

Baltimore Artist's Colorful Mural Transforms Poe Houses Basketball Court



A bright, freshly minted, attractive mural that promises to pump excitement into Poe Homes Apartment buildings in Baltimore has transformed the neighborhood basketball court. The project is the work of Baltimore artist Wendell "Supreme" Shannon, whose art career was inspired by the legendary Charm City artist, Larry Poncho Brown. Volunteers from Baltimore were joined by people from as far away as Atlanta, Charlotte, and New York and set to work. The result is a geometric abstract painting that includes several vibrant colors, which Shannon says is intended to promote positivity, energy and optimism. (See article on page 10) Photos Courtesy: Wendell Shannon

Are you an entrepreneur or want to become one?

You Had Better 'Mind Your Business' at Coppin on Saturday, October 5th

By Ursula V. Battle

If someone told you to mind your business, you might think they were being smart. But if you are already an entrepreneur or are seeking to become one, a "smart" move would be to "Mind your Business." That's the title of an exciting, free event designed for small business owners, entrepreneurs, creative industry organizations and DIY (Do It Yourself) businesses.

Presented by PNC Bank and Times Community Services, Inc., Mind your Business: Building a Network of resources for business owners and entrepreneurs, will take place Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Physical Education Complex at Coppin State University located at 2523 Gwynns Falls Pkwy. in Baltimore.

The free event will cover a wide range of topics including financial education; how to structure your business; when you should include a CPA or legal experts; as well as an introduction to tax incentives that are available if you are located in one of Baltimore's Arts Districts.

"We are proud to partner with PNC Bank to offer this exciting event," said Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble. "You might not make a million dollars, but small businesses help people to support their families and provide jobs. Small businesses also help blacks and other minority communities to be more sustainable.

"Right now, we have a new, very robust economy. We have to take our place in that economy. There was a time when it was very difficult for minorities to get bank loans. Now banks are bending over backwards to teach you. This event will show entrepreneurs how to start a business and stay in business. This event will provide a wealth of information about the many resources that are available."

Baltimore native Ramsey Harris is Vice President and Territory CRA Business Advisor in the Retail Lending Distribution Management division at PNC Bank. Harris is responsible for overseeing and executing strategic plans that enable the bank to achieve specific Community Reinvest-



Ramsey Harris is the Vice President and Territory CRA Business Advisor in the Retail Lending Distribution Management division at PNC Bank. He will be facilitating a workshop geared towards educating small businesses about credit during Mind your Business: Building a Network of resources for business owners and entrepreneurs.
Photo by Ursula V. Battle

ment Act (CRA) focused goals, and measures of lending to businesses located within designated, inner-city/Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) geographies.

"Baltimore has such a strong spirit of entrepreneurship," said Harris who is also a minister. "One of my callings is to do all I can to educate and empower minority business owners. I am responsible for the achievement of our CRA goals for the entire East Coast and all points in between. That includes Maryland and Delaware, and from New York to Florida. Baltimore is the highest priority for me.

"I am always excited to partner with The Baltimore Times. I appreciate the paper as a media outlet in the community that gives out accurate information, to our folks via its online and hardcopy editions. The reputation of the paper is stellar. Joy Bramble has a passion for small businesses in the community, and that's evident through events such as this forum."

The event will also offer attendees an

opportunity to network; learn about new products; find out how they can run their business more efficiently; position themselves more competitively; and how to protect their intellectual property more completely.

Harris will be facilitating a workshop geared towards educating small businesses about credit.

"My workshop will discuss the nuances of business credit and business finance," he said. "Businesses have to be able to get the credit they need to sustain their business. I will be emphasizing PNC's proactive approach and commit-

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ment to support minority enterprises under our CRA business, lending program. Obviously, Baltimore is home for me and my heart and soul. I have traveled to other cities to teach this forum. I am excited to be able to teach it in my hometown."

In addition to Harris, PNC Bank branch manager Sherry Curry will also be among the presenters. The other presenters are: Nicholas Cohen; Everett Sands; Chris Rockey; Carrisa Carson; Adam Holofscener; Paul E. Taylor; Cassandra Vincent; and Takia Ross.

"I will cover the credit part from a traditional banking standpoint, but we have all types of seminars on promoting your business," said Harris. "We have something for everyone looking to start or grow their business. We handpicked these presenters. We selected individuals who are well informed in their various fields, and operate in excellence in their individual expertise, and who are passionate about their work.

"I am also excited about the partnerships we have with Morgan State University, and Coppin State University. I am particularly proud of the fact that we are utilizing and collaborating with our HBCUS in Baltimore to host these events. PNC has established really impactful and robust relationships with both schools. I am encouraging everyone to come out and take advantage of this empowering event."

To see a short clip of PNC's Harris and Curry discussing the Mind Your Business event, visit: www.baltimoretimes-online.com

To register for the event, visit: www.mindyourbusinesspnc.eventbrite.com.

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Mind Your Business

Building a network of resources
for business owners and entrepreneurs

Nicholas Cohen

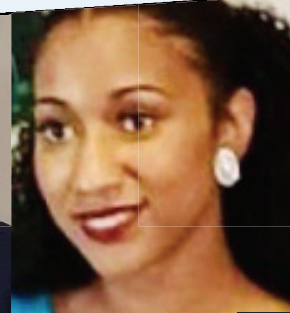
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Guest Editorials/Letters

Voter registration makes a difference in communities of color

By Judith Browne Dianis

Last week, voting rights, advocates and allies celebrated National Voter Registration Day, a single day dedicated to registering as many eligible voters as possible. Throughout the week, organizers across the country kicked off fall campaigns to register black and brown voters ahead of consequential municipal and statewide elections occurring this year. Increasing evidence shows that these community-led engagement campaigns are making a difference, leading to higher registration rates and increased turnout among voters of color over the last two years. It is imperative we continue to support year-round grassroots efforts to engage voters of color so they can register to vote and build power in their communities.

