

The Courier

June 16, 2021 Volume 21 Number 37

A born artist
Lisa Marie Penn



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Art Matters

Born to be an artist

By Elaine Bean

Lisa Marie Penn didn't follow a straight path to becoming a fulltime artist. She took a few sidetracks first, opening a gallery in Baltimore's Hampden neighborhood, traveling the rails as a conductor for Amtrak and MARC, and becoming a parent. But she knew from childhood what her ultimate career was meant to be.

"I knew I was born to be an artist ever since I first held a crayon, and my love for art grew, as I did, through my years as a student," Penn said. "I went on to study at the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore. In 2005 my childhood friend and I opened 2 Hot Art Chicks Gallery in our hometown neighborhood of Hampden in Baltimore. We celebrated the world famous Honfest and were in all of the magazines and newspapers. We really had a blast. We ran the shop for three years until



the economy took a hit. This business venture would be the seed that would eventually rekindle my desire to be an artist entrepreneur."

But running a gallery and making a living was not an easy task. Eventually Penn decided she needed to

move on and get a job with steady income and benefits and went to work as a conductor for Amtrak in 2008.

"Two weeks before I turned 40, I got the shock of my life. I found out I was going to be a mommy, something that was not in my plans," Penn said. "Railroad careers are extremely demanding and would not afford me the time and energy to be the parent that I wanted to be. After an intense emotional struggle, I decided to resign and become what I was always supposed to be and missed very much — an artist!"

In 2019, Penn and her daughter moved to Ocean Pines to be near relatives. "My family has had vacation homes in this area since I was a child. My mother retired here about 15 years ago, and my sister soon followed. Once I had my daughter and gave up my career, I decided that if I was going to be a 'starving artist,' I was going to do it at the beach! I have had clients here for years, but I jumped right into the art community once I arrived."

But then, COVID happened. "I know art matters, and nothing made this more apparent to me than the pandemic," Penn said. "People realized how much their lives are impacted by art, music, entertainment, etc. Suddenly, artists were tremendously appreciated across the board. I was not able to participate in festivals, exhibits, or markets during the pandemic, but my online presence and recognition exploded during this time on my social media platforms and my website. As a result, I am cur-

rently very busy, and I am thankful for that."

During the shutdown, Penn did weekly free donation-based online painting classes for children and would like to do more for the local community. She currently works as a fulltime artist out of her home studio in the Pines, offering private art lessons and paint parties, teaching classes for the Art League of Ocean City, and participating in local festivals and artisan markets.

In May, the Art League selected Penn as their official Artist-in-Residence for the month, providing her with the 140-sq. ft Studio E at the Ocean City Center for the Arts as free work and exhibit space.

"We received many applicants for this residency, and Lisa stood out," Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. "Her skills as an artist, the uniqueness of using painted screens as her medium, as well as her ability to interact with our visitors in a warm and friendly way made her an ideal choice."

Her teaching experience is such a gift when it comes to demonstrating and explaining her art to others. Plus Studio E is an inspiring space to work in. We hope to continue this Artist-in-Residency program. It is part of our mission to mentor and encourage both new and established artists, like Lisa."

Penn used her residency to demonstrate her craft to the Art Center's guests, and talk about her specialty: the beloved Baltimore folk art of painted window screens. She has made it her quest to keep the folk art tradition alive and flourishing.

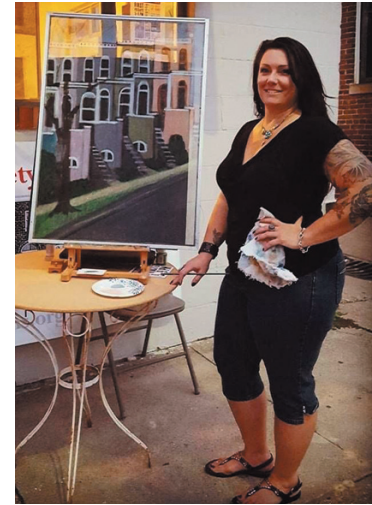
"I love teaching the history, tradition, and technique of screen painting to interested painters," Penn said. "I started painting screens roughly 27 years ago. Painted screens began and remain a tradition generally in the East Baltimore neighborhoods. I went to high school at the Institute of

Notre Dame on Asquith St., and many of the girls in my class lived in these neighborhoods. When I visited them, I discovered the screens in the windows of the rowhomes and thought they were so cool. It wasn't until after I graduated that someone told me that a man was teaching classes at Parkville High school. It was Tom Lipka who grew up in Canton and began painting screens in the 1940s. In 2018, I was awarded a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council to ap-

prentice for one year with master screen painter Anna Pasqualucci. It was a wonderful experience, and we have become good friends."

Penn and Pasqualucci along with other Baltimore screen painters will display and sell their craft in the Maryland Traditions sections this September at the National Folk Festival in Salisbury.

Penn is inspired to be back on the coast. "The Eastern Shore is a very special place to me," she said. "I feel that this brackish water runs through my veins! I cannot imagine not living here. I grew up on the Chesapeake and its tributaries, boating fishing, crabbing, eating lots of crabs! The beach, particularly Assateague, is my sanctuary. The ocean gives me life."



Woke Worcester

Commentary by **Joe Reynolds**
OceanPinesForum.com

On January 4, 2021, the Worcester County Library announced it was selected as a recipient of a “Read Woke” \$1,000 Beanstack Black Voices Micro-grant. The news release said, “We’re excited to share this news and what it means for our community! The library has created a Teen Reading Challenge on Beanstack and will use the grant money to provide prizes. Participating teens will select books to read by authors from a variety of backgrounds, highlighting the rich diversity of the American experience.”

Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino was asked to look into the “Read Woke” program by a constituent over concerns the grant money was coming from a political action organization. According to their website, Beanstack Black Voices Microgrants is, “In solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.” Bertino did bring up the issue and was taken to task and mocked in local papers for even suggesting the Commissioners should look into the “Read Woke” program.

Bertino says he does not oppose the books being in the library but

adds, “I believe libraries should serve all, but libraries should not advocate a political message or agenda.”

Left unsaid in all the discussion of the “Read Woke” program is what is actually in the reading material. The issue here is not about prohibiting books, rather about what books should be actively promoted by our library system for young readers.

There are about 90 books on the Read Woke list.

