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Moon's Barbershop, Boys and Girls Club, host annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza



Two children stop to show new backpacks from an annual event that was held in Annapolis. Moon's Barbershop is known for being a family-oriented establishment, located at 904 West Street, in the heart of Annapolis. Once a year, Edward Moon (right)— owner of the barbershop— and volunteers who comprise "Team Moon," turn off their clippers and leave barbershop stations to co-sponsor an annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza with the Boys and Girls Club. Colleen Moon (left) is a volunteer who is committed to helping area children begin the school year with a proper start. Melvin Brown, teamed up with Edward in 2005 to start the back-to-school event.

(See article on page 9) Courtesy Photos

See grades clearly this back-to-school season: Schedule an annual eye exam

Correct the squint and limit screen time to ensure a successful school year.

Vienna, Va.— Studies show that up to 80 percent of learning is visual and vision changes can occur without a child even noticing. In fact, children don't necessarily understand what "normal" vision is. A comprehensive eye exam can catch any vision issues that might interfere with learning. Clear, comfortable vision doesn't just make it easier to read what the teacher writes on the blackboard, it also helps children process and remember what's being taught.

As the start of the school year quickly approaches, parents should take note of how much time their child spends in front of digital devices. Children today have more digital tools at their disposal than ever before—including tablets, smart phones, e-readers and videogames for both educational and personal use.

According to Common Sense Media, American tweens, ages eight to 12, report spending an average of six hours in front of a screen each day, excluding time spent using media for school or homework. Even device manufacturers have taken notice and are introducing tools to help parents manage screen time for themselves and their families.

To decrease chances of acquiring digi-

tal eye strain, or minimize the cosmetic "condition" Resting Squint Face (RSF), MyEyeDr. shares pointers for parents to ensure their student's eyes are healthy as they head back to school.

•**Arrange an eye-friendly workspace.** Organize a space in your home that optimizes workflow without straining your student's eyes. Position the desk so that digital devices are sitting at least 20 inches away from their face to decrease eye strain. Ensure the workspace allows for proper posture with a chair at a height that allows feet to be flat on the floor.

•**Schedule breaks.** Encourage children to give their eyes a break. Whether this is short and simple, incorporating the 20-20-20 rule by looking away from digital devices at an object on the wall, at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds every 20 minutes; or breaking up the day with some time outside, limiting digital device usage can reduce the harmful effects increased exposure can have on the eyes. According to The Vision Council, children who play outside regularly are 23 percent less likely to develop myopia, or nearsightedness. Parents can even consider this a reward for children who have learned how best to manage their digital device usage.

•**Get the right tools for the job.** Prepping your child for a healthy and suc-



cessful academic year goes beyond preventative measures. Invest in the right lenses to correct vision and ensure academic performance. Consider a stylish pair of Zoobug frames, a London-based eyewear brand made just for kids, with special lenses to reduce digital eye strain and complement your child's personal style while protecting their eyes.

•**Schedule an annual eye exam.** Headaches, clumsiness, decreased attention span and poor academic performance can all be related to vision

impairment or not wearing the right prescription. Parents must adhere to an 'every kid, every year' mantra for back to school eye exams. Healthy vision is essential to a child's ability to learn and achieve their academic potential, as well playing sports and other activities.

•**Lead by example.** Set the example for your child by placing priority on your eye health and following these tips. Your child will be much more invested in their own eye health when they see you taking necessary preventative measures.

"Parents want the best for their child, including proper vision health," said Dr. Artis Beatty, chief medical officer at MyEyeDr. "Don't wait for symptoms to arise. As you prepare for back to school, incorporate these tips to safely use digital devices and pave the way for a successful academic year."

According to Prevent Blindness, one in four school-aged children have a vision disorder. Beyond safe digital device usage, it's recommended that all parents schedule an annual eye exam for their child regardless of symptoms.

MyEyeDr. is a network of local optometry practices located East of the Mississippi. For more information about MyEyeDr., visit: www.myeeyedr.com.

