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Nine-Year-Old 'Little Big Shot' Tyler Stalling Serving Those Who Have Served Our Country



Tyler Stallings, 9, has a project called Give Back to Veterans. He has appeared on Little Big Shots, Good Morning America, and other shows. The talented youngster has helped veterans pay bills, fed those in crisis, and given away thousands of his 'Hero Bags' to thank them. The fourth grader is a 2016 President Barack Obama Service Award recipient. Congressman André Carson, who represents the 7th District of Indiana, later acknowledged Tyler by sending Congressional Recognition. Tyler became a GoFundMe Kid Hero in December of 2018, and an Orioles Birdland Community Hero in April of 2019, because of his work with the homeless in Baltimore and other parts of Maryland. (See article onpage 9) Courtesy Photo

Black owned burger joint ‘Noisy Burger’ brings sauce to Remington permanently

By Alanah Nichole Davis

Noisy Burger first made its debut at R House, a trendy food hall in the Remington neighborhood in 2017. The then weeklong pop-up was a partnership between students in the modern culinary arts program at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School and Noisy Tenants, a local firm, which offers project management, program development, and media production services founded by Nicholas Mitchel and Chris Landrum.

In the first pop-up edition of Noisy Burger, students developed the concept, menu, operated the restaurant, and set records for sales at R House. “I think that record still stands,” Nicholas Mitchel said.

Chris Landrum and Nicholas Mitchel are two virtuous Black men who are passionate about food, their community and the youth therein. They are self-proclaimed, “Loud Dreamers.”

When asked why they started it all, the duo respond nearly in tandem, “We want youth to be able to build a portfolio of work in order to be able to go on to the next thing—to come full circle a couple of our hires that we worked with a few years ago are already looking for opportunities and we plan to give opportunities to them since they know what we are all about already.”

“A noisy tenant is someone who dreams loud like us, someone who identifies something they want to accomplish and gets it done, they are creatives, entrepreneurs, leaders, folks who care about their community and are continually finding ways to pour life back into their own communities instead of being extractive,” Landrum said.

In the case of this definition, the dynamic duo are both “noisy” in their own right. After making the first bit of noise in Baltimore City back in the spring of 2017 when they partnered with students at Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School or “Mervo” as it’s affectionately called where Landrum is an alumnus (Class of 2005).

Even before the challenges of 2020 and the pandemic, both men knew they were committed to working with youth again



Noisy Tenants, a local firm, which offers project management, program development, and media production services founded by Nicholas Mitchel and Chris Landrum opened Noisy Burger’s now permanent stall at R. House located at 301 W 29th Street in the Remington neighborhood in Baltimore.
Courtesy Photo/Nicholas Mitchel

and are in the ideation phase of a program to engage youth.

“After the pop-up, we recognized the opportunity to continually make a positive impact on the youth of Baltimore and decided to re-launch the Noisy Burger brand,” Landrum said in a statement. “Our goal is to serve great food [and] to also provide opportunities for young people to gain experience in their areas of interest and contribute to their personal and professional growth.”

The youth will have an opportunity to leave their mark on the menu, marketing, branding, and even the way that Mitchel and Landrum operate Noisy Burger as a business.

“We are a family here at Noisy Burger and we want to know how to get youth where they want to go next whether its a graphic designer, social media manager or something like that we’ll be giving them responsibilities so that they can build that portfolio of work to be able to go to the next thing and that’s our superpower.” Mitchel said. “A

superpower is saying we’re going to do this, whatever it is and then seeing it to completion—it’s not easy to make things real after dreaming them.”

That’s very much what Noisy Tenants, Nick Mitchel and Chris Landrum have done since opening their now permanent stall at R. House, located at 301 W 29th Street in the Remington neighborhood in Baltimore. They made their dream a reality. However, their journey to opening up a permanent stall hasn’t been void of challenges considering the global pandemic but everyone in their community stepped up to support,

including: friends and family members who worked physically at the stall in its first weeks, according to Landrum.

“Tell friends to tell friends about our Classic and Noisy Burgers, complete with Noisy sauce which is a sweet, chili, barbecue based sauce secret sauce.”

The duo is open and thankful to Seawall Development, past students, the community, their spouses and they are looking forward to experimenting with veggie burgers in the future. For menu updates and schedules, follow them at [Instagram.com/noisyburger/](https://www.instagram.com/noisyburger/).

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Biden 2021 should look to Biden 1980 for bipartisan inspiration

By Kevin Walters

President-elect Joe Biden has promised to govern as a president for all Americans, not just those who voted for him.

Some pundits dismiss Biden's bipartisanship as naïve in today's hyper-partisan climate, but the opposite is true. Seasoned leaders understand that entrenched problems demand consensus-building solutions. In fact, the president-elect can look to a landmark 1980 law—which he himself co-sponsored—as a prime example.

The end of 1980 and the end of 2020 have much in common. A one-term president lost his bid for reelection, and Congress convened its post-election "lame duck" session at a moment of national malaise and political pessimism.

But back then, veteran senators refused to rest on their laurels. In the face of a stagnating economy, they passed the Bayh-Dole Act, a little-known but landmark piece of legislation that laid the groundwork for forty years of technological innovation, job creation, and improved quality of life.

The Bayh-Dole Act was a direct response to a longstanding problem. Many of the taxpayer-funded grants that government agencies distributed to universities and other non-profit research institutions weren't leading to practical applications for public benefit.

The problem wasn't with the researchers but with rigid federal policy. Before 1980, universities couldn't own many of the discoveries resulting from their laboratories. The government claimed the patent rights for all federally funded research—regardless of whether federal employees were the ones conducting the research or whether federal grants funded only a small percentage of the work.

