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"News To Be Enjoyed
Over Coffee"

Washington
County Edition

207-659-2524

WashingtonCountyCoffeeNews@gmail.com Vol. 3 No. 41 December 8, 2025

Everybody's Talking!

Porcelain drift: The circular hall of the Bourse de Commerce in Paris, France, hosts a quietly strange display. Porcelain bowls drift across a pool and chime as they bump into one another. The work by artist Céleste Boursier-Mougenot fills the space with gentle sound, shaped by water and motion. There's no conductor, only subtle currents guiding the bowls and shaping the experience. The artist designed this piece to fit the architecture, turning the domed gallery into a kind of living instrument. As visitors sit near the basin, they become part of the installation by being still. With no beginning or end, the piece invites pause, letting randomness take the lead. It's a thoughtful installation where sound and movement naturally unfold.

Ambulance gift: In a generous move, India donated 88 ambulances to Sri Lanka, helping to build the country's first national emergency service. The fleet now provides free, round-the-clock transport, reaching patients in cities and remote areas. Many lives have been saved thanks to the quick response and skilled care provided along the way. Originally a goodwill gesture, these vehicles now play a key role in Sri Lanka's healthcare. They respond to strokes, cardiac events, road accidents, and other emergencies where every minute matters. Combined with additional public health gains, the ambulances have helped boost health outcomes nationwide. A single gift can keep making a difference, long after the ribbon is cut.

Nature break: Tucked along a scenic rail line in Nagano Prefecture, Japan, a quiet platform has become a surprise destination. Seiryu Miharashi Station isn't meant for commuting. It has no entrance, no buildings, and no roads. Instead, it invites train passengers to briefly step off and absorb the view: a winding river cutting through steep hills, with forested slopes that shift in color across the seasons. The platform includes lookout areas, but nothing more. There are no distractions and no hurry. Visitors often linger, taking photos or walking on nearby trails before continuing their journey. Its unexpected popularity has brought new life to local tourism. The station simply gives people a reason to pause and enjoy the view.

Heroic hound: A ranch dog named Buford emerged as an unexpected hero in the wild canyons near Seligman, Arizona (U.S.). After a young boy vanished into the desert, traversing nearly 7 miles (11.3 km), Buford somehow found him and led him toward safety. Search teams, navigating rugged ground and wildlife threats, were stunned to see the pair appear together at last. The boy explained he'd sheltered under a tree before deciding to follow the friendly canine. Rescuers called the outcome astonishing, given the risks and harsh desert conditions the boy faced. Unfazed by the attention, Buford returned home to hearty praise and a well-earned feast. Sometimes a dog's steady heart can lead the way when hope begins to fade.

Quoteable Quotes

"The meaning of life is to give life a meaning." —Viktor Frankl

"The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting
for our wits to grow sharper." —Eden Phillpotts

What's Happening

UMaine Extension to Offer Farm Succession Planning

The Cooperative Extension will offer an online "Set Your Farm's Future on the Right Path," a six month farm succession planning group, on the second Monday of each month from December 8 through May 11. The virtual sessions meet online from 7-8:30 p.m. Participants will engage in goal-setting and create individualized timelines with guidance from UMaine Extension's Farm Coaching Program. Share experiences and solutions in a collaborative space to build clarity and confidence in the succession planning process. The program is free, however, registration is required. Contact Leslie Forstadt at 207.581.3487 and leslie.forstadt@maine.edu or go to webpage <https://umaine-extension.formtitan.com/ftp/project/events?eventid=a1cUy0000044N6z>

Upper Machias Bay Master Plan: Public Meeting #3

Wednesday, December 10th, 5:30-8pm at the Pellon Center 90 Main St. Machias. Be a part of planning for a healthy, resilient, and prosperous future for the Upper Machias Bay. Join us for presentations + discussions on downtown flooding, share your thoughts, questions, and concerns. Dinner & childcare will be provided! This is the 3rd in a series of public meetings for this project. Please Register/RSVP @ <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8kmm9cd>

Trivia

1. A peninsula, neck, or isthmus is narrow land connecting two larger masses.
2. France had three major revolutions—T/F?
3. What does heat measurement BTU mean?
4. This artist painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling.
5. A formation of rock on the top of hills is a tor, tumble, or butte?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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