

The Courier

May 1, 2024 Volume 24 Number 32



Taking a hike - Linda Powers (left) and Valerie Ricklin (right) participated in the opening Saturday of the new Summerfield Trails. The 3.1 mile trail system, located in Pocomoke State Forest, will eventually connect to the Department of Natural Resources Wildlands Trail Network, connecting Snow Hill to the Pocomoke State Park Shad Landing. Photo by Chip Bertino

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GM reports to board, community

General Manager John Viola's monthly report to the Board on April 20 included updates on OPA financials, ongoing initiatives and maintenance, and the upcoming reserve study.

Initiative updates

Viola said the Yacht Club tiki bar expansion remains on track to open by Memorial Day. Concrete work is finished, and framing and electrical work have started.

"We'll be there and ready in the middle of May," he said. "If not, we'll have alternative plans and everybody will get their drinks."

Viola said the Association received two bids for the soft shoreline project at the South Gate Pond. Staff are in the process of reviewing bids and meeting with contractors.

Viola said he met with Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore again on the new pavilion at the memorial grounds, slated to open by Veterans Day. He said Frank Brown, a former Board member, will assist with design work and Whayland Construction will build the pavilion.

"I'm excited about that one and it's good to be working with Marie and everybody else," Viola said.

He said the status of the Racquet Sports building renovation was recently moved to "yellow."

"We're shifting gears a little," he said. "However, the Board has instructed me ... to continue on with what's been approved, and we still are focused on that."

He said the renovation plans would prioritize expanding the bathrooms, pro shop and director's office, and creating better visibility of the courts for staff.

Financial updates

Viola said March financials show \$148,000 favorability to budget for the month, including \$44,000 favorability in revenues and \$104,000 favorability in expenses.

Year-to-date favorability is now approximately \$1.056 million.

Viola said the forecast for Golf this year is profitable \$40,000, after depreciation.

"It's huge," he said. "The Golf Course pays for itself, [and] the Golf Course will pay for that new irrigation system" over the life of the system.

Reserve study update

Viola said the Maryland Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee is proposing an extension from three years to five years for funding requirements related to homeowner's association reserve levels.

He said Ocean Pines, already engaged with an independent firm to update its recent reserve study, remains well positioned to follow state requirements.

"We have been ahead of the game on this, since we did have an outside, independent reviewer come in five years ago, as well as a couple years ago," he said. "We're positioned better than we were five or six years ago - way better."

Viola said the firm, DMA Reserves, would come back in November for another reserve study update. He cautioned that the Association's total reserve requirements could change, depending on the firm's recommendation.

"We're already working on all the details," he said. "But, at this point, it's uncharted waters as far as what our reserve numbers should be."

Maintenance updates

Viola said staff recently fielded several inquiries about maintenance of the Ocean Pines Beach Club.

He said the bathrooms were renovated in 2018. After a walk-through inspection last fall, the interior restaurant area was repainted, and counters were sanded and re-stained.

Public Works also does an annual

building inspection to locate and replace any damaged boards. "We do replace the boards every year [and] they will be doing that again this year," Viola said, adding the entire deck is scheduled for replacement over the next few years.

"I just want to assure everybody that that is in the plans and the budget," he said.

In other maintenance news, road paving started on April 8 and will continue along eight streets: Battersea Road, Canal Road, Deerfield Court, Driftwood Lane, Moonraker Road, St. Martins Lane, Waters Edge Court, and Wharf Court.

Landscaping updates

Viola said beautification continues to be a priority, with landscaping crews currently focused on mulching and applying herbicides ahead of the summer.

The North Gate Bridge recently featured a bright and colorful collection of tulips, and new palm trees are coming soon. Cherry blossoms are in bloom along the North and South gates.

"Those cherry trees are just gorgeous," Viola said.

Drainage updates

Viola said Pelican Underground would soon re-line drainage pipes at more than a dozen different locations: 1221 and 1223 Carrollton Lane; the Golf Course; White Horse Drive; Capetown Road; 57 Ocean Parkway; 7 and 52 Pinehurst Road; 192 Teal Cir-

cle; 34, 44 and 84 Lookout Point; 27 and 48 Seafarer Lane; 28 Admiral Avenue; and 22 Harpoon Road.

He said the Association is in the fifth year of its "cured-in-place" pipe replacement program that's cheaper, less invasive to install and longer lasting than traditional methods.

"We've spent about a million dollars on these pipes, these liners. The money that it's saved us ... is incredible," Viola said, adding that some drainage pipes had not been replaced in 50 years.

