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PBS documentary uncovers story of legendary tennis pioneer Althea Gibson



Althea Gibson at the West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills, NY, ca 1950. Photo Credit: Corbis

New York—

People often cite Arthur Ashe as the first African American to win Wimbledon (1975). He was indeed the first African American male to win the men's singles title, but it was, in fact, Althea Gibson, who was the first African American to cross the color line playing and winning at Wimbledon (1957 and 1958) and at the U.S. Nationals (1957 and 1958 – precursor of the U.S. Open).

This fall, THIRTEEN's American Masters presents Althea, premiering nationwide Friday, September 4, 2015 at 9 p.m. on PBS (check local listings) during the U.S. Open. The 90-minute documentary reveals the highs and lows of this remarkable athlete whose life and achievements transcend sports and have entered the annals of African American history. From her roots as a sharecropper's daughter in the cotton fields of South Carolina, to her emergence as the unlikely queen of the highly segregated tennis world in the 1950s, her story is a complex tale of race, class and gender.

In recounting Gibson's story, the filmmakers were meticulous in finding period imagery, including over 450 vintage photographs. Producer and director Rex Miller weaves this archival visual material and interviews with those who knew Gibson, such as former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Wimbledon champions Dick Savitt and Billie Jean King (who also serves as one of the film's executive producers), Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, widow of Arthur Ashe, and more.

Gibson was born in Silver, South Carolina on August 25, 1927. At the age of three, her father moved the family north migrating to Harlem in 1930. Gibson was a tomboy who grew up loving sports, but disliked school so much that she started skipping classes at the age of 12 and, by 18, had dropped out of high school. She played basketball, but "...paddle tennis started it all," says Gibson, in a clip from a 1984 interview.

Continued on page 10

Prominent surgeon Keiffer Mitchell Sr. dies at 73

By Stacy M. Brown

Member of iconic Baltimore family saved countless lives during medical career

Keiffer Mitchell Jr. remembers fondly the early morning telephone calls his dad would make to him daily. And every evening, Mitchell Jr. would call his dad. "In our society when we hear so many negative things about African-American males and fatherhood I was blessed to have for 47 years an awesome father and son relationship and a man as a dad who took us to school every day, who went to our school meetings, and attended all of our athletics and extra-curricular school events," Mitchell said, just one week after his legendary father and prominent surgeon Keiffer Mitchell Sr. died after a brief illness at the age of 73.

"It wasn't a day in our lives where we didn't think he loved us," Mitchell Jr. said. "He did all the things dads are supposed to but he went above and beyond that."

The younger Mitchell recalled how his dad regularly made time for each of his three children, Mitchell Jr.; Kelly Mitchell Newhouse; and Kathleen Mitchell. He also proved to be a beloved husband to wife, Nannette Mitchell.

"When the weekends would come and my dad had to work, he'd get up early and take us with him to work so that he

would still be able to spend time with him," Mitchell said.

The elder Mitchell, a gastrointestinal surgeon, was the son of Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., a leader in the civil rights movement and a lobbyist for the NAACP.

The elder Mitchell was the first black student to enroll at Gwynns Falls Junior High School after the 1954 Supreme Court decision that ended segregation. He then attended Lincoln University and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, before opening a doctor's office back home in Baltimore.

Mitchell also was the first black doctor to serve on the Johns Hopkins University medical school admissions committee.

The doctor is credited with saving countless lives and helping to extending the life of many others.

"His legacy to the family is his kindness and sense of decency. But, it is also the gift of art that he left and his medicine," Mitchell Jr. said

"The number of people who are still alive who had bad news delivered to them and he came in and helped to save them is also his legacy," he said. "I run into patients who were told that they were going to die and that was ten years ago. People have discovered tumors on their colon and my dad was able to get in there and save their lives. There are hundreds of people walking around



Keiffer Mitchell Sr.
1941 - 2015

because my father saved their life."

As grateful as his patients were, Mitchell was equally indebted to them, his son said.

"One of the things I'm most proud of was that he and my mom put me and my two sisters through college without taking out any loans," Mitchell Jr. said.

"They struggled but he didn't believe in taking out loans for school that would saddle us with debt. He didn't take many vacations and worked harder and always said that he paid full freight.

"But, one of the rules when we graduated was that he would frame our diplomas and hang it in his waiting room for one year so that his patients could see them. He would hang them with a sign that said 'Thank You' to the patients for helping me put my children through college."

Despite his immense success in medicine and the notoriety he held in the community, Mitchell never pressured his children to achieve what he had.

"He was very good at letting us be who we wanted to be," his son said. "He wanted us to be the best at whatever we did. I never felt pressure to follow in his footsteps because he wanted us to follow our passion because he followed his."

Even though he faced racial injustice early on, Mitchell deflected any talk of being a community leader.

"His philosophy was to give everything you can and, whatever you do, always help the community or humanity," Mitchell Jr. said. "He would bristle if you said he's part of the community because when he said help the community, to him it was help humanity, he didn't care if you were black, white or of a different nationality."

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Return to reasonable lending opens door to homeownership

By Dave Liniger

Home-buying season is heating up. Homes sold faster in April than at any point in almost the last two years, according to data released by the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Existing-home sales are on pace to top five million this year.

Consumers are rushing into the housing market thanks in part to the Federal Housing Administration's decision to reduce mortgage insurance premiums by 0.5 percent earlier this year. The move could save two million homeowners an average of \$900 a year and allow a quarter of a million Americans to buy their first home.

Affordable financing doesn't just help homebuyers. An increase in the number of potential buyers boosts prices for sellers. And it encourages builders to expand the supply of housing, which benefits the entire economy.

Lenders and regulators must commit to maintaining reasonable mortgage lending standards like these, which lay the foundation for sustained economic prosperity.

In recent years, many potential homebuyers have faced excessively strict lending requirements, including higher fees and premiums for mortgages insured by the federal government. These regulations prevented thousands of Americans with good credit from buying homes—especially young people and minorities.

In 2014, the millennial generation was responsible for 32 percent of all home sales. Currently, only 30 percent of sales are to first-time buyers. That's 10 percent below the historical average.

FHA has been seeing fewer mortgage applications because of the agency's high fees and insurance rates. Homebuyers have found cheaper mortgages elsewhere—or put off homeownership entirely. FHA was created to help expand access to homeownership, especially to first-time buyers. By cutting insurance premiums, it will be able to fulfill that mission once again.

The agency's critics claim that "loosening" credit standards will lead to another housing crisis. But today's lending environment is vastly different from the pre-crisis one of seven years ago. It's wrong to punish today's borrowers for the problematic lending practices of the past.

Further, when evaluating a mortgage application, lenders prefer to develop a complete picture of a borrower. The financial crisis came about in large part because lenders failed to verify the information behind that picture. A return to the traditional practice of documentation and verification has led to the highest quality of underwritten loans and the lowest default rate in over a decade.

FHA has coupled its lending reforms with a \$21 billion improvement in its single-family insurance fund, which compensates lenders in the event of default. Last year, for the first time since 2006, the agency's capital reserves increased year-over-year and had a positive balance. Other players in the mortgage market are following suit. Mortgage guarantors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have reduced down-payment requirements for first-time homebuyers. Under the new terms, buyers will only need to put down three percent of the home's cost, rather than the previous minimum of 5 percent.

Down payments alone are poor predictors of default. FHA has successfully insured loans with 3.5 percent down for decades. Like FHA, Fannie and Freddie have retained guidelines ensuring that potential borrowers have strong credit scores and full documentation.

The two government-sponsored enterprises have also promised to pursue a more reasonable practice of mortgage "put backs." They'll no longer require private lenders to assume responsibility for loans simply because they had typos.