As a result, insights ripe for commercialization languished on the shelf. The federal government lacked the know-how—and capacity—to turn the research conducted by scientists into real-world products. Out of the 28,000 patents owned by those agencies, just five percent were licensed to the private sector.

Senators Birch Bayh (D-IN) and Bob Dole (R-KS) realized that the policy needed to change and convinced their colleagues to pass reform. Carter signed their namesake bill into law on December 12, just over a month before he left office.

The Bayh-Dole fix was simple. The law required universities and non-profits to make good faith efforts to commercialize research funded by federal grants. In exchange, research institutions could keep the patents—providing strong incentive to license them to a private-sector company that could realize the full value of their inventions.

By giving inventors a way to retain their patents, Congress helped create a flurry of new products, companies, and jobs. One analysis of academic technology transfers from 1996 to 2017 found they support 5.9 million jobs and contributed \$865 million to U.S. GDP. In that time, the government issued over 100,000 patents that played a role in the creation of over 13,000 startups.

Some of the most ubiquitous products we use today come from tech transfer. The University of Minnesota licensed its patent to the Honeycrisp apple. While working with a federal research grant at Stanford, Sergey Brin and Larry Page created the search algorithm that would become the foundation for Google. And, if you've read about the potential to treat COVID-19 patients with calcifediol, that's one of over a hundred vitamin D derivatives developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

We live in an era of hyper-partisanship. But Bayh-Dole proves that no matter our differences, American leaders can work together to improve American lives. President-elect Biden can look to his own legislative record for bipartisan inspiration.

Kevin Walters is a strategic communicator at the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Trump is assaulting our democracy

Trump exhorted his followers in the crowd at his rally on January 6, 2021 to march to the U.S. Capitol and express their anger with the election. His anarchists rioted and broke into the Capitol injuring police officers and damaging property. An element of Trump's followers is similar in ideology to Hitler's Nazi hordes who took control in Germany in the 1930s. This fifth column movement inspired by Trump is an ongoing danger to our democracy.

A corrupt Trump tried but failed to get the Secretary of State in Georgia to justify changing approximately 12,000 votes from the presidential election in favor of him so he could declare victory in Georgia, and then Trump would be in a position to say his fraudulent election claims in a number of other states are valid.

Unfortunately, a number of U.S. senators and representatives have gone along with Trump's claims so they can align themselves with Trump's following of radical sympathizers. These politicians even tried to overturn the election on January 6, 2021 when the approved electoral votes of the states were brought forward for approval in Congress.

Trump lost his cases in the courts,

and then the corrupt President tried to circumvent the will of the people by coercing Republican lawmakers in swing states to overturn the election and appoint pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College. He has placed his self interest above the country's interests, and he is sabotaging Biden's incoming administration. Trump is trying to turn the civilian leadership in the Pentagon into a politicized organization by infiltrating highly political unqualified personnel, including former campaign staff, and this might pose a danger to our country.

The outgoing corrupt and vindictive President is sabotaging the incoming administration and assaulting our democracy, and he is promoting a radical anti-American following in the U.S.

Trump's comments and actions are consistent with that of current and former dictators, including Hitler, Stalin, Castro, Kim Jong Un and Putin. He is the closest this country has come to having a dictator as President, and he and his followers bear close scrutiny in the future.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

Congresswoman Maxine Waters' warnings to U.S. Capitol Police Chief ignored and she says Trump should be impeached, charged

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

California Democratic Congresswoman Maxine Waters said the Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund ignored warnings that an attack by domestic terrorists was imminent days before insurrectionists violently imposed their will and overtook the hallowed government building on January 6, 2021.

In an exclusive interview today with the National Newspaper Publishers Association's daily morning BREAKING NEWS: LET IT BE KNOWN, the beloved congresswoman, who is known by the millions as "Auntie Maxine," declared that there's growing evidence of complicity by many in the attack that has claimed six lives, including two Capitol police officers, and over 50 law enforcement injuries.

Because President Donald Trump

incited the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Congresswoman Waters insisted that he is held accountable, and she implored families of the victims to pursue civil lawsuits against the United States government.

"I do believe that charges against the

Capitol days before this took place. I brought the issue about security up in our caucus, and the head of the House administration had the Capitol police chief call me."

"I asked him what he would do to keep these so-called protestors off of the

"That's how Martin Luther King and John Kennedy were killed— from high buildings. He assured me that they had it all under control— that they understood. It turns out, none of that was true."

The congresswoman added that there were law enforcement and military types involved and among those in the terrorist attack.

She is seeking a "deep investigation" into the attack, including a probe into whom Trump may have worked with, and who paid for the tour buses that brought the terrorists to Washington.

"This is serious," Congressman Waters asserted. "A lot of entities were involved in this. Many of the rank-and-file Capitol police were left naked without riot gear, and without the ability to defend themselves.

"They got overrun, and these terrorists got inside and were calling out for [House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi and looking for her. Even the woman who was shot and killed ... when they searched her belongings, they found a video in which she said she was planning to 'put Kamala Harris and Maxine Waters' on notice. These people were out to kill. For the president, impeachment is a certainty, but criminal charges? Absolutely."

Congresswoman Waters concluded by reasserting the vital importance of the Black Press of America and pledged to continue to work with the NNPA to keep Black America and all people aware of the unfolding situation during the upcoming transition to the Biden-Harris Administration.

"They got overrun, and these terrorists got inside and were calling out for [House Speaker] Nancy Pelosi and looking for her. Even the woman who was shot and killed— when they searched her belongings, they found a video in which she said she was planning to 'put Kamala Harris and Maxine Waters' on notice. These people were out to kill. For the president, impeachment is a certainty, but criminal charges? Absolutely."

president should be pursued," said Congresswoman Waters during the live January 12 interview, broadcast over the social media platforms of the Black Press of America.

