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First black UMB nursing grad receives honorary doctorate at 84



On Friday, May 15, 2015, 84-year-old Esther McCready received a Doctor of Public Service honorary degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB), the same institution that in 1949 denied her entry into the School of Nursing because she was black. Two years later her attorney, Thurgood Marshall, was successful in the fight to get her enrolled as the first African-American student admitted to the University of Maryland's School of Nursing. McCready was the first African American student to graduate from the program in 1953. The School of Nursing now has 37 percent minority representation and 53 percent of those are African-American. (Above) University of Maryland School of Nursing Dean Jane M. Kirschling confers the honorary degree on McCready. (Complete story on page 6)

Photo Credit: University of Maryland, Baltimore

Comedian and author Lizzie Skurnick returns to Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown

When the celebrity gossip website TMZ attempts to figure out whether someone has had plastic surgery, they pose the question to readers whether a star's good looks are a result of good genes or good doctors. TMZ probably should defer to Lizzie Skurnick, who has mastered the English language so much that she has created her own verbiage—well, sort of.

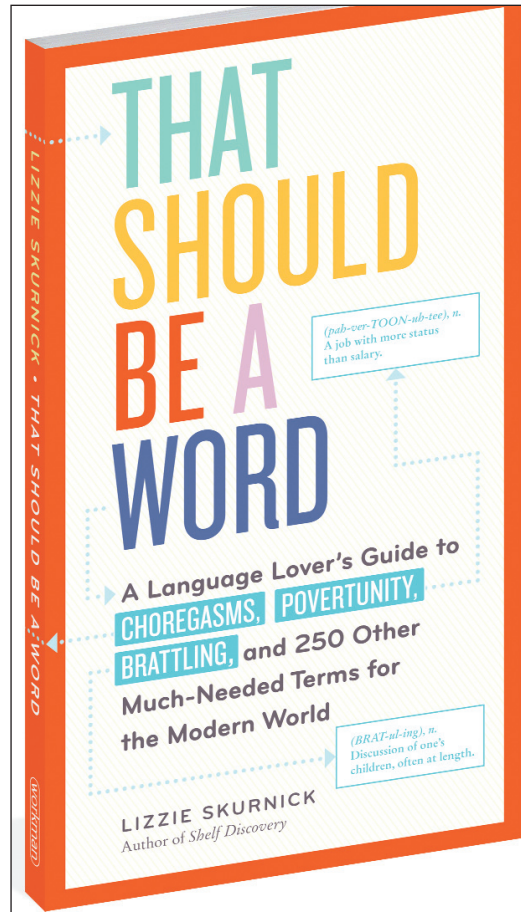
“Skinjecture is the word I created to try and figure out whether someone's had plastic surgery,” said Skurnick, a former Baltimore resident and columnist for Jezebel.com's “Fine Lines.”

Skurnick, a comedian, writer, publisher and author of 10 teen books in the “Sweet Valley High, Love Stories and Alias” series, has released a new book titled, “That Should Be a Word: A Language Lover's Guide to Choregasms, Povertunity, Brattling, and 250 Other Much-Needed Terms for the Modern World.”

The book is based on her popular New York Times column of the same name. “When I started the column, I didn't realize that I could do so many words and do them so easily,” Skurnick said. Everybody thinks of a word or two, but I realized that my brain was sort of making me think of inside jokes.”

For instance, Skurnick came up with “Bitemize,” a combination of bite and itemize meaning someone who's eating small bits of food while obsessively counting calories.

Then, there are “Gafftermath,” which is the fallout from a scandal; “Sipster,”



an individual who expresses coolness through drinks; “Brattle,” which is to talk too much about your children and then there's another one of Skurnick's newest words that many can relate to, “Fidgital,” the excessive checking of a device such as a cell phone.

“I love analogies and I love making stuff up,” she said. “I have always made up words. And I have also always made up analogies. And I think all of that came together, the punning, the



Lizzie Skurnick is returning to Baltimore on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 where she will appear at the Ivy Bookshop located at 6080 Falls Road for a 7 p.m. book signing and discussion.

Courtesy Photos

rhyming, and the mania.”

Skurnick, who graduated from Johns Hopkins University Writing Seminars with a master's degree, currently writes the blog, “Old Hag,” a Forbes Best of the Web honoree.

She has her own book imprint, Lizzie Skurnick Books, and she also serves on the board of the National Book Critics Circle.

Skurnick's poetry has appeared in var-

ious publications and outlets including the New York Times magazine.

“I noticed it [the ability to come up with odd words] when I was younger and my old English teacher would say, ‘I love finding Lizzie's hidden words,’” Skurnick said.

Finding the words now are easy, but deciphering can be a challenge.

However Skurnick, a lexicographer, humorist and a keen social observer—as noted on the book's cover—makes it quite simple. She says the hundreds of words found in the new book simply describe the particularities and peculiarities of life in the 21st century.

Skurnick says she is looking forward to returning to Baltimore on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 where she will appear at the Ivy Bookshop located at 6080 Falls Road for a 7 p.m. book signing and discussion.

She said her appearance will be a “little of a love song to the city.”

“The time in Baltimore was very important to me and it's where I lived growing up as a writer,” Skurnick said. “I wouldn't be the writer I am without Baltimore. This city is where I found myself as a writer.”

For more information about Skurnick and her scheduled visit to the Ivy Book Shop, visit: www.lizzieskurnick.com and www.theivybookshop.com.

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The Scars of Vietnam

By Bill Fletcher, Jr., NNPA Columnist

As a baby-boomer who grew up on war movies, I thought of veterans as various forms of heroes. I knew that in going to war some soldiers died; some were wounded; others came home...and that, I thought, was that. While I vehemently opposed the United States war of aggression against Vietnam for many years, I did not think much about what it actually meant to have fought in that war nor did I consider the less obvious wounds suffered by those who engaged in combat.

Wallace Terry's now famous book "Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War: An Oral History" was eye opening, as was interacting on a closer level with veterans of the Indochina War. Getting close to veterans was not particularly easy for reasons I will address below, meant casting away virtually everything that I had learned in watching war movies. With the possible exception of the post-World War II film "The Best Years of Our Lives," the U.S. media pays little attention to the plight of the combat veteran.

Even in the case of World War II, where veterans returned home as heroes, their sacrifices and the horrors that they witnessed— and sometimes perpetrated— have been quickly ignored. Combat veterans are expected to pick up from where they left off and get on with their lives, much the way that others of us who have experienced traumas are regularly treated.

Vietnam War veterans were hard to get to know. I don't mean that they were or are rude or unfriendly. Rather, there is a part of most of them that they are reluctant to share. At first I thought that this reflected some sort of attitude towards me, given that I had not been drafted, had not served in combat and had opposed the war. It turns out that it was something entirely different.

In case after case, combat veterans were simply surprised that I gave a damn. Their reluctance to discuss their experiences seemed, more than anything else, to reflect a defensiveness brought on by experiencing, time and again, a combination of lack of interest, denial, and impatience on the part of non-veterans regarding what they—the combat veterans— had seen, heard and done.

While living in Boston in the 1970s and 1980s, I came to better understand the critical need for supportive environments for Vietnam War veterans. There was no real reason for them to trust people like me, and the first thing that I had to appreciate was that it was nothing personal at all. They had no reason to trust that any of us who had not been in combat not only could "get" what they experienced but that we cared to shut up and listen to the stories that they told.

