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Etan Thomas offers Father's Day inspiration



Etan Thomas, rear, is a devoted father of three children and husband of Nichole Thomas, right. Etan played in the NBA for 11 years and 8 years with the Washington Wizards. The Prince George's County resident wrote the book, "Fatherhood: Rising To The Ultimate Challenge," with Nick Chiles in 2012. A Fatherhood Movement resulted from Etan's passion to empower fathers and at-risk boys. On Saturday, June 18, 2016, The Etan Thomas Foundation, The Reid Temple Men's Ministry and Prince George's County council member, Mel Franklin's Responsible Fatherhood Initiative and other partners will present a fatherhood panel and workshop that will be held at Reid Temple, located at 11400 Glenn Dale Blvd. in Glenn Dale, Md. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The free event is open to the public. (See article on page 11)

Courtesy Photo

Performing a mid-year financial check-up

By Joseph Jennings, CFA

Why is performing a mid-year financial check-up important? Performing a mid-year financial check-up is akin to visiting a doctor for an annual physical or visiting an auto mechanic for a periodic tune-up. The purpose is two-fold; the first is preventative that is, identifying and addressing potential issues before they become significant problems. The second purpose is diagnostic, that is, identifying and addressing any problems that may already have materialized.

April, May or June are good times of year to perform such a check-up, particularly if you have already filed your tax returns. There is a treasure trove of information on your tax return that can assist you in reviewing your financial situation. Listed below are several areas in which your tax return can help you update your financial health:

Updating your budget. Your tax return is the perfect tool to help you update your budget, as it contains all your sources of income, and may contain some information on your expenses as well. Periodically reviewing your budget is crucial to ensuring that you live within your means and stay on target to meeting your financial goals, objectives, and dreams.

Portfolio review. Analyzing your tax return for items such as investment income and capital gains can lead to a broader review of your portfolio and



your overall goals and objectives. For example, are there any investments that are tax inefficient and which could be upgraded within your portfolio?

Withholding. If you received a larger than expected refund, it may be advisable to adjust your withholding to create additional disposable income or investable income over the course of the year. If you owed more in taxes at the end of the year than you expected, it may be advisable to adjust your withholding to avoid potential interest for underpayment of taxes.

There are several other important areas of focus that should be addressed in a mid-year financial check-up, including:

1) Review your investments quarterly to be sure that your portfolio is aligned with your risk profile. Quarterly portfolio rebalancing forces investors to buy low and sell high and also prevents investors from straying too far in either direction from their goals and objectives. The market has recently doubled from the lows set in

March 2009, presenting a great opportunity for investors to re-balance their portfolios if necessary.

2) Review your progress toward your financial goals, such as saving for a house, tuition or retirement. Are you on target to meet your goals? What obstacles are preventing you from succeeding? What might need to change in order for you to be successful?

3) Review important financial documents, such as wills or life insurance policies, annually. Significant life events, such as marriage or the birth of a child, may necessitate a change to your financial plan.

4) Review your credit history for incidences of fraud and for ways to improve your credit score. Free annual credit reports are available at www.annualcreditreport.com.

Schedule your mid-year financial check-up on your calendar just as you would any other important meeting, such as your annual physical.

Joseph Jennings, CFA, Wealth Director, PNC Wealth Management has 20 years of wealth management experience and received his MBA in Finance from Loyola University. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder and member of both the CFA Institute and the Baltimore CFA Society.

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ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 6/17 & 6/18/2016. "Our lowest prices of the season" refers to our summer season from May 1-July 31.

Guest Editorials/Letters

The Many Delusions of Donald Trump

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA News Wire Columnist

What do you say about someone who apparently sees things that do not exist? I have been asking myself that question while I have watched Donald Trump's presidential campaign unfold. And, as taunts name-calling, and the lack of substance continue to define the tone of Trump's campaign, I have wondered whether we need to think about Trump in a different way. Let's review three items:

First, Trump has argued for a wall between the United States and Mexico to prevent Mexican migrants, who he contends are the major source of crime in the U.S., from entering this country. Interesting. In reality, the migration flow in recent years has reversed between the U.S. and Mexico, i.e., people are returning to Mexico. Second, if Mexicans are the major source of crime, what does Trump have to say about Russian immigrants and the Russian mafia? What about previous generations of criminal organizations, which have been associated with immigrant communities, such as the Cosa Nostra (Sicilian and Italian), as well as Irish and Jewish mobs? Why not expel all of them? Well, the Donald is silent on this. Beside racist, what does one call such a mischaracterization of reality?