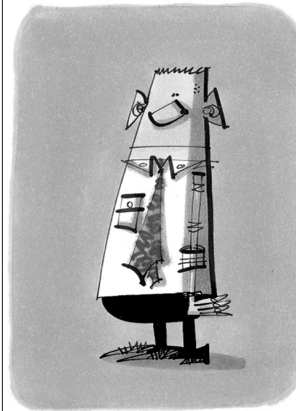
Rather than lead to another financial crisis, the federal government's new policies will empower folks who were previously from becoming homeowners. That's good for the economy. Every home sale generates \$60,000 in additional economic activity.

By committing to lower mortgage insurance costs and reasonable lending requirements, our nation's top housing officials can signal that they're serious about making homeownership a reality for millions of Americans. That's a move we should all get behind.

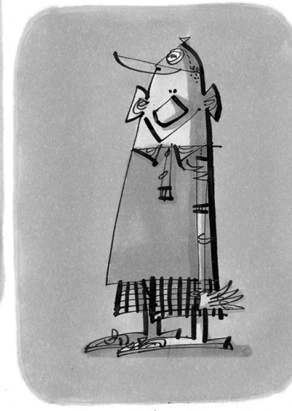
Dave Liniger is CEO, Chairman, and Co-Founder of RE/MAX LLC.

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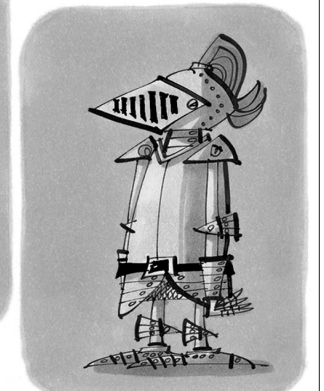
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Community Affairs

New Efficient VEIP Self-Service Kiosk to Improve Convenience Debuts

Annapolis—Maryland vehicle owners can now test vehicle emissions using a new, convenient self-service Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) kiosk. Two VEIP self-service kiosks, one located at the Glen Burnie VEIP station and one located at the Gaithersburg MVA branch office, are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Jointly administered by the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the new VEIP kiosk now works at the convenience of Marylanders—any day, any time.

"My administration is committed to making state government and its services more efficient and more responsive," Governor Hogan said. "Today's announcement demonstrates how we are expanding available technology to bring the residents of Maryland a faster, more convenient way to do business and help protect the environment—a win-win for all."

The new kiosk is part of a one-year pilot

program that uses innovative inspection technology to simplify the vehicle emissions testing process. Users simply plug a device into their vehicle's computer diagnostic system to determine whether their vehicle's engine is working properly and whether its emissions are meeting Maryland's environmental standards. The process takes less than 10 minutes. Users can preview a kiosk demonstration on the MVA website.

Model year 2005 and newer light-duty vehicles and model year 2008 and newer heavy-duty vehicles are eligible to use the self-service VEIP kiosk. About 900,000 vehicles on an annual basis, or 58 percent of vehicles tested each year, will be eligible to use the kiosk. The cost for the VEIP test is \$14 whether administered through the traditional stations, or the new kiosks.

The Federal Clean Air Act requires the testing of vehicle emissions, and in Maryland, vehicle emission systems inspection is required every two years.

The one-year pilot program will assess the operational benefits and public acceptance of the new technology. Environmental Systems Products of Maryland, Inc. (ESP) is the private contractor responsible for day-to-day testing operations.

Are you having fun with today's politics?

By James Clingman
NPA Columnist

"I'll see your two blacks and raise you two more."

The vast majority of the news is centered on politics, specifically, the 2016 presidential race, which is 14 months away. Black people are being sucked under by a whirlpool of nonsense on TV news outlets, newspaper and magazine commentaries, lectures, and even some protests.

Candidates are already going across the nation giving speeches, and the first presidential debate by the red-tie and blue-tie gangs, has already been conducted. Hmm. When these politicians are on TV, they always wear red or blue ties; and we are divided by red and blue states. The Crips and Bloods must be proud.

Talking heads on news shows are so giddy about the political possibilities, and it is obvious that they see the upcoming election as simply "fun," as one commentator said. Is it fun for Black people? Are you having fun yet? I doubt it. You're too busy trying to make ends

meet, that is, if you even have any ends in the first place.

Folks are making millions of dollars on the political hype, hysteria, and histrionics, while most black folks are falling deeper into the abyss of economic despair and desperation. Just think about it: all the cable news shows are replete with political clap trap—morning, noon, and night.

didate and offering milquetoast assessments to black issues, mainly through a political lens, as if that will solve our problems. I have a strong stomach, so I can watch some of their political chitchat.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is certainly disrupting the political business-as-usual process these days, but they are waiting for the candidates to give them a plan

our issues vis-à-vis police brutality and other inequities because there is no price for them to pay for not supporting us.

Where is their indignation about what happened to Sandra Bland and more recently Charnesia Corley, who was humiliated by police officers who forced a cavity search on her in a gas station parking lot in Harris County, Texas, in plain sight of passers-by? All black people are hearing is the same political rhetoric that we hear each election cycle. But whose fault is that?

Most politicians only value black folks when it's time to vote. Ann Coulter said, "Our blacks are so much better than their blacks," in her defense and support of Herman Cain. We are just pawns on their chessboard, chips in a high stakes poker game.

The solution is grounded in economics, the same weapon other groups use to gain political concessions. I recently posed two questions to a black Republican who recruits black voters: What will black folks get if we all vote for the Republican candidate? What will black folks lose if we do not vote at all? He could not answer those questions. The same questions apply to the Democrats, but more importantly they apply to us. More specifically, we must stop "asking" and start demanding—with the collective power to reward and punish.

We can win this fight; we simply have to use the right weapon. You cannot properly defend yourself in a gunfight if your weapon of choice is a switchblade.

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for black people. He can be reached through his website: blackonomics.com.

"Asking politicians to do the right thing will only keep us waiting for another 50 years; we must demand what we want, very specifically and get a oral and written commitment from them before we give them our votes."

They never highlight economic solutions for black people, never feature conscious black people as guests on a regular basis, and never move beyond the mundane discussions and point-counterpoint arguing that takes place between and among so-called experts and intellectuals. Of course, no problems get solved in that process.

Here is the caveat for black people: As I warned in 2007, watch out! The "okey-doke" is afoot. While political discourse is dominating the news, real issues that connect to black economic growth and power are given very short shrift. Each news channel has its own black faces, none of whom is able to go "off the plantation," to speak directly to the important issues relevant to black people. They consume hours of air time doing their best imitation of Pavlov's dog, salivating over their preferred can-

through which black lives will indeed matter. The candidates give them scripted rhetoric, but no specific public commitment regarding real change. Asking politicians to do the right thing will only keep us waiting for another 50 years; we must demand what we want, very specifically and get a oral and written commitment from them before we give them our votes.

Politicians are many things, but one thing most of them are not is stupid. They will say whatever makes us feel good; they will dodge our issues or simply ignore us; or they will do what Hillary did when the brother in BLM "asked" what she would do to help. She turned the question back on him, saying, "You tell me what you want."

Presently, politicians control the game. We must start and control our own game. They have no reason to deal with

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Newborn Screening Project grant awarded to improve sickle cell care

By Stacy M. Brown

A more than \$2.6 million two-year grant that promises to help support and fortify the quality of care and address the needs of people living with sickle cell disease has been awarded to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA).

Officials at the Baltimore-based nonprofit say they are proud to announce that the organization is the recipient of the Sickle Cell Disease Newborn Screening Project cooperative agreement awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration in Rockville, Maryland.

The project is a two-year collaboration that will utilize SCDAA's alliance with 10 of the most robust regional community-based organizations and stakeholders across the country to improve sickle cell care for a broader population of patients, according to officials.

"Newborn sickle cell trait and sickle cell disease screening are helpful to both potential families and to families who are still in child-bearing ages," said Julie A. Dunbar, an outreach coordinator for the organization and co-chair of the Sickle Cell Community Advisory Council. "Centers and families will benefit by continued awareness and screening of this blood disorder. We don't feel that we could have too much attention given to preparedness when looking at the obstacles associated with the disease itself."

