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Comcast launches Internet Essentials Learning Zone in Baltimore



Maryland's first Internet Essentials Learning Zone was launched in Baltimore at the Towanda Community Center to create a continuum of connectivity of students. As part of the event, Comcast awarded 35 computers and six months of complimentary Internet service through Internet Essentials to 35 elementary students attending the event from Creative City Charter School. Approximately 48,000 low-income Maryland residents utilize the comprehensive high-speed Internet adoption program. Beginning in August of 2015, if a child attends a Baltimore City public school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program, all student families in that school are automatically eligible for Internet Essentials. Comcast also kicked off the company's fifth year of offering the program. (See article on page 14) Photo Credit: Andrea Blackstone

Task force being created to examine issues underlying recent uprising

Baltimore— In an effort to help the local community, Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) President and CEO Gordon F. May, Ph.D., is creating a task force comprised of students, faculty, staff, and members of the community to examine some of the underlying societal issues contributing to last spring's uprising in the city.

Bryan Perry, BCCC general counsel, has been appointed to chair the group. A final report summarizing the work of the task force, as well as solutions and ideas on the proper role of BCCC to help address these issues, will be presented to Dr. May at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Approximately 71 percent of BCCC students come from Baltimore City, as products of the Baltimore City Public School System. As an accessible and affordable institution of public higher education and a force for good in the city, BCCC plans to leverage the new task force to ensure its students' concerns are respected-and heard. In this vein, the College will reiterate its long-standing commitment to the citizens of its service area and focus on working to address the most pressing challenges



Gordon F. May, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Baltimore City Community College
Courtesy Photo

they face in light of last spring's unrest. The effort, according to college officials, aligns with the BCCC mission and represents the significant "next step" to engage and restore the community.

"Many BCCC students, hailing from

neighborhoods and communities most affected by the uprising, are troubled by the nagging lack of opportunity available to many city residents," Dr. May said. "Over the past year I have traveled this city and familiarized myself with the challenges and aspirations felt by members of our community. There is simply no question that the transformative role of education-and the commitment of educators-in addressing the displacement and alienation people feel, can make the situation better. We owe it to ourselves and the community we serve, to try."

The BCCC task force will look at the following challenges facing inner city residents, with the goal of developing real-world solutions and ideas to increase opportunities for those affected. Key topics to be studied by the task force include: access to education; poverty; lack of economic opportunity/jobs; and opportunities for ex-offenders.

As the only community college in Baltimore City and the only state-sponsored community college in Maryland, BCCC is uniquely positioned to provide insight and expand opportunities in the areas identified by the task force. For 67


years, the College has served as one of the principal gateways to higher education for underserved communities across Baltimore. For Baltimore City residents, this represents a fairly rapid and inexpensive way for students to upgrade job skills or train for completely new careers.

Serving more than 16,000 students annually at its Liberty campus and multiple learning sites throughout the city, BCCC delivers high-quality education in traditional and emerging disciplines, enabling students to transfer credits to a four-year college or university or qualify for immediate employment in a career field with a future.


College officials emphasize that BCCC can help recent high school graduates create a pathway into higher education and renew success at work.

"More than 30,000 students have graduated from BCCC-and counting," said Dr. May. "As an open-access institution of public higher education, we are literally open to all."

For more information, visit: www.BCCC.edu.



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Separate and Impoverished

By Jesse Jackson Sr.
TriceEdneyWire.com



Jesse Jackson Sr.
Courtesy Photo

Senator Bernie Sanders, the Democratic candidate for president, shocked people when he noted that 51 percent of African-Americans aged 17 through 20 who have graduated high school or dropped out of high school are unemployed.

PolitiFact.com confirmed the statement as “mostly true,” suggesting that the numbers might even be worse than Sanders suggested.

This level of unemployment is a death sentence for a generation—representing for too many the dying of hope, of potential and even, in an age of mass incarceration, of freedom.

The figure is shocking, but the reality cannot be denied.

For all the progress we have made on race in this country, there is still a stark difference between black and white poverty. As Emily Badger reports in the Washington Post, “The poverty that poor African-Americans experience is often different from the poverty of poor whites.” A poor black family is much more likely to live in an impoverished neighborhood. The concentrated poverty, as Badger writes, “extends out the door of a family’s home and occupies the entire neighborhood around it, touching the streets, the schools, the grocery stores.”

A new report on the “Architecture of Segregation” by Paul Jargowsky for the New Century Foundation details the stark differences that exist in cities across the country. In metropolitan Chicago, for example, more than one in three poor African-Americans live in what are called high-poverty census tracts, neighborhoods where the poverty rate is above 40 percent. That is 10 times the rate for poor whites and it has gotten worse, not better, in cities across the country over the course of this century.