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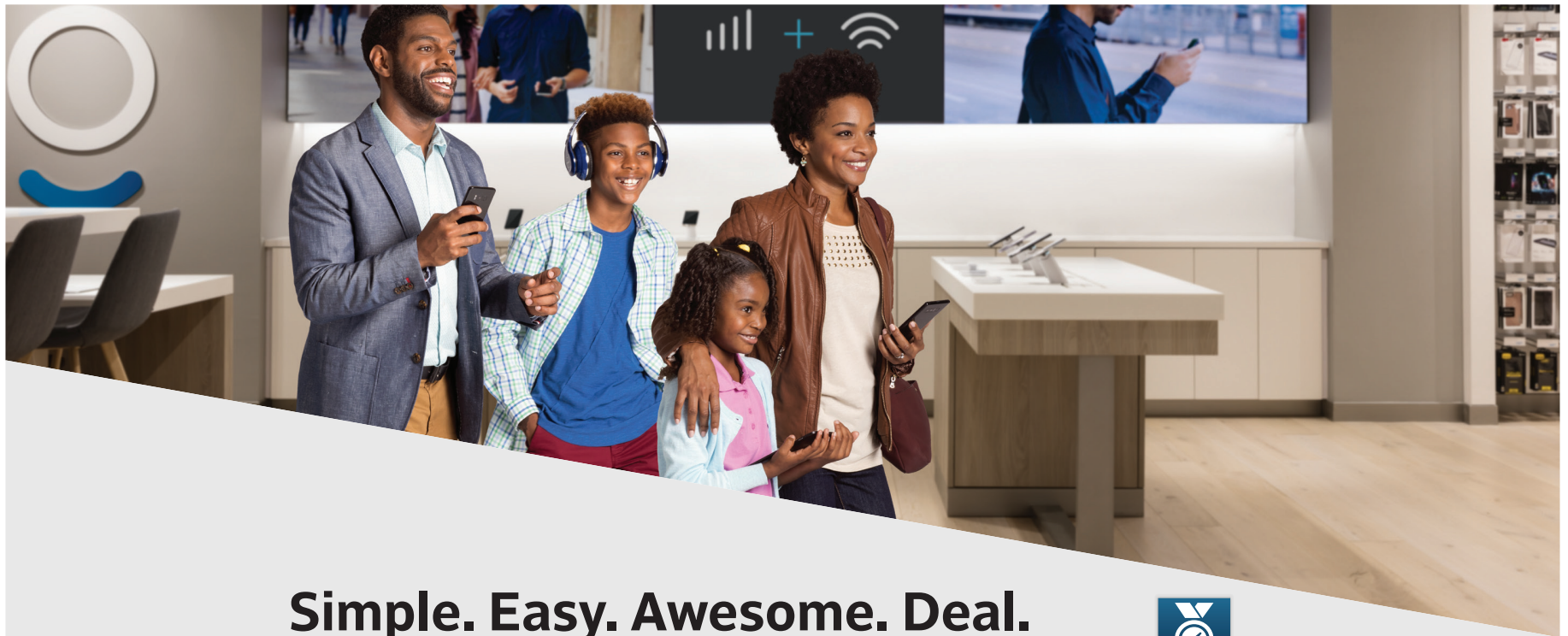
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Guest Editorials/Letters

How to preserve the miracle of life for more American families

By Dan Gutfinger

Few occasions are more joyous than the birth of a child. But for scores of families, the arrival of a newborn can also augur heartbreak.

Each day, nearly 100 U.S. babies are born with congenital heart defects. Many will not make it to their first birthday. Fortunately, several breakthrough technologies have emerged in recent years that could save many of these babies. It's time we put them to more widespread use.

Congenital heart conditions afflict about 40,000 babies— nearly one percent of births— annually. These defects can range from manageable to fatal: a valve that doesn't fully close; abnormal connections of veins and arteries; even a hole inside the heart.

Some heart defects can be treated with medicine; others require surgery. But too often, current technologies are insufficient for infants.

Medical devices, including those for the heart, are often designed for adults. That's where the greatest demand is. So that's where companies tend to focus their research, development, and production efforts.

However, using adult-sized products in children can be dangerous. Forcing an adult-sized valve into a baby's tiny heart may ward off immediate death and give the child a few more months of life. But complications are common. For instance, an adult-sized valve can impede the flow of blood from the baby's lungs or put pressure on the electrical circuitry of a tiny heart, resulting in the need for a pacemaker. Attempts to treat infants with adult-sized devices may be well intentioned, but the heart defect is likely to win out in the end.

As a cardiac surgeon, I've unfortunately seen that happen too often. I remember the case of an infant girl from New York City who was born with severe narrowing of her heart's mitral valve. When she was nine months old, she received a replacement adult-sized valve. But six months after her procedure, the replacement failed, causing her valve to narrow and restrict blood flow. Doctors relieved the obstruction temporarily. But eventually, her heart became too weak, and she passed away.

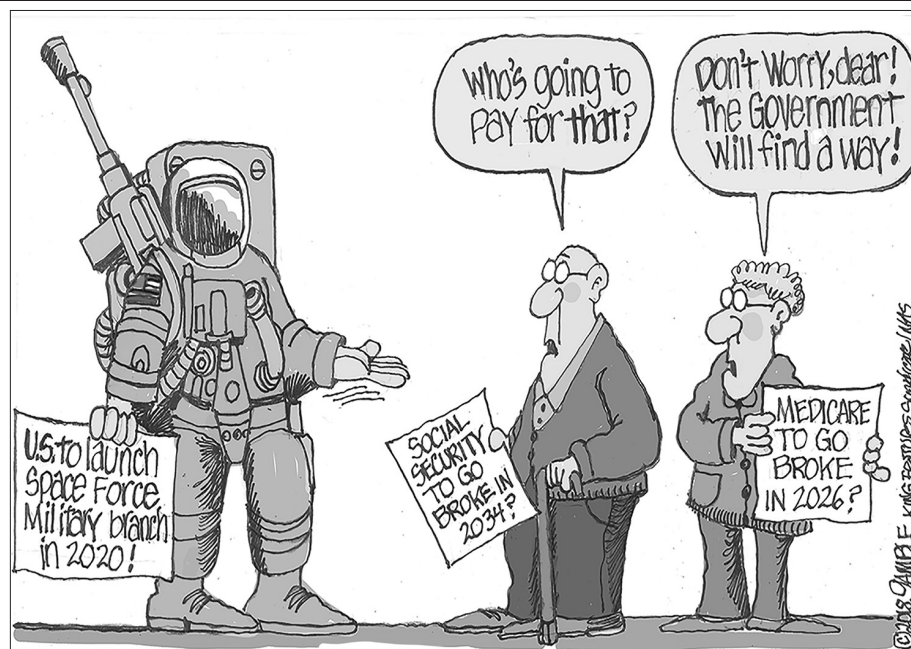
Thankfully, scientists and companies are developing new ways to meet the needs of our smallest, most vulnerable patients. Researchers at the University of Maryland, for example, are testing the ability of adult stem cells to repair damaged infant heart tissue. A team at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota is pioneering a procedure that uses umbilical cord blood to strengthen infant heart muscles.