Let’s take a look at a few of the actual titles and publisher descriptions of books on the Read Woke list:

“A quick & easy guide to they/them pronouns” — Archie, a snarky genderqueer artist, is tired of people not understanding gender-neutral pronouns. Tristan, a cisgender dude, is looking for an easy way to introduce gender-neutral pronouns to his increasingly diverse workplace. The longtime best friends team up in this short and fun comic guide that explains what pronouns are, why they matter, and how to use them. They also include what to do if you make a mistake, and some tips-and-tricks for those who identify outside of the binary to keep themselves safe in this binary-centric world.

“If I was your girl” — Amanda Hardy only wants to fit in at her new school, but she is keeping a big secret, so when she falls for Grant, guarded Amanda finds herself yearning to

share with him everything about herself, including her previous life as Andrew.

“Let’s talk about love” — In this young adult novel, Alice, afraid of explaining her asexuality, has given up on finding love until love finds her. Alice’s last girlfriend, Margo, ended things when Alice confessed she’s asexual. Now Alice is sure she’s done with dating ... and then she meets Takumi. She can’t stop thinking about him or the rom-com-grade (romantic comedy) romance feelings she did not ask for. When her blissful summer takes an unexpected turn and Takumi becomes her knight with a shiny library-employee badge, Alice has to decide if she’s willing to risk their friendship for a love that might not be reciprocated— or understood.

“LGBTQ+ athletes claim the field: striving for equality” — Social attitudes, institutional policies, and laws are slow to change, but they are catching up. Title IX legislation outlaws discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has antidiscrimination policies that support LGBTQ+ inclusion at all levels. Together, athletes, coaches, families, educators, allies, and fans are pushing for competitive equity so that every athlete, regardless of sexual and gender identity, can have the opportunity to play at their very best.

“I wish you all the best” — When Ben De Backer comes out to their parents as nonbinary, they’re thrown out of their house and forced to move in with their estranged older sister, Hannah, and her husband, Thomas, whom Ben has never even met. Struggling


with an anxiety disorder compounded by their parents’ rejection, they come out only to Hannah, Thomas, and their therapist and try to keep a low profile for the last half of senior year in a new school. Then fellow student Nathan Allan decides to take Ben under his wing. As Ben and Nathan’s friendship grows, their feelings for each other begin to change. It might just be a chance to start a happier new life.

“Girl made of stars” — When Mara’s twin brother Owen is accused of rape by her friend Hannah, Mara is forced to confront her feelings about her family, her sense of right and wrong, a trauma from her past, and the future with her girlfriend, Charlie.


Just what is “woke” all about? From Merriam-Webster: “Stay woke became a watch word in parts of the black community for those who were self-aware, questioning the dominant paradigm and striving for something better. But stay woke and woke became part of a wider discussion in 2014, immediately following the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The word woke became entwined with the Black Lives Matter movement; instead of just being a word that signaled awareness of injustice or racial tension, it became a word of action. Activists were woke and called on others to stay woke.”

“The scholar Rudine Sims Bishop famously said that books for young readers should be both mirrors and windows,” says Assistant Worcester Library Director Rachael Stein. “They should reflect the experiences of the reader and also provide a glimpse into

please see commentary on page 16



The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the business sector won’t be known for years to come, though a recent survey indicates that a drop in post-pandemic productivity is not something many businesses expect. In a 2020 survey of leading firms in Europe that were asked a variety of questions about the potential long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, the European Central Bank found that 60 percent of respondents felt that productivity in their business or sector would increase. In addition, the ECB reported that most respondents were not anticipating any long-term, pandemic-related negative effects on sales. The ECB theorizes that the rosy outlook in terms of productivity reflects how so many businesses were able to successfully adapt on the fly at the onset of the pandemic, proving they were capable of maintaining existing levels of production despite sudden restrictions on labor that resulted from social distancing measures, such as the necessary transition from in person labor to remote working.



On June 16, 1884, the first roller coaster in America opened at Coney Island, in Brooklyn, New York. Known as a switch-back railway, it was the brainchild of LaMarcus Thompson, traveled approximately six miles per hour and cost a nickel to ride. The new entertainment was an instant success and by the turn of the century there were hundreds of roller coasters around the country.

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Father's Day

Being a father is an enjoyable status although I'll be the first to admit it hasn't always been enjoyable. Those rare occurrences fade with time. Fatherhood is an investment

monials, they would usually toddle off with a confused look on their faces searching for their mother. Inevitably I would hear the kids asking her to explain what I just related to them. She would tell them that Father's Day was important because, at least in our house, Daddy will use any excuse to focus attention on himself and that he likes to get gifts. I think she was kidding about that. Then she

would tell them, as a way to wrap things up in terms their little minds would comprehend: "Father's Day is important because *Mommy* says it is." I don't think she was kidding about that.

Regardless of the reasons why, I must say, my kids have always come through in the gift department. Whether it has been giving me, when they were young, special pieces of artwork made in school or when they got me a beach chair and a Hawaiian shirt many years ago, I've appreciated each and every gift. What I've enjoyed more than any gift though is the fact that they don't seem to mind spending time with me; not just on Father's Day but on any day. True, they make a big deal about how high maintenance I am. What? Is it such an inconvenience for them to go out and get me my favorite ice cream from time to time? Also true is the fact that they joke that when the time comes, they are going to put me in a home (they'll take their mother in, but not me) or they will vie to pull the plug. My oldest son has said "the plug" may not be plugged in in the first place. But despite their abuse and the not-so-flattering, yet hysterical, impressions of me, I believe deep down they really don't mind too much having the "old guy" around. Or maybe they just tolerate me. Maybe they are humoring me just enough so that I'll keep them in my will. I wouldn't put it past them. They are a conniving lot.

Now that I think about it, maybe I should have returned them to where I found them as babies: in a pumpkin patch on the side of the road. Unfortunately, it may be too late for that now.

Happy Father's Day!



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

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of time, patience and money. Sometimes it's all three at once. But as I look back on my nearly 33 years as a father, I consider myself very fortunate.

This weekend is Father's Day, a very special day on the calendar that honors those of us who have endured, I mean *enjoyed*, fatherhood. Whether you're a father of a newborn or a father of many years, Sunday is our day, or at least it should be. Children should be forced, I mean *want*, to warmly acknowledge their fathers. If you ask my kids, they'll tell you that they *want* (read are forced) to every day acknowledge the wondrous gift that has been bestowed on them by having a father like me. I'm kidding of course. It's not every day.

