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Stargazing with Pat J: Mars - More Than a Bit Weird



by Patricia Jeffery © 2024 of the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Mars hasn't always been a dry, dusty, desolate planet. It used to be a much nicer place with an atmosphere and oceans of water. The ravages of time, however, have not been kind to this little planet, leaving it with a host of bizarre features.

- Fourth planet from the sun.
- If our sun is the goal post of a CFL football field, Earth would be at the two-yard line; Mars on the three.
- Half the size of Earth; its red colour is because iron in the rocks and soil has rusted.
- Rotation: 24.6 hours.
- Revolution: 687 days. It has an egg-shaped orbit due to Jupiter's powerful gravitational field tugging on it.
- Tilted 25 degrees gives Mars four distinct seasons.
- Mean temperature: -65 degrees Celsius.
- Two tiny moons: Phobos is 22 kms in diameter and

Deimos is even smaller at 13 kms. Shaped like potatoes, they may actually be captured asteroids.

- A thin atmosphere of 95% carbon dioxide.
- Mars' small size meant it couldn't retain enough heat to drive plate tectonics. Without tectonics, it lost its protective magnetic field, and as a result, its atmosphere is gradually being stripped away by the sun's solar wind.
- Lack of plate tectonics is what allowed Olympus Mons to grow into the largest volcano in the solar system at three times the height of Mount Everest.
- Of the abundant water Mars once possessed, some is frozen in the polar ice caps, some is trapped inside minerals in the planet's crust, and the rest escaped into space.
- A massive crack called Valles Marineris spans nearly a quarter of its surface. At 4,800 km long, 320 km wide, and 7 km deep, it is ten times larger than Earth's Grand Canyon.



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Community Association

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Webster Dictionary

You come across a word you don't recognize, and you want to know what it means; what do you do? Well, you look it up in the dictionary of course! This was much easier to do starting April 14, 1828, because this was when seventy-year-old Noah Webster copyrighted the first Webster Dictionary.



Sandstone/MacEwan Community Association Meetings

are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Berkshire Citadel-Sandarac Drive NW. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ham and Pineapple Bake

by Jennifer Puri

Cheap and easy to prepare eggs are an inexpensive source of high-quality protein. Eating enough protein can help with weight loss, increase muscle mass, optimize bone health, and lower blood pressure.

A whole egg contains a tiny bit of every nutrient you need and there are many ways to prepare eggs but poaching or boiling them preserves most of their nutritional benefits.

Tasty and filling, eggs have been popular for thousands of years and in many cultures, eggs are a symbol of new life, fertility, and rebirth.

Eggs are a breakfast mainstay and frittatas, quiches, burritos, quesadillas, devilled, pickled, or creamed eggs are just some of the delicious ways to consume eggs.

This Ham and Pineapple Bake can be enjoyed any time of the day and pairs well with a side of fingerling potatoes and a tossed salad.

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 45 minutes

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 small loaf of French bread
- 4 tbsps butter
- ½ lb cooked ham cut into small pieces
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ¾ cup drained pineapple bits
- 4 eggs
- 2 ¼ cups milk
- 1 tsp ground mustard
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp chopped chives



Directions:

1. Butter a medium size glass baking dish. Slice the French bread and then spread butter on one side of each slice.
2. Next slice the bread into one-inch cubes and place in baking dish. Spread the ham cubes and pineapple bits on top of the bread and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

3. In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs and then blend in the mustard, salt, pepper, milk, and chives. Pour the mixture evenly over the bread mixture. Cover tightly with saran wrap and refrigerate overnight.

4. The next day preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. Remove baking dish from refrigerator and place on middle rack of oven. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes or until puffed and golden in colour. A knife inserted in the centre should come out clean. Serve immediately.

Bon Appétit!



Word of the Month

Portmanteau: *noun* (port-man-toe)

A literary device wherein two words are merged to form a novel word with a distinct meaning.

John was surprised to learn that the word 'motel' is a portmanteau of 'motor' and 'hotel'.

SANDSTONE MACEWAN

Community Association

Support the SMCA Outdoor Rink Rebuild!

Our community rink is almost at the end of its life - it will need a complete rebuild & we're working with city to get it done. But the community association has to fundraise a large part of the cost to make it a reality.

We need your help.

Please visit our website
for donation, 50/50 raffle & project info:



sandstonemacewan.com/rinkrebuild

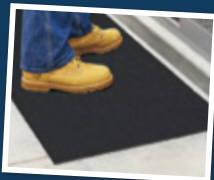
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by *The City of Calgary*

Our region is in a drought, and that's why now, more than ever, every drop counts. With another dry summer expected this year, we all need to do our part to conserve water and use it wisely.

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Vancity

April is a special month for Canada! Now a bustling hub of community, film, and diversity, the city of Vancouver was incorporated on April 6, 1886. Can you imagine a Canada without Vancouver?!



