
The Annapolis Times

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Common to headline at African-American Festival



The African American Festival takes place on Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3, 2016 at Camden Yards Sports Complex between lots B&C in downtown Baltimore. This year, popular hip-hop star and actor Common headlines the bill with Angie Stone, Joe, Mary Mary and others. A special tribute to the late icon Prince will be included at the festival. For more information about the festival and a complete line up of entertainment, visit <http://www.africanamericanfestival.net>. (Story on page 12)

Courtesy Photo

Nonprofit celebrates first anniversary

By Andrea Blackstone

Mia Wright can confidently look a person who has received a terminal cancer diagnosis in the eye, and tell them that she knows exactly how they feel. The 39-year-old from Largo, Maryland beat ovarian cancer three times.

Wright provides financial, physical, and spiritual support to cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and persons directly affected by all types of cancer through a cancer awareness, patient advocacy nonprofit organization she founded called We CAN-CER vive!® (WCV).

The nonprofit recently celebrated its one year anniversary at the 2nd Annual Cancer Awareness Fashion Event on June 11, 2016. Proceeds raised from the event that will go directly toward assisting cancer patients and survivors.

Trina Taylor, 43, from Baltimore is fighting stage IV colorectal cancer. Her 14-year-old son Kamron O'Banner is her biggest inspiration to keep fighting. Taylor received a makeover for the fashion event and walked in the fashion show. She has referred cancer patients to WCV.

"I think that people should chose to support it because specifically, the name speaks for itself, and we can survive anything that we are faced with if we have the right attitude," Taylor said. "I think that We CAN-CER vive!® is just a great resource, and Mia being the person who is the founder of that— her spirit, her motivation, her will to live and to overcome is infectious— as far as getting other people onboard and helping people that are less fortunate in their cancer journey."

Wright's own cancer journey was paved with up and downs. She was originally diagnosed with Stage 1 ovarian



Mia Wright (middle); her sister Shari Hill (left); her nephew Santana Loudermk; and her daughter Bria Hill. They were all models in the 2nd Annual Cancer Awareness Fashion Event for We CAN-CER vive!®, which was held on June 11, 2016. Proceeds from the event will go directly toward assisting cancer patients and survivors.

Photo Credit: Marcus Bennett

cancer in 1999, then had a reoccurrence in 2007. Wright was informed in 2013 that she was terminally ill and had less than six months to live. A chemo cocktail and radiation treatment did not work. Wright's research led to her discovery of a FDA approved drug called Avastin, but it was only approved for treating colorectal cancer, and her insurance provider would not pay for the treatment.

Wright located a doctor working at the

Baylor T. Boone Pickens Cancer Hospital in Texas who had access to the drug. She received free treatment for nearly nine months, because the doctor needed a qualified ovarian cancer patient to participate in a clinical trial. However, the blessing often felt like a curse.

"I took on the look of a very sick, dying person. It was really, really hard before the turnaround came, and I got

better and I was able to come home," Wright said.

Today, Wright assists people who need support with clinical trials. She also takes cancer patients to appointments, picks up prescriptions and grocery shops for them. Even her parents— Glenda Hill and Jerry Hill— who did as much as they could when she was fighting cancer, remain active in her organization. Jerry even pitches in by mowing lawns.

"A lot of times people think all we (WCV) needs is donations, when they decide to give back, but we do need volunteers as well," Wright said, explaining that volunteering can be a one-time effort.

Wright, who is a mother of two daughters, says a cancer diagnosis often comes with financial strain.

"Even if you have the best of insurance, there are still expenses that are associated medical wise. Sometimes you find yourself in a position where you're out of work for a long period of time, and if you're out of work, you don't have money," Wright said. "A lot of people automatically assume that if you have cancer you automatically get disability. That is a myth. That is a lie. Even in a terminal state, I was denied disability."

Anthony Watkins' mobile wine and spirit company, Love Libations, provided Sweet Love Sangria for guests who attended WCV's annual fashion event. A few models who walked in the show, and who are battling cancer, are good friends with Watkins. The Baltimorean says that seeing a large number of people in one place who are dealing with something like cancer is a reminder that anyone can be diagnosed with it.