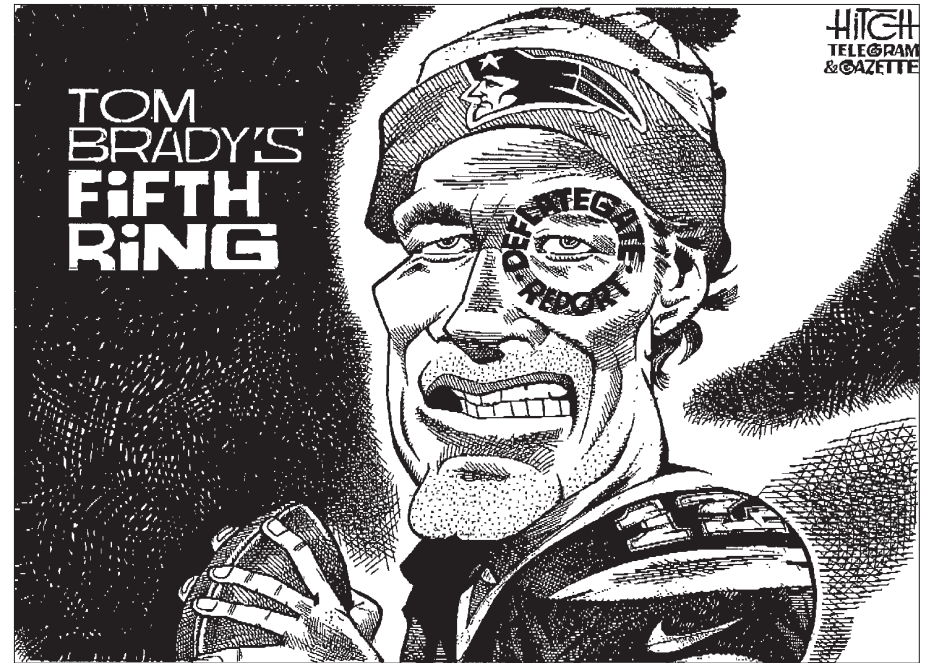
In many respects that is why reading Bloods was so important for me: I had to sit there, shut up, and listen to voices tell stories that I would not otherwise have heard.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. He is a racial justice, labor and global justice activist and writer. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

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Commentary

Remember our Military!

By Glenn Mollette

One of my sons recently came home from a twelve-month military deployment. My wife and I took a couple of days and flew to welcome him at his stateside arrival airport. We watched soldier after soldier pick up his or her duffel bags in baggage claim. We didn't see families or friends hugging them and welcoming them home.

My son turned the corner and came into the area and I was so delighted to see him. For the first time in one year, I heard his voice and hugged him. Surely, there was another area where spouses, family or others were waiting to greet these wonderful military men and women but I didn't see them. I felt like my wife and I were the only two people waiting to welcome a family member.

I wonder if we are missing something altogether in this nation. Do we take for granted all that we still have in America? In Colorado, residents are free to smoke pot. In many states we are free

to gamble our money. We are free to choose our religion. Gay and Lesbians can find a way to legally bond somewhere in America. Street preachers in America can still cry out the gospel. All in all in America, you can do most anything you choose and America doesn't ask a whole lot of us. We have to pay some taxes. We aren't allowed to hurt people. We have a few rules to obey. We are to obey the driving laws and that's about it.

Soldiers are called upon to lay down their lives. We do pay them but very low wages the first few years. I realize they have some benefits but we are asking them to fight to help protect us and maintain our American way of life.

This weekend or any weekend say thank you to a veteran or to a passing soldier. Remember those who have given their lives for us in war. Without their sacrifice, America would have been a thing of the past a long time ago.

Glenn Mollette is an American columnist whose column appears in all fifty states. He is the author of eleven books. To contact him, visit: www.facebook.com/GlennMollette

Planning for our own success

By Jineea Butler
NNPA Columnist

Are we living in the last days? If so, what are we doing about it? It seems the world is coming apart at the seams. The Muslims are attacking the Christians, the Christians are attacking the Muslims; Africa is under siege, the Earth is shaking, the United States is waging war on its African American citizens, but why are you surprised? Yes, we live in the land of the free and home of the brave and are still not equal. Now what? Do you think we can make people care about us before we can care about ourselves? I am proud to see our people finally coming together and standing as one unit. Now what?

Now that we all agree that we are not going to let anyone come into our communities and kill our people without a fight, we need to use the moment to improve who we are and how we are perceived. Our action plan has to include more than threatening a march, pointing a finger and waiting to see if the Department of Justice is going to convict offi-

cers for their crimes. That is a distraction. It's more than tearing up buildings, throwing rocks and dancing in the street for minor victories. It's not about being interviewed for your perspective on the problem of police brutality. It's succeeding out loud. It's about making our money speak for us.

It's about going back to the drawing board to see what part we play in making America a better place for ourselves.

Everybody is toting signs saying "Black Lives Matter," but whom are we trying to convince? The world around us, or ourselves? My beef is while we are rallying for justice we are leaving out a few key factors that are necessary for growth and development. How are we jumping out in the streets fighting the establishment, but not changing how we spend our money? Why is that not #1 on the agenda?

circumference. The feeling you get when you wait to see if they are a troublemaker, a fool or a Hip Hop musician. The feeling you get when you don't want to confront this person because you don't know if the response is going to be negative or lead to an altercation. This is the symptom of those suffering from the Hip Hop Dilemma. The cops are on the front lines dealing directly with this traumatizing experience and it is affecting their work performance.

If we work to change the narrative of who we are, what we stand for and how we live. The cops will have to change how they police our communities, because they won't know who to profile, they won't know who to arrest, because we all look like success. Sometimes we give the underperforming members of our community an excuse not to be the best they can be by leaning on white supremacy. It's deeper than officers abusing the law, the war been going on and we have known it.

Our response looks like a horse and pony show because as soon as the cameras arrive everybody throws their capes on and swoops in for the rescue, but the community has been burning for years. Why does everything become more important when the TV camera arrives? I'm fighting for everyone in our community to step up and be better. We have to eliminate the reasons they are stopping us in the first place. Change the game.

Jineea Butler, founder of the Social Services of Hip Hop and the Hip Hop Union, can be reached at jineea@gmail.com or Tweet her @flygirlladyjay.

"We have to be real about the problem, because the same reason we are not marching through the hood and telling every drug dealer, murderer and criminal that they can't occupy the hood and kill the babies, is the same reason these cops are on edge and quick to pull the trigger because there is a problem. I call it the Hip Hop Dilemma."

The generation before us changed their status by getting educated, by changing their style of dress and their manner of communication. They outsmarted their opponent.

We have to change how we are living. Point blank. Stop fronting like these killings are not exposing a bigger problem. We can't expect to be treated fairly when we don't even treat each other fairly. We turn up our noses and look down on our own people the same way these cops and the rest of America does. We just don't kill people in the exchange.

We have become complacent with a part of the community that is underperforming.

Furthermore, if we are asking them to grow then we have to grow. We can't spit in the faces of our oppressor and then ask them to help us in the same breath. We have to have a plan for our own success.

We have to be real about the problem, because the same reason we are not marching through the hood and telling every drug dealer, murderer and criminal that they can't occupy the hood and kill the babies, is the same reason these cops are on edge and quick to pull the trigger because there is a problem. I call it the Hip Hop Dilemma. You know that intense feeling you get when someone of the urban persuasion walks into your

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First black UMB nursing grad receives honorary doctorate at 84

By Stacy M. Brown

Though small in stature and soft in voice, there is little doubt that Esther McCready proved to be a giant in the fight for civil rights.

On Friday, May 15, 2015, the 84-year-old pioneer's life came full circle as she received a Doctor of Public Service honorary degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB)—the same institution that in 1949 denied her entry to the School of Nursing because she was black.

“There is a famous piece by African-American writer Langston Hughes that asks the question of what happens to a dream deferred,” said Dr. Jane Kirschling, the dean of the University of Maryland's School of Nursing.