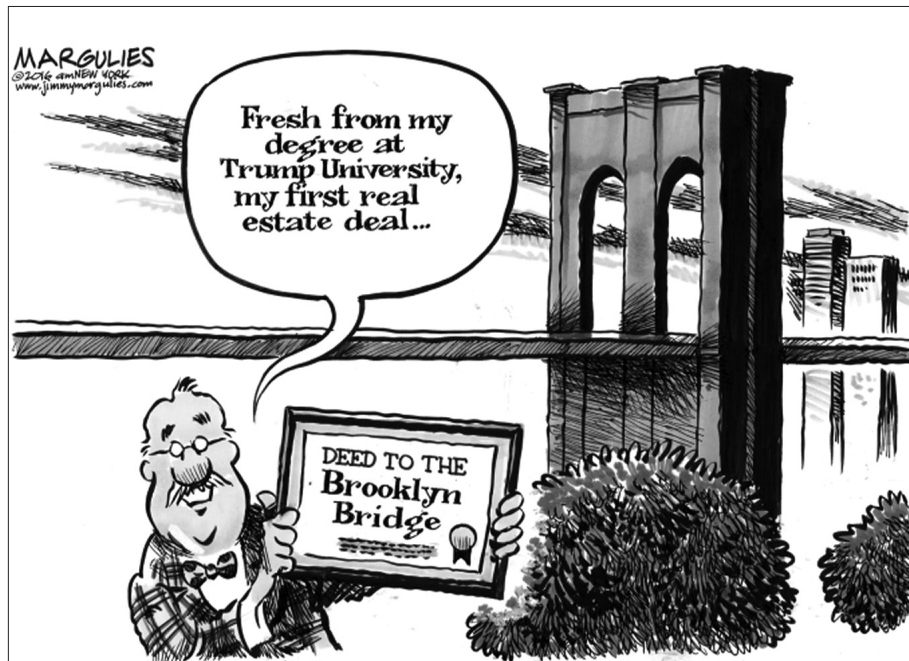
A second example: Trump asserted—and repeated—that on 11 September 2001, masses of Muslims in the United States applauded the terrorist attacks. No evidence—and I repeat NO EVIDENCE—has ever been found to back up his claim. Yet, Trump and many of his supporters continue to argue that they saw it. How is that possible?

The third example, and I simply have to bring this up. Trump seized upon the so-called “birther” allegations against President Obama, suggesting that he is not a true citizen of the U.S. and, therefore, has been ineligible to be President of the U.S. Again, in addition to racism, what do you call someone who, despite all legitimate evidence, continues to assert something which is so obviously false?

This all reminded me of the “Flat Earth Society.” I have no idea whether they still exist but during the 1960s this group, which believed that the earth was flat, sent a congratulatory note to an orbiting U.S. space vehicle saying to them that while the Earth might look round, it was actually an optical illusion. Hmm...

So, the next time you hear someone say that they support Trump because he calls it as it is, ask them about Mexican immigration to the U.S., Muslims celebrating 9-11, and his false citizenship allegations against President Obama and watch their response. If they tell you that it doesn't matter, I can only suggest one thing—run.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: 'Cinderella Era' of Your Vehicle is No Fairy Tale

Once upon a time, buying a new car may have sounded like a dream come true, but keeping your car through the “Cinderella Era” can mean more gold at the end of the rainbow.

The “Cinderella Era” is the period of time after the payoff when your car is still in great shape and needs only modest repairs. With proper care, the typical vehicle should deliver at least 200,000 miles of safe, dependable performance, and that's no fairy tale.

By simply allocating the equivalent of just one new car payment, motorists can cover an entire year's worth of basic maintenance and live happily ever after with their current vehicle. The most common maintenance procedures and repairs to keep a car operating safely

and reliably while maintaining its long-term value involve checking the oil, filters and fluids, belts and hoses, brakes, tires and air conditioning. The council also recommends an annual tune-up and wheel alignment.

The end of the story is that a properly maintained vehicle is safer, more dependable, more fuel efficient, less polluting and more valuable. To help make it easy to follow a routine auto care program, the non-profit Car Care Council has free tools available at www.carcare.org, including the popular 80-page Car Care Guide and a customized service schedule.

Rich White
Executive Director
Car Care Council
Bethesda, MD

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Seven things the Republican Party gets totally wrong about race

By Raynard Jackson
NNPA News Wire Columnist

While there is no denying that Donald Trump has had a terrible past couple of weeks with his dogged focus on some obscure federal judge in San Diego, I think Trump can right the ship but he has an extremely narrow window to do so. I will deal with that in a future column.

This controversy with Trump and the judge has revealed yet again how unprepared the Republican Party is in the 21st century in dealing with the issue of race, especially, relative to the black community.

I have advised some of the biggest names in politics, business, sports and entertainment about racial and other career threatening crises.

The first thing I have noticed with Republicans dealing with the issue of race is that they deny that whatever happened was racist. Why does this happen? Well, that's an easy question to answer. Republicans are surrounded by white staffers, who think they know more about the black community than black

people do. And I'm speaking from personal experience, as recently as last month.

Memo to Republicans #1: Never, I mean never say to the media, "I am not a racist." That means you are losing the argument. Remember former President Nixon's famous rejoinder, "I am not a crook?"

Again, for purposes of this column, I am not specifically talking about Trump and the judge, but rather the Republican Party in general when it comes to issues that have a racial component.

There are absolutely no blacks in positions of power or influence anywhere within the Republican Party. There are none within the Republican National Committee (RNC), National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), or any of the presidential campaigns.

Republicans have all white advisors and consultants trying to advise them on racial matters impacting the black community, and they can't understand why things keep blowing up in their faces. Duhhhhh!

Memo to Republicans #2: Don't just go out and grab the first black person you see and come back to me and say, "Now we have a black, so please shut up."

Many black Republicans are whiter than their white counterparts, and this is by design. Many black Republicans have absolutely no connection to the black community; nor any skill set to put

them in a position of advising the party on racial matters.

The Republican Party wants blacks around them who they are "comfortable" with, not blacks who will speak their mind and who know what the hell they are talking about.