"This is something I really believe was never addressed [before]," he said. "This is key on why the drainage is better."

New electronic sign

Viola said the new electronic sign was installed at the North Gate on April 16. The sign features rotating black-and-white text of important information and upcoming events.

The total cost was \$26,558, including \$4,440 for surveying, permits, and new pavers and landscaping.

"We were pretty much on track with what we promised we would deliver," he said, adding staff would receive training on the sign this week.

"Credit to Public Works. They did all the pavers there and I'm very excited and happy about what they did," Viola said.

Amenity updates

Viola said Golf membership num-

please see report on page 14



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Ferry recognized for making a difference

Ocean Pines resident Jack Ferry recently received the 2024 Hauptert Humanitarian Award from his alma mater Moravian University. The award recognizes an alum who has rendered outstanding service in the cause of human welfare. Ferry was recognized for his service to humanity, achieving standards above and beyond the expected duties and responsibilities of his career. The award recognition notes that he made a positive difference in the lives of others in his community.

Ferry, a 1978 graduate of the university, spent much of his career ensuring the success of others. For 20 years he taught high school and then 10 years in business. He then found his true calling, preparing individuals with intellectual disabilities for successful futures by helping them become more included across communities and providing them opportunities to support themselves and their families.

In 2008, Ferry helped start businesses for adults with disabilities who were clients at the Worcester County Developmental Center (WCDC). As the day program manager, he was responsible for securing community- and facility-based jobs for clients and training them to maintain employment. He started businesses in commercial laundry, cleaning services, lawn maintenance and catering. He hired adults with disabilities so they could earn money to pay for food and rent and support their families.

He was named WCDC Executive Director in 2013, overseeing operations and day program assignments for 86 clients and 130 staff members. WCDC was named nonprofit of the year by local community organizations in 2017 and 2023.

Ferry retired in 2023 but still volunteers at WCDC. "The clients have taught me more every day than I've taught them in 30 years," said Ferry.



Jack Ferry

County budget hearing is May 7

The Worcester County Commissioners invite the public to attend a hearing on the requested FY25 County Operating Budget and the proposed real property tax rate of \$0.845 per \$100 of assessment. The hearing will take place at the Worcester County Government Center in Snow Hill on Tuesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. The meeting will also be streamed live at <https://worcestercountymd.swagit.com/live>.

Public testimony, either in-person the night of the hearing or written in advance, is welcome. Speakers may address the commissioners for up to two minutes.

Written comments may be sent by email to wchearing@co.worcester.md.us or by mail to the County Commissioners' Office at Room 1103 Government Center, One West Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863. Written comments must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6. Commenters must include their full names and addresses to be included in the public record. Written comments received by the deadline will be read into the record by Worcester County staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Anglers to meet

The Ocean Pines Anglers Club will meet on Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ocean Pines library. The speaker, on Boater Safety, will be licensed Captain and experienced marine inspector Tommy Ottenwaelder, principal owner of Guardian Marine Services. Also, there will be member updates on fishing regulations, tournaments and all things fishing. All are welcome.



Joint effort - Worcester Prep School siblings, ninth grader **Isha Garg** and fourth grader **Priya Garg** celebrated Earth Day together by working on a Recycled Doodle Bot together.

Members sought for Historical Work Group

Ocean Pines is seeking volunteers for a new Historical Work Group.

Board member Elaine Brady, at an OPA Board meeting on Saturday, brought up a discussion topic on establishing a work group to collect, properly preserve and organize historical items related to the history of Ocean Pines, along with determining how to best showcase them.

"The 50th Anniversary Committee received many documents and pictures from individuals who helped shape our community," Brady said. "There was some discussion at that time of creating a way to display them. However, other than repurposing a few message boards surrounding the Administration parking lot for a handful of items, the rest has been sitting in storage.

"It's time we should start looking at ways to organize and showcase those items. Additionally, we should collect our more recent documents and pictures in order for future generations to not only learn the history of the beginnings of Ocean Pines, but how the community has evolved over the years before the inherent knowledge and

documents are lost," she added.

For more information or to inquire about joining the work group, email Brady at ebrady@oceanpines.org.

Kiwanis Food Drive underway

During the month of May, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City will hold its Annual Food Drive collecting non-expired, non-perishable goods for Diakonia Homeless and Housing Shelter located in West Ocean City. Vehicles will be stationed in the Ocean Pines Community Center parking lot every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. until noon to accept donations. Please consider donating.