“To Esther McCready, the answer is that it isn't [deferred]. She applied to the school in hopes of earning her diploma in nursing and her application was denied,” Kirschling said before introducing McCready to a large gathering at the school's commencement.

“Never one to back down from a challenge, she agreed to let the NAACP argue her case in the Maryland courts.”

Two years later her attorney, Thurgood Marshall, was successful in the fight to get her enrolled as the first African American student admitted to the University of Maryland's School of Nursing.

Wheelchair bound, McCready took the stage to thunderous applause. Not well enough to address the crowd, McCready's smile suggested that she was ever grateful and proud of the honor bestowed by school officials.

McCready was the first African American student to graduate from the program in 1953.

“As an alumna, nurse, educator and citizen, Esther McCready has come to exemplify the best characteristics of a public servant, for whom commitment and service are inextricably linked. In



To celebrate the 125th anniversary of University of Maryland School of Nursing, Esther McCready was honored as one of the School of Nursing's 25 inaugural Visionary Pioneers at a gala at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel on April 18, 2015. The Visionary Pioneer Award is given to alumni who have made a significant impact on—and contribution to—the field of nursing based on leadership, innovation or entrepreneurship. (Left to right) UMSON Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN; Esther McCready, MM, BM, DIN; and University of Maryland, Baltimore President Jay A. Perman, MD.

Courtesy Photo/University of Maryland School of Nursing

awarding Esther McCready an honorary doctorate from UMB, the pleasure may be hers, but the honor is surely ours,” Kirschling said.

As noted on the school's website, Niña-Cecilia Santos, class president of the School of Dentistry, served as student speaker at the graduation ceremony for the roughly 2,000 members of UMB's Class of 2015, from its schools of dentistry; law; medicine; nursing; pharmacy; social work; and its graduate school.

“Coming to school at the University of Maryland's founding campus I came to know a new community,” Santos said. “All of us did, arriving at a graduate campus that trains the future leaders of Maryland to do unparalleled research at state-of-the-art facilities.

“We came from all over to learn new ideas, new knowledge and new rules. We rose to the occasion. The crux of this

ceremony isn't to celebrate the acquisition of a piece of paper. It celebrates our transformation. When we put on the uniform of our calling, be it white coats or suits, we take on the identity of our profession and all its responsibilities,”

For Santos and many others, homage to McCready was natural as the civil rights champion helped to open many doors because of her battle against discrimination.

Kirschling says the School of Nursing now has 37 percent minority representation and 53 percent of those are African American. She says students have gained a great deal because of the strength, perseverance and determination of McCready.

“Not only were Esther's dreams not deferred, but thanks to her courage and bravery, the dreams of so many others did not have to be either,” Kirschling said, before turning to McCready. “Esther, we honor you as a civil rights icon, a transformational figure in education. You are a treasure.”



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Ravens fifth round draft pick Robert Myers is 'Living the Dream'

By Turron Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens have always had a penchant for drafting players from Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs). Two players from HBCUs in the 2015 NFL draft. Tray Walker, a cornerback from Texas Southern was selected in the fourth round the other selection was Robert Myers from Tennessee State. Myers is the second player (Anthony Levine) to come to the Ravens from Tennessee State.

Myers is somewhat of a late bloomer. He didn't play football until his junior year of high school in La Vergne, Tennessee. He saw his first game action during his senior year. Being able to make it to this point is an awesome accomplishment. Myers spoke about that during a conference call after he was drafted the Ravens.

"It's truly a dream come true getting a chance to play in the NFL. This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I feel blessed that I'm in this situation." Myers said. "I didn't even start playing football until my junior year of high school and didn't see the field until my senior year. For someone who didn't play any football until my senior season in high school, I'm extremely fortunate and blessed."

He was the only player to be a starter on offense for all 12 of Tennessee State's games last year. He was the anchor for an offensive line that didn't allow a single sack over the last four games of the season. Myers was the only player to represent Tennessee State at the NFL Combine and says that he was proud to represent the program that was the only one to give him a shot out of high school.

Despite the late start, Myers says that football is his life and can't wait to play football as his job. He knows that the



Tennessee State interior offensive lineman Robert Myers takes part in field drills at the 2015 NFL Scouting Combine at Lucas Oil Field in Indianapolis, Indiana. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

NFL is the biggest stage and playing at the highest level is like 'living the dream' for Myers. There weren't many big crowds and bright lights at Tennessee State so it will be an adjustment but Myers has a personality that is big enough to handle it.

An example of Myers' big personality is his outfit for the team interviews at the NFL Combine. His outfit was different from the normal warm up suit that the other prospects wore. Myers' went to team meetings in a charcoal suit with a light blue dress shirt and a red tie.

He spoke about the interview experi-

ence with The Tennessean.

"I think I really impressed them when I threw that suit on," Myers said. "I approached this like it was a job interview. I feel like I have a good personality and a good sense of humor. I wanted to show it's a business interview in my mind, and I was approaching it that way. Everybody said I looked sharp. I got some nice feedback."

Myers earned the nickname "Quadzilla" at the combine because of a wardrobe malfunction during drills at the combine. He was wearing compres-

sion shorts that rode up to reveal his massive quadriceps muscles. Pictures of his tree trunk-like legs quickly went viral and the nickname was born.

The massive legs are the result of plenty of hard work and putting long hours in at the gym. The will to grind was instilled in Myers by his mother who raised six kids. Myers calls her the hardest worker that he has ever seen.

The names don't stop at "Quadzilla." Myers was given the nickname "Snacks" in college. He had a pretty funny explanation when he was asked how he got the name.

"It really started at team dinners when I was a freshman going into football camp. The seniors would have seniority and they'd eat first and the freshmen would eat last." Myers said. "While we waited to get our dinner, I would be snacking on different stuff. Then my coach just started calling me Snacks."

He said his teammates noticed that he had various kinds of snacks in his car when he popped the trunk open before a practice. They had jokes and soon everyone was referring to him as snacks.

Myers was a standout at the Senior Bowl. That was really where the Ravens brass noticed him. Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome mentioned how he impressed at the Senior Bowl during their draft wrap up press conference. They sent offensive line coach Juan Castillo to Tennessee State to work him out and he came back impressed.

Myers feels that having Coach Castillo will help him make the transition because Castillo made the same switch coaching wise after coaching on the division-two level. Myers is recovering from a foot injury but was ready to go for rookie mini-camp and will take part in organized team activities next week.

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 available in Spanish, too, at RobodeIdentidad.gov. IdentityTheft.gov can help people understand which critical steps to take first. It provides detailed advice, easy-to-print checklists, and sample letters. The site also has advice for people whose information has been exposed in a data breach.

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Buying, selling a home—be prepared!

After flatlining during the economic downturn that began around 2008, housing markets in many regions of the United States and Canada have shown signs of recovery. Those in the market to buy and sell may find this year presents an ideal opportunity to do just that.

Buyers will need to be prepared to purchase inventory right away, while sellers will need to price their homes right for the best chance of sale. The following are some guidelines.

Buyers

Having a plan is essential when buying a home, as such a purchase is not something buyers should take lightly. Establishing a budget is the first step. This means taking inventory of savings, expenses and borrowing power. It is advisable to sit down with a lender and do a run-through of what you can afford. By providing key financial information, including earning statements, existing debt and credit history, buyers can quickly learn how much they're quali-

fied to borrow and how much they are comfortable borrowing. This helps buyers zero in on homes in their price range.

Being preapproved for a mortgage is advantageous when it comes time to make offers on properties. It shows sellers that buyers are serious and that they have been vetted by the bank.