Sickle cell disease (SCD) describes a group of inherited red blood cell disorders, according to information provided by the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. Individuals with SCD have abnormal hemoglobin, called hemoglobin S or sickle hemoglobin, in their red blood cells.

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body.

People with SCD inherit two abnormal hemoglobin genes, one from each of their parents. In all forms of SCD, which is not contagious, at least one of the two abnormal genes causes an individual's body to make hemoglobin S. When someone has two hemoglobin S genes—



Hemoglobin SS, the disease is called sickle cell anemia, the most common and often most severe kind of SCD.

The \$2,679,000 grant awarded to the nonprofit in May for a period of two years, is an example of the Health Resources and Service Administration's continued and unwavering support of furthering the research, education and treatment of people living with sickle cell disease, according to a news release.

Dunbar says the purpose of the project is to support the endeavors of the SCDAA in fortifying the quality of patient care on a holistic basis and not just the malady to address all needs of patients living with the disease.

Ten community-based organizations were chosen specifically for their strength in leadership and partnership in five of the HRSA designated regions across the nation.

They will extend their reach by uniting with multiple state partner community-based organizations and other institutions to deliver service to patients, with special focus in hard to service and rural areas to overcome social and service access obstacles.

The project will link individuals living with sickle cell disease and their families to knowledgeable service providers, quality medical homes, education and counseling support, community facilitators and

navigators for unmet needs and resultant comprehensive life quality care.

"The resources and services will be enhanced through this collaborative, which can positively trickle down to patients," Dunbar said.

Last fall, SCDA and the sickle cell disease community issued a public petition to the White House, requesting reauthorization of the Sickle Cell Treatment Act, declaration of SCD as a national priority and funding for SCD programs in the President's budget. The petition goal was 100,000 signatures within one month, but the overwhelming support of the SCD community and general public earned it 124,206 signatures before the deadline.

"SCD is a major public health concern that warrants ongoing federal support and is a priority for President Obama and his Administration," a White House spokesperson said in response to the petition, adding that multiple national departments would develop SCD-related health programs to meet objectives of improved care, increased awareness, quality education and progress towards a cure. "The Administration is hopeful that this pairing of communities and big government can eliminate this disease for future generations."

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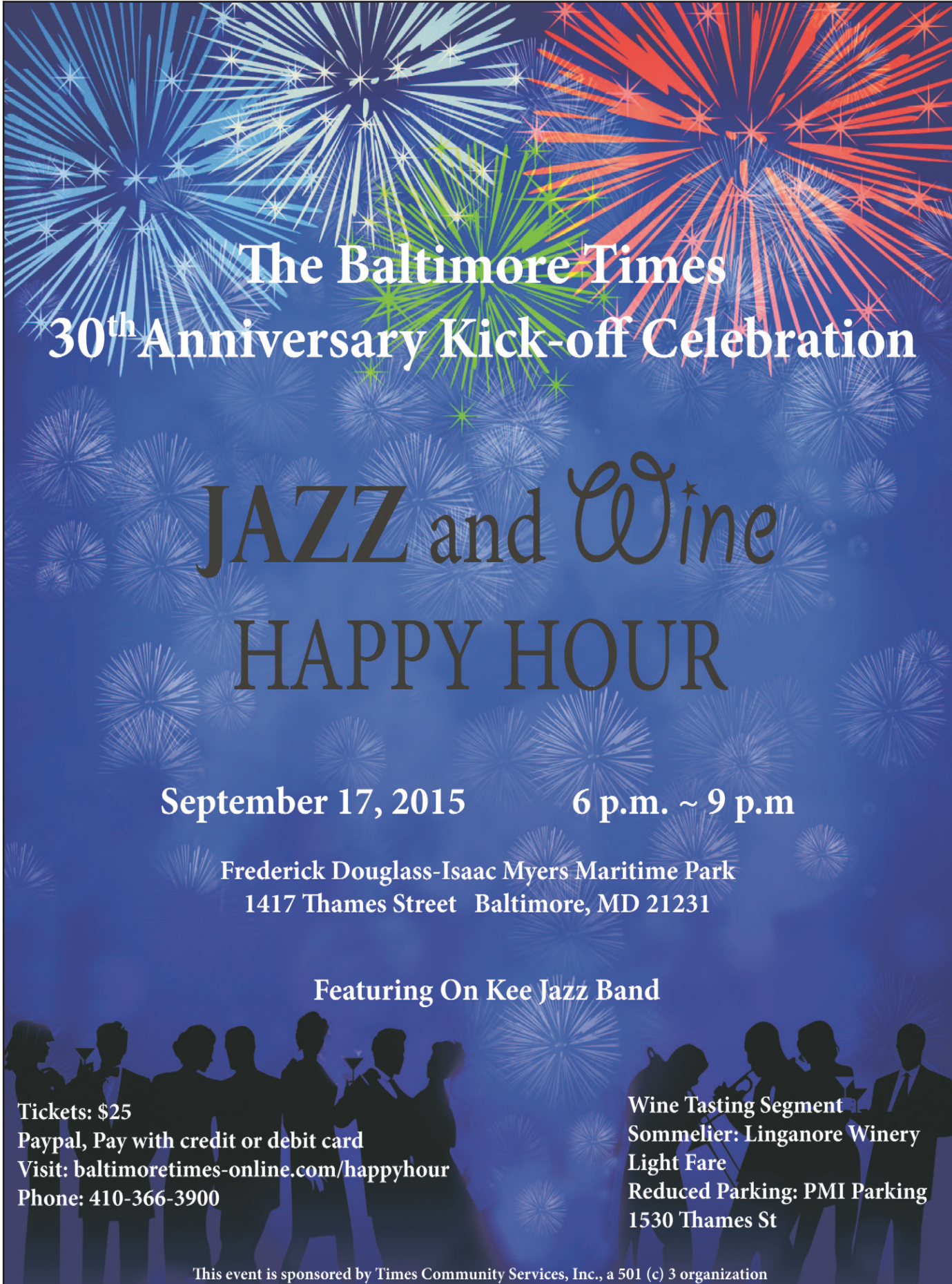
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Grandview Aviation Partners with Corporate Angel Network

Executive jet service to offer cancer patients free flights in empty seats of corporate and private aircraft

Baltimore— GrandView Aviation, an executive jet and helicopter service in Maryland, will partner with Corporate Angel Network to arrange free flights for cancer patients to specialized treatment facilities in the empty seats on corporate and private aircraft.

GrandView Aviation will offer its charter services to Corporate Angel Network cancer patients and their families to provide a way for patients with compromised immune systems who cannot travel commercially get to life-prolonging treatment, and ultimately help save lives.

“We book trips across the country and there are many times when our flights have empty legs or seats that can be put to good use,” said Jessie Bowling, Director of Sales and Marketing at GrandView Aviation. “This gives our clients the opportunity to extend their charters and empty seats to Corporate Angel Network for those who need it most.”

Corporate Angel Network is a non-profit organization that strives to help cancer patients access the best possible treatment for their specific type of cancer. The organization has flown more than 48,000 cancer patient flights to specialized treatment through the generosity of over 500 participating corporations.

To learn more about or donate to Corporate Angel Network, visit <http://www.corpangelnetwork.org>.

FTC Launches New Site for Victims of Identity Theft

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has launched IdentityTheft.gov— a new resource to help people report and recover from identity theft. It's also available in Spanish— RoboIdentidad.gov. For identity theft resources, visit: ftc.gov/idtheft.

Ravens Rookie WR Daniel Brown's work ethic makes underdog a standout

By Turrion Davenport

Baltimore Ravens rookie wide receiver Daniel Brown has made steady progress since the start of organized team activities this year. Making the jump from James Madison University to the NFL is not an easy task. However, this isn't the first time that Brown has been faced with having to adjust to a larger arena.