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Grandfathering

On a recent Sunday morning, the joy of grandfathering was front and center. My 18-month grandson stayed with us for the day. So, he was all ours. And while my wife was out for a couple hours in the morning, he

too. He liked climbing into and out of the Adirondak chairs. He ran around the garden and then returned to one of the chairs, sat for a moment or two jabbering away and then headed off in search of other adventures.



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

was all mine. I used the Nino-Rhys time to full advantage.

We spent some time outside as I followed him around the yard, several times blocking him from heading down the driveway to the street. Like the Energizer Bunny, he just kept going and going. He was fascinated with the river rock bed, spending time rearranging stones and then rearranging them some more. He transported a couple stones from the front yard to the back, laughing as he threw them onto the brick Piazza. I laughed

He liked being loaded into the wheel barrow and being pushed around the yard, lap after lap. We stopped when Nino worked himself out of breath.

When he started rubbing his eyes, it was clear he was running out of energy. We headed inside. He picked up the television remote control and handed it to me. The Disney logo appeared on the screen when I flicked it on, igniting squeals of joy from the little guy. He pointed to the "Ice Age" picture which I clicked on. I settled into the recliner; Rhys climbed into my lap. We watch for several minutes until he made clear he wanted to watch something else. I brought up the menu. "Cars" was what he wanted. "Cars" is what he

got. Within a few minutes, the little guy wanted something else. Because this Pixar film is a favorite of mine, I told him we were not changing it. He expressed his dissatisfaction for about a minute before settling back in my arms. Within about ten minutes he fell asleep and stayed that way for the next 45 minutes.

There's something magical about the peaceful and innocent countenance of a sleeping child. I couldn't help staring at him several times for several minutes. It doesn't get much better than this I told myself multiple times. He came awake near the end of the movie, rubbing his eyes and mumbling to himself. When the credits rolled, he slid off my lap and headed to the front door indicating he wanted to go out which we did. Once outside it started all over again. I followed him around the yard. He spent time rearranging stones. He climbed in and out of the chairs and I pushed him around the yard in the wheel barrow. It was an enjoyable morning.

Grandparenting is an adventure unique to the participants. It evolves and hopefully flourishes. As Rhys was asleep in my arms, memories of another grandparent relationship re-

played vividly in my mind. On this day 40 years ago my grandfather, Gramps, passed away. He was young, just 70. I learned a lot from him as a child and I'm still learning from him as a grandfather. Beautiful and meaningful memories of our time together anchor who I strive to be as a grandfather. I often channel Gramps when I interact with my grandchildren whether it's making funny faces, dancing around the room, holding them in my arms while they sleep or just following them around the yard as they explore. It's a comfortable continuum, transcending time and place keeping Gramps vibrant and relevant within our family. When it's their time as grandparents, hopefully my grandchildren will feel the same about me.

When the day drew to a close and a sleepy Rhys went home with his parents, I looked around the yard. River stones were strewn around the Piazza, chairs were turned this way and that and a broken ceramic mushroom lay on the table. I couldn't help but smile. The stones were returned, the chairs arranged and the mushroom glued together. It was a very nice day, a day that made memories.



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Oak tree planted in Pintail Park for Arbor Day

AC Plant and Turf on Friday planted a tree in Pintail Park in Ocean Pines, to help commemorate Arbor Day.

Arborist Terry Wooters said the tree, a willow oak, is native to the area and can handle salt spray from the nearby canal.

“I wanted an oak tree, specifically, because they can root deeper and offer a lot of value to wildlife,” he said. That includes more than 450 species of caterpillars.

He also said planting a younger tree will help it better establish a roots system.

“We often run into issues with large trees failing because they cannot establish roots. They take a lot more shock when planted,” he said.

Wooters said the tree will eventually grow to roughly 30 feet tall.

“We’re planting it here specifically so that, one day, it will offer some relief on the hottest afternoons for the fringe tree here and the serviceberry, which both prefer that,” he said.

The nearby trees in the park were

planted by the Ocean Pines Garden Club. Since 1991, the Garden Club has participated in Arbor Day by planting a tree in memory of family and friends who passed away during the prior year.



AC Plant and Turf Marketing Director Joe Cooper said planting the tree is the company’s way of giving back – and commemorating an important holiday.

“We thought about planting a nice tree here in Pintail Park that will help the other trees,” he said. “We just wanted to give back to the community that we’re trying to grow in.”

Courier Almanac

Months before its release, Orson Welles’ landmark film *Citizen Kane* began generating such controversy that Radio City Music Hall eventually refused to show it. Instead, *Citizen Kane*, now revered as one of the greatest movies in history, made its debut at the smaller RKO Palace Theater on May 1, 1941.