In Tennessee, the Tennessee Black Voter Project collected 90,000 registration applications ahead of the 2018-midterm elections. The crush of applications overwhelmed state election officials; the state ranked 45th in the nation in terms of voter registration. While the work of the Tennessee Black Voter Project prompted the state legislature to pass restrictive laws around third-party voter registration, the Project had a significant impact. According to U.S. Census data, turnout among Tennessee's Black voters increased from 31 to 45 percent from 2014 to 2018.

In states like Florida, New Florida Majority, one of Advancement Project National Office's partner is working diligently to get one million Floridians back on the voting rolls. In 2018, the state overwhelmingly passed Amendment 4, a historic ballot initiative that automatically restores the rights of residents with prior felony convictions. This fall, the organization will fan out to register hundreds of thousands of Floridians who have regained their eligibility and ensure they are able to vote in this year's municipal elections, and the 2020 presidential election. And because felony disenfranchisement disproportionately impacts Florida's Black and Brown communities, their online and in-person efforts will make a huge difference in re-enfranchising voters of color.

In Louisiana, organizations like Voices Of The Experienced (VOTE) help Returning Citizens complete the voting rights restoration process. After the Louisiana legislature passed Act 636, a law restoring the voting rights of Returning Citizens, or people who have been formerly incarcerated and have completed probation and parole, VOTE canvassed neighborhoods; hosted voter registration drives; and completed voter education. Their efforts have helped hundreds of Louisiana residents register and regain their right to vote.

It is imperative that we continue to support voter registration efforts because many states are working to criminalize voter registration efforts and/or make voter registration harder for black and brown people. After a dramatic increase in voter registration applications in 2018, Tennessee passed a law fining groups conducting voter registration drives up to \$10,000 for submitting incomplete or inaccurate forms. While a federal judge rightfully blocked the law earlier this month, our support for easy, simple and straightforward voter registration is necessary to combat voters suppression measures that have bloomed across the country over the past six years.

Research shows that systemic barriers that make it harder to register and cast a ballot decrease the likelihood of voter participation. It is imperative that voters of color continue to advocate for measures that make voter registration easier and more accessible for all.

Pro-democracy reforms like online registration, pre-registration for 16 and 17 olds, and automatic voter registration reduce barriers to the ballot box. They also increase the likelihood that people of color can build political power through the electoral system and make fundamental change in their communities. Finally, we must encourage our friends, relatives, and colleagues to register today! Our democracy is counting on it.

Judith Browne Dianis is the Executive Director of Advancement Project National Office, a next-generation, multi-racial civil rights organization rooted in the great human rights struggles for equality and justice.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Iran Threatens Neighbors and the Unites States

Iran is the leading promoter of Islamic terrorism in the world. It actively supports Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iraq and Syria; and Hamas in Palestine.

Iran has infiltrated the Iraqi government and Iraqi military forces. It has extensive military forces in Syria.

Iran threatens the stability of the Middle East. Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, the Gulf States and Israel are concerned with Iran's aggressive moves in Syria and Iraq, and now it has attacked Saudi oil facilities.

Iran attacked oil tankers and continues to approach U.S. Navy ships in international waters in the Persian Gulf with

threatening maneuvers. It wants to control the Strait of Hormuz, which is a navigational bottleneck on a major maritime route for oil shipments. The U. S. Navy is committed to keeping the sea lanes open to free trade.

Iran is emboldened and is threatening countries in the Middle East. We have deployed a carrier strike group and B52 bombers to the region along with a few thousand additional troops. We have to increase our offensive missile forces and combat aircraft in the region to support friendly Arab countries' military actions against Iran. We might have to send defensive troops to Saudi Arabia.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

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Letters to the Editor

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Why is suicide a growing problem in the black community? Part II

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

The NNPA is taking a closer look at the stigma of mental illness in the African American community. Link to Part I: blackpressusa.com/mental-health-stigma-still-affecting-african-americans.

It's no secret that African Americans — particularly teens — are committing suicide at record levels. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide rates have increased by 30 percent since 1999 and nearly 45,000 lives were lost to suicide in 2016 alone.

A June 2019 study conducted by the Journal of Community Health revealed that suicide deaths among black females aged 13 to 19 rose 182 percent between 2001 and 2017, while the rate among black teen males rose 60 percent during that same period.

From 2015 to 2017, 52 percent of black teen males who died from suicide used

firearms, a method with a fatality rate of nearly 90 percent. Another 34 percent used strangulation or suffocation, which has a fatality rate of about 60 percent. Among the 204 black teen females who died by suicide from 2015 to 2017, 56 percent used strangulation or suffocation and 21 percent used firearms, according to the study.

mental illness diagnosis— ADHD, PTSD, severe depression, bipolar tendencies and anxieties— and I did not understand what was going on until I took the steps to get help.”

Famed Beverly Hills family and relationship psychotherapist and author, Dr. Fran Walfish said she's treated hundreds of thousands of children and teens each

one of the main causes of the recent jump in suicide rates,” Gertsmann said. “Social media show users pictures and videos of everyone living better lives than they are; even though these pictures are often staged and paint an inaccurate picture, the brain isn't able to differentiate and simply sees that everyone else is better off.

“Social media also puts numbers on your popularity— your followers, your likes, your replies. And, no matter how many you have, you'll always want more.”