Brown played high school football at Isle of Wight Academy, which is located in the "757 area code," an area in Virginia known for producing NFL players such as Michael Vick, Russell Wilson, Kam Chancellor and Michael Robinson. He takes pride in being from the area.

"My teammates in college used to give me a hard time because I am from the 757," Brown said. "I am from kind of the outskirts of that area. There's a ton of talent that comes from that area so there's a reputation that has to be lived up to."

Brown helped the small school win three-consecutive state championships from 2005 – 2007. He was named first-team All-State as a senior. Brown stood out on the baseball field also, earning first-team All-State and All-conference honors as a senior playing first base.

While at Isle of Wight Academy, Brown became known as the school's "Mr. Athlete." He played forward on the basketball team and was known for being able to dunk on his opponent and also be a threat from three-point range. He earned first-team All-State and All-Conference honors as a junior and senior.

His time on the basketball court, specifically playing in the low post has helped Brown on the football field.

"A lot of playing in the post has to do with being a receiver. It's like going up for a rebound. It's all about timing and getting the ball at the highest point," Brown said. "In football, if it's a fade in the end zone or a deep ball, timing and using my size to my advantage is important. Playing basketball has helped a lot with that."

Despite his many high school accomplishments, Brown didn't receive many offers from colleges. He wanted to attend James Madison because of their



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Daniel Brown #83 scores a touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles in week two of the preseason at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Photo by Turrion Davenport

business school, which is one of the best in the country. The fact that he could get a high-class education and play football was a big factor in his decision to attend. He won the Colonial Athletic Association Commissioner's Academic Award while majoring in computer information systems.

Brown earned a scholarship one year after walking onto the football team. Brown's contributions increased every year after redshirting as a freshman. He appeared in 39 games at James Madison and recorded 91 receptions for 1,450 yards including 17 touchdowns.

Unfortunately, Brown was stuck in a similar situation when his college career ended. He proved that he was a difference maker while in college but didn't attract a lot of attention from those at the

next level. Just as he did before, Brown rose to the occasion. This time it was at his pro day in front of NFL scouts. The scouts were impressed with his size (6'-5" and 227 pounds) and his quickness (4.19 short shuttle). The fact that he caught every pass thrown his way certainly helped as well.

The Ravens showed the most interest and brought him into mini-camp. The big receiver is learning how to better use his body to win in his routes and at the catch point. He was able to string together some solid practices last week when the team had joint sessions with the Philadelphia Eagles.

The success trickled over to game day when Brown made his first catch as a pro, a 28-yard touchdown. Apparently, Brown has a thing for making a splash

first impression. His first catch, as a college player was a 41-yard touchdown against North Carolina.

Brown has the right mentality when it comes to approaching this opportunity.

"You don't know how many reps you're going to get, so you have to make the most of the ones that you get. If they throw your way, you have to catch it," Brown said. "I've improved at getting off the line, using my hands against press which is big in this league. The veterans, especially Steve Smith have told me to be physical at the line and to use my size against press."

It is important for players in his situation to get good plays on film. Brown knows that he is being evaluated on every play and has to make plays in order to make the 53-man roster. It's clear that he and third string quarterback Bryn Renner are developing a nice connection from working together so much in practice. The touchdown catch against the Eagles was an example of that connection. Quarterbacks usually don't throw the ball to a receiver when he is covered and has a safety lurking in the area.

The biggest thing that he had to adjust to was the speed of the defenses. Everyone is fast in the NFL. Brown says that he only focuses on what he can control. For that reason, he goes out and puts in the hard work every day. The attack work ethic displayed by Brown on the football field is fueled by the people who have doubted him.

"I feel like coming from high school, walking into college and then coming to Baltimore, I've always had a chip on my shoulder. Not in a nasty way," Brown said. "I've always had a certain work ethic. People have counted me out, kind of like an underdog guy. I want to prove people wrong."

That work ethic is something that stood out to Baltimore Ravens Offensive Coordinator Marc Trestman.

"He [Brown] is one of those guys that continues to work every day. He comes in, works hard like the rest of the guys. The level of competition has allowed him to accelerate his growth in the offense and in his individual play."

College Bound: Make your personal space pop

(Family Features) Academics aside, gearing up for college is a big job. Whether you're headed to the dorms or sharing an apartment or house with friends, making your surroundings comfortable and functional will let you focus on your studies. From cozy bedding to help you catch your zzzz's to the right technology for cramming to storage space that makes the most of your cramped quarters, show your smarts by decking out your living space right so you can turn your attention to hitting the books and having some fun.

Clean Up and Customize— Need extra storage in addition to your current closet setup? The Closet Maximizer from Closet-Maid is a tool-free solution that you can install in about 30 minutes. It features four shelves and an adjustable, double hang rod. Customize your system with accessories like fabric bins and wire baskets. The best part— you can reuse the Closet Maximizer in a different room, or even take it with you if you move. Available exclusively at HomeDepot.com.



Sleep in Style— Your bed may be the last thing on your mind as you think of all the excitement that awaits but getting plenty of sleep is key to your success in college. Amp the appeal of your dorm-issue mattress with stylish and comfy bedding that reflects your personality. Look for quality threads you can snug-

gle into, and coordinate with funky pillows to make your bed a cozy place to sit and study by day. Shop for great deals at your local retailers or online.

Key Your Way to Success— From tapping out notes in class to papers that keep you up all night to keeping in touch with family back home, your laptop is

likely to be a constant companion. A mid-range CPU will give you the speed to keep up. When it comes to memory and hard drive storage, your major may dictate how much you need, especially if you work with large files on a regular basis. Remember to consider size and weight for portability, and invest in a model that can withstand some wear and tear. A sales associate at an electronics retailer can guide you to your perfect match.



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PBS documentary uncovers story of legendary tennis pioneer Althea Gibson

Continued from page 1

She learned to play that sport on the streets, but it was bandleader Buddy Walker, who was also the neighborhood play street director, who introduced her to tennis and The Cosmopolitan Club, a private black tennis club.

At the club, she met Fred Johnson, the one-armed coach, who taught her how to play. Under the auspices of the American Tennis Association (ATA), an organization of African American players, she began to develop as a tennis player. It was during this time that she met boxer Sugar Ray Robinson, who would become a friend and mentor.

Though a talented tennis player, Gibson was a street kid who lacked the genteel manner associated with the sport. It was under the tutelage of Dr. Hubert Eaton of Wilmington, NC and Dr. Robert W. Johnson of Lynchburg, VA, two African American physicians who loved tennis and helped young African Americans who wanted to play, that she flourished.

She honed her skill, while receiving lessons in etiquette and the social graces, traveled and played in the segregated south, and even earned her high school degree. Her success in tennis earned her an athletic scholarship (basketball and tennis) to Florida A&M, where she received a BA in 1955 at the age of 27. Yet, with all she achieved, she never felt comfortable with the black middle class.

Gibson's first appearance at the U.S. Nationals in 1950 is an extraordinary and dramatic story. Her triumphant return seven years later to win the U.S. Nationals in 1957 and then again in 1958 has been attributed to her coach at the time, Sydney Llewellyn (her second husband). In 1957 and 1958, Gibson was at the top of her game, winning major tournaments including at prestigious Wimbledon.

Though now a world champion, Gibson was unable to make a living playing amateur tennis. In 1959, she turned professional, touring with the Harlem Globetrotters and played paid exhibition matches. Branching out to other areas, she recorded a jazz album for Dot Records, appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show, and even landed a role in a John Wayne/John Ford movie, The Horse Soldiers (1959). In the 1960s, she took up golf and in 1964 she became the first African American woman to become a member of the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association).

In 1965, she married the love of her life, William Darben. Angela Buxton, Althea's doubles partner and friend, and Sandra Terry, Darben's niece, speak lovingly about their relationship, though Gibson and Darben's marriage ended in 1975. Gibson would remarry in 1983 to former coach Llewellyn. Art Carrington, ex-professional player, tennis historian and Althea's friend,

recalls she married Llewellyn because she was invited to bring a spouse on a trip for former champions. Buxton shares that they were just very good friends and that Gibson felt Llewellyn had done a lot for her. Five years later, this marriage also ended in divorce. Gibson and Darben remained close, reuniting towards the end of her life.

