

The Courier

August 3, 2022
Volume 22 Number 45



Kiwanian of the Month

Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines - Ocean City President **Tim Lund** (left) chose longtime member **Lynne McAllorum** (right) as the June 2022 Kiwanian of the month. Lynn has served as Membership chair and Guest Speakers chair, and can be found working behind the scenes volunteering for many of the Kiwanis fundraising events and community service projects.



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A message from OPA President Colette Horn

Bicycle safety

A bicycle boom hit many parts of the world during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with scores of people turning to their bikes to stay active.

With more cyclists on the road, however, there must also be more awareness about safe ways to share the road with motorists.

Patti Stevens, co-chair of the Worcester County Bike and Pedestrian Coalition, said both bicyclists and drivers need to be aware of each other. She pointed to a Maryland State Highway campaign called "Share the Road Safely."

Tips for drivers include:

- It is illegal to text and use handheld devices while driving. Keep your eyes on the road!

- Expect bicyclists on the road at all times of day and night and all types of weather.

- Yield the right-of-way to bicyclists when turning right.

- Allow three feet between your ve-

hicle and the bike when passing, it's the law!

- Do not pass a bicyclist if you are going to turn right immediately afterwards.

- Bicycles may use the whole lane on roads with a posted speed limit of 50 mph or lower where there is no shoulder or if the travel lane is narrow. Bicyclists traveling on roads with a posted speed limit greater than 50 mph must use the shoulder unless specifically prohibited.

- When traveling behind a bicyclist, allow more space than when following a motor vehicle to allow additional time to react to their stops or turns.

- Look for bicyclists before opening car doors into the lane of traffic.

- Watch and slow down for children on bicycles. Be especially alert in school zones, near playgrounds, and in residential areas.

- For your safety and everyone sharing the road with you, always use turn signals. Bicyclists are depending on you to signal your intent.



Tips for bicyclists include:

- Ride defensively! Be aware of your surroundings and expect the unexpected. Watch for cars pulling out of driveways. Stay alert for road hazards such as potholes, drainage grates and wet leaves.

- Under Maryland law, bicyclists, including children, have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.

- Maryland law prohibits using headphones (ear buds) and hand-carrying objects while on a bicycle.

- Do not attach yourself to any vehicle on a roadway. Towing or clinging is against the law.

- Use hand signals when turning or

stopping to let motorists know your intentions.

- Make yourself visible and heard day or night. Wear bright and reflective gear and equip your bike with reflectors, lights and a bell or horn.

- Only ride on sidewalks where it is allowed by local ordinance.

- Stay alert, avoid distractions, and keep both hands on the handlebars while cycling.

- Use marked bike lanes when available and it is safe to do so.

- Ride with traffic on the right side of the road.

please see **safety** on page 15



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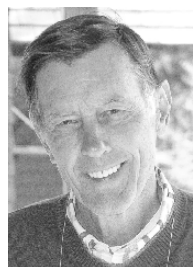



Commentary

Geese: YES; Kids NO

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

Is anyone surprised that 150 or so youngsters participating in a fishing contest at the Ocean Pines south gate pond might result in a few lines caught on tree limbs, some trash to collect, or even a misplaced fish hook?



Apparently, the OPA Environment & Natural Assets Committee is not only surprised, they are outraged.

Chaired by Sharon Santacroce, the committee said the children's event "irreparably harmed local wildlife," according to a front-page article in the Bayside Gazette.

The over-the-top rhetoric did not stop there. Santacroce also said, "We are even questioning whether this pond should be used for recreational purposes."

Unbelievable. Maybe the Board of Directors should question whether this committee should be disbanded.



Jack Barnes, a member of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club, wrote, "The Anglers Club is not denying there were some issues which can happen when over 150 youth from ages 4-16 participate in the June and July events. This was the first time in over 20 years of hosting these events that there was a complaint. There may

also be some solutions and currently the Club is assessing the facts. I believe the Anglers Board's biggest disappointment is that no one on the Environmental Assets even took the time to contact anyone at the Anglers Club to discuss their concerns prior to all the accusations appearing in the paper."

Current committee policy seems to be, as a practical matter, that geese are more important than humans. This policy evolved after the same committee a few years ago supported killing some of the resident Canada geese as the only way to control an out-of-control population of non-migrant birds.

Goose poop blanketed the pond walking trails, pond edges, and the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial. About 300 geese were killed with the cooperation and permission of the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service after a lengthy process. The geese were cleaned and distributed for human consumption.

There was outrage at the time by some elements of the Ocean Pines community. Then the board was confronted with new applications for committee membership from individuals who apparently take the position no goose can ever be killed, regardless of the adverse environmental and human impact, or with the permission of state and national authorities.

Those individuals now control the committee. They may reflect the same mentality that a few years ago resulted in a goose burial along the pond edge and the erection of a Christian cross grave marker inscribed with the goose's name. She was Martha.

OPA member Dave Walter wrote an appropriate sarcastic suggestion, "Why don't you just fill the pond in with dirt. No fishing. No geese."

