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CA nE Collective

‘Hot Shots’ on the Mixer Market



Ezra Allen, Aaron Joseph, and Erick Washington of CAnE Collective. Founded in 2017, CAnE Collective helps spirit companies develop marketing opportunities. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the three developed mixers to bring the experience of craft bartending directly to people’s homes. The Mixers include: Guava Tiki Punch; Tropical Green Orchard; CAnE Southside; Smoke Pepper Poloma; and Passion Fruit Jalapeño. CAnE Collective has “blended” the right recipe for success and customers continue to “pour in.” Courtesy Photo

New endowment in honor of late Senate President Mike Miller announced

Miller Director of Civic Engagement to focus on history, public service and the State of Maryland at Washington College

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan announced that he will provide \$1 million to Washington College in his forthcoming Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal to fund a new directorship within the Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience to honor the historic legacy of longtime Maryland Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, Jr., who passed away in January of this year.

The Miller Director of Civic Engagement will oversee programs that utilize history to address contemporary challenges and involve Washington College students in projects that imbue them with a sense of civic responsibility toward their communities, state, and nation. The director will teach interdisciplinary courses at the college, in addition to running extracurricular programs.



The Miller Director of Civic Engagement will oversee programs that utilize history to address contemporary challenges and involve Washington College students in projects that imbue them with a sense of civic responsibility toward their communities, state and nation. Courtesy Photo/Md.gov

“I can think of no better way to honor President Miller’s life and cement his legacy than to fund this directorship dedicated to supporting the very principles to which my good friend committed his historic career in public service,” said Governor Hogan. “The programs that this endowment makes possible will instill in future generations the same civic mindedness, appreciation of history, and love for our state that made President Miller a giant in Maryland politics for so many decades.”

The Starr Center is a nationally recognized interdisciplinary institute that combines liberal arts and public service through civic engagement programs that serve as models for other institutions of higher education throughout Maryland and across the country.

President Miller was a longtime friend and ardent supporter of Washington College. In 2007, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in recognition of his leadership and commitment to the education and welfare of all Marylanders.

“I am delighted that Governor Hogan has taken this opportunity to celebrate the enormous scope of Mike Miller’s contributions to the State of Maryland through the establishment of the Miller Director of Civic Engagement,” said Jack S. Griswold, chair of the Board of Visitors and Governors and former president of Washington College. “Mike was a great friend to the college and to

me personally, and I am overwhelmed that his heritage of leadership and public service will be preserved through this important work, engaging our students with our communities, state, and nation.”

Programs initiated, led, and supported by the Miller Director of Civic Engagement will include:

*Internships, fellowships, and research projects that allow Washington College students to work with some of America’s most distinguished institutions.

*Collaborations with local grassroots Maryland nonprofits on projects related to history, civic engagement, and the humanities.

*The Chesapeake Heartland Project, a major collaboration with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, which fosters research, public programs, and community outreach that promote the Chesapeake region as the heartland of African American heritage.

*A program in ethics and civic engagement that teaches students an ethos of integrity and public service through hands-on programs that brings them into communities on the Eastern Shore.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Gloria Richardson remembered: You did not mess with her

By Dr. Ken Morgan

I honor and want to comment on the political life of Gloria Richardson, who died at the age of 99 on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

In 2013, this writer, now retired, taught at Coppin State University reached out to Gloria Richardson by telephone. She had long left Cambridge, Maryland, to live in New York City. I wanted her to discuss via telephone with my class her activism in the 1960s. She consented to participate in my class.

Most people, who knew about her, remembered her in a historical photograph. It showed a Black woman shoving a loaded rifle and bayonet away from her face by a big burly national guardsman in Cambridge.

To prepare for her talk and discussion, I had my students research her and ask questions about her Black activism. The feisty, sharp tongued and witty Richardson, then 91, responded with the intellectual understanding of a 40-year-old with style and grace.

Gloria Richardson led the Cambridge movement that encompassed the civil rights, and Black rights struggle in the early 1960s in Cambridge. Richardson, in 1962 primarily organized the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee.

She organized and participated in desegregating schools and public facilities. She led sit-ins for decent jobs and equity in public housing in addition to advocating for equal education. She signed “The Treaty of Cambridge,” in July 1963 with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, state and local officials after the Cambridge civil rebellion the month before.

Richardson drew my interest because I remembered reading about her through my ongoing research on Malcolm X. Add to the list the attention she received for not being allowed to speak at the “March on Washington” on August 28, 1963. To top it all, Richardson was a Marylander, born in Baltimore and moved to Cambridge on the Eastern Shore as a youngster. The Eastern Shore enjoyed the reputation as the last plantation— it still does.