Kevin Darné, the author of “My Cat Won't Bark! (A Relationship Epiphany),” believes that the suicide rate among young African Americans is due to the growing list of black millionaires and billionaires.

“Today, we have Oprah owning a TV network, Tyler Perry owning his own studios, Shonda Rhimes owning her night of television on ABC, Jay-Z becoming a billionaire, Dr. Dre selling ‘Beats’ to Apple for \$3 billion, and a few Fortune 500 black CEOs, black doctors, lawyers, and entrepreneurs,” Darné said. “Although racism is still alive, it's impossible to deny the fact that the rise of a black upper middle class and an increase in black millionaires [contributes to others having lower self-esteem].

“The irony is the more black success that someone sees in various industries could make a person start to wonder about what's wrong with themselves. Depression and lack of fulfillment can cause people in a rich country to consider suicide ... when there's a huge gap between one's expectations and their reality, life can seem miserable.”

Next in this series: Possible solutions for those contemplating suicide

“Experts and others have tried to determine why African Americans increasingly are choosing to end their lives. Theories have run the gamut— from the lack of strong father-figures to racism and social media and even the increase in black wealth.”

Experts and others have tried to determine why African Americans increasingly are choosing to end their lives. Theories have run the gamut— from the lack of strong father-figures to racism and social media and even the increase in black wealth.

Whatever the reason, the CDC said it's important to note that suicidal thoughts or behaviors are both damaging and dangerous and should be treated as a psychiatric emergency.

CDC officials also caution that those who have suicidal thoughts should understand that it doesn't make one weak or flawed.

“Why are we killing ourselves? The lack of treatment of mental illness is the key factor to why suicide is on the rise in the black community,” said Clarence McFerren, a mental health advocate and author who admits to previously having suicidal thoughts as a teenager. Through out my life, I've been faced with difficult situations which festered into five

year and recently she's seen the number of troubled teenagers who are cutters and dealing with suicidal thoughts, feelings, ideas, plans, and even attempts of suicide.

“There is nothing glamorous about suicide. The one common-denominator shared by all who cut, contemplate or attempt suicide is that they feel emotionally alone in their families,” said Walfish, the author of “The Self-Aware Parent,” and who appears regularly as an expert child psychologist on the CBS Television series, “The Doctors.”

“They feel there is no one person they can talk to about their pain who will listen, validate, understand, and be a safe warmly attuned place for comfort,” she said.

Sam Gertsmann, the founder of Opinion-Lounge, a website for discussing politics, said he's had extensive experience working suicide hotlines.

“While suicide is a complicated topic, it's clear that the rise of social media is

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Baltimore start up among finalists in \$100,000 competition

By Stacy M Brown

Baltimore's Ellington West has become quite the innovator as CEO of Sonavi Labs. The startup is one of seven small businesses from across the country that will pitch to a panel of experts for the chance to win \$100,000 to support the business's growth.

Nationwide and BlueVine will announce the "Pitch To Win" contest winner on Thursday, October 3, 2019 in Ohio.

Sonavi Labs is an innovative device and software company focused on developing new medical products that analyze body sounds for the diagnosis of diseases.

The company creates technology rooted in artificial intelligence that aims to evolve the patient experience and enhance the capabilities of providers worldwide. The first two devices being launched by Sonavi in 2019 are Feelix and FeelixPro— digital stethoscopes that incorporate its patented core AI technology.

Sonavi has re-engineered the classic stethoscope by adding active noise cancellation to dramatically enhance sound fidelity and on-device algorithms that automatically detect lung sound abnormalities.

"This is a tool to detect lung diseases, particularly in areas where you have a shortage of doctors and health care professionals to treat patients," West said. "The tool would allow anyone, anywhere, at any time, the ability to diagnose a respiratory disease with the accuracy of a physician."

It began with scientific research at Johns Hopkins University, where West's father Dr. James West, is a research professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. He is also a research professor of Mechanical Engineering.

"In his lab, he and his colleague, and two students developed this algorithm that can identify lung abnormalities just from listening and processing data," Ellington West said.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation then issued a challenge that noted that pneumonia was the leading cause of infant mortality worldwide, according to West.

She questioned why so many were losing their lives since pneumonia is both detectable and treatable.

"The team at Hopkins said it all comes down to access to a timely diagnosis. They developed a low-cost stethoscope that allowed them to do onboard, real-time, long-sound analysis," West said.

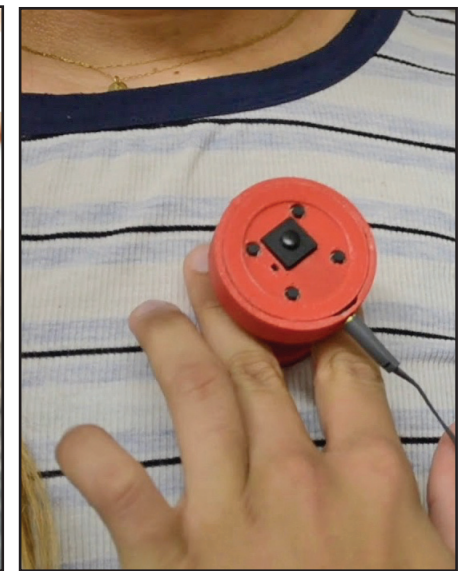
However, the tool remained in the lab while her father tackled the next challenge, West said.

"But, he (her father) said if we don't do anything about this, then it's just going to stay on the shelf. It's not going to get into the hands of the people that need it," she said. "So, I decided to quit my job and take this on fulltime."