Arthritis is a series of conditions that primarily affects joint health. The two main types of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The University of Michigan Health says osteoarthritis occurs when the smooth cartilage joint surface wears out, and the condition usually begins in an isolated joint. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attack itself. RA targets the joints, but other parts of the body can be affected as well. The Cleveland Clinic says that osteoarthritis is generally diagnosed in adults older than age 50. Rheumatoid arthritis tends to develop in adults between the ages of 30 and 60.



Seeding - The Ocean City- Berlin Rotary Club made Earth Day seed bombs with Ms. Santoni’s kindergarten class at Ocean City Elementary School. The Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at Don’s Seafood at the South Gate of Ocean Pines. For more information email ocberlinrotary@gmail.com

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Dorothy Shelton-Leslie

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Pine'eer Craft Club celebrates golden anniversary

April 18 was a banner day for the Pine'eer Craft Club, as state, county and community leaders helped celebrate 50 years of club activity.

Chief among those, Club President Sharon Puser said Craft Club donations have benefited many community groups over the last five decades, with more than \$185,000 to date in total donations.

That includes more than \$35,000 for Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks, more than \$23,000 for Ocean Pines Police, and more than \$15,000 for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department and EMS. Other donations went to Ocean Pines Public Works, the Neighborhood watch, the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, the Ocean Pines Library, the Ocean Pines Garden Club, and others.

“Unfortunately, years of records were lost due to flooding, so that’s the verifiable donation number – we know there is more,” Puser said. “The money has gone toward critical needs that support a growing community, like playground equipment, masks for firemen, bike helmets for children, equipment for policemen, tables and chairs for the community centers, support for concerts in the park, and much more.”

Maryland Sen. Mary Beth Carozza was a featured guest of the luncheon and presented Puser with a citation sponsored by herself and Del. Wayne Hartman offering special recognition for “the stunning handcrafted gifts” the club creates,

and the good service it does for the Ocean Pines community and beyond.

Worcester County Commissioner President Chip Bertino was also present to read a proclamation to club members and guests by declaring it “Pine'eer Craft Club Day.” Bertino celebrated the creativity and donations that the club members have made to Worcester County in their 50 years of giving.

Worcester County Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines President Kerrie Bunting was also present to recognize the club. Bunting offered a special ribbon cutting to celebrate the occasion, and guests and club officers were invited to participate.

In addition to club members past and present, Ocean Pines Board of Directors Elaine Brady, John Latham and Monica Lankowski attended, along with General Manager John Viola and Police Chief Tim Robinson, Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore, and Recreation and Parks Director Debbie Donahue.

One special guest, 92-year-old Anne Turner, was president of the club in 1975. She brought a sweatshirt that she bought at the Artisan Gift Shop many years ago, claiming it was one of her favorites as she reminisced about the many friends she made.

Turner also offered the story behind the club’s name.

“Mary Fickle was the first president of the crafting group, and we

used to have meetings in the campgrounds under the trees,” she said. “As one of the first clubs to form in Ocean Pines, and as she looked up through those pines at the blue sky above for inspiration, she decided to name the group the Pine'eer Craft Club.”

Other former members were invited to stand and share memories, and there were many smiles around the room.

The Craft Club is busily preparing for big fundraising events, including the August Craft Fair, Desserts in the Park, and the Holiday Craft Fair.

The August Craft Fair will be held on Aug. 3 in the Ocean Pines Community Center and White Horse Park. Those interested in becoming a vendor this year should contact Kelly Davis at shoafpr@gmail.com or call 609-351-2125 for more information.

The Pine'eer Craft Club always welcomes new members. For an information packet, email Sherry Waskey at sherwaskey@gmail.com or



Anne Turner (left) recounts clubs history. **Sharon Puser** is holding the microphone.

attend meetings on the third Thursday of each month in the Ocean Pines Community Center.

The Pine'eer Craft Club also operates the Artisan Gift Shop, across from the Ocean Pines Administration Building and next to the Farmer’s Market. The shop is open weekends, year-round, and features gifts, seasonal items, and home décor favorites. Artisans who would like to be featured in the shop may contact Debbie Jiwa or Barbara Herzog at opcraftclub@aol.com for more information.

For more information about Pine'eer Craft Club events and announcements, search for “Ocean Pines Pine'eer Craft Club” on Facebook.

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My Backyard... sponsored by Maureen Kennedy

American Goldfinch

A typical summer sight is a male American Goldfinch flying over a meadow, flashing golden in the sun, calling perchickory as it bounds up and down in flight. In winter, when males and females alike are colored in subtler brown, flocks of goldfinches congregate in weedy fields and at feeders, making musical and plaintive calls. In most regions this is a late nester, beginning to nest in mid-summer, perhaps to assure a peak supply of late-summer seeds for feeding its young.