I talked to this legend several times before and after my class. I spoke to her about Malcolm X. She told me she was in Detroit circa November 10, 1963, to attend a national grassroots conference that Rev. Franklin, the father of Aretha Franklin, gave as part of SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Richardson was bored at the conference and her ride said to her, why don't you go over to Rev. Albert Cleage's church. Rev. Cleage, a black nationalist in Detroit had Malcolm X speak at his church at the same time as Franklin's conference. Richardson left to see Malcolm X.

Malcolm's speech *Message to the Grassroots* remains one of his most poignant, objective and recognized speeches. His speech accurately depicted the differences between black rights and the Dr. King-led civil rights movement. He used the August 28, 1963, “March on Washington” as one of the ways to describe what he meant.

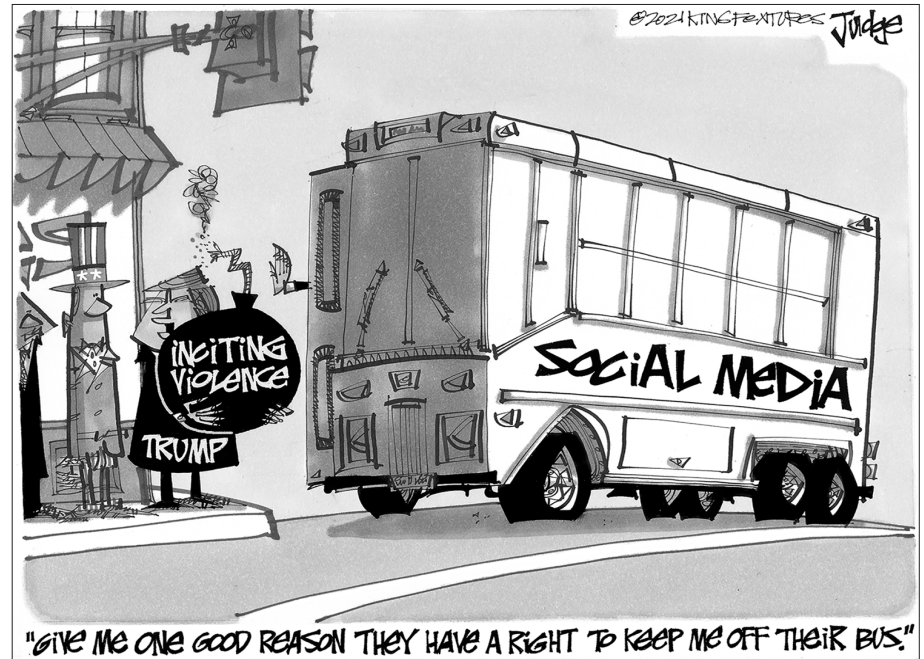
Malcolm mentioned Cambridge and Richardson in his speech: “Other Negro civil-rights leaders of so-called national stature became fallen idols. As they became fallen idols, began to lose their prestige and influence, local Negro leaders began to stir up the masses. In Cambridge, Maryland, Gloria Richardson; in Danville, Virginia; and other parts of the country; local leaders began to stir up our people at the grassroots level.”

She stood steadfastly for the right to defend oneself that Malcolm X spoke out about in opposing Dr. King's message of nonviolence. In 2018, she said in an interview, “I didn't believe in nonviolence, if people were coming shooting into your houses.”

Her actions spoke louder than words.

For more insightful information, read Gloria Richardson's biography, *The Struggle Is Eternal*, by Joseph R. Fitzgerald. Yes, the struggle continues, Gloria.

Former Coppin State University Professor, Dr. Ken Morgan is a human rights activist. He can be reached at: btimes@btimes.com



Community Affairs

Volunteer Maryland recruits AmeriCorps members to serve as volunteer coordinators

Annapolis— Volunteer Maryland opened the application period for members of the public to become AmeriCorps members and serve as volunteer coordinators for eligible partner nonprofits.

“We have seen increased demand to support underserved communities throughout the state in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a greater interest in partnering with us,” said Sharon Lewis, Director of Volunteer Maryland. “Organizations have shown so much creativity in how they distribute resources, from mobile programming and food distribution, to hybrid learning and mobilizing volunteers. This is a great time to get

involved in your community.”

Volunteer Maryland is now accepting applications for candidates to become AmeriCorps members and begin an 11-month commitment to mobilizing and managing volunteers for each assigned service site starting on September 15, 2021. Apply online at Volunteer.Maryland.gov/ACM.

Volunteer Maryland partners with nonprofits, government agencies, and schools to address critical community needs, including education, economic opportunities, disaster services, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, and veterans and military families. Last year, volunteers contributed 2,790 hours and assisted 829 clients, including 300 children, at 18 sites.