Separate and impoverished: We know the effects. Infants suffer bad nutrition and grow up surrounded by lead paint. Children navigate mean streets to go to impoverished schools. They lack after-school and summer programs. Families break apart. Guns and drugs come in; jobs go out. There is no affordable transportation to get to where the jobs are. Houses are abandoned. Hospitals close. Decent grocery stores are nowhere to be found.

As Jargowsky says, this isn’t really an accident. It is the product of systemic discrimination, of zoning laws that shield off wealthy areas from the poor, of public housing that is concentrated in a few neighborhoods. Isolation in poor neighborhoods is an imposition, not a choice.

This could be different. In London, for example, every region must have some social housing for poor and working class people. Imagine if every suburb were required to provide a proportionate amount of housing for the poor and the lower-wage workers. Suddenly the poor would have access to better schools, better health care, safer streets, more role models and healthier (and less expensive) food stores.

This takes a plan, a plan that will meet great resistance. Dozens of Chicago’s wealthy suburbs, Badger notes, have ignored state deadlines to produce affordable housing plans.

Poor African-Americans are penned up, in poor neighborhoods and too often literally in jails and prisons. This is an imposition, not a fate, a policy choice that is morally indefensible and socially explosive.

Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. is president/CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition



Community Affairs

First Ever Maryland S.T.E.M. Festival at the Pratt Library

Baltimore— The Enoch Pratt Free Library is part of the first ever Maryland STEM Festival beginning this Friday, November 6 to Sunday, November 15, 2015. The Pratt Library will be hosting free interactive programs at all branches making Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) more accessible to Baltimore City children and teens.

The Pratt Library will also be opening two “Creation Station” Maker Spaces at the Southeast Anchor Library and soon at the Waverly Branch. These interactive rooms will be DIY spaces where kids and teens can gather to create, invent, and learn. It will be equipped with 3D printers, software, electronics, craft and hardware supplies and tools, and more.

“Science is soaring,” said Carla D. Hayden, Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. “With the release of the upcoming Star Wars movie, the popularity of TV shows like Doctor Who and Mythbusters, and the success of the movie and book, The

Martian, science is not only popular but cool.”

The Pratt STEM programs include 3D printing and design; make your own eBooks; Lego challenges; soap making and rocket building.

“While libraries are often known for their books and online resources, they’re less recognized for all of the creative, engaging programming they offer,” said Jessica Hoptay Brown, Pratt Library’s Children’s Services Coordinator. “Pratt Libraries are places where imagination and creation meet. After school throughout the year and during the STEM Festival, children and teens are invited to explore and engage with science, technology, engineering, and math in a fun and open-ended way.”

“The Maryland STEM Festival will spark and ignite an interest among students in a career in science and math, among of the fastest careers paths—a path we hope will start at the Pratt Library,” said Hayden. “We’re hoping a future Neil Armstrong or Albert Einstein is already among us. The sky is truly the limit at the library.”

For more information about the Maryland STEM Festival, visit the website: www.prattlibrary.org.

Lilly Endowment Funds Black Minds Matter

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The Lilly Endowment practices what it preaches and exhibits outstanding corporate social responsibility.

There is an old African proverb that says: "Where you put your wealth signifies where and how your life's priorities are ordered." Such is the case when one views where and how corporate America invests its wealth beyond the boardroom and the stock market. There are some companies, however, like the Eli Lilly and Company and the Lilly Endowment Inc. that have had a long track record of investing portions of its wealth to support the education of Black America.

Our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) of higher education are struggling today financially to survive. I serve on the national board of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) that represents all the presidents and chancellors of HBCUS and PBIs. I know something of

the fiscal balancing act that the leaders of these important institutions of higher learning have to endure annually.

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is the largest minority education organization in the United States. Since 1944, the UNCF has raised more than \$4.5 billion and has helped more than 400,000 students receive college degrees at UNCF-member institutions

training and academic rigor needed for meaningful employment in a technology-driven, global economy.

"We have designed a program that we envision will serve as a model of best practices to solve the unemployment and underemployment crisis among recent college graduates...In today's marketplace, students need both the knowledge and soft skills to compete in the global

porate profits, more private corporate investments in higher education needs to happen. We cannot afford to divert or miss encouraging a generation of young Black American scholars, scientists, teachers, inventors and innovative business leaders.

"This grant for the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative builds on this long-standing support and furthers the Endowment's belief that a high-quality college education fosters an enhanced quality of life for individuals and their families," explained N. Clay Robbins, Lilly Endowment's chairman, president and CEO.

Robbins is correct and on point. The Lilly Endowment practices what it preaches and exhibits outstanding corporate social responsibility. Their support of cultivating and developing young black minds and the genius of those who strive for academic excellence in black America deserve our resolute salute and acknowledgement.

