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The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

December 2024

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 12

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

BLUEBILLS 30th Anniversary Year

December 20th Chapter Meeting



There will be no speaker for the December meeting but there will be our Annual Holiday Potluck and Special Recognition of the Bluebills 30 years as the Boeing Retiree Volunteer Organization. There will be a social at 10:00 AM followed by a short meeting at 10:30 AM followed by



our Holiday Potluck. [OBJ]

We look forward to seeing you on Friday December 20th.



November Meeting Summary

By Mary Ulibarri

The November meeting was canceled due to power outages and storm damage resulting from the November 19th "Bomb Cyclone" that hit the area.



December 20th will be our Holiday Potluck and Bluebills 30th Anniversary recognition. Please bring a favorite hot dish, salad, fruit or veggies to share. Coffee, hot water and cake will be furnished along with dinnerware and beverage cups.

There will also be a drawing for Quilts from the Busy Bee's.

See you all on Friday December 20th.



Busy Bees Report

by Milinda Stubbs

The Busy Bees Quilt Raffle December 20th

This will be your last chance for one of the 5 lovely quilts selected for this year's raffle with the drawing to be held Friday December 20th along with our potluck lunch.

Raffle tickets are \$1 dollar each. They help us purchase batting by the roll as well as flannel or other fabrics for backing for some quilts. Periodically we need to purchase replacement blades for our rotary cutters, needles for our sewing machines. One of our well used sewing machines may need a tune-up this winter.

Photos of this year's selections include a 23"x25" quilt made with a dog print fabric. Perfect for your favorite pooch or if a child chooses to use it for a doll bed or wrap a special toy up on a cold day.



To be fair, we also have a quilt 27"x 41" with cat print fabric in case you choose to lay it across the foot of the bed for your favorite feline or in a chair or on the sofa so your special cat knows where they can sleep. Or wrap yourself up in a very cheerful fabric.

Now for us adults, there is a beautiful duck print with a gray flannel backing that is XLG, enough for 2 people to cuddle on the sofa. Or one person totally wrapped up on a cold day or camping or in an RV.

A second duck print motif has beautiful shades of blue & white quilted on the back. Perfect size to cuddle in a chair to read or watch TV.



A cheerful pastel quilt will cheer you up just looking

at it much less cuddling under it. Could hang it to cheer up a room for our dreary NW weather. A stunning Asian fabric with black, red & gold colors. Very striking in a home with those colors.



All of these quilts are made with cotton fabric & very washable. They are meant to be used.



We appreciate your support by purchasing a raffle ticket. If you wish to purchase raffle tickets but are unable to attend in person, please contact [Milinda Stubbs](#) to arrange purchase.



Securing today
and tomorrow

Submitted by: Micki Brown

I'm sure our membership knows the inevitable increase of Rx would surpass Medicare's 2025 COLA increase, and this article put it in writing. The source is USA TODAY. Their text is from CMS. The link:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2024/11/11/2025-medicare-part-b-premiums-rise/76186664007/>

Seniors will have to pay more again for Medicare Part B next year, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will rise by \$10.30 to \$185.00 in 2025 from [\\$174.70 this year](#), CMS said late Friday. The premium was \$164.90 in 2023. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries will increase to \$257 from \$240 in 2024. The increases are mainly due to projected costs and usage increases, CMS said.

The jump in the 2025 Medicare Part B premium outpaces both inflation and the Social

Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Annual inflation rose [3.2% in October](#) and [COLA for 2025 will be 2.5%](#), or an average of \$50 more per month.

“When Part B premiums grow at a faster rate than Social Security COLAS, premium costs consume a growing portion of monthly Social Security checks,” said Mary Johnson, an independent Social Security and Medicare policy analyst who at age 73, also receives those benefits.

How much more will high-income Americans pay?

Expansion of Appointment Based Services

Since a beneficiary’s Part B monthly premium is based on income, high-income Americans also pay an [Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or IRMAA](#). IRMAA affects roughly 8% of people with Medicare Part B, CMS said.

In our ongoing commitment to serve the public more efficiently, we are expanding appointment-based services at our [local Social Security offices](#). By scheduling appointments, we will aim to reduce wait times, streamline service delivery, and improve the overall customer experience. Nearly 400 field offices have already moved to appointment-based service this year. These offices have seen significant improvements in wait times due to more efficient and helpful visitor experiences and increases in the number of customers able to complete their business online.

We are implementing appointment-based services nationwide in two phases. The first phase is a transition period now through January 5, 2025. The purpose of this transition period is to educate our customers about needing to schedule an appointment for SSA services. As a reminder, many of our services can be provided via phone with an appointment and do not require a customer to walk into an office for service.

Effective January 6, 2025, we will require customers to schedule an appointment for service in our field offices, including requests for Social Security cards. We encourage customers to become accustomed to our:

- [online services](#), where many transactions can be completed conveniently and securely, and
- [automated services](#) available on our National 800# at 1-800-772-1213.

