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Remembering Ackneil M. Muldrow, II



Beloved Ackneil M. Muldrow, II and his wife Ruth, (third and fourth from the right) are surrounded by friends, Reverend Marcus G. Wood, pastor, Providence Baptist Church (center), good friend Harold D. Young, attorney at law, (left, front row) and others to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Muldrow, who was 80, died of heart failure Oct. 25, 2018 at Sinai Hospital. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, Nov. 9, 2018 at the March Life Tribute Center located at 5616 Old Court Rd, in Windsor Mill, MD. The Family Hour will begin at 9 a.m., with a Memorial Service to follow at 11 a.m. (See article on pages 10-11) Photo Courtesy of Harold D. Young

Monarch Academy Baltimore launches Community Revitalization Initiative

By Stacy M. Brown

Monarch Academy Baltimore and The Children's Guild have launched a Community Revitalization Initiative in partnership with the Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corp.

The partnership was formed to purchase and renovate vacant row houses as part of Monarch Academy Baltimore's effort to support affordable housing and reinvest in the community.

"The Monarch Academy Baltimore Community Revitalization Initiative is important because it will preserve and reinvigorate one of Baltimore's historic neighborhoods, making it a great place to live, learn, work and play," said Steve Baldwin, the chief growth officer for The Children's Guild, a nonprofit that serves children, families and child-serving organizations.

The Children's Guild is dedicated to transforming how America educates and cares for its children through education, behavioral health and national training and consultation services.

"For 50 years, the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello neighborhood has had scores of abandoned homes. The initiative reverses that trend by providing affordable housing for our teachers, families and neighbors, offering completely renovated homes for below-market value," Baldwin said.

The project is an integral part of Monarch Academy Baltimore and The Children's Guild's commitment to rebuilding the community.

"Another facet of the project bears mentioning is that children who live in substandard housing often are not available mentally and emotionally for learning. This is a practical way for Monarch Academy to address that issue for our students, while helping the community," he said.

The Children's Guild purchased five row houses in the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello community. The organization has five additional home purchases scheduled to close within the next month and as many as 30 more in the future, according to a news release.



Monarch Academy Baltimore and The Children's Guild have launched a Community Revitalization Initiative in partnership with the Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corp. (Above) Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh speaking at the launch event on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

CourtesyPhoto/Andrew Aldrich

The homes will be completely renovated with modern, open floor plans, new appliances, plumbing and wiring, new roofs and flooring and LED lighting.

The Children's Guild, which is also partnering with K4 Associates-Nonstop Construction, The Debbie Cohen Team of Long and Foster Real Estate, Partners for the Common Good Loan Fund, and Baltimore City for the project, will sell the renovated homes at below market value starting at \$100,000 and reinvest profits into Monarch Academy and the community.

"This is a forward-thinking, progressive partnership between Monarch Academy, the community and local government agencies committed to transforming and rebuilding a wonderful but challenged community," said Mark Washington, executive director of Cold-

stream Homestead Montebello Community Corp.

Additionally, Monarch Academy Baltimore will integrate the initiative into the school's curriculum, which will allow students to engage in project-based learning using real-world experiences in the community and coordinated academic content throughout the year to help accelerate skill development.

Once the homes are built, anyone can purchase them, according to Baldwin.

"I cannot say enough about the working relationship we have had with Mark Washington and the other leaders in the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello community," he said. "They have helped us understand the needs of the community and shown us how to become part of the community. Their support has been very strong."

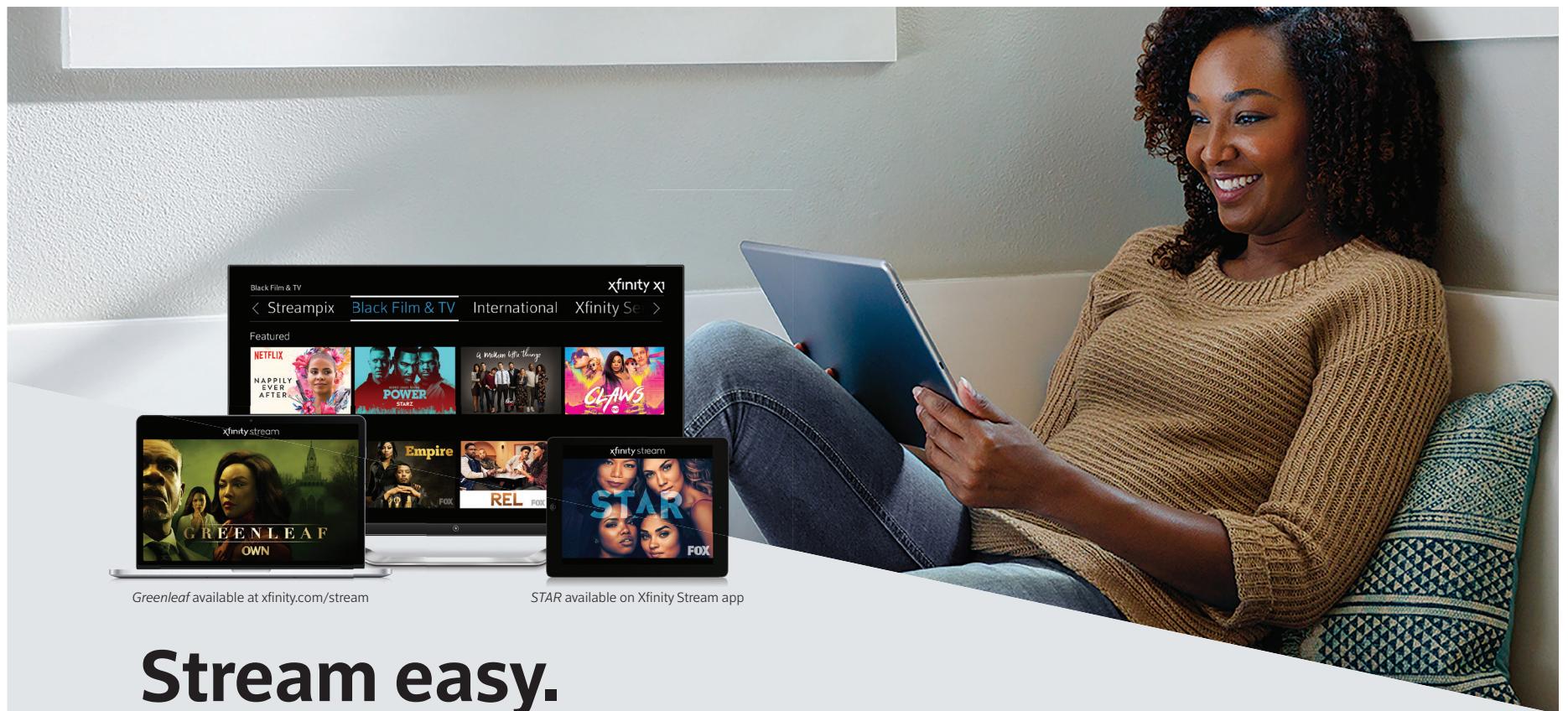
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Guest Editorials/Letters