Courier Almanac

If pop songs, like hurricanes, were rated on an objective scale according to their ability to devastate the pop-cultural landscape, then the song that reached the topped of the American pop charts on August 3, 1996 was a Category 5 monster. It first made landfall in Florida as a seemingly harmless Spanish-language rumba, but in the hands of a pair of Miami record producers, it soon morphed and strengthened into something called "Macarena (Bayside Boys Mix)," a song that laid waste to all competition during a record-setting run at #1 that began on this day.

The group that gets credit for the song that spent more time on the *Billboard Hot 100* (60 weeks) than any other in history was Los Del Rio, but their smash-hit record received some critical assistance on its way to the top of the charts. Los Del Rio was the name under which two middle-aged Spaniards named Antonia Romero and Rafael Ruiz had been performing together since 1962.



Despite its reputation as the most formidable type of mold individuals can find in their homes, black mold is similar to other indoor molds in regard to its effects on human health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, black mold, or *stachybotrys chartarum*, isn't any more harmful than other types of mold, including *cladosporium*, *penicillium*, *aspergillus*, and *alternaria*. The reputation of black mold, which can look black or greenish-black, likely has something to do with its appearance. But homeowners still have reason to be fearful of mold in their homes, regardless of what color the mold may be. That's because mold can lead to a host of unwelcome health problems, including stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing or wheezing, burning eyes, or skin rash. Symptoms may be even worse for people with asthma and mold allergies.

Board statement on Association Treasurer position

Association President Colette Horn released the following statement regarding the Association Treasurer position:

"During the July 27 regular Board meeting, Director Perrone resigned his position of Association Treasurer. I approached Doug Parks to solicit his willingness to step in to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of this board year. He agreed, and the Board voted unanimously to elect him to the office of Association Treasurer."

"Within two weeks after the Annual Meeting, during which the election of new directors will be validated, there will be an organizational meeting at which the newly constituted board will elect new officers of the Association. Director Parks will serve as Treasurer until the new officers are elected. The Board thanks Director Parks for his willingness to assume the responsibilities of this position."



TheCourierofOceanPines

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It turned into something else

Author's note: During the couple months my wife and I have been reminded how fortunate we are to have a special group of friends who are with us through thick and thin. Several years ago, I wrote about an experience I enjoyed with one of them.

I had one of those experiences recently that I'm sure is not unique to me. I had expected to spend an evening doing one thing when events

was ready with her drink and her popcorn. We began talking as I showed her around our garden. We eventually took our seats and continued to talk about all sorts of things. It eventually became dark which one would have thought would have triggered us to watch the movie. Not so. Instead we sat in the dark, talking toward the other's silhouette for the next couple hours. So engrossed in the conversation was I that I never even thought to turn on the lights so we could at least see one another. Finally, we realized what time it was so we said our good-byes, never having so much as watched the opening credits.

It was a wonderful evening. There's just something intoxicating about participating in enjoyable conversation. It's better than reading a book. Better than watching a movie, obviously.

Despite all the forums available for communication, I find that the experience of interesting, humorous and fascinating in-person, give and take conversation is rare. Pity. I'll take an eye twinkle or a hearty guffaw over an emoji any day of the week.

To be sure some people are better conversationalists than others. A conversation is a back and forth exchange, like a good tennis match. There are some people who confuse talking with conversation. It's not the same thing. I've been in the company of people who from the time I meet them until the time I can think of some excuse to extricate myself, talk about themselves, their kids, their neighbors and they're recent ailment or their neighbor's recent ailment without so much as a pause to ask me a question or to determine if I've fallen unconscious. They're oblivious. I do my best to avoid such people.

It would be worthwhile if school children were taught how to converse without the aid of electronics or social media. They may at first gripe about it, but in the long run I think they'd be appreciative.

Getting back to the night I didn't watch "Casablanca." The evening was special because of a confluence of timing and unexpectedness. It cannot be replicated. But I wouldn't mind not watching future movies if the result was the same.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

unfolded in such a way that the evening turned into something else entirely.

I enjoy watching movies, mostly comedies and classics, action and adventure. I'm not a big fan of gory movies or hard dramas. I like to laugh. I'll take "Caddyshack" or "Police Squad" or a Mel Brooks film over anything that is too gritty or sad. But I digress.

For a birthday gift several years ago, my wife gave me a projector and big screen so that movies could be enjoyed outside on our Piazza. It was one of the best gifts I've received. This was a big upgrade to when I would bring outside the 15-inch television and we'd all crowd around cupping our ears so we could hear.

We have watched a lot of movies outside. Often when the big screen goes up, I send a text to a group of family and friends to join us. There's not much lead time with these invitations, sometime as little as an hour or two. As a result, there can be a group of people in attendance, sometimes one or two and sometimes I'm out there by myself.

During dinner recently, I said to my wife that I was going to screen that evening the Humphrey Bogart classic, "Casablanca," a movie I've seen countless times. My wife decided to pass so I sent out a text to the usual characters to ask if anyone wanted to join me.

As showtime approached, everything was ready. The chairs were in place, the movie was cued and the sun was fading behind the trees.