You have black Republicans being pimped by the media to constantly denounce Donald Trump, because they are media whores who are looking for the proverbial pat on the head from "massa," but these same black Republicans have laryngitis when it comes to the lack of "real" black staffers, consultants and advisors within the party.

I have no record of these same blacks speaking about how white our upcoming national convention is going to be, how there has been little, if any, opportunities for black Republicans to do business with the upcoming convention. Seems like you have more opportunity to do business with the convention if you are a black Democrat—go figure.

How can you have a white twenty-something writing a speech about civil rights or voting rights for a Republican leader to present? I am not exaggerating, this is actually happening.

The party needs a plethora of "real" blacks with a connection to the black community, who understand messaging in terms of communications; and who have personal relationships with the media, and understand how to connect all of these into a coherent strategy.

The party has virtually no black surro-

gates who can push back in the media against all the black liberals on MSNBC and CNN, so a lie that is repeated enough, becomes the truth.

So, while many in the party are speaking out against Trump (some of it is well deserved and warranted), I wish these same people would be just as vehement in fighting against the radical liberal agenda that President Obama and Hillary Clinton have been promoting.

And to my black Republican friends, I don't think all of your denunciations of some of Trump's comments are not legitimate, but where are your voices on other issues that impact the black community relative to the party?

What have you done to get more black students internships with our congressional members? What have you done to promote legislative solutions to address issues of particular concern to blacks (access to capital for black entrepreneurs, aide to HBCUs, promotion of school choice, etc.)?

And finally, **Memo #3:** To my black Republicans, always remember, when all is said and done there is more said than done.

Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more blacks involved in the Republican Party. For more information about BAFBBF, visit www.bafbf.org. Follow Raynard on Twitter @raynard1223.

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Discover the Unexpected:

Continuing the Legacy of Freedom's Journal in 2016

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President, National Newspaper
Publishers Association

History is more than the memory and documentation of the past. We all learn from the trials, tribulations and triumphs of prior generations. History sets the stage for the transformation of the present into the future. Such is the case today for more than 45 million African Americans and millions of others across the United States.

This year is another national election year. The value and purpose of the right and responsibility to vote is more important today than in 1965 when the Voting Rights Act was first made law. Yet, if we somehow forget that the right and opportunity to vote were only gained as a result of struggle, sacrifice and vigilance, then too many of us will take for granted both the past and the present.

The genius of the Black Press in America has always been its audacious courage to print and distribute the truth even in the face of injustice and inequality. Frederick Douglass said it best when he declared, "Freedom is a constant struggle." Douglass was a writer, publisher, orator, scholar and a freedom fighter.

Next year will mark the 190th anniversary of the Black Press. On March 16, 1827, John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish began Freedom's Journal in New York City as the voice of Black America. From the very first publication of the Black Press up to today, our newspapers covered local, state, national and international news about the conditions and progress of African people as well as all of humanity.

Keeping the legacy of Freedom's Journal alive in 2016 is vital and mandatory. The struggles for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment continue with new vibrancy and urgency. Each generation has to rise to the occasion pushing forward to ensure that the quality of life in our communities is improved and celebrated.

Today there are more than 206 African American owned newspapers and media



Crystal Windham, director of Design at General Motors spent time with NNPA Fellows Brandie Montgomery; Brelaun Douglas; Briahanna Brown; McKenzie Marshall; Victoria Jones; Rushawn Walters; Tatyana Hopkins; and Sidnee King at the General Motors Facility in Detroit, Michigan. Windham worked on the design of the new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu that the NNPA Fellows are using to research and file their stories for the NNPA News Wire Service and NNPA member newspapers this summer.

Courtesy Photo/GM

companies in the United States who are members of the National Association of Newspaper Publishers (NNPA). Thanks to a longstanding partnership between General Motors and the NNPA, Chevrolet Malibu is now supporting and actively engaging to help the next generation of emerging African American journalists, publishers, and media scholars.

Discover the Unexpected (DTU) program launched by Chevrolet and the NNPA has eight NNPA Journalism Fellows from the Howard University School of Communications: In resident

at The Atlanta Voice newspaper are Brandi Montgomery and Brelaun Douglas; at the Chicago Defender are Briahanna Brown and McKenzie Marshall; at The Washington Informer are Victoria

together in Detroit to learn about the inspiring innovative and success example of Crystal Windham, director of Design at General Motors. Windham worked on the design of the new 2016

Chevrolet Malibu that the NNPA Fellows are using this summer to research and file their stories for the NNPA News Wire Service and NNPA member newspapers.

"The genius of the Black Press in America has always been its audacious courage to print and distribute the truth even in the face of injustice and inequality."

Jones and Rushawn Walters; and at the Michigan Chronicle are Tatyana Hopkins and Sidnee King.

Recently, NNPA Fellows Brandie, Brelaun, Briahanna, McKenzie, Victoria, Rushawn, Tatyana, and Sidnee were all

Learn more about Discover The Unexpected (DTU) at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress.

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This summer, a **select group of Howard University students** are bringing you something special – good news! They will share untold and uplifting stories from the African American community as part of the first-ever **DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED** program presented by Chevrolet Malibu in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association. Teams will cover stories in Detroit, Washington D.C., Chicago and Atlanta. Plus, they'll get to navigate the city in an all-new 2016 Malibu. Join them on this exciting journey of discovery and inspiration.