No experience is required. Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps members will receive two weeks of pre-service training on volunteer coordination and best practices, and conclude their year of service on August 2, 2022.

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Delta variant now makes up 83 percent of all U.S. COVID cases

By Stacy M. Brown

The delta variant of the coronavirus now accounts for roughly 83 percent of all U.S. COVID-19 cases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

“The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 variants is to prevent the spread of disease, and vaccination is the most powerful tool we have,” Dr. Walensky asserted during a U.S. Senate hearing.

On July 3, 2021, the CDC noted that the delta variant accounted for about half of U.S. COVID cases.

That number has dramatically increased.

The latest delta surge also has led to increases in hospitalizations and deaths, according to Dr. Walensky.

She remarked that deaths have risen by about 48 percent over the past week, and the U.S. now averages 239 COVID-

related fatalities each day. Dr. Walensky insisted that the surge could have been prevented.

“Each death is tragic and even more heartbreaking when we know that the majority of these deaths could be prevented with a simple, safe, available vaccine,” she demanded.

transmitting efficiently from human to human in an extraordinary manner, well beyond any of the other variants that we’ve experienced, up to now,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House’s chief medical advisor, said during the Senate hearing.

Dr. Ebony J. Hilton, the medical

neighborhoods.

“We see the disparity starting to close, but not because Black people are dying less, it’s because white people are dying more,” Dr. Hilton remarked. “Between February and March, 58,000 White Americans died of COVID, and it’s largely because of the ‘I don’t want to wear a mask,’ crowd.”

Dr. Hilton concluded that all should strongly consider getting vaccinated, and everyone should continue wearing masks.

“People are dying today, and they are likely leaving behind orphans,” Dr. Hilton determined. “We know that one in 9 Black children were already likely to see foster care in their lifetime. Because of COVID, imagine how many now if we are not taking it seriously and not getting vaccinated? It is not worth the risk. We have an agent, an intervention that has been proven safe, and it works.

“Look at the studies. We have 77 percent of people saying that they are not fully back to being themselves after they have experienced COVID.

“They have brain fog and other problems. It is not worth the risk, especially when we think about how the Delta variant has shown to be more contagious and more transmissible for our younger generation. We are setting ourselves up for a crisis.”

“About two-thirds of U.S. counties have vaccinated less than 40 percent of their residents. That has allowed for the emergence and rapid spread of the highly transmissible delta variant. Medical experts have warned that the delta variant is highly contagious and easily transmitted compared to other strains.”

About two-thirds of U.S. counties have vaccinated less than 40 percent of their residents. That has allowed for the emergence and rapid spread of the highly transmissible delta variant.

President Joe Biden previously set a vaccination goal of reaching 70 percent of eligible adults by July 4, but the U.S. fell short.

Medical experts have warned that the delta variant is highly contagious and easily transmitted compared to other strains.

“The reason it’s so formidable is the fact that it has the capability of

director for GoodStock Consulting, LLC, and Associate Professor, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Virginia, repeatedly warned that the combination of vaccine hesitancy, the refusal to wear masks, and the delta variant would create the perfect storm for a worsening pandemic.

Expressly, Dr. Hilton has noted that Covid-19 deaths in predominately White communities have continued to rise at dramatic rates. She said the snapshot provides a glimpse into just how bad the pandemic remains in African American

The Baltimore Times

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Groundwork Kitchen culinary arts training program, restaurant in Southwest Baltimore opens

Baltimore— Paul's Place officially opened **Groundwork Kitchen**, the newly built home of its culinary arts training program and restaurant located at 925 Washington Boulevard in Baltimore City's Pigtown community on July 20, 2021 focusing on student recruitment and carryout and delivery services. Expanded operations to include catering and sit-down dining will launch in the coming months with the onboarding of the first cohort of students.

Groundwork Kitchen, named as a nod to those who work through the ranks of a kitchen from the ground up, is a 14,000-square-foot building that houses a 100-seat restaurant and training facilities where classes of up to 20 persons aged "18 to 80" will learn front-of-house and back-of-house skills from a dedicated staff as well as guest chefs from across the area.

"Meals with meaning' becomes a reality next week, and we couldn't be more excited," said William McLennan, executive director of Paul's Place.

"When someone gets carryout, dines with us or chooses to have Groundwork Kitchen cater their next event, they can feel good knowing that their support is helping to develop a new workforce for Baltimore City."

This free 12-week program operated by Paul's Place and founded on the nationwide initiative of FareStart's Catalyst Kitchens, is a proven model implemented in nearly 60 other facilities across the country. Groundwork Kitchen utilizes four integral program components: culinary skills training, life skills training, hands-on experience, and individualized case management support and coaching throughout training, job placement, and for six months after graduation. Upon



The American fare menu features vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options. Carryout and delivery will be available Tuesdays through Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast served all day and lunch offerings available starting at 11 a.m. The sit-down restaurant will offer breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch on the weekends.