The bird is about 4 1/2" to 5" tall. The summer male is bright yellow with black wings, tail, and forehead. The summer female is duller yellow-green. Winter birds vary from yellowish brown to gray; note bold wing-bars (white or buff) on black wings, white tail spots.

Its habitat is patches of thistles and weeds, roadsides, open woods and edges. It is found during all seasons in semi-open areas having open weedy ground and some trees and bushes for shelter, especially areas of second growth, stream sides, roadsides, woodland edges, orchards and suburban areas. In winter it can be found in some very open fields farther from trees.

Both parents feed nestlings. At first the male brings food so the female can give it to the young. Then both parents handle feeding with the role of the female gradually declin-

ing. The male may provide most food in later stages. The young leave the nest about 11 to 17 days after hatching.

American Goldfinches forage actively in weeds, shrubs, and trees, often climbing about acrobatically on plants such as thistles to reach the seeds. Except during breeding season, they usually forage in flocks. They commonly come to feeders for small seeds.

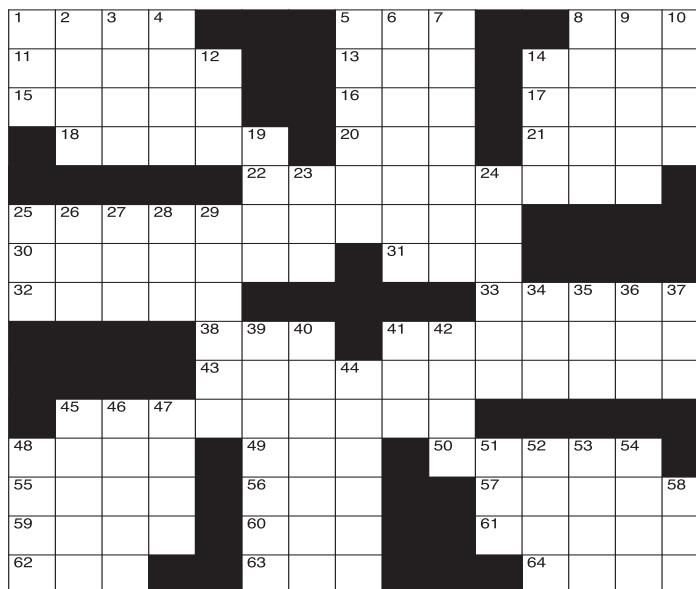
Nesting begins late in the season in many areas, with most birds nesting activity during July and August.



During courtship the male performs fluttering flight displays while singing.

The birds usually nest in deciduous shrubs or trees, sometimes in conifers or in dense weeds, usually less than 30 feet above the ground and placed in horizontal or upright fork. The nest, built by the female, is a solid, compact cup of plant fibers, spiderwebs, plant down (especially from thistles); the nest is so well-made that it may even hold water.

-Audubon

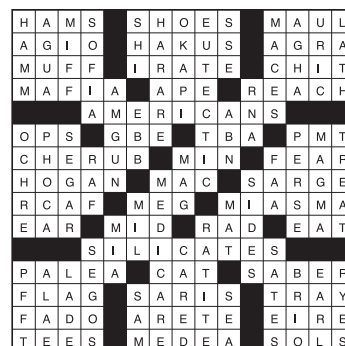


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lions do it
- 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity
- 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin
- 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father
- 32. Former Cowboys coach
- 33. City in Finland
- 38. Run batted in
- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin
- 45. In a harmful way
- 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster
- 50. Caucasian language
- 55. Syngman __, Korean president
- 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled
- 59. Fishes
- 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble
- 62. Doctor of Education
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Hebrew unit of measure
- 3. Swedish rock group
- 4. College army
- 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career
- 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman
- 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog
- 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk
- 19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant
- 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark
- 29. Breathes in
- 34. Take hold of
- 35. Everyone has one
- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force
- 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants
- 45. Expressed pleasure
- 46. Shelter
- 47. Utilizes
- 48. Forest resident
- 51. Fashion accessory
- 52. A sharply directional antenna
- 53. __ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon



Answers for April 24



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Telescope opens vista to billions of stars

NASA is building an exciting new venture with its new Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Astronomers are anticipating having

to observe such a large patch of the sky with the Hubble or James Webb space telescopes. Roman would only take around a month”

on an instrument called the coronagraph. This consists of a system of masks, prisms, detectors and self-flexing mirrors designed to block out the glare from distant stars and reveal the



Astronomy & Spaceflight

By Douglas Hemmick, Ph.D.



an exceptionally wide field of view, making the new instrument ideal for mapping a recordbreaking cosmic survey. The Roman telescope operates in the infrared giving it the capability of seeing into the far reaches of the cosmos near the time of the big bang.