[#discovertheunexpected](#)

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNAAP.ORG/DTU

New Ravens WR Mike Wallace plans to be deep threat

By *Turron Davenport*

The Baltimore Ravens have struggled to find a wide receiver able to stretch the field the way Torrey Smith did before signing a free agent deal with the San Francisco 49ers last year. The team used a first round pick for Breshad Perriman and traded for Chris Givens also.

Givens has since moved on to the Philadelphia Eagles while Perriman has been struck with the injury bug once again. The Ravens are hoping free agent acquisition Mike Wallace can return to his days as a deep threat.

Wallace was once a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers and saw his best days stretching the field when Ben Roethlisberger was throwing him the ball. Joe Flacco has similar deep ball accuracy, which should help Wallace.

The speedy receiver is excited about his opportunity in Baltimore.

"It [has] been great. Great guys around here, great coaches— a lot of energy," Wallace said. "I think I'm picking up things pretty well. I've got most of the playbook in so far, so I think I've been doing a pretty good job. I've got to clean some things up but I like where I'm at."

Wallace views his time with the Ravens as a fresh start. He feels the team will give him a chance to do the things that he specializes in.

"We have the team, we have the play-



Ravens wide receiver Mike Wallace reacts to a question during his introductory press conference at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills, Maryland.
Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

calling to do it here— more of an aggressive play-calling style," Wallace said. "That's why I chose to come here, because I felt like it gave me the best opportunity to make big plays, like I want to do."

Now entering his eighth season, Wallace is considered by some to have lost a step. He acknowledges that he is not as fast as he once was but he remains one of the fastest players in the NFL.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh plans to take advantage of Wallace's speed in more ways than just the vertical passing game.

"[I am] very pleased to have Mike with us. He's done a great job," Harbaugh said. "He worked really hard the whole off season. He's very smart, he learns the offense quickly, and you can do anything with him. He goes deep, he comes

across, he runs routes [and] has good hands. I think he's just done a tremendous job as an all-around receiver, and I he's going to be a big part of what we're doing this year."

Wallace is playing for his fourth NFL team. He has gained a lot from competing against his different teammates along the way. His intention is to show that he can still stretch the field and be a legitimate weapon in the passing game.

"I went from playing against Ike Taylor and William Gay, to Brent Grimes, to Xavier Rhodes, Terence Newman and guys who are smarter, bigger, stronger. I went against small, tall, big, fast, strong— all types of different guys," Wallace said. "Playing against some great guys coming through these last three or four years, I think I've gotten better, even though numbers don't say so. I'll show some people I have a lot up my sleeve, and I think I have the opportunity here on this team, have great coaches to put us in position, and great quarterbacks."

BmoreKids Sports Summer Kickoff Event

Baltimore— BmoreKids Sports, a free youth sports nonprofit dedicated to getting Baltimore City's youth active and connected to their communities, will hold a FREE Summer Kickoff event on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Herring Run Rec Center located at 5001 Sinclair Road in Baltimore from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Kids of all ages will have the chance to get active playing flag football, soccer and volleyball and other fun games. Free food and drinks will be available to all participating players and their families.

Pre-registration for the event is optional, but highly encouraged. More information and registration can be found at <http://bmorekids.org>.

By providing youth leagues for flag football, soccer, volleyball, and T-ball, as well as more unusual sports such as bocce ball and sailing, BmoreKids seeks to encourage Baltimore's youth to live active and healthy social lives.



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Free Kidney Health Assessment at Men and Families Center Connectfest

Lutherville, Md. –The National Kidney Foundation of Maryland (NKF-MD) will bring its Kidney Health Risk Assessment (KHRA) to the Men and Families Center ConnectFest taking place Thursday, June 23, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 2222 Jefferson Street in Baltimore.

As part of NKF-MD’s mission of early detection and early intervention, this free assessment helps identify adults at risk for chronic kidney disease and increases awareness of kidney disease risk factors in the community.

The KHRA uses a simple Body Mass Index (BMI) calculation, blood pressure measurement and a short questionnaire to make participants aware of their risk factors for chronic kidney disease. Participants will receive brief consultations with physicians and dietitians to learn about kidney disease, as well as general nutrition and wellness guidelines.

Individuals not at risk will be given educational materials about maintaining good health, while those at risk will be directed to further screenings and advised to talk to medical professionals. Everyone is encouraged to follow up with their physician and to maintain regular primary care visits.

Overall, kidney disease affects 26 million people— that’s one in nine Marylanders and one in eight in Baltimore. One in three American adults— 73 million people— is at risk for kidney disease, and the risk increases to one in two over the course of a lifetime.

In Baltimore, kidney disease is a hidden health crisis because African Americans make up more than 60 percent of the city’s population, and they are at increased risk for developing kidney disease. Most people affected do not realize they have it until the condition has progressed. In fact, 25 percent of the 1,229 people screened in fiscal year 2015 by NKF-MD demonstrated significant results.

For details about this KHRA event or NKF-MD’s other KHRA events and kidney screenings, call 410-494-8545 or visit: www.kidneymd.org.

A Tribute to Fathers



Two Very Special Men

Arleen Womack: *My brother, Willie M. Womack (We miss you each and every day) and my loving husband, Vernon Dorsey.*
Happy Father's Day!

The Davis Family

Left to right: Wife, Yvonne; grand children, Myown and Malachi, Son Stephen; daughter Patrice and "AWESOME DAD STEVE".