Weekly Green Cart Returns End of April

by The City of Calgary Waste and Recycling Services

Weekly green cart pickup returns the last week of April. Check your schedule at calgary.ca/collection and sign up for reminders, including email, phone, or download the Calgary Garbage Day app.

While you're preparing your yard or garden for spring, fill your green cart first, then put extra yard waste in paper yard waste bags. Roll tops of bags closed and set at least two feet to the side of your green cart for collection.

Compost Giveaway

Compost will be available for pickup from April 15 to June 1, 2024, by appointment only. Planning is underway and the appointment booking tool will be available on calgary.ca/compost by April 9.



April Fools

Although the origins of April Fools' Day are a bit murky, some historians believe it originated in the 16th century when France changed from the Julian to Gregorian calendar. Julian calendar New Years began in April, folks clinging to the old date got teased as they celebrated New Years on April 1 instead of January 1.

SCAN HERE TO VIEW ADDITIONAL CONTENT: NEWS, EVENTS, CRIME STATS, REAL ESTATE STATS, & MORE

<p>SANDSTONE VALLEY</p> 	<p>MACEWAN GLEN</p> 
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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

The new City Nature YYC website will be online with information on the 2024 challenge (www.citynatureyyc.ca). The dates for the event are April 26 to 29. Follow @CityNatureYYC on Instagram. On May 6, local, national, and global results will be announced.

The Nose Hill checklist contains references to reptiles, fungi and lichen, amphibians, insects, shellfish, birds, and mammals. Sightings are in NW Calgary. This website features the chorus frog, the tiger salamander, the terrestrial garter snake, and more. There are 42 birds, among them hawks, blackbirds, sparrows, chickadees, starlings, wrens, geese, eagles, mallards, teals, kestrels, gulls, partridges, grebes, grouse, and vultures. Some other types are the northern flicker, downy woodpecker, and hairy woodpecker. The great horned, long-eared, and short-eared owls all appear in the list.

The May Plant Count is part of the annual May Species Count. The survey runs from May 25 to 31. The focus is on documenting the flowering status of native plant species across Alberta. This project promotes stewardship and appreciation of Alberta's natural areas. As a citizen scientist, you will collect data to be used for conservation. Here are the basics. Enter the location of your plant. Upload a photo. Enter the date of the observation. Add a report about the flowering stage. Choose the appropriate stage from those listed. There are many ID guides and checklists (in print or flipbooks online). Observations can be made manually on a data sheet and then submitted by email or snail mail. You would need to sign up for the mailing list and then receive data sheets and instructions (www.naturealberta.ca/-may-plant-count). If you are submitting observations online you will join the May Plant Count project for the flowering codes to be displayed in the iNaturalist phone app (www.inaturalist.ca/projects/alberta-may-plant-count).

BRAIN
GAMES

SUDOKU

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FOR THE SOLUTION





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Here are some major updates related to Ward 3, the City of Calgary, and Council decisions.

City-Wide Rezoning Proposal and Virtual Townhall

To address the on-going housing affordability crisis, cities across Canada are taking steps to make home building easier. The City of Calgary is proposing a city-wide rezoning, which will allow duplexes and rowhouses to be built in more places across the city. Postcards were mailed to affected residents and information sessions were held last month.

This month, I am hosting a Rezoning Virtual Townhall with members of City Administration. You can submit your questions beforehand and get more information on my website at www.jasminemian.com.

A public hearing date has been set for April 22, 2024. You can register at calgary.ca/publichearing.

You can learn more about how this affects you at calgary.ca/rezoningforhousing.

3-1-1 Introduces New Call Back Feature

Now when you call 3-1-1, you'll be notified of the approximate wait time, and have the option to choose to receive a callback if it is longer than one minute. This feature will be available 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, seven days a week, as these are the hours of highest demand.

The City of Calgary is the first 3-1-1 service in western Canada to offer this feature.

You can contact 3-1-1 via the mobile app or by phone for non-emergency City-related information, concerns, and issues. Find out more at calgary.ca/311.



Last month the provincial budget for 2024 was released, and while the province boasted a modest surplus of just under half a billion dollars, we see many areas in desperate need of funding which they simply will not receive.

Calgary public schools are currently over 90% full on average across the city. Schools like Diefenbaker or SJAM right here in our own riding are full to the brim. This year we are welcoming 28,000 new students to the province and this budget only adds 35,000 new spaces over three years. So, we are only creating spaces at a third the necessary rate. This means we will see schools here in Calgary and across the province that are over capacity in the next three years.

Folks here in Calgary-Beddington deserve the best education for their kids and that means space to grow and teachers to learn from. We can do much better for our education system.

We also saw funding for healthcare kept well below the level needed to keep up with our booming population and know this can be a matter of great anxiety for folks who expect timely healthcare delivery when they need it.

If you have any questions or concerns stemming from last month's budget please reach out, my office wants to hear from you. Let us know what you think.