This Too Shall Pass: 'Birthright Citizenship' kerfuffle, mostly a get out the vote tactic

By Thomas L. Knapp

In a late October interview with news website Axios, U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to sign an executive order doing away with "birthright citizenship"—the notion that persons born on U.S. soil are citizens from birth with no need for any naturalization process.

It's not exactly an "October surprise." Trump used birthright citizenship as a rallying complaint on the campaign trail in 2016. He has done nothing about it in the nearly two years since.

Now he is weaponizing it again, along with fear-mongering about a migrant caravan wending its way through Mexico toward the U.S., in a last-minute effort drive an extra (and possibly decisive in places) fraction of a percent of Republican-leaning voters to the polls for the 2018 midterms.

After which he will almost certainly go back to doing nothing about it for another two years, until he trots it out a third time when seeking re-election in 2020.

Will he issue the threatened executive order? That seems unlikely, as does the passage of regular legislation ending birthright citizenship. The matter is too clearly settled, and has been for far too long, for a change to pass muster with the courts on any basis other than a constitutional amendment.

Birthright citizenship has been U.S. citizenship doctrine since the country's founding, in keeping with the English common law tradition of *jus soli* ("right of the soil"). It was codified in the Civil Rights Act of 1866, then enshrined in the 14th Amendment, then upheld by the Supreme Court in the 1898 case *Kim Wong Ark v. United States*.

Its likely resistance to easy change is a good thing for at least two reasons, even if you oppose "birthright citizenship."

First, letting the president discard parts of the Constitution at will, or Congress at a lower legislative threshold than the required 2/3 of both houses of Congress and 3/4 of the state legislatures, is inherently dangerous. If they can do it with the 14th Amendment, they can do it with the 1st Amendment (freedom of speech, religion, and assembly); the 2nd Amendment (gun rights); the 22nd Amendment (limiting the president to two terms)—where would it end?

Secondly, with respect to citizenship in particular, does anyone really want to give an ever, changing government discretion to tinker with the longstanding definition? Right now the threat is to "children of illegal immigrants." Release the genie and who's to say that three-years from now it won't become "people with fewer than three generations of American ancestors?" Or, for that matter "people who aren't registered to vote as [insert political party here]?"

Like many libertarians, I hold the whole concept of "citizenship" suspect. No less a light than Thomas Jefferson argued against the notion that a compact entered into in 1787 by one set of people could bind subsequent generations who haven't explicitly consented.

That said the Constitution is the set of rules on which the American political class stakes its claim of legitimacy to rule us. If they won't abide by it, why should we recognize their authority at all?

Thomas L. Knapp (Twitter: @thomaslnapp) is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north central Florida.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: One hundred years

after the end of WWI

WWI ended on November 11, 1918. In commemoration of the 100th year anniversary of the end of WWI, my wife, Elizabeth Ann (Jones) Moskowitz and I wish to acknowledge the service of WWI marines Alton Christmas Jones (wife's father) and William Howard Jones (wife's uncle) who fought in France and Belgium between September 1918 and November 1918.

They enlisted in the Marine Corps in the Arcade/Freedom area of New York. They fought in many WWI battles, including: Belleau Wood; the Verdun operations; Aisne-Marne Offensive; Meuse-Argonne Offensive; St. Mihiel

Offensive; and the Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge.

William Howard received the French Croix de Guerre and the U.S. Silver Star for his service at Blanc Mont Ridge, France on October 3, 1918.

The Silver Star award stated, "by lying down in the middle of the road using his automatic pistol so effective that he staid the enemy counter attack until remainder of group could get in line."

We wish to also commemorate the four million U.S. military personnel mobilized for WWI and the 110,000 U.S. deaths.

Donald Moskowitz

Elizabeth (Jones) Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

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Page Opposite/Commentaries

Beyond the Rhetoric:

What if black professional athletes respected black economic empowerment?

By Harry C. Alford and Kay DeBow

Oh, what a wonderful world this would be for black communities throughout our nation. We, as a people, have over \$1.3 trillion (T) in annual spending. However, our black owned businesses account for over \$183 billion. Do you see the problem? We don't recycle our money within our own communities. Not even 20 percent of what we have stays within our own business infrastructure. As Malcolm X once remarked, "The 'eagle' flies on Friday in black communities and by noon Saturday it is one dead bird." Nothing recycles and thus, nothing is going to build or grow larger. We are consumer slaves.

We live in a complex on the Virginia side of Washington, D.C. A few of our neighbors are professional athletes. You can always tell when their crew is assembling. The parking area out front suddenly looks like a Maybach or Lamborghini car dealership. There is a million dollars' worth of depreciating assets

right before our eyes. They think it is so cool. We think it is depressing. I guess it is their money and their business. However, if we look collectively there is an immense opportunity slipping right before our eyes.

The black percentage of professional football players exceeds 70 percent. The National Basketball Association approaches over 90 percent. These

percent of all concessions, restaurants, etc. that are allowed within the stadiums and arenas must be black owned. Black advertising and public relations firms should be included.

Levi Stadium brings up another matter. The NFL and NBA player associations seem to have a great affinity to construction unions. They assume that they are fair and equitable to black labor. Noth-

"The black percentage of professional football players exceeds 70 percent and the National Basketball Association approaches over 90 percent. These gifted athletes control billions of dollars that could be directed to significant economic empowerment for the black communities from which they come."

gifted athletes control billions of dollars that could be directed to significant economic empowerment for the black communities from which they come. Allow us to show you a few examples of what could be done.