Congresswoman Waters has served in the U.S. House since 1991.

"First of all, to the families of those who died, they need to sue the U.S. government because the Capitol Police and others who had the responsibility of organizing security for this event failed," Congresswoman Waters emphasized.

Waters continued, "Either they are incompetent, or they lied, or they're complicit. This is a very complicated combination of individuals and operations that I think played a role in this attack on our Capitol."

"I had an hour-long conversation with the [now former] chief of police of the

Plaza and not close to the Capitol, and he assured me that there would be barricades and that they would not get anywhere near the Capitol."

Sund resigned after the U. S. Capitol attacks and was replaced by Morgan State University graduate, Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman.

Congresswoman Waters recalled pointing out to Sund that the Proud Boys and other right-wing organizations that support Trump had already arrived in Washington.

"In my estimation, the chief didn't seem to have a handle on this," Congresswoman Waters determined. "I asked [Sund] about whether they had the cooperation of D.C. Police, and he said 'absolutely.' I asked if they would have police on top of the building because that's where snipers go.

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Local student developing unique project connecting African culture to America

By **Demetrius Dillard**

Through the United by Purpose Scholarship established by the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), more and more students in higher education are being inspired to pursue their dreams and impact their communities.

The United by Purpose scholarship and the NSLS, America's largest leadership honor society with membership exceeding one million, is challenging its members to develop projects that emphasize racial and social justice while focusing on bringing diversity to their campuses and local communities.

In November 2020, the NSLS board of directors selected 20 applicants to receive \$1,000 toward jumpstarting their projects and developing business proposals. Of those 20, Tatiana Kolani, a University of Baltimore student, was a recipient of the United by Purpose scholarship and will create a museum-gallery that will bring African culture to America.

The initial \$1,000 scholarship money is useful toward jumpstarting her idea, said Kolani. However, to cover the expense of the entire project, Kolani is in the process of pursuing grants from various organizations and agencies, one of which being grants.gov. According to her original proposal, her project name is "Explore Afrique."

Kolani, a sophomore from Togo in West Africa, moved to the U.S. in 2013. She is majoring in policy, politics and international affairs and plans to pursue a master's degree in negotiations and conflict management following her undergraduate studies.

Drawn to the organization's promotion of leadership and success, Kolani just joined the NSLS in fall 2020. What largely inspired Kolani's project is the tension she has noticed between African immigrants and Americans.

From her observations, many Americans— whether White, Black or otherwise— often have distorted perceptions of Africans. Likewise, many Africans see Black Americans the way that mainstream media portrays them. But through the unique museum she is developing, Kolani aims to bridge the gap.

She has personally experienced the negative



University of Baltimore student Tatiana Kolani was a recipient of the United by Purpose scholarship to create a museum-gallery with the goal of bringing African culture to America. Courtesy Photo/NSLS

preconceived notions, adding that others think "we are poor and we don't have skills. I want them to feel that we are better than that, and that all this injustice— we can use our cultures to influence and bring people together. That was my intention."

In a nutshell, the central focus of the museum-gallery is to break the cultural barriers that exist between Americans and Africans who have migrated to the U.S. Kolani is still in the beginning phases of her project, so most details to her museum-gallery are still underway.

From what she has drafted thus far, Kolani wants the museum-gallery to be in a decent-sized building. It will be based in the Baltimore region and will contain images, artifacts, etc. pertaining to the cultural uniqueness of Africa.

Once her museum opens, Kolani hopes to hire employees from all racial backgrounds and will organize trips to Africa, connecting Americans to a part of the globe that will broaden their cultural competence.

The grants that Kolani has applied for will enable her to gather resources to make her dream a reality.

Once fully developed, Kolani foresees her project making a tremendous impact not only in Baltimore but all over the country, as well.

"I want to connect people [who are] from here, with Africa," she said.

Amy Westby, the NSLS director of strategic initiatives and education, began the United by Purpose scholarship and is working closely with the 20 finalists. She also oversees the education division of the organization.

The NSLS Foundation gives more than \$300,000 to students every semester through its programs, according to Westby.

"We are very much about helping students find other ways to build their leadership skills, even beyond NSLS," Westby said. "We wanted to engage in experiential leadership, project leadership and helping to help prepare the members that work with us to engage in contemporary issues of that commitment towards ending systemic racism, bigotry, oppression and injustices within those local communities that they serve in."

Over the last month, Westby has met with each of the 20 scholarship recipients— many of which are teams of five— individually to help craft what their project will look like.

"The scholarship panel was particularly impressed with Kolani's proposal, Westby said. "She personally had a connection to the project in that she was an immigrant, wanted to be involved in her community and she wanted to use her art major and culture to bring people together."

Applicants have until February 1, 2021, to complete their project proposals and pitch their ideas to the NSLS board of directors.

First, second and third place winners will be selected on March 12, 2021 and awarded \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,000 scholarships respectively, which will provide some of the funding that members need to implement their projects in their communities.

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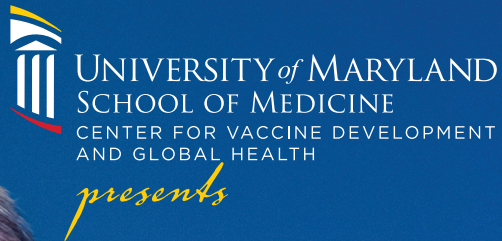
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LáVita Gardner releases debut book "Affirmations for Ambitious Black Women"

Washington, D.C.— Giving voice to a growing movement of ambitious Black women in leadership, debut author, LáVita Gardner, encourages Black women to speak life into their dreams-then do it.