Minutes before I was going to hit "play," a friend of ours strode in. She

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BAYWOOD GREENS

Jacobs recognized

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines has announced Nicki Jacobs as the August Crafter of the Month.

Jacobs and her husband, Steve, moved to Ocean Pines in the fall of 2020. An avid potter for more than 30 years, Jacobs had scouted pottery studios around the Eastern Shore a year before her move.

She graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. Jacobs made her first foray into pottery until after completing graduate work and moving to Washington, D.C., where she was selected for an internship and later hired to work at the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jacobs joined the Pine'eer Craft Club in the spring of 2021, in hopes of

meeting other crafters and learning more about visual art opportunities in the area. She also joined the Rehoboth Art League, where she currently creates in the pottery studio and assists as a studio monitor. She's a member of the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore, and the Art League of Ocean City, where she has exhibited work twice. She's also a regular vendor at Windmill Creek Vineyard and Winery, where artisans and farmers take part in a market on Friday afternoons and evenings.

Jacobs mostly makes functional pieces, such as nautical and sport themed spoon rests that can be found in the Artisan Gift Shop in Ocean Pines. She also has fun making cat ornaments.

View Jacobs' projects and other handmade items at the Artisan Gift Shop in White Horse Park, on 239 Ocean Parkway in Ocean Pines. The shop is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop>.



Nicki Jacobs

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Safe boating course offered

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer The Maryland Safe Boating Course in a one-day session on August 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Ocean Pines library.

Learn the rules of navigation, knot tying, docking, basic maintenance, and more.

The Maryland Boating Safety Education Act requires that anyone born after July 1, 1972 must possess a Maryland Basic Boating Safety Certificate to operate a boat in the state of Maryland. Those attending the class, and passing the test will receive a Maryland Boating Certificate which is NASBLA approved and valid in all states.

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials. Checks should be made payable to USCGAUX 12-05 and mailed to PO Box 1682, Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPal is also accepted.

For more information or to register please contact Barry Cohen at 410-935-4807 or E mail CGAUXOC@Gmail.com.

Future classes will be held September 13 - 15, October 11 - 13 and November 8 - 10.

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NEW EVENT!

There's no place like Gnome

By **Mary D. Falls**

Please welcome to the neighborhood Doctors Noam and Gnorna Chomsky (the “G” in Gnorna is silent, as it is in all of language that is gnome in origin). Noam and Gnorna recently moved to Gnocean Pines, the gnome community within the Ocean Pines neighborhood, after retiring from celebrated careers in academia.

Both Noam and Gnorna made names for themselves as distinguished, tenured members of the faculty at The Johns Hobbkins University, a highly regarded private research university named for the famous hobbit entrepreneur who was widely known for his philanthropic efforts within the mythical community. Johns Hobbkins is not to be confused with a similarly named research university, although both schools are located in Baltimore.

Noam and Gnorna each hold numerous Ph.Ds in Nanotechnology, Condensed Matter Physics, Marine Biology, Philosophy, and Psychology. While it was their many published writings contributing to the study of Philosophy and the Behavioral Sciences that garnered them worldwide attention and won them their Gnobel prizes, it was their shared passion for Marine Biology, specializing in the mating habits of Mermaids, that led them to want to retire here in Gnocean Pines. They have long desired to live by the beach.

All marine life is a subject of great fascination to the pair, as they've always been drawn to how underwater creatures do not seem like they could even be real, although the Chomskys joke that neither of them could ever get quite close enough to confirm or deny the existence of any sea life since gnomes are not very strong swimmers. Gnorna confesses, “Our biggest fears are high tide, large crowds, and living near a bird feeder! But we love to work on our tans, and to paint the seagulls from a very safe distance.”

Despite their both having many advanced degrees, eight between the two of them, they remain quite humble, teasingly saying that, “Two gnomes can really only hold a single degree at a time, given post-doctoral degrees are physically quite large, and gnomes are well, not.”

They go on to explain that while it may sound like they make up a house of learned doctors, all gnomes are automatically given a doctorate in the field of Nanotechnology because all

gnome technology is technically considered nanotechnology. Noam boasts of his blushing bride, “It's Gnorna who is the real brain in the family. She's figured out the impossible puzzle of making a grump like me happy for 123 years come this fall!”

A respected figure in the field of Psychology, Gnorna was instrumental in spearheading the re-emergence of psychedelic research at the university level. She was initially inspired to study mushrooms because they are close to the ground. Gnorna's resume today serves as an impressive showcase for many groundbreaking studies published on the role of micro-dosing mushrooms in the gnormative behavior of elves, the melancholy cousins of the gnomes. Discussing her work in the sweet manner in which Gnorna speaks of most everything, she says of the elfin tendencies toward seasonal depression, “You'd be down, too, if folks expected you to act like you had Christmas joy every darn day of the year! That's way too much pressure for any mythical creature.”

Christmas occurs in the spring of the gnome calendar year. As most gnomes live outdoors, warmer weather lends to fuller and more festive celebrations, especially since gnomes are born 70 years old and struggle with arthritis throughout the course of their lives, particularly in cold and damp weather.