Research frontiers to be addressed with the new Roman telescope include the accelerating expansion of the cosmos, the effects of dark energy, and the remote areas of the Milky Way including stellar nurseries.

To understand the problem of field of view, consider a person looking at the moon in a powerful telescope. This might reveal just a small portion of the bright surface rather than the entirety of Earth's familiar satellite. In technical terms, astronomers would say that the field of view is too narrow to contain the whole surface.

The Roman Telescope's unusually wide field of view permits images which take in much more than the average telescope. The new telescope offers a field of view 100 times larger than the Hubble and 500 times that of the James Webb Space Telescope.

On March 12, NASA announced that the first designated research project for Roman would be a survey of the outer reaches of the far side of our Milky Way Galaxy. This stellar inventory will peer deeper than any earlier survey, mapping more of our galaxy's stars than all previous observations combined.

Astrophysicists from Harvard, Cal Tech and others had submitted a paper responding to an invitation from NASA. After learning their Milky Way project was selected, the paper's lead author, Roberta Paladini, said, "It would take decades

Co-author Catherine Zucker said, "we have a very incomplete view of what the other half of that Milky Way looks like beyond the galactic center. We'll basically rewrite the 3-D picture of the far side of the galaxy."

NASA has reported progress on constructing and testing the Roman Telescope. Tests of the primary mirror, and of the wiring/cabling module have been completed. Also, NASA has awarded a launch contract to SpaceX, currently scheduled for the year 2027.

In January, testing was conducted

the exoplanets in orbit around them. Astronomers estimate that as many as 2,500 new exoplanets might be found. The coronagraph brings ground-breaking technologies to space astronomy research.

The coronagraph's cutting-edge technology is designed to block light from a bright cosmic object like a star, so that scientists can observe a nearby object that would otherwise be hidden by the glare. (Think of a car's sun visor.) Viewing the direct light reflected or emitted by a planet carries information about the chemicals in the planet's atmosphere and other potential signs of habitability, so coronagraphs may

become a tool in the search for life beyond our solar system.

As the stars of the May skies become fully visible around 9 p.m., Leo the Lion will fly high overhead. Look for the familiar kite shape figure of Bootes (boh OH teez) the Herdsman as it returns again to the May skies.

Bright stars this month include Arcturus at the base of Bootes, Spica located well to the south of that constellation and Procyon to the south of Gemini.

For those outdoors after about 10 p.m., Hercules the Hero will be in view over the eastern horizon.

Wishing good luck and clear skies to all stargazers.



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Run for the Roses is Saturday

The Kentucky Derby, first held in 1875 at Churchill Downs racetrack in Louisville, KY is the longest-running sports event in the United States. Dubbed the “Run for the Roses,” the Derby features three-year-old thoroughbreds racing a distance of 1.25 miles.

Today, some 150,000 spectators gather annually on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Derby, sometimes referred to as “the greatest two minutes in sports.”

Besides placing bets on horses, Derby fans are famous for drinking mint juleps, singing “Old Kentucky Home” and wearing flamboyant hats.

The Kentucky Derby was started by Meriwether Lewis Clark Jr., grandson of explorer William Clark, of Lewis and Clark Expedition fame. Clark, who was inspired by horse races he’d seen in Europe, raised the money to build Churchill Downs on land donated by his uncles.

In 1872, Clark traveled to Europe, where he visited leading horse-racing sites in England and France. He was inspired by England’s Epsom Downs racecourse, home since 1780 of the Derby Stakes, a 1.5-mile race for three-year-old horses organized by the 12th Earl of Derby and his friends.

Clark returned home to Kentucky, founded the Louisville Jockey Club and raised money to construct a racetrack on land donated by his uncles, Henry and John Churchill. Famed for throwing extravagant parties, Clark envisioned his racetrack as a place where the city’s stylish residents would gather.

On May 17, 1875, some 10,000 people attended the first Kentucky Derby, which featured a field of 15 three-year-old thoroughbreds racing 1.5 miles. The winning horse, Aristides, finished with a time of 2:37.75 and was ridden by Oliver Lewis, an African-American jockey.

A change to the Derby occurred in its early years when, in 1896, following complaints by some members of the racing community that the distance was too long, the event was reduced from 1.5 miles to 1.25 miles, the length it remains today.