Customers who are not able to handle their business online or with the automated options, may call their [local Social Security office](#) or our National 800# to schedule an appointment.

We want to make clear that we will not turn people away for service who are

unable to make an appointment or do not want to make an appointment. For example, members of vulnerable populations, military personnel, people with terminal illnesses, and individuals with other situations requiring immediate or specialized attention may still walk in for service at our field offices. Some of our offices also have minimal to no wait times, and they will still serve customers who walk in.

We appreciate your partnership in sharing this information and helping our customers through this transition. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to improve service accessibility and responsiveness.

Dawn Bystry

Associate Commissioner

Office of Strategic and Digital Communications

OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov

Quishing

Submitted by: Lonnie Stevenson

What is Quishing?

"Quishing" uses QR codes to trick you into visiting fake websites designed to steal your personal information or download harmful software onto your device.

QR codes are those square barcodes you can scan with your smartphone or tablet to visit websites or access information quickly.

What Should You Do?

-

Be Careful Before Scanning:

Consider whether you see a QR code, especially one in a public place or from an unknown source. Scammers often place fake QR codes on posters, emails or restaurant menus.

-

Verify the Source:

If you need clarification on whether a QR code is safe, try to confirm with the company or person providing it. For instance, if you're at a restaurant, ask the staff if the code is legitimate.

-

Check the Website Before You Proceed:

After scanning, your phone will show you the website or link before taking you to it. Always take a second to look at the web address. If it looks suspicious or unfamiliar, don't click on it.

News then History now

[Home](#) [U.S. History](#) Facts

People used to send their children through the U.S. mail.



On January 1, 1913, the United States Post Office began offering parcel service. While private freight companies had already existed for quite some time, the program allowed many more people, including folks in rural communities, to get goods shipped to their front doors. Immediately, Americans started shipping pretty much anything they could think of. One of the first packages sent using the service was a brindle bulldog. College kids started mailing their laundry home. More than one Flushing, Queens, resident received an

opossum. But the most brazen early parcel customers trusted the Post Office with was the most precious cargo of all: [human children](#).

The first recorded baby delivered via parcel post was James Beagle, an 8-month-old resident of Glen Este, Ohio. His journey wasn't long: A carrier picked up the "[well wrapped](#)" infant from his parents on January 25 and, per the address on an attached card, delivered him to his grandmother just a few miles away. The postage cost 15 cents, and his parents insured him for \$50.

This practice was never officially authorized, and in February 1914, the second assistant postmaster general announced that babies could not be transported by mail. But this didn't stop postal employees, particularly rural ones, from occasionally breaking the rules. Just a month later, a 14-pound baby was shipped 12 miles from her grandmother in Clear Spring, Maryland, to her mother in Indian Springs. On February 19, 1914, 5-year-old May Pierstorff [was mailed](#) about 75 miles from her home in Grangeville, Idaho, to her grandparents' place, which cost 53 cents in postage and was, apparently, cheaper than a train ticket. (In that case, she was chaperoned by a cousin who worked for the mail service.) In 1915, 6-year-old Edna Neff was mailed a whopping 720 miles from Pensacola, Florida, to her father's home in Christiansburg, Virginia.

That same year, on August 31, 1915, 3-year-old Maude Smith — with a shipping label sewn to her dress, appropriate postage affixed, and snacks in hand — was placed by her mail carrier on a train from Caney to Jackson, Kentucky, to visit her sick mother. When she arrived at her destination, she had a [note](#) from a postal clerk to a local postmaster pinned to her dress: "I doubt the legality of the sending, but it was put on the train and I must deliver and report." The U.S. Post Office actually investigated that case, and although it's unclear what the outcome was, Smith was one of the last children ever to be mailed.

[Basketball was originally played with a soccer ball.](#)



Long before bright orange basketballs made their way onto NBA courts, the earliest basketball games were played using [soccer balls](#). Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a physical education teacher at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Massachusetts, who sought to create a new indoor activity that could be played by students during the winter months. Naismith asked the school's janitor to fetch him two 18-square-inch boxes for "goals," but the janitor returned with two peach baskets instead. Naismith nailed those baskets to the railing of the gymnasium balcony, which happened to be 10 feet off the ground (this

is why official NBA hoops measure 10 feet high today). After Naismith procured a soccer ball, as basketballs of course didn't exist yet, the new game was ready to be played.

The original version of basketball followed a [list of 13 rules](#) regarding fouls and ball movement. Players were required to remain stationary when in possession of the ball, as continuous dribbling wasn't instituted until 1909. The game featured nine players per side and was divided into 15-minute halves. Naismith also enlisted the help of two men to retrieve the ball from the baskets at each end, as holes weren't cut into the bottom of the baskets until years later. The game proved extremely popular, and the first official basketball was developed by the sports equipment company Spalding in 1894. The new sport led to the creation of the National Basketball League in 1937 and the Basketball Association of America in 1946, which merged to form the National Basketball Association in 1949.

