

The Courier

February 7, 2024 Volume 24 Number 20



Making a Difference

Berlin Voyagers 4-H Youth Make a Difference in Bishopville clearing debris for a Habitat for Humanity home build.

please see legion page 4

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Linda Brindley

Brindley is Crafter of the Month

The Pine'eer Craft Club is announced club member Linda Brindley as the February Crafter of the month. Mrs. Brindley has served as the recording secretary for the club since 2011; she has been a member of the club for twenty years. Brindley's craft is counted cross stitch; she creates pillows, scenes, bookmarks, and towels for the artisan gift shop.

Although Linda is not currently an Ocean Pines resident, she has vacationed or lived in the area since 1989. She and her husband Bill live in Millsboro now but were residents of Ocean Pines when she learned of the Pine'eer Craft Club.

"I joined the craft club to make friends and try new crafts," Linda said. "I've been crafting since I was six years old when my Grandmom taught me to crochet and embroider. My Mom later taught me knitting, Swedish weaving, plastic canvass and sewing. Family and crafting are interwoven for me."

Mrs. Brindley is a member of several other clubs in the area including Sussex County Sip and Stitch as well as the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, which hosts a national counted cross stitch competition annually for which Linda has received first and second place awards over the years.

Finding materials is more diffi-

cult these days, at least at reasonable prices. "I search hard to find items on the internet since so many craft stores have closed," Brindley mentioned. "Plus, my friends and family around the country keep my watch list of materials. And sometimes we get donations at the club I can use."

Obviously, Linda likes keeping her hands busy! She also runs a business aptly titled Needles & Strings. The concept is great, "I finish a counted cross stitch item or kit you may not want or can't finish yourself," Linda remarked. This rescue effort must allow others to show off a piece in their home they never could alone.

To see Linda's beautiful counted cross stitch yourself, be certain to stop in at the Artisan Gift Shop just across White Horse Park from the Ocean Pines Community Center. The shop will be open Saturdays and Sundays and features all handcrafted treasures including seasonal items as well as home décor favorites.

The Pine'eer Craft Club always welcomes new members. If you are a crafter who would like to join our club, email opcrafterclub@aol.com for more information. You need not to be an Ocean Pines resident to join. Since its inception, the craft club has donated almost \$180,000 back to the Ocean Pines community.

Second Jenkins Point town hall held

Maryland Coastal Bays Program hosted a second public meeting on the Jenkins Point Restoration Project on January 29 in the Clubhouse Meeting Room.

Video of the meeting is available online at <https://youtu.be/n1ADNoc-qxls>.

Representatives from MCBP briefly went over the project and answered questions from the audience for roughly an hour. MCBP Executive Director Kevin Smith spoke on the project's background and next steps, and Chris Becraft from Underwood & Associates discussed the design approach and objectives.

Jenkins Point is on the Isle of Wight Bay, just offshore of the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. The area has seen significant erosion, reducing the resilience of the fragmented peninsula and the adjacent mainland community

infrastructure, including the Yacht Club, the Osprey Point condominium community and the Pines Point residential community and marina to the increasing effects of climate change.

MCBP received a grant in 2022 from the Maryland Department of



Natural Resources to fund the design and permitting phase of the restoration project. Construction of the project will require additional funding.

For additional comments or correspondence on the project, contact Smith at ksmith@mdcoastalbays.org.

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MCBP announces funding opportunities

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) is accepting community stewardship mini-grant proposals and scientific research funding proposals for environmental projects benefiting the Coastal Bays watershed.

The community stewardship mini-grants are available to any individual, group, school, organization, service youth and civic groups for projects that will raise awareness about the challenges and solutions to restore our coastal bays, engage citizens in community-based restoration and protection projects, or educate students about the Coastal Bays.

The MCBP Mini Grant Program seeks to support watershed-based community, science, and educational initiatives that align with CCMP action items. Through this funding opportunity, MCBP is seeking to engage new applicants and organizations from diverse communities in small-scale projects that enhance communities, engage residents, and, ultimately, improve natural resources.

The Implementation Grant Program is available to MCBP's partners to assist in responding to research needs identified in the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. Opportunities include reachable sci-

entific goals and the most effective means for implementing them. Existing and on-going projects that seek to augment or add an additional element to an existing scope of work may also be considered for funding.

Both funding opportunities must align with the Maryland Coastal Bays Management Plan, the CCMP. This plan can be found on the MCBP website at www.mdcoastalbays.org.

These funding opportunities are provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. With BIL funding, the EPA will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities and taking significant strides to tackle the climate crisis.

Applicants for the community stewardship mini-grants may request up to \$5,000 for their project. Applicants for the scientific research grants may request up to \$25,000.

Funding details and contact information can be found on the Maryland Coastal Bays website at <https://mdcoastalbays.org/funding-opportunities/>. The proposed deadline for both funding opportunities is March 15.



Winter reading - Students in Mrs. Vorsteg's second grade class celebrated reading with a Pajama Day. All students at Ocean City Elementary School were challenged to read during their Winter break and they met the challenge.

OPA announces promotions for Violante and Meyer

Ocean Pines Association General Manager John Viola last Thursday announced a pair of promotions to senior staff members.

Viola said Nobie Violante, currently the Public Works Manager, will be promoted to Deputy Director of Public Works.

"Nobie will take on increased responsibility for maintenance of the Racquet Sports complex, in addition to the Marina," Viola said.