Many buyers conduct a lot of research online prior to stepping into a home. This research lasts an average of six to eight weeks, according to the National Association of Realtors. Homework includes investigating neighborhoods and school systems, comparing the going rates of homes in the area, as well as figuring out which features are desired in a home.

It also is important to hire a buyer's agent. Such professionals send buyers listings that fit their home-search parameters, which saves buyers a lot of time and effort. Some agents preview homes for their buyers, even going so far as to identify overpriced listings that can be avoided or finding sellers who are will-



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ing to negotiate. A buyer's agent works for the buyer, meaning there will be no conflict of interest. Agents assist buyers in the negotiating process, using their knowledge of the real estate market to help buyers make realistic offers that are likely to be accepted while providing a wealth of information about housing trends, area services and home improvement vendors.

When sellers accept buyers' offers, buyers must then arrange home inspections. An inspection is oftentimes included as a contract contingency, and buyers have a right to cancel contracts if inspections find that a home is unsatisfactory structurally.

Sellers

Sellers competing for business in a thriving housing market also have to do their share of work. It is unlikely sellers will be able to list their homes for sale one day and have dozens of offers the next. Today's buyers are much more conservative, and homes will have to be presented in the best light and listed at reasonable prices.

Sellers can start the process of selling their homes by researching recently sold homes in their neighborhoods, paying particular attention to final sales prices. This information may be available

through tax records, and some real estate sites publish the data online. Sellers can then compare this information to what they still owe on their mortgages if their homes are not paid off, and this should give sellers an idea of their potential profits.

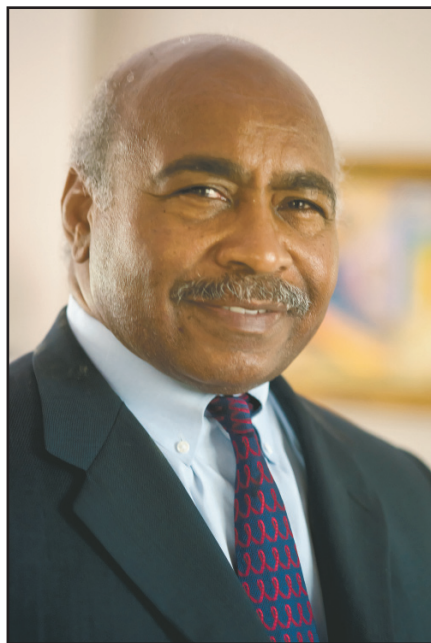
Sellers also can benefit from working with real estate agents, as it can be quite difficult and stressful for homeowners to sell their homes on their own. Agents have access to multiple listing databases and industry contacts, information that is quite valuable when selling a home. Agents will do their own assessments of a home to help sellers price the home accordingly based on market conditions. In addition, real estate agents can inform sellers about which, if any, repairs or changes may need to be made to make a home more attractive to prospective buyers. Real estate agents also help sellers through the negotiating process, finding a balance between what the buyer wants to pay and how much the seller wants for the home.

Housing markets are once again looking up. Understanding the process and getting guidance from real estate professionals makes the process of buying and selling a home that much easier.

Former NFL Great Willie Lanier gives \$500K to Alma Mater Morgan State

Baltimore— Morgan State University (MSU) announced a major financial commitment from one of the University's favorite sons, a \$500,000 gift to establish the Willie E. Lanier, Sr. Endowed Lectureship in Business Ethics in the Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management (SBM). Lanier is a 1967 graduate of Morgan and a standout football player in both his collegiate and professional careers. He also has made his mark in business as the president and CEO of Virginia-based Lanier Group LLC.

"Life provides you with opportunities to reflect upon the values and principles that have come to define who you are, and allows you the space to determine what is important," said Willie E. Lanier, senior advisor, Cary Street Partners, and president of Lanier Group LLC. "I attended Morgan for the education and to cultivate a relationship with the university. Athletics provided the means for my education. Committing to this lectureship allows me to build upon the things I learned as a student in the business school and make a positive contribution to an area that touches all aspects of what we do in life— ethics."



Willie E. Lanier
President/CEO
Lanier Group LLC.
Courtesy Photo

"This endowment is a testament to Mr. Lanier's commitment to academic excellence in the area of business and we are

very fortunate to be the recipients of his generosity," said Dr. Fikru Boghossian, dean of the School of Business and Management. "Faculty members will be able to use this endowment to support the study of business ethics, further demonstrating Morgan's dedication to ethical practices and strengthening its reputation for ethics scholarship."

Lanier earned a degree in business and administration from MSU in 1967. He had an outstanding college football career at Morgan playing for legendary head coach Earl Banks. Following a stellar professional athletic career in the National Football League, Lanier was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2000. He was twice selected to the Small College Football All-American team and was the second-round selection by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 1967 NFL draft. Considered the first African American player to star in the position of middle linebacker, Lanier is recognized as one of the NFL's

"100 Greatest Football Players."

"Willie Lanier provides an exceptional example of how Morgan State University graduates continue to make great contributions in their post-collegiate careers while also recognizing and supporting the foundation of their success," said Morgan President David Wilson. "With this half-million dollar endowment, Morgan will be able to expand upon the efforts of our School of Business and Management to cultivate a climate of ethical business practices in boardrooms across America."

Lanier, who resides in his native Virginia where he manages the successful Lanier Group LLC investment firm, serves as chair of the Morgan State University Foundation, which will administer the new endowed lectureship. Beginning in 2016, the lectureships will provide a two-year award to provide supplemental financial assistance to a selected member of the SBM faculty who conducts research in business ethics.

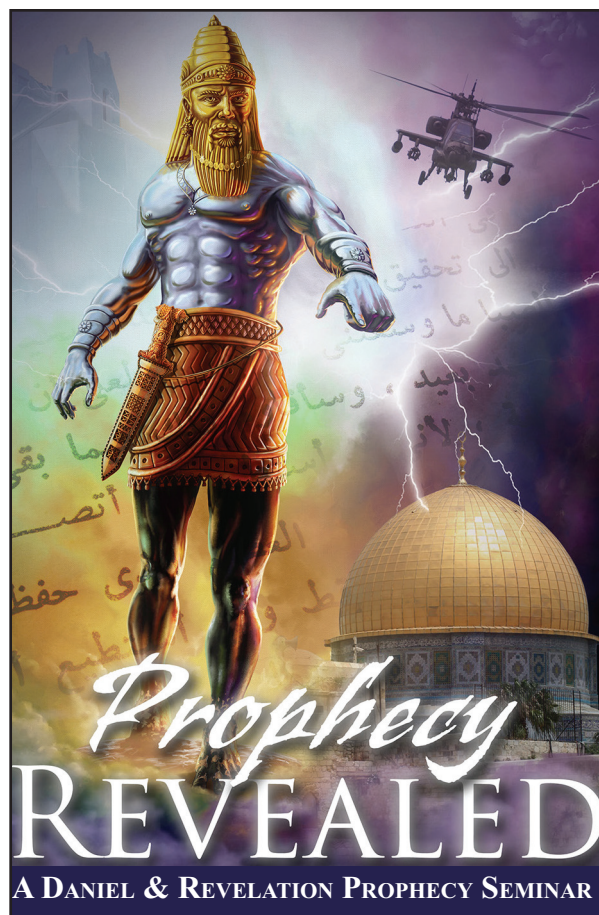
Veterans Affairs Health Care Enrollment, Eligibility and Veterans Benefits Seminar

Baltimore— The Veterans Affairs (VA) Maryland Health Care System is hosting a VA Health Care Enrollment, Eligibility, and Veterans Benefits Seminar at the Baltimore VA Medical Center on Monday, June 1, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The program is free of charge and is designed to provide an overview of VA programs and services for community health care providers, social workers, and counselors.