As I have told my children since their time in the cradle, when I would sing soft lullabies while gently rocking them, "always remember Father's Day." I thought it best to start early. After all, it's a very important holiday, ranking third behind Christmas and my birthday. As they got older, they would occasionally question why Father's Day was so important. Why was it such a big deal they would wonder aloud within earshot? Why was it such a big deal? *Why was it such a big deal?* It was times like these when a little 'splaining was imparted on their young, impressionable minds.

Father's Day is important because fathers are extraordinary individuals who normally do what needs to be done with nary a thought or desire for recognition. Fathers give mothers someone on whom to blame things (yes, I know that's a rather biased comment). After providing an exhaustive explanation, often accompanied with diagrams and testi-

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What's your story?



Golf Members' Council announces scholarships

The Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council recently awarded five scholarships totaling \$11,000 to local high school seniors.

The scholarship committee of the Golf Members' Council each year honors students who have exhibited an interest in the game of golf, and who demonstrated exemplary academic and extracurricular records.

Bob Long, scholarship committee chairman, said awards are given on behalf of Ocean Pines Golf Club members that support the fund throughout the year.

He said members have raised more than \$35,000 for scholarships over the last six years.

"This year's \$11,000 amount is by far the greatest and reflects the work put in by Scotty Wheatley who, for many years, chaired the Ocean Pines-Taylor Bank Scramble that helps raise funds for junior golf programs and scholarships," Long said. "Scotty passed away this past February, and in his memory his friends contributed to the creation on a scholarship in his name."

Long said awards for Worcester Preparatory School students were presented during the school's graduation ceremony.

"The members were disappointed that Stephen Decatur was unable to hold its awards presentation night and are hopeful to present awards in person again, next year," he said.

The 2021 recipients of the Ocean Pines Golf Members' Council Scholarships are:

Samantha Herold: Herold is an Ocean Pines resident and attends Stephen Decatur High School. She has played on the golf team for four years and has been a four-year honor roll student

with a challenging selection of courses. Her extracurricular work includes music, dance and equestrian interests. She will attend West Virginia University. Herold is the 2021 Scotty Wheatley Scholarship winner and was awarded \$2,000.

Todd (T.J.) Bescak: Bescak attends Worcester Preparatory School and lives in Berlin. He is a former resident of Ocean Pines, where he lived off the seventh hole. Bescak is an honor roll student who has also shown an interest in acting and the arts. He is a four-year member of the golf team, and All-Conference golfer, and a team captain. He will attend Arizona State University. Bescak was awarded \$3,000.

Kaden Mault: Mault lives in West Ocean City and attends Worcester Preparatory School. He has been an honor roll student and Advanced Placement Scholar with an interesting mix of non-academic interests. Mault is a four-year member of the golf team. He will attend Indiana University. Mault was awarded \$2,700.

Mason Brown: Brown attends Worcester Preparatory School and resides in Rehoboth Beach. In addition to being on the golf team, Brown was an All-Conference basketball player, and a member of the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. He is an honor student who has not shied from rigorous and challenging coursework. He will attend the University of Miami. Brown was awarded of \$2,200.

Ryan Brafman: Brafman attends Worcester Prep and lives in Rehoboth Beach. He is an Advanced Placement Scholar and All-Conference tennis player, with an interest in medicine. Last year, he also joined his school's golf team. He will attend Davidson College. Brafman was awarded \$1,100.

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Friends, platform tennis players honor Jim Freeman

About 100 platform tennis players last Saturday gathered at the Ocean Pines Racquet Center to remember Jim Freeman, an active player who passed away on March 15 after a battle with cancer.

Freeman was recalled both as a teacher, and as a friendly and fun-loving guy who enjoyed the sport. He also loved a cold beer, and his favorite football team, the Eagles, from his native Pennsylvania.

Sue Walter, who organized “The Celebration of Life – Play & Party” in honor of Freeman, said more than \$2,200 had been donated for the event by platform members. The funds covered the luncheon expenses and a memorial to Freeman, and the rest will help with costs of future Platform Tennis Club events.

Walter said Freeman’s request for his own celebration of life, was that his friends “gather, play, eat and drink and party.”

“I think he’ll be watching today,” she said.

Indeed, the event was filled both with heartfelt remembrances, and with lots of smiles and laughter.

“I don’t think you could even imagine how much it meant to Jim and, when he was sick, what a bright spot you were,” June Freeman, his widow, said. “The best move we ever made was joining [the Platform Tennis Club]. Our life is so much richer and fuller, and we have so many friends ... I could never ask for anything better in my life.

“All I can say is, I love you and thank you so much. You’ve been so good, and you are family to me and always were family to Jim, and always put a smile on his face. He just loved you all,” she added.

John Walter remembered Freeman as a man who was born to be a teacher. Freeman worked for 31 years as a seventh-grade science teacher at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, Pennsylvania.

After he retired, Freeman continued teaching – as a platform tennis instructor in Ocean Pines.

“If it wasn’t for Jim, we wouldn’t have met anybody here,” Walter said, becoming emotional. “We’re all close. We’ve had Christmas dinners with June and Jim ... and it’s been a bless-

ing.”

Walter also recalled one of the first times he played platform tennis with Freeman, when he learned about his “very colorful vocabulary.”

“When I started to play platform tennis, one day he was off the rails, [and] there were f-bombs, s-bombs ... everything. I said to June, ‘What’s this all about?’ June told me, ‘He doesn’t play well with other people sometimes,’” Walter said, getting a big laugh from the crowd.

Last year, he said they went on a fishing trip together, and that colorful language came out again when the fish started eating all of Freeman’s bait.

“All he was doing was stomping back and forth ... This went on for five and a half hours! And we caught zip,” Walter said, to more laughter.

“Jim’s meant a lot and the only thing I can say to end this is, ‘Fly, Eagles, fly,’” he added.

Tracy Jones said she’ll remember Freeman for hosting Thursday night platform tennis parties, with grilled food and plenty of cold beer.

“He always dropped the f-bomb with me, but he said I was one of the guys,” she said.

Susan Morris said she met Freeman at a platform tennis tournament. Her family was visiting from New Jersey, and he invited them to play the next day.

“I thought, wow – how generous was that, that this man walked over, a total stranger, and said, ‘Won’t you come and join us,’” she said. “Within a couple of weeks, we bought a house and were here. And it was because he walked over and said hello that we’re here.”

Betty Biondi also recalled Freeman’s generosity.