"You just never know," Watkins said. To learn more about WCV, visit <http://www.we-can-cervive.org>.

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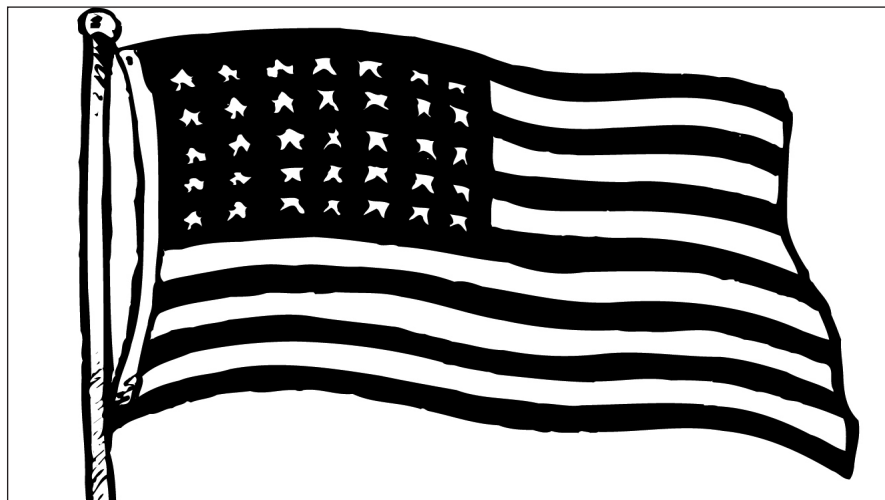
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Let That Old Flag Wave

By Glenn Mollette



Flying high across the sky is such a sight to me.
It represents love and a whole lot of blood given for folks like you and me.

It stands so grand across this dear land, never once has it embarrassed me. And I lift my head up high and my heart is filled with pride and I'm here 'cause that old flag waves!

Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave! It has a lot to say. It's our story flying high. It reminds us of our past, of our heroes who made it last, about our people who died to set us free. Let that old flag wave!

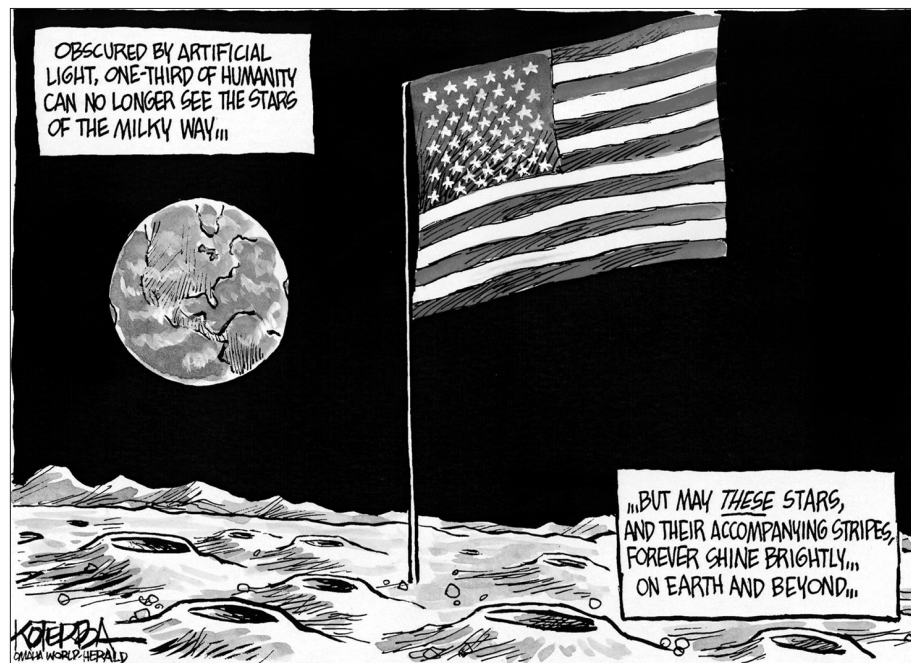
The stars and stripes remind us of a life we don't appreciate. Freedom to pray and freedom to say, what's on our minds. Freedom to pursue the dreams of our youth, let's let that old flag wave!

Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave! It has a lot to say. It's our story flying high. It reminds us of our past, of our heroes who made it last, about our people who died to set us free. Let that old flag wave!

Today the flag still stands, but we live in a land of demand. We take her for all she's got and expect her to give her best. It's up to you and me to continue this liberty cause our children are coming this way. Let that old flag wave!

Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave! It has a lot to say. It's our story flying high. It reminds us of our past, of our heroes who made it last, about our people who died to set us free. Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave! Let that old flag wave!

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Glenn Mollette is an American Syndicated Columnist and the author of 11 books. His column appears in all 50 states. Listen to "Let That Old Flag Wave" on YouTube by Glenn Mollette. Mollette's books are available at Amazon.com



Community Affairs

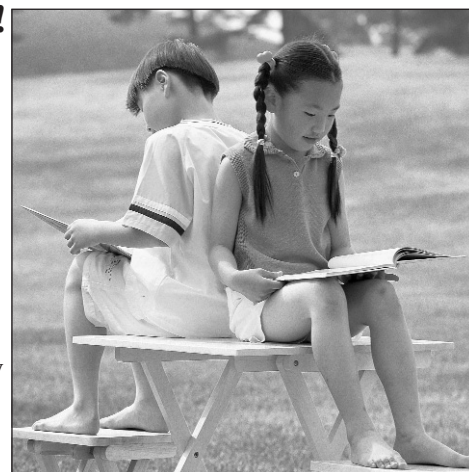
Be a Reading Champion! Summer Reading 2016: On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!

Free and fun programs for the whole family

Baltimore— Readers of all ages will explore all things sports and fitness this summer as the Enoch Pratt Free Library presents "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" during the library's summer reading program, which runs until August 10, 2016.

Registration for Summer Reading 2016 began on June 15th. Last year, the Pratt registered more than 11,000 children and teens.

"Studies have shown that children who read over the summer are better prepared to continue their education when they return to school in the fall," said Carla D. Hayden, Chief Executive Officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. "I personally want to challenge children and teens to be reading champs this summer and read at least 15 minutes a day. Building 15 minutes into each day allows them to be better prepared to



continue their education when they return to school in the fall."

Children, teens and adults can "read to the finish line" and be reading champions. Readers can explore science through stories, crafts, music, dance and other free activities and win prizes during the program. This year, when a child reaches their goal of reading for 35 days, they win a t-shirt and are entered into a raffle to win Orioles or National Aquarium tickets.

For a complete schedule of programs and more information on the 2016 Summer Reading Program, visit the website: www.prattlibrary.org.

Saving Community Newspapers in the Age of Facebook

By Denise Rolark-Barnes, Chairperson of the NNPA; and Benjamin F. Chavis, President/CEO of the NNPA

Hundreds of newspapers have disappeared in the last 15 years and readership is on the decline. No newspaper is immune from the migration of readership to online platforms, dwindling ad revenues, fragmented audiences and even reduced attention spans.

Even national-recognized newspapers with celebrated histories like “The New York Times” and “The Washington Post” have retrenched in the face of these mounting economic pressures. Many regional and community newspapers—including some members of the historic Black Press—are barely hanging on.

The ramifications of this can be profound. Local publications have long served as the glue that binds communities together. They have served as the microphone for voices that would otherwise be marginalized and the spotlight on the stories that seldom make it onto the front pages of major newspapers and

magazines. For African-American communities, the publications that make up the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) have served as that voice across the nation.

Yet, we are being told that the silver lining is that journalism isn’t disappearing—and won’t be any time soon. Rather, it has just moved to an electronic form. Not only that, there are also more opportunities to tell more stories and express more opinions than ever before.