Additionally, Ruth Ann Meyer, currently the Assessment and Memberships Manager in the Finance Department, will be promoted to Senior Manager.

"Ruth Ann has taken on increased responsibilities and she will

now be in charge of the business side of Racquet Sports, in addition to her current responsibilities in Finance and Assessments," Viola said.

Viola said both staffers were highly recommended by their respective department heads.

"Nobie has been my right hand for many years now and he always does a great job for us," Public Works Director Eddie Wells said. "It's well deserved and I'm very happy for him."

Finance Director Steve Phillips said Meyer has been a key part of the team for more than 25 years.

"Ruth Ann has stepped up for us on a number of occasions, and she's extremely knowledgeable about our organization," Phillips said.

Viola said both Violante and Meyer would continue to report to their department heads and will also have a "dotted line" to the general manager's office on the organizational chart, at this time.

"I am very pleased to make this announcement. Recognizing our staff is one of my favorite parts of the job," Viola said. "Nobie and Ruth Ann both earned this and, as I structure the organization to meet the needs of the coming year, I hope to be able to make a few more announcements like this down the road."



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The curve of a fender

From the first time a horse-drawn buggy yielded to its motorized cousin, the automobile has fascinated young and old alike. Why? The curve of the fender? The length of the hood? The guttural

whether our mother will let us drive her car to school.

My first experience driving onto the parking lot of Archbishop Ryan High School for Boys, saw me behind the wheel of my mother's 1972 Volkswagen 411. The 411 was not cool – unique – but not cool. I didn't care. I was happy I didn't have to ride the bus. At least it wasn't an AMC Pacer.

Youthful car memories abound. A friend recently shared with me

that a favorite car of hers was her mother's 1965 Mustang. I think she said it was yellow. As a teenager,

throb of the engine? The embodiment of freedom? Maybe it's all of the above and even more that enflames a passion of desire. For most, the car in our dreams and the car in our driveway are not the same. Reality being what it is, personal circumstances weigh heavy on the impulse of desire. A two-seat roadster is probably not the best choice for a family of five.

If you were to ask random people, "What's your favorite car?" I suspect many would harken back to their youths for an answer. It's in our youth when, especially as our sixteenth birthday and the prospect of getting a driver's license approach, cars are viewed as an extension of personal identity. In the high school student parking lot would you rather emerge from an AMC Pacer or a Chevy Camaro? Most of us don't have a choice. Our ride depends on what's available, what's affordable and

she raced a girlfriend who also had a Mustang - a convertible - along the backroads of Worcester County. My friend is accomplished, highly respected, a grandmother and drives a minivan; yet, I can envision her at 16 behind the wheel of that yellow Mustang, intent on victory.

The favorite cars of my youth included Fred Flintstone's open-air, foot-propelled chariot, the Munster Koach that transported the Munster family, Jed Clampett's 1921 Oldsmobile truck, Speed Racer's Mach 5, the Scooby Doo Mystery Machine, the Monkeemobile and last but not least, the original Batmobile.

During my teenage years, I projected mystical powers on desired cars believing they would make me cool when I drove through the gates

of the high school parking lot. The *right car* I believed would make people look beyond my braces, big nose, zits, unibrow, pocket protector and polyester floods. The *right car* would also persuade actress Valerie Bertinelli to accept my invitation to prom.

The cars of my teenage desire were probably not much different than other teenagers. Bandit's Firebird (with Sally Field riding shotgun). James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 (with ejection seat). Although I wasn't a big Starsky and Hutch fan, I would have settled for the red Ford Torino with white stripe. The General Lee, a 1969 Dodge Charger, would have been fine too.

But hands down and without hesitation, my dream car of all time was and still is, Jim Rockford's 1978 gold Pontiac Firebird. For me, that was and is *the car*. Why? Several reasons I suppose. I liked the way

would have accepted my prom invitation.

Reality sprayed cold water over my car fantasies. Monthly insurance premiums, fuel costs and maintenance expenses all but extinguished the warm glow of auto desire. My first car was a used four-door Plymouth Volare (without the Corinthian leather). Truth be told, I loved that Volare. I was 16 and that car was freedom on wheels. I think you know what I mean. In time marriage and childrearing dictated multiple car choices – sedans, station wagons and a minivan. I'm not complaining.

I have yet to own a '78 Firebird. I never went to my prom. The braces are long removed from my teeth. Polyester pants have been banned from my wardrobe since 1980.

A couple years ago, I purchased a Dodge Challenger, black like my hair once was. Shortly after, my wife and I were cruising along a back county road on a warm day, windows open, Willie Nelson playing through the speakers when I commented how much different my high school experience could have been had I owned a car like this then – the girls I could have attracted, the parking lot respect I could have earned. Without missing a beat, she turned toward me and stated plainly but with affection, "You would still have been a nerd but with a black car."

I know she's right but I wonder what Ms. Bertinelli would have thought?



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com



Jim Rockford handled himself and how he executed those reverse J-turns to escape being tailed or captured by the bad guys. The car reminds me of the "Rockford Files" theme song which is a favorite. The car attracted beautiful attorney Beth Davenport, giving me hope that with that car Valerie





Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

\$10 million for Jenkins Point

Ten million dollars is the latest price tag on the restoration of Jenkins Point on the north side of the entrance into the Ocean Pines Yacht Club Marina.