The Doctors Chomsky most look forward to the Christmas season because they will get to see their son, who's gone by the nickname Hightop ever since he was an energetic youngster of 73. High Top's given name is Gnomad, as he was born around the time the Travelocity gnome became popular, and Noam and Gnorna wanted their son to always be reminded that he, too, could one day see the world.

The moniker Hightop later stemmed from the boy's own childhood desire to become a professional basketball player. To encourage Hightop's dream, Gnorna would make his traditional gnome hat, or ‘top’, higher so he would feel taller, and perhaps be inspired to work hard enough to achieve his goal of playing for the Orlando Magic or the Washington Wizards. Gnomes very much live by the credo that anything is possible. To this day, Hightop still thinks his nickname was because of his parents lovingly teasing him for always wanting the newest, most popular basketball shoe on the market.

Noam and Gnorna are wildly excited



Here, the Chomskys can be seen preparing for the Christmas holiday. Gnorna has been busying herself foraging for fungi from her garden, while Noam thinks deep thoughts about what to get Gnorna for Christmas.

to see their son and give him his Christmas present this year. At least, they are as wildly excited as gnomes tend to get, being the demure and docile breed, they are across the board. Gnorna shares, “We have quite a challenge choosing Hightop's gift every year because he's such a special young gnoman, and in our world, there's much importance placed on the practice of thoughtful gift giving. This year, we think we really *nailed it*, although I don't know why gnomes use that expression since we can't physically operate hammers.”

This coming Christmas, Hightop will be gifted with a pair of hedgehog/porcupine hybrids named Yin and Yang who were recruited as pets/housemates at the time of their retirement as acrobats from a famous mystical circus, which cannot be named in this article for copyright reasons.

Hedgehog/porcupine hybrids are considered very rare for their aptitude for tremendous and total cuddling, their self-sufficiency, and their inborn knowledge of acupuncture. Hightop's proud parents were inspired to sponsor Yin and Yang's retirement on a lifelong basis in their son's honor because they hoped the gift would bring balance to his life. They often worry about their son, mostly for the reasons any parents worry about their children, but more and more so because Hightop is still single.

Yin and Yang are currently being fitted for the newest and most popular mythical basketball shoe, Air Fjordans, that will be ready for them to wear Christmas morning. Air Fjordan is a coveted brand out of Scandinavia, a region whose teams tend to historically dominate basketball in The Gnomlympic Games.

No matter the reason, Noam and Gnorna consider seeing their son to be the highlight of their year at any time of year. The Chomsky family doesn't get to talk much, not because they aren't close, but because gnomes don't own telephones due to their intrinsic shyness. So, if you see these special new neighbors out and about, do feel free to wave and say hello, but don't just invite yourself over anytime. While the Doctors Chomsky are excited to be members of the Gnocean Pines community, if there's one thing they'd most like folks to know about gnome culture, it's that gnomes are generally very friendly, but they are also awfully protective of their personal privacy. So, don't go thinking they've got an open-door policy just because they haven't got a door.

Publisher's Note: The Courier received permission from “Better Gnomes and Gardens” magazine to reprint this article.

Mary D. Falls lives in Ocean Pines.

Pines Players holds new logo contest

Viewed as a fresh start since being shut down during the pandemic, the new logo is intended to restore visibility and signal Ocean Pines Players' (OPP) place as a vibrant member of Ocean Pines/Ocean City and the surrounding arts community.

Interested candidates can find the application form (including requirements and deadlines) on the OPP website <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>

The contest launches August 1 and is open to all residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Sussex (DE) Counties, lasting until the midnight deadline of September 5. At that time, the general OPP membership will have five days to select three finalists, and the OPP Board of Directors will choose a winner from among those three at their September 13 Board meeting. The winning entry will be announced as OPP's new logo on September 14.

The successful contestant will receive a one-year membership in OPP, two free tickets to any production of the 2022-2023 season, local publicity

and attribution for 12 months anywhere the new logo is displayed.

The Players are boosting their first full season since the pandemic with a free Open House on August 27 at the Ocean Pines White Horse Park Pavilion. The regular season includes two musical entries, "A Grand Night for Singing," scheduled as dinner theater on November 18 at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club and "Love...or Not?" February 10-12 at Most Blessed School (MBS). They also offer two comedies, "Play On", March 10 and 11,17 and 18 at MBS and, "Sweet Delilah Swim Club", May 12 and 13,19 and 20 at Community Center Assateague Room. Ticket sales and audition forms can be found on the website <https://oceanpinesplayers.org>

Asked about the coming season of productions, Frank Pasquilino, OPP's President commented, "We're very excited about the new season. It's an ambitious undertaking, but the enthusiasm of our members is very high, with an energy that will certainly carry us through."

The New Stars of Summer

A Mid – summer’s night dreamscape

The darker night gathers the dusk.
Familiar views fade, until tomorrow.
However, in mid – Summer,
A seasonal phenomenon bursts, dreamlike, from the ground.

Summoned somehow. . . steady higher temps?
A recent soaking rain? perhaps the waning Moon approaching New?
Fireflies burst forth.