“With so much power in the hands of one company, we risk surrendering our own decisions about what is or isn’t newsworthy to a gatekeeper who may someday push only stories it deems worthy. And that’s a troubling possibility that should worry us all.”

Some have said that we should not mourn the loss of the local newspaper and that we should instead explore the myriad possibilities offered by the new media, or so goes the mantra.

In reality, this upbeat vision obscures the threat that new media poses to community journalism. And that threat is coming from a most unlikely place—the popular social media platforms that so many of us love. Chief among them is Facebook.

Like many other publishers who have recently written on Facebook’s growing power over the media and what Americans read, we too are alarmed with one company having such dominance in news aggregation. Online hubs like Facebook are able to engineer which

stories catch on. And they’re able to decide by algorithmic fiat, which bylines, viewpoints and subject matter is promoted to the masses.

This is a new kind of power. It is unlike any power a media company has ever had before. A study last year reported that Facebook drove 43 percent of all the traffic to the top 400 news sites. That’s almost half coming from one powerful source!

What’s more, we don’t know how

ing years—and there is something ironic about that. The mainstream media was once derided as unimaginative and monolithic, largely because, it had long, been dominated by three TV networks and a handful of newspapers in large cities. The Internet was supposed to change all that by bringing a diversity of viewpoints to the table. While this has indeed happened, the emergence of one or even a handful of powerful gatekeepers like Facebook raises profound questions about the nature of news in this country in the years to come.

With so much power in the hands of one company, we risk surrendering our own decisions about what is or isn’t newsworthy to a gatekeeper who may someday push only stories it deems worthy. And that’s a troubling possibility that should worry us all.

It is time regulators took a hard look at Facebook and its news aggregation and promotion practices in an effort to bring some much needed transparency to the new media king. The democratization of the media could be on a collision course with decidedly anti-democratic and arbitrary forces. Think of the proverbial tree that falls silently in the forest because no one is there to hear it. Will Facebook have the power to allow entire forests to fall without much notice?

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is a trade group that represents more than 200 black-owned media companies in the United States. As the largest and most influential black-owned media resource in America, the NNPA delivers news, information and commentary to over 20 million people each week. To learn more about the NNPA, visit: NNPA.org.

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Journalists and Bloggers Take “Journey Into Sound” in 2016 Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid

By **Brandi Montgomery**
NNPA/DTU Fellow, *The Atlanta Voice*

Cars signify individualism and mobility, while music provides the thrill, expression and tone. So what happens when Chevrolet links with Revolt TV? A lucky few journalists and bloggers take a “Journey Into Sound.”

Music can change your mood and can help you start your day. It can calm drivers in traffic and prevent road rages. It can cease boredom during a road trip. Typically one’s music selection varies. The listener chooses songs based not only on their lyrical meaning, but also because of the emotional response they illicit.

Chevrolet selected a small group of media professionals to test drive the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu on a road trip down the Pacific Coast Highway to the luxurious Malibu Beach Inn. Later the group participated in a panel discussion about the music business and the impact of social media on artist development and promotion.

The next day, Chevrolet introduced the reporters and media influencers to more of the Malibu’s music-themed, technological features. The new Malibu supports both Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and it also offers Bluetooth connectivity for easy access to playlists that are already in your phone. The car comes equipped with the Pandora app, an Internet radio service that plays music selections of a certain genre based on the user’s preferences.



One of the best features in the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu is the 4G LTE Wi-Fi inside the vehicle. Passengers are able to connect up to seven devices to the built-in 4G LTE Wi-Fi network.

Courtesy Photo/Chevrolet

Chevy Malibu allows passengers to connect up to seven devices to the built-in 4G LTE Wi-Fi network.

The media contingent then traveled to Los Angeles, California, for a live concert at Revolt TV studios featuring the jazz-fusion sounds of Terrace Martin.

This was the type of experience where

you can easily lose your self in the music. Music and the new 2016 Chevy Malibu Hybrid make discovering new roads easier and a lot more fun.