Courtesy Photo/Groundwork Kitchen

graduation, all students will earn ServSafe certifications.

"This model of providing training, case management and employment is proven to stimulate the local economy, strengthen communities, and transform lives. We invite everyone to participate in launching it here in Baltimore and bringing about true change— order meals, register for the program, hire our graduates," said McLennan.

The idea for this endeavor began when McLennan attended a conference and representatives from Catalyst Kitchens presented the model for a social enterprise culinary arts program.

"A light bulb went on, and I knew the idea and model was worth exploring for

Southwest Baltimore," McLennan said.

With the project completed and the program launching, McLennan, after nearly 20 years at the helm of Paul's Place, is grateful to have the vision realized before retiring.

"Seeing Groundwork Kitchen become a reality has been a pinnacle of my career though I know it is just the start of something amazing for this organization and the community it serves," he shared.

It is anticipated that Paul's Place will provide 122 jobs and nearly \$12.2 million in annual economic activity to the City of Baltimore, according to an economic impact study the organization commissioned by Sage Policy Group in 2018.

The \$10 million project received substantial financing from Chase's Community Development Banking group, The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, Neighborhood Improvement Impact Fund, Abell Foundation, T. Rowe Price Foundation, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, Cross Street Partners, and New Market Tax Credits. In addition, significant philanthropic support came from many dedicated family foundations and individual supporters of Paul's Place.

Anyone interested in applying for the program or placing a carryout/delivery order beginning can do so through Groundwork Kitchen's new at: website <http://groundworkkitchen.com/>.

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EVENT DETAILS

When: Saturday, September 18, 2021

Where: Coppin State University, Tawes Center
2500 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216

Event Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Set-up: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Breakdown: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Disney Star Dara Reneé

Actress Proves Dreams Do Come True

By Ursula V. Battle

The song “When You Wish Upon a Star” is synonymous with Walt Disney and is played in its theme parks and featured in many of its movies. It is a song about dreaming big, and one that fits well for Dara Reneé’s life story. The Los Angeles, California native is among the stars of “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” streaming on Disney+.

“Whenever someone would ask me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would say, ‘I want to be like Walt Disney,’” recalled Dara Reneé. “I wanted my hand in radio, TV, and all of those things. I couldn’t be happier right now. My mom always taught me to dream big, and this is a dream come true.”

In season two of “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,” the East High Wildcats, who are preparing to perform “Beauty and the Beast” as their spring musical, face off against rival school North High to win a prestigious and cutthroat student theater competition. Wigs are snatched, loyalties are tested, and ballads are belted.

Dara Reneé, stars in the series along with Olivia Rodrigo; Joshua Bassett; Matt Cornett; Sofia Wylie; Larry Saperstein; Julia Lester; Frankie Rodriguez; Joe Serafini; Mark St. Cyr; and Kate Reinders. Dara Reneé plays “Kourtney,” the ride-or-die best friend of Nini Salazar-Roberts, portrayed by Rodrigo. Obsessed with makeup tutorials and feminism, Kourtney starts a new job at “Big Red’s: family-owned pizza shop, ‘Salt Lake Slices’ and lands the role of ‘Mrs. Potts’ in East High’s spring musical of “Beauty and the Beast.”

“Originally, I had to shoot for the Open Call in 2015,” Dara Reneé recalled. “So, I have been chasing after this project for five years. When I auditioned for High School Musical: The Musical: The Series, they had me to audition for every single girl student. And then they came up with Kourtney. I



Dara Reneé, who spent a few years in Baltimore, co-stars in “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series” streaming on Disney+. Courtesy Photo

was told the character was going to be in one episode. I thought, ‘That’s cool, I just want to do it.’ And then I get a call, and was asked, ‘Are you ready to pack your bags and come to Salt Lake City? And I was like ‘Wow! Yes!’”

She added, “I am just feeling so blessed. I am so grateful to be in the

position that I am in.”

Dara Reneé is set to co-host Disney Channel’s new kids baking competition series “Disney’s Magic Bake-Off,” premiering Friday, August 13, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT. She’s also been featured in the Disney Channel Original Movie “Freaky Friday,” has a recurring

role on the hit ABC series “black-ish” and a guest starring role on ABC’s “The Kids Are Alright.”

The 16-year-old is deeply connected to Baltimore. Her maternal grandmother was in the Baltimore-based group “The Royalties,” a quartet of young women who delivered the soulful style of the mid-1960s. Her mother, Kimberly Brooks is an actress, and opened a Performing Arts studio in Baltimore, “Encouraging Youth to Dream,” where Reneé trained and performed in numerous productions including “Annie,” and “Grease,” before returning to Los Angeles, where she currently resides.