A hefty price tag, to say the least, but Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP) Executive Director Kevin Smith expressed confidence most of the funding would come from federal and state grants when he spoke on the project's background and next steps during a one-hour presentation Monday night at the Golf Clubhouse.

This is an important project for Ocean Pines. MCBP jumpstarted it but OPA, particularly former OPA president Doug Parks, was very supportive, with the Parks board voting to donate \$10,000 toward the design and permitting phase of the project. Parks attended Monday's meeting and is point man for OPA as the project moves forward into the final design and permitting phase. OPA president Rick Farr said the current board fully supports the restoration effort.

Also at the meeting was Chris Be-

craft from Underwood & Associates who discussed the design approach and objectives. Underwood is the company selected by MCBP to design and build the project. There was no mention of other bidders by MCBP's Smith or any serious discussion of alternative, perhaps less expensive, means of protection.

Large areas of Jenkins Point eroded over the years, leaving the Pines Point Marina and homes in that area vulnerable to strong northeast wind storms. Especially vulnerable is the Osprey Point condominium community, to the north of the Yacht Club.

The project, if completed, would more or less restore Jenkins Point to what it was many years ago, and in some ways provide even better protection than the original marsh peninsula. Becraft said much of the new construction would bring part of the area to an elevation of perhaps four feet above normal tides. While man-made, the new Jenkins Point would look like a natural coastal environment, including marsh areas, and some protected sandy beaches for possible recreational use.

Becraft felt construction would take 45 days and be done in the winter. His goal would be to work from land via access to the area through the Osprey Point development. This would require permission from the Osprey Point Association, as the property is a gated community and not available for public access.

Those 45 days would see a rather continuous stream of heavy dump trucks and heavy equipment delivering many loads of sand and stone to create the new peninsula. Construction could take longer and require additional access periods in the spring.

Rick Farr asked an important question. Who would own the property once the project was completed? Smith said OPA would own the property and recreational access would be permitted or not by OPA. However, OPA needs to verify OPA ownership of the Jenkins Point property to be certain it is not owned by the Osprey Point association. The property owner will be in control of how the new Jen-

kins Point can be used by the public.

One audience member suggested opening the road into Osprey Point to the public for walking access to the new beaches. Not going to happen. Another wondered about the water depth. The water depth will not change. No dredging is involved. It is essentially a fill operation to rebuild Jenkins Point. There is also some concern about how well the project will protect Osprey Point condos, as compared to the excellent protection provided to Pines Point Marina area.

If the project cannot be constructed via land access, Becraft said the cost would be substantially more, but not double.

This was the second public informational meeting on the Jenkins Point Restoration project. As a practical matter, little or nothing has changed since the last meeting in May 2023 other than an estimated cost increase from \$8 million to \$10 million.

Is a restored Jenkins Point a pipe dream or a reasonable reality? Time will tell.

AGH welcomes new CFO

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System officials have announced that James Kanuch joins the organization this month to serve as the new vice president of finance and chief financial officer. Kanuch succeeds Cheryl Nottingham, who has served in this role since 1998 and will retire in April.



James Kanuch

Kanuch brings 30 years of financial and operational experience to his new role from Allegheny Health Network (AHN), a leading health care provider in western Pennsylvania. He has held a variety of leadership positions with AHN, most recently as senior vice president of finance for AHN's 1,300+ member system of medical practices.

please see **cfo** on page 8

Courier Almanac

On February 7, 1964, Pan Am Yankee Clipper flight 101 from London Heathrow landed at New York's Kennedy Airport—and "Beatlemania" arrives. It was the first visit to the United States by the Beatles, a British rock-and-roll quartet that had just scored its first No. 1 U.S. hit six days before with "I Want to Hold Your Hand." At Kennedy, the "Fab Four"—dressed in mod suits and sporting their trademark pudding bowl haircuts—were greeted by 3,000 screaming fans who caused a near riot when the boys stepped off their plane and onto American soil.

Women should pay careful attention to their physical health, but it's worth noting the importance of tending to one's mental well-being as well. Data concerning women and mental health highlights some eye-opening disparities between women and men. The American Psychiatric Association says each year one in five women in the United States experiences a mental health problem. Twice as many women as men experiences depression. In addition, compared with men, women are twice as likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder or anxiety (both generalized anxiety disorder or panic disorder). Women also are more likely to attempt suicide than men, but men are four times more likely to die by suicide. Women exhibit higher rates of various mental health disorders than men (rates of impulse control disorders and substance abuse disorders are higher among men than women). It is important to note that many mental health issues can be successfully treated and women should seek the assistance of a mental health professional if they need help.



The Courier

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100 years ago this month

Historical events from February 1924

The month of February has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in February 1924.

Honduran President Rafael López-Gutiérrez refuses to leave office on February 1. López-Gutiérrez cites uncertainty regarding a successor as his reason for remaining in office after initially beginning a four-year term on February 1, 1920.

Former United States President Woodrow Wilson falls into a coma at 10:30 p.m. on February 2. The 67-year-old former president dies less than 24 hours later.

Thanks in part to the recommendation of British physicians, Indian freedom fighter Mohandas Gandhi is released from incarceration in Ahmedabad on February 4. Gandhi served less than one-third of his six-year prison sentence for sedition.