And just this year, Abbott, the company I work for, received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for a new heart valve for infants. At just 15 millimeters, it's the smallest mechanical heart valve in the world.

This valve has already helped save the lives of numerous infants. One was a baby from Chicago who was born with a hole in her heart. At six months, her mitral valve started leaking following surgery to repair the hole. She went into heart failure. She was held in the ICU but she couldn't tolerate food and wasn't gaining weight. She received the small Abbott valve just in time -- and is now thriving.

Today, we can fix many previously incurable heart defects thanks to a new crop of medical innovations designed specifically for our smallest patients. It's up to the entire medical community to make sure that newborns who could benefit from these life-changing technologies receive them.

Dan Gutfinger is a medical director for the global health care company Abbott. (For U.S. Important Safety Information on the Masters HP Series, visit <http://abbo.tt/2taeyVL>.)



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

I am very disappointed with the national Democratic Party and its candidates for the House and Senate as well as its members of the House and Senate. I think we sorely need more "Bobby Kennedys," and I see few in sight.

We need candidates with charisma and who are warm, loving, caring, compassionate, empathetic, and who can relate to and identify with everyday Americans who suffer in life.

Research shows that most Democrats in the Congress are wealthy. They are not everyday people like, my wife and myself, and most of your readers. Most of them will never have money-worries in life like tens of millions of us do.

They won't ever have to be scared and frightened like my wife is every time she hears that the Republicans in Congress want to cut our Social Security Retirement benefits. I just don't see a "burning desire" to want to help those who struggle with money-worries

Stewart B. Epstein
Rochester, New York

Editor:

Re: *Deja vu, all over again*

Name the president whose time in

office was filled with protests and violence across the nation. The same president, who under threat of being put on trial for colluding with criminals in order to disrupt the elections across the country, called on his Attorney General to halt the investigation of the case.

This action, was roundly criticized by his opponents, the press and members of his own party, as presidential overreach that threatened the democracy he had shown to regularly undermine.

Now if this scenario were presented to you during Jeopardy. it would be unfair. Until today, the answer would be "who is Richard Nixon?" Once the undisputed titleholder of most disgraceful president in the past century, but as of August 1, 2018, this same question applies to the new undisputed champion— Trump.

As the old saying goes "meet the new boss, same as the old boss." In 1973, these actions forced Congress to push the president to resign or be removed.

In 2018, does your elected representative have the courage to do the same?

James J. Hankins
Wilmington, N.C.

S.C. Representative Jim Clyburn says Black Press is essential to 2018 midterms

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

While there is at least a perceived growing number of Democrats who say they want to replace California Rep. Nancy Pelosi as the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn has emerged as a favorite among his peers to become the first African American to hold that position.

In an exclusive interview with the NNPA Newswire, the 25-year congressman says that while he is ready for the challenge, Democrats currently have much bigger fish to fry.

"The first order of business is to win the [midterm] elections on November 6," Clyburn said. "That's what I've been concentrating on."

Clyburn and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond each told the NNPA Newswire that they've identified 37 districts across the country they believe can be won by Democrats this year, which would wrest control of the House from Republicans.

"We feel, with the right kind of effort,

we can win," Clyburn said.

Clyburn listed three keys to success this November.

The first key, Clyburn said, is to prioritize the black vote; Democrats can't afford to take the African American vote for granted.

The secondly, the Democrats shouldn't rely on an anti-President Donald Trump wave to get out the vote. Finally, Clyburn said that candidates must advertise in the Black Press, if they want to win in November.

"We are also talking about districts where Barack Obama won twice and where Hillary Clinton also won, but these voters don't turn out for the so-called 'off-year elections,'" Clyburn said. "We can't let these voters feel like we're taking them for granted."

Clyburn, 78, says he was recently taken aback by one candidate, who said that he could win the black vote by running on an anti-Trump platform.

"Wait one second," Clyburn said that he told the individual. "We can't just go around being 'Republican-light.' We have to be out there putting forth an alternative message, for our base, and we have to reach out to black voters and let them know we're not taking them or any of our base for granted."

To that end, Clyburn says advertising campaigns must largely include the Black Press.

"It's very, very important...Chairman Richmond and I have had candidates in and we've been telling them that one of the best ways to demonstrate that you're not taking the black vote for granted is to advertise in the Black Press," Clyburn said.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is the oldest and largest trade group representing the Black Press, comprised of more than 200 black-owned newspapers operating

in the the United States.

"I've been in [the Black Press]. My daughter and I ran a newspaper down South, so I know that candidates tend to take black media for granted," Clyburn said. "They tend to judge black media the same way they do other media and you just can't do that, because the business model is totally different."

Each Sunday after attending Morris Brown A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C., Clyburn says he and other churchgoers habitually pick up the local black-owned newspaper.

"People tend to pay attention to the headlines, the stories and the ads in the Black Press so it's vitally important that candidates know this," Clyburn said.