"When I started this journey, I thought it was in response to the need to address the perceived audacity of Black women's ambition," said Gardner. "However, in my 15-year political career, I have learned that movements start from within and when you are affirmed and encouraged you can move mountains."

Gardner's mission with the release of "Affirmations for Ambitious Black Women" is to remind Black women to stand in the light of your ambition and thrive.

Readers have described Affirmations for Ambitions Black Women as a motivational mastery of generational wisdom and affirmations. Heartened by the election of Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, the first black woman elected to the second highest office of the United States, Gardner encourages readers to be unapologetic in their ambition, break old barriers, and shatter glass ceilings in their industry.

Gardner is an award-winning communications strategist and advocate for vulnerable communities. During the 2020 presidential election cycle, she was selected by the Biden for President Campaign as a Maryland At-Large Delegate for the 2020 Democratic National Convention and led communications, as a volunteer, for Maryland Women for Biden-Harris.

Gardner started her career in the office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes

AFFIRMATIONS FOR **AMBITIOUS BLACK WOMEN**

SPEAK LIFE INTO YOUR DREAMS - THEN DO IT.



Award-winning communications strategist and advocate for vulnerable communities, LáVita Gardner encourages readers to be unapologetic in their ambition, break old barriers, and shatter glass ceilings in their industry.
Courtesy Photo

Norton (DC), who is ranked as one of the most influential members of the U.S. House of Representatives and one of the 100 most important American women in Washington D.C. In her time with the Congresswoman's office, Gardner made a strong mark that has followed her throughout her professional career. Gardner now leads The Experience Architect, previously MyGreenApple, a strategic communications firm in the Greater Washington, DC region. Under her leadership the company has worked with highly visible sports and entertainment brands, athletes, entertainers, and government agencies.

The book "Affirmations for Ambitious Black Women" is available on Amazon USA [<https://amzn.to/2VCJlpC>] and digitally at ambitiousblackwomen.com.

Correction

In the January 8, 2021 issue of The Annapolis Times in the story, "Baltimore social worker pens book to draw attention to pandemic of child sex abuse," it was incorrectly stated: "Johnson spent the summer teaching body safety zones to elementary school students at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School in Baltimore. It should have said: "Johnson spent the fall teaching body safety zones to youth actors (ages 3-8) at Arena Players Theater in Baltimore."

Feature: The Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective

‘Baltimore Uprisings: Have Things Changed or Remained the Same?’

Three nonprofits join forces to encourage and empower city youth

By Stacy M. Brown

Community members and others have continued to reflect on the Baltimore uprising that resulted from Freddie Gray’s death.

Many have witnessed community leaders from different sectors rise to lead efforts and share their talents to promote change in their city from that uprising.

The Baltimore Times has not forgotten the words and reflections of our community leaders.

The newspaper continues to amplify these leaders’ voices and shine a spotlight on those who have provided reflections on what has changed and what has remained the same. It will do so through a project titled, “Baltimore Uprisings: Have Things Changed or Remained the Same?”

The project, which was instituted in 2020 to observe the uprising’s fifth anniversary, provides an insightful view from community leaders about the past five years. It is made possible by a grant from Open Society Institute-Baltimore, whose goal is to ensure that Baltimore residents have many chances to reflect on the impact of the events that occurred in Baltimore City five years ago.

This month, Times Community Services, Inc., in partnership with The Baltimore Times, plans to host a virtual community conversation and an art exhibit to showcase the work of community leaders and artists who have captured and have taken part in the positive change now seen in Baltimore City.

As part of the project made possible by the grant from Open Society Institute-Baltimore, the works of three community leaders who have formed The Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective.

“The Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective is a group of three social entrepreneurs who have a great deal of respect for the work that each does, and who have come together as a partnership to share resources,” said Darren Rogers, founder of the nonprofit, I Am MeNtality,



Darren Rogers, founder and executive director, I AM MENTality
Courtesy Photos



Brittany Young, of b360,



Tonee Lawson, founder of The Be. Org.

a nonprofit focused on assisting male youth with developing their leadership capacity by offering educational and experimental opportunities.

“Studies show that Black organizations get a lot less funding than white organizations. Post Freddie Gray, our frustrations are still the same,” said Brittany Young, of b360, an organization that utilizes dirt bike culture to end the cycle of poverty, disrupt the prison pipeline, and builds bridges in communities.

“Everyone acknowledges that Baltimore needs real systemic changes, and as people who do the work on the ground, we are out there getting our hands dirty, and people don’t know that we are not compensated, which is a slap in the face,” Young stated.

The object of the collaboration is to build capacity in three individual organizations and to help other Black-owned nonprofits, said Tonee Lawson, founder of The Be. Org.

The organization’s mission is to encourage and nurture young people to live above their socially imposed limitations and to develop their character, talents, and leadership skills to allow them to go beyond a dream and achieve excellence.

“The key missing factor [for the collaborative] is funding. As we continue

to grow individually and collectively, we know the solutions for the community lies in community organizations,” Lawson stated.

The Baltimore Legacy Builders Collective was formed in 2019 after the group secured funding from the T. Rowe Price Foundation to hire a chief development officer who counts as a shared fundraising resource across the three organizations and for The Collective to build capacity and ensure sustainability.

As part of the partnership, the group said it plans to empower other community-based organizations to build and replicate their model. Each said there is still much work to do in the community five years after the Baltimore uprising.

“I don’t feel like there has been any high-level and impactful change,” Rogers said. “People have made attempts to create change, but I’m concerned about their ability and the strategy utilized in being able to move the culture forward.”