These amazing, yes, miraculous insects flash, pierce, and streak the dark.
A rising cloud of pinpoint light guides the viewer upward.

The lightning bugs of mid – Summer eventually join the
Fixed stars overhead,
And create new, but ephemeral, constellations splashed
On the night sky, even if clouds prevail.

Robert Pellenbarg
Ocean Pines



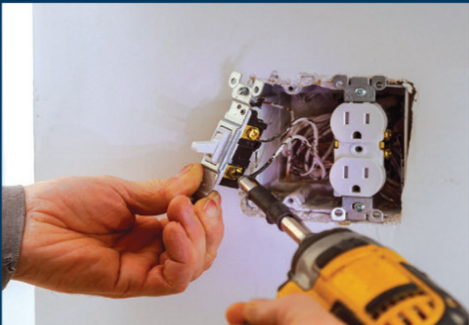
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Hawks

Hawks have a near worldwide distribution. They are members of the same family as kites and eagles. Falcons, ospreys, and vultures are close relatives.

The color of their plumages ranges from grey or reddish brown on top and pale whitish below. Often, they have dark spots or streaks on the back, chest and legs, and dark wing and tail bars. In most cases, the bills are black, the feathered legs and feet are yellow, and the talons (claws) black.



Their weight ranges from as little as 4 ounces up to 3.25 lbs. Females tend to be larger than males.

One of the largest varieties is the Rough-legged Hawk with a wingspan of more than 55 inches and a length of about 22 inches.

The smallest hawk in North America is the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

In February 2005, the Canadian scientist Dr Louis Lefebvre announced a method of measuring avian IQ in terms of their innovation in feeding habits. Hawks were named among the most intelligent birds based on this scale.

Hawks are said to have a vision that is about eight times more acute than humans with good eyesight (as good as 20/20). This is be-

cause of many photoreceptors in the retina (up to 1,000,000 per square mm, against 200,000 for humans), a very high number of nerves connecting the receptors to the brain, a

second set of eye muscles not found in other animals and an indented fovea which magnifies the central part of the visual field.

Their keen eyesight, muscular legs, powerful, sharp claws and sharply hooked bills are perfect adaptations for hunting, capturing their prey and tearing flesh to a manageable size for eating.

These strong hunters catch their prey even during flight, typically using a swift, “swooping” technique. Some of them attain speeds of over 150 mph particularly during dives. These powerful fliers can soar for long periods.

Migratory species travel over thousand miles each year to and from their breeding territories.

-BeautyofBirds.com

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Female parent

5. NY city

10. Israeli diplomat Abba

14. Surrounded by

15. Car part

16. Simple aquatic plant

17. Tough skin of fruit

18. Finnish lake

19. Composition

20. Very willing

22. One and only

23. Cluster cups

24. Famed Hollywood director

27. Score perfectly

30. Important lawyers

31. Undivided

32. Part of the foot

35. Spun by spiders

37. Married woman

38. Reagan’s Secretary of State

39. Instruments

40. The A-Team drove one
41. Short-tailed marten

42. Oil organization

43. Predecessor to the EU

44. “Hotel California” rockers

45. Color at the end of the spectrum

46. Actress Ryan

47. Digital audiotape

48. Expression of creative skill

49. Scientific instrument

52. Dog-__ : marked for later

55. Israeli city __ Aviv

56. Fencing sword

60. Turkish title

61. Wise individuals

63. Cold wind

64. Popular type of shoe

65. The territory occupied by a nation

66. Tattle

67. Chop up

68. Actress Zellweger

69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. Female of a horse

2. Bowfin

3. Chinese dynasty

4. Small venomous snake

5. Global news agency

6. Common fractions

7. American state

8. Tired

9. Boxing’s GOAT

10. Made less severe

11. A group of countries in special alliance

12. God of fire (Hindu)

13. Northeast Indian ethnic group

21. Anchor ropes

23. They __

25. Apprehend

26. Autonomic nervous system

27. A theatrical performer

28. 2-door car

29. Partner to flowed

32. Pair of small hand drums

33 Former Houston footballer
34. Discharge

36. Former women’s branch of the military

37. Partner to cheese

38. Witch

40. Live in a dull way

41. Satisfies

43. Snakelike fish

44. Consume

46. Type of student

47. Erase

49. Instruct

50. Girl’s given name

51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

52. Every one of two or more things

53. Indian city

54. Greek letters

57. Weapon

58. Geological times

59. Cycle in physics

61. Soviet Socialist Republic

62. Witness

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Answers for July 27

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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Faster than light space travel

Ever since the 1960's "Star Trek," space fans have been anticipating journeys of exploration to the stars. Recall how Captain Kirk would fly his space ship "Enterprise" at fantastic speeds with the command "proceed ahead at warp factor one, Mister Sulu." But many fans and science hobbyists are aware of the classic rule that nothing can travel faster than the ultimate limit, the speed of light. In the past few decades, scientists have been working to find a "loophole" in the physical laws, a way to beat this time-honored restriction.