By 1968, Gibson had stopped competing and for a while worked as a tennis teaching pro. In the years that followed, Gibson found it difficult to make ends meet. Was her failure to achieve financial success partially her own doing? As portrayed in the film, Gibson is crushed when she is turned away — unrecognized and unwelcome — at the on-site restaurant on U.S. Open Championship Day.

Depressed and impoverished, in 1996, Gibson called Buxton to say goodbye. In a generous outpouring of financial support, orchestrated by Buxton, the tennis community showed Gibson she was not forgotten. Gibson died September 28, 2003. She was 76.

Though Gibson's accomplishments put her in the forefront of the struggle to eliminate segregation in tennis and to gain equal rights for players, she was a reluctant figure of the civil rights movement. "As far as Althea was concerned, it was not about representing the race," says Arvelia Myers, Althea's friend and tennis professional. Says Billie Jean King, "Arthur and I used our tennis as a platform, that's not what she wanted. She just wanted to play."

"Gibson's athletic prowess was unmatched on the tennis court, making her a formidable competitor," says Michael Kantor, executive producer of American Masters and tennis enthusiast. "Her story remains an important part not only of sports history and African American history, but of American cultural history. American Masters is proud to share the story of this trailblazing athlete and extraordinary woman."



Althea Gibson (left) and Millicent Miller (right) at the Merion Cricket Club, ca. 1958, after Gibson defeated Miller in the first round of the Pennsylvania Lawn Tennis Championships. Miller is the mother of "American Masters: Althea" director Rex Miller. This photo inspired Rex Miller to make the documentary. Photo Credit: Courtesy of Rex Miller

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Robert Johnson: Playing By His Own Rules

By Stacy M. Brown

Robert L. Johnson has proven to be one of America's premiere innovators and with his RLJ Companies empire and other ventures; Johnson's legacy could ultimately be defined by what he's accomplished to level the playing field for African-Americans and other minorities in corporate America.

The Black Entertainment Television founder's RLJ Rule has the attention of some executives at Fortune 500 companies after already being endorsed by President Barack Obama and by members of the United States Senate who, led by Republican Tim Scott, recently passed a resolution establishing best business practices to fully utilize the potential of the country based on the RLJ Rule.

"It's a way to break up the old boys system, the mindset," said Johnson, 69. "Hiring is a process busy people do when they have to fill a position. It's a natural kind of behavior when a position is open to check their email list, see who they went to school with, who they play golf with and the next thing you know, African-Americans are left out."

That's exactly what Johnson proposes to change with the RLJ Rule, which encourages companies to voluntarily implement a plan to interview a minimum of two qualified minority candidates for every job opening at the vice president level and above.

Johnson also wants companies to interview at least two qualified minority-owned firms for vendor and supplier services contracts before awarding a new company contract to a vendor.

He says the decision by Xerox this month to implement their version of the RLJ Rule will hopefully motivate other Fortune 500 Companies to recognize the compelling need to encourage minority and ethnic diversity in hiring at every level and to encourage procurement opportunities for qualified minority businesses.



Robert L. Johnson, the founder of BET is pushing a rule that would see all Fortune 500 companies interview at least two minority candidates for upper management positions. Courtesy Photo/BET

"We are not telling people that they have to hire African-Americans, what we want is for them to be given an opportunity," Johnson said, noting that the

opportunity to compete as equals and contribute with their talents to the growth of the economy both nationally and on a global scale. Also, once you



approach has worked well for him.

"Tom Baltimore, who is responsible for all of the activities of my RLJ Development, was working at Hilton Hotels and he wasn't in line to be a CEO. I gave him a chance and now he's a CEO," said Johnson. "The point is to make certain that minorities are given an

bring them in for an interview it maybe that they don't get that job, but when something else comes up they are in your database and you know them."

Naturally, Johnson says he is not trying to bully anyone into adopting the rule or mandating that they hire minorities.

"The RLJ Rule is principally designed

to encourage companies to voluntarily establish a best practices policy to identify and interview the tremendous talent pool of minority individuals and businesses that are often overlooked because of traditional hiring or procurement practices," he said.

It's also a sort of spin-off of the NFL's "Rooney" Rule, which mandates that teams interview minorities for coaching and executive positions.

Born in Hickory, Mississippi in 1946, Johnson founded BET in 1979 with his wife, Sheila. He became the first African-American billionaire after selling the network to Viacom in 2001.

Johnson has since started a new business, the RLJ Companies, and has invested in an NBA team, a film company, and political causes and campaigns.

His latest venture, the Urban Movie Channel was launched earlier this year. The online and subscription-based channel features urban-themed movies and live stand-up comedy performances by such stars as Kevin Hart and Jamie Foxx.

"UMC was designed so that the African-American and urban creative community could directly reach consumers in a way that removes many of the restrictions associated with the legacy content development and distribution models," Johnson said. "As more video is consumed over broadband, we believe that we can quickly become the preeminent provider of quality urban entertainment to what has largely been an underserved, yet highly engaged audience."

The channel and RLJ Entertainment is yet another avenue that provides African-Americans and other minorities an opportunity to showcase their talents and express themselves, Johnson said.

"We're committed to given opportunities and the new digital world can create amazing success stories," he said. "It's an example of what I did with BET."

"All business is personal...Make your friends before you need them." —Bob Johnson

Fire victims continue a giving legacy from heaven



Victor Roy (center) and Stacey Alviani (right) visited summer campers (left) and Steven Cornette (second to end), CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BGCAA) at the Bates Club. Roy and Alviani helped to raise funds for several local nonprofits to continue the giving legacy of Sandra and Donald Pyle, the couple who perished in an Annapolis fire, along with four of their grandchildren. An \$11,250 donation was presented to Cornette on July 22, 2015. The money will help youth at six of BGCAA's locations.

Courtesy Photos



Stacie Wollman (left) shares happy memories at a Halloween party last October with the late Sandra Pyle (middle) and Marlee Roy (right). Wollman and Roy both volunteered to help raise money for the newly established Don and Sandy Pyle Charity Foundation. Along with her husband, Donald Pyle, Sandra was known to open her heart and home for charitable causes.

By Andrea Blackstone

News of the fatal mansion fire that occurred on January 19, 2015 in Annapolis, which claimed the lives of 56-year-old Donald Pyle, 63-year-old Sandra Pyle and four of their grandchildren— Alexis Boone, 8; Kaitlyn Boone, 7; Wesley Boone, 6; and Charlotte Boone, 8—shocked their family, friends and even strangers.

A report issued by the ATF and the Anne Arundel Fire Department revealed that an overheated electrical outlet ignited a Christmas tree, causing the blaze of the castle-like home on Childs Point Road.

Although friends and family are still coping with the tragic loss of their loved ones, a group of volunteers agreed that raising money for Don and Sandy's favorite organizations could keep their memory alive. They had a history of supporting charitable organizations in Maryland.

With the help of Pat McCoy, who was a friend and colleague of Don's, a board of 10 was established for the Don and Sandy Pyle Charity Foundation. On June 1, golf

volunteers, supporters and friends convened at Old South Country Club in Lothian, Md. for a first annual golf outing fundraiser. Victor Roy, senior vice president of wealth management at UBS Financial Services Inc. (UBS) in Annapolis, and Stacey Alviani—a client service associate at the company—were among volunteers who helped to run the golf fundraiser.

"Everyone came up with the quote, 'Doing it for Don,'" Roy said. "We had the golf tournament and we raised about \$45,000 (after expenses) in June."