“Three years ago, when [her husband] John had his stroke, it was Jim who kept coming over, cutting the lawn, raking. That’s Jim,” she said.

Karen Kaplan said she was a late joiner to platform, but she found Jim to be an enthusiastic teacher and ambassador for the sport.



“He was so welcoming and so warm ... and that’s the way he was,” she said. “He was just a really welcoming, warm [person], and his passion for this sport and for this club, it just came through. And for me, it was contagious. I’ll never forget Jim.”

In planning the physical part of the memorial, Walter said she first thought about a getting bench in honor of Freeman. She said Tracey Jones had another idea and reached out to her brother, Doug Dawson, a master woodcraftsman, who quickly sketched a design of a wooden bar table filled with symbols of some of Freeman’s favorite things.

“He blew our socks off, what this man has done,” she said.

The memorial, unveiled on Saturday, features a tabletop of eight hand-carved, wood platform tennis paddles, with pictures of some of Freeman’s favorite things on each one, from his beloved Philadelphia Eagles and his favorite Yuengling beer, to fishing, photography, golf, and the U.S. Marines emblem. It will become a permanent part of the Ocean Pines Racquet Center.

The inscription reads, “In loving memory of Jim Freeman, from your friends at OPPTA. ‘Perform random acts of kindness’ - Jim.”

To view a video of the memorial dedication, visit <https://youtu.be/naKM3OPqtIQ>.

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Golf Social is Sunday

Local golfers are invited to take part in a special “Sunday Golf Social” hosted by the Ocean Pines Golf Members’ Council on Sunday, June 20 at the Ocean Pines Golf Club.

Ocean Pines Golf Club members will host the event, with all proceeds benefiting the Golf Members’ Council Scholarship Fund and the Junior Golf Fund.

“This is our way of inviting prospective members and guests to join us and learn about our programs,” organizer Walt Lischak said. “All members of the Ocean Pines community are welcome to play.”

The Sunday social will use a “best ball scramble” format with a shotgun start scheduled at 4:15 p.m. The event will also include prizes for the team with the best overall score, and closest-to-the-pin prizes for ladies and men.

“This is a four-person team event, so you may sign up as a foursome, a twosome or a single and we will do our best to match you up with partners,” Lischak said. “Each team must include at least one male and one female golfer.”

The cost is \$22.50 per person and

the fee includes a light-fare boxed dinner of chicken, tuna, or chicken salad wraps with chips and sodas or iced tea. A cash bar will also be available. Cart and greens fees are the responsibility of each participant.

The fee for nongolfers is \$17.50.

For more information or to sign up, contact Lischak at wblischak@yahoo.com, or call the pro shop at 410-641-6057.

Car show scheduled

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City Car Show will be held Saturday July 24 between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Ocean Pines Veterans Memorial Park. The registration cost is \$15 per entrant; sign-in is from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. There will be judged classes, trophies and awards. Food concessions will be managed by the Kiwanis “Dawg Team.” The club will also be selling their 2022 “Kiwanis Lottery Raffle” tickets for \$20 each with proceeds benefiting local youth. Purchaser has 365 chances to win.

AGH job fair scheduled

Atlantic General Hospital and Health System will interview applicants for open positions in the organization’s physician practices during an upcoming job fair on Tuesday, June 22 between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Atlantic Health Center. Offers will be made to qualified candidates for medical receptionist and medical office assistant positions on the spot. No appointment is necessary, and the first 30 individuals to attend the job fair will receive a gift card. The center is located at 9714 Healthway Drive in Berlin.

For more information, call Atlantic General Hospital’s Human Resources Department at 410-641-9612. Job listings can be found at www.agh.care/careers.

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Scholar – Brooklynn Pugner, a recent graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, was selected to receive a \$2,500 STAR Scholarship from the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Her scholarship was presented at a luncheon held at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club on June 3. P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) helps women pursue educational goals by providing grants, scholarships, awards, and loans. Brooklynn was recommended for the STAR Scholarship by P.E.O. Chapter AK of Ocean Pines. She will attend Washington College in Chestertown, MD, with the goal of becoming a Spanish teacher.

Above left to right are **Conni Hall**, Chapter AK president; Brooklynn's mother, **Bethany Pugner**; **Brooklynn**; and **Sandy Williams**, STAR scholarship committee member.

Ocean Pines named 'Safest City'

The Ocean Pines Association General Manager's Office announced that Ocean Pines, while technically a homeowner's association, was recently named as the "safest city" in Maryland by website Safewise.

Safewise uses FBI crime statistics and U.S. Census data to determine its rankings.

According to the site, the violent crime rate in Ocean Pines has dropped in each of the last three years, from 1.7 per 1,000 people in 2019, to 1.1 per 1,000 in 2020, and 0.7 per 1,000 in 2021.

Ocean Pines moved up one spot in the Safewise ranking from last year, when Taneytown was named the safest community in Maryland.

The only other local city on the top-ten list was Berlin, at number six. Other Eastern Shore communities ranked included Easton (#17), Fruitland (#26), Salisbury (#34) and Ocean City (#38).

"I am glad to have Ocean Pines back in the number-one slot," Police

Chief Leo Ehrisman said. "We would like to thank the homeowners for being so involved in reporting suspicious activity early and assisting with activity information recorded on their home surveillance systems. The community can only remain at this level of safety with the help of the public.

"We thank the public for the involvement and the support they bring to the police, which again keeps the officers connected to the public, and the public connected to the Police," he added.

General Manager John Viola credited the challenging and tireless work by Ehrisman and his entire department.

"Our Police Department continues to make our community one of the safest in the region, and their new state-of-the-art facility, opened last year, should serve Ocean Pines for many years to come," he said.

To view the full report, visit <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-maryland>.



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The history of Father's Day

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official, that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States. Father's Day 2021 occurs on Sunday.

The "Mother's Day" we celebrate today has its origins in the peace-and-reconciliation campaigns of the post-Civil War era. During the 1860s, at the urging of activist Ann Reeves Jarvis, one divided West Virginia town celebrated "Mother's Work Days" that brought together the mothers of Confederate and Union soldiers.

However, Mother's Day did not become a commercial holiday until 1908, when, inspired by Jarvis's daughter, Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her own mother by making Mother's Day a national holiday, the John Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored a service dedicated to mothers in its auditorium.

Thanks in large part to this association with retailers, who saw great potential for profit in the holiday, Mother's Day caught on right away. In 1909, 45 states observed the day, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson approved a resolution that made the second Sunday in May a holiday in honor of "that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America."