Brandi Montgomery is a 2016 NNPA “Discover The Unexpected” journalism fellow at The Atlanta Voice. “Discover

The Unexpected” journalism fellowship program is sponsored by Chevrolet. More stories by the fellows are available by following the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter and Instagram. Learn more about the program at nnpa.org/dtu.

NKF-MD will provide outreach and education at African-American Festival

Lutherville, Md. – The National Kidney Foundation of Maryland (NKF-MD) will have an exhibit at the African American Festival, which takes place on Saturday, July 2 and Saturday, July 3, 2016 from noon to 6 p.m., at the Camden Yards Sports Complex located at 333 West Camden Street in Baltimore City.

As part of NKF-MD’s mission of early detection and early intervention, NKF-MD will explain why the kidneys are important, discuss risk factors for kidney disease and give recommendations for protecting the kidneys.

This information is critical because

African Americans are 3.5 times more likely than Caucasians to experience kidney failure. In fact, African Americans constitute more than 35 percent of all American dialysis patients.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure in African Americans. African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as Caucasians. Approximately 4.9 million African Americans over 20 years of age are living with either diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes.

High blood pressure is the second leading cause of kidney failure among

African Americans, and remains the leading cause of death due to its link with heart attacks and strokes.

“Due to high rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, African Americans have an increased risk of developing kidney failure,” said Traci Barnett, NKF-MD’s president and CEO. “African Americans need to be aware of these risk factors and visit their doctor or clinic regularly to check their blood sugar, blood pressure, urine protein and kidney function.

For details about kidney disease, the AFRAM exhibit or its other outreach events and kidney screenings, call: 410-494-8545 or visit: www.kidneymd.org.



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#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU

Benjamin Watson adjusting to new role with the Baltimore Ravens

By Turron Davenport

Benjamin Watson came to the Baltimore Ravens because he saw an opportunity to be a part of something special. Watson is well aware of how the team has featured the tight ends so many times in the past.

"I've seen the guys on this team before when I wasn't here," Watson said at a press conference after a practice last week. "I've always known that the Ravens had great tight ends on down the line from the oldest to the youngest. It's an honor for me to be a part of that group. Hopefully, we push each other; we make each other better. I think that that's how you become better as a player when you always have people you can compete with."

Watson has been working to learn the terminology of Marc Trestman's offense. He plans to continue to get familiar with how the plays are called in the huddle during training camp next month.

Hearing the play and then processing what he has to do is only the first part of carrying out his role properly. Watson will also need to work on his timing with a new quarterback group.

Joe Flacco is recovering from knee surgery and hopes to be back by training camp. Ryan Mallett took the first-team reps during minicamp. When healthy, Flacco is the obvious starter. Having suffered a knee injury in the past, Watson knows what Flacco is going through.

"I'm looking forward to him coming out there on the practice field," Watson said. "I've been through an ACL [repair] before, so I know what it's like. I know you have this itch, this desire to get out



Benjamin Watson speaking to the media after he was named a finalist to receive the "Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award" at a news conference on February 5, 2016, in San Francisco, California.

Courtesy Photo/www.benjaminwatson.com

there, but you're just not quite ready. I can relate to him on that level.

"Just watching him knowing that he has control of the offense and that he's one of the great quarterbacks in the league is exciting for me whenever he does get out there."

Flacco has always shown a preference for throwing to his tight ends. He trusts them to get open and come through for him, especially in third down situations. Watson plans to show Flacco that he can be a reliable target.

"I'm focused on the day to day," Watson said. "then once training camp gets here and once Joe gets out here, then I'm going to try to earn his confidence, obviously, because he'll be the starting quarterback."

The Ravens have a solid group of tight ends that will be bolstered by the addition of Watson. Crockett Gilmore figures to be the starter while second-year

player Maxx Williams continues to develop into the receiving option the Ravens hope he can become.

Watson gives them a veteran presence in their tight end group. Gilmore is only entering his third NFL season but has already made an impression on Watson.

"He is a great player and he has a great football mind," Watson said. "I've already noticed about him that he's going to be a coach when he gets done, because of the way he evaluates players and the way he'll tell us, 'You need to do this, do that.' He has that type of mind."