A former history teacher, Clyburn says Trump's obsession with dismantling Obama's legacy is reminiscent of tactics employed by Andrew Johnson to demean his predecessor, Abraham Lincoln.

Johnson, who was impeached by House, had a vision of America as a white man's government, according to historians.

"If you remember, it's the same kind of reaction Johnson had to Lincoln and I remember sitting alone once in the Oval Office with Obama and I told him that this would be the kind of reaction he could expect," Clyburn said.

"[Obama] was never going to get the kind of respect for his presidency that was shown to presidents before him," Clyburn said. "The narrative that exists in this country is that there are certain things that black folks are not supposed to do and one of those things is becoming the president of the United States and [President Trump] and his administration, feel they have to do whatever they can to wipe out any semblance that Barack Obama was ever president of the United States."

Clyburn continued: "[Trump] has a deep-seated hatred for people of color and it manifests itself every day."

Though he doesn't support or agree politically with former Trump aide Omarosa Manigault Newman, Clyburn said he was deeply troubled when Trump referred to her as a "low life" and a "dog."

"I'm the father of three daughters and I'm deeply insulted by the president of the United States referring to an African American woman the way he referred to her," he said. "Politics aside, I'm insulted that the president of the United States would denigrate the office in this way."

Clyburn continued: "The president asked an important question when he was running, 'What do we have to lose?' Well, we have lost dignity and the respect of the presidency, because of his coarseness in the office. When you lose respect, you've lost about everything there is to lose."

While he still supports Pelosi, Clyburn says that if the Democrats take back the House, he is up for the job as speaker.

"I have always supported her, but I have always remembered a sermon I heard my father give a number of times," Clyburn said. "That sermon stayed with me and he said, 'keep your lamps trimmed and burning to be ready when the bridegroom comes.' My point is, I've never forgotten that sermon so I keep my lamp burning so I'm ready."

Stacy Brown is an NNPA Newswire Contributor and co-author of "Michael Jackson: The Man Behind the Mask: An Insider's Story of the King of Pop." Follow Stacy on Twitter @stacybrown-media.

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KIPP Baltimore graduate awarded \$10,000 scholarship

By Ursula V. Battle

The award was presented in Los Angeles by Actor Kevin Hart

Latron Fleet, a graduate of KIPP Baltimore has been awarded a \$10,000-per-year scholarship to help pay for his education at Morehouse College. The scholarship was made possible through a \$600,000 United Negro College Fund (UNCF) scholarship program launched in partnership with Kevin Hart's Help From The Hart Charity and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) Public Schools.

The \$600,000 scholarship program will provide funding to support KIPP students from eight different cities who are attending 11 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Latron and the other students attended a scholarship program in Los Angeles, California, on Monday, August 6, 2018. During the program, they were presented with their scholarships by none other than actor and comedian Kevin Hart himself.

"I couldn't believe it," said Latron. "I have always been a fan of Kevin Hart. When he walked in, we were all shocked and overjoyed. It was a surprise, because no one told us he would be there. I got to meet him for the first time."

Hart made a \$100,000 scholarship gift in 2015 through UNCF to four deserving college students. His latest donation is a continuation of his efforts to help students earn a college degree.

"Education and knowledge are powerful," said Hart. "I just wanted to do my part in providing opportunities for our future leaders, especially from my Philly hometown, and show support for HBCUs. This is just the beginning; trust me when I tell you there are a lot more



Actor and comedian Kevin Hart; John Fisher, Chair of the Board of Directors for the KIPP Foundation; scholarship recipient Latron Fleet; and Dr. Michael Lomax, President and CEO of UNCF during the scholarship program in Los Angeles, California on August 6, 2018. Courtesy Photo/KIPP Baltimore

kids who want to go to college who don't have the money to make it happen."

UNCF is the largest provider of college scholarships for students of color in the United States, awarding more than \$100 million in college scholarships annually to deserving students. Latron and the other scholarship recipients were selected based on their academic and personal accomplishments. They may also receive substantive renewable awards based on need.

Latron is a 2018 graduate of St. Paul's

School, and will attend Morehouse College in the fall. He will receive \$10,000 each of the four years he is at Morehouse.

"This scholarship eases the stress on my family", he said. "I have a brother and two sisters under me. My brother is in high school and preparing for college himself. By the time he reaches college, my family would still be paying for both his education and mines. This scholarship eases that financial burden."

KIPP is a national network of 224 public charter schools dedicated to prepar-

ing students in educationally underserved communities for success in college and life. KIPP schools are part of the free public school system and enrollment is open to all students. KIPP Baltimore is located at 4701 Greenspring Avenue in Baltimore.

"KIPP taught me great organizational skills," said Latron. "KIPP also prepared me for the workload of any situation. That really helped me to move forward in life, because I struggled with organization."

Latron highlighted the efforts of Nicole P. Yeftich, Senior Manager of College Support at KIPP Baltimore.

"Ms. Yeftich knew about a scholarship that was only for KIPP students, and wanted me to apply for it," recalled Latron, who produces and writes music and aspires to be an entertainer or manager. "She really helped me through the process. I really appreciate all of her efforts."

He added, "I am also grateful to Kevin Hart and UNCF. Anyone who gives scholarships to people in need is appreciated."

Yeftich, who noted that KIPP actively supports their students throughout their high school and college years, agreed with Latron.