During the seminar, VA representatives will provide information about eligibility and enrollment information for VA health care, in addition to an overview of VA primary, long term and mental health care services. There will also be a representative available during the seminar to talk about fee services eligibility and benefits and VA compensation benefits. Following the seminar, participants will have the opportunity to visit resource tables to get additional information about VA programs and services available to Veterans.

Registration for the seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the second floor of the Baltimore VA Medical Center, which is located at 10 North Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Parking for the program will be available for a fee at nearby parking garages.

For more information about the VA Health Care Enrollment, Eligibility and Veterans Benefits Seminar, contact the VA Maryland Health Care System's Community Outreach office at 1-800-949-1003, extension 6071 or register online at www.chepinc.org/upcoming_events and click on 06/01/2015 VA Health Care Enrollment, Eligibility & Veterans Benefits Seminar.



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Urban League leadership program prepares students for college

By Andrea Blackstone

Wesley Read, 18, will graduate from City Neighbors High School later this month. The senior remarked that the Greater Baltimore Urban League's (GBUL) Saturday Leadership Program provided valuable college exposure. After attending each session for a year, participating in the program helped Read to understand what to expect during his future journey. While Read prepares to officially make his transition from high school to college, he reflected on visits made to numerous area colleges, and the advice that was offered by GBUL's young professionals who conducted leadership development sessions.

"In a way it has pushed me toward college. I have always wanted to go," Read said.

When asked what advice he would offer younger students, Read said, "I would tell them that right now it seems like the worst thing in the world is to go to school and to get your education, but in the long run, it's really going to help you out when you get there."

Anthony Gary, Daekwan Jacobs and Davayonn Tyler are three other Baltimore residents who completed GBUL's Saturday Leadership Program. Saturday Leadership Fellows from Baltimore convened monthly for six and a half hours on Saturdays to develop their leadership potential and provide exposure to college and careers. Sessions for Leadership Fellows were held at UMBC, Loyola University, Johns Hopkins University, Stevenson University, Coppin State University, Goucher College, Notre Dame and the University of Baltimore. Host universities took participants on campus tours. The free program was launched in 2013 for eighth to twelfth grade students.

J. Howard Henderson, president of GBUL, created the program to bring youth together from across Baltimore City. In addition, Henderson aspired to fill a gap for youth who are not a part of the Talented Tenth, but who have not gone astray either. There is no GPA requirement to participate. Instead, the focus is on determining who would



Greater Baltimore Urban League (GBUL) officials, Saturday Leadership Program (SLP) volunteers and Saturday Leadership Fellows celebrate at the closing ceremony of the (GBUL) Saturday Leadership Program on April 18, 2015 at The Forum Caterers in Baltimore City. SLP Fellows Anthony Gary, Wesley Read, Daekwan Jacobs and Davayonn Tyler completed the program and will graduate from high school in late May. They will all attend college in the fall. (Left to right) Sharnice Barnett, AmeriCorps VISTA SLP Program Coordinator; Howard Henderson; president and CEO, GBUL; Carol Jefferson, volunteer curriculum developer; J. Jackie Cast, AmeriCorps VISTA SLP Resource Developer; Anthony Gary, SLP fellow; Wesley Read, SLP fellow; Daekwan Jacobs, SLP fellow; Davayonn Tyler, SLP fellow; and Estelle Young, volunteer director of new initiatives.
Photo Credit: William Carson

benefit from the program and attend sessions. All programming is conducted on college campuses accessible using the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) bus line. Doctors, lawyers, IT professionals, managers, principals and a range of professional volunteers facilitate sessions.

"We believe that what can do really, really well is [provide] exposure to college, exposure to a wide variety of development topics through the workshops, exposure to Baltimoreans who have gotten their college degree, and then went on to do great things for their community, and then expose [students] to facilitators who are both college-educated and black," Estelle Young, director of New Initiatives for GBUL said.

Eighteen-year-old Anthony Gary will attend Frostburg State University. The Baltimore Polytechnic Institute student is already interested in computer science.

"Personally, I have always wanted to go to college. It's been something that's been a goal of mine," Gary said.

Having an opportunity to visit a variety of colleges allowed him to determine which one may be a good fit.

Young is a full-time volunteer with GBUL, which administers the Saturday Leadership program. Although consistent student attendance can be challenging, investing in developing leadership potential, and promoting career readiness, can contribute to the long-term success of students like Gary and the other high school graduates.

"It's been very rewarding to me that it is an all-volunteer program and that we've been able to mobilize. We have grants of about \$20,000 [yearly]. At almost no cost, we've been able to provide this really high quality service." Young said.

Davayonn Tyler attended the Saturday Leadership Program for two years and

only missed one session. He typically took two buses to get to the program arriving at 7:15 a.m. Tyler was accepted to engineering programs at both Morgan State University and Virginia State University. He is still deciding which school to attend, but the bigger point is Tyler has choices about where he will further his education.

Seventeen-year-old Daekwan Jacobs also acknowledges the value of choices and decision-making. He will be the first person in his immediate family to attend college. The graduating Baltimore City College High School student plans to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland. He is leaning toward studying biochemistry.

"My parents didn't go to college, so I knew that I wanted to go to college. I knew that by me going to college, it will put me in a higher position in getting a better job, and making more money for the future," Jacobs said.

Hattie Washington offers inspiring story during National Foster Care Month



Dr. Hattie Washington is the author of “Driven To Succeed: An Inspirational Memoir of Lessons Learned Through Faith, Family and Favor.” The Coppin State University professor founded Aunt Hattie’s Place, a foster home for boys. On April 26, 2015, Dr. Washington and supporters celebrated 18 years of providing service to the community and the launch of her book.

Photo Credit: Andrea Blackstone

While focusing our attention on National Foster Care Month in May, Dr. Hattie Washington is a living example that investing in foster children is worth the effort and time. Hattie Washington believes that it takes a village to raise a child. The professor who has worked at Coppin State University for 20 years opened Aunt Hattie’s Place in 1997 to exclusively provide a foster boys group home. Today, Aunt Hattie’s Place is a safe haven located in Baltimore City for boys ages 17-21.

On April 26, 2015, Washington and supporters celebrated 18 years of providing service at Aunt Hattie’s Place. The annual gala is the nonprofit organization’s major fundraiser. Washington debuted her new book, “Driven To Succeed: An Inspirational Memoir of Lessons Learned Through Faith, Family and Favor,” during the joyous occasion. In addition to recounting personal experiences, the inspirational memoir partially explores



Dr. Hattie Washington (middle) celebrates Mother’s Day 2014 with her daughter, Cheryl Washington and her foster son, Wayne Saunders. Courtesy Photo

Washington’s journey to founding the non-profit, when she was Assistant Superintendent of Baltimore City Schools. Proceeds from books sold at the gala will help to support Aunt Hattie’s Place programming and the Aunt Hattie’s Place Scholarship Endowment for aspiring college students.

“Aunt Hattie’s Place is a home for foster boys who have been abused, neglected and abandoned. I didn’t start out opening a group home. I started out as a foster parent, because I found kids on the corner in the middle of the day. I just stopped the car to see why they were out of school, because they were in my school district. They told me they were foster kids, and they didn’t know what school they were supposed to attend, because they didn’t have a permanent address. I tried to determine how could that be,” Washington said. “I took them (the boys) back to my office. My secretary called Social Services. I took them home, supposedly for one night. One night became one week and [that turned into] one month. After several months, I decided to keep them, because they were no trouble at all.”