Loving Husband, James E Young
Happy Father's Day
Your wife, Veronica Watts Young



The Greatest Dad Ever!

Nick Samaroo

*Left: Daughters, Michal and Tiara with Mom, Torri (center)
Right: Jamiah, Dena, Michelle and Chyann (Not pictured)*

Happy Father's Day!



Remembering our Loving Father and Husband

James Cray Nanton

Left to right: Pamela Arthurton, Carol Nanton, Daisy Nanton (wife), Joy Bramble, Kathy Reeve

Etan Thomas offers Father's Day inspiration

By Andrea Blackstone

Etan Thomas is more than a retired professional basketball star who can reflect on spending 11 seasons in the NBA. Although the 6'10" former center spent the bulk of his career playing for the Washington Wizards, his mission to inspire an entire generation of youth and promote responsible fatherhood stands out.

"The Activist Athlete" has been married to Nichole Thomas for 12 years and is the father of Malcolm, 10; Imani, 8; and Sierra, 5. He stays busy balancing family duties with speaking at schools and visiting correctional facilities to encourage juvenile inmates with empowering messages that align with his growing Fatherhood Movement.

Thomas currently travels around the country facilitating fatherhood panel discussions to uplift men and remind adolescent boys that they do matter. Seemingly, his passion for mentoring and civic engagement connects to his upbringing. Growing up in Tulsa, Oklahoma with his mother and brother, he was surrounded by books about the Civil Rights movement and politics.

Fast-forward to Etan's life in 2012 and his intellectual curiosity has remained intact, despite his popularity on the basketball court. His book, "Fatherhood: Rising to the Ultimate Challenge" was co-authored with Nick Chiles. The collection of inspirational stories shared by well-known men explores the importance of fathers and what they have learned from the journey.

"I had a lot of reasons as to why I wanted to release "Fatherhood: Rising To The Ultimate Challenge." The main goal was to encourage young people that they



Etan Thomas, retired NBA player, and son Malcolm.

can be anything they want to be in life, no matter what their circumstances," Thomas said. "It always amazes me how much hearing that message from an athlete, or rapper, or actor who they recognize resonates with them. It's the reason why I started a fatherhood movement and connected with a wide a range of men to give personal accounts about responsibility, triumphs, struggles and what it takes for young people to succeed."

Notable men including Tony Dungy, Dr. Cornell West, Ice Cube, Roland Martin, Tito Puente Jr., Kevin Durant, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Taye Diggs, Andre Agassi, Malcolm Jamal Warner and many others are included their perspectives in the book. Etan said he feels honored to partner with men who are willing to use their voice, celebrity and passion to have a positive impact.

He added that another reason for writing the book was to join with the efforts

of other powerful men and women to inspire youth who are growing up without fathers in their homes. He noted that the contributors to the book are not fatherhood experts, and he does not even think there is any such thing, but we can all learn from each other while sharing experiences.

The author, philanthropist and poet was appointed to President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative and has been working with the organization for a few years. My Brother's Keeper ensures that all youth— included boys and men of color— have opportunities to improve their lives and rise above barriers to achieve success.

On Saturday, June 18, 2016, The Etan Thomas Foundation; The Reid Temple AME Men's Ministry; and Prince George's county council member, Mel Franklin's Responsible Fatherhood Initiative will present a fatherhood panel and workshop at Reid Temple AME located at

11400 Glenn Dale Blvd. in Glenn Dale, Maryland from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The free event is open to the public. My Brother's Keeper and The National Fatherhood Initiative, are also listed as community partners.

Although June 19, 2016 is Father's Day, Etan wants to remind the public just how many young people who are being raised in single-parent households need encouragement and mentorship.

"The statistics say that one in four kids— black, white, brown; all American kids— are growing up without a father in their homes," Etan said.

Franklin, who represents District 9 in Prince George's County, will address attendees at the upcoming fatherhood event. He agrees that discussing the issue of absent fathers is important.

"This fatherhood summit will be a great opportunity for county residents, and our nationally renowned panelists, to tackle the seriousness of fatherhood absence and help us build stronger families," said Franklin.

Etan commented that it is great to partner with Franklin and his Responsible Fatherhood organization, as well as Reid Temple AME Men's Organization, to offer the local event.

"We want this to be the start of a special partnership where we will encourage, inspire, and help men of all ages, by not only giving a powerful, event but (by) connecting them with organizations that will provide assistance," Etan said.

To learn more about Etan's book and Fatherhood Movement, visit www.etan-thomas.com.

Fathers

One thing that everyone has in common is that we all have, or have had, a father. Fathers should be considered as a gift from God and a reflection of His heavenly love for us.

Not too many years ago, it was only the father who was out working to support his family while the mother was home caring for their children and the needs of their home. Today, many fathers and mothers share the many different aspects of

raising a family, including working outside of the home, which is good because it seems that fathers today are more involved with their children and their activities.

Fathers who love, support, and



encourage their children are helping to develop a healthy family, and it is essential that they never discourage their children from confiding in them with their problems.

Fathers who spend time with their families seem to be more at peace with themselves, and families that get along well in

good times are most often better able to handle the bad times.

It is easy to become a father, but quite difficult to become a good father, and a good father who loves his family is truly a blessing from God.