“Computers” used to be people.

[Home](#) [Science & Industry](#) [Facts](#)



In today's English lexicon, the word “computer” almost exclusively refers to electronic devices — but it used to be a human job. For centuries, “computer” meant “one who computes,” particularly in an astronomical observatory or as a surveyor. This definition dates all the way back to the [early 1600s](#), long before even the most primitive digital computing machines existed.

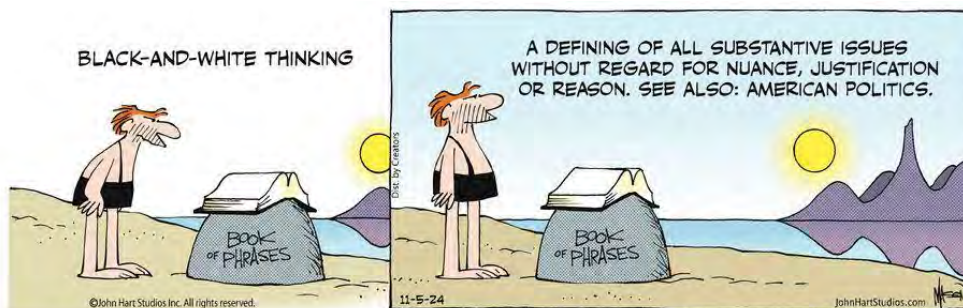
The role of computers was, more often than not, filled by women. Although the work required a great deal of skill and made major contributions to the field of astronomy, computing was considered clerical work. In the 1870s, the Harvard College Observatory hired several dozen women as computers, who compared photographic plates of the night sky and painstakingly measured the differences in stars' positions. Among them were Williamina Fleming, who pioneered classifying stars by temperature; Annie Jump Cannon, who created the letter stellar classification system that scientists still use today; and Henrietta Swan Leavitt, who discovered around half of all variable stars (meaning their brightness changes when viewed from Earth) known at the time.

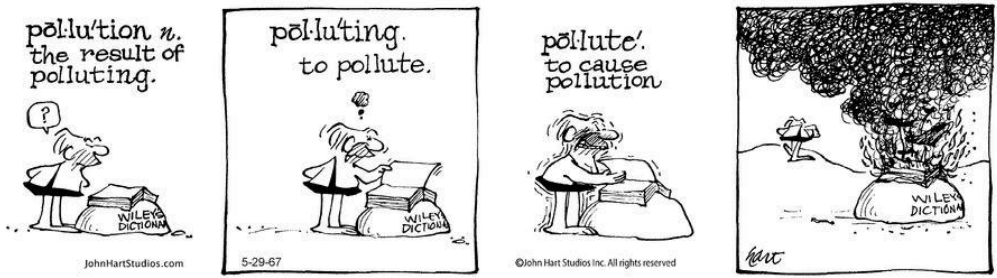
Perhaps the best-known human computers were those [employed by NASA](#) to make calculations by hand during critical space missions. [Katherine Johnson](#), one of the three African American NASA computers featured in the book and film *Hidden Figures* (along with Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson), performed calculations for the Mercury and Apollo missions, including the first moon landing.

The first mechanical computer was designed in the 19th century.

In 1833, British inventor Charles Babbage had a groundbreaking idea. Having just worked on a giant calculating machine, he realized that machines could be more than just basic calculators; they could also be programmed using algorithms to solve far more complex calculations automatically. Babbage planned for his Analytical Engine, as the programmable computer was known, to run on steam, receive data via punched cards, and output results through an automatic printer. Mathematician Ada Lovelace wrote the [first computer program](#) while studying it — although, since the machine was never completed, she never got to actually try it out. The Analytical Engine was left unfinished upon Babbage's death in 1871. The concept was wildly ambitious, and technology didn't actually catch up until the 1940s with the completion of the first electronic programmable computer, the ENIAC.

BITS & PIECES





I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... She hugged me.

Bluehills Heritage Chapter Meeting



December 20, 2024

Social: 10:00 AM

Meeting 10:30 - Potluck 11:00 AM



Special Recognition: 30 years, Bluebills - Boeing Retiree Volunteer Organization.



Come to the meeting, enjoy coffee, donuts, informative presentations, and socialize with other Boeing retirees.

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave S, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW

Calendar of Events 2024
In Person Meetings

Jan 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Jul 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Feb 23	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Aug 30	Chapter Picnic/Potluck
Mar 29	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Sept 27	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Apr 26	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Oct 25	Chapter Monthly Meeting
May 31	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Nov 22	Chapter Monthly Meeting
Jun 28	Chapter Monthly Meeting	Dec 20	Chapter Holiday Potluck

Don't Forget to Report Your Hours!

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