Dara Reneé and her mother have worked alongside one another on “High School Musical: The Musical: The Series.” Brooks made a cameo appearance on the show this season as Kourtney’s mother, “Michelle.”

“I was so lucky to be in such an entertainment family,” said Dara Reneé, who began her career at age two, appearing in commercials and print ads. “My grandmother taught me how to sing and harmonize. We would sing in church, or all get together by the piano and sing gospel songs. I am grateful to be able to learn from so many iconic people in my eyes. They have truly changed my life. I learned so much from my grandmother who has passed away, but is still teaching me things from up in the sky in Heaven. I would not be here without her.”

She added, “And to work with my mom who has been my mentor is such an honor. I have been able to work with amazing people and do what I love. The sky’s the limit.”

To learn more about Dara Reneé, you can follow her on Twitter and TikTok: @Dara_Renee and on Instagram: @DaraRenee.

'Hot Shots' on the Mixer Market

By Ursula V. Battle

Clinton Jackson "CJ" Alexander, Aaron Joseph, and Ezra Allen, co-owners of CAne Collective had an exciting year "on tap" for 2020. Founded in 2017, CAne Collective helps spirit companies develop marketing opportunities.

"We started working with lots of brands, not only to curate their experiences at events, but also lead and execute their strategies," recalled Joseph. "That's how we got our wheels going with CAne Collective. Fast forward to 2020, and we had international, national, and local events. We had a ton of things going on and really felt it was going to be our breakout year as the premier consulting group for hospitality and fun Caribbean, Afrocentric events. It was about to be the biggest year we had on the books.

"And then this virus comes along called COVID-19 and oh my God! It completely wipes out our entire calendar. Taking it all in, we were a little deflated. It took a couple of weeks to adjust ourselves. We start talking about providing a tangible good for people to take pain away with mixture without us personally being there. We came up with developing a mixer that was specialized. Not only with fresh ingredients, but intricate and with craft flavors."

Thus, CAne Mixers was born. Created to bring the experience of craft bartending directly to people's homes, the Mixers include "Guava Tiki Punch," "Tropical Green Orchard," "CAne Southside," "Smoke Pepper Poloma," and "Passion Fruit Jalapeño."

"We started off with our three expressions, Tropical Green Orchard, Cane Southside and then our Guava Tiki Punch," recalled Joseph. "Initially, we started making and selling this to friends right out of my apartment. And when we did, what we learned was that people had a great affiliation and appreciation. The inspiration behind the mixers was also the fact that we knew people were going to be drinking it during the pandemic. We also started doing Zoom



The CAne's Collective collection includes a variety of tantalizing flavors: Guava Tiki Punch; Tropical Green Orchard; CAne Southside; Smoke Pepper Poloma; and Passion Fruit Jalapeño. Courtesy Photos



Aaron Joseph using fresh ingredients for a CAne Collective mixer.

classes during isolation. We shipped out kits, people picked up kits, and we would teach them how to make cocktails with our mixtures.

"We also wanted to turn the opportunity into a fundraising effort to support the community. We also moved on to



Aaron Joseph during a recent event.

restaurants. And here we are. After starting all this back in March 2020, we are growing monthly. We moved from my apartment to a commercial kitchen. We put out what we are doing through social media, and it has been well received. We went from doing one case of mixers to

three cases of mixers and the next thing we know, we're up to 17 cases a week, and it's often on just pick-ups and deliveries. And then we had the opportunity to join our spirit company with a Farmer's Market as a complement to their table. That's when things really took off for us."

CAne Collective stands for Clinton Alexander n Ezra. The company offers both alcoholic and non-alcoholic mixers, and will be among the featured businesses at the "1st Annual Times Community Services' Baltimore Maker Marketplace," Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Coppin State University located at 2500 W. North Avenue. The event will feature products made and sold by Baltimore-based businesses.

"We have heard such wonderful, beautiful things about the event," said Joseph, who is 40. "We're excited to be a part of that aspect of being a 100 percent Black-owned business. The event helps us to tell our story and make personal connections."

CAne Collective has "blended" the right recipe for success.

"We have expanded our reach into five Farmer's Markets on a weekly basis, as well as a considerable amount of retail locations in the Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC areas," said Joseph. "The pandemic presented us with an opportunity. We just knew crafting was something we were passionate about and something we felt was valuable to people.

"For us, the community around us is so imperative and fundamental to everything we do. We want to embrace that. We are who we are, and that's more than just shots."

