-657-3540 or 587-280-2455.

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Trivia

1. Drivers in Japan drive on the left side of the road—T/F?
2. Did boxing become an Olympic sport in 1900, 1904, or 1916?
3. An arctophile collects yo-yos, teddy bears, or trains?
4. Richard Bachman is the pen name of horror writer _____.
5. In which musical is the Kit Kat Club set?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Walter Heuvingh, Publisher
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