I will be a father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

- New K.J.V 2 Corinthians 6:18

Harbour School students fight hunger, poverty, illiteracy with community service

By Tiffany Mason

Students at the Harbour School Baltimore are on a quest to fight hunger. In just three years, they have completed over 10,000 hours of community service and donated over 5,000 pounds of food to people in need. And, as winners of the Lead2Feed Leadership Program competition for the third time in a row, the Harboursing Hope team has raised \$75,000 for Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland.

This is the only school that serves students with disabilities to win this award.

Students at Harbour School are among the million-plus students engaging in the Lead2Feed Leadership Program, a free, Common Core-aligned resource of comprehensive lessons for teachers and advisors who want to cultivate leaders and promote service learning in their clubs or classrooms.

At the conclusion of the 10-lesson or six-lesson track, students are given an opportunity to hone their leadership skills by completing a team-based service-learning project that challenges middle and high school students to take action to solve hunger or address a need in their local or global community.

Siri Llamas, a high school English teacher at Harbour School, serves as program advisor for Harboursing Hope, a team of high school students participating in the Lead2Feed Leadership program and competition.

“Lead2Feed is a really awesome program. It’s service-based learning and it’s student-centered and it’s leadership—all the things we believe in here at Harbour School,” she said.

This year’s challenge allowed students to address needs in their community besides hunger.

“We saw that students were championing child abuse, human trafficking, and all kinds of issues in addition to hunger,” said a Lead2Feed representative. “And then the Harbour School entry came in and I said, ‘Wow.’”

Harboursing Hope submitted a community-service project that concentrated on advocacy and raising awareness about poverty, illiteracy and hunger, of course.



Harbour School at Baltimore students won the Lead2Feed World Leadership Program challenge and have donated \$25,000 to Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland for the third year in a row. The Harbour School at Baltimore serves special needs students from nine school systems and over 95 percent of them are publicly funded by the public schools. (Above) The students presented the check to Meals on Wheels officials on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at the school.

Courtesy Photo/Harbour School at Baltimore

Drawing from leadership lessons learned in the classroom, Harboursing Hope members rallied the entire school to participate in a social action month. The team hosted speakers from local organizations, held cross-curricular lessons around the school and conducted leadership seminars at local schools on these topics.

The students published three children’s books entitled, “Harboursing Hope for Hunger,” “Harboursing Hope for Literacy,” and “Harboursing Hope for Poverty.” These books have been translated into seven languages and made available to schools around the world.

In 2015, the team donated a clean water tap, irrigation supplies and medicine to a struggling community in Africa and organized a food drive in partnership with Golden Ring Middle School that yielded 2,000 pounds of food that was donated to the Maryland Food Bank. The year before that, 12 schools in seven countries and 36 schools in the states benefitted from action packs on hunger, literacy and poverty, that

included a student created healthy food cookbook, nutritional comics, vegetable seeds for creating a community garden, and a board game designed by Harboursing Hope,

Nina Pendleton is a junior at Harbour School and says her experience in the Lead2Feed program has inspired her to launch a non-profit organization that empowers individuals with disabilities with the resources and support they need to be successful in life. She named it “The Nina Project.”

Sarah Schriefer, a recent graduate, has participated in the Lead2Feed program at her school since the beginning. This year, she was inspired to come back and give her peers a hand.

“I’m really proud of what the whole group has done,” said Schriefer. “It has been a big inspiration to help others in need.”

The Harbour School is a Maryland State Department of Education approved non-public special education school serving students ages six to 21. The Baltimore campus serves students from nine

school systems and over 95 percent of the students are funded by the public schools. Students at the school have been diagnosed as having learning disabilities, high functioning autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, other health impaired (primarily ADHD) and multi-disabled.

“This is beyond the best thing that I’ve ever been a part of,” said Llamas about working with her students in the program over the last three years. “They’re just such an inspiration, and I could not imagine not working at this school or working with these students.

“Not only are they changing the lives of others, they’re changing their lives—they’re changing my life.”

Lead2Feed is a national initiative created by The Foundation for Impact on Literacy and Learning and the Lift a Life Foundation, with assistance from the Yum! Brands Foundation. Over 3500 schools across the country have adopted the program.

Morgan State Reopens Civil Rights Museum

By Stacy M. Brown

To some, it was a long time coming but, to others, the reopening of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum on Saturday, June 11, 2016 happened just on time— at the right time.

“The ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official reopening of the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum was an excellent and well put together affair with a great turnout. There was overwhelming excitement surrounding the event, as many were eager to see and experience the upgrades that had been made to this historic location,” said Larry Jones, a spokesperson at Morgan State University, which owns and operates the Bolton Hill-located museum named after Jackson, the longtime head of Baltimore’s NAACP.

“We were very pleased with the event and the community support. It showed a great interest in this piece of Baltimore and Maryland history,” Jones said.

The museum, which had undergone a substantial \$3 million renovation which university officials said was carefully conducted, highlights the life and legacy of Jackson, a noted civil rights activist.

When visitors enter, they are greeted by a large sign that reads “A Man Was Lynched Yesterday,” in reference to the display at New York’s NAACP in the 1930s. Also among the eye-catching exhibits is an encased newspaper article that shows a photo of George Armwood, the last African-American man killed by a lynch mob in Maryland in 1933.