By sharing some of their wealth with UNCF and with HBCUs and PBIs, the Lilly Endowment exhibited in a profound manner that Black Minds Matter. We should recognize and lift up those companies and foundations that help to make a positive difference in our communities. The education of our youth has to be our highest priority. Our lives matter and our young people deserve the highest quality education possible.

Yes, thanks to Lilly, Black Minds Matter!

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

"The point that needs to be emphasized here is that the UNCF Career Pathways Institute would not have been possible without the financial investment of the Lilly Endowment. We need more American corporations to follow the good example of Eli Lilly and Company and the Lilly Endowment."

through scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.

Each year the UNCF works to enable more than 60,000 students each to attend college. We all should know or remember that UNCF iconic saying "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." This is so true today more than ever before. In fact, I affirm that "Black Minds Matter!" and "Black Lives Matter!"

The Lilly Foundation recently announced a commitment of \$50 million for UNCF to launch the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative. Through this initiative, UNCF will award competitive grants to four-year historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly, black institutions (PBIs) to help students gain the knowledge, skills,

economy. Sadly, too many of our nation's talented students are having difficulty finding good jobs after graduation. Our goal is to work with students, faculty, colleges, alumni, and employers to better connect the student experience with the jobs of the future," said UNCF president and CEO, Dr. Michael L. Lomax.

The point that needs to be emphasized here is that the UNCF Career Pathways Institute would not have been possible without the financial investment of the Lilly Endowment. We need more American corporations to follow the good example of Eli Lilly and Company and the Lilly Endowment.

As the economy in the U.S. continues to recover with renewed vitality and cor-

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Important: Review your Medicare options, now!

By Ashley Blankenship

For many people, fall means pumpkin-flavored lattes, hayrides and apple orchards. However for the 46 million Americans over 65, there is another important annual event—Medicare Open Enrollment Period, which is October 15 to December 7.

During the open enrollment period, it is crucial for Medicare beneficiaries to take charge of their health care and understand the plans and their coverage. With more than one million Medicare beneficiaries in Maryland, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the demand for access to information is great.

Be wiser than the crowd— A study commissioned by the Bankers Life Center for a Secure Retirement found that more than half, 56 percent, of middle-income Baby Boomers age 47 to 64 reported knowing little about the Medicare program. One in four— even those within a few years of turning 65— knew almost nothing about Medicare. Regardless of their level of understanding, the majority of Americans over 65 need and use Medicare to cover their health care costs.

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period allows you to review your current health plan and decide whether your health coverage meets your needs. It's imperative to review the offerings for 2016, because even if your plan is satisfactory now, coverage and expenses can change. And, if you don't enroll by December 7, changes cannot be made again until next year.

Do your research, learn about Original Medicare and decide whether you need supplemental plans, including:

- Medicare Parts A and B: Original



Medicare is comprised of two parts. Part A (hospital insurance) covers limited inpatient care at a hospital, skilled nursing facility and hospice. Services such as lab tests, inpatient surgery, doctor visits and home health care are covered in Part A as well. Part B (medical insurance) covers health care providers' services, outpatient surgery and care, durable medical equipment, home health care and some preventive services.

- Medicare Part C: While Medicare covers most health care expenses, it doesn't cover everything. As a result, many Americans buy additional private insurance to cover these gaps in coverage. Medicare Advantage (Part C) plans, sold by private health insurance companies, manage monthly premium costs and out-of-pocket expenses. The Kaiser Family Foundation states that about 8 percent of Maryland's Medicare beneficiaries are

enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. Medicare Advantage plans tend to offer more benefits, such as prescription drugs, dental, vision, hearing and other preventive services that Original Medicare does not.

- Medicare Part D: Part D is the Medicare prescription drug coverage offered by Medicare, and is available in Advantage Plans or from a standalone Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP).

Once you've researched Medicare, organize your health information—

Before you start researching individual plans, compile a detailed list of medications and health care providers. Make a list of all of the costs associated with your current plan; not just the premium, but also the co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles. (Premiums, deductibles or copays can change every year, and no one wants to be surprised about their

health or out-of-pocket expenses.)

The most important thing is to consider your current and future personal health needs, including any recent changes. This becomes particularly important when evaluating prescription drug coverage plans. Plan options vary greatly, and they can have a considerable impact on your household budget.

Take action well before the December 7 deadline— First, visit medicare.gov, where you can access "Medicare & You," the official publication from CMS, which includes everything you need to know about Medicare and enrollment. Medicare experts can also assist you over the phone if you prefer a conversation with a representative.

If you prefer speaking to someone local, free services are available to Maryland residents through the Senior Health Insurance Program. You can call them at 410-887-2059.