In 1902, a new management team took over Churchill Downs that included Martin “Matt” Winn, a Louisville native and larger-than-life

promoter who was instrumental in transforming the Derby from a local event into America’s most iconic horse race.

In 1908, Winn, who eventually started using the honorary title “colonel,” played a key role in introducing a new system of placing bets at Churchill Downs, replacing human bookmakers with French pari-mutuel machines, a move that proved popular with race fans.

Winn also started the publicity-generating practice of inviting celebrities to the Derby, and advocated broadcasting the race on the radio, something other racing executives thought would hurt attendance numbers.

In 1925, the Derby aired on network radio for the first time; and afterward, attendance continued to grow. The year 1949 marked the first year the Derby was locally televised. Three years later, in 1952, the Kentucky Derby made its debut on national TV.

In 1973, Secretariat became the fastest Derby winner in history with a time of 1:59.40, a record that still stands.

Three years earlier, in 1970, Diane Crump became the first female jockey to ride in the Derby; she finished 15th in a field of 17 horses. Crump also broke ground in 1969, when she became the first woman to ride in a pari-mutuel race in North America, at Hialeah Park in Florida.

In 1986, 54-year-old Bill Shoemaker broke ground in a different way by becoming the oldest jockey to win the Derby.

Only a few fillies (female horses) have won the Derby; the first to do so was Regret, in 1915.

The first horse to win racing’s prestigious Triple Crown—by winning the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes—was Sir Barton in 1919, although it wasn’t until the 1930s that the three races were widely known by that term.

In 1968, Dancer’s Image became the first Derby winner to be barred from receiving prize money after test-

ing positive for a banned medication following the race.

To qualify to ride in the Derby, a horse must compete in designated prep races at a series of tracks. The top four finishers in each race receive points, and the 20 horses who accumulate the most points are eligible to enter the Derby.



Secretariat

In 2017, the guaranteed prize money for the Derby was \$2 million, which was divided among the top finishers, with the winner taking home more than \$1.6 million.

The Derby is steeped in tradition, including some, such as mint juleps and “My Old Kentucky Home,” that link the race to a romanticized version of the Old South.

When the horses parade onto the dirt track before the start of the race, the crowd sings along to the 19th century ballad “My Old Kentucky Home” by composer Stephen Foster. According to some accounts, the song was first played at the Derby in 1921.

The mint julep, a drink that originated in the South and is made with bourbon, sugar, mint and crushed ice, has been a Derby tradition for nearly a century.

Roses are another longtime Derby tradition. In 1884, Meriwether Clark started the practice of giving the winning jockey a bouquet of roses.

In 1925, a New York sports columnist nicknamed the Derby the “Run for the Roses.” Since the early 1930s, it’s been customary to place a large garland of roses over the winning horse.

Fashion has been a part of the Derby since its inception, thanks to

founder Clark, who wanted to improve the image of American racetracks and attract an upscale crowd to Churchill Downs.

In the 1960s, spurred on in part by the presence of TV cameras at the Kentucky Derby, both male and female Derby-goers started the tradition of sporting fancy hats on race day.

—Source: *history.com*

Derby Winners

since 1973

2023	Mage
2022	Rich Strike
2021	Mandaloun
2020	Authentic
2019	Country House
2018	Justify
2017	Always Dreaming
2016	Nyquist
2015	American Pharoah
2014	California Chrome
2013	Orb
2012	I’ll Have Another
2011	Animal Kingdom
2010	Super Saver
2009	Mine That Bird
2008	Big Brown
2007	Street Sense
2006	Barbaro
2005	Giacomo
2004	Smarty Jones
2003	Funny Cide
2002	War Emblem
2001	Monarchos
2000	Fusaichi Pegasus
1999	Charismatic
1998	Real Quiet
1997	Silver Charm
1996	Grindstone
1995	Thunder Gulch
1994	Go for Gin
1993	Sea Hero
1992	Lil E. Tee
1991	Strike the Gold
1990	Unbridled
1989	Sunday Silence
1988	Winning Colors
1987	Alysheba
1986	Ferdinand
1985	Spend A Buck
1984	Swale
1983	Sunny’s Halo
1982	Gato Del Sol
1981	Pleasant Colony
1980	Genuine Risk
1979	Spectacular Bid
1978	Affirmed
1977	Seattle Slew
1976	Bold Forbes
1975	Foolish Pleasure
1974	Cannonade
1973	Secretariat

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Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is a relatively insignificant holiday on the Mexican calendar. However, among Americans, Cinco de Mayo has become an opportunity to celebrate Mexican culture and cuisine. Each year on May 5, many Cinco de Mayo celebrants toast with their favorite agave-based beverage (typically tequila) and dine on Mexican specialties.