In 1994, a young theoretical physicist named Miguel Alcubierre published the theory of warping or folding of spacetime to allow faster-than-light (FTL) travel, without contradicting Einstein's laws of relativity. Alcubierre visualized a special type of engine, which would generate a "warped" region of space. He described creating a "ring" of negative mass around a spacecraft, "squeezing" or shrinking spacetime in front and "expanding" it behind. Such warping or folding of space would allow the craft to effectively travel faster than the speed of light. Artists have illustrated how that ringed ship might look.

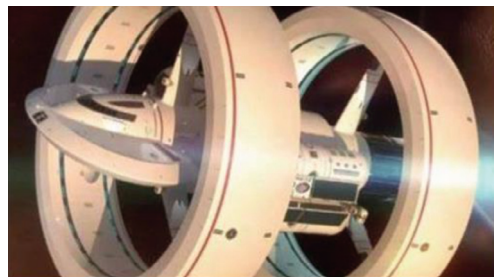
According to Alcubierre's theory, the ship is accelerated when the frontal space warp is rapidly contracting and pulling, while the rear space warp is expanding and pushing. This can be compared to the idea of a race car speeding along on top of a moving train, where the motion of the train gives the car a "boost," thus raising its overall speed.

While Alcubierre's 1994 hypothesis

is exciting to fans who dream of human flights to the stars, it has a few major obstacles. To create the required acceleration in this scheme would require a massive space warp, as large as the entire planet Jupiter and hundreds of times greater than the mass of Earth!

Another leading pioneer in the field of space warp propulsion has been Dr. Harold "Sonny" White. Dr. White's work at NASA in the mid-2000s showed how the warp drive could be modified to a more practical design. According to White: "we were able to reduce the

amount of exotic matter from Jupiter down to two metric tons – about the size of the Voyager 1 spacecraft." In September 2011, NASA released Dr. White's scientific paper titled "Warp Field Mechanics 101," which outlined his modifications.



Artist rendition of spaceship with warp drive rings

In 2020 Dr. White relocated to a new organization called Limitless Space Institute. There he has continued his studies of faster propulsion methods under a contract with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). In December 2021 Dr. White announced an interesting phenomenon involving "Casimir cavities." The Casimir effect involves fluctuating electrical and magnetic fields that arise within the cavity when its electrically charged boundaries are moved in a carefully controlled way. During one such observation the team identified a fascinating phenomenon and one which could be a first step towards the sort of space warp needed for an FTL engine. Dr. White's findings were published in the European Physical Journal. We might say the White experiment did not quite observe the long-sought space warp itself, but a closely related event.

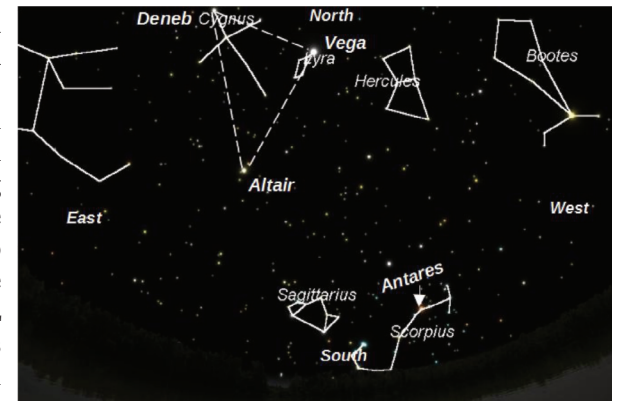
Other technical problems still await solution before any prototype warp bubble can be produced. A long, but interesting road lies ahead.

Our closest neighbor to Earth is the star Proxima Centauri located 4.3 light years away. This star hosts three exoplanets as readers may recall. While those worlds must surely wait a while longer for Earthly visitors, a successful warp drive might finally allow us access to these unknown places.

In July the James Webb Space Telescope began releasing breathtaking

images of the cosmos and various media have broadcast them. The photographs typify the spectacular results anticipated from the new instrument, including views of young galaxies near the dawn of cosmic time, and exciting new information on planets, stars and nebulae.

During August the full night vista arrives at about 9:15 pm. Near the southern horizon the constellation



Scorpius the Scorpion appears, along with Sagittarius the Archer.

In the northeast, the Summer Triangle features the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair. This large grouping is known as an "asterism," and it overlaps several constellations.

August features the Perseid meteor shower, in the wee hours, beginning about 1:30 a.m. Unfortunately, this year's meteors are competing with moonlight, obscuring all but the brightest ones. Peak activity occurs on the night of August 11 between the hours of 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. (technically August 12.)

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Words of Wisdom

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

"The starting pay is \$40,000. Later it can go up to \$80,000." Great. I'll start later."

Trust science. Studies show that if your parents didn't have children there's a high probability you won't either.

If you're not called crazy when you start something new, then you're not thinking big enough.

Only in math problems can you buy 60 cantaloupe melons and no one asks, "What the Hell is wrong with you?"

Tip: Save business cards of people you don't like. If you ever hit a parked car accidentally, just write, "Sorry" on the back and leave it on the windshield.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, but no atmosphere.