Proceeds from the event were divided equally between The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, The Boys & Girls Club of Annapolis, the Maryland SPCA and The Severn School Boone/Pyle Scholarship Fund, which was reportedly established by the Boone families to honor the memory of the four Boone children who died in the fire. All four children attended Severn School in Severna Park.

The golf tournament was extremely special for Roy, a friend who had known the Pyles since the late nineties. Roy was their neighbor, before they moved to the

waterfront home on Childs Point Road. He later became their wealth manager.

"They were the complete opposites. Obviously, Don was a very good businessman. He built a pretty big nest egg and... was successful at technology, software, telecommunications kind of stuff," Roy said. "Sandy was the complete opposite. She was so much fun and would arrange the parties, charity events and giving back."

Roy reminisced about Sandy—the fun-loving woman who hosted an annual fundraiser at her home to benefit the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. She loved Ripken, the Baltimore Orioles and pets. Don, who was the chief operating officer of the IT company, ScienceLogic in Virginia, was a lacrosse fan who grew up in Baltimore. While carrying heartfelt memories like these with him, Roy presented an \$11,250 donation raised from the golf fundraiser to Steven Cornette, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BGCAA) on July 22. Alviani also attended with Roy. The representatives of the Don and Sandy Pyle Charity Foundation were happy to help Sandy and Don continue their legacy of giving from

heaven.

"BGCAA is humbled and honored to be a part of the Pyle family legacy. The golf tournament donation will go a long way in helping us transform the lives of underserved youth in all six of our clubhouses with programs targeted at healthy and active lifestyles – programs that will better the future of our community, one young person at a time," Cornette said.

Roy believes that future fundraising efforts will gain momentum since Don and Sandy were well loved. The plan is to rotate future charity donations, while continuing to honor them.

"At the end of the day, you feel really good that you're still helping the people that were dear to Sandy and Don, but it is painful. You keep on remembering them, but I guess everyone deals with grief differently...," Roy said. "They were successful, but they gave a lot back. A lot of people are really kind of hurt. You hurt because you lost them, but a lot of people counted on their help for their organizations. It's another reason to keep this going."

Rambling Rose

*Arch Social Club is Alive
with Entertainment*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

D&J Entertainment presents “Classic Soul Saturdays” on Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Arch Social Club located at 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue featuring Van Fields’ Stylistics, First Class and Boo’ne and Zo. Cash bar and BYOB or food is on sale. For more information, call 443-525-2715.

Also mark your calendar for the Maryland State Fair August 28 through September 7. It will run a full 11 days with midway rides for children and adults, food vendors, agriculture exhibits, horse racing, concerts, livestock and horse shows and much more. The fair is held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located at 2200 York Road in Timonium, Maryland.

Continue to mark your calendar for this one; Carlos Hutchins, renowned night club promoter, is celebrating 20 years in the marketing and promotional business on Sunday, August 30, 4-9 p.m. at the Forum Caterers, 4210 Primrose Avenue. The entertainment line-up includes: Elliott Levine, Rollex Band, Slagz Band, Ms. Sasshey, MC Booze Band and Isaac Parham band. This event will be hosted by Doresa Harvey, the Gospel Diva from Heaven 600 and honors: Tony & Michael the owners of Corinthian Restaurant and Lounge, Michael Haynie of the Holiday Inn Belmont; Mary & Myra Hendricks of Sista’s Place; Dante Daniels and Candes of Maceo’s and Coin’s Seafood & Grill; Donna & Chuck Montgomery of Johnson’s Lounge; Valerie Fraling and Rosa Pryor of the Afro-American Newspaper and the Baltimore Times newspapers; Charles “Rudy” Faison of “DipNic”, Tony Randall of Phaze 10 Restaurant and Lounge, Carl Beasley of Poet’s Athletic Club and so many more. I suggest to you very strongly, don’t miss this one. For ticket information, call 410-448-0033 or 443-963-5711.

There are a couple of blues events coming up I want to share with you. First of all, for those of you who really know me, know that I am a strong fan and lover of

the blues and Motown R&B music. So, I am looking forward to the DC Blues Festival on Saturday, September 5 from 12 noon until 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Carter Barron Amphitheater, 16th Street & Colorado Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. I am really excited about the festival this year as I am every year. The line up includes Sharrie Williams, Princess of Rockin’ Gospel Blues. She is a three-time Blues Music Awards Nominee and international performer, trained in jazz, gospel and drama. Although she credits KoKo Taylor, Etta James and Aretha Franklin as influences, her style is all her own. Also in the lineup; James Armstrong (Ambassador of the Blues); Full Power Blues (formerly known as The D.C. Blues Society Band); Jackson & Oziel (2014 D.C. Blues Society Solo-Duo Competition Winner); The Mojo Priests (2014 D.C. Blues Society Battle of the Bands Winner), just to name a few. For more information go to www.dtblues.org.

Leaving the blues party for a minute, but still in Washington, DC., I want to mention that my good friends John Lamkin “Favorites” Jazz Quartet will entertain you on Wednesday, September 9 at the “Jazz and Blues Cultural Society, 2813 12th Street NE in Washington, DC from 6-9 p.m. with Todd Simon on organ, Jessie Moody on drums, Mike Hariston on saxophone and John on trumpet and flugelhorn. For more information, email John at: jrlamkin2@gmail.com.

Let’s go shopping! There will be a “Fall Expo” on Wednesday, September 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the State Office Complex, 201 W. Preston Street. It will be the ultimate shopping experience. Vendors will have clothes, hats, gloves, jewelry, shoes, pocket books, arts and crafts, CD’s, food, just lots and lots of everything including “Rambling Rose” books; both of them, yes, I will be there too, doing a book signing. It is free and open to the public. There are spaces for more vendors, just call 410-787-8376 or go to



The Rollex Band will be performing at the “Friday Night in All White Forum Club Series” on Friday, August 28, 2015 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Forum Caterers on Primrose Avenue. So please dress all in white and enjoy a wonderful evening at the Forum. For ticket information, call 410-358-1101.

brian.neal@maryland.gov.

Meet me at Mike Jones “Old School All White Virgo Cabaret” on Sunday, September 13 from 5-9 p.m. at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road. BYOF and cash bar; live entertainment by the Rollex Band and music by DJ Mike Jones and DJ TC Flash, “Rambling Rose” will also be there for a book signing, cash, check or charge will be accepted. For ticket information, call 443-525-5016.

Curator, Stuart Hudgins will host “Billie Holiday’s Life in Music”, which will start on Sunday, September 6, and will run until October 3, 2015 at the Eubie Blake Center on Howard Street. The exhibit is a part of a series of celebratory events marking the centennial year of the great jazz vocalist Billie Holliday in her hometown of Baltimore. The interactive exhibition allows visitors to view photos and rare film clips of Billie Holiday’s performances and interviews and to listen to her music recordings. Holiday was born on April 7, 1915 and raised in Baltimore. Her Baltimore years are fundamental to her career in music. For more information, contact Stuart Hudgins at 443-925-8771 or email: stuhud093@gmail.com.

My goodness, I believe I am out of space, Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.



Van Fields are headliners with First Class, Baltimore’s own premier group and Boo’ne and Zo, at the Arch Social Club, 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday, August 29, 2015 from 8 p.m. to midnight. For ticket information, call 443-552-8048.



Warren Wolf, Jr. and Justin Thomas both vibes along with Allyn Johnson on piano, Kris Funn on bass and John Lamkin, Jr. on drums will be performing at Caton Castle, 20 S. Caton Avenue on Saturday, August 29 from 6-10 p.m. for ticket information, call 410-566-7086.