Young said Baltimore’s new administration does inspire hope. “I would say that while Baltimore has been making headway, I’m most proud of how no one wants to go back to that situation. We need more support for our organization, and that is a pain point,” Young continued. “I feel comfortable with the current administration being able

to make and implement real change.”

In part, Lawson’s organization was founded because of a young lady’s desire to become an actress. Lawson recalled asking the youth what she was doing to reach her goal.

“She had been told that no one from Baltimore ever makes it,” Lawson recalled. “I don’t think Baltimore has made any momentous improvements in terms of improving the outcomes for youth and giving them the courage or confidence to feel that they can make it. We give young people life skills to help them build themselves up. “The work we do is vital, and we are in a pivotal place right now because of all that is happening in the community, nationally, and locally.

“What we need to happen is that institutions, organizations, foundations, and governments fund organizations like ours so that we can continue to do the work vital to our community and vital to our youth.”

To learn more about The Collective, visit <https://www.baltimorelegacybuilders.org/>

To learn more about I Am Mentality, visit <https://iammentality.com/>

To learn more about The Be.Org, visit <https://www.thebeorg.com/>

Nine-Year-Old ‘Little Big Shot’ Tyler Stalling Serving Those Who Have Served Our Country

By Ursula V. Battle

This is Part 1 of a 2-Part Series on nine-year-old Tyler Stallings. Part 2 of this series will be published next week.

When Tyler Stallings was four-years-old, his mother Andrea Blackstone showed him a YouTube video about veterans.

“I wanted to show Tyler the importance of service and community helpers,” recalled Blackstone. “We are from a family of veterans, which includes my father and grandfather.”

Reflecting back on his reaction after seeing the video, Tyler who is now nine-years-old said: “Seeing the homeless veterans made me really upset. When I saw the video, we didn’t anticipate my reaction to be this way, but it was. I told my mom, ‘I want to help these people.’ I wanted to build houses to help the vets.”

Blackstone added, “Building houses was not practical for us. We started with something that was practical after Tyler was awarded a \$100.00 grant from an organization. After he helped veterans the first time, he kept wanting to do it.”

Tyler’s efforts have since grown into a movement that has raised over \$110,000 to buy essentials for homeless, elderly, ill or disabled veterans through his “Give Back to Veterans” project. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “Little Big Shots,” and other shows.

The talented youngster has helped veterans pay bills, fed those in crisis, and given away thousands of his “Hero Bags” to thank them. The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) was one of five stops made to deliver items to veterans through “Give



Tyler’s efforts have raised over \$110,000 to buy essentials for homeless, elderly, ill or disabled veterans.

Courtesy Photo

Back to Veterans” as part of a holiday giving tour.

“Tyler has always dreamed big,” said Blackstone. “Doing these tours has been some experience. I thought it was too big, but Tyler did not. He wanted to give more. I prayed about it, and out of the blue, GoFundMe contacted us. I was stunned. When people started finding out about Tyler’s efforts, their giving allowed him to go on his first tour and have multiple stops.”

Donors from all over the United States have supported the effort. Last year, over 200 Hero Bags and Hero Boxes were provided to elderly and homeless veterans over the Christmas holiday. Items included: toiletries; clothing; blankets; pajamas; toilet paper; paper towels; hats; coats; underclothes; thermometers; shields; alcohol; wipes; masks; and hand sanitizer.

Truckin 4 Troops, an organization

which assists military servicemen and women and their families, facilitated transportation needs and deliveries for the tour.

“I have felt blessed to be a part of it,” said Blackstone. “Tyler really wants people to receive the requested items. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need greater. Non-profits are getting less support, but they really need it. It’s been a blessing we have been able to do it.”

She added, “Navigating around the pandemic has also shown Tyler at a young age, how to work through obstacles. He learned that he might not be able to visit the veterans in person anymore because of the pandemic, but it didn’t have to stop him from leaving items to assist them. The pandemic has not stopped this effort at all.”

The homeschooled fourth grade student is a “2016 President Barack Obama Service Award” recipient. Tyler became a “GoFundMe Kid Hero” in December of 2018, and an “Orioles Birdland Community Hero” in April of 2019, because of his work with the homeless in Baltimore and other parts of Maryland.

Prior to relocating to Virginia, Tyler and his mother resided in Baltimore County. Tyler is an author, and donates a portion of the proceeds of everything he sells in his business to help fund his project. He was also instrumental in

helping MCVET, which also provides short-term and long-term housing, to receive 250 new mattresses, and assistance from “Good Morning America” and Pepsi.

Cereta Spencer, is Director of Development and Community Engagement for MCVET.

“I call Tyler our “Superhero at MCVET” and he calls me “Miss Cereta,” said Spencer. “He has brought national and international attention to MCVET.”

She added, “The message to the world is that we need to start listening to children and if they have bright ideas, we need to give more love and positive energy. So many adults and kids can learn from nine-year-old Tyler Stallings. There are so many advocacy programs that need assistance. From Tyler we can learn that if you make your voice heard, you can easily change the world.”

Give Back to Veterans needs monetary donations, help with transporting donated goods, volunteers, and other assistance. To support Tyler Stallings and his Give Back to Veterans project, email kidtimeenterprises@gmail.com.

Part 2 of this series will look at Tyler’s appearance on Little Big Shots, his recent scholarship donation to a veteran’s family, and his famous relative Alex Haley, author of ROOTS: The Saga of an American Family.



Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 18

Nine things you might not know about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Well respected, honored and appreciated for his civil rights activism, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rightfully earned his place as one of the most influential figures in American and world history. Through his religious teachings and social activism, Dr. King played a key role in the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

While Dr. King lived a good portion of his life in the public eye, many facts of his life are not widely known. In honor of his birthday and , the following are some interesting and less publicized facts about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth name was not "Martin," but "Michael." Dr. King's father traveled to Germany and became inspired by Protestant reformer Martin Luther and thus changed his name while also changing the name of his then 5-year-old-son.