If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

I envy people who grow old gracefully. They age like a fine wine. I'm aging like milk: Getting sour and chunky.

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.

Today's three-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

Local artist featured at Art League

The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to their First Friday opening reception on August 5 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside.

New paintings by Berlin artist Kirk McBride are featured in the Thaler Gallery throughout August. After college at the University of Maryland, McBride won "Best in Show" at the first local art show he entered, encouraging him to make painting a lifelong pursuit. He has been at it since the 1970s, part-time while teaching and raising a family, and full time since the early 1990s. A switch from watercolors to oils 18 years ago led to plein air painting. In recent years, McBride has traveled the East Coast from Florida to Maine exploring the docks and fishing shacks, the marshes and beaches, the old wooden boats, and the people who make a living from the sea. His paintings are a way of chronicling this vanishing piece of American life.

The paintings of Jonathan Nordstrom of Ocean Pines fill Studio E at the Arts Center in August. His paintings tend to illustrate his view of the universe, and many can be considered surreal pointillism. Born and raised in Michigan, Nordstrom became a firefighter in the U.S. Air Force, a career he continues to pursue. He is also the award-winning author and illustrator of several children's books. *Sometimes Sleep* was awarded the Mom's Choice Award, Gold Honoree.

Two photographers from Cambridge, Lynne Brown and Terry Melius, exhibit their work in the Spotlight Gallery in August. They began snorkeling together on a fishing trip in the Bahamas where their early attempts at underwater photography did not reflect the magical seascapes they were exploring. After deciding they needed to learn more about photography and underwater photography in particular, they signed up for photography classes at the Smithsonian. Lynne specializes in photo processing, and Terry, in photo presentation.

Heidi Wetzel of Easton is the Art Center's artisan for August. A skilled basket weaver, her materials include cedar bark, white and black ash,

cane, sweet grass, waxed linen, and hand-spun yarn. Wetzel also recycles found natural outdoor objects, such as driftwood, antlers, acorns, shells, pine cones, sea glass, and seed pods, reflecting the natural surroundings of the Eastern Shore.

The Galleria hosts a limited-run exhibit of artwork created by the children who attended this summer's Art Adventure Camp at the Arts Center. "The goal with this show is to celebrate their creations as well as give them the experience of actually showing their work in an impressive gallery space," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. The campers' artwork will hang through Aug. 11, then be replaced with the annual "Artists Paint OC" plein air exhibition and sale.

The exhibit of paintings by Francisco Madera as well as the collaborative mural with Ian Postley continues in the Staircase Gallery.

Offsite exhibitions continue at the Art League's satellite galleries in North Ocean City. The main lobby gallery at the Princess Royale Oceanfront, 9100 Coastal Hwy. hosts an exhibit of paintings by Maggii Sarfaty. The Coffee Beanery on 94th St. continues a show of macrame wall hangings by Beth Deeley.

Beverages for the First Friday reception are sponsored by PKS Investments, and complimentary hors d'oeuvres are sponsored by the Dunes Manor Hotel.

Collins to speak at anglers meeting

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, August 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library.

Local boating columnist Dan Collins will be the guest speaker.

Dan's monthly column entitled Knot & Knots provides tips on boating and an occasional war story. Dan is an avid photographer with over 100 photos appearing in the various local newspapers, a coxswain in the USCG Auxiliary, and the author of two novels in the Tom Clancy genre. Dan will speak on Man Overboard and Rules of the Road. All are welcome.

Worcester Health helping youth kick smoking and vaping

Do you need help quitting smoking or vaping? If so, we are here to help! The Worcester County Health Department is committed to preventing tobacco and nicotine product use among youth and offering quit resources. The health department is offering a Youth Tobacco Cessation Program, scheduled to begin in August. The program is designed for youth ages 14 through 17. Join one of our youth smoking cessation classes starting next month:

-Mondays, August 8-October 24, 2022 (3 p.m. - 4 p.m.) at the Snow Hill Health Department 6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD 21863.

-Tuesdays, August 9-October 25, 2022 (3 p.m. - 4 p.m.) at the Pocomoke Health Center 400-A Walnut St. Pocomoke, MD 21851.

-Thursdays, August 11-October 27, 2022 (3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at the

Berlin Health Center 9730 Healthway Dr. Berlin, MD 21811.

The program consists of ten weekly sessions that are 50 minutes in length followed by two (2) support group sessions. Through group support, you are able to meet with a trained tobacco coach who will support you during your quit journey. Key topics of discussion will include stress management, communication, nicotine addiction, effects of smoking and vaping, reasons for quitting, how to develop a quit plan, and relapse prevention.

Enroll today and you will receive weekly handouts, a quit kit, earned prizes for participation, quit resources, and more! For more information or to register, please contact Valdase Morris at 410-632-1100 ext. 1102. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Discount Splash Mountain tickets benefit Art League

The Art League of Ocean City announces a special discount pass to Splash Mountain Water Park at Jolly Roger Amusements that will benefit the nonprofit organization. Tickets for Tuesday, August 9, purchased through the Art League, will be available for \$30, compared to the original price of \$44.