The caring mother of two biological daughters unexpectedly became a foster parent. Washington hired a housekeeper and a cook to help provide support for her growing household. After realizing that the boys needed more resources than Washington could provide in a foster home, she pursued opening a group home. By the end of 2010, Washington had three running boys’ homes with the capacity to serve 26 foster boys.

“At Aunt Hattie’s Place, all staff, board members and volunteers are called aunts and uncles by the young men to give them the feeling of inclusion into a family,”

Washington said.

For six years one of her biological daughters, Cheryl Washington, served as the Executive Director of Aunt Hattie’s Place. She placed her legal career on hold to help. Charrell Washington Thomas— a physician in Florida— is Hattie Washington’s other daughter who has always been understanding when foster youth found their way into their family circle over the years.

Washington encourages more people to get involved with kids to “see what’s going on.”

“Everybody has some time, if it’s no more than visiting a foster home, or group home and just picking a kid and saying, ‘I’ll mentor that kid.’ Mentoring doesn’t have to be in-person. You can call the kid once or twice a week. Say ‘I’m just calling to check on you, this is your uncle so-and-so.’ Maybe once a month, they can do a face-to-face,” Washington said.

Wayne Saunders, 34, is Washington’s foster son who began living with her family as an 11-year-old. Saunders never lived in Aunt Hattie’s Place. The IT professional does not call Washington Aunt Hattie; he calls her Mom. In a written tribute to Washington in her book, Saunders says that his mother is his role model. He is the first college graduate in his biological family.

“It was surprising at first [that my Mom took me in], at least back then. It was rare to hear a [badly] behaved teenage African American male getting put into a foster home. Usually kids just get into the system and they travel from foster home to foster home or group home, until they age out, or get in trouble, ” Saunders said.

For more information about Aunt Hattie’s Place, to make a donation or to inquire about volunteering, visit: www.aunthattie.org. Visit <http://arriepublishingcompany.com/> to learn more about Washington’s book. You can reach her by email at ahpkids@aol.com.

Overcoming challenges as a mother in the Coast Guard

Baltimore, Md.— One challenge many people in the Coast Guard face is finding a good work-life balance, and finding that balance can be especially difficult for mothers. Long deployments, difficulty finding affordable childcare and complicated work schedules are all situations many mothers in the Coast Guard face each day.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Martha Viloría, a yeoman at Coast Guard Sector Baltimore, started her family with her husband three years ago and has faced many of these challenges first hand.

“One of my biggest challenges has been my own work ethic,” said Viloría. “Before having my daughter and son, I didn’t really worry as much about how much time I was spending at work. There was always something to be done at work, and I always wanted to get as much finished as possible.”

The family dynamic can be a difficult situation as well. In the past, it was more common for a mother to stay at home with the children while the father was the main provider. Today, the roles are often reversed.

“At first, my husband was the one to work and provide for me while I was finishing school, but we did a role swap. Now I’m working and providing while he stays at home with our kids,” said Viloría. “That’s what works out best for us right now. Child care costs are outrageous.”

Many mothers also miss holidays and birthdays because of work schedules and deployments. It’s common for mothers to miss their child’s firsts, such as crawling, the first tooth coming in and first steps.

“I missed a lot of my daughter’s first birthday when I was at my previous unit because we were scheduled to go shoot at the range,” said Viloría. “I tried to get out of it. I was a terrible shooter anyway. Thankfully, we finished with enough time for me to still go pick up my daughter’s cupcakes, so I didn’t miss the whole thing.”

Viloría said she had a wake up call when her daughter started noticing how much she was gone at work.

“I’ll never forget this,” said Viloría. “I used to work on weekends a lot because it always felt like the work was never ending. My daughter eventually started to notice I was going to work on days I was supposed to be off. She started asking where I was going. I would always tell her I was going to work because I had bills to pay.

“That’s when I realized something had to change—I had to balance my time between work and home better,” said Viloría. “When she started to see I was home more, one day she just asked me if all the bills were paid. I just laughed and told her they were. She was happy about that.”

Viloría says one of the ways she balances her time between work and home is maintaining a schedule. She



*Petty Officer 3rd Class Martha Viloría with her daughter Arya and son, Amani.
Courtesy Photos: Petty Officer 3rd Class Martha Viloría*

dedicates a specific amount of time to work, studying for her advancement and working out. The rest of her time is dedicated to her family.

“Being a mom in the Coast Guard is amazing for me,” said Viloría. “I have a huge amount of support from my command, and I’ve met so many helpful people along the way. Sometimes it feels terrible when you have to miss certain things or can’t be there for your kids, but in the end, your children and family are getting the experience of a lifetime. It’s worth it.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Martha Viloría poses in a family photo with her husband Mario, daughter Arya and son Amani.



Rambling Rose

It's time for parties and the crabs!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello, my dear friends. I hope everything is well with you. I am doing great and so is my "Boo-Boo," my husband, Shorty Trusty. The surgery was a success on his thyroid, he is eating well and his doctor has given him a good report. We thank you for your prayers and good wishes— it all counts.

Now, before I go any further, let me tell you that the Lexington Market Crab Derby that I participated in Thursday was a lot of fun and I want to thank Darlene Hudson for inviting me again to try to win that first prize of \$500 for my organization. No, I didn't win as you see, but I think I picked a crab that had arthritis, because that duck-plucking crab only could raise one claw when it tried to crawl. She looked kind of energetic when I picked him out of the bushel, but honey child, the more water I squeezed on him and bounced the ball and stick on him the slower he got. Terrible situation!

Okay, let's see what is coming up in the next couple of weeks that I think you would like to attend.

This one, you have to get your tickets early, even though it's not until June 13, 2015. Fullwood Travel Unlimited Traveling Agency is hosting a bus trip to Crab Claw Restaurant in St. Michaels with all you can eat steamed crabs, steamed shrimp and buffer meal then try your luck at Maryland Live Casino or shop at Arundel Mills Mall on Saturday, June 13. My dear friends, this is a nice and fun trip, I have been on it. So if you want to get away for a day then you should call Stella and Everett at 410-542-2530 and ask about their next trip going to Memphis Tennessee and Tunica, Mississippi on their Party Bus in July.

Okay, now we got the "Back down Memory Lane Oldies but Goodies Cabaret" coming up on Saturday, May 30th from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight at the Forest Park Senior Center 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. The Motown sounds of the 60's and 70's, live entertainment by S D and Friends, Mistress of Ceremony is Ms. Maybelle; there will be a best contest for those of you who dress to impress the 60's & 70's attire for male and female. The judges are "Rambling Rose", Bilal Ali and Roger Harris. It is cabaret Style, so bring your bottle (BYOB) and bring your picnic basket of food (BYOF). They will have free set-ups. For ticket information, call 443-660-8211.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to keep an eye on this promoter, he is good and he will be bringing fantastic entertainment to the Arch Social Club on a regular basis. His name is Don Jones. On Saturday, May 30, EnteDon Jones of D&K Entertainment will present "Classic Soul Saturdays" from 8 p.m. until 12 at the Arch Social Club, 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue featuring The Intruders, The Spindles, the comedian "Alabama" and it will be hosted by "Iceman". For ticket information, call 443-525-2715 and tell them "Rambling Rose" told you.

Well, my dear friends, I am out space, but do remember if you need me call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Be good to yourself and others. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



The other "Crab Jockeys" who participated in the Preakness Celebrity Crab Derby at Lexington Market were Harold Pompay from Heaven 600, WCAO; Craig Chambers from 100.7 The Bay; Emily Gracey from WBFF Fox Channel 45 News; Larry Collins from WBFF also from Fox 45 News; Karen Parks from WBFF Fox 45 News; Gina Cash from WLIF 101.9; Jerry Coleman from 105.7; Reagan from MIX 106; Peter Schmuek from the Baltimore Sun Paper; Sloan Brown from the Baltimore Sun Paper and Chyna Allen of Ms. Trinidad & Tobago United States 2011.