The stethoscope created by West's company should help physicians with diagnostic support because it has onboard storage and provides real-time analytics.

"As for the community health— we're empowering the community health workers to make quick decisions that otherwise they wouldn't be able to make alone," West said. "And, as for the parent who's wondering should they go to the emergency room, they can share this clean data with their physician and have them review it. This can track the trends of patients and let them know if they're getting better."

The device also provides the ability for noise suppression.



(Left) Baltimore native Ellington West, CEO of Sonavi Labs. Sonavi Labs is one of seven finalists in the "Pitch To Win" contest. (Right) The company creates AI-enabled digital stethoscopes; remote monitoring devices; supportive apps; and a smart cloud system that can analyze body sounds and identify respiratory abnormalities independent of a doctor.

Courtesy Photos/Sonavi Labs

"If you're in a pediatric clinic, and there are hundreds of little children crying, that noise in the background can really distract the physician from listening. Or, if you're transmitting that information, you don't have a clear sound, so we're actively canceling out any noise," West said.

West entered the device in the "Pitch To Win" contest in which officials from Nationwide and BlueVine noted that access to sufficient capital is critical for small business owners looking to take their companies to the next level.

After sifting through thousands of applications from across the country, Nationwide and BlueVine selected seven small businesses, including West's Sonavi Labs, to compete as finalists in the contest.

The winner will receive \$100,000 to

support their business; the runner up will get \$20,000; and third place will earn \$10,000. The awards will be non-dilutive, meaning business owners will not be required to give any ownership of their company to the sponsors.

Each finalist will present their business proposals in-person to an executive panel of judges, comprised of Kelley Earnhardt Miller, sister of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and co-owner of JR Motorsports; Eyal Lifshitz, founder and CEO of BlueVine; Jasmine Green, chief customer advocate at Nationwide; and Lisa Gobber, vice president of Small Commercial and Premium Audit at Nationwide.

"We are thrilled," West said. "The better we do as a company, the better we are fit to attack diseases."

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After eight years in prison, Marcus Bullock's invention helps inmates connect with their families

By Stacy M. Brown

Marcus Bullock is an entrepreneur, justice reform advocate and public speaker.

Profiled in Black Enterprise, on CNN, and in TechCrunch, Bullock has also spoken on a TEDx program, and at a Black Men Xcel Summit sponsored by Koch Industries. His resume is nothing short of impressive.

However, arguably more impressive is how Bullock, a 2015 Innovator of the Year, and 2016 Booz Allen Hamilton Aspen Ideas award winner, found success.

By his admission, Bullock had as tough a childhood as anyone. At 12, he survived a kidnapping but still turned to a life of crime. At 15, he committed a car-jacking, which led to an eight-year prison sentence.

Today, Bullock is the founder and CEO of Flikshop, a photo-sharing app for inmates around the country.

"When I was in prison, receiving mail was like winning the lottery. Like the power ball," Bullock said. "That feeling when you get mail is the only thing you can hold onto because you're on the inside and you've been told that you are a monster. So, when the mail call happens, and everybody is standing in their cell hoping to get mail, it's like a big thing. It doesn't matter what the contents are, and you are just aware that someone knows and cares that you exist."

Bullock developed Flikshop to help



Marcus Bullock is the founder and CEO of Flikshop, a photo-sharing app for inmates around the country. Bullock developed Flikshop to help make it easy for inmates to connect with their loved ones—and, to get mail. Courtesy Photo

make it easy for inmates to connect with their loved ones—and, to get mail.

He says the app is quite simple. A family member or loved one can use their mobile device or personal computer to take a picture and type a message. For 99 cents, Flikshop prints the photo and message on a postcard and mails it to the inmate. Flikshop ships to 2,200 prisons in all 50 states.

"Just like someone posts to Instagram, they can hit send, and that postcard is sent

out to any correctional facility in the country," Bullock said. "It's a way that people can stay in touch with their loved ones like how my mother stayed in contact with me when I was incarcerated.

Bullock's app has earned rave reviews. Recently, he was featured in a series developed by Black Enterprise called "Success Beyond Bars," a Koch Industries sponsored video event that spotlights formerly incarcerated individuals who have turned their lives around.

Reportedly, Flikshop has caught the attention of celebrities like John Legend and former basketball star Baron Davis.

Flikshop won a \$50,000 grant from

Unlocked Futures, a business accelerator affiliated with Legend, and the app earned a \$120,000 investment from Techstars, which provides grants and consulting services for promising startups.

The Campaign for Youth Justice, which advocates against prosecuting and incarcerating juvenile offenders as adults, uses Flikshop to stay in touch with more than 400 people who were sent to adult prisons while they were still children.

Bullock says he knows he is fortunate, but after prison, he worked diligently to make a living. Although statistics have shown that formerly incarcerated individuals struggle to find employment, the tech space could help change that.

"One of the things that I'm most excited about is to work [in] the tech space. It is an opportunity that's becoming more available for people with felonies," Bullock said. "If you come into a room, and you can still build, nobody cares [that you have a criminal record]. The tech space is the only place where you can have a sustainable life and actually get to a point where you can sign a contract the size of someone making the minimum salary in the NFL."

"We're introducing a lot of conversations around diversity, and inclusiveness inside of the tech community. The reality of it is that there are tons and tons of opportunities that are out there, especially in tech communities."

Families and loved ones of inmates can visit flikshop.com for more information. They can also download the Flikshop app to their mobile device using iTunes or Google Play.

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By Stacy M. Brown

A bright, freshly minted, attractive mural that promises to pump excitement into the somewhat downtrodden Poe Homes Apartment buildings in Baltimore has transformed the neighborhood basketball court.