2. Dr. King was a prodigious student. Not only did he skip two grades and start college before formally graduating high school, but Dr. King also earned a bachelor's degree at age 19, graduating from Morehouse College in 1948 with a degree in sociology.

3. Though not a singer, Dr. King earned a posthumous Grammy Award nonetheless. In 1971, Dr. King was awarded Best Spoken Word album for "Why I Oppose the War in Vietnam."

4. Although people cannot readily find photographs of Dr. King smoking, he was a regular smoker and even hid the habit from the public and from his children so they wouldn't take up smoking. It was believed Dr. King was smoking a cigarette when he was fatally shot.

5. While Dr. King is remembered as an enthralling public speaker, he actually scored poorly in public speaking during his first year at seminary. He received a "C" in the class but earned straight "As" by his final year.

6. Dr. King was a "Star Trek" fan. He convinced actress Nichelle Nichols, who played the role of "Uhura" on the show, to continue working with the series. Nichols was considering leaving, but Dr. King told her she was breaking boundaries by playing a character who didn't conform to black stereotypes.

7. Dr. King narrowly escaped an assassination attempt on September 20, 1958. On that day, Dr. King was in Harlem signing copies of his new book, "Stride Toward Freedom," when he was approached by a woman who stabbed him with a letter opener. He barely survived.

8. Dr. King's speech in Memphis in April 1968 may have prophesied his death. Speaking to an audience at Mason Temple Church, King said, "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

9. Dr. King's birthday is now observed as a national holiday in the United States. President Ronald Reagan signed the bill in 1983. The only other American to earn this honor is George Washington.

Notable moments in the career of Dr. King

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in January each year. Taking time to learn about some of the many notable moments in King's career is a great way to honor his legacy.

Morehouse College

After attending segregated public schools as a child, King was accepted into Morehouse College at the age of 15. Morehouse College was the alma mater of both King's father, a pastor, and his maternal grandfather. While King studied medicine and law at Morehouse, perhaps the first major moment of his career in the ministry occurred while he was a college student. It was at Morehouse where King was mentored by the highly regarded theologian and racial equality advocate Dr. Benjamin Mays. Before his final year at Morehouse, King, now 18, chose to enter the ministry.

Montgomery Bus Boycott

Montgomery, Alabama, was a highly segregated city when King and his family relocated to Alabama in the 1950s. Shortly after the King family moved to Alabama, an incident involving a 15-year-old black schoolgirl in Montgomery who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man highlighted racial tensions in the city. Those tensions escalated further nine months later, when 42-year-old Rosa Parks rejected a bus driver's plea that she give up her bus seat to a white passenger in a section designated for black people. As a result of these incidents, King organized the Montgomery

Bus Boycott, which lasted for more than a year but ultimately led to the end of racial segregation on all Montgomery public buses.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Montgomery Bus Boycott made King a national figure, and he capitalized on that recognition to help establish the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC was a group of civil rights activists devoted to nonviolent protest. As SCLC president, a role he held until his death, King traveled the globe promoting nonviolent protest and civil rights.

March on Washington

King played an integral role in the organization and execution of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in August 1963. Estimates suggest as many as 300,000 people attended the march, which is considered a watershed moment for the civil rights movement that shone a light on the injustices faced by African Americans across the country. The march culminated with King delivering his most famous address, which is often referred to as his "I Have a Dream" speech." King delivered the speech while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and shared his view of a future for the United States in which all people would have equal rights and opportunities.

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a remarkable human being. Celebrations of his life can involve revisiting some of his more notable moments.

Black engineer launches simple cleaning product

Houston— Engineer and entrepreneur Devon Fanfair has proudly launched his sanitizing product, Just Wipes to help consumers “Live Life Clean.” A serial entrepreneur, Fanfair is also the co-founder of the Venture Capital & Private Equity firm, Devland and has a decade’s worth of experience in technology and startups.

His lifelong passion for problem solving informed the creation of this go-with-you product that prioritizes safety and skincare.

Sold in affordable, pocket-sized packs of 10 wipes and made from two simple ingredients, Just Wipes is perfect for anyone looking to take care of their health this winter. Consisting of 70 percent isopropyl alcohol, Just Wipes contain more sanitizing alcohol than leading brands, while protecting from dryness with skin-saving aloe.

Fanfair was inspired to take action following a less-than-clean experience. In 2019, he flew to Silicon Valley to interview with tech companies and was confronted with a dirty red-eye flight



Engineer and entrepreneur Devon Fanfair has proudly launched his sanitizing product, Just Wipes.
Courtesy Photo/PRNewswire

that made him question how clean traveling really is. Arriving home after this experience, Fanfair became fixated on solving a problem: how to ensure on-the-go sanitization that works wherever you are.

After learning the facts about germs on planes and researching the competition, Fanfair developed Just Wipes’ signature, go-with-you travel packs to help everyone stay safe without comprising their busy lives.

“Just Wipes is a product that fits into our lifestyles, not something we fit our lifestyles into,” said Fanfair.

Fanfair was delighted to share his journey developing Just Wipes with his five-year-old daughter, Sage. As a dad, he hopes to be a positive role model for his daughter by showing her how to think freely and creatively, innovating and solving problems.

Wanting to ensure that she could see herself in the entrepreneurial space, he established his company with women of color working in the majority of leadership roles.

While some view diversity as an obstacle to success in business, Fanfair believes it leads to creative solutions to systemic challenges, allowing Just Wipes to grow despite starting out with limited resources.