The first place winner for the Crab Derby was Crab Jockey, Pete Gilbert from WBAL News Channel 11. His crab didn't crawl across the line to win, it jumped! Congratulations Gilbert.

Jazzway 6004 is a non-profit organization that promotes straight ahead jazz and blues in an affordable and intimate setting and helps build local jazz audiences for our talented area musicians in Baltimore. This is beautiful home of local jazz/blues singer Marianne Matheny-Katz and her husband, Howard Katz. Concerts are generally held on Saturdays. For more information, email: mmkatz@jazzway6004.org.



Oldies, But Goodies Cabaret including Motown Sounds are presented by Cleveland and Vanessa of C&V Productions on Saturday, May 30th from 8 p.m. to 12 at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. BYOB & BYOF with free set ups. Live entertainment by "S.D. and Friends", Mistress of Ceremony is Ms' Maybelle, D.J. Mike Jones will provide the oldies and judges for the best dress male & female is "Rambling Rose," Roger Harris and Bilal Ali. For ticket information, call 443-660-8211.



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Indie Soul: Marley at Center Stage

By Phinisse Demps

From Center Stage Artistic Director Kwame Kwei-Armah, comes a world premiere musical based on the life and music of Bob Marley. After surviving an assassination attempt in 1976, Marley left Jamaica for London, where he spent nearly two years in self-imposed exile. Chronicling the events surrounding this earth-shaking moment, Marley tells the story of a man transformed into one of the 20th century's most important cultural figures.

Set in the soundscape of an era, this new musical weaves together the life and music of a man who, to heal himself, first healed his homeland.

The play was superb and Center Stage was definitely saving the best for last. There is no way Kwei-Armah could have anticipated the riots of Baltimore were going to happen right before the opening of this well performed musical performance.

Actor Mitchell Brunings embodied Marley and every ounce of emotion that Marley felt the audience felt as well. The music choices really set the tone and the mood that captured what was happening during that time period. As with every great leader Mitchell's Marley was conflicted, unsure, and trapped. This musical captures all of this and you really get caught up in what Bob Marley was going through.



Mitchell Brunings plays as Bob Marley
Courtesy Photo/Center Stage

This show has to be and needs to be on Broadway.

Marley will run at Center Stage until June 14, 2015. For more information visit: www.centerstage.org

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Indie Soul: ROGUE

By Phinisse Demps

The landscape of television viewing has changed over the years with an explosion of original programs coming from cable, the Internet and now DIRECTV.

E-One has teamed up with DIRECTV to produce "Rogue" now in its second season. "Rogue" stars Thandie Newton as an undercover agent Grace Travis. It also stars Cole Hauser and Andrea Roth. If you love thrillers, then this is for you. If you are Newton fans, you will get to

see her in a whole new light! There is plenty of great action and intrigue.

This season, she's left undercover life behind to be a better mother to her daughter. She also has a new job as a handler for an FBI task force investigating corporate espionage in San Francisco. Recently separated, with the arrival of her estranged mother, she has plenty of drama on the job - and at home. But when her undercover operative goes missing, Grace is forced back into a world of lies and deceit, following a trail of dirty money and investigating

four soldiers at the center of the drama. Season two just released on DVD on the May 19th, 2015. While the show has gotten mixed reviews, Indie Soul, thinks it is one of those shows that will be a cult classic. Pick up your copy and judge for yourself.

Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 410-366-3900 ext. 3016 or 410-501-0193 or email: pdemps@btimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @pdemps_btmes.com



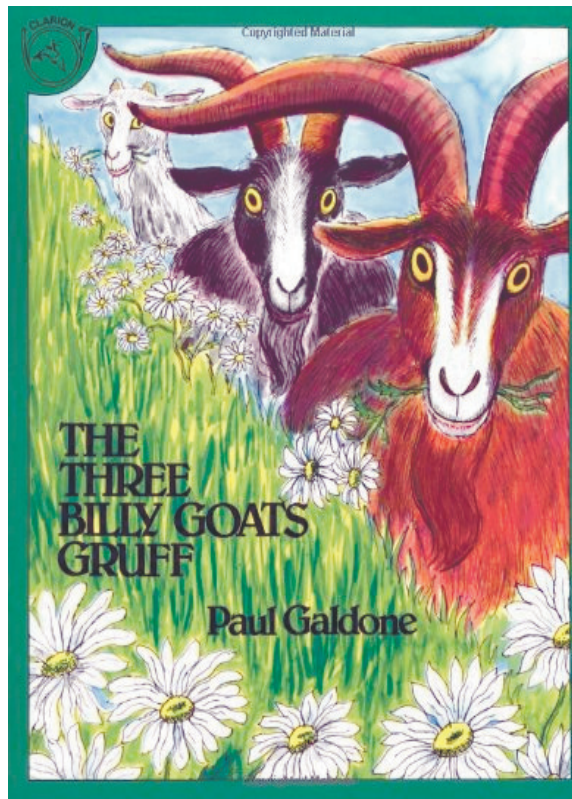
Indie Soul Book Review:

The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Legend of Jocko

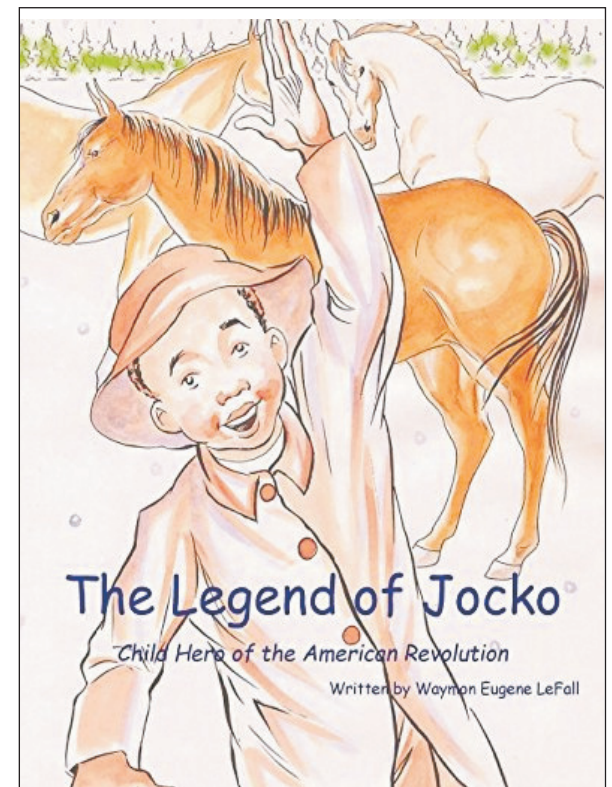
Schools will let out for summer vacation very soon but that does not mean your child should take a break from learning. Here are two books that should be on your child's summer reading list:

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" by Paul Galdone: This was one of my favorite books as a kid. It's the story of a troll and three goats that wanted to get over to the other side of the bridge for food. For me it was about being picked on because of size and finding someone else your own size to pick on. For others it could be something else. The book comes with toys based on the characters in the book so young readers can re-enact the story. This tests their comprehension, vocabulary, memory, and listening skills. Galdone has written numerous books using some old school favorites. His books are available on Amazon.com.

The Legend of Jocko-Child Hero of the American Revolution by Waymon Eugene LeFall: When I read this book I had to do some research because I was always told that lawn jockeys were symbols of America's racist history. That is a myth and LeFall has written a book not just for kids and teens but for adults as well. It is a great history lesson about Jocko Graves and his contributions to the American Revolution. The book is filled with information that you and your family can research together to gain more insight and information.