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Hot SALE
2 \$5
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9-11 Oz. Pkg. - Select Varieties
Fresh Express Salad Blends
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Hot SALE
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FOR
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5 Lb. Bag
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Hot SALE
6⁹⁹
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10-12 Oz. - Select Varieties
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2 \$4
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Hot SALE
2 \$7
FOR
MVP

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Birds Eye Voila! Dinners
Without MVP Card \$4.79 EA

Hot SALE
2 \$4
FOR
MVP

10.3-14 Oz. - Select Varieties
Quaker Cap'n Crunch Cereal or Kellogg's Rice Krispies Cereal
Without MVP Card \$2.89 EA

Hot SALE
2 \$6
FOR
MVP

20-24 Ct. Mighty Pacs or 46.5-50 Oz. Liquid - Select Varieties
All Laundry Detergent
64 Oz. - Liquid
Snuggle Fabric Softener
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

Hot SALE
1⁷⁹
EA
MVP

11.5-12 Oz. - Select Varieties
General Mills Cereal
Lucky Charms or Cheerios
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

Hot SALE
2 \$6
FOR
MVP

59 Oz. - Select Varieties
Simply Orange Juice
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

single item at 1/2 price
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
MVP

9.9-14.8 Oz. - Select Varieties
Keebler Chips Deluxe Cookies
Without MVP Card \$3.79 EA
Limit 2 Free

WOW!
4⁹⁹
EA
MVP

20.5-32 Oz. Bag - Select Varieties
Tyson Family Pack Chicken
Without MVP Card \$5.99 EA

WOW!
2²⁹
EA
MVP

10-14 Oz. - Select Varieties
Kraft Deluxe or Velveeta Shells & Cheese Dinner
Without MVP Card \$2.79 EA

Hot SALE
1⁶⁹
EA
MVP

14.5-24 Oz. - Select Varieties
Prego Pasta Sauce
Without MVP Card \$2.29 EA

Hot SALE
10 \$9
FOR
MVP

5.3 Oz. - Select Varieties
Dannon Greek Yogurt
Without MVP Card \$/5

Hot SALE
3 \$10
FOR
MVP

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Red Baron 12" Pizza
Without MVP Card \$3.89 EA

single item at 1/2 price
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
MVP

8.25-22 Oz. - All Varieties
Entenmann's Assorted Snacks
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Sesame Street's move to HBO angers local parents, childcare workers

By Stacy M. Brown

Sesame Street will now be brought to you by the letters H-B-O!

The iconic children's program is moving from the friendly-confines of PBS to the adult world of Home Box Office. The move has left more than just Oscar feeling grouchy.

A number of Baltimore area child care agencies and others are expressing their outrage, noting that while PBS is known for offering family and kids' favorites like Sesame Street, the Electric Company and Masterpiece Theater, HBO is rife with sex, violence, harsh language and is otherwise not child-friendly.

"It's very sad because you could always count on Sesame Street on PBS," said Jennifer Dorsey, the founder of A World of Friends Learning Center in Baltimore. "This must be a money deal. I know PBS is run by grants and community donations, but it's a shame that they can't keep [first-runs] of Sesame Street," said Dorsey, who also holds a position on the Mayor's Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

The New York Times spelled out how the partnership will work between HBO, the network known for the Sopranos and its mob hits and scantily clad women and PBS, often praised for its educational programming for children and adults.

In a new five-year deal between the network and Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit group behind the children's television program, first-run episodes of Sesame Street will run exclusively on HBO and its streaming outlets this fall. The arrangement allows the financially challenged Sesame Workshop to significantly increase its production of Sesame Street episodes and other new programming.

The group will produce 35 new Sesame Street episodes a year, up from the 18 it now produces, the Times reported. It will also create a spin-off series based on the "Sesame Street" Muppets along with another new educational series for children.

After nine months of appearing only on HBO, the shows will be available free on PBS, home to Sesame Street for the last 45 years.

"Kids are getting squeezed in the middle," said Tim Winter, president of the



Courtesy Photo/sesamestreet.org

Parents Television Council, a nonpartisan education group that advocates for responsible entertainment. "In order to watch original episodes of the most iconic children's program in television history, parents are now forced to fork over about \$180 per year and subscribe to the most sexually explicit, most graphically violent television network in America. I can't imagine a greater juxtaposition in television than this."

In a statement, an HBO spokesman said, "We are incredibly proud of our role in securing the future of 'Sesame Street' and its availability to PBS for free."

Childcare workers weren't as enthused.

"I don't think you should be charged to see Big Bird," said Sheryl Crosby, the business manager at Creative Learning Center, an ethnically diverse preschool and childcare center. "My husband and I don't have HBO because of all of the garbage that's on it and I have a huge problem with this because PBS connects with education while HBO connects with, well garbage."

Debi Karpinsky, the director of the Playtime Learning Center and Child Care, said she hadn't heard about the Sesame Street to HBO deal until contacted Friday. "I see this as a big problem," Karpinsky said.

"Everything has become one big horrible cycle. Now, kids won't get what they need which is something simple as a [free] television show. It's just inappropriate and more bad news because many of us watched Sesame Street when we were children."

Karpinsky says the Playtime Learning Center and Child Care instructs children using thematic units, which teach basic skills through real life and hands-on experience. She says the goal is helping children to realize that learning can be fun.

"But, this move to put Sesame Street on HBO is all about the almighty dollar," Karpinsky said.



Police – Community Dialogue:

A discussion on your rights followed by Questions and Answers

You are invited to attend a forum for concerned citizens, neighborhood residents, and community leaders in Sandtown-Winchester that will be hosted by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service (CRS).

Please join your neighbors, community partners, DOJ, and the Baltimore Police Department for a discussion on your rights when interacting with police. Learn what to do if you feel your rights have been violated and about DOJ's role in supporting the strengthening of police-community relations in Baltimore.

Representatives from the Baltimore Police Department will engage in a question and answer session with attendees. Additionally, the Forum will feature a panel discussion with representatives from DOJ's U.S. Attorney's Office; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; and Civil Rights Division.

WHAT: **Police-Community Dialogue**

WHERE: **Sharon Baptist Church**
1373 North Stricker Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

WHEN: **Tuesday, September 1, 2015**
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

For additional information please contact:

Suzanne Buchanan
USDOJ Community Relations Service
Office: 267-275-7423
E-mail: suzanne.buchanan@usdoj.gov

We look forward to seeing you there!

Bobby's Burger Palace opens in Towson

By Andrea Blackstone

Local burger lovers have a new spot to add to their foodie list. Bobby's Burger Palace (BBP) opened on July 28, 2015 at 515 Virginia Avenue in Towson Square.

The restaurant features burgers that are inspired by Chef Bobby Flay. Diners can expect to choose from specialty creations cooked with certified Angus beef, ground turkey or whole chicken breast. Along with other meaty selections, the Philadelphia Burger, Carolina Burger, Brunch Burger, L.A. Burger, Dallas Burger and BBP's Crunchburger® reflect Flay's travels throughout America and his love of comfort food.

Any burger can be cooked to order. Burgers can be "Crunchified," by topping them with crisp chips, at no additional charge. Sides include hand-cut French fries with BBP Fry Sauce, sweet potato fries with honey mustard horseradish sauce and buttermilk onion rings. Milkshake fans may choose from 10 exotic options like blueberry-

pomegranate with or without real whipped cream. Salads and sandwiches are adorned with BBP's unique touches, too. The Topless Burger Salad combines balsamic dressing with any burger served on top of baby greens.

Laurence Kretchmer is Flay's business partner who oversees the BBP chain. He explained that BBP is not a fast-food dive. How does he feel that it differs from most local burger joints?

"The food is made with only the best ingredients. Every meal is cooked to order...like you go into a bigger restaurant and ask, 'How would you like your burger cooked?' Our burgers are cooked rare, medium-rare, medium, medium-well, well-done, however a guest likes it," Kretchmer said. "The options are very different. It's the only burger chain that we know of which is absolutely chef-driven where every recipe is created by a world-class or world-famous chef. The level of hospitality that we provide, where we have an inexpensive price point, we offer a higher level of service that we try to



Bobby's Burger Palace located at 515 Virginia Avenue in Towson Square offers indoor seating for 65 guests and space for 24 more on an outdoor terrace.