Forty-one miners drown in a flash flood inside an underground iron mine near Crosby, Minnesota on February 5. The flood is caused when the crew blasts too close to the bottom of a nearby lake.

President Wilson is buried in a vault beneath the center aisle of the chapel of the Washington National Cathedral on February 6. He remains the only president to be buried in the District of Columbia.

In response to the German Embassy's refusal to offer condolences or lower flags in honor of President Wil-

son, roughly 200 taxi drivers plant an American flag on the embassy lawn on February 6.

The Fascist government of Italy formally recognizes the Communist Soviet Union on February 7.

On February 8, Chinese national Gee Jon becomes the first person in American history to be executed with lethal gas. Jon was convicted in a gangland slaying and was put to death in an airtight chamber at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. Elsewhere in the United States, five inmates, each convicted murderers, were put to death in Texas, marking the state's first use of the electric chair.

Two-hundred fifty delegates representing 61 trade unions, civic groups and fraternal organizations attend the opening day of the Negro Sanhedrin on February 11. The conference was an attempt to establish a national program protecting the legal rights of African American tenant farmers and wage workers.

On February 13, one day after testifying in the trial of "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, Chicago White Sox outfielder Oscar "Happy" Felsch is arrested for perjury. Lawyers for the White Sox produced documents contradicting Felsch's testimony, resulting in his arrest.

On February 14, the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company renames itself the International Business Machines Corporation, which would ultimately be shortened

thought, and drive transformation to improve organizational success. I also want to acknowledge the excellent leadership Cheryl Nottingham has provided over the past 25 years. She has guided the financial stability of our hospital and I thank her for her many contributions and the institutional knowledge she will provide to Jim during the transition."

"I'm excited to join Atlantic General Hospital and Health System and help continue the progress the organization has made in their mission to create a healthy community," Kanuch said. "Working in health care finance has never been more challenging, or more rewarding, as the role of hospitals and their place in the communities they serve continue to evolve dramatically. I look forward to taking on that challenge at Atlantic General."

to IBM.

U.S. Senator Frank L. Greene of Vermont is shot in the head and seriously wounded by a stray bullet during a shootout on February 15. The shootout involved bootleggers and Prohibition enforcement agents, and Senator Green was struck while walking with his wife along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

German artist George Grosz is fined 500 gold marks on February 16. The court determined a collection of Grosz's drawings depicting the decadence of Berlin society was obscene.

Greek Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos resigns on February 19. Venizelos had been in office less than four weeks.

U.S. President Calvin Coolidge becomes the first President to make a

radio broadcast from the White House on February 22.

Prime Minister Ahmet Zogu of Albania is shot twice by anarchist Beqir Valteri on February 23. Often referred to as Zog I of Albania, the prime minister reportedly survived more than 50 assassination attempts over the course of his life. Though Valteri's efforts were unsuccessful, Zogu's injuries forced him to step away from office for a short period following the shooting.

On February 24, the Beverly Hills Speedway hosts its final race. The speedway is torn down as property values in Beverly Hills skyrocket.

Trials related to the Beer Hall Putsch that occurred on November 9, 1923, begin in Munich on February 26. Adolf Hitler and Erich Ludendorff are among those put on trial.

Interesting facts about the month of February

February is the shortest month of the year. Unless it's a leap year, when an extra day is tacked on to the end of the month, February is just 28 days long. Despite its brevity, February is a notable month, and the following are four interesting facts about the second month of the year.

The name "February" comes from the Latin word "februa," which means "to cleanse." The ancient Romans celebrated a festival of purification and atonement known as Februalia, and historians believe that celebration, which lasted a month, occurred around the time of year that the month of February now takes place.

February is arguably the most unique month on the calendar thanks to the phenomenon of the leap year. According to NASA, the Earth takes approximately 365 days and six hours to orbit the sun and approximately 24 hours (one day) to rotate on its axis. NASA notes that most years are rounded down to 365 days, though that does not erase the extra six hours in each year. So approximately every four years an extra day is added to the calendar in February. That will actually take place in 2024, which should excite anyone whose birthday happens to

be February 29.

Speaking of February 29, many a notable event has taken place on that unusual date over the years. On February 29, 1720, the Queen of Sweden, Ulrika Eleonora, abdicated her throne in favor of her husband, who became King Frederick I a little less than a month after his wife's abdication. On February 29, 1940, actress Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win an Academy Award. And on February 29, 1996, the Siege of Sarajevo officially ended, marking the end of a conflict that had lasted 1,425 days.

Though it's typically only 28 days, February still provides many opportunities to celebrate. February is Black History Month in both the United States and Canada, and has recently been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom as well. February also features Mardi Gras and "Fat Tuesday," the final, and often festive, feast day before the Christian season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. American history buffs also have plenty of reasons to celebrate in February, as the month marks the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12), Susan B. Anthony (February 15) and George Washington (February 22), among others.

cfo

from page 6

Kanuch holds a Master of Business Administration from Robert Morris University and an Executive Leadership Program Certificate from the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania. He is an alumnus of Geneva College, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting and business administration.

"Jim's varied background in health care delivery and his experience leading financial operations will be invaluable as we navigate the complex challenges in our industry," said Don Owrey, president and CEO of Atlantic General Hospital and Health System. "I am excited to have Jim join our team, contribute to our strategic



Study - First Graders at Ocean City Elementary School recently participated in an Author Study unit, focusing on books written by author, Kevin Henkes. After reading the story, *Julius, The Baby of the World*, students in Mrs. Marshall's first grade class described the main character, Lilly, using key details from the story.