The project is the work of Baltimore artist Wendell "Supreme" Shannon, whose art career was inspired by the legendary Charm City artist, Larry Poncho Brown.

Shannon says he and another artist, Ezekiel Givens, came up with the idea for the colorful mural from Renaissance Day Experiences.

"We definitely felt that we needed to help some of the underserved communities. So we started working with Renaissance Day Experience to renovate several parks, recreation centers, schools, and courtyards to bring a positive light throughout the city," Shannon said.

During the water crisis at the Poe Homes, Shannon says he came across a video that revealed the condition of the basketball court.

"At the time, I wasn't able to do much as far as a donation, but I knew I had a skill set that would leave an impression on those kids," Shannon said. "I contacted the Poe Homes, and we did crowdfunding, and more than 30 Baltimore businesses donated or contributed services toward the efforts."

Volunteers from Baltimore were joined by people from as far away as Atlanta, Charlotte, and New York and set to work. The result is a geometric abstract painting that includes several vibrant colors, which Shannon says is intended to promote positivity, energy and optimism.

"I'm ecstatic. The process brought so many people together, and the kids are excited," Shannon said. "While we were doing the mural, the kids would run home from school to see the project, and it was so much joy seeing the smiles on their faces."

Born in New York, Shannon says he is an intuitive artist. He further says that his work reflects his dedication, precision, focus and the determination to re-introduce a unique brand of creativity to the forefront of his era.



An aerial view of the mural painted on the basketball court in Poe Homes by artist Wendell "Supreme" Shannon, residents and volunteers.

Photos Courtesy: Wendell Shannon

Shannon has also had to overcome hardship and illness. While a student at Morgan State University, he was diagnosed with Mixed Connective Tissue Disease, Raynaud's Phenomenon, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Dermatomyositis. His illnesses have greatly affected the use of his hands, but it didn't prevent him from plying his craft.

"I tried to stay focused with optimism," Shannon said. "Art is a form of therapy for myself. It helps me to relax and take care of myself."

As he wrapped up the mural project, Shannon says an official grand opening is scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

He is also looking forward to hosting a solo exhibition at the Baltimore Assembly Room on December 4, 2019.

"I will continue to focus on the community and look to do more projects," Shannon said. "We hope that other Baltimore artists will have opportunities to showcase their work in a way that promotes positivity."

To view or purchase paintings by

Wendell Shannon, visit: www.solely-supreme.com.

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Six local women to be honored at Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Reception Oct. 6

Annapolis— Chosen from across Anne Arundel County, six trailblazing women will be honored during the 101st birthday celebration of the late civil rights heroine, Fannie Lou Hamer at the 23rd Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Reception on Sunday October 6, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Frances Scott Key Auditorium at St. John's College in Annapolis.

Panayiotis Kanelos, the president of St. Johns College will offer welcoming remarks and a concluding dinner with wine will be served.

Fannie Lou Hamer, 1917-1977, was an American voting rights activist, civil rights leader, and philanthropist. The awards that bear her name recognize women from various racial backgrounds who, while not necessarily household names have excelled in their chosen field while working diligently to improve civil and human rights in the region.

Known for impacting their community— whether through social justice or historical outreach— each woman has made a lasting mark on Anne Arundel County. All of this year's honorees— Vanessa Bright; Dr. Pamela Brown; Michelle Coates; Rosalind Hill-Cane; Linda Mundy; and Barbara Palmer— join the ranks of more than 100 notable women, including former Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Administrative Law Judge Tracey Warren Parker, and former Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer, who were nominated in years past.

In the spirit of Hamer, honoree Dr. Pamela Brown has made community service her career for the past two decades, working primarily with at-risk children and families in the community. Honoree Linda Mundy was instrumental in funding the Annapolis Trust, which provides scholarships and mentoring for low-income students. Barbara Palmer left a major airline to support the non-profit sector, serving in various capacities and eventually establishing her own non-profit daycare.

"These women exemplify the leadership Ms. Hamer brought to the Civil Rights movement," said Carl Snowden, chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Michelle Coates

Senior vice president and treasury management sales manager at Howard Bank. She recently joined the Board of Directors of Maryland Council of Economic Education Association.



Rosalind Hill-Cane

Licensed social worker and has worked for the Department of Human Services for 27 years, supporting the Consolidated Family Services, the Treatment Foster Care Program.



Barbara Palmer

Palmer is the CEO of Palm Tree Consulting, where she travels to various organizations, providing workshops on grant writing, business and nonprofit startup, and leadership development.



Dr. Pamela Brown

Executive Director for Anne Arundel County Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families in Annapolis.



Vanessa Bright

Founder and president of Bee-Havin' LLC and the founder and executive director of the Maryland Reentry Resource Center.



Linda Mundy

Helped launch the Arundel Connected Together (ACT), where she served as the organization's first treasurer, and continues to serve on the Strategy Team.

Committee. "Their commitment to the Anne Arundel County community is humbling, and we thank them for their service. We are thrilled to take this evening, on the 101st birthday of Ms. Hamer, to honor and celebrate this champion for economic and social justice, and the women she inspired."

Each year, a committee of community

residents choose six outstanding women from a list of nominees who live and/or work in Anne Arundel County. Anne Arundel is the only jurisdiction in the State of Maryland to celebrate Hamer's memory with awards of this nature

Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of Anne Arundel County and co-sponsored by St. Johns College,

tickets for the event are \$35 in advance at www.mlkjrmd.org and will also be available at the door. For more information, call 301-538-6353 or 410-419-2208 or e-mail arankin58@hotmail.com

Maryland Public Television Celebrates 50 Years

Baltimore— Maryland Public Television (MPT) celebrates its 50th anniversary of broadcasting excellence on October 5, 2019 with an evening of retro programming. In addition, an exhibit about MPT's first 50 years will be on display at the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland until July 31, 2020.