“The thing that kept us out of the game is what gave us strength and resilience not to give up,” said Fanfair.

Just Wipes sanitizing pocket packs can be purchased at www.justwipes.com and in-person at select H-E-B locations.

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Positive Things about Positive People



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I pray that you are healthy and safe. These days are so hard to write about positive things with so much negativity going on. I do not write about politics or crimes as you know and with the COVID-19 going on, I am trying very hard to put a smile on your face by talking about positive things.

This week, I am talking about a little boy, we call "Little Billy" who lives in my neighborhood and who bagged his first deer at 8 years old during this hunting season, which is called "Junior Deer Hunt Days." Children, 16 and younger only hunt with Muzzle-loaders or archery. Well, "Little Billy" killed his first with a Muzzle-loader. Now that is not an easy thing to do. I shot my first deer when I was eleven years old. I used a bow and arrow. I loved archery back in the day and if I must say, I was damn good at it. So every year for seven years I went deer hunting with my uncle. So "Little Billy" good for you, just make sure I get a piece. I do love venison.

Another positive thing I want to talk about is my adopted daughter and son, and my friend. I am talking about Pamela "Ms. Maybelle" Leak, Brian "Tee-Shirt Brian" Hall and our friend Umar Melvin McDowell who got together again to do a "Give-Away" last week. They did a "Give-Away" in November and December for children and families in the community in which food, books, toys, drinks, can goods and non-perishable foods were donated. Last week these three angels, their friends, volunteers and Baltimore photographer,

Anderson Ward. Anderson, who tries not to miss anything positive going on in Baltimore that he doesn't document with his camera was there helping out. Mama Rosa loves you guys.

Now, I want to talk about a guy determined to do everything in his power to keep our musicians working and/or getting funds during this pandemic. I am talking about Henry Wong, the man who owns the music venue that many jazz lovers support and love— "An Die Musik Live," located 409 N. Charles Street. Because of COVID-19 so many musicians have been laid off with no place to perform live, but Henry Wong has always found a way. As you know most of our musicians have gone from a full calendar of gigs to nothing. So Henry Wong is asking that all our jazz lovers help him by making a donation to support An die Musik Live and the musicians during this terrible time to help them make ends meet. It will also assist him with operating expenses and to upgrade the hall and equipment to make the live stream events even better. Give him a call at 410-385-2638.

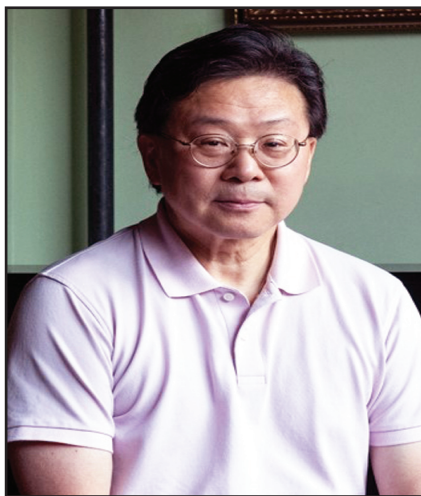
Well, my dear friends, I must go. I appreciate if you will send me any information going on in your community by email to: rosapryor@aol.com or send your letters to 214 Conewood Avenue, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136. I am not on Messenger on my computer, but you can call me at 410-833-9474. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



William Duncan Swartz, and his mother, Lisa Latimer and his father, William W. Swartz are neighbors of Rosa Pryor and Shorty. We call him "Little Billy." Last week, Little Billy turned eight-years-old and shot and killed his first deer with a muzzleloader in Boring, Maryland. We are so proud of him. Congratulations to you "Little Billy," well done, I'm waiting for my deer steaks.



Ms. Maybelle and her friends Umar Melvin McDowell and my godchild "Tee-Shirt Brian" did a back-to-back "GIVE-AWAY," last week. This time they gave away hundreds of blankets, hats and gloves, as well as food and drinks. God Bless Them. "May God continue to bless them while they give to the less fortunate in the community." Photo: Anderson Ward



Henry Wong, owner and founder of Baltimore's most popular and famous venue, An Die Musik Live, located 409 N. Charles Street, has been the home of local, national and sometimes international musicians.

Photo: Lauren Castellana

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Weathered Ravens ready for playoff push

By Tyler Hamilton

The old saying, “Whatever doesn’t kill you makes you stronger” applies perfectly to this year’s Baltimore Ravens. They’ve been through it all...from a Covid-19 outbreak to injuries across the offensive line to a three-game losing streak that had many pundits writing them off for the season.

Despite all of that, the Ravens weathered the storm and finished with an 11-5 record. The adversity they faced made them a tougher team. That’s what Ravens coach John Harbaugh preaches to his players.

“Everybody understands what it [toughness] means. It’s a little tougher to execute, because so many things conspire against us to quit, to stop, to throw our hands up [and] to not finish,” Harbaugh said. “It’s really irrespective of the outcome. It really doesn’t matter about the outcome. What matters is how you handle it, how you approach it, [and] whether you stick to it or not.

That’s what finish, means and our guys have done that. It’s led to great outcomes. Hopefully, that’s something they’ll take with them for the rest of their lives and teach their kids about.”



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson led the Ravens to a 20-13 road win against the Tennessee Titans to advance to the divisional round of the playoffs. The team’s next challenge is the NFL Divisional Round on Saturday, January 16, 2021 against the No. 2 seed Buffalo Bills in Buffalo, New York.

Photo Credit: Maddie Meyer/Getty Images

The Ravens won five games in a row to close the season and snatched the No. 5 seed in the AFC playoff picture. Baltimore’s 47-42 win in Week 14 was a catalyst in their ascension.