Craft club seeks former members and vendors for upcoming events

The Pine'eer Craft Club of Ocean Pines is seeking former members and vendors to join in several upcoming events.

On Thursday, April 18, the Craft Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the community center. The club is asking former members to join in the festivities. For more information, contact club treasurer Jane Wolnik at j.wolnik63@gmail.com or call 410-208-4225.

Additionally, the annual August Craft Fair will be held Aug. 3, jointly inside the Ocean Pines Community Center and outdoors at White Horse Park. For information on becoming a vendor, contact Kelly Davis at shoafpr@gmail.com or call 609-351-2125.

The Pine'eer Craft Club always welcomes new members. For an information packet, email Sherry Waskey at sherwaskey@gmail.com or attend regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the community center.

The Artisan Gift Shop sells and showcases locally handcrafted items

made by club members. The shop is open on weekends year-round and features gifts, seasonal items, and home décor favorites. For artisans who would like to be featured in the shop, email opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.

Since its inception, the Craft Club has donated more than \$180,000 back to the Ocean Pines community.

For more information about Pine'eer Craft Club events, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/artisan-gift-shop> or search "Ocean Pines Pine'eer Craft Club" on Facebook.

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Lovebirds

Lovebirds are any of nine species of small parrots of Africa and Madagascar. Lovebirds are noted for pretty colors and the seemingly affectionate proximity of pairs. The nine species are four to six inches long, chunky, and short-tailed. Most have a red bill and prominent eye-ring. Sexes look alike. In the wild, large flocks forage in woods and scrublands for seeds and may damage crops.

Lovebirds are cavity dwellers. They make their home in holes in trees, rocks or shrubs in the wild. Some species nest in groups, while others pair off to build their nests away from the flock. In urban settings, they might rely on anything from a tree to a crevice in a building. Peach-faced lovebirds in Phoenix, Arizona, often make their homes in cacti.

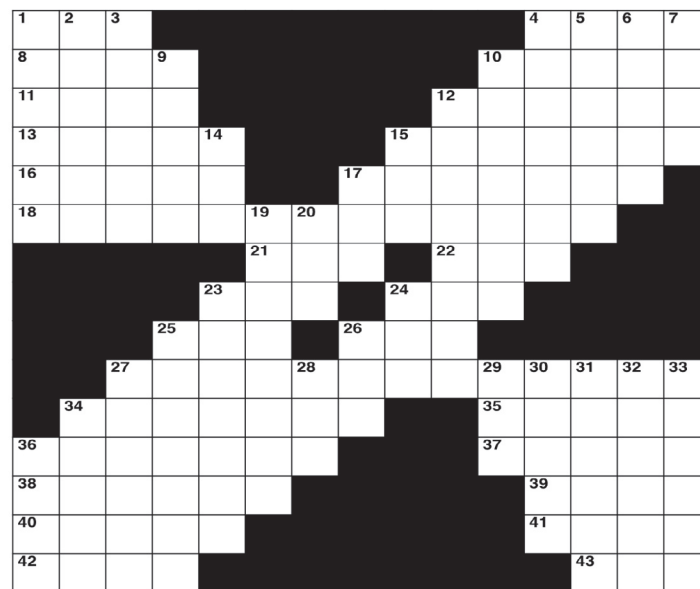
The monogamous birds reach sexual maturity when they're about ten months old. Mating begins with courtship behavior, and can continue

throughout their lifespans. Some species nest in tree holes. The female carries nest material tucked into her rump feathers and runs bits of grass or leaf through her bill to soften them. The four to six eggs are incubated for about 20 days. Their average life span is between 10-12 years with some living even longer. The oldest recorded lovebird lived 17 years.

Lovebirds might be small but they are bold, inquisitive, curious and always on the go. A female lovebird can become highly defensive of her territory.

Monogamy is essential to the social stability of flocks and underlies much of their social behavior.

Popular in small aviaries, lovebirds are not easy to tame. However, they may be taught to perform tricks and to mimic human speech to a limited extent. They are hardy and pugnacious toward other birds and have loud, squawky voices.

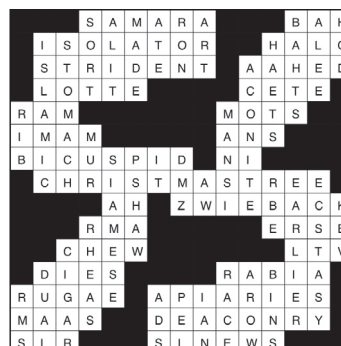


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching statistic
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back together
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer



Answers for January 24



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Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



Revolutionary new rocket engine

As NASA looks forward to bold endeavors such as building lunar infrastructure, and crewed missions to the moon and Mars, the space agency is constantly developing more advanced technologies.

An exciting new rocket design called the Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE) has already undergone several successful tests. This revolutionary new conception is more efficient than current rocket engines and has the potential for greater power as well. The objectives of traveling farther, faster and carrying heavier pay loads are central themes of the RDRE program.

The latest test of the prototype RDRE engine occurred September 27, 2023. at Marshal Space Flight Center

in Huntsville, AL. According to NASA's performance summary, the hot test burn lasted 251 seconds and generated 5,800 pounds of thrust. This four-minute sustained blast met several spacecraft mission requirements, as needed for deep-space burns and landing operations.