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm, perhaps because, as one florist explained, "fathers haven't the same sentimental appeal that mothers have."

On July 5, 1908, a West Virginia church sponsored the nation's first event explicitly in honor of fathers, a Sunday sermon in memory of the 362 men who had died in the previous December's explosions at the Fairmont Coal Company mines in Monongah, but it was a one-time commemoration and not an annual holiday.

The next year, a Spokane, Washington, woman named Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day for male parents. She went to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials to drum up support for her idea, and she was successful: Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

Slowly, the holiday spread. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by using telegraph signals to unfurl a flag in Spokane when he pressed a button in Washington, D.C. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged state governments to observe Father's Day.

Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June.

In other countries, especially in Europe and Latin America, fathers are honored on St. Joseph's Day, a traditional Catholic holiday that falls on March 19.

Many men, however, continued to disdain the day. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's

sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

During the 1920s and 1930s, a movement arose to scrap Mother's Day and Father's Day altogether in favor of a single holiday, Parents' Day. Every year on Mother's Day,



pro-Parents' Day groups rallied in New York City's Central Park, a public reminder, said Parents' Day activist and radio performer Robert Spere, "that both parents should be loved and respected together."

Paradoxically, however, the Great Depression derailed this effort to combine and de-commercialize the holidays. Struggling retailers and advertisers redoubled their efforts to make Father's Day a "second Christmas" for men, promoting goods such as neckties, hats, socks, pipes and tobacco, golf clubs and other sporting goods, and greeting cards.

When World War II began, advertisers began to argue that celebrating Father's Day was a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, Father's Day may not have been a federal holiday, but it was a national institution.

In 1972 Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday at last. Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.

-history.com

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Recognition - During their June 1, 2021 meeting, the Worcester County Commissioners presented commendations to representatives from the Berlin Fire Company (BFC), Bishopville Volunteer Fire Department, Showell Volunteer Fire Department, and Willards Volunteer Fire Company for responding to reports of a house fire on Donaway Road and for the crucial role each department played in saving lives. They also honored BFC Chief **RJ Rhode** and Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company Associate Member **Bob Rhode** who rescued a female occupant trapped in the house by performing a window rescue.

Safe boating course offered

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here. The sun is shining, the fish are biting, and boats are everywhere. This is the most important time to be knowledgeable about boater safety and responsibility. Safe boating is fun boating.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a safe boating course at the Ocean Pines library on July 12, 13, and 14 between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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

A fee of \$20.00 covers the cost of the course and materials.

Checks should be made payable to: "USCGAUX 12-05" and mailed to: USCGAUX 12-05, PO Box 1682,

Berlin, MD 21811.

Payment via PayPal is also accepted

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

OPA board meeting scheduled


The Ocean Pines Board of Directors will hold a regular meeting on June 16 at 7 p.m. in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center.

To view the agenda and meeting packet, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/documents/10184/53744/6-16-21+Board+Packet.pdf>.

Following the meeting, the video will be posted to the Association YouTube channel and links will be announced on the Ocean Pines website, www.oceanpines.org.

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Poetry winner - Sponsored by the Worcester County Garden Club, Stephen Decatur Middle School student Renata Levitt was recently presented with an award for placing first in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2019-2020 Youth Poetry Contest. According to Worcester County Garden Club Youth Contests chairman Joanne Kirby and co-chairman Brigid Slavin, Levitt wrote the poem "My Grandmother's Garden" when she was in sixth grade, but restrictions imposed during the COVID pandemic delayed award. Above are Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools **Louis H. Taylor**, **Renata Levitt**, **Joanne Kirby** and **Brigid Slavin**.

Job fair scheduled

Calling all job seekers. Meet prospective employers from across Worcester County and choose from hundreds of seasonal and year-round jobs at the Open Air Job Fair Wednesday, July 14, at Elks Lodge #1624 in Pocomoke from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public. Employers offering competitive wages and signing bonuses will be accepting applications and hiring onsite.

No registration is required. Come prepared to apply and interview. Training and transportation resources

will be available onsite.

This event is being hosted by the Town of Pocomoke, Worcester County Chambers of Commerce, Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, and Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development (WCTED).

Space is also available at no cost for employers who would like to participate.

This event will take place rain or shine. For more information, contact WCTED Workforce Engagement Specialist Jackie Trieu at jtrieu@co.worcester.md.us or at (410) 632-3110.



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What about croaker fishing

Fishing Report: Croaker should be showing up at any time. They are fun to catch and good to eat. Fishing has been pretty good when the weather cooperates. In the surf Kingfish, Sea Trout and a few big Stripers are being caught on fishbites, bloodworms and cut bait. Flounder fishing has been pretty good in the back bays when the water is clear and offshore the party boats are reporting some excellent Sea Bass fishing.

What is a Croaker? The Atlantic croaker is one of the most abundant fishes in North American coastal waters and is important as a commercial fish as well as an important sport fish. Locally they can be caught from fishing piers as well as the surf and by boat in both the Ocean and Coastal Bays. They usually arrive in our waters in early to mid July or as late as

August. Just keep up to date with the fishing reports to find out when the action starts. Croaker will not remain in the bays for long. Usually, two to three weeks at the most then they will migrate offshore to the shoals.

Croakers are bottom feeders and a close relative of spot and red drum. They are given their name because of the unique sound they make when caught. However, they are fun to catch and good to eat. Kids love to catch them because when they are biting it can be non stop action.

Maryland Regulations: In the state of Maryland Croaker must be a minimum of 9 inches in length to keep and the limit is 25/per person/per day. There is no closed season. I must admit I usually do not keep croaker less than 13 inches as I like to fillet croaker and you need larger fish for a reasonable size fillet.