As early as January 1969, nine months before going on the air, what was then called the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting created the Urban Affairs Advisory Council with the charge to design a series of five half-hour, week-night programs addressing issues specific to Baltimore. Walter S. Brooks, the Center's executive producer for urban affairs, served on the council and produced the series of shows. Programming began on the inaugural evening of October 5, 1969.

The featured weeknight shows were Urban 30, a discussion of specific inner-city issues; Our Street, an urban soap opera about the Robinsons, an African American family living in East Baltimore with lead actor Howard Rollins; Caucus, an investigation of government affairs as they affect the urban community; Strategy for Action, a show designed to help individuals participate in all levels of government; and Spotlight B-more, a showcase for local African American talent.

"MPT has been covering the issues, stories and experiences of African Americans from the first moment we went on the air. Before Good Times, before The Jeffersons, MPT had a drama series about a black family in Baltimore called Our Street," explained Linda Taggart, vice president, development, who has worked at MPT for more than 30 years. "This series ran for five years and gave local actor Howard Rollins his first acting job before moving on to Broadway and Hollywood."

Public television, and specifically MPT, has shared many untold stories about African Americans.

"MPT and PBS have produced programs that tell the amazing story and history of the African American experience. Iconic documentary series such as Eyes on the Prize and Henry Louis Gates' recent series on African American history called African Americans: Many



Engaging with African American and urban communities is an important priority for Maryland Public Television, the only statewide television network in Maryland. (Left) Charles Robinson, a reporter and associate producer at Maryland Public Television, is joined by his wife, Robbie Robinson, during his Walk of Fame installation in 2016 at MPT. (Right) Linda Taggart, vice president, development, at Maryland Public Television, works with composer Don Barto in the control room at MPT in the 1990s.



Rivers to Cross and its sequel African Americans: And Still I Rise; Stanley Nelson's documentaries Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution, Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Freedom Riders and Boss: The Black Experience in Business all tell the dynamic and often untold stories of African Americans," Taggart said.

"MPT's local productions and public affairs programs look at issues facing African Americans in local communities not only on television but online," Taggart said. "Our web-exclusive series on MPT Digital Studios covering the aftermath of the Freddie Gray riots called Voices of Baltimore was stellar."

In July, Maryland Public Television announced it will produce in association with Stanley Nelson's Firelight Films original documentaries about the lives of two of Maryland's most important historical figures— Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. Both one-hour films will be distributed to public TV stations nationwide in February 2022.

Taggart also noted some of the network's educational efforts in the classroom that enhance learning at school and at home.

"MPT's education team works with

schools, libraries and community partners, particularly in low-income areas, to use PBS KIDS and MPT multiplatform learning content to help children be equally prepared and successful in school," Taggart said.

"Maryland Public Television provides great community programs while it also reaches such a broad audience. The African American community has been an integral part of MPT since the start. Producers are cognizant of the audience," said Donald Thoms who worked at MPT for 20 years before assuming leadership positions at PBS and Discovery Communications prior to starting his own consulting company.

Thoms joined the MPT staff as a master control director in 1973. Over the years he moved up to executive producer. Among his credits are "The Critic's Place," "Up on the Farm" and "Wall Street Week." Thoms is also co-creator of Outdoors Maryland, one of MPT's longest running and most popular shows.

"Almost every success I have had, I learned at MPT. You learned to be creative, and I worked with an amazing group of people," Thoms explained.

A member of the MPT staff for nearly 20 years, Charles Robinson is a reporter

for the weekly series State Circle and Your Money and Business. In addition, he is an associate producer, which enables him to do research and work on a variety of documentaries and other shows.

"I love being able to share stories of Maryland and its people," Robinson said. "I often find myself in many places across the state that few people have thought of and visited. There is just so much out there, I never seem to run out of ideas."

His work has been honored with several awards over the years. People of Brown, a documentary marking the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. the Board of Education desegregation case, received local, regional and national honors. In addition, he has won awards for the MPT series Hardworking Families.

"One of our slogans is 'TV Worth Watching.' I have worked in commercial television, and it has its place, but I often find myself tuning into what we're airing because it challenges conventional thinking and motivates me to go beyond what's comfortable," Robinson said. "Where else would you find the things we put on the air?"

To learn more about Maryland Public Television and its 50th anniversary, visit mpt.org/50th.

A family of four is shown in a new home. The father and mother stand together, smiling and looking towards the right. The mother is wearing a striped shirt and jeans, and the father is wearing a maroon t-shirt and jeans. Two young children are sitting on the floor, opening a cardboard box. The room is filled with moving boxes, some labeled 'BOOKS' and 'BATHROOM'. A wooden ladder is leaning against the wall on the right. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

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John Harbaugh weighs analytics into Ravens decisions

By Tyler Hamilton

Analytics are becoming a more significant part of the Baltimore Ravens decision-making process. That was clear when the Ravens came up short against the Kansas City Chiefs in Week 3. There were many factors in the 33 - 28 loss including a couple of intriguing decisions made by head coach John Harbaugh.

Harbaugh decided to go for the two-point conversion after their opening touchdown but was unsuccessful. He decided to go for two later in the game but the Ravens couldn't convert.

Lamar Jackson led Baltimore in a touchdown drive to pull within five points with just over two minutes left in the game. Harbaugh went for two to try and make it a three-point game. Their attempt was unsuccessful but the Ravens head coach felt it was the right thing to do.