One of the key differences between the traditional rocket and the new design is the form of combustion process taking place inside the engine. When the fuel and oxidizer meet, they will combine in an energetic way producing high pressure and temperature as well as flame. The flame spreads quickly through the chamber before being released as exhaust from the rear of the rocket.

In traditional rockets, the

movement of the combustion wave flame takes place slower than the speed of sound. Within the new RDRE engine, the flame moves at supersonic speed, thus providing a significantly greater thrust.

In the RDRE, the explosions circulate around an annular chamber, rapidly burning fuel, as the supersonic detonation wave propagates. As a result, the new design releases significantly more energy using a smaller fuel mass when compared with a traditional rocket engine.

Engineers and scientists have long worked to avoid letting the explosive forces become too great, thus potentially destroying the rocket itself. While the traditional rockets have earned their place as reliable systems for space propulsion, this new technology seems to offer the next step forward.

To tolerate the greater explosive forces of the RDRE, engineers utilized a special aerospace copper alloy called GRCop-42, which has very high thermal conductivity and a high melting point. In addition, the modern 3D printing techniques were used to build the unit, especially the fuel injectors. These injectors are capable of withstanding sudden large changes in pressure accompanying the explosive processes.

It is estimated that the new engine

please see engine page 12



The rotating detonation rocket engine undergoes testing.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

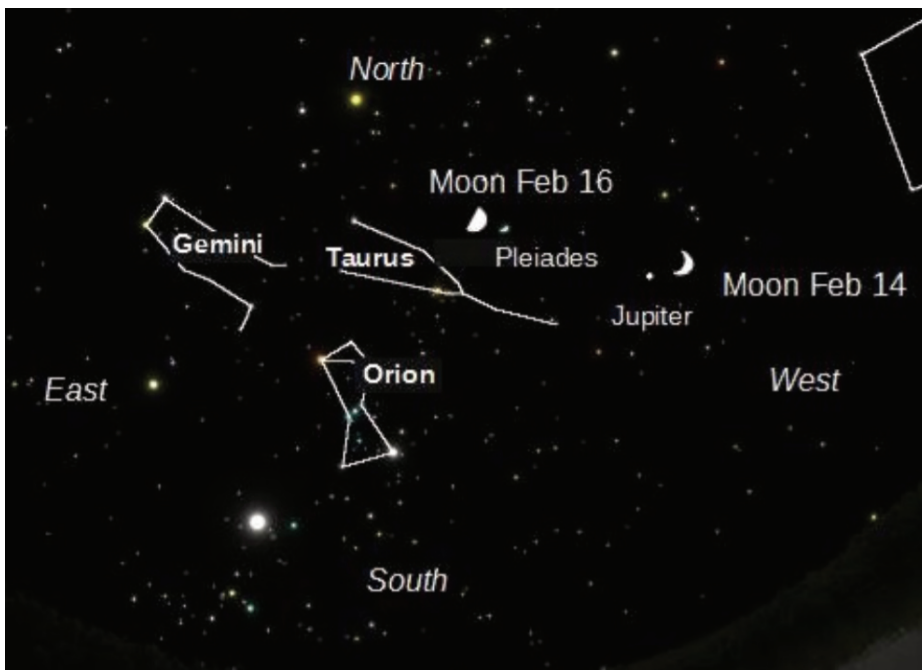
Day	High / Low	Tide Time
Th 8	High	6:23 AM
8	Low	12:39 PM
8	High	6:38 PM
F 9	Low	12:33 AM
9	High	7:15 AM
9	Low	1:27 PM
9	High	7:30 PM
Sa 10	Low	1:26 AM
10	High	8:05 AM
10	Low	2:13 PM
10	High	8:22 PM
Su 11	Low	2:18 AM
11	High	8:54 AM
11	Low	2:59 PM
11	High	9:13 PM
M 12	Low	3:11 AM
12	High	9:42 AM
12	Low	3:45 PM
12	High	10:04 PM
Tu 13	Low	4:05 AM
13	High	10:30 AM
13	Low	4:32 PM
13	High	10:56 PM
W 14	Low	5:02 AM
14	High	11:18 AM
14	Low	5:21 PM
14	High	11:49 PM



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engine
from page 11

design will allow a 25% improvement in the amount of power generated from the same fuel input. Thomas Teasley, who leads the RDRE effort at the Marshal Spaceflight center said, "The RDRE enables a huge leap in design efficiency. It demonstrates we are closer to making lightweight propulsion systems that will allow us to send more mass and payload further into deep space, a critical component of NASA's moon to Mars vision."

February 5 marked the anniversary of the 1971 Apollo 14 moon landing.

In February, stargazers can see the full wintertime display after about 7 p.m. Constellations include Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins. Orion is perhaps the most famous and

enjoyable of all constellations. Stargazers can see the man-shaped figure complete with two stars at the "shoulders," two at the "knees" as well as three stars making up the "belt." At the upper left shoulder of Orion, the star "Betelgeuse" appears, with its slightly red hue.

The bright planet Jupiter appears in the western region of the sky.