Basketball arenas and football stadiums are being built around our nation on an ongoing basis. Right now, there is usually no black participation included during the construction and design of these stadiums. Levi Stadium in California had only 1.4 percent participation. Imagine if the Players' Associations for these two sports would put this on the negotiating table before the owners: Thirty percent of all construction performed on the next stadiums be done by black owned and managed construction firms. That should include architecture and engineering followed by construction management and all prime and subcontracting, accounting, all legal services. The stadiums should be built in areas that will not gentrify black neighborhoods and business communities. Thirty

ing could be farther from the truth. Only two percent of black owned construction companies are union. Why? Because of the Jim Crow treatment by these construction unions. The time is overdue for these black athletes to step up and do the only responsible thing they can do. Don't tolerate racist construction unions. Hell no! to solidarity.

Additionally, where are these teams parking their money? Financial institutions and money management firms should have significant black utilization. Significant should equate to over 30 percent. No more scandals such as Merrill Lynch bilking NBA players with the encouragement of their upper management (a black CEO).

The athletes must participate in the selection of the Super Bowl city. There should be a rating system which determines the likelihood of racially diverse people participating in the wealth that a Super Bowl brings. Which city will have the blackest vendors? Who is printing the jerseys, the T-shirts, the souvenir

books? Who is advertising the Super Bowl? And may we suggest that teams look for black owned hotels.

These team owners are asleep at the wheel of diversity and inclusivity. They must feel pressured to have desire for diversity. The pressure will come from the athletes. Just because these teams have been using select vendors for dozens of decades doesn't mean they can't change now. The sooner they do it the better off America will be.

The player associations should have formal Memorandums of Understanding with the top black professional organizations such as black architecture and engineering associations, black contractors, banks, accounting associations, attorneys, realtors, etc. This God given natural athletic ability that is blessed on our people must be used via wide distribution of its influence and effects. These MOU's should be publicized with ongoing updates to ensure that it is not just "window dressing" but real deal economic empowerment.

Now this would change the world! After doing that correctly we could move to our entertainers who would only perform at venues that have documented proof of black construction, architecture/engineering participation. Again, God has blessed us with remarkable talent. Let's leverage it. Oh, how badly we need a bigger share of that \$1.3 trillion pie. We can't think of a better way. Our destiny is in our own hands.

Harry Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) and Kay DeBow is the Co-Founder, Executive Vice President of NBCC. To contact Harry Alford, email: halford@nationalbcc.org and to contact, Kay DeBow, email: kdebow@nationalbcc.org.

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Actor Omar Epps discusses black fatherhood at summit in West Baltimore

By Demetrius Dillard

This year's "Building Capacity Creating Impact Summit," a conference hosted by the Center for Urban Families (CFUF), which focuses on workforce development, family strengthening and fatherhood, featured an exceptionally noteworthy guest whose recent work exhibits an insightful message with glaring relevance particularly in Baltimore's black community.

Award-winning actor Omar Epps was the speaker at the annual Practitioners Leadership Institute (PLI) summit on October 20, 2018 in West Baltimore.

PLI, an initiative of CFUF, is a social service and community-based organization focused on developing practitioners working in the fields of family strengthening, workforce development and fatherhood.

Epps, known for his roles in timeless cultural films including "Love and Basketball" and "Juice," was invited to discuss his new book, "From Fatherless to Fatherhood" and provide some valuable insight to local community members.

Epps' new written work is an in-depth memoir of his upbringing as a young black male without a father, and the obstacles he overcame to become a successful and an involved father of three children.

"I think a lot of us—men and women—can relate to growing up without a parent and the effects that [has] on you," Epps told the Baltimore Times. "Hopefully the book can be used as a tool of inspiration. And one of the main messages that I speak about is power of choice is always at our disposal. So it doesn't matter what choices a person makes, a man makes—even if he had gone astray from fatherhood, he can always make the choice to get back on track."



Celebrated actor Omar Epps with Center for Urban Families founder and CEO Joe Jones at the annual Practitioners Leadership Institute summit on October 20, 2018 in West Baltimore where Epps was the featured speaker. He engaged members of the community in a conversation about his newly released book, "From Fatherless to Fatherhood."

Photo by Demetrius Dillard

During the hour-long discussion, which was led by Joe Jones, the CEO and founder of CFUF, Epps covered a wide array of topics, from his navigation through the film industry, to life with his wife and three children, to various themes in his book, along with the journey of writing his book.

"I think my ultimate goal for writing this book 'Fatherless to Fatherhood' is trying to spark a change of narrative in our community," Epps said to the audience of about 30 in a conference room at the CFUF.

With eloquence, grace and poise, Epps also stressed the necessity for black fatherhood and the challenges associated with being a father.

The Brooklyn, New York, native spoke

openly about the deep-seated resentment he once had toward his father, a man whom he says never made a concerted effort to establish any type of relationship with him. But instead of letting the bitterness cultivate and intensify, Epps says he used that negative energy as fuel to change the narrative, to become successful, and to start and raise a beautiful family—ultimately showing his father he "made a grave mistake."

A panel discussion addressing the current and changing funding landscape in Baltimore with some of the city's most noteworthy corporate and community-based philanthropists, including Maryland Senator-Elect Antonio Hayes, John Brothers with the T. Rowe Foundation and Tomi Hiers of the Annie Casey

Foundation was also on the agenda.

The PLI Fellows (Boys and Men of Color Academy) were recognized and given awards during a networking brunch. The award recipients were comprised of grassroots leaders representing Baltimore's change agents who are working to support boys and men through programs offering mentoring, media, health and wellness, entrepreneurship, self-development and education.

Jones says he brought Epps in because he felt the message conveyed in his book "From Fatherless to Fatherhood" was congruent to what he and his organization want to communicate to the Baltimore community.

"What we do here, programmatically, particularly around our fatherhood work, we're always looking for someone who has the experience and capacity to bring that message and to talk about it in a very authentic way," said Jones, a fatherhood program coordinator. "And, with Omar, he has a new book—so it's apropos for what we wanted to do. What we didn't anticipate is how authentic he would be, and how much he would resonate with the audience."

Epps brought his mother, Bonnie Maria Epps, whom he acknowledged as one of the most influential figures in his life.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my mom. I have an incredibly strong, loving mom who instilled a sense of self-worth in me at a very, very young age. And that's the one thing that's guided me through my life," Epps said.

At the end of the discussion, Epps answered questions from the audience and expressed sentiments of optimism. He also signed books and took pictures with conference attendees.