"One of the biggest challenges we see on our College Placement Team, is the gap funding that is crucial," she said. "Latron is one among many students incredibly capable. Unfortunately, the gap that exists between the cost of attending college, and what federal, state and universities are able to give, is enormous and prohibitive."

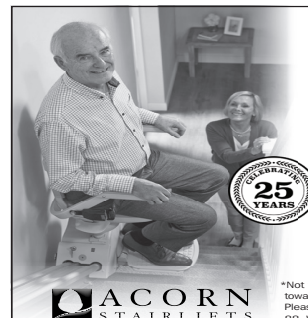
She added, "The generous philanthropists like Kevin Hart who step in to create opportunities like this one are game-changers."

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Over six million low-income Americans have crossed digital divide with Comcast Essentials

Philadelphia, PA— In a recent press release, Comcast announced it has now connected more than six million low-income Americans to the Internet through its Internet Essentials program, the largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program for low-income families in the United States.

More than two million people were connected in the last year alone—the largest annual increase in the program’s history.

Comcast also announced it will significantly expand eligibility—for the eleventh time in seven years—to low-income veterans, nearly one million of whom live within the Comcast footprint.

According to the United States Census Bureau’s 2016 American Community Survey, less than 70 percent of low-income veterans have Internet access, and about 60 percent own a computer.

“This program has had an enormous impact on millions of families and children who now have high-speed Internet at home, many for the first time in their lives,” said David L. Cohen, Senior

Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer. “We’re excited to extend that same opportunity to more than one million, low-income veterans. Veterans have stood up for our country; now it’s time for us to stand up for them by providing access to life-changing digital tools and resources.”

Since 2011, Comcast has invested more than half a billion dollars to support digital literacy training and awareness, reaching more than 8.5 million low-income Americans. In addition, the company has sold more than 85,000 heavily subsidized computers.

Comcast attributes some of the recent growth of Internet Essentials to its easy-to-use mobile application, which now accounts for more than a third of all enrollments.

Comcast has also redesigned its Internet Essentials Learning Center with new content from Common Sense Media and ConnectSafely.org. The site now includes a variety of free videos, tools, and resources that can help individuals learn vital Internet safety and digital skills.



Monique Lamoureux-Morando; Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson and David L. Cohen, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Comcast presented laptops to eligible low-income veterans from Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), an organization dedicated to fully developing the personal potential of all U.S. military veterans.
Courtesy Photo/Comcast



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U.S. Olympic Gold Medalists Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson and Monique Lamoureux-Morando, who were recently named as ambassadors and spokespeople for the company’s corporate values initiatives, will join Cohen on a multi-city tour to visit local communities and raise awareness about the Internet Essentials program. Both were instrumental in Team USA’s defeat of Canada for the gold in the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, and are passionate advocates for gender equity.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with Comcast to help close the digital divide for families, students, seniors, and veterans,” said Monique Lamoureux-Morando. “People without an Internet connection at home are missing out. Students need the Internet to do their homework. Parents and veterans need the Internet to more easily search and apply for jobs and access healthcare information.”

“We know how important a home Internet connection is,” added Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson. “In our lives,

we’ve also learned first-hand how important it is to stand up for what you believe in. We want to encourage others to use the Internet to stand up for what they believe in and to make the world a better, fairer place, not just for themselves, but for the next generation, too. You can’t change the world if you’re not online.”

The move to extend Internet Essentials eligibility to low-income veterans is the second largest expansion in the program’s history.

Internet Essentials from Comcast is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive high-speed Internet adoption program for low-income Americans. It provides low-cost, high-speed Internet service for \$9.95 a month plus tax; the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer for under \$150; and multiple options to access free digital literacy training in print, online, and in person. For more information about the program or to apply, visit: www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. Spanish-only speakers can call 1-855-765-6995.

Washington Capitals bring street hockey to Baltimore City youth

By Alisa Hyman

Students from eight different Baltimore City recreation centers participated in the 8th Annual Baltimore Street Hockey Tournament on Thursday, July 26, 2018. After several consecutive days of rain, the tournament, which is sponsored by the Washington Capitals; Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP); and Monumental Sports & Entertainment was held under bright, sunny skies at the Madison Square Recreation Center. The yearly event is the culmination of a multi-week street hockey curriculum presented to over 75,000 students across more than 150 schools.

Bob Wall, Baltimore City's Chief of Recreation says that this partnership between BCRP and the Capitals introduces students to street hockey and fosters an appreciation of hockey in students who might not otherwise be interested in the sport.

"Students have a chance to learn the game through playing it, which makes watching and following it more enjoyable," Wall said. "It's a way to get them up and active and using different muscle systems in their bodies, and in a city that doesn't always have the best reputation, this program unifies neighborhoods by creating fun competition between students who live in different areas of the city."

Dressed in bright t-shirts and donning street hockey sticks, students cheered for their teammates and enjoyed the fun atmosphere of the tournament. The games were fast-paced and exciting, and everybody, even the adult coaches, spectators, and members of the press, were smiling and having fun. It was almost impossible not to dance to the music coming from the speakers and get caught up in the intensity of the games being played. Even people walking past the community center stopped as they passed to see what all the cheering was about.

One passerby, Donna Hairston, watched in fascination as the game continued. "You'd expect kids in the middle of the city to be playing basketball or football," Hairston observed as she watched the children play, "but not hockey. Black kids playing hockey. This is a sight for sore eyes!" she laughed.