Visiting a Mexican restaurant may be a large part of Cinco de Mayo festivities. Those who want to keep the party closer to home can bring the tastes of Mexico right to their kitchens. "Chicken Flautas" are a light meal or snack that make ideal finger foods. In this recipe, courtesy of "The Complete Mexican, South American & Caribbean Cookbook" by Jane Milton, Jenni Fleetwood and Marina Filippelli, common ingredients are turned into a crispy, fried delight.

Chicken Flautas

Makes 12

- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- 1 onion

- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 3-1/2 ounces feta cheese, crumbled
- 12 corn tortillas, freshly made or a few days old
- Oil for frying
- Salt and ground pepper

For the salsa:

- 3 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- Small bunch of cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 small onion, finely chopped
- 3 fresh fresno chiles or similar fresh green chiles, seeded and chopped

1. Start by making the salsa. Mix the tomatoes, lime juice, cilantro, onion, and chiles in a bowl. Season with salt to taste and set aside.

2. Put the chicken breasts in a large pan, add water to cover, and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked. Remove the chicken from the pan and let it cool a little. Using two



forks, shred the chicken into small pieces. Set it aside.

3. Chop the onion finely and crush the garlic. Heat the oil in a frying pan, add the onion and garlic and fry over a low heat for about 5 minutes, or until the onion has softened but not colored. Add the shredded chicken, with salt and pepper to taste. Mix well, remove from the heat, and stir in the feta.

4. Before they can be rolled, soften the tortillas by steaming three or four at a time on a plate over boiling water

for a few moments, until they are pliable. Alternatively, wrap them in microwave-safe film and then heat them in a microwave oven on full power for about 30 seconds.

5. Place a spoonful of the chicken filling on one of the tortillas and roll tightly to make a neat cylinder. Secure with a toothpick, immediately cover the roll with plastic wrap to prevent the tortilla from drying out and splitting. Fill and roll the remaining tortillas in the same way.

6. Pour oil into a frying pan to a depth of 1 inch. Heat it until a small cube of bread, added to the oil, rises to the surface and bubbles at the edges before turning golden. Remove the toothpicks, then add the flautas to the pan, a few at a time.

7. Fry the flautas for 2 to 3 minutes until golden, turning frequently. Drain on paper towels and serve at once, with the salsa.

report

from page 3

bers are trending upward, and the Clubhouse Grille is benefiting from strong returns across the Golf amenity. A Residents Golf Day was scheduled April 21, offering free play and encouraging more local people to join the Golf Club.

He said clay court renovations started this week at the Racquet Center and new support beams are being installed at platform tennis courts.

Outdoor pools are undergoing maintenance and cleaning ahead of the Memorial Day reopening, and lifeguard certification classes were held April 19-22. The junior guard program will return this summer, and swim lessons will continue at the Sports Core Pool through May.

Recreation and Parks are offering a variety of new programs, including yoga, martial arts, skateboarding and painting classes, and disc golf and cornhole leagues. Summer camps are completely full, and a Community Bike Ride event is scheduled for May 11.

IT updates

Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said Wi-Fi was upgraded at the Yacht Club after the outdoor Board meeting held last year. The new system includes five additional Wi-Fi points and cost \$2,000.

The Association also upgraded mi-

crophones for Board meetings and improved the process of running slide presentations during meetings.

Waterways updates

Martin said aerators placed at the drawbridge canal at Bay Colony were not working, and two replacement aerators were ordered and will be installed as soon as they arrive.

She said the 2023-2024 bulkhead replacement program would wrap up during the next few weeks, after emergency repairs at Library Bell Court and Heron Isle Court.

Martin also said replacement buoys were installed in the canals last week.

CPI and customer service updates

Martin said the Compliance, Permit, and Inspections (CPI) Department issued 119 new violations in March. During the month, 84 violations were brought into compliance and 218 remain open. Also during that period, 138 new work orders were initiated and 83 were closed, with 170 remaining open.

Martin said the customer service team fielded 161 emails in March, including 71 general questions, 45 about amenities, 28 for CPI, 12 for Public Works and five on drainage.

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Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by *Jack Barnes*



I don't know if Facebook has ever caused the lame to walk but it has sure caused the dumb to speak.

My wife yelled from upstairs and asked, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body, like someone's got a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?"

I replied "No..."

She responded: "How about now?"


Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.



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