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Maryland Media Coach Overcomes Tragedy to Dream Big

By Stacy M. Brown

When Jackie Kotei was six-years-old, she was in a fire with her little sister. Jackie survived. Her sister did not.

The reason—her sister was hiding and the firefighters couldn't find her in time to pull her to safety.

For Kotei, that gut-wrenching incident proved a defining moment in her life. She says she spent years working to heal and to move through "survivors guilt."

"I often wondered, 'Why was I the one who was saved? Why didn't I do more to protect her? Why me and not her?'"

Ultimately, Kotei says she came to realize the gift all of what happened and the true message her sister was telling her.

"She died because she hid. And my message is you don't have to hide. You can stand out, be seen and get your message out into the world," Kotei said.

Now a publicity, media strategist and marketing coach, Kotei, who is often booked to speak at corporate and other engagements, has a goal of helping to change the narrative in the media so that

more transformational stories like hers are featured.

"We need more good news stories out there in the world. People who share their stories and how they overcame things in their lives," Kotei said. "People who provide ways that society can do things better than we have before. I'm not under the illusion that we won't ever have negative news in the world, but I'm committed to changing the narrative in the media so that more good stories get featured."

Kotei added that it's important to build a relationship with the media from a place of service, meaning how she can support them and help audiences follow. She says journalists often are seeking great stories, new creative approaches and good news and they need the help of others to achieve those goals.

"I believe that sometimes the biggest challenges we've had in our life, are the greatest gifts. I know now that it was no accident that at the age of six, I was in a fire, lost my younger sister and was on national TV as a result," Kotei said. "It's



Jackie Kotei
Courtesy Photo

helped me to become who I am today and serve the world with what I believe is my divine calling. For many years though I didn't get that. I felt guilty that I didn't do more to protect her and that guilt carried over in so much that I did."

With the help of mentors and coaches Kotei was able to look past the pain and the victim mentality she had developed and overcame survivor's guilt. She con-

tinues to look toward the future in a positive manner.

"Dreaming big in 2019 is about picking a goal that is beyond what you could ever imagine for yourself and focus on setting yourself up to win," Kotei said. "It doesn't have to be done the way anyone else has done it before. You get to make the rules, you get to do it on your own terms—and it's okay if people think you're crazy."

"I know people look at my dream to change the negative news cycle and say it's impossible but I know it's only a matter of time and that today it starts with the baby steps—getting 100 positive stories featured this year and then in 10 years maybe a million, and then one day we'll have newscasts where there are five good news stories instead of just two—and so on."

"So 'dream big' but start with the baby steps. Let your dreams fill up your heart, mind and spirit and be okay with how they take shape."

For more about Jackie Kotei's story, visit https://youtu.be/4c5oW_t0vaw.

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Mother-daughter duo take home Sally Cultivate's big prize

By Andrea Blackstone

Thirteen-year-old Lexi Proctor and her mother, Monica Proctor know that big dreams can come true for hopeful entrepreneurs who aspire to have their products sold on the shelves of a major retail store.

September 27, 2018, marked a memorable time in the lives of the Proctors. On this special day, the visionary mother and daughter officially discovered that their Curlanista hair care brand would receive a major boost to grow their female-owned business.

The Marylanders who cater to girls with curly hair won a game-changing prize from Sally Beauty, the largest retailer and distributor of professional beauty products in North America through the Sally Cultivate For women by Women accelerator program.

"Curlanistas won \$25,000 in financial support; product distribution at SallyBeauty.com; select local store distribution in Maryland and Virginia; as well as mentorship from the Sally Beauty management team and fellow female brand entrepreneurs," Proctor said. "Curlanista will also receive the opportunity to place its products directly into the hands of highly sought beauty influencers at one of Sally Beauty's monthly influencer events."

Although Proctor maps out all the key pieces to make the Curlanista brand successful as Lexi's business partner and manager, Lexi sparked the entrepreneurial journey by publishing her coloring book called "Curly Girls Love Your Curls." The kidpreneur who has a passion for writing embarked upon a mission to promote self-love of curls, before delving into creation of hair care products, with guidance and help from Proctor.

Following her dreams to become an author led Lexi to embrace a second calling. A few years later, the confident teenager found herself pitching Curlanista to a panel of Sally Beauty Supply Executives in Denton, Texas, as a part of the Sally's contest.

"The most difficult part was waiting to see who would be announced as the top brand. It took about a month before the winner was announced. My family and I were so excited and prayed that my



Lexi Proctor and her mother, Monica Proctor (middle) are the winners of the Sally Beauty Cultivate For Women By Women contest in late September. Their company Curlanista, a line of hair products created for girls with curly hair received \$25,000 in financial support; product distribution at SallyBeauty.com; mentorship from the Sally Beauty management team; and the opportunity to place their products into the hands of highly sought after beauty influencers at one of Sally Beauty's monthly influencer events. Courtesy Photo/Sally Beauty

brand would win. That was the hardest part honestly, especially because daily, someone would ask me if I won," Lexi said, noting how winning money for Curlanista will be utilized. "The \$25,000 will be used to help grow my brand. I want to grow my product line and am currently working on a detangling shampoo and a deep conditioner. I will also use the money to attend trade shows, like Bronner Brothers and Ubiquitous. Trade shows, can be very expensive, so this money will really help me grow and get my brand out there. I want Curlanistas to be a household name."

Proctor explained that Curlanistas Magic Curl Cream, Detangler and Curl Custard which are formulated to make natural curls pop non-stop are now available at 30 Sally's brick and mortar stores in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, as well as online.

"This is just the beginning. We have a full line of products we look forward to bringing to our beautiful Curlanistas," Proctor said. "Having Sally Beauty

select us as the top brand just feels amazing. I feel great about all the blessings."

As a teen boss who has had an opportunity to bring her dreams to fruition at a young age, Lexi embraces her blessing with dedication, passion and courage. She notes that youth can do anything they put their mind to do.

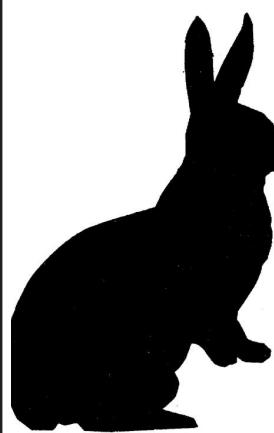
"If they have a dream or a goal, they shouldn't keep it to themselves. They should tell their parents or someone they know who can help them," Lexi said. "Chase your dreams, work hard and believe in yourself. That's the secret! I want them (youth) to never give up, and look at me and see that I'm a kid just like them. If I can do it, they can do it, too."