And, of course, there are many local, trusted insurance professionals with experience in Medicare, including supplements and Medicare Advantage, who can explain your options and help you make informed decisions.

Medicare's Open Enrollment Period can be a stressful time, but it's also a great opportunity for you to take charge of your health coverage. Now is the time to do your research, consider your options and talk to a health care adviser or insurance professional. You'll be thankful you did.

Ashley Blankenship is the branch manager of the Baltimore office for Bankers Life, the national life and health insurance brand that focuses on the retirement market. He can be reached at Ashley.Blankenship@BankersLife.com.

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Baltimore Ravens hold 'Food and Funds Drive' for Maryland Food Bank

By Turrón Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens collected food from fans who attended the game against the San Diego Chargers at M&T Bank Stadium on Sunday, November 1, 2015, a joint project with the Maryland Food Bank in the fight against hunger in Maryland.

Volunteers were positioned at every gate into the stadium to gather both monetary and non-perishable food donations. This year, the goal is to collect 20,000 pounds of food in celebration of the Ravens 20th season and 20 years of supporting the Maryland Food Bank.

The event was announced last week by Ravens defensive tackle Brandon Williams, who shared that being able to help with the food drive holds a special place in his heart.

"It's near and dear to me because I know how it feels to be that kid in high school who comes home after a long day at school or practice and opens the fridge and there's nothing. So, either I'd have to go to a friend's house, or some days just kind of make something up myself and just try to work with what I've got," Williams said. "It's definitely near and dear to my heart, so I encourage everyone to get out there and definitely give back because there are people who have something and don't



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think they have anything, but there's also people who are worse off than you."

Williams encouraged fans to bring whatever they could.

According to Williams, the Ravens players are holding a contest to see who can help out the most.

"We're also doing our part here, doing an in-home [challenge]," Williams said. "I guess you could say a little duel, a little match—to see who can bring in the most money or bring in the most canned food, just to help the process along and help the cause."

To no one's surprise, Williams expects

to win the contest. He says he will win because he has his heart in it and knows the feeling. For that reason, he'll be going to Giant food markets to get canned food and other items. The mammoth sized defensive tackle is really excited about the project and says he'll be bringing items in "by the trash bag."

Fans can make donations on the Ravens donation page: "YouGiveGoods.com." Giant Foods will be collecting items at 50 of their stores in the Baltimore area. The collection effort will run through November 16, 2015. An efficient way to donate is to purchase

Courtesy Photo/www.mdfoodbank.org

pre-packaged boxes that contain what the Maryland Food Bank has identified as the most-needed food items. These boxes only cost \$10 at Giant Food.

There is a push to promote the drive on social media. The hashtag #FeedTheFlock is the best way to share the word on Twitter. The hashtag should be used when making donations because it gives fans a chance to win prizes, including an opportunity to tour the Ravens Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills.

More Ravens articles by Turrón Davenport
available at: www.baltimoretimes-online.com

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Popular Morgan State ROTC instructor dies at 86

By Stacy M. Brown

There is little question about the value of Sgt. Major Richard E. Robinson to the famed Morgan State University ROTC program.

Robinson engaged students in the military science program at the Baltimore-based historically black university and he often carried home extra workloads to ensure that those he taught would be fully equipped for life on the battlefield as well as life in corporate America.

"I can remember he would sit down and draw up lesson plans and he'd teach his students and test them," said Edweana Robinson-Haynie, Robinson's daughter and one of his six children.

"He didn't ask them to do anything that he wouldn't do," said Robinson-Haynie, who along with her siblings and

mother, Josephine Robinson, prepared the October 31, 2015 funeral for the beloved former military science teacher and ROTC instructor.

Robinson died on Sunday, October 25, 2015, just 12 days after he turned 86.

The dedicated sergeant major left an indelible impression on just about anyone he knew and certainly on the ROTC program, Morgan State and all of his other endeavors, his daughter said.

"My dad would go to summer camp for six or eight weeks out of the summer and he ran that camp like he ran the ROTC program; he cared," Robinson-Haynie said. "He truly cared and did everything he could to motivate his students."

Robinson served at Morgan State from July 2, 1973 until his retirement on September 1, 1991. He held several posi-



Sgt. Major Richard E. Robinson
Courtesy Photo/The Robinson Family



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tions, including working as the interim director of campus police, the director of the physical plant, director of housing and the director of the McKeldin Student Center.

Robinson's work with students in the ROTC program was one of the factors in experts and critics eventually labeling the Morgan State program as the "West Point of the East," producing more black generals than any other school.

"My dad, I believe, had the most African-American three, four and five star generals from the program," his daughter said.

Morgan State's ROTC program prepares college students to succeed in any competitive environment, according to a school description of the program.