"We are standing by our decisions. Our decisions gave us the best chance to win the game in that particular game," Harbaugh said the day after the game.

"These are not like league average choices. These are determined by this game, and in that game specifically. There's a lot of factors that go into it—weather is even factored into. A lot of factors go into it that are mathematically calculated."

"Mathematically calculated" isn't something that an old school, football purist like Harbaugh typically says. However, it's a sign of change within the



Analytics are becoming a more significant part of the Baltimore Ravens decision-making process, according to Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh.

Photo Credit: Brad Rempel/USA TODAY Sports

Ravens decision-making process.

The team made some additions to their analytics department back in June. Harbaugh acknowledged how much work goes into the research and development side of analytics while admitting that it weighs in on his decisions on game day.

"There's a lot of time that goes into it. It's part of what we do. It's not all of what we do but I have a good understanding of the numbers and how it works," Harbaugh explained. "I have people in my ear that help with that too. Not just with that, but with challenges and things. We're very

organized in what we do. We have a method in the process and it's very detailed and well thought out."

Analytics have their place in the formula for making the right call in the right situation. Knowing the probabilities of outcomes and putting the team in the best situation can be extremely helpful. Even though Harbaugh has embraced, there is still value in going with his gut feeling. That's something that can't be measured by analytics and he still has more trust in his own instincts.

"The analytics guys will tell you that I don't follow the analytics nearly enough. They'll say I go by my gut way more than I go by the analytics, and I do. The flow of the game, the feel of the game, the situations I've been in—momentum, all of those things are something as a coach you have a real sense for. I'll go against the analytics a lot more than I'll go with it," Harbaugh said.

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Chart-topping Gospel artist Anthony Brown honored at his Alma Mater

By Ursula V. Battle

Seated at a piano on the stage of Morgan State University's Recital Hall, gospel singer Anthony Brown of Anthony Brown & group therAPy, was asked what advice he would give to students faced with student debt and other challenges. The famous Morgan alumnus responded by playing the piano as he sang:

*You did not create me to worry
You did not create me to fear
But You created me to worship - daily
So Ima leave it all right here
I will put my trust in You*

The words were from the group's hit ballad, "Trust In You," one of the singles on the group's album, "A Long Way From Sunday." The empowering moment was among the many that took place inside the Recital Hall on Thursday, September 19, 2019 in the school's Murphy Fine Arts Center located at 2201 Argonne Drive in Baltimore.

Anthony Brown & group therAPy were honored by the school on the anniversary of their first Billboard No. 1 hit "Worth." Brown was surprised with a beautiful framed award in recognition of over 250 million streams of their music on the anniversary of "Worth," the group's first Billboard No. 1 hit.

Brown's honor at Morgan came the same week the group hit No. 1 again with their current radio smash, "Blessings on Blessings." The event was attended by several members of Brown's family, members of First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, Maryland, where he serves as Worship Leader, as well as friends, Morgan faculty and students, along with other supporters and fans.



Anthony Brown & group therAPy were honored by Morgan State University on the anniversary of their first Billboard No. 1 hit "Worth." (Left to right) Morgan State University Choir Director, Dr. Eric Conway; Bryant Scott, President of Tyscot Records; Melanie Scott-Bennett, Counsel for Tyscot Records; singer and on-air radio personality Maurette Brown Clark; gospel recording artist Anthony Brown; and singer Stephen Hurd.
Photo by Ursula V. Battle

"It feels incredible to be back here at Morgan State," said Brown who is also a graduate of the Baltimore School For the Arts. "To be here to celebrate both past and present successes is amazing."

Brown also spoke passionately about the city.

"The news has put such a negative spin on Baltimore," said Brown, who was also presented with a letter sent on behalf Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young. "I am the proud product of a Baltimore school and university. There are great

things happening in Baltimore City. No matter what people say, I am blessed to be from this place."

Noting the impact that former Morgan State University Choir Director, the late Dr. Nathan M. Carter, and current Director Dr. Eric Conway had on his life, Brown added, "Dr. Carter instilled so much in me as a student, as well as Dr. Conway who now heads the Morgan Choir. All of the frustration, hard work and time I spent here paid off. I am sending the fruits of it today."

In addition to directing the choir, Dr. Conway serves as Chairperson of Morgan's Fine Arts Department.

"Anthony is the real deal," said Dr. Conway. "When he sings, one hears the sincerity of his conviction. His success is also due to God's anointing and inspiration, which is omnipresent in his composition. I am especially proud to welcome Anthony home. Welcome."

The event was hosted by Radio One midday personality and gospel artist, Maurette Brown Clark.

"I am completely excited that Anthony has received blessings on blessings on blessings," said Brown Clark. "I am amazing at the doors God has opened for him. We in the music community celebrate you."

Brown began playing the piano at three-years-old. He has gone on to hone and elevate his gifts to become an award-winning music influencer and gifted songwriter. He swept the 2016 Stellar Awards, walking away with an unprecedented 10 trophies—the most won by any artist in a single year.

"I went into 2019 only saying I am only speaking blessings this year," said Brown referring to the group being honored and their hit Blessings on Blessings. "I have watched God blow my mind with blessings all year long. It's not just a song—it's declarations.

"I will never forget this moment. I will write a song about it later. Sometimes we don't share our appreciation until it's too late. I am glad I got to share my appreciation and love. This is a huge moment for me."