"This has really turned into an event that kids look forward to every year," said Peter Robinson, director of Community Relations for the Washington Capitals.

Eight years ago, the Capitals donated street hockey equipment to 15 Baltimore City community centers. They sent instructions on how the game was played and how to teach the skills to the students.

"The first year we had this tournament, we had a couple dozen kids, a few teams, and the kids were just happy to be participating. Now, we have teams at 42 recreation centers. They have strategy. They've been practicing. They argue over the rules. They're really competitive. This has become a source of pride for them," Robinson explained.

"The kids look forward to it every year, and so does my staff. The Washington Capitals love coming to Baltimore and being a part of something so positive and fun for the students."

It doesn't hurt that this year the Capitals are sharing their 2018 Stanley Cup Championship with the students participating in the tournament.

"When we got here, students ran up to us and told us that they watched every single game of the Capital's playoff run. They knew all the details of all the games. These kids are fans now. They understand the sport. They know what's going on. Before, they didn't pay attention to hockey. Now, they never miss a game. We are here to create excitement around the sport of hockey. When we see how excited these kids are, we know we are doing our job," Robinson said.

The program has become so popular and is so beneficial that this year, the National Hockey League and the Washington Capitals have donated street hockey equipment to 170 schools and 42 recreation centers in Baltimore City. This generous donation will introduce street hockey to thousands of students during their physical education classes at school and at recreation centers after school and during the summer.

"The whole goal of this program is to provide access to the kids in the city of Baltimore to hockey," Robinson said. "And we're doing it."



Students wait for the game to begin.

Photos: Alisa Hyman



Several of the hockey games were played at outdoor rinks.

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Moon's Barbershop, Boys and Girls Club host annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza

By Andrea Blackstone

Before parents wrapped up purchasing items on back-to-school-shopping lists provided by individual schools, Moon's Barbershop and the Boys and Girls Club at Wiley H. Bates Heritage Park gave families a helping hand on Sunday, August 12, 2018, in the parking lot located at 121 South Villa Avenue in Annapolis.

Each year, Edward Moon, owner of Moon's barber shop turns off his clippers, leaves his barber shop and along with volunteers who makeup "Team Moon," host an annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza, where area youth who attend receive backpacks filled with supplies and are able enjoy activities with their families, friends and neighbors.

After standing in line with youth who received backpacks this year, multiple generations chatted under trees while eating snacks and free food. Laughter filled the air as they watched the children enjoy pony rides, a moon bounce, games, snowballs, face painting dancing to music under sun-filled skies.

Glen Burnie resident, Erica Matthews who brought her two granddaughters to the event says that it was her first time at the Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza. She found out about it through Facebook and she attends church with Edward Moon and his wife, Colleen Moon.

"Half of the [school supply] list was cut in half because of the event," Matthews said. "It definitely saves families money. [There are] so many families who are not able to purchase all of the supplies that the children are required to have the first day of school. I know for myself, when I get those two big lists, it's very hard to come up with all of the cash for all of those items. What Team Moon and the Boys and Girls Club are doing today is really important. Children can at least go to school and feel like they have everything they need to be successful. [It] takes a load off of the parents who feel the stress and frustrations, when they can't get the children what they need."

Although the annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza marks the beginning of the upcoming school year, Colleen Moon also explained that the program keeps the community together. Approximately 20 volunteers who are friends and family, volunteer to make the activity a success. Donations and a candle fundraiser help to offset the cost to host it. Colleen also noted that many families are very thankful for the school supplies and backpacks they receive for their children, especially since backpacks can cost upwards of \$15-\$20 per item.

"And when you have multiple children, that's just a lot," Colleen said, while standing next to Crystal Johnson-Brown, who has been a volunteer with Moon's Barbershop Annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza since its inception in 2005. The active volunteer in Anne Arundel



Moon's Barbershop and the Boys and Girls Club at Wiley H. Bates Heritage Park gave families a helping hand on Sunday, August 12, 2018. 300 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to students. Pony rides, a moon bounce, games, tattoos, face painting, snowballs, food face painting and music were also provided during the fun-filled afternoon in Annapolis. Courtesy Photos

County explained that volunteering is important to her, because it creates more positive experiences in her community, and empowers her to be the best that she can be by helping others.

In 2005, Johnson-Brown's husband, Melvin Brown teamed up with Edward Moon to start the back-to-school event. At the time, Brown was a police officer with the Annapolis Police Department. Brown now works for another police department in Maryland and even though he was unable to attend this year's event, Johnson-Brown remarked that he still does his part to help keep the Annual Backpack Giveaway Extravaganza going.

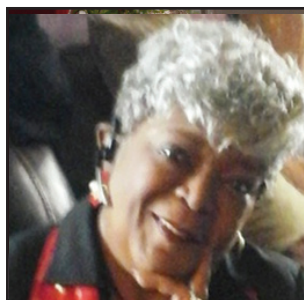
"This year we gave away approximately 300 backpacks, and an array of school supplies for children who already had backpacks," Johnson-Brown said. "Every year, they return with their families and friends for more fun and fellowship. This day is full of so much fun for them and we look forward to this event every year. We try to add to it annually."



Backpacks are being customized for children who wanted their names on them.