The leadership training and experiences that's gained in the program provides a foundation to become commissioned Army officers upon graduation when those who graduate become

commissioned second lieutenant.

"It's a great program," Robinson-Haynie said, noting that her father was an accomplished and humble individual.

"He was a family man and everything he did was for his family. He believed if there were anyone in need, he should help them out," she said.

"He loved history and we got dragged to every Civil War battlefield; that was our Sunday outing as a family.

"My dad's intellect, his ability to analyze and his teaching were great. His motto was 'Keep it simple' and he was a person that you could lean on and all of us called on my dad because he was our rock."

In lieu of flowers, Robinson's family respectfully requests that donations be made to the American Diabetes Association in the name of Richard E. Robinson.

Veterans Center in Danger of Losing HUD Funding

By Ginger Williams

New funding rules adopted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development could greatly affect a successful program that provides a variety of services to veterans including a place to live.

“There is a possibility that funding received from HUD may be severely curtailed, or significantly reduced,” said Jeffrey Kendrick, the executive director of the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET), located on N. High Street in Baltimore.

Because MCVET isn’t identified as a “Housing First” program, the nonprofit is in danger of losing an annual \$1.2 million grant from HUD, which recently adopted criteria in which they’d provide funds to programs that immediately seek housing for the homeless.

“I understand what HUD is doing, but our philosophy is to provide transitional housing while providing comprehensive services first,” Kendrick said, noting that MCVET’s program provides comprehensive services to veterans that begin with case management, medical services, education and job placement along with a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy. “Then, when the veteran has significantly reduced or eliminated barriers that cause his homelessness, we provide services for permanent housing placement,” Kendrick said.

MCVET has recently submitted an updated application to HUD and Kendrick says he believes there is a strong possibility that funding may continue based on the overall success of the program that has seen 70 percent of the approximate 9,000 veterans served provided homes and jobs with an average wage of \$14 per hour.

The center has been named as a national model by HUD and it’s the only one of its kind in the United States.

Established more than 20 years ago, MCVET houses homeless veterans many of whom arrive with drug or alcohol problems. New clients are required to attend 90 alcoholics or narcotics anonymous meetings for 90 days. After that, they must attend five meetings a



MCVET "students" and staff (Front, left to right) Marcus McCroskey, Tyrone Bishop, Roseline Taylor, chief supply officer, Eugene Carter. (Back, left to right) Jeffrey L. Kendrick (USAF, ret.), executive director and Wendell Drummond.

Courtesy Photo

week, which is similar to a traditional 12-step program as part of a long-range plan used to help residents stay drug free. These programs are also open to

gree or diploma, but if he or she doesn't work the program, they may have a diploma or degree, but they're still homeless.”



the public, according to Kendrick.

“This is not an easy program,” he said. “A veteran can come here and earn a de-

There are three levels of residency at the center— emergency housing, transitional housing and Single Room Occu-

pancy. The veterans receive stipends and 20 percent of the stipend pays their rent. Residents are required to put 30 percent of their stipend into a savings account. The Center has resources to help the veterans, from the Veterans Administration (VA), and Healthcare for the Homeless. It also works with various schools through classes funded by the Department of Labor.

Average attendance is two years, although some leave earlier while others stay longer.

“I was here before and got talked into leaving,” said Denzel Douglass, a second-timer at the center. “I didn’t know whether I was coming back. I worried about what someone would say about me. I was drinking. I was battling depression but I knew I had to get my life back together.”

Douglass, a U.S Marine Corp veteran, says he knows he has to “work the program.” He is training to become a medical assistant and phlebotomist, which is paid for by MCVET.

Wendell Drummond, another military veteran who receives services at the center, said the program is a lifesaver.

“I found my life again. Without MCVET, I don’t know where I’d be,” Drummond said.

If HUD cuts or reduces funding, services like that provided to Drummond, Douglass and others could be curtailed.

“Without HUD, we would have to make up the shortfall,” Kendrick said. “We know our model to be a success and if funding is cut off, we’d have to seek other ways to raise money either through corporate donations or someone writing us a big check which only happens in dreams.

“Our goal is to end homelessness for everyone in the United States whether they are veterans, teens or seniors. Right now, though, we are talking about veterans because that’s who we work with.”

Reporter Stacy M. Brown contributed to this report.

Rambling Rose

*This Weekend is All About
Celebrations of Life and Gospel*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello my dear friends, as you see, the weather is changing—to cool and breezy. It is definitely time to take out your winter coats, furs, leggings, sweatshirts, boots, turtlenecks, sweat suits, oh what the heck—your long johns too.