“Dr. Jackson’s participation in Baltimore’s Civil Rights Movement was vital to initiating significant change and we’re proud to share that history with the world, introducing her contributions to a new generation of museum goers,” Morgan State’s Dr. David Wilson said in a news release. “With the reopening of this important piece of civil rights history, we are able to further expand Morgan’s educational offerings on the movement and create a place that offers a unique learning experience.

The newly modernized museum, which is located a short distance from the Morgan campus in Baltimore’s Bolton Hill



Community, services the university’s museum studies program and houses two period rooms along with six galleries of exhibits throughout the converted four-story row home.

Included among the exhibits are drawings, paintings, letters, photographs and historic documents related to the Civil Rights Movement. The museum’s new and otherwise enhanced features include a separate garage structure converted into a Resource Center for scholars; digital friendly systems and technological upgrades; an elevator; and rehabilitated structural and architectural components.

“Of the hundreds who were on hand to witness and celebrate the occasion, many seemed to have a personal connection to the history portrayed in the museum or the family that used to occupy the space,” Jones said. “Those in attendance included members of Baltimore’s well-known Mitchell family (Sen. [Ret.] Michael Mitchell, Keiffer Mitchell & others), civil rights activist Dr. Helena Hicks, local and elected officials, Morgan State faculty and staff, and residents of the community.”

Jackson served for more than three decades as president of the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP. Her home was a regular meeting place for organizing civil rights campaigns.

Prior to her death in 1975, Jackson requested that her home be used as a



(Top left) Front entrance to the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum located at 1320 Eutaw Place in Baltimore. (Top right) Retired Maryland Senator Michael Mitchell looks at family photographs in the museum (Above) Morgan State University faculty and staff with Senator Michael Mitchell; Morgan State University President David Wilson; and members of the Jackson-Mitchell Family.
Courtesy Photos/MSU

living museum to honor those individuals who fought bigotry in Baltimore, officials noted in a news release.

The state legislature transferred the property to Morgan State in June 1996 and the museum, one of two that is owned and operated by the school, remained closed due to the need for extensive repairs and renovations.

“The response to the museum’s reopening was very positive. Attendees were

impressed with the numerous upgrades and new amenities that the museum offered,” Jones said.

“As family members toured the facility each encounter with an object, picture or setting seemed to generate a fond memory that they wanted to share. And then there was the look on the faces of several people, young and old, who were seeing the museum for the first time.”

Rambling Rose

**Happy DAD-DAD DAY
to all fathers this weekend!**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, my goodness gracious! This will be a hell-la-va weekend. I am telling you, Father's Day has taken over the calendar with so many concerts, social events, cabarets, stage shows, restaurant specials and gospel shows. I promise the "Daddies" that they will not be bored this weekend. This is why: A Father's Day Crab Feast is being presented by the Personality Hall, 2014 Harford Road, hosted by Richard Callaway on Sunday, June 19 from 5-9 p.m. It is cabaret style, so BYOB, call 410-366-3342. No Tickets are sold at the door.

Get ready for a big Father's Day celebration with some of the greatest gospel singers in the country featuring The Mighty Clouds of Joy, Willis Pittman & The Burden Lifters, Kenny Davis & The Melodyaires, The Wings of Praise, soloist, Ms. Chambliss and The New Ebony Gospel Singers. The emcees are: Doresa Harvey and Robert Wilson at Brown's Memorial Church, 3215 W. Belvedere Avenue on Sunday, June 19 at 4 p.m. The event is hosted by the one and only gospel promoter Lonnie Parker, for ticket information, call 443-610-7583.

Another Father's Day celebration will be held at the Forum Caterers, hosted by Nikita Haysbert, vice president of the Forum Caterers on Sunday, June 19 from

3-7 p.m. featuring a full dinner buffet, cash bar and live jazz entertainment. For tickets, call 410-358-1101.

You can also take your Dad or the man in your life to a delicious dinner at the Final Cut Steakhouse Restaurant at the Hollywood Casino in Charles Town, West Virginia and watch Executive Chef Damien Hinck work his magic on a delicious steak or a juicy lobster. While you are there you might as well play the tables or the slots while you are waiting. After dinner check out the racetrack. The casino is big and beautiful, and the food is to die for. After you win at the race track, go see the show; Carlos Mencia will be in concert performing on Friday, June 17.

"Gents on the Move" will present their Father's Day Cabaret on Saturday, June 18 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the American Legion Post #22, 125 York Road, Towson, Maryland featuring music by First Class & DJ Mel with a catered buffet dinner. It is BYOB and free beer, soda, ice and set-ups. For ticket information, call AJ at 410-488-1674.

Okay "Daddies" enjoy your weekend. Have a wonderful and blessed time. Remember, if you need me, just call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



The Persuaders are performing with The Spindells, Slagz Band and many others at the Patapsco Arena located at 3301 Annapolis Road on Sunday, June 19, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hosted by Carlos Hutchins. For tickets, call 443-963-5711.



The Mighty Clouds of Joy will headline the greatest gospel concert of the year, which will be hosted by Lonnie Parker on Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Brown's Memorial Church located at 3215 W. Belvedere Avenue in Baltimore. For ticket information, call 410-358-9661.



Meet Executive Chef Damien Hinck at the Final Cut Steakhouse Restaurant located at Hollywood Casino in Charles Town, West Virginia for a great Father's Day meal.