Rambling Rose

Good music, good food, good fun!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hey everybody! How are you doing? Great, I hope. Honey child—I have got some entertainment news for you this week and for the Labor Day weekend too. Check this out!

The “R&B Blues Festival on Saturday, August 25, 2018 will be jumping up and down doing the JAMES BROWN from noon until 9 p.m. at night! WOW! This will be taking place at Pimlico Race Track located at 5201 Park Heights Avenue.

Girlfriend! I believe this will be the show of all shows in Baltimore. Okay, check this out! The line-up ACTS are: War the Band, the Supremes, Rose Royce, Delfonics, the Manhattans, the Stylistics, Trouble Funk, the Intruders, the Stylistics, the Persuaders and the Drifters just to name a few.

Also, there will be lots and lots of vendors, children’s park, moon bounce, rides, raffles, drinks, hot barbeque, dancing and a lot more. Mannnnnn! I wish I could be there but I will be on the road to Florida for a well-deserved, long over-due vacation. My Boo-Boo and I will be gone a couple of weeks, but I want you to go to this event and tell me all about it when I get back. For more information, call 240-893-4623 and tell Raymond Jackson that “Rambling Rose” told you.

My dear friend, Cleve Brister, is once again hosting the “Ruth Kirk Family Fun Festival” with the Kirk family at the Franklin Square Park on Cary and Fayette Streets in West Baltimore for the 24th year. It is happening over the Labor Day weekend on Saturday and Sunday, September 1st and 2nd from noon until 8 p.m. There will be activities for children in the Children’s Village, lots of vendors with food, arts and crafts, games, face painting and a lot more such as DJ music and live entertainment featuring MC Booze Band with Marshal Booze;

The Spindles, First Impression, and Bonia.’

Also taking place over Labor Day weekend will be a special Virgo Birthday Celebration, which kicks off on Saturday, September 1, 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Corinthian Sports Bar & Lounge located at 7107 Windsor Mill Road, hosted by Ms. Tee and “Fingers” including promoter, Carlos Hutchins and Devin Ward. DJ Mike Jones will be spinning the records and Slagz will perform live. Sounds like a lot of fun to me. The drinks are great and the food is awesome!

Other upcoming events are listed in captions with the photos on this page. So have fun and be safe!

Well folks, our suitcases are packed, the van is gassed up and we are headed down the road, see you when we get back.

I believe this is enough to keep you busy. I am out of space and out of time, but remember if you need me, just call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Larry Washington, life-time Member of the Arch Social Club is hosting a “Black & White Arch Social Club Reunion” on Sunday, September 2, 2018, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue with DJ music, free food, dancing and a lot of fun. For more information, call 410-622-2271.



Claude “Spoon” Boyd is hosting “All You Can Eat Crab Feast” with live entertainment featuring the Legendary Winfield Park and his Revue on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at the Forest Park Senior Center from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Cleveland Brister and the Kirk Family will host the 24th Annual Ruth M. Kirk Family Fun Festival Labor Day Weekend on Saturday, September 1 and Sunday, September 2 from noon until 8 p.m. at Franklin Square Park on Carey and West Fayette Streets. It is free and open to the public.

Legendary Winfield Parker and his Revue will perform at the Forest Park Senior Center located at 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore on Saturday, August 25, 2018, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Included with your ticket prices is an all you can eat buffet. For tickets, call “Spoon” at 443-248-9637.

Coppin Academy principal named Principal of the Year for Baltimore City

Baltimore— Coppin Academy High School Principal, Aisha Almond was named Principal of the Year for Baltimore City. The recognition was bestowed by the College Bound Foundation (CBF), at the 30th Annual Scholars' Luncheon.

Coppin Academy is a Baltimore City public, charter high school located on the campus of Coppin State University.

The College Bound Foundation was established 30 years ago by the Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) and the Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) to help, "Baltimore City public high school students navigate the path to and through college."

Principal Aisha Almond was among 1000 guest at the annual luncheon when CBF's Executive Director, Cassie Motz began to list the qualities of Principal of the Year for Baltimore City, before the surprise announcement that Almond was this year's recipient.

Although Almond has been dedicated to college readiness for her students since she became principal of Coppin Academy High School in 2013, she was surprised to receive the award.

"I heard all of these wonderful qualities listed to describe Principal of the Year," Almond said. "And then they called my name!"

The award should not have been a surprise.

"We have been watching Principal Almond for a few years now," said Jimmy Tadlock, program director for the Balti-



Aisha Almond
Coppin Academy High School Principal
Courtesy Photo

more College Foundation. "We believe she is a leader in college access. Principal Almond makes certain that her staff and parents have the tools to support Coppin Academy students in college readiness."

For her part, Principal Almond's goal is for her students to leave Coppin Academy High School with the confidence to go out in the world and complete college because they have received the skills necessary to do so.

Principal Almond offers two pieces of advice as a part of her recipe for success. She encourages supporters of young people to be interested in what that young people are interested in doing.

"Show up and support them, even if they say they no. They want you there," Almond said.

She also says not to worry about things that are out of your control.

Principal Almond is a Coppin State University Class of 1999 education major.