What type rig should you use? Croakers are one of the easiest fish to

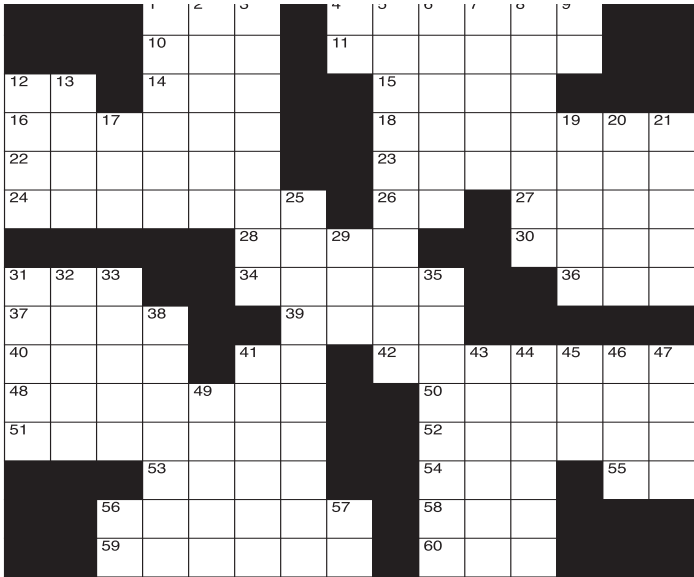
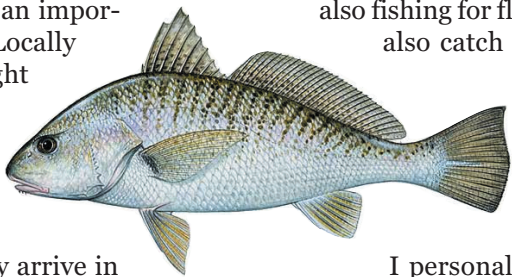
catch as they are bottom feeders. The best way to catch them is with a standard two-hook high-low rig with a 2 – 3 oz bank sinker. Hook size is important as you need to use a smaller hook in the size 4 – 6 range. Usually either a wide gap or (long shank) hook will do the job.

What bait should you use? Expensive bait is not necessary when fishing for croaker. A small piece of squid, shrimp, cut bait such as spot or mullet or a piece of clam will do just fine for these hungry fish but like any other fish if you want a bigger fish put on a bigger piece of bait. If you are also fishing for flounder, you can also catch them on frozen shiners and squid combination.

When is the best time to fish? I personally have had my best luck on the early outgoing tide but most fishermen feel you should fish the same tide as you would for flounder. That is the last 2 hours of the incoming tide and the first two hours of the outgoing tide.

Where is the best place to fish? Any of the local fishing piers, Rte. 50 Bridge or surf but if you are surf fishing be certain to comply with local regulations as to when and where you can fish. Behind the convention center and along the bulkhead from 2nd to 4th streets. Also, check with your local tackle shops as they will give you great advice as to where the bite is best. If fishing by boat, try the area around Harbor Island in 12 – 15ft of water. Also, the thoroughfare, around the convention center and the south bay behind Assateague Island is a great location. Move around and watch for the concentration of boats as this is a good indication someone found a school of croaker.

My favorite Croaker Recipe: Croakers make great fish and chips and they are a good tasting fish. I will please see **croaker** on page 16

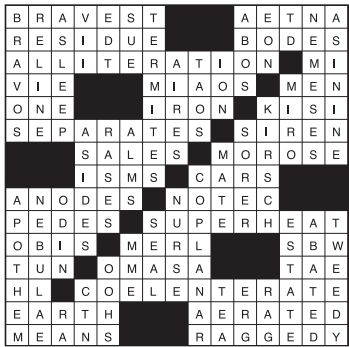


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan
- 4. One of Santa's reindeer
- 10. Before the present
- 11. Type of butter
- 12. Location of White House
- 14. Motion
- 15. Tree part
- 16. Regions around the North Pole
- 18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
- 22. Discuss after it's happened
- 23. Milk substitute for coffee
- 24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
- 26. Equally
- 27. Famed director Forman
- 28. Popular apartment style
- 30. British School
- 31. Advanced degree
- 34. Order of architecture
- 36. Investment account (abbr.)
- 37. Snakelike fishes
- 39. Children's tale bear
- 40. Norse personification of old age
- 41. Atomic #58
- 42. Moving your head
- 48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
- 50. Frankfurter
- 51. Small, seedless raisin
- 52. Device in papermaking machine
- 53. Go
- 54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
- 55. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 56. Saturated with salt
- 58. Marry
- 59. Report on
- 60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Rays
- 2. Self-centered person
- 3. One you look after
- 4. Prosecutor
- 5. Portion
- 6. Speaks ill of
- 7. Formal system for computer programs
- 8. To make angry
- 9. Rural delivery
- 12. Group of languages
- 13. Large First Nations group
- 17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy
- 19. Excludes
- 20. Body cavity of a metazoan
- 21. Swedish monetary unit
- 25. Works with
- 29. Partner to "to"
- 31. Rewards (archaic)
- 32. One of Caroline Islands
- 33. Type of alcohol
- 35. Eat a lot
- 38. Nuns
- 41. Dog
- 43. Become more serious
- 44. Choose
- 45. Newspapers use it
- 46. World's longest river
- 47. Commanded to go faster
- 49. Cabs
- 56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
- 57. Document signed (abbr.)



Answers for June 9

ETFs, Index Funds, Active Funds: making the right choice

Presented by **Mark E. Engberg, CFP**

The world of investing can be confusing. How do we make the right choices when it comes to allocating our hard-earned capital? Let's explore some options that might be appropriate and effective.



Mark Engberg

Investors looking for diversification often turn to the world of funds—and for good reason. Actively managed mutual funds, index mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) can provide broad, diversified exposure to an asset class, region or specific market niche without having to buy scores of individual securities.

The challenge lies in narrowing down your options. So, let's look at some of the benefits and drawbacks of each—and how they may fit your needs.

Mutual funds

Generally speaking, there are two types of mutual funds:

Actively managed funds: The investments in these funds are selected and managed by a portfolio manager or team based on their strategy and outlook, generally with the goal of outperforming the market—such as by playing defense during a turbulent market.

Active funds may also be an attractive option for investors looking to access harder-to-reach or less transparent areas of the market—such as emerging-market bonds—where a fund manager's experience and expertise can be invaluable.

Of course, such expertise comes at a cost: actively managed funds tend to charge higher fees than ETFs and index funds that attempt to mirror (rather than beat) the market. However, financial expertise doesn't guarantee that an active fund will outperform the market—and in some cases it may even underperform it.

Index mutual funds: These funds generally seek to replicate the performance of a particular index—also known as passive management—which typically results in lower expense ratios than actively managed funds. They can be an attractive option

for investors looking for a low-cost way to capitalize on the long-term direction of the market.

That said, passive fund managers have little ability to change course in the midst of a market downturn or rally, so investors looking for more defensive and/or aggressive management styles may find active funds more to their liking. They want to know someone has the ability to zig when the market zags.