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Ro Brooks Hosts Celebrity Birthday Bash

By Phinisse Demps

On Sunday, June 19, 2016 at 8 p.m. Baltimore's very own Ro Brooks who plays Michael on the television show "The Haves And The Have Nots," will host his very own celebrity birthday bash at Oxygen Ultra Lounge located at 10 South Calvert Street in Baltimore. Ro will receive a mayoral citation from Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake at the event.

Although Brooks is excited about the party, he is more excited to be home so that he can visit the schools in the area. "I am from Baltimore. It's my city and I love my city. I want to be able to come home and give back. I want people to see that you can make it and become anything you want to be but you have to

put in the work," Brooks said.

Speaking of work, Brooks has been doing just that. In between acting Brooks wrote the book, "How to Go from Extra to Actor."

"I wanted to pass on information to help others break into show business. I have been very fortunate and I just wanted to pass on knowledge to others," Brooks said.

Brooks has also taken up the challenge in the fight against HIV by helping to bring awareness through the "Doing It" campaign with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This is very personal for me. My sister passed away from HIV. So to be able to help others, through education is very important to me, Brooks said. "When you are a celebrity you can get more things done, so I am using my celebrity to make a difference."

So, Brooks is asking his fellow Baltimoreans to come out and celebrate with him on the June 19th.

You can follow Brooks on Facebook,

Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. More information about Ro Brooks is also available at: <http://robrooks.com>.

Follow Phinisse Demps on Twitter: @pdempsIndieSoul and on Facebook: Phinisse Demps

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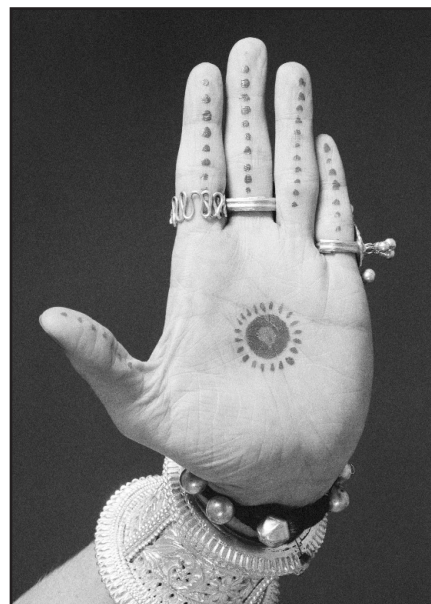
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"Black Henna" Tattoos May Put You at Risk!

Silver Spring, Md.— The summer vacation season is here— time to pack your swim suit, hit the beach, and perhaps indulge in a little harmless fun. What about getting a temporary tattoo to mark the occasion? Who could it hurt? It could hurt you.

Unlike permanent tattoos, which are injected into the skin, temporary tattoos marketed as "henna" are applied to the skin's surface and usually last two to four weeks. Henna is a reddish-brown coloring made from a flowering plant that grows in regions of Africa and Asia. For centuries, people have used henna to dye skin, hair, and fingernails. Henna body art— sometimes also called mehndi— is still used around the world to decorate the skin in cultural festivals and celebrations.

However, just because a henna tattoo is temporary that doesn't mean it is risk free. Today, so-called "black henna" is often used in place of traditional henna and is potentially harmful. Inks marketed as "black henna"— or sometimes simply as "henna"— may actually be hair dye or a mix of henna with other ingredients. The extra ingredient used to darken henna is often a coal-tar hair dye containing p-phenylenediamine (PPD), which can cause dangerous reactions in some people. By law, PPD is not permitted in cosmetics intended for staining the skin. Henna is permitted as a hair coloring.



You may see "black henna" used in places such as temporary tattoo kiosks at beaches, boardwalks, and other holiday destinations, as well as some ethnic or specialty shops. While states have jurisdiction over professional practices such as tattooing and cosmetology, that oversight differs from state to state. So, depending on where you are, it's possible no one is checking to make sure that the artist is following safe practices.

A number of consumers have learned the risks the hard way. Reactions may occur immediately after the application of "black henna" temporary tattoos or even up to two or three weeks later.

Reported problems include redness, blisters, raised red weeping lesions, loss of pigmentation, increased sensitivity to sunlight, and even permanent scarring. Some reactions have led to medical treatment, including emergency room visits and ongoing skin sensitivity that can affect day-to-day activities.

Some people may experience cross-sensitization, meaning that because of a previous exposure and a bad reaction to that chemical, they become sensitized (allergic) to related compounds, such as rubber and other latex products, certain medications, hair dye ingredients, and textile dyes.

If you have a reaction to or concern about a temporary tattoo or any other cosmetic, contact your health care professional. In addition, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asks you to contact FDA's Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program at 1-800-FDA-1088 or online at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>. You can also contact an FDA consumer complaint coordinator in your area. A list of coordinators can be found at: <http://www.fda.gov/safety/reportaproblem/consumercomplaintcoordinators>

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland Needs Volunteers

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland needs volunteers to provide help with a number of core programs and support systems for its home-delivered meal clients that can prevent premature institutionalization and increase quality of life. Such assistance includes delivery of meals to the homebound, grocery shopping and delivery, and delivery of freezer friendly meals to cancer patients. Support services include help with connecting clients who are isolated with outside service organizations or providing in-house services such as volunteer companions, phone pals, delivery of pet food, and other support to enable clients to stay in their homes. To learn more, contact Terry Lehr at 410-431-5257 or Lehr@mowcm.org or visit the website at www.mealson-wheelsmd.org.

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