To support Lexi and her co-founder of the curly girl brand, visit the Sally Beauty website: <https://www.sallybeauty.com/cultivate.html> to purchase Curlanista products.

You may follow the inspiring mother and daughter duo and encourage others to follow @Curlanistas on all social media platforms and to spread the word about Curlanista to friends and family.

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National Geographic partners with afterschool programs to give students unique scientific experience

By Demetrius Dillard

To kick off a partnership between the National Geographic Society and the Mott Foundation's after-school network to provide youth with the tools and knowledge needed to become the next generation of critical thinkers, problem-solvers and responsible stewards, Baltimore students had the opportunity to engage in a captivating pure ocean exploration in an adventure led by Joe Grabowski.

Grabowski, a National Geographic Explorer and Education Fellow, live-streamed with afterschoolers in Baltimore's LINK (Let's Invest in Neighborhood Kids) from the Exploration Vessel Nautilus, a 64-meter ship that is one of two of its kind dedicated to pure exploration and used for scientific assessment.

The after-school students with the Village Learning Place program gathered in the PNC Bank Community Room on East 25th Street in Baltimore on October 23, 2018 for an interactive learning venture on pure ocean exploration, streamed from Davidson Seamount in Monterey Bay, 80 miles southwest of Monterey, California.

The Village Learning Place (VLP) is an independent library that houses educational programs, enrichment opportunities and informational resources for students in Baltimore. LINK, an initiative of VLP, aims to enrich the academic experience of afterschoolers through programs with an emphasis on engineering, art, computer lessons, character education and physical activities.

Grabowski was joined by Summer Farrell, an argus pilot who works as an electronics and survey technician aboard the Nautilus. Their livestream presentation consisted of showing viewers various deep-ocean species, the full composition of the Nautilus ship, a visual display of their six-month exploration journey and a detailed explanation of how Nautilus functions.



Afterschool students in Baltimore's LINK program sit attentively during the National Geographic/Mott Foundation virtual event on October 23, 2018 at the PNC Bank Community Center in Baltimore City. National Geographic Explorer and Education Fellow Joe Grabowski livestreamed from the Exploration Vessel Nautilus in the Pacific Ocean. Baltimore City was one of six cities where students were part of the live video challenge.

Photo by Ellie Mitchell

The children primarily involved in the National Geographic seminar were students from Margaret Brent Elementary-Middle School in Charles Village neighborhood of Baltimore. Most of them were third-through-sixth-graders participating in an intensive STEM program.

Ellie Mitchell is director of the Maryland Out of School Time Network, was

one of the coordinators who made the event possible. The Maryland Out of School Time Network, is funded by the Mott Foundation and partners directly with VLP to provide after-school students with programs sharing National Geographic's extensive library of learning activities and experiences.

"I thought it was great. It's a unique experience for the kids to see real scien-

tists in action and live," Mitchell said about the seminar. "It's going to be something that we're going to work on to make it more interactive and something that we're going to give them feedback on about how it can fit better in an after-school setting."

Similarly, VLP executive director Liesje Gantert says the livestream adventure was an enriching experience for children.

"I think that they ultimately enjoyed it," Gantert said. "I think that getting out of the classroom setting, coming to a new place, seeing the scientists on the screen was challenging... but I think that ultimately, they're going to say that they had a blast."

Gantert said that the information delivered in the seminar was particularly useful and consistent with the students' STEM curriculum.

"I think the most important thing is interacting with scientists," she said. "It really doesn't matter what they [Grabowski and Farrell] were out there studying in all honesty. It's a matter of meeting real-life scientists that are in the field doing research."

After the livestream presentation, the students were invited to ask questions. They were very inquisitive and asked a variety of questions about the ship and staff size; shipwreck dives; the academic path Grabowski and Farrell took to become marine biologist; discoveries of new species; challenges to deep-sea exploration, technology used on the ship; and weather on the ocean.

Grabowski concluded the National Geographic event by giving instructions on how to track the exploration of Nautilus and how they can learn more about what makes being a marine biologist such a remarkable and worthwhile experience.

Other students that were part of the live stream exploration were after school students from Michigan, Maine, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"If you have children, you cannot feed them forever with flags for breakfast and cartridges for lunch. You need something more substantial. Unless you educate your children and spend less money on conflicts, unless you develop your science, technology and industry, you don't have a future." —Shimon Peres

Remembering Ackneil M. Muldrow, II

Prominent businessman leaves behind powerful entrepreneurship legacy

By Ursula V. Battle

It was the 1960s, and a Virginia State College student by the name of Harold Young was being recruited by a dapper, business-savvy, young professional who worked for Commercial Credit Company by the name of Ackneil M. Muldrow, II. At the time, Young was 22, and Muldrow, who was manager of the company's Equal Opportunity Programs, was 28. Young vividly recalled how impressed he was with his future longtime friend he refers to as "Neal."

"Neal was an up and coming African American professional who attracted me to the company because of his personal approach and interests in things I could really relate to at the time," said Young. "I was just blown away by his presentation, and as it turned out, it was an internship that rolled into permanent employment."

Young added, "Neal recruited many young men and women from all across the country - mostly from the South. He helped to groom so many of us in that regard. Many of those he recruited did not have financial resources. He would put mattresses on his car, and household goods in his car, and literally move the person into their place of residence. He had a big heart and would go to any length to make one successful."

Muldrow, who was 80, died of heart failure Oct. 25, 2018 at Sinai Hospital. A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, Nov. 9, 2018 at the March Life Tribute Center located at 5616 Old Court Rd, in Windsor Mill, MD. The Family Hour will begin at 9 a.m., with a Memorial Service to follow at 11 a.m.

Young, who had known Muldrow for 52 years, described his longtime friend as "a tireless advocate for uplifting and empowering African Americans." This sentiment resonated throughout Baltimore's business and political communities.

"Mr. Muldrow and I were longtime friends and business associates," said Stanley W. Tucker, president and CEO of

Meridian Management Group, a company which manages funds that provide financing to minority and women-owned businesses in Maryland and around the country. "He and I worked closely together for a number of years sharing our passion for making capital accessible for minority businesses. We both realized that capitalism without capital does not work in America."