ETFs

Like index mutual funds, ETFs generally are passively managed and offer similar investment strategies (and charge similar fees) to traditional index mutual funds. However, ETFs trade on national market exchanges just like stocks and, as such, may incur trading commissions (though many brokerages now offer commission-free ETF trading).

The ability to trade ETFs intraday means investors can employ the same order types allowed with traditional equities, such as stop orders and limit orders—something that's unavailable with mutual funds because of the way they're bought and sold.

All investment vehicles have their pros and cons and I encourage you to learn more and educate yourself about the various funds that might be appropriate for your portfolio. At Schwab we offer a no obligation, no cost investment review that could help you understand how you are invested and what you are paying in fees and fund expenses; I believe this is time well spent.

Mark Engberg, CFP® is the Branch Leader at the Charles Schwab Independent Branch located in Rehoboth Beach, DE with over 20 years of experience helping clients achieve their financial goals.

For more information visit the Rehoboth Beach Independent Branch Website at: www.schwab.com/rehobothbeach or call (302) 260-8731.

Investors should consider carefully information contained in the prospectus or, if available, the summary prospectus, including investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses. Please read it carefully before investing.

The information provided here is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered an individualized recommendation or personalized investment advice. The investment strategies mentioned here may not be suitable for everyone. Each investor needs to review an investment strategy for his or her own particular situation before making any investment decision.

Indexes are unmanaged and you cannot invest in them directly.

Investment returns will fluctuate and are subject to market volatility, so that an investor's shares, when redeemed or sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Unlike mutual funds, shares of ETFs are not individually redeemable directly with the ETF. Shares are bought and sold at market price, which may be higher or lower than the net asset value (NAV).

iPad courses offered

The continuing education division at Wor-Wic Community College is offering two iPad courses this summer.

The first course, "Getting to Know Your iPad," will be held on two Tuesdays, June 22 and 29, and "iPad: Beyond the Basics" will be meet for three sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning July 20 and ending July 27. Both courses will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Room 301 of Fulton-Owen Hall at the college campus on the corner of Route 50 and Walston Switch Road in Salisbury.

For more information or to register, visit www.worwic.edu <<http://www.worwic.edu>>, email mmosteller@worwic.edu <<mailto:mmosteller@worwic.edu>> or call 410-334-2821.

commentary

from page 4

unfamiliar cultural worlds. The aim of this project is to offer teens those mirrors and windows, and to encourage them to look into as many new worlds as they can."

Cicely Lewis, award winning librarian and creator of the Read Woke movement wrote, "Read Woke is a movement. It means arming yourself with knowledge in order to better protect your rights. Knowledge is power and no one can take it away. It means learning about others so that you can treat people with the respect and dignity that they deserve no matter their religion, race, creed, or color."

Are the books designed to support a particular political group's perspective? That is a judgment call. To repeat - the issue here is not about prohibiting books, rather about what books should be actively promoted by our library system for young readers.

Book-seller company Mackin said, "Incorporating diverse stories and incentive-based learning during an era of DACA repeal, a Muslim ban, and the Black Lives Matter movement empowered students and created a culture of reading at one school.... Learn creative ways to decolonize your reading list."

Perhaps the real question is - Where is the balance?

The library says the Read Woke reading challenge highlights "the rich diversity of the American experience." The simple fact is, it highlights a very narrow portion of America's rich diversity and is funded by an entity supporting a political agenda.

Maybe it is time for students, and adults, to again examine what the total American experience is all about. Time to again become "woke" to the incredible good that is America. Incredible good - hidden by the recent total focus on any and all shortcomings.

As for Bertino? Ignoring controversy is easy. Bertino should be thanked and applauded for having the political courage to at least look into constituent concerns on the Read Woke program.

croaker

from page 10

cut the small fillets off each side and use the following simple recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1 small onion sliced thin
- 2 cloves garlic
- Juice of 1/2 fresh lemon
- 1 cup Bread crumbs
- 1 tsp. Old Bay or Cajun Seasoning
- 1 dash salt
- 1/4 lb. butter or margarine

Preparation:

Sautee the onion and garlic in butter in a medium size frying pan until tender, add the lemon juice to the pan. Combine the Bread crumbs, Old Bay or Cajun seasoning along with a dash of salt in a bowl. Dip the fish in the butter mixture and roll in the bread crumbs. Arrange the fillets in a greased baking pan. Drizzle the remaining butter mixture over the fish and bake in a 35- degree oven until done and the fish flake easily usually 15 - 20 minutes but check it frequently. Serve with French fries and you will come back for more.

Remember to take a kid fishing.

Capt. Ron

Art League awards scholarships

The Art League of Ocean City is celebrating 30 years of providing college scholarships, awarding 69 scholarships since 1991 to local students pursuing a college degree in the visual and performing arts. In 2021, seven students received scholarships, presented at a First Friday ceremony by Worcester County native and Broadway star Jennifer Wills, who was the first student to receive an Art League scholarship.

On First Friday, Wills was joined by Kay Ayres who in 1991 presented the first Art League scholarship to the future lead singer of "The Phantom of the Opera." Wills said the financial help was important to her success.

"It was wonderful to be recognized for my hard work by someone other than my parents," Wills laughed. "I used the scholarship money during my time at Salisbury University where I received my BA in Music Education. I then received my MM from Indiana University and spent 20 years in New York working professionally in theatre and music including starring in several Broadway shows and headlining with symphonies across the United States."

Wills has since returned to her native Eastern Shore to raise her family. "I always loved it here and have wonderful memories of my childhood ...," she said. "I wanted a return to a simpler life and liked the idea of hopefully giving back to the community that gave me so much."

This year's scholarships include the inaugural \$5,000 Sidney M. Beckstead Award, in honor of the entrepreneur, artist, and jeweler who

passed away in 2020. The recipient is Colin Porter, graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, who will attend the Fashion Institute of Technology, focusing on jewelry and footwear design.

"Sid began his career in the jewelry industry in Ocean City, Md.," Sherrie Beckstead said. "It is with great humility and honor that we want to celebrate Sid's creative gifts by awarding a scholarship in his name."

The Art League also awarded six \$1,000 scholarships, funded through the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and through the Art League scholarship fund in memory of Eva Fox.