This week, I have a some mixed feelings because first we lost another musician; a very gifted and talented musician, songwriter and organist. The name you know him by is “Sir Andre,” but his birth name is Philip Stancil. We will truly miss him even though he has not been on the scene for a long time due to illness. My condolences go out to his family. All musicians and singers who wish to participate at “Sir Andre’s” funeral services please contact Tony Winston, Sr. at 410-963-5123.

For the celebration of life I can’t think of a better place than Brown’s Memorial Baptist Church, 3215 W. Belvedere Avenue on Sunday, November 8. This is a big one folks! There will be a whole lot of hand clapping, foot stomping, shouting and waving hands in the air with this event put on by Lonnie Parker. He has always given the best gospel events and concerts. Many of our local gospel bands and singers will be performing including: the Swanee Quartet, Wings of Praise, Eric Wadell & the Abundant Life Singers, Ms. Penny Moses Gospel Soloist, Chambliss and the Christianaires. Lonnie Parker will be celebrating 37 years as a program organizer, gospel booking agent & promoter. You can get your tickets at Parker’s Barber Shop on Reisterstown Road or call him at 410-358-9661 or 443-610-7583. I will see you there.

Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church, 4016 Park Heights Avenue is celebrating “Women’s Season with their Annual Women’s Day Prayer Brunch on Saturday, November 7, 9:30 a.m. at Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church, 3100 Walbrook Avenue in Baltimore. For ticket information, call the church.

My dear friends mark your calendar for

this one. The Arch Social Club unveils a new mural as an extension of the “Art @Work” Sandtown Program. The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts announces the completion of a new mural at Arch Social Club on Pennsylvania and North Avenues, the site of the April 2015 uprising. The official ribbon-cutting and unveiling of the mural takes on Sunday, November 8 at 3 p.m. Let me see if we can pack that corner for something positive for the community. The mural was painted by local artist, Ernest Shaw with the help of local street artists, Nether and Eric Hendricks III, a graduate of the Art@Work. The 30-foot mural features legendary jazz songstress Billie Holiday. To know more, go to website: www.arch-socialclub.com.

Now let us talk about some other stuff happening in Baltimore in the next week before I forget and then I will get back to the “Gospel for the Soul”. The “Memphis or Bust” College Park Blues Festival is happening on Saturday, November 8 from 6-11 p.m. at the Ritchie Coliseum at 4533 Rossborough Lane in College Park Maryland. My goodness gracious! HONEY CHILD! I am already patting my feet. The lineup on this one is the DC Blues Society Band, Jackie Scott & the Housewreckers, M.S.G. Acoustic Blues Trio, Mojo Priests and much more, you get the picture. There will be dancing, vendors, cash bar a guitar raffle and the best of all it is FREE! Even the parking is free. I tell you Girlfriend, if you go to this one, you will come out humming and smiling. I will see you there.

I got to go now, but before I do, I want to thank all who supported me and came to my last fundraiser for the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund Black & Gold Ball on October 25.

Well folks, I am out of space, enjoy your weekend and the days to follow. Be safe and I will see you around town somewhere. Remember if you need me, call



The International Renown Swanee Quartet will perform their hit song “If I Stumble” and “Dr. Jesus” at Lonnie Parker’s Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at Brown’s Memorial Baptist Church located at 3215 W. Belvedere Avenue in Baltimore at 3 p.m. For more information, call 410-358-9661.



Minister Robert Wilson along with Doresa Harvey is the emcees for the Lonnie Parker’s Gospel Anniversary.

me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. My books are still available by going to my website: www.rambling-rose.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Renowned musician and organist Philip “Sir Andre” Stancil, known to most as just “Sir Andre,” died on October 24, 2015. Funeral arrangements are as follows: Viewing at 10 a.m. and Funeral Services are at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at Saint Marks Institutional Baptist Church located at 655 Bentalou Street on the corner of Lanvale Street in Baltimore under the care of Carlton Douglass Funeral Services. There also will be a musical tribute and special seating for the musicians. For more information, call 410-669-1738



Popular Gospel singer Penny Moses will also perform at the Lonnie Parker’s Anniversary Celebration.



Laurence Hurst Art Exhibition opens at James E. Lewis Museum of Art

Baltimore Artist's works have been compared to Picasso, Chagall and Matisse

Baltimore— The James E. Lewis Museum of Art is pleased to present an exhibition entitled “Promenades & Reveries: The Art of Laurence Hurst” featuring works by renowned artist Laurence Hurst, a Baltimore artist whose career spans four decades until December 8, 2015.

The exhibition features a variety of styles ranging from abstract expressionism to realism. Art critics at major national and International magazines including: ARTnews Magazine and the Smithsonian’s Vision Magazine compared some of Hurst’s works to those of Picasso, Chagall and Matisse.