Tucker added, "It was a tremendous pleasure to work with Neal. He was passionate about his commitment to growth and development for black businesses, which continues to be a major impediment in this state and around the country. We will surely miss Neal, his creativity, commitment, and love for growth and development. We will continue to see if there are any more Ackneil Muldrows out there. But he really can't be replaced."

At the time of his passing, Muldrow was employed with The Baltimore Times.

"Mr. Muldrow was more than incredible," said Stacey Brown, a staff writer for the publication. "A real throwback who, in my short time knowing him, still reminded me how business should always be conducted: head held high, be firm, be honest and always maintain your dignity. He had great contacts and was a great resource for a number of articles I have written for The Baltimore Times. I only wish I knew him longer simply to tap into his great knowledge and because he was a good man."

Muldrow's long and storied business career included serving as the president and Chief Executive Officer of the Development Credit Fund, Inc. Muldrow served as chief administrator of a \$7.5 million loan pool formulated to provide low cost financial assistance to minority-owned businesses operating in the State of Maryland.

Muldrow retired from the Development Credit Fund in 2005, after serving for 22 years. During its existence, the fund lent nearly \$40 million for working capital, equipment and machinery. Among its many other attributes for helping minority businesses, the Fund managed a \$4.0 million Empowerment Zone revolving loan fund for the federally funded Empower Baltimore Management Corpora-



Left-right: Denise McCray Scott, daughter; Ackneil M. Muldrow, II; Ruth Muldrow, wife; and grandson, Charles "Chaz" Scott.

Photos: Courtesy of Harold D. Young



Mr. Muldrow was the recipient of the Henry G. Parks, Jr Business Award by the Baltimore Marketing Association December 7, 2000. He is shown here with son, Ackneil M. Muldrow, III ("Trey")

tion, the Baltimore City recipient of a \$100 million U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development grant. During its existence, the Fund employed over \$39 million in loans through the Fund.

Former Baltimore City Housing Commissioner Daniel Henson worked with Muldrow at the Development Credit Fund, where Henson served as Chairman of the Board. The two met through the

Baltimore Marketing Association, an organization Muldrow led as President and CEO from 2003 until 2005.

"He was a Southern gentleman," Henson said of the Winston-Salem, N.C. native. "He had a Southern gentleman approach to everything. Even if he was mad, you wouldn't know because he would be smiling. Even though he had been in Baltimore most of his life, the North Carolina in him never left."



Opening of the Charles Street office of Development Credit Fund (Front row, left to right): Daniel P. Henson, III; Diane Bell-McKoy; former Baltimore mayor, Kurt L. Schmoke; Ackneil M. Muldrow, II; Harold D. Young; and grandson, Charles "Chaz" Scott.

Henson is President of Henson Development Company, which develops distressed communities. He reflected on Muldrow's willingness to share information he felt would help others.

"I pulled up a bunch of personal emails his emails he sent to me," said Henson. "He loved to talk about and celebrate an entrepreneur who had gone on to greater things. These were people who he had helped, and he enjoyed talking about what they were doing now. He was proud of how they had taken off. He left a tremendous amount off successful businesspersons to celebrate his legacy."

Muldrow had served or was serving on numerous boards.

"Mr. Muldrow was our board chair and Bon Secours' biggest advocate and marketer," said Dr. Samuel Ross, Chief Executive Officer of Bon Secours Baltimore Health System. "He was a tireless champion for our mission and he was a tireless advocate for this community. He held us all accountable for addressing Women and Minority Business Enterprise initiatives and health inequities. He was a gentleman, a scholar, and an inspirational role model for servant leadership. He made a difference and will be missed."

Muldrow was not afraid to take a stand against injustice. In 1960, he was one of the first persons to participate in the Civil Rights sit-ins at Woolworth.

"I first knew Neil when he served as President of the Development Credit Fund," said Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker Pro Tem of the Maryland House of Delegates. "I found him to be extremely business savvy and both professional and personable. He had a great sense of humor and was willing to do the mundane to the magnificent in assisting others. He will be truly missed by all who knew him."

Muldrow was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The prominent businessman was a 1960 graduate of North Carolina A&T.

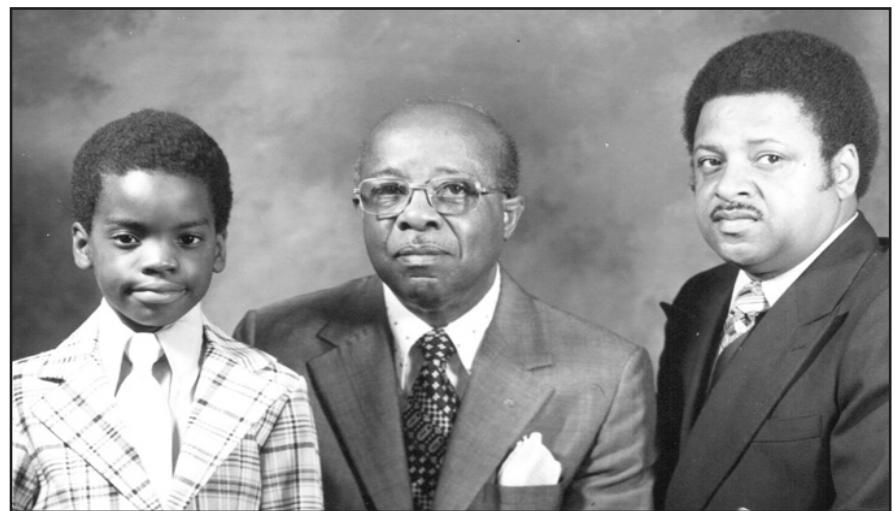
"He was a dear friend," said Ellen Janes, executive director of Central Baltimore Partnership. "He would send me things and introduce me to people. He always had an idea as to whom I could team up with. I loved that generosity and support. He was always of such good cheer. When the economy was good and when it was not so good, he stayed steadfast in his belief that businesses could thrive."

The pioneering businessman also held board of trustee positions with the Walters Art Gallery, Arena Players, Inc., and the Reginald F. Lewis Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture.

"My relationship with Neal dates back to Commercial Credit as a CPA, referring a number of clients to his organization for borrowing purposes," said Arnold



While a student at A&T State University, Muldrow participated in one of the first student lunch counter sit-ins at a Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina to protest segregation.



(L-r): Ackneil M. Muldrow, III ("Trey"), Ackneil M. Muldrow and Ackneil M. Muldrow, II.