For more information about CAne Collective, follow them on Facebook under www.facebook.com/thecanecollective or visit www.canecollective.com,

Modern States and Morgan State enter partnership to expand college access to Maryland students

New York— Modern States, a philanthropy dedicated to making a college degree more affordable and accessible to everyone, today announced a partnership with Morgan State University, designed to help Maryland high school students earn up to a year of college credit at no cost. Modern States and Morgan will work together to facilitate the university's enrollment of Maryland students. This inaugural partnership represents Modern States newly launched commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Modern States forms strategic alliances at the local, state and university levels to design programs that meet a community's specific needs. This targeted approach is helping provide additional college readiness tools to students and the ability to earn free college credit, while also providing universities with a new recruiting tool.

Through the commitment to HBCUs, beginning with Morgan, Modern States will provide at least 10,000 free online college courses and credit-bearing exams to prospective students. This will save over \$10 million in tuition and expenses for HBCU students.

The Morgan *Fast Start* program will mirror a similar *Fast Start* initiative launched by Modern States and Purdue University in 2020.

"We are excited to be the first HBCU selected by the Klinsky family and Modern States to partner on the Fast Start Program. Together we will increase the number of college-ready students in Maryland while decreasing the cost of a college education," said Kara Turner, Ph.D., vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Success (EMASS). "Students who complete the



The "Fast Start Program" at Morgan State University marks Modern States' newly launched commitment to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Modern States is a philanthropy dedicated to making a college degree more affordable and accessible to everyone. Courtesy Photo/Morgan State University

Morgan Fast Start Program will be able to potentially shave a semester or even a year off the time it takes to complete their Morgan degree and that will appeal to a number of prospective students."

Morgan will offer assured admission to Maryland high school students who pass four Modern States courses and pass the corresponding credit-bearing exams. Students also must meet standard Morgan admission requirements. The four courses and exams can save students more than \$8K. The *Fast Start* option also can move students toward early graduation and early entry into the workforce.

The Modern States philanthropy is fully funding the *Fast Start* initiative, with a special gift from the family of Steven and Maureen Klinsky. The gift will enable students in high school to begin earning college credit for free.

"We're honored that my family and Modern States can play a role in attracting great students to Morgan State and other HBCUs," said Steven Klinsky, the founder and CEO of Modern States. "This commitment to HBCUs helps broaden our mission of helping all people afford a better education in order to reach their full potential."

Modern States is the largest free

college program in the country, with over 280,000 students since it launched in 2017. Along with the Klinsky family, Modern States has received funding from the Carnegie Foundation, the Starr Foundation, the Heckscher Foundation, among others. Modern States has partnered with numerous states including Michigan, New Jersey, and New York and universities throughout the country, including SUNY, Thomas Edison State University, and the State of Texas University System.

ModernStates.org offers 33 top-quality college courses (in the areas of English, History, Math, Chemistry, Biology, Accounting, Spanish and others), all taught by leading university professors. Like a digital public library, the Modern States free online courses are available 24/7 and are self-paced, allowing students full flexibility and convenience. They can be taken from any device with an Internet connection, including a cell phone.

The courses prepare students to pass College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams from the College Board. CLEP has been in place for over 50 years. A passing score on a CLEP exam is accepted for credit at Morgan State and at over 2,900 colleges and universities, including virtually all HBCUs.

Morgan State will publicize Fast Start throughout Maryland and will use the program to enhance targeted recruiting of hard-to-reach prospective students.

For more information about the program, visit the MSU Fast Start, website at morgan.modernstates.org

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**MDH, MSDE announce
Request for Applications to
facilitate COVID-19 testing
for 2021-2022 school year**

Baltimore— The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) announced a Request For Applications (RFA) from Maryland K-12 public and non-public schools to receive funding to facilitate COVID-19 screening testing programs for the 2021-2022 school year.

The funding has been made available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose most recent guidance recommends a robust, school-based screening testing program as another important measure that can help facilitate continued safe in-person schooling.

“Testing for COVID-19 remains a key component in our fight against this disease and it is essential that our schools have access to the resources needed and are prepared to keep our children safe,” said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. “We strongly encourage K-12 schools to request these funds and put in place a robust testing program to protect students, teachers, and staff during this upcoming school year.”

“At the Maryland State Department of Education, we are encouraging local school systems to partner with the Maryland Department of Health in this important Covid-19 screening initiative to ensure school communities remain safe as we return to full-time in-person learning,” said Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury. “This new funding, along with federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds, will help schools address the necessary learning and public health strategies needed to continue to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Interested schools are invited to apply via the eMaryland Marketplace. Applications will be accepted from July 19 - August 9, 2021. The funding period is from August 15, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

Clarence Campbell joins Youth Advocate Programs board

Baltimore— Clarence Campbell, a West Baltimore native and the Executive Vice President of Sales at Lendistry, a minority-led and technology-enabled, small business and commercial real estate lender with Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and Community Development Entity (CDE) certification, is among the newest cohort of the Board of Directors of Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Inc.