Curated by Dr. Diala Toure, the exhibition Promenade & Reveries: The Art of Laurence Hurst showcases forty works by Hurst. With an exquisite international flavor, Hurst’s most significant artworks created both in France and in America brilliantly demonstrate the artist’s



Baltimore artist, Laurence Hurst Art Exhibition entitled “Promenades & Reveries: The Art of Laurence Hurst” is on display at The James E. Lewis Museum of Art located in the Murphy Fine Arts Center on the campus of Morgan State University located at 2201 Argonne Drive in Baltimore City until December 9, 2015.

Courtesy Photo

vibrancy in choice of themes, styles and palette.

The 1971 painting Night Dreams was pivotal in the transformation of Hurst’s style from realism to figurative and abstract expression. Original artworks include: Ciera (2015); The Blue Vason (1972) and The Ascension of Jesus Christ with Seven Angels (2010); Angel of Lost and Found Children (1990), Angel of Sound (1998), Angel of Flowers and herbs (1998) Angel of Flight (1998), Angel of Quiet (1991), Reclined Nude (1997), The Picnic (1997), The Green Nude (1996), The Blue Vason (1972), Pink Nude (1996), Sleeping Beauty and many others. The exhibition also features the unforgettable Paris Blue (1991) executed in France where Hurst spent over ten years.

Accompanying the exhibition is an illustrated brochure offering new insights on Hurst’s philosophy about his artwork.

Promenades & Reveries: The Art of Laurence Hurst at the James E. Lewis Museum of Art is supported by Howard County Center of African American Culture, Inc., Eli Barber of Barber Transportation, Inc., the State of Maryland, J.D. Howard Photography, Baltimore Times Newspapers, and Morgan State University.

The James E. Lewis Museum of Art is located in the Murphy Fine Arts Center, on the campus of Morgan State University located at 2201 Argonne Drive in Baltimore City. The exhibition is available during Museum hours and is free and open to the public. Associated information can be found at: <http://www.jel-museum.org/laurencehurst.html>.

Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.; closed on Mondays.

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Comcast launches Internet Essentials Learning Zone in Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

In today's digital age, students often need the Internet to complete homework assignments. What if low-income families cannot afford in-home Internet service? On Wednesday, October 28, 2015, Maryland's first Internet Essentials Learning Zone was launched in Baltimore at the Towanda Community Center to help close the digital divide.

Comcast, the city of Baltimore and a network of partners will work together to create a continuum of Internet connectivity that begins online in the classroom, community centers, computer labs and after-school programs and ends at homes. Comcast now provides free Wi-Fi to 16 community centers. Additionally, the company announced the award of \$75,000 in digital literacy grants to Family League of Baltimore and 12 participating community organizations in 16 community center locations, such as Towanda Community Center.

"At Park Heights Renaissance (PHR), we know with our partnership with the Boys & Girls Club, the young folks really like to use computers. They really like to work on the Internet to improve their learning. And every community and every family doesn't always have the means to be able to afford wi-fi or for a computer, so this is an opportunity to enhance education through what Comcast has provided," said Cheo Hurley, executive director of the nonprofit, PHR.

Through PHR, Hurley helps to oversee the Towanda Community Center. Hurley said that approximately 100 youth comprised of Creative City Charter School students, Boys & Girls Club members and Park Heights Safe Streets Program participants are served in after school programs that are held at Towanda Recreation Center. Hurley remarked that free access to wi-fi will help students to learn better and provide a means for older program participants to use the Internet for job training skills.

In addition to Towanda Community Center, other Baltimore-based community centers where free Wi-Fi is available include: Brooklyn O'Malley and O'Donnell Heights Boys & Girls Clubs; CASA de Maryland Baltimore Welcome Center; Community Action Partnership Centers; Delta Lambda Foundation Outreach Center; Education Based Latino Outreach; Liberty Recreation and Technology Center; My Brother's Keeper; St. Francis Neighborhood Center; The 29th Street Community Center; Union Baptist Head Start Center; and Village Learning Place.

Comcast reported that in August of 2015, the company expanded the continuum of connectivity by adjusting the requirements of Internet Essentials, which is the \$9.95 a month Internet service, compared to the stand-alone price of the company's \$39.95 Economy Plus Internet tier. Internet Essentials was launched in 2011 for families with a child who is eligible for the National



Cheo Hurley, executive director of the nonprofit, Park Heights Renaissance (PHR) explains how free Wi-Fi access provided by Comcast through the state's first Internet Essentials Learning Zone will benefit youth who use the Towanda Community Center in Baltimore City.

School Lunch Program. The comprehensive high-speed Internet adoption program is available in 39 states and the District of Columbia, where Comcast Internet service is available. Under the program, refurbished desktop and laptop computers can be purchased for under \$150. Access to free digital literacy training in print, online and in-person is available for subscribers.