The moon will highlight a few celestial companions this month. On February 14, watch for it to appear 4 degrees to the right of Jupiter. On the 16, in the first quarter phase, it appears just to the left of the Pleiades cluster. The Pleiades, popularly known as the Seven Sisters, is a favorite target for hobbyists interested in counting the number of stars they can spot, especially with binoculars.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



Mosaic - The students at Berlin Intermediate School's After School Art Club made mosaics under the guidance of art teacher Joanne Guilfoil. The club is an outreach program of the Art League of Ocean City.

Honoree nominees sought

The Worcester County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council is seeking nominations of individual adults, youth, and groups who have made outstanding contributions to drug and alcohol prevention and treatment. Nominations are being requested for those who have provided exceptional service in the areas of prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and fire/emergency services. The awardees will be honored by Worcester County residents, elected officials, and Council members at the 33rd Annual Drug and Alcohol Awards

Reception. This event will be held on April 9 at the Worcester Technical High School located at 6270 Worcester Hwy. in Newark beginning at 6 p.m.

Nominations of individuals or groups who have performed commendably, and beyond the call of duty are currently being accepted by the Worcester County Health Department. Criteria for selection of honorees include: program impact on community, appropriateness of approach, and personal contribution to the program. Anyone who received an award in the past three years is not eligible.

Nominations should be submitted to the Worcester County Health Department by February 28, 2024. To receive a physical copy of the nomination form, please call 410-632-1100 ext. 1119 or email Regina.Mason@maryland.gov. The nomination form is also available for download at worcesterhealth.org.

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Art League of Ocean City welcomes Board of Directors

The Art League of Ocean City announces their Board of Directors for 2024 with four new members joining the volunteer board. The new and returning members were sworn in at the Art League's annual Holiday Luncheon & Meeting on December 14, 2023 at the Princess Royale Hotel.

"We welcome our new board members and look forward to the new ideas they will bring to the table," said Rina Thaler, the Art League's Executive Director. "We also thank our long-serving board members who have devoted so much of their time and talents to our cause."

John Sisson continues as president; Marian Bickerstaff as past president; Barbara Patrick as 1st vice president; Laura Jenkins as 2nd vice president; Jan Perdue as corresponding secretary, and Ryan Wilde as recording secretary. Amy Rothermel will serve as treasurer.

Returning to the board are Courtney Blackford, Crystal Collins, Al "Hondo" Handy, Don Lehman, Virginia "Ginny" Outten, and Emily Schwab.

Ian Postley of Bishopville, Md. joins the board in 2024. A graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and the Delaware College of Art & Design, Postley was a former Art League college scholarship winner. He is a working graphic artist and social media coordinator at Unscene Productions and the designer of the annual Ocean City Film Festival poster. "Since youth, I've been around the Art League long enough to see the organization as a driving force in the local art scene and a supporter of the various art forms," Postley said.

David Keil of Bethany Beach, De. joins the board after previously volunteering for the nonprofit. A graduate of Syracuse University, he is also on the board of the Delaware Center for Inland Bays and volunteers for the Brandywine Valley SPCA and the Bethany Beach Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee. "The arts are a critical and underappreciated component of a healthy and growing community," Keil said. "The Art League is an important cultural driver in our region with core values that help sustain long-term community growth and well-being."

Patricia Selig of Berlin, who recently returned to the area from Maine, holds degrees from George Washington University and Salisbury University. She has served on the Abbe Museum's and Camp

Beech Cliff Day Campo's executive boards as well as on the boards of Worcester County Youth & Family Counseling and a private first responder board. "I am excited to participate in promoting the arts in our community," Selig said. "I believe that the experience of art can change lives for children and adults."

Heather Ross of Berlin comes to the Art League after a successful career as a Senior Program Manager and Director of Operations at Deloitte Consulting Group. She also served on the Art League's 60th Anniversary Gala Committee. A graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, Wake Forest University, and the University of Virginia, she also volunteers for the Cape Charles, Va. Main Street Project and the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Ross said, "Artistic expression fosters creativity and innovation, amplifies voices that may otherwise go unheard, is a powerful form of communication, and has numerous benefits associated with mental health and the development of well-rounded individuals."

Fire damages Ocean Pines home

The Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office investigated a residential structure fire in Ocean Pines Friday evening.

At 5:54 p.m. the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a residence on Raft Road for a reported structure fire. Upon arrival, crews observed significant fire conditions on the rear of the home extending into it quickly. Firefighters worked to swiftly contain the fire to a screened porch, kitchen and the attic area of the home. Crews remained on location for approximately two hours conducting overhaul operations, ensuring the fire had been completely extinguished.

Deputies from the Worcester County Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and conducted a thorough fire scene examination. Deputy fire marshals determined the fire originated on the rear of the home from improperly discarded smoking materials in a plastic bucket.

Properly working smoke alarms are credited with early notification to the occupants of an emergency in the home allowing them to evacuate safely.

Ocean Pines was assisted by Showell, Bishopville, Ocean City and Roxana Volunteer Fire Departments.

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Young workers and retirement savings

Young adults newly introduced to the professional arena may not immediately be thinking of the future when their careers will come to a close. Retirement may seem like a distant goal when it's 50 years or more away. However, pushing off retirement savings because it is not viewed as a necessity could turn out to be a significant mistake.

According to Mass Mutual, the economic disruption caused by the global pandemic pushed retirement to the bottom of many workers' lists of financial priorities. That was especially so among young professionals. A 2019 survey found roughly half of millennial and Generation Z professionals believe they are not saving enough for retirement. Student loan burdens are another reason why certain people may delay saving for retirement until they are older.