Appointed earlier this year, Campbell is excited to contribute to the leadership team at YAP, a 46-year-old national nonprofit that provides community-based services delivered by neighborhood-based advocates as an alternative to youth detention, prison and other out-of-home treatment, therapy, and care.

“I think it’s critical that we support the communities in which we not only live, but that we work and serve in,” said Campbell. “It’s about meeting youth where they are and helping them to develop and grow. The reality is if someone didn’t take an interest in me



West Baltimore native Clarence Campbell has been appointed to the Board of Directors of YAP, Inc.
Courtesy Photo

when I was a youth, I may not have been able to develop and grow to where I’ve been able to.”

YAP partners with youth justice and

child welfare systems in Maryland and 31 other states and the District of Columbia. The nonprofit is also a Baltimore Safe Streets partner, providing, a public health approach to reducing shootings and homicides in communities in Baltimore. The nonprofit’s newest Baltimore Violence Interruption initiative is a partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) as part of an emerging Group Violence Reduction Strategy.

The new services will combine elements of YAP’s Safe Streets work with strategies it implements in Washington, D.C., where formerly incarcerated adults and other Credible Messenger staff support people have returned home from prison.

“We have our own challenges here in Baltimore,” Campbell said. “It really was the youth component that drew me to YAP.”

Campbell is not new to community involvement. He has also served on the Board of the Greater Baltimore Urban

League and was a board member of Downtown Partnership. Additionally, he has led a youth basketball program for more than 25 years.

“I think it’s important that we continue to give back and support the youth and help them get on the right path,” Campbell said. “I think that’s where YAP comes into play. They have each of those bases covered. I am really encouraged by the impact that they have nationwide.”

A strong proponent of youth advocacy, Campbell played several sports as a young person, which helped him to develop several teamwork and leadership traits. He grew up with a strong family unit and has a proud sense of community, adding that it’s important for him to give back in the places where he lives and works.

“I’ve had a chance to attend my first board meeting,” Campbell said. “I see the passion that the Board of Directors have for this organization and the community. I am excited to be a part of that.”

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Ravens Gus Edwards buys parents a house

By Tyler Hamilton

We see the stories every year. A player signs a big contract and buys his parents a house. That's exactly what Baltimore Ravens running back Gus Edwards did recently after he signed a two-year contract extension worth \$10 million.

But what makes his situation any different? Well for starters, Edwards was born in Liberia in the midst of a civil war. The Edwards family fled their native country in the hope of a better life in the United States.

Their journey landed them in Staten Island, New York, specifically Park Hills, which is known for its rugged environment. Packing the seven members family into a two-bedroom unit was a difficult experience.

Now, Edwards is able to make sure his parents, Mamie and Sackie have their own house with plenty of space.

"Always been a dream of mine to buy my parents a house. I can finally say I did it! Thank you Ravens," Edwards posted on Instagram.

The path to the NFL was far from an easy one for Edwards. He played football at Tottenville High School in Staten Island. He played college football at the University of Miami and at Rutgers.

After originally signing with the Ravens in 2018 as an undrafted free



Running back Gus Edwards bought his parents a house recently after he signed a two-year contract extension worth \$10 million with the ravens.

Photo Credit: USA Today Sports Images

agent in 2018, Edwards clawed his way onto the Ravens 53-man roster. Initially, his role was as a special teams player. Eventually, he settled into a role as one of the running backs in the rotation because of his physical running style.

Edwards signed his contract extension after picking up a career-high 723 rushing yards on 144 carries. He called his father to let him know that he was signing the lofty contract extension.

Ironically, his father was back in Liberia when he fielded the call.

Their family still has ties to Liberia but they won't have to be subject to the same living conditions thanks to what Edwards has been able to accomplish in the National Football League.

Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week begins Friday, July 23

Baltimore— The best tasting week of the season begins this Friday when Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week presented by OLD BAY (#BaltRW) returns on July 23 through Sunday, August 1, 2021. Specially priced Restaurant Week menus will provide diners incredible deals and help restaurants that are still struggling to recover from the COVID-19 shutdown increase their business.

Summer Restaurant Week diners are also encouraged to pair dining with visitation at Baltimore area attractions by playing "The Great OLD BAY Crab Hunt," an augmented reality game that is designed to get Marylanders outside and visiting participating locations. Together, these two promotions will get foodies and OLD BAY fans, in a safe way, to restaurants and attractions that will benefit from the extra foot traffic after a difficult year.

