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24 Hours Without Backflow Prevention

By DAVE STIMPSON

The sun rose over the bustling city of Rivertown, casting its golden rays upon a scene of unsuspecting citizens beginning their day. As the clock struck 7 AM, a subtle ripple of disturbance passed through the public water systems, a foreshadowing of the chaos that was about to unfold.

Unknown to the residents, a sinister plot had been set in motion the night before. Backflow preventers, those unassuming yet crucial guardians of water purity, had mysteriously vanished from the city's plumbing infrastructure. This seemingly innocuous disappearance would soon unleash a torrent of unprecedented events.

At first, the day seemed like any other. People showered, brushed their teeth, and turned on their faucets to fill their coffee makers. But as the hours ticked by, whispers of odd-tasting water began to spread like wildfire. Residents reported a strange metallic tang, while others swore they detected a faint scent of chemicals in their morning cup of tea.

Panic rippled through the community as more and more people began to experience the unsettling side effects of the missing backflow preventers. Doctors' offices were flooded with patients complaining of nausea, headaches, and gastrointestinal discomfort. The city's emergency rooms filled with cases of mysterious ailments, and concerned parents rushed their children to the hospital, fearing the worst.

Outside, chaos reigned as reports of contaminated water spread. Cafes and restaurants shuttered their doors, unable to serve tainted beverages or cook with potentially hazardous water. The streets were lined with frustrated residents, demanding answers from bewildered city officials who were scrambling to comprehend the situation themselves.

As the crisis deepened, the environmental impact became painfully clear. Fish in the once-pristine river that ran through the heart of Rivertown began to float lifelessly to the surface. Algae blooms erupted, covering the water's surface in an ominous green hue. The absence of backflow preventers had allowed pollutants from industrial facilities to infiltrate the water supply, devastating aquatic life and leaving an indelible scar on the ecosystem.

Amidst the chaos, an unlikely hero emerged. Dr. Emily Carter, a brilliant hydrologist, had been researching water systems for years and had a hunch that the sudden water issues were linked to the missing backflow preventers. Racing against time, she rallied a team of scientists and engineers to analyze the situation and devise a solution.

Through sleepless nights and relentless dedication, Dr. Carter's team developed makeshift backflow preventers using readily available materials. They distributed these makeshift devices to homes and businesses, providing a glimmer of hope in a dire situation. Slowly but surely, the situation began to stabilize as the makeshift preventers helped restore the integrity of the water supply.

The crisis served as a wake-up call for Rivertown and the entire nation. The importance of backflow preventers was underscored as never before, and efforts were redoubled to ensure their proper installation and maintenance. Dr. Carter's heroic efforts earned her recognition and praise, but she knew that the true heroes were the people who had weathered the storm and come together to overcome adversity.

As the sun set on that fateful day, Rivertown stood on the brink of recovery. The waters began to clear, and the city united in a collective sigh of relief. The missing backflow preventers had taught a powerful lesson that the invisible protectors of water quality were not to be taken for granted. And so, the city vowed to cherish and safeguard its most precious resource, ensuring that the day the waters merged would remain a cautionary tale of the past.

Reuters

International Moose Count Underway

By BOB O'BOBSTON

The UN-sponsored International Moose Census got off to a flying start today with hopes for an increase in the worldwide moose population compared to last year's disapointing figures. Among the traditional early reporters were Egypt, returning figures of six moose, a twenty percent increase on 2011's figures of five, and Uruguay whose moose population remains stable at eleven.

According to Robbie McRobson, head of the UN Moose Preservation Council, worldwide moose numbers are expected to grow markedly on last year due to the traditional moose strongholds of Canada and the United States, with the larger developing moose ecologies also poised to make gains. The largest percentagege increase in moose will likely come from China'', says McRobson, The Chinese government has invested heavily in moose infrastructure over