Williams of Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams, P.A, a minority-owned certified public accounting firm. "The clients wanted to borrow money, but he wasn't an ordinary lender or banker. You could not borrow from them without getting a story, advice, and protection. They were not just lenders, they were also advisors. They took their clients under their wings."

He added, "Neal was not shy about promoting minority businesses and diversity. He was a true advocate of minority business enterprises and getting them involved in the main sector. He was a leader that would not let his voice be void when it came to introducing diversity into mainstream organizations. His leadership helped develop future executives because of his wise counsel and engagement."

Joy Bramble, publisher of The Baltimore Times said, "Mr Muldrow was one

of the most connected people in Baltimore. It was a challenge to walk down the street with him or attend a gathering without being interrupted by people running up to him—some just to greet, others asking for advice, and some to remind and thank him for favors he had done for them. Always gracious, he would respond kindly even if he didn't remember why he was being thanked. He was dedicated to helping entrepreneurs. He was the booming and constant voice advocating for minority businesses. Our office will not be the same without his presence. He was a treasure to us at The Baltimore Times."

Muldrow is survived by his wife of 44 years, Ruth; two children, three grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh not fazed by rumors

By Tyler Hamilton

After compiling a 95 - 66 career record since taking over as the Baltimore Ravens head coach in 2008, John Harbaugh finds himself on shaky ground. The rumor mill is buzzing with thoughts of letting Harbaugh go.

The NFL is a results-oriented business and lately Harbaugh's Ravens have fallen short. Never mind the 10 playoff wins which are second most by any head coach since 2008. Delivering a Super Bowl XLVII win along with two AFC North division championships and three AFC Championship game appearances may not be enough.

Baltimore's three-game losing streak has team owner Steve Bisciotti fuming. Harbaugh isn't fazed by it. He is going to keep plugging away.

"I've never been somebody that worried about keeping a job. I feel really good about the way this team has been coached for the last 11 years," Harbaugh said.

A big part of the problem is an anemic offense. Now, Harbaugh is trying to balance staying loyal to quarterback Joe Flacco and infusing the dynamic play-making ability of Lamar Jackson.

Harbaugh wants to see Jackson get more snaps on game day. It would benefit the Ravens if Jackson were allowed to throw the ball rather than be a glorified running back.

However, quarterbacks are finicky about coming off the field when the offense is out there. Any starting quarterback wants to be the captain of the ship. That's the dilemma the Ravens have encountered.



**Baltimore Ravens Headcoach
John Harbaugh
Courtesy Photo/NFL.com**

"You want to keep your offense in a rhythm and keep your quarterback on the field in a rhythm but you have a playmaker and you don't want to just have him run the ball all the time. He's not a running back—he's a quarterback," Harbaugh explained.

Fortunately, the bye week comes after a tough 23 - 16 loss at home to their bitter rival Pittsburgh Steelers. Losing at M&T Bank Stadium is never a good thing and how flat the team played makes matters even worse.

Stewing over the close loss during the bye week should be good medicine. Harbaugh says the team won't practice during the bye.

"I think our guys have been hard at work. It will be good for us to get off our feet and get our legs back. I'm looking forward to that. I know we're better off resting at this point," said Harbaugh.

It's unlikely that Harbaugh will be relieved of his duties as head coach but a poor outing after the bye week against the Cincinnati Bengals won't help much.

BGE CEO Calvin G. Butler Jr. honored with Governor's Champion of Service Award

Baltimore—BGE Chief Executive Officer Calvin G. Butler Jr. was awarded the 2018 Governor's Champion of Service Award from the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism at the 35th Annual Governor's Service Awards in Annapolis. Butler was recognized for his commitment to volunteerism in Maryland.

"I am extremely grateful to be recognized by Governor Hogan, Lieutenant Governor Rutherford and Van Brooks of the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism for exemplifying the Governor's spirit of volunteerism," said Calvin G. Butler Jr., BGE's chief executive officer. "This award recognizes me, but is a broader tribute to BGE's 3,200 employees and speaks to the dedication they demonstrate every day to make a difference in the lives of our customers."

Exelon, BGE's parent company, has committed \$35 million to Maryland nonprofits over the last five years and our employees volunteer 30,000 hours every year in Maryland with nonprofits that serve our communities to address economic development, public safety and civic issues to help enhance our neighborhoods.



**Calvin G. Butler
BGE Chief Executive Officer
Courtesy Photo**

The Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism was created and appointed by the Governor in 1994 and serves as a body of ambassadors for service and volunteerism in local communities. BGE previously received a citation for volunteerism and philanthropy in 2016.

Through the use of shareholder dollars, BGE supports programs that deliver measurable and sustainable impact in areas of education, environment, community development and arts and culture. To learn more about BGE's community investments, visit: bge.com

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Live performance of Wale & Friends

By Imani Wj Wright

If you've ever been to a live performance, you know that the show itself is only half of the affair. There are many opportunities for you to get excited.

First, you find out the artist is coming to a town near you. You call up your friends, check your schedule, and do everything in your power to make sure you'll be at the show.

Fast-forward and you've bought your tickets and now you're intently listening to their latest album so you will be able to sing-a-long—well, at least I do. You are finally in the car, on the way to the venue and it's getting more and more real by the second. Well, I recently had this very same experience!

I was in the middle of perusing through Instagram, as I do daily and I saw the usual jokes, motivational quotes and memes. Then all of a sudden, I came across a post that read: "Does anyone want tickets to the Wale show tonight?" Well yes, as a matter of fact of I do.

It was about 10 a.m. the morning of the show and I took a chance. I purchased two tickets, which turned out to be floor seats!

Now, this is where things started to get crazy. Knowing that I only had one extra ticket, I thought finding one person to go along would be a breeze. Wow, was I wrong! I made a record breaking 26 phone calls before I finally found one of my close friends, Justin who was down for the ride.

The ticket said start time was 6:30 p.m. but from personal experience, it really meant the show would more likely start around 8 p.m.

Once we arrived and parked the car,



District of Columbia native Ari Lennox recently performed in South D.C. where she had complete command of the stage. The 27-year-old used her sheer vocal range and soulful cadence to captivate the audience. Lennox also kept the crowd engaged with a few jokes and keen storytelling.

Courtesy Photo

you could feel the enthusiasm in the air. South D.C. was in full-fledged party mode. Men were doing backflips in the street, red carpet photos were being

taken, and security was plentiful.

