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WashingtonCountyCoffeeNews@gmail.com Vol. 3 No. 12 May 19, 2025

Everybody's Talking!

Continental journey: A newly opened railway between Laos and China has unlocked a groundbreaking train route from Portugal to Singapore, now the world's longest train journey. Spanning two continents and 13 countries, this epic trek connects western and eastern hemispheres entirely by rail. The route offers passengers the chance to experience stunning landscapes and vibrant cities, including Paris, Moscow, and Bangkok, with overnight stops to explore. Although requiring meticulous planning, multiple visas, and occasional bus connections, this 11,650-mile (18,749 km) journey excites train enthusiasts. After all, no flight can match the charm of watching the world roll by, one track at a time.

Googly mischief: In Bend, Oregon (U.S.), public art sculptures are getting an unexpected upgrade. Giant googly eyes are mysteriously appearing on their surfaces. While many residents are charmed by the quirky additions, city officials are less amused, citing costly clean-up efforts to protect the sculptures from adhesive damage. Among the altered pieces are a family of deer, a towering sphere, and a steel horse, part of the city's renowned Roundabout Art Route. Though some see the googly eyes as playful interaction with public art, officials urge residents to avoid causing harm. For now, the googly prank has sparked laughs, debates, and a little extra personality for Bend's outdoor art displays, eyesores or not!

Chopstick transformation: A startup based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is giving discarded chopsticks a second life by turning them into durable materials for furniture and decor. ChopValue collects hundreds of thousands of chopsticks weekly from restaurants, preventing them from ending up in landfills. These chopsticks are processed in micro-factories, where they're pressed with a water-based resin to create a composite stronger than traditional wood. The resulting products, including tables and wall decor, are sold online and used in businesses across Canada and beyond. With countless chopsticks already transformed, the company proves that even small items can contribute to a sustainable future.

Snow artistry: Artist Simon Beck transforms snow-covered landscapes into stunning works of art using only snowshoes and a ski pole. A former mapmaker, he applies his engineering skills to meticulously plan intricate geometric designs, which require hours of walking and tens of thousands of steps to complete. While his creations are short-lived due to nature's whims, he sees beauty in their impermanence and captures them in photographs for the world to admire. From snowy mountains to sandy beaches, Beck embraces the challenges of working in constantly shifting environments. His art, blending creativity and endurance, proves that even the simplest tools can create something extraordinary, one step at a time.

Quoteable Quotes

"Attention is the beginning of devotion." —Mary Oliver
 "The hardest thing to do is to be true to yourself, especially when everybody is watching." —Dave Chappelle

What's Happening

Friend's of Peabody Library Puzzle Palooza Winners!

On April 26th, thirty-two enthusiastic puzzlers tackled a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in a thrilling 3 hour competition. 1st Place, "Jigsaw Junkies" (Skyla Libby, Michael Gray, Raela Alley, & Jordyn Balicki) finishing in 47 minutes! They took home a trophy and a \$100 grand prize. 2nd Place, Puzzle Posse" (Christina Cole, Anita Ingersoll, Tina Ingersoll, & Kylie Hinkley) with a time of 1 hour and 25 minutes. 3rd Place, "Fit Happens" (Marnie Crowley, Joan Pulkkinen, Kalli Pulkkinen, & Kathy Pulkkinen) - 3rd place with a time of 1 hour and 28 minutes. This couldn't have happened without our sponsors, A.C. Inc. and Moosabec Variety, thank you!

Barren View Golf Course Senior Scramble
4/30/2025

1) Clint Libby, Dennis Lewey, Greg Burr, Jeff Libby, Rick Bjornson -4
 2) Dawn Seavey, Lenny Espling, John Seavey, Jeff Anderson, Stan Fitzhenery (Putt Off) -3
 3) Ken Smith, Steve Cates, Walter Knight, Gordon Haynes, Tim Voy -3
 Pin #2 Lenny Espling 30'1" Pin #5 Lenny Espling 21'1"

Trivia

1. Iceland is considered part of Europe—T/F?
2. *Kind of Blue* is a best-selling album of this trumpet-playing jazz musician.
3. An amberjack is a type of _____ that is prized for its taste.
4. In what direction does the jet stream typically flow?
5. In the game of checkers, a player starts with how many pieces?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Recipe of the Week
Carolina Style Barbecue Sauce

One cup prepared yellow mustard (Rayes-Dundicott Hott!?)
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup light brown sugar
3/4 cup cider vinegar
1/4 cup water

2 tbsps chili powder
1 tsp each black pepper and white pepper
1/4 tsp cayenne
1/2 tsp salt
4 tbsps butter

Mix all except butter and simmer 30 minutes. Stir in butter and simmer for 10 more minutes. You could add liquid smoke if desired. Have a wonderful Summer BBO season!!