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HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 launched and ran into difficulties days later. But did you know the famous line uttered by Tom Hanks (who plays US astronaut James Lovell) in the 1995 film is wrong! The correct quote uttered by astronaut John Swigert first was "Okay, Houston, we've had a problem here".



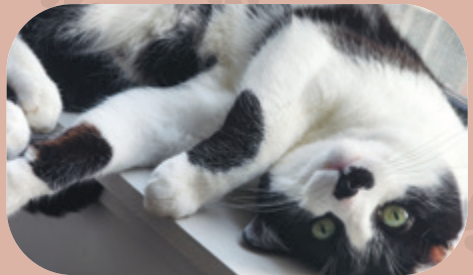
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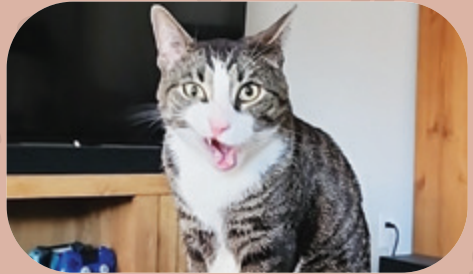
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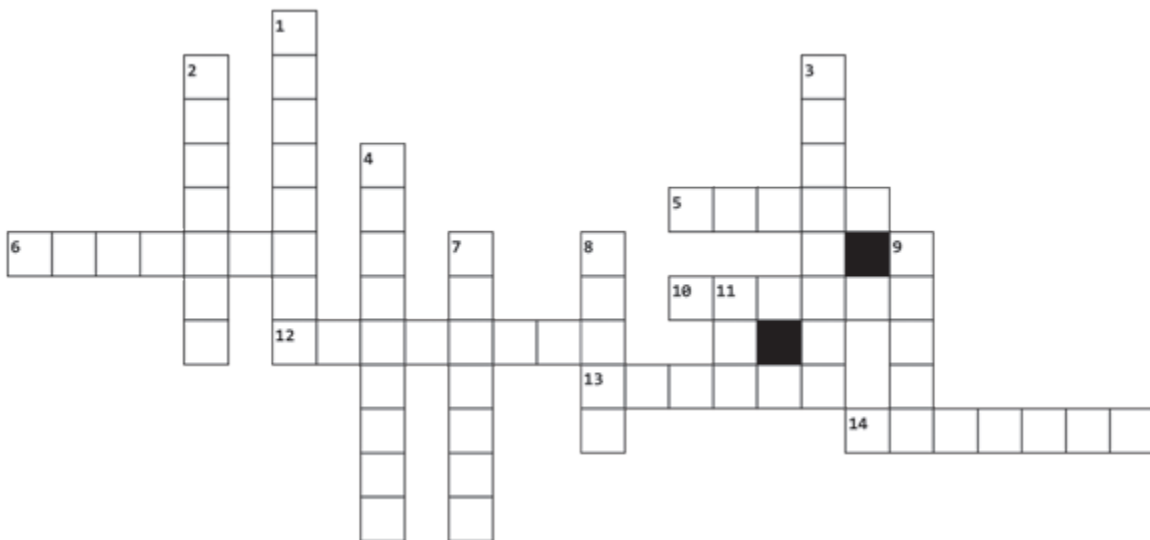
Robino, Mission



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To have your pet featured, email news@mycalgary.com

April Crossword

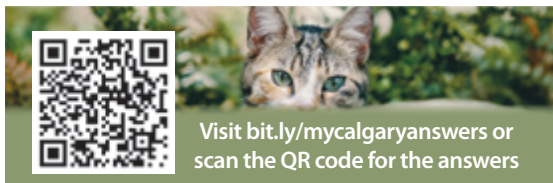


Across

5. The _____ and the Sweet Pea are April's official birth flowers.
6. This famous Leonardo was born on April 15, 1452.
10. In April of 1970, _____ 13 launched and famously ran into difficulties 56 hours later.
12. *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, recently made into a feature film directed by Martin _____, was originally published on April 18, 2017, and written by David Grann.
13. This popular holiday, typically in April, is thought to be named after the goddess "Eastre".
14. Noah _____ copyrighted this eponymous, well-known dictionary used by many on April 14, 1828.

Down

1. After a 1,500-year break, this international multi-sport event was reintroduced in Athens on April 6, 1896.
2. Famously nicknamed "The Unsinkable", this ship went down on April 14, 1912, in the North Atlantic Ocean.
3. This year, the World Ski and Snowboard Festival will be held the second week of April in _____, BC.
4. This cultural hub of Canada was incorporated into the country as a city on April 6, 1886.
7. Ford released the first version of this beloved muscle car on April 17, 1964.
8. "I Want to Break Free" by _____ was released in April of 1984, with a controversial yet playful music video.
9. Vancouver-born _____ Smulders, who famously plays Robin Scherbatsky in *How I Met Your Mother*, celebrates her birthday on April 3.
11. On April 11, National _____ Day is celebrated and advocates against animal violence and cruelty.



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