LeFall is not just trying to tell you a story, he is using this as a platform to educate you as well. This is a must have for your book collection.



Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: lfpindiesoul@gmail.com Follow him on Twitter: @lfpindiesoul

Marylanders urged to guard against tick-borne diseases

Bitten residents can submit insects to State to identify for treatment guidance

Baltimore— As the summer season approaches and people and their pets begin enjoying more time outdoors, the risk of tick-borne disease transmission is at its peak. In recognition of this, Governor Larry Hogan has proclaimed May as Tick-borne Disease Awareness Month. The Maryland Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and Agriculture (MDA) join the Governor to remind Marylanders to enjoy the outdoors, but to keep ticks off.

“We want Marylanders to enjoy the natural beauty found in our great state,” says DHMH Secretary Van Mitchell. “But we want them to safeguard their health while they do it, by being mindful of ticks and the diseases they spread.”

In the state of Maryland, the most common ticks are the lone star tick, the blacklegged tick, and the American dog tick. Ticks survive by consuming blood from hosts, which can be humans, dogs, cats or other warm-blooded animals. It is important to be aware that ticks can transmit infectious diseases when they bite you.

Immature ticks are extremely small and can be in wooded areas, brushy fields, high grass and even in your own backyard. Maryland residents are urged to protect themselves, their children, and their pets against tick-borne diseases and to take precautions when participating in outside activities.

“When preparing for outdoor activities, be sure to apply insect repellent to protect against ticks,” said Dr. Laura Herrera Scott, DHMH Deputy Secretary of Public Health.

Lyme disease is the third-most-common communicable disease reported in the state of Maryland, and more than 1,300 Lyme disease cases were reported in 2014. Other diseases that can be transmitted by ticks include anaplasmosis, babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain and other spotted fever diseases, and tularemia. Most tick-borne diseases can be cured with antibiotics, especially when treatment is started early.



“As a public service to residents, MDA entomologists can identify any tick submitted to the department,” says Agriculture Secretary Joseph Bartenfelder. “This valuable information can be used in discussions with medical professionals who can discuss treatment options if necessary.”

Residents interested in determining what kind of tick they have can go online to download a tick identification form at <http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Documents/tickid.pdf>. Be sure to fill out the form completely, tape the tick (do not send photos) to a small piece of

paper or put into a dry container— do not use alcohol.

Mail the tick and identification form to: Maryland Department of Agriculture Plant Protection & Weed Management Section, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy, Annapolis, MD 21401.

MDA will respond with a letter of identification, usually within about two weeks. MDA does not test ticks for disease organism and does not discuss medical treatments, but the identification information can be discussed with a medical professional.

Also, DHMH’s tick-bite notification

form, which features pictures of ticks to aid with identification, can be downloaded from <http://goo.gl/WB0vv6>.

Additional information about tick-borne such diseases as Lyme disease— including posters and other materials— can be found at DHMH’s website at <http://goo.gl/WRQsZz>.

Here are some tips to help protect against ticks:

- *Look for ticks, especially in late spring through early fall, when they are most active.

- *Wear long pants and sleeves to help keep ticks off your skin.

- *Tuck your shirt into your pants, and pants into socks, to keep ticks on the outside of clothing.

- *Wear light-colored clothing to help you spot ticks more easily.

- *Spray insect repellent containing 20-30 percent DEET on clothes and exposed skin.

- *Treat clothes with permethrin, but don’t use permethrin directly on skin.

- *Talk to your veterinarian about tick control products for your pets.

- *Ticks are most commonly found in woods, marshy places, bushes, shrubs, leaf litter, and tall grass.

- *When hiking, walk in the center of the trail when in woods or high grass. Stay away from brushy areas, high grass and leaf litter.

- *Check for ticks daily after being in tick habitat.

- *Properly remove ticks from the body or pets and send to MDA for identification. Contact your health care provider if you develop any symptoms after a tick bite or after being in tick habitat.

DHMH and MDA routinely join with local health departments, health care providers, veterinarians, community organizations and advocacy groups to raise awareness about tick-borne diseases in the month of May.

Some local health departments may be conducting activities in recognition of Tick-borne Disease Awareness Month. Check with your local office to find out what activities may be planned, such as distribution of educational materials, display of the Governor’s Proclamation or events.

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Red Cross urges summer blood, platelet donations to prevent seasonal shortage

Eligible donors can choose their day to help save lives during “100 days of summer. 100 days of hope.” campaign

Baltimore— The American Red Cross urges donors to choose their day to give hope to patients in need by donating blood or platelets during the “100 days of summer. 100 days of hope.” campaign, officially sponsored by Suburban Propane.

“Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer and vacation season, and the start of a seasonal decline in blood and platelet donations,” said Steve Mavica, Communications Manager for the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region. “By choosing a day to give blood or platelets, volunteer donors can give hope and help maintain a sufficient supply for patients in need.”

To encourage donations around the Memorial Day holiday, those who come to give blood or platelets from May 23-25, 2015 will receive a Red Cross RuMe tote bag, while supplies last.

Summer vacations and travel can contribute to less availability for people to give blood or platelets. In a spring survey of Red Cross blood and platelet donors, nearly 90 percent indicated plans to take vacations this summer. However, patients don’t get a summer holiday or vacation from needing life-saving blood. The Red Cross relies on volunteer donors for the 15,000 blood donations needed every day to support patients at about 2,600 hospitals and transfusion centers nationwide.

As official sponsor of the summer campaign, which begins Memorial Day weekend and runs through Labor Day weekend, Suburban Propane will support an advertising public awareness

campaign about the constant need for blood and platelet donations, and encourage employees and customers to give. Additionally, Suburban Propane employees will volunteer at Red Cross blood drives and facilities nationwide in one of the largest national volunteer commitments to the Red Cross Blood Services from a corporate partner.

“The Suburban Propane family is proud to support the mission of the Red Cross and help ensure that blood and platelets are available for patients in need during the challenging summer months,” said Suburban Propane’s Chief Operating Officer Mark Wienberg. “By partnering with the Red Cross, we are able to continue a noble cause that improves the lives of those in our communities.”

The Red Cross has touched the lives of many Suburban Propane employees including Debbie Traub.

In May 2014, her 74-year-old father fell from a ladder while power washing his home and suffered life-threatening injuries. He spent 20 days in the intensive care unit and received many blood transfusions. Traub said that she now knows the importance of giving blood and makes a point to donate in honor of her father at the Suburban Propane headquarter blood drives. Her story is just one of many reasons Suburban Propane continues to advocate for blood and platelet donations to the Red Cross.

“Suburban Propane is the steadfast conduit to mobilize its employees, customers and community leaders nationally to support the Red Cross and the blood needs of communities we serve across the United States,” said Donna



M. Morrissey, director of national partnerships for the Red Cross Biomedical Services. “Through the unwavering commitment of Suburban Propane, the lifesaving blood and platelet donations made to the Red Cross may help families stay together, patients recover and people survive.”

How to donate blood: Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for

more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture needs volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as docents for special events and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with children’s activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college and high school students. Service-learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Volunteer orientations are held at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. For more information, contact Erica Holmes at 443-263-1800 or email: holmes@maamc.org or visit the museum’s website: www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org.

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ED, Med-Surg & Telemetry Nurse Events:

Adult ED, Med-Surg, Telemetry Nurses
See us on Thursday, May 28, Noon-3pm

Peds ED Nurses (Peds ED/PICU exp. required)
See us on Thursday, May 28, 4pm-6pm

- This exclusive event for experienced nurses will be held in The Bel Air Harford Room, University of MD Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, 500 Upper Chesapeake Dr. in Bel Air
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