

Escape bad news, move to moon

Many citizens of the world are weary of the war and strife that seem to be consuming the news, and about 200,000 of them have already signed up to put it all in the rear-view mirror by becoming citizens of Asgardia. This coming-soon colony on the moon is led by Igor Ashurbeyli, a Russian engineer, computer scientist and businessman who was inaugurated as its leader June 25 in Vienna. Asgardia's parliament plans to set up "space arks" with artificial gravity in the next 10 to 15 years, where its projected 150 million citizens can live permanently, Reuters reports, and Ashurbeyli hopes settlement on the moon will be complete within 25 years.

Asgardia is named after Asgard, a "world in the sky" in Norse mythology. Its leaders hope to attract a population from among the "most creative" in humanity, perhaps using

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

"IQ tests," according to Ashurbeyli. Best of all: For the time being, becoming a citizen online is free.

OH, FUDGE
KCCI TV in Des Moines, Iowa, reported June 27 the loss of a tractor-trailer load of chocolate when the truck caught fire near Dexter, Iowa. The trailer, full of chocolate from Hershey, Penn., was west-bound when it experienced brake problems that caused it to ignite. The driver pulled off and was able to detach the trailer from the cab before it caught fire. No injuries were reported, except to the chocolate, which was a total loss.

WEIRD FOOD
Minor league baseball teams come up with some wacky promotional ideas, and "Sugar Rush Night" at

the Erie (Pennsylvania) SeaWolves game June 23 didn't disappoint. WNEP TV noted one highlight was the cotton candy hot dog: a wiener nestled in a cloud of cotton candy, then sprinkled with Nerds candies.

Brave SeaWolves fans could top off the meal with a cotton candy ball: ice cream covered with sprinkles and enclosed in cotton candy. Maybe the sugar rush was too much for the players; they lost 5-3 to the Altoona Curve.

PERSPECTIVE
An 82-year-old Japanese man who has lived as a naked "hermit" on a deserted island near Taiwan since 1989 has been forced to return to Japan. Masafumi Nagasaki made his way to Sotobanari Island 29 years ago and told Reuters in 2012 he

wished to die there.

"Finding a place to die is an important thing to do," Nagasaki said, "and I've decided here is the place for me." Earlier reports indicated he at one time had a wife and two children, and he ran a hostess club in Niigata, Japan. "In civilization people treated me like an idiot and made me feel like one. On this island I don't feel like that," he said. Nagasaki explained that at first he wore clothes on the island, but a typhoon destroyed his belongings.

Alvaro Cerezo, who documents the stories of island castaways, told News.com/au that in April, authorities removed Nagasaki from the island and placed him in government housing in Ishigaki, Japan, because he was ill and weak. "They took him back to civilization and that's it," Cerezo said. "They won't allow him to return."

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME
-- Early on June 26, a man who had been sleeping on the South Miami Avenue bridge over the Miami River got a rude awakening as the drawbridge started to raise to allow a boat to pass underneath. Witness Khadijah Andrews had seen the man as she was walking to an early yoga class, she told WSVN TV, and she looked for him when the bridge began rising.

Fortunately, he woke up after sliding down a ways and was able to hold on until the bridge was lowered. Andrews said the unnamed man walked away with no apparent injuries: "You think you're about to watch a man lose his life. It's just terrifying. I never want to see that again."

Send your weird news items with subject line WEIRD NEWS to WeirdNewsTips@amuniversity.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, county meetings are held at the Warren County Administrative Building located at 201 Locust Street and city meetings are held at City Hall located at 101 E. Main Street.

TUESDAY, JULY 17

The county Budget and Finance Committee will meet at 4 p.m. to consider proposed budgets for fiscal year 2018-19.

The city Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. to consider donation requests from nonprofit and civic organizations for fiscal year 2018-19.


Standard

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The first-place awards were for makeup and appearance, headline writing, news photo and humor column. Margaret Hobbs took the best news photo of tornado damage in Irving College. Seth Wright wrote the headlines and was key in makeup and design. Duane Sherrill wrote the humor column about water balloons.

Among other awards, Jeffery Simmons earned second place for sports coverage.

"Our newspaper staff is dedicated to providing reliable, accurate information to the community," said publisher Patricia Zechman. "The awards are nice and always enjoyable to receive, but what's satisfying more than anything else is writing fact-based stories so our readers know when they are reading the *Standard* we are a news source they can trust."




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