Believe it or not, the security seemed to be just as joyous if not more so than some of the concertgoers. The vibe was

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stirring outside and easily trickled into the venue. Being that the show was held in D.C., there was this indescribable feeling of culture in the air. People were very responding to the DJs on stage and plenty of dancing was taking place.

One of the standout performances of the night was 27-year-old, D.C. native, Ari Lennox. She performed some of her fan favorites such as: Whipped Cream and Backseat. She had complete command of the stage. She used her sheer vocal range and soulful cadence to captivate those in the arena.

I was impressed by her capability to keep her energy up-tempo, even though some of her songs might be categorized as "down tempo." She even kept the crowd engaged with a few jokes and keen storytelling. Ari's set was quite entertaining.

Shortly after Ari's set, Wale, the man of the hour took the stage. First and foremost, let me say that Wale's band was immensely gifted. Their set up of percussion, drums and bass opened up the door for a full and rich gogo sound. This twist on Wale's set made for an exciting event. The audience was already biting their fingernails for Wale to hit the stage, so for him and his band to execute the way they did, it seemed to fulfill a lot of suspense.

Overall, the entire experience was one that I think many people would have enjoyed and for the people actually got to experienced it, I hope they were well entertained. If you haven't been to a live performance in recent time, I recommend you plan one in the near future—the rush is always exuberating!

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**Nuclear Weapons
Conference scheduled
at Goucher College**

Baltimore— “Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Can Do to Prevent Nuclear War” is the theme of a conference scheduled for Saturday, November 17, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Goucher College in Baltimore.

Sponsored by more than 25 Maryland organizations, the conference brings together activists, students, experts and other citizens to examine how Marylanders can work collaboratively to reduce the threat of nuclear war and divert the resources spent on nuclear weapons to programs that support critical human needs.

There is no cost to attend, and a free lunch will be served. The public is invited to participate. Advance registration is required. To register and to obtain a copy of the conference program, visit:

<https://secure.psr.org/page/29755/data/1>

“The United States spending \$1.7 trillion on nuclear weapons over the next 30 years is igniting a nuclear arms race and is wasting resources that could go to housing, transportation, healthcare and the environment,” said Dr. Gwen Dubois, president of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility. “What is worse, by making these weapons more usable, we risk starting a worldwide nuclear war killing hundreds of millions outright and plunging the planet into nuclear winter leading to the starvation of over a billion people.”

The chief organizers are Prevent Nuclear War Maryland, Goucher College Peace Studies, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility and Maryland Peace Action Network.

We love to hear from our readers!

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BGE ready to provide safe and reliable service this winter

BGE is investing more than \$1.7 billion during 2018 in the electric and natural gas systems serving customers with safe and reliable energy

Baltimore—BGE asks customers to prepare for winter weather which can cause heating systems to work harder in order to maintain comfort, increasing energy usage and average bills.

To ensure that customers' energy needs are met this winter, BGE has completed natural gas and electric infrastructure system upgrades throughout its service area.

"Our dedicated employees work throughout the year to ensure that BGE can reliably provide energy to our customers, especially during the cold, winter months," said Stephen Woerner, president and chief operating officer of BGE. "We continue to innovate to offer tools and programs that can help our customers prepare their homes and learn to use energy more efficiently. This gives everyone more control over their energy costs during temperature extremes."

By the end of 2018, BGE will invest approximately \$600 million in the natural gas system to provide safe and reliable service for customers. This work includes equipment inspections, repairs and replacements, preventive maintenance, and reinforcement projects such as the recently completed pipeline along Elavton Road in Anne Arundel County. Since 2010, major gas system reinforcements have also been installed in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties. BGE has also secured natural gas contracts and filled its storage facilities to maintain gas supply for its customers.

BGE also replaces existing gas mains with durable new pipes that will deliver gas safely and reliably to communities well into the future. Part of this work involves replacing cast iron and unprotected steel mains at an accelerated rate under BGE's Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) gas system modernization plan. Through STRIDE, BGE will have replaced more than 170 miles of gas mains and more than 35,000 service pipes connecting customers to the gas system by the end of 2018.

Electric system upgrades and maintenance in preparation for winter weather have occurred on schedule as part of the approximately \$1.1 billion BGE is investing in the company's electric system during 2018. In addition to inspecting more than 4,500 circuit miles of overhead power lines and more than 40,000 utility poles this year, the company is also taking steps to minimize the threat to power lines by trees weakened by heavy snows and winter storms with \$25 million in vegetation trimming near overhead lines.

As BGE prepares for winter, customers are reminded to prepare as well by following these tips:

•Maintain Your Heating Systems—

Most of your cold weather energy expenses are related to heating your home. Schedule service for your heating system to find out what maintenance is required to keep your system operating efficiently.

•Lower Your Water Heating Costs—

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save.



•**Adjust the Temperature**— When you are at home and awake, set your thermostat as low as it is comfortable for you. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

•**My Account Online Tools**— Your BGE online account contains tools and detailed energy usage information. By tracking your energy usage right after you use it, comparing usage trends, and discovering the results of energy-saving practices, you can manage your energy more efficiently. Log onto BGE.com/MyAccount to get started.

•Sign up for High Usage Alerts—

Receive a notification by phone, email

or text if your energy usage is trending higher than usual so you can take steps to reduce your use before your bill arrives. You can also set a bill threshold to alert you when your bill is projected to be higher than a specific amount each month. Login to My Account to sign up for High Usage Alerts at BGE.com/MyNotifications.

•Keep Your Natural Gas Appliances Vents Clear—

Know where your natural gas appliances vent to the exterior and ensure the vents are clear. Some high efficiency gas appliances, such as water heaters and furnaces, vent along the foundation of buildings. If these vents become blocked by snow or ice, exhaust may back up resulting in carbon monoxide build-up or a release of natural gas.

More information can be found at BGESmartEnergy.com

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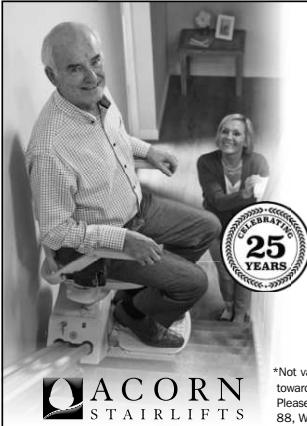
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