Beginning in August of 2015, if a child attends a Baltimore City public school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program, all student families in that school are automatically eligible for Internet Essentials. Student families in other parts of Maryland that meet the 50 percent benchmark are also eligible.

At home, family members who use Internet Essential now connect to the Internet simultaneously. Additionally, participants who reboot their cable modems should notice that Comcast also boosted the speed of their service.

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake stated that every Baltimore city student's ability to qualify for Internet Essentials makes a big difference in closing the digital divide.

"I appreciate Comcast for providing opportunities like this for Baltimore's families. Collaborations like this one between corporate citizens and community and the city are crucial to closing the digital divide, and securing success for our city's digital future," Rawlings-Blake said.



Dr. Gregory Thornton, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools (left) and David L. Cohen, Senior Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation (right) observes a student in Baltimore (middle) who uses the Internet on a computer at Towanda Community Center.



Baltimore City Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake speaks to students.

Photo Credit: Andrea Blackstone

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Invitation to Bid Home Renovations at 635 Andrews Rd, Aberdeen BID #2016-1001

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region is soliciting bids from qualified contractors to renovate and build an addition with ADA accessibility. This bid is a Davis-Bacon contract and the project location is 635 Andrews Road, Aberdeen MD 21001. To obtain the scope of work and to bid on this project, contractors must attend a mandatory pre-bid and onsite walk through meeting to be held on November 17, 2015 at 1:00 pm at 635 Andrews Road, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

Bids must be submitted no later than 1:00 pm EST on December 1, 2015 to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, 4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, MD 21001. Sealed bids will be opened at a public meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Shawn Kros, CEO
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region

***To place Legal Notices
in The Baltimore Times,
call the Legals Dept.
Phone: 410-366-3900
email: legals@btimes.com***

BGE reminds customers about importance of natural gas safety

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) would like to remind customers to familiarize themselves with natural gas safety tips by reviewing BGE's natural gas safety brochure being distributed to homes and businesses in and around BGE's natural gas service area. With cooler temperatures and the heating season on the horizon, customers should be mindful that households and businesses not served directly by natural gas are still in proximity to BGE's and other operators' gas equipment. It is essential that all residents know how to recognize, report, and respond to natural gas leaks and help prevent damage to the gas system.

"Many of our customers will be increasing their use of natural gas with cooler temperatures now arriving in the Mid-Atlantic region so we are asking them to be cognizant of natural gas safety, as they should year-round," said Christie McMullen, vice president gas distribution for BGE. "BGE remains committed to maintaining a safe and reliable natural gas system and we start that process by educating our customers on how to live and work safely around natural gas, pipelines and facilities."

BGE's natural gas safety brochure will be mailed to all customers. The brochure provides information in English and

Spanish, detailing how to recognize and report natural gas leaks. Additionally, a scratch-and-sniff odor indicator is included that reminds customers about "mercaptan," a safety additive that BGE and other utilities put in natural gas to give it a distinctive rotten egg odor that makes gas easier to detect. Captain Mercaptan, BGE's natural gas safety hero who provides simple tips to children and their families about natural gas safety, derives his name from the safety additive.

If you detect a gas leak:

- Leave the building or area immediately and go to a safe place where you can call BGE, toll free, 24 hours a day at 1-800-685-0123.

- Extinguish all open flames. Do not use matches or lighters and do not attempt to light an appliance.

- Do not use any phones, electric switches, thermostats or appliance controls. All of these devices, including battery-operated equipment, can cause sparks, and ignite natural gas.

- Do not start or turn off vehicles or motorized equipment. Abandon any motorized equipment you may be operating.

- Do not attempt to find the source of the leak or to repair a leak.

- When you call, BGE will respond promptly to survey the area, perform safety measures, and repair BGE's equipment. There is no charge to investigate a gas leak.

- For more information on natural gas safety and to view an electronic version of BGE's natural gas safety brochure, visit bge.com/naturalgassafety.

**42nd Annual Mistletoe Mart
3 Day Juried Artisan & Crafters Fair Mistletoe Event
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For more information, visit: www.mistletoemart.com**

T.J.Maxx, Marshalls, Homegoods support local Maryland Food Banks this holiday season to help stop hunger

One in seven Americans turn to their local food bank for food assistance. For the first time ever, all T.J.Maxx, Marshalls and HomeGoods stores in the Maryland area will hold a three day in-store fundraising campaign from November 6 - 8, 2015 to support the Maryland Food Bank to help stop hunger in and around the local community. The Maryland Food Bank will receive 100 percent of the funds raised during this initiative. For store locations, hours and additional information, visit: www.tjmaxx.com; www.marshallsonline.com; and www.homegoods.com.

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