Visit: OLDBAYCrabHunt.com to find out where you can play between now and August 2, 2021. With more locations being added all the time, fans unable to visit a participating restaurant will soon also be able to join in the fun virtually, from home.

The list of participating restaurants and their menus is available



Top restaurants in Baltimore are ready with menus featuring the best local ingredients and deals of the season.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

at www.BaltimoreRestaurantWeek.com. Visitors to the site can search for dining options by menu type (brunch, lunch, or dinner), cuisine (Asian, Caribbean, French, Italian, etc.), neighborhood, price points, and dietary considerations (vegan, nut free, etc.).

During Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week, brunch and lunch prices at Baltimore's favorite restaurants will be reduced to \$10, \$15, or \$20 while dinner prices will be set at \$25, \$35, or \$45, not including tax or gratuity. This multiple-tier pricing system gives diners great deals on amazing food, and lets each restaurant price dishes according to their food costs.

To make it easy for customers to enjoy the promotion, Baltimore Summer Restaurant Week deals will be available for dine-in, takeout, outdoor, and delivery service.

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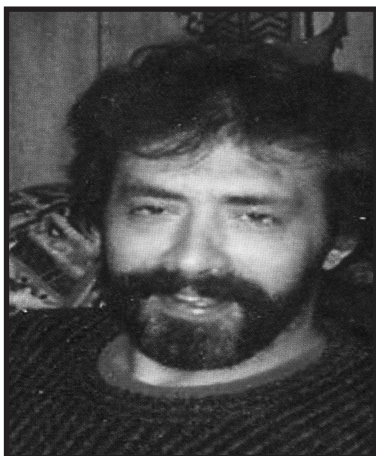
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Obituary



Paul James Shaneman
1958 — 2021

My love, my heart, Paul James Shaneman was born in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania on July 20, 1958. God touched him and took him home at 10:08 a.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

Happily married for 30 years to Barbarajean Robinson-Shaneman and never apart for any reason, Paul, a private man worked and retired from the federal government as an IT specialist.

The oldest son of James and Patricia Shaneman, he leaves but not too far away, his wife, Barbarajean Robinson-Shaneman; son, Joseph Paul Shaneman of Florida; stepson, Darryl Lenwood Barnes of Charlottesville, Virginia; three step-grandchildren, Sade Barnes, Ebony Barnes and DJ Barnes; and a step-great-grandson Carmella Barnes; brother, John Paul Shaneman (deceased); Ann Michele Myers (Joseph); Maureen Hall (Robert); Maria Kreer (Mitch); Mary Ann Kline (Jeffrey); Margaret Mary Adkins (Gene); and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial and repast service will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2021, at 10 a.m. at St. Matthew's Gospel Tabernacle Apostle Faith Church located at 1907 N. Rosedale Street, Baltimore, MD 21216.

Catholic Memorial Services to be held a later date. Interment private.

Pledge to save water and help a local school win a garden

Colgate®, ShopRite® and TerraCycle® Prepare to Award THREE Gardens Made of Recycled Material to Help Teach School Children the Value of Sustainability

Trenton, N.J.— Today Colgate, Shoprite and TerraCycle announced this year's *Save Water Challenge* that asks students, teachers, parents and community members to take the pledge to save water on behalf of their school for the opportunity to win one of three (3) recycled gardens made from recycled oral care waste.

Launched in partnership with the global oral care leader Colgate-Palmolive and regional retailer ShopRite, starting July 11, any public school, private school, college or university located in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut or Maryland that is enrolled in the TerraCycle network are eligible to enter for the opportunity to win a garden and outdoor furniture made from recycled toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and floss containers.

Through September 30, consumers can pledge to save water on behalf of a participating school once a day during the promotion. The top three (3) schools with the most pledges by the end of the contest period will win prize gardens. The grand prizewinner will receive an additional ribbon-cutting event. All winners will be announced in October and the gardens will be installed in Spring 2022.

Schools can rally their community's support by asking them to pledge online by logging onto <https://www.terracycle.com/colgateshopritegarden2021>. ShopRite is also encouraging community participation in the contest with displays throughout its 321 stores and information about the contest on ShopRite's Facebook page.

A full set of rules for the 2021 "Save Water Challenge" can be viewed: <https://www.terracycle.com/colgateshopritegarden2021>.

To learn more about the Colgate Save Water initiative, visit https://smiles.colgate.com/page/content/everydropcounts_or your local ShopRite retailer.

The Colgate Oral Care Recycling Program is an ongoing activity, open to any individual, family, school, or community group. For each piece of waste sent in using a pre-paid shipping label, participants earn money toward donations to the school or charity of their choice. To learn more about the program, please visit www.terracycle.com/colgate.



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