Photo by Lauren Watley/Baltimore County Office of Communications

make it a more comfortable, accessible place, but keeping that value of things front and center always."

BBP Towson includes indoor seating for 65 guests and space for 24 on an out-

door terrace. The restaurant is open from Sunday to Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Kretchmer says that BPP is a great spot for friends to gather, a place for guys to leave the office and grab a bite to eat, or buddies to get together after work. However, it is a very family-friendly place.

"There is no alcohol here. We do that on purpose. We want to keep it light and friendly," Kretchmer said. "I imagine on the weekends, you will see a lot more families in here. We have a special deal for kids where you can get a burger, fries and a drink for less than the price of any our burgers alone that an adult would get."

There are 19 BBP locations throughout the country. Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz welcomed BBP to Towson Square, which is the newest dining and entertainment district in the heart of Towson, Maryland, anchored by a state-of-the-art 15-screen Cinemark Theatre. Before his visit, Kamenetz proposed the idea of adding a finishing touch.

"We need a Towson Burger on your menu, and it could be all Baltimore County homegrown ingredients," Kamenetz said on opening day. "It's a perfect time to make that Towson Burger on the map. It'll be a great seller, so see ya soon."

DIANA ROSS
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IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER

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all promotional partners and The Baltimore Times are not eligible. All decisions are final.

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 11

Hats and History' Exhibit Begins at AACCC's Truxal Library



See the various ways hats represent rankings, religions, genders, sports and cultures throughout history at the "Hats and History" exhibit on display now through September at the Andrew G. Truxal Library on Anne Arundel Community College's Arnold campus, 101 College Parkway. Mea Lee, a reference librarian, came up with the theme and designed the exhibit. For information or hours of the exhibit, visit <http://www.aacc.edu/library/default.cfm> Courtesy Photo



Estonian Youth Choir to Perform a Concert Play in Annapolis, Waldorf

Annapolis—A youth mixed choir from Estonia known, as Vox Populi will perform a free concert play at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts located at 801 Chase Street in Annapolis. A second free performance will be given at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at St. Charles High School in Waldorf, Charles County.

Both the city of Annapolis and Charles County have sister relationships with sites in Estonia.

The concert play is described as a "musical journey in the natural landscapes of Estonia," based on the writings of Veljo Tormis and in celebration of his 85th birthday.

Founded in 2006, Vox Populi's concerts are inspired by Estonian and Finno-Ugric folklore with the aim of of-

fering memorable moments to the singers and the audience and to bring people together through music. The group has won top awards in choir competitions throughout Europe. Its conductor, Janne Fridolin, was honored as the Best Young Conductor of 2010 and received additional accolades in 2013 and 2014 from the Estonian Choral Association.

Vox Populi's appearance is presented by World Artists Experiences, an organization bridging international understanding through cultural diplomacy, in partnership with the Embassy of Estonia. Additional information is available at www.worldartists.org.



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Things to Consider When Buying a Franchise

By Christopher Conner

Before one makes the “jump” to buy a franchise, you should consider the following:

*Get a good understanding of where you are financially, timeline-wise and from an interest standpoint. You need to assess not only yourself, but your financial position, what kind of cash you have in place, what is your liquidity, what is your net worth?

*Know who YOU are. Before selecting a franchise brand or concept you need to fully understand your own interests, background and business abilities. Are your hobbies and interests outside of work or professional life? What are your strengths and weaknesses from a business or personal standpoint?

*Research the market and as many franchise opportunities as you can. Unless you have a specific company in mind or are using a franchise broker or consultant who is helping you through the process and researching, this could

be a lengthy, frustrating process. There are dozens of franchise websites and thousands of franchise opportunities out there which provide a wide variety of information on franchises.

*Research your financing options. Once you have made your selection, you may need financing, in fact, even if you don't need financing, it's good to understand what your options are and what capital/cash is available for you should you need working capital or resources to launch your franchised business. There are numerous options, including conventional bank loans, SBA guaranteed loans, 401k rollovers, alternative financing channels and home equity loans.

With over a decade of experience in building and developing franchise brands, Franchise Marketing Systems (FMS) continues to pride itself on structuring and modeling various organizations appropriately for replication into new markets.

Christopher Conner is the president of Franchise Marketing Systems, which has become one of THE primary organizations for providing full-service marketing and sales support consulting to clients in ALL industries.

Comptroller Peter Franchot encourages enrollment in College Savings Plans of Maryland

Baltimore— Comptroller Peter Franchot joined the College Savings Plans of Maryland on a visit to the Annapolis Regional Library to stress the significant financial benefits and tax advantages of utilizing college savings accounts. As students head back to school this week, the Comptroller encouraged families to save in one or both of the State of Maryland's two 529 college savings plans: the Maryland Prepaid College Trust and the Maryland College Investment Plan.

Franchot, who serves as a member of the College Savings Plans of Maryland Board, highlighted the importance of establishing a college savings strategy to reduce or even eliminate the need to borrow money in the future to pay for higher education expenses.

The rising cost of a college education has sparked the need for families to start saving early and Maryland's two 529 plans can be a great option to ultimately lower the burden of student loan debt, which has ballooned to exceed 1.2 trillion nationally.

“In today's knowledge-based economy, a college education has become an increasingly important to future success,” said Comptroller Franchot. “For years, the College Savings Plans of Maryland has played a vital role in helping families attain higher education with significant tax advantages. With the increasing cost of tuition, now is the best time for parents to begin saving for future education expenses by enrolling in one of Maryland's 529 Plans.”

Treasurer Nancy Kopp, who chairs the College Savings Plans Board added, “CSPM is committed to making a college education attainable by providing all of Maryland's families with affordable ways to save for college. Our plans are structured to offer many flexible savings choices that optimally help families to cut the cost of college in half by saving versus borrowing.”

The College Savings Plans of Maryland offers two 529 college savings plans, the Maryland Prepaid College Trust and the Maryland College Investment Plan. The Maryland Prepaid College Trust gives families an opportunity to lock in tomorrow's tuition at today's prices and is backed by the assurance of a Maryland Legislative Guarantee. The next enrollment period for the Prepaid Trust will begin on December 1, 2015 and runs through April 20, 2016.

The Maryland College Investment Plan enrollment is open year-round and is managed by T. Rowe Price. The College Investment Plan offers a variety of investment options and families can start with as little as a \$25 per month with automatic deductions. Both plans offer attractive federal and Maryland State tax benefits and can be used at nearly any accredited college in the country.



**To place Legal Notices in The Annapolis Times,
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Volunteers Needed for 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival Saturday, September 26, 2015

Volunteer opportunities are available to help with the 2015 Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival being held at Annapolis City Dock. The annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival, coordinated by Kunta Kinte Celebrations, Inc., celebrates the cultural heritage of people of African descent and raises awareness to the challenges encountered by all ethnic groups striving to preserve their culture. The festival will be held at the Susan Campbell Park at Annapolis City Dock, Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteer opportunities are available for: set up, selling refreshments, clean up, children's activities tent, greeters and more. Volunteer sign-up is available online at the following VolunteerSpot webpage <http://vols.pt/D5q1dg>. For more information contact KuntaKinteCelebrations@gmail.com or visit www.kuntakinte.org.

Fall fishing in the Eastern and Mid-Bay Areas

The Free State Fly Fishers invites the public to attend the free September monthly meeting with Lenny Rudow speaking on "Fall Fishing in the Eastern and Mid-Bay Areas" on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Davidsonville Family Recreation Center located at Queen Anne Bridge Road in Davidsonville, Maryland, behind Ford Hall. The event is free. Lenny will bring his Bay fishing books for sale. For more information email: George.Vincent@k3gv.verizon.net or call: 301-249-6399.

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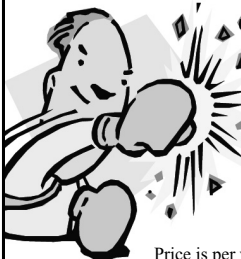
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