"We're thankful to Jolly Roger for putting the fun in fundraising," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "Splash Mountain is the all-time favorite summer place-to-be for my own family, and we hope other families will take advantage of our special price. This is a great way to relax

and cool off in the water park and help the arts in Ocean City at the same time."

The specially priced tickets are available only at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St., open weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Also, by calling 410-524-9433.

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Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 4	High	12:53 AM
4	Low	7:00 AM
4	High	1:27 PM
4	Low	7:37 PM
F 5	High	1:43 AM
5	Low	7:48 AM
5	High	2:24 PM
5	Low	8:38 PM
Sa 6	High	2:41 AM
6	Low	8:42 AM
6	High	3:26 PM
6	Low	9:43 PM
Su 7	High	3:45 AM
7	Low	9:40 AM
7	High	4:30 PM
7	Low	10:49 PM
M 8	High	4:50 AM
8	Low	10:42 AM
8	High	5:33 PM
8	Low	11:54 PM
Tu 9	High	5:52 AM
9	Low	11:44 AM
9	High	6:32 PM
W 10	Low	12:53 AM
10	High	6:50 AM
10	Low	12:44 PM
10	High	7:29 PM

How to prepare children for kindergarten

The first day of kindergarten is a milestone moment for children that their parents will remember forever.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicates that around five million children attend an organized preschool or daycare facility in the United States, while Statistics Canada reports that roughly 52 percent of children in non-parental child care are in a daycare center, preschool or childcare center. Children who attend preschool or daycare may make a relatively seamless transition to kindergarten. However, it's still a good idea for parents

to take steps to prepare youngsters for kindergarten in advance of the first day of school.

Attend orientation or related events. Elementary schools typically are housed in much larger buildings than preschools or daycares, and that size can be intimidating for children. Attending kindergarten orientation or related events as a family can help children see their classrooms, meet their teacher and potentially their classmates.

Meet other kids in the neighborhood. Some children attend preschools or daycares close to home, while others may go to facilities near a parent's office. Regardless of where kids go to daycare or preschool, they're likely to meet new youngsters in kindergarten. Introducing them to other kids in the neighborhood who will be going to kindergarten as well can calm children's nerves. Seeing a familiar face on the bus and/or in class can put youngsters at ease.

Avoid lengthy goodbyes. Parents may get a little teary-eyed on their children's first day of kindergarten, but drawing out goodbyes as kids get on the bus or walk into school will ultimately make it harder on children. Limit your goodbye to a hug and kiss and some words of encouragement. Keep the emphasis on the positive and the fun that's to be had so kids arrive at school in a good frame of mind.

Remind youngsters you'll be there to pick them up at the end of the day. Let children know that, just like daycare and preschool, mom or dad will be there to pick them up at school or the bus stop at the end of the day. This sense of the familiar can calm kids' nerves and reassure them that a smiling face will be there at end of the school day.

The first day of kindergarten is a big moment for young children. Parents can take steps to calm first-day jitters and ensure children have a memorable day.



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safety

from page 3

-Never ride more than two abreast on a roadway. If impeding traffic, ride single file.

-Use caution crossing ramps and parking lot entrances.

-Stop for pedestrians.

-Wear a helmet correctly. Helmets are required by law for anyone under 16, but everyone should wear a helmet to prevent a head injury. Your helmet should be level and snug and should not shift while riding.

Stevens said there are some infrastructure issues affecting bicyclists and motorists locally, including the safety of intersections like Manklin Creek

Road and Ocean Parkway, and Race-track Road and Route 50.

"It's treacherous enough for cars. When you throw in bikes, nobody knows who is supposed to go first and where everyone is supposed to be. The key point remains, drivers need to look for bicyclists and not make sharp turns — especially to the right," she said.

For bicyclists, Stevens said it's important to let drivers know you're there. Use your bell or your voice to make an audible connection with the driver.

"And when you're coming to a crossing, don't assume that a driver is going to stop for you, even though that's the rule," she said.

Stevens said residents can do their part in keeping the roads and should-

ers safe by being mindful when they put their trash out.

"Don't put trash cans and other items on the shoulder where they could impede traffic, and move trash cans away from the road after the trash has been collected," she said.

Ocean Pines Declarations of Restrictions prohibits cars from parking on the street.

"When parking your car, keep all the wheels off the pavement," Stevens said. "Ocean Pines doesn't have official bike lanes, so keeping the shoulders clear makes it safer for walking and biking."

Another local issue, Stevens said, is bicyclists at night being visible enough for cars to see them.

"If you're riding at dusk and at

night, you need to have reflective material on and lights on. People ride around here all the time in black clothes with no lights on," she said.

For serious cyclists, upcoming events include the Iron Furnace 50 on Saturday, Aug. 27 in Snow Hill. For more information or to register, visit www.ironfurnacefifty.org.

Stevens also encouraged local people to get organized and start their own bicycles groups and clubs.

"Use community network posts and create a meetup to ride together," she said. "That's essentially what we did with community walks. We just posted, 'meet at this place and let's all go walk together.' People could do the same thing with bicycling, because there's definitely a lot of interest."

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