The recipients are Serap Aksu of Ocean City, a SDHS graduate who will attend Salisbury University; Lilly Jones of Ocean City, graduating from the Salisbury School and attending the Savannah College of Art & Design; and Allison Marx of Ocean City, a SDHS graduate who will attend the University of Maryland College Park. Three previous scholarship winners reapplied for and were awarded continuing scholarships: Lamont Hall of Pocomoke City, who attends the Pratt Institute; Sara Hancock of Ocean City, who attends Salisbury University; and Alana Troxell of Pocomoke City, who attends Marymount Manhattan College.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway. Call 410-629-5906



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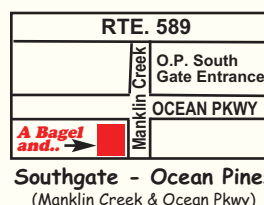
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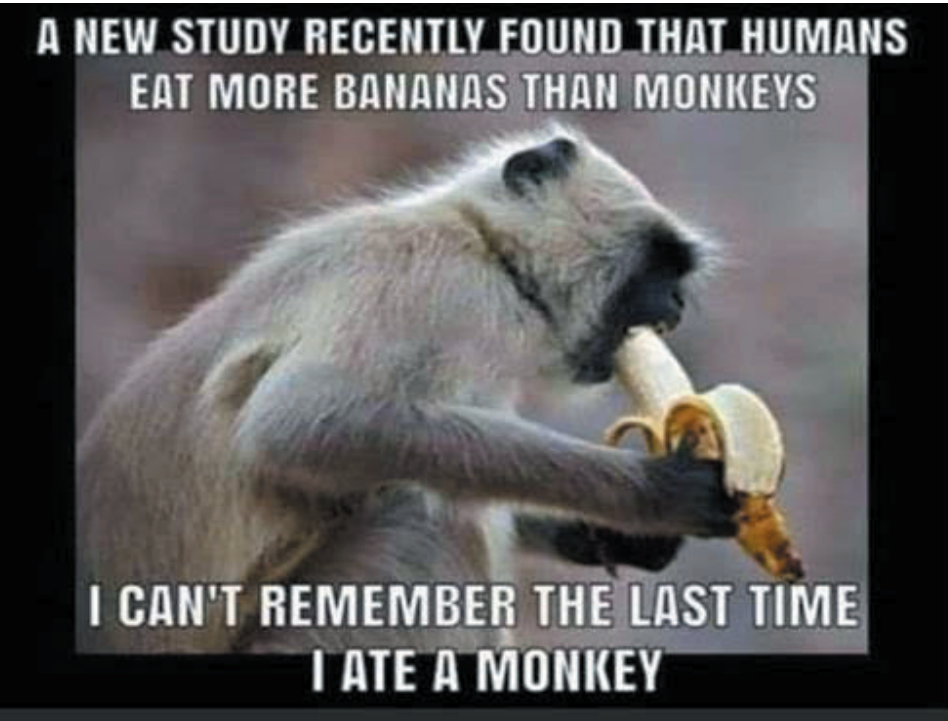
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Four worms were placed in four separate test tubes:

- 1st in beer
- 2nd in wine
- 3rd in whiskey
- 4th in mineral water

The next day, the teacher shows the results:

The 1st worm in beer, dead.
The 2nd in wine, dead.
The 3rd in whiskey, dead.
The 4th in mineral water, alive and healthy.

The teacher asks the class:

- What do we learn from this experience?

And a child responds:

- Whoever drinks beer, wine and whiskey, does not have worms.

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet by Jack Barnes

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF
THE HOLY WATER SIZZLES
WHEN IT HITS YOUR SKIN?

ASKING FOR A FRIEND.**



**It's been a bit of a strange day!
First I found a hat full of money.
Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar...**



**ALL MY
PASSWORDS ARE
PROTECTED BY
AMNESIA**



Toss for Tots Cornhole Tournament is Saturday

Grab your corn bags and get set to toss at the Worcester County Recreation and Parks (WCRP) inaugural Toss for Tots Cornhole Tournament at Oaked 110 in Snow Hill on June 19 beginning at 11 a.m. This inaugural event will include prizes, a 50/50 raffle, food, and fun. Register online at www.play-marylandscoast.org.

Check in will begin at 10:30 a.m. that morning. Up to 20 teams will be competing. Each team will play two, random-draw, speed-round, high-point games that will determine seeding in a double elimination tournament. The cost is \$60 per team, and players must be 18 or older. No experience is necessary. Each player will be permitted to bring one spectator.

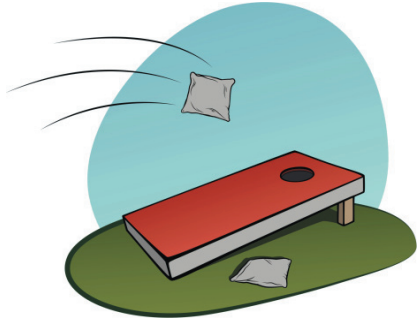
First place tournament winners will receive a \$120 Visa card, and second place will receive a \$60 Visa card.

Drink and food specials will be

available throughout the day, and WCRP staff will be on-site selling 50/50 raffle tickets and calling numbers for prize giveaways.

WCRP is partnering with Oaked 110 and Jean's Boutique to host the tournament, and all funds collected will benefit the Worcester Youth Scholarship fund, which assures that no child is ever turned away from participating in a WCRP program due to financial limitations.

For more information, contact Program Manager Hunter Nelson at 410-632-2144, ext. 2506 or hnelson@marylandscoast.org.



Prebenda joins Wor-Wic

Wor-Wic Community College recently welcomed Aaron Prebenda of Delmar, DE, as director of student success.

He holds a bachelor's degree from American University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. Prebenda has held various positions in education since 2007, including dean of students, director of academic programs and director of the academic success center at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 17	High	1:26 AM
17	Low	7:45 AM
17	High	2:00 PM
17	Low	7:57 PM
F 18	High	2:20 AM
18	Low	8:35 AM
18	High	2:59 PM
18	Low	8:59 PM
Sa 19	High	3:19 AM
19	Low	9:26 AM
19	High	3:59 PM
19	Low	10:03 PM
Su 20	High	4:18 AM
20	Low	10:19 AM
20	High	4:57 PM
20	Low	11:07 PM
M 21	High	5:17 AM
21	Low	11:13 AM
21	High	5:53 PM
Tu 22	Low	12:09 AM
22	High	6:13 AM
22	Low	12:07 PM
22	High	6:48 PM
W 23	Low	1:08 AM
23	High	7:09 AM
23	Low	1:01 PM
23	High	7:42 PM



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