That game is another example of how the Ravens fought adversity and came out on top. Lamar Jackson was in the locker room for most of a late drive. Backup quarterback Trace McSorley suffered an injury and Jackson scrambled back into the game to compete a 44-yard touchdown pass to Marquise Brown that made the score 42-35 after the two-point conversion.

All of the talk heading into last week’s wildcard matchup against the Tennessee Titans in Nashville was centered on Baltimore not being able to win a playoff game. The narrative was mostly focused on Lamar Jackson who was 0-2 in the playoffs.

Jackson squashed that talk and led the Ravens to a 20-13 road win to advance to the divisional round of the playoffs. The often questioned but dynamic playmaker crushed a few narratives with the win.

“It’s something that he won’t have to talk about in the future, and that’s a meaningful thing,” Harbaugh said after the game.

It was his first playoff win and his first win when down by 10 or more points.

Critics have always nitpicked Jackson’s game saying he couldn’t throw outside of the numbers. Two of his best throws against the Titans were completed outside of the numbers.

But it wasn’t just Jackson. The Titans gathered on the Ravens logo in the middle of the field before their 30-24 Week 11 win over Baltimore at M&T Bank Stadium. The Ravens took the meeting on the logo as disrespect even though the Titans do that before every game.

“I feel it was just disrespect to see what went on before the game the last time we played those guys, and they were standing on our logo and seeing them get into it with our coach,” Jackson said. “That was just disrespectful, because we treat all of our opponents with respect. It wasn’t no reason for us to shake hands and stuff like that. We’ll be the bigger guy so we just walked off the field. I feel like we were being the bigger guys.”

It was fitting that Marcus Peters led a celebration on the Titans’ logo after a game-sealing interception with little time left on the clock. Peters’ actions and how the others followed were a sign a unity according to the players.

“This is an emotional football game. Sometimes you act out of emotion,” Ravens defensive end Derek Wolfe said. “I felt like it was a good time to go ahead and do that— so we did it. It wasn’t a disrespect thing. It was a team unity thing like we accomplished something as a team, so we’re going to go out there and take a little bit of revenge.”

The next challenge for the Ravens will be to travel to Buffalo for a divisional round battle with the No. 2 seeded Bills. There will be a new form adversity for Jackson; snow. Jackson, a Florida native has never played in the snow and he’s hoping it will stay that way.

“I never got to play in the snow except my first time seeing snow in Louisville, but we had a snowball fight, so that’s totally different from playing in it,” Jackson said Tuesday. “Yeah, that definitely will be my first time playing football in the snow Saturday if it does. Hopefully it don’t.”



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Five leadership traits of the founding fathers that can unify America

News & Experts— With the COVID-19 pandemic worsening, the economy faltering, and protests against racial injustice continuing, millions of Americans face difficult times and worry about the nation's future.

And with a presidential election around the corner, it's a critical time for the country to take stock of what political leadership should mean by going back to the principles embodied by the framers of the Constitution, says Dr. Jim White, author of *THE BROKEN AMERICA: Ten Guiding Principles to Restore America*.

"Mending the nation requires a return to the values of the Constitution and the civility and wisdom of our Founding Fathers," said Dr. White, founder and president of JL White International. "Citizens must hold leadership accountable at the national, state and local levels.

"There is stupefying dishonesty and an alarming lack of accountability by politicians on both sides of the aisle. The global pandemic served not to unite us against a deadly common foe, the coronavirus, but instead further divided the public along party lines. Regardless of which party voters belong to, there are political criteria all patriotic Americans should be requiring, and these can easily be found in the texts and teachings of our Founding Fathers."

Referencing the leadership of the Founding Fathers as a framework, Dr. White cites leadership attributes he believes today's political leaders must have to guide the nation back on course:

A clear, unifying vision— Dr. White says a political leader's vision must be inclusive. "Political candidates usually have a vision in tandem with their campaigns that appeal to their bases and convince others to hop on the bandwagon," Dr. White said. "Once in office,

however, the vision needs to be amended to include all Americans— not just one party or sector. The elected official must repeatedly convey the vision in a way that's clear. People should understand why the vision is important, what it means to the average citizen, and how it will be rolled out."



Recognizes potential in others— Just as in business, it's crucial for political leaders to hire the best possible job candidates. The problem, Dr. White says, is the freedom these leaders have in hiring cronies, donors and family can lead to less effective governing and even scandal. "Political leaders should be able to identify stars and empower them," Dr. White said. "The leader is only as good as the team, and at the same time, 'yes' men and women is not what any true

leader should want."

Develops trust— "To some people, the words 'trust' and 'politics' don't belong in the same sentence," Dr. White said. "The truth is, politicians often lie. We must always hold them accountable for telling the truth. Leaders must have a level of transparency or else public trust in government gets lost."

Shows empathy— "Political leaders must wear many hats, but the most important one is serving the people," Dr. White said. "That means being present and empathetic when unforeseen tragedy strikes. Leaders are looked upon to help provide immediate help in all facets, including emotional support and encouragement. Our leaders must represent all of the people and show that they care."

Conveys passion— "The nation's leaders need to have unbridled, unconditional love for our nation," Dr. White said, "which translates to optimism and a bright future for everyone – not just the wealthy and privileged few. People want to follow a passionate leader who puts the country's interest above themselves, their political party, and winning."

"Do today's political leaders have what it takes to drive our nation?" Dr. White asks. "Tragically, the answer is as plain as day: no. But at a minimum, we must expect that our leaders will excel at the attributes the Founding Fathers exemplified."

Jim White, Ph.D. author of "The Broken America: Ten Guiding Principles To Restore America," is founder and president of JL White International.

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