To see a video clip of Brown receiving his surprise award, visit: www.baltimoretimes-online.com

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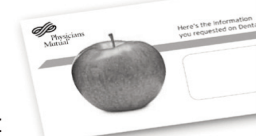


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AKA Raises \$1 Million for HBCUs in one day plus announces collaboration with Black Press of America

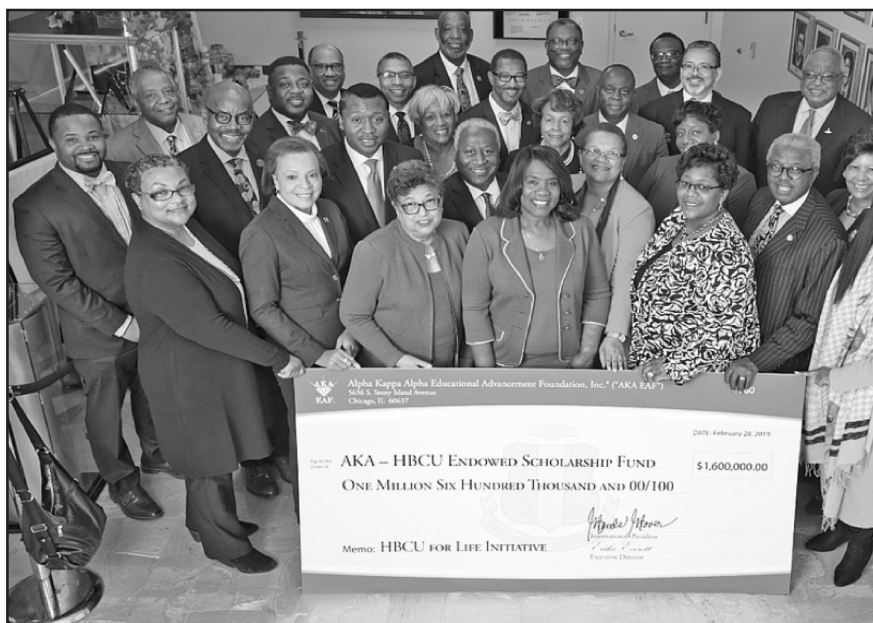
By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

For the second year in a row, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women, raised \$1 million in just 24 hours during this month's HBCU Impact Day. The AKA Sorority, Inc. also has agreed to collaborate in the planning for the upcoming 80th-anniversary celebration of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in 2020. Dr. Glenda Glover, International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., said the sorority would work with NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., during the NNPA's annual convention June 23-25, 2020 in New Orleans.

"When you need to know the positive stories—the real stories—about African Americans, then you understand our dependence on the Black Press for our news," said Dr. Glover, the international president of AKA and president of the historically-Black Tennessee State University. "It is my honor to be a part of this. Alpha Kappa Alpha has been a partner to the Black Press even right here in Nashville with the Tennessee Tribune."

While the first African American-owned newspaper was founded 192 years ago, the establishment of the NNPA took place in 1940 during a meeting in Chicago.

Since its founding, the NNPA has advocated for the Black Press of America



For the second year in a row, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college-educated women, raised \$1 million in just 24 hours during this month's HBCU Impact Day.
Courtesy Photo/NNPA

and delivering news to millions of people daily and weekly from the African American perspective. The NNPA is the national trade association that currently represents a vast conglomerate of more than 223 black-owned newspapers throughout the country that comprise the Black Press of America.

For her part, Dr. Glover and the AKAs have steadfastly continued to promote support of HBCUs across the nation. Dr. Glover has led that challenge for contributions as part of a four-year \$10 million fundraising goal to benefit HBCUs.

"As a college president, I need to recognize the need for HBCUs. I need to recognize the operating needs, and the financial needs because we need funds to survive," Dr. Glover said. "I asked my membership to support this initiative. We galvanized members, individuals, and corporate sponsors. We kept going back again, and again.

"It's a tremendous feat to raise \$1 million in one day, but we knew HBCUs needed to have funding, sustainability, and we have to make sure to secure the endowments of each university."

In February, AKA gifted \$1.6 million from their AKA-HBCU Endowment Fund to 32 HBCUs.

As an HBCU graduate, Glover said

she has dedicated her life's work to the HBCU community.

"I understand the impact personally that establishing an endowment has on a student's enrollment and graduation prospects," Dr. Glover said. "The actions of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will go a long way toward ensuring that HBCUs remain open and able to encourage the best black students to choose them as a first option."

AKA began on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1908. Today, nearly 300,000 members make up the sorority in approximately 1,018 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the U.S., the U.S. Virgin Islands, Liberia, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, Germany, Japan, and South Korea.

For her four-year tenure as president, Dr. Glover has implemented a five-point plan for AKA which includes the HBCU initiative.

The other four plan points include a women's healthcare and wellness plan; building your economic legacy; the Arts; and global impact.

"We try to make sure that we handle certain national and international issues," Dr. Glover said. "We have a program of wellness and health. We have a breast cancer mobile unit that travels around the country giving free mammograms to African American women.

"We know that breast cancer tends not to be found in black women until it reaches stage 4," Dr. Glover said. "With all of our initiatives, we want to make sure that African Americans don't get lost in the shuffle. That is why we have programs and services that benefit the community."

Reginald Lewis 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@lewisiumuseum.org; or visit the website: www.lewisiumuseum.org.

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Corolla to Nags Head
Tickets \$10.

Good for All 4 Days

TOUR 17 Select
Outer Banks Homes



Preview: obhomebuilders.org

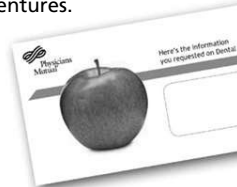
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AW19-1034

\$8 Billion Settlement

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Communications Director
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