2018 My Maryland State Fair: More than a Fair, We're a Culture

New this year: LEGO® Interactive Display, Glass Blowing Demos, Live National Concerts and more from August 24 to September 3, 2018

Timonium, Md.— The 137th MY Maryland State Fair: More Than A Fair, We're A Culture— AgriCULTURE, FoodCULTURE, RideCULTURE, HorseCULTURE and more takes place from August 24 to September 4, 2018. Maryland State Fair buildings, barns, thoroughbred horse racing, midway rides, games and food and more open will daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Celebrating its 137th year, MY Maryland State Fair recognizes the enduring appeal of Maryland's citizens, students, and 4-H and FFA members to share their talents and compete for ribbons, prizes and bragging rights. The Fair's buildings, barns and stages provide space for thousands of fairgoers to appreciate the exhibits, learn from the exhibitors, and consider entering a future fair.

"Thousands of talented individuals and fun-loving fairgoers from our great state, cities, towns, farms, mountains and shores make up MY Maryland State Fair," said Maryland State Fair CEO Andy Cashman. "Our goal is to provide a variety of safe, enjoyable and educational experiences to help make memories for a lifetime."

The 137th MY Maryland State Fair will also feature the thrills and chills, sights, sounds and aromas of numerous Midway and Kidde Land rides, games, and food stands provided by Deggeller Attractions. For those with a more local palate, the Maryland Foods Pavilion and Dairy Bar will showcase fresh from the farm and Chesapeake Bay food and drinks.

Fairgoers may also watch and wager in the Grandstand on live Thoroughbred horse races as they round the 5/8 mile Timonium track, Friday, August, 24 - Sunday, August 26 and Friday, August 31 - Labor Day Monday, September 3. Post Time is 1 p.m. Admission to the racetrack is included in the fair's admission price or, you can bet on simulcast races in the OTB Center through the run of the Fair.

Maryland State Fair Admission Prices are Adults ages 12+, \$10; Seniors ages 62+, \$8; Children 6+, \$5; Children ages 5 and under, Free Admission. Rides are individually priced. Fairgoers will enjoy many exciting new activities and modernized traditional favorites, with more this year.

For a complete list of all activities and entertainment, as well as for general Maryland State Fair information, hours and prices, visit: www.marylandstatefair.com.



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Homeowners and Renters Tax Credit Applications Due in Two Weeks

Annapolis— The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is urging Marylanders to consider whether they may be eligible to receive a homeowners' or renters' property tax credit and to submit an annual application before the September 4, 2018 deadline.

Combined, these two tax credit programs helped more than 55,000 Marylanders save more than \$65 million in taxes in 2017. SDAT has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Benefits Data Trust (BDT) to promote these tax credits and help low-income homeowners' and renters' complete their applications.

"Every year, our Department contacts more than one hundred thousand low-income Marylanders who may be eligible for tax relief, and we remain committed to finding innovative and effective ways to encourage them to apply," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "We are excited about our new partnership with BDT, which will make it even easier for individuals and families in-need to find and apply for the homeowners' and renters' tax credits."

The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program provides tax relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes owed based on their income. If a resident has already paid their property taxes and applies before September 1, any tax credit that the homeowner may be eligible for will be refunded by their county finance office. The Renters' Property Tax Credit Program similarly provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income. This credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000 a year.

To determine whether you are eligible



to receive a tax credit, you may visit the links above or call 410-767-4433 or 1-800-944-7403 (toll free within Maryland). To receive an application, email: sdat.taxcreditapp@maryland.gov or call 410-767-4238.

In 2017, approximately 47,000 homeowners received an average of \$1,339 in tax relief, while more than 8,800 renters received an average of \$402 in tax relief. These two tax credit programs alone saved Maryland taxpayers more than \$65 million last year. Homeowners may also be eligible to receive the Homestead Tax Credit to limit taxable assessment increases on their principal

residence. Many counties and municipalities also provide supplemental homeowners' credits, which provide additional tax relief. If a resident is approved to receive the state homeowners' credit, they will automatically receive any local supplemental home-owners' credit for which they are eligible.

SDAT has entered into a partnership with BDT, which is a national non-profit committed to transforming how families and individuals in-need access essential benefits and services in Maryland through the Maryland Benefits Center. Multi-lingual outreach specialists will assist individuals during the entire

application process for the homeowners' and renters' tax credits.

They will also immediately connect applicants with numerous other state, local, and community programs available to ensure they are able to meet their basic needs.

Additionally, SDAT recently conducted a tax credit awareness campaign to educate Maryland homeowners and renters about the availability of these tax credits. Over 77,000 postcards were mailed to low-income homeowners who may be eligible to receive a tax credit, but have not yet submitted an application.

RFL Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture needs volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for Special Events and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid's activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college and high school students. Service learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Contact Joy Hall at 443-263-1800 or email: hall@lewismuseum.org or visit: website: www.lewismuseum.org.

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MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS

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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
Lutheran Mission Society

"MDDC has connected donors with the LMS Vehicle Donation Program for over six years! Great exposure, cost effective, and Wanda is so helpful."

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WINNING NUMBERS

YOUR NUMBERS

X10

RAVENS

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Match any of YOUR NUMBERS to any 1 or more of the 4 WINNING NUMBERS, win PRIZE shown for that NUMBER. Reveal a "B" symbol, win 10X the PRIZE shown for that SYMBOL!

PRIZE CHECK

WIN UP TO **\$100,000**

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\$2

MARYLAND LOTTERY

RAVENS

TOP PRIZE \$20,000!

WINNING NUMBERS

YOUR NUMBERS

X5

PRIZE CHECK

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