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Your Weekly Horoscopes

ARIES
(March 20 – April 19)

Aries easily start projects but can have difficulty finishing them. Saturn is moving into your sign for three years. This may offer opportunities to develop more endurance. Lucky numbers: 7, 14, 20, 21, 25, 28.

TAURUS
(April 20 – May 20)

Taurus-born tend to rely on concrete information from their senses. But this week, you may want to consider intuitive insights that you have received about an issue. Lucky numbers: 5, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38.

GEMINI
(May 21 – June 20)

Your birthday month is a good time to set goals for the next year. You may find that the options are a bit overwhelming. Evaluate the pros and cons before deciding. Lucky numbers: 4, 9, 16, 19, 36, 37.

CANCER
(June 21 – July 22)

The next month's astrological energy may grate on your nerves. Ramp up your self-care routine. Consider reducing how much information you regularly consume. Lucky numbers: 10, 15, 25, 27, 45, 48.

LEO
(July 23 – Aug. 22)

Your joyful, optimistic nature can be heightened midweek. Keep your eyes open for a new romantic opportunity, but understand that it may not have long-term potential. Lucky numbers: 2, 8, 10, 17, 28, 43.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

You may feel your grounded skill set is disrupted at midweek, causing you to feel disoriented. Take a deep breath and wait a few days for this dynamic to pass. Lucky numbers: 9, 11, 16, 21, 34, 37.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Some Libras prioritize the needs of others over their own. Saturn passing through Aries for the next three years could help you add grit to your relationship style. Lucky numbers: 11, 18, 19, 20, 22, 40.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

Others may reject your intuitive insights at the end of the week. For the sake of your relationship with them, resist any temptation to dig in your heels about the matter. Lucky numbers: 12, 17, 26, 28, 44, 46.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

It has been about six months since your birthday. If you set new goals then, do a check-in about what is working and what might need to change for you to stay on track. Lucky numbers: 3, 8, 11, 14, 21, 40.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Capricorns often prefer tried-and-true methods. But over the next month, consider adjusting your approach to include new ways to productively accomplish your goals. Lucky numbers: 6, 13, 25, 36, 39, 47.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

Can you articulate to yourself and others what you consider the mission statement for your life? This week may be a good time for a deep dive within about this question. Lucky numbers: 1, 15, 21, 31, 32, 43.

PISCES
(Feb. 19 – March 20)

This may be a week when you feel that you are taking two steps forward and one step back because the energies are not in sync. The dynamic could ease soon. Lucky numbers: 8, 10, 14, 22, 40, 45.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favor Leo winners with the luckiest number being 17.

Did You Know...

Brick genius: LEGO, named from the Danish words *leg* godt meaning “play well,” started in a carpenter’s workshop. Now a global toy giant, its iconic brick design encourages endless creativity and has been named the “Toy of the Century.”

Naked glory: Ancient Greek Olympic athletes competed nude, believing it enhanced performance. Runners abandoned loincloths, inspired by tales of speed. This tradition symbolized athleticism and simplicity in the original games.

Built strong: Bones are impressively durable, far out-performing steel in strength for their weight. A small cube of bone can bear the load of five pickup trucks, highlighting nature’s ability to create lightweight yet powerful structures.

Search origins: Before it became Google, the search engine had a quirky name: BackRub. It analyzed web “backlinks” to rank sites. By 1997, it was renamed after “googol,” a term for the number 1 followed by 100 zeroes.

Bouncer beginnings: Before his days as leader of the Catholic Church, Jorge Mario Bergoglio worked as a nightclub bouncer in Buenos Aires. The future Pope Francis handled rowdy crowds, a role that would later contrast with his compassionate, welcoming approach.

On the Lighter Side

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Sherlock. *Sherlock who?* Sherlock the door, see if I care!

What do Sir Galahad and Sir Lancelot watch at 6 o'clock? The knightly news.

Show me a famous surgeon, I'll show you a big operator.

I went to the doctor and told him a pair of bongos fell on my head. He said I had a slight percussion.

Wife: “Where are you going with your golf clubs?”
Husband: “To a tee party.”

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. True 2. Miles Davis 3. Fish 4. West to east 5. 12

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