Young workers need to get the facts about retirement. For example, The U.S. Social Security Administration says that Social Security taxes that people now pay into the Social Security Trust funds that

used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries, not future ones. The Board of Trustees estimates that, in 2041, and based on current law, the Trust Funds will be depleted since people are living longer and the birth rate is low. The taxes being paid now will not be enough to pay the full benefit amounts scheduled for future retirees.

Young people can no longer rely on Social Security benefits to finance their retirements in the United States. Rather, young workers need to be proactive and take control of their own retirement savings.

Experts advise following the general rule of saving 10 percent to 12 percent of your salary when you are in your 20s, including factoring in any employer match.

Working for companies that offer defined-contribution plans like a 401(k) or 403(b) can make it easier for young professionals to begin saving for retirement.

Setting aside a portion of your income early on in retirement savings ensures more years of savings

and investments will benefit from decades of compounding.

Those who contribute to a retirement plan may receive an immediate tax break because the contributions come out of paychecks before taxes are withheld. Many of these plans also offer the advantage of tax-deferred growth. This translates to not being required to pay taxes each year on capital gains, dividends or other yield distributions if the money is not withdrawn before age 59½. Speak with a financial advisor to learn more about tax-advantaged accounts.

T. Rowe Price says there are certain benchmarks that can help people save enough money for retirement. By age 30, you should have .5 times the amount of your

salary. At age 35, that amount should increase to 1.5 times your salary. These numbers are based on an assumed retirement age of 65 and with a household income growth of 5 percent until age 45 and 3 percent thereafter.

According to research from Qualtrics, young workers don't plan on working until they can receive full benefits from Social Security. Twenty-four percent plan to retire early, and 41 percent want to do so by the time they turn 50. That could spark more ambition among younger generations to save for retirement and to save more aggressively.

Even if retirement is many years in the future, young workers need to start saving for retirement early on to be able to retire comfortably.

Rising debt is the new reality

Debt continues to be a major concern for households across North America. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York Center for Microeconomic Data found total household debt reached \$17.29 trillion in the third quarter of 2023 in the United States. This upward trajectory has been going on since 2021 and is largely driven by mortgages, credit cards and student loan balances.

Canadian households also are in debt. In fact, according to CBC News, Canadians carried more debt in 2021 than people in any other G7 country, with the value owed more

than the value of the country's entire economy. As of the third quarter of 2023, Statistics Canada says the average household was spending around 15 cents of every after-tax dollar in service of debt, which equated to \$2.9 trillion across the country.

Research from financial services company Northwestern Mutual found that, excluding mortgages, the average personal debt per individual in 2023 sat at \$21,800, which was down from \$29,800 in 2019. Recent data from TransUnion, a credit reporting agency, confirms that the average credit card debt across the U.S. has increased to \$5,733 per cardholder.

Business Insider calculations based on the latest data show the average borrower in 2023 had a monthly mortgage payment of around \$2,800 on a 30-year-fixed-rate mortgage. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported the average monthly payment on new mortgages in the first quarter of 2023 was \$1,984, up 40 percent from 2019.

Individuals are being hit by high costs in all directions, which is compounding personal debt. Those concerned about their debt can speak with a financial professional as they seek to gain control of their finances.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by **Jack Barnes**

Aging

-Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of coloring.

-Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

-Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

-I grew up with Bob Hope, Steve Jobs, and Johnny Cash. Now there's no jobs, no cash, and no hope. Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon.

-Shout out to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the pass-

word they created yesterday. You are my people.

-One minute you're young and fun. And next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see better.

-Think you're old and you will be old. Think you are young, and you will be delusional.

-There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

-Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave—I say I'm having a very good day!

And that, my friends, was car seat safety in the 70s!



Paws off! Practice pet poison prevention

Companion animals typically do not understand that certain items in their environments can be harmful. Pets' innate curiosity coupled with unique aromas produced by common household items can put them in jeopardy of potentially deadly poisoning.

According to veterinary experts at WebMD Pet Health Center, an estimated 232,000 cases of pet poisoning occur annually in the United States. In March 2022, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center hotline fielded 22 percent more calls stemming from incidents of pet toxicity than in 2021. The following are some steps pet owners can take to protect their companion animals against poisoning.

Don't leave out human food. Dogs, cats and other animals may be lured by the sweet temptation of their owners' food. Many food scraps can be toxic to pets, including alcoholic beverages, chocolate, coffee beans, moldy foods, and raisins, among others. Keep the kitchen tidy and trash cans (indoor and outdoor) secured.

Be careful with houseplants. While they may look beautiful and filter indoor air, certain houseplants can be toxic to pets if ingested. Before bringing any new plants into your home, check the ASPCA Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant Guide. Lilies may be pretty, but they also are quite toxic. The smallest nibble can be fatal to cats.

Keep medications locked away. Be sure that over-the-counter and prescription medications are locked away and cannot be accessed by curious pets. Even seemingly mild medications, like human pain relievers, can be toxic to pets.

Be safe when spring cleaning. Keep pets out of rooms when they are being cleaned by chemical products or when using insecticides. Wait a day or more before letting pets back into the area. Store products beyond a pet's reach when they're not in use.

With diligence, a significant percentage of pet poisonings can be prevented. Pet owners should do their homework about toxic items in and around their homes and do their best to keep pets safe.

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