The Ravens have a knack for adding veteran players to bolster their locker room. Watson will be the latest. He was recognized as one of three finalists (Eli Manning and Anquan Boldin) for the Walter Payton Man-of-the-Year award, which was won by Boldin.

He is also coming off one of his best seasons after posting 74 receptions for 825 yards and six touchdowns with the New Orleans Saints last year. Watson plans on finding the same success with Baltimore in 2016.

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Celebrate the Fourth of July at Baltimore's Inner Harbor

Greater Baltimore's biggest Fourth of July celebration returns to the Inner Harbor! Baltimore's Fourth of July Celebration presented by Ports America Chesapeake takes place Monday, July 4, 2016 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Baltimore's Inner Harbor with live music and celebratory fireworks. At 7 p.m. audiences can enjoy live music from the U.S. Navy Band Cruisers as they perform contemporary hits from the Inner Harbor Amphitheater at Pratt and Light streets.

The fireworks show, choreographed to patriotic and contemporary music, begins at 9:30 p.m. The display is produced by fireworks company Pyrotecnico. The holiday fireworks can be viewed from several locations in downtown and the surrounding areas, including Federal Hill, Locust Point, Fell's Point, Canton and Harbor East. Support for Baltimore's Fourth of July Celebration is provided by Ports America Chesapeake, BGE, GEICO, Visit Baltimore, Waterfront Partnership and Amtrak.

Visitors can make a day of their holiday downtown by going to area attractions and nearby restaurants and retailers. Top of the World Observation Level offers the Picnic at the Top on Monday, July 4, 2016 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Visitors can take in a 360-degree view of Baltimore as well as have the best view of the vibrant fireworks display. Family-fun activities and food & beverages will be available. Tickets cost \$50 for adults and \$25 for children ages 3-12. Top of the World Observation Level is located on the 27th floor of the World Trade Center at 401 East Pratt Street. For more information on Top of the World Observation Level or upcoming events, please visit 410-837-VIEW (8439) or visit: www.viewbaltimore.org.



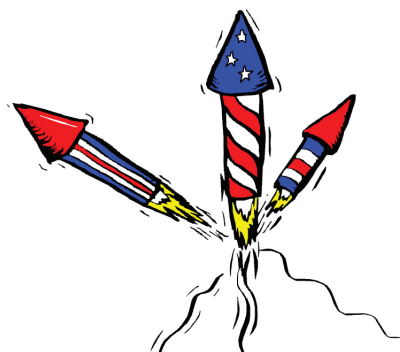
First Sunday Arts Festival July 3

First Sunday Arts Festival continues Sunday, July 3 (and every Sunday through October) from noon to 5 PM. Enjoy live entertainment and peruse the work of 100 local and regional artists as you stroll along the first block of West Street and Calvert Street next to Whitmore parking garage. Local restaurants set up outside cafes that are perfect for people watching and an afternoon bite to eat. Free parking for the family-friendly event is available at the state parking garage on the corner of Calvert and Bladen Streets. For more information, visit www.firstsundayarts.com.



*Where Community
& Arts Fuse*

Annapolis will celebrate the 4th of July with a parade and fireworks on Monday, July 4. The parade will begin at 6:30 pm at Amos Garrett Boulevard and proceed along West Street, around Church Circle, and down Main Street. The fireworks show will begin at approximately 9:15 pm to 10 pm.

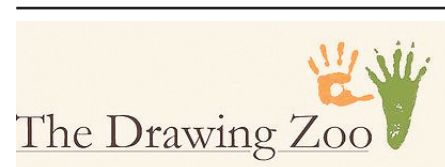


Tour the Garden of a Signer of the Declaration July 4

William Paca was one of the four Maryland men who signed our nation's Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Celebrate America's birthday by touring the grand Georgian mansion he built 250 years ago at 186 Prince George Street in Annapolis. Free tours take place between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

While strolling along the paths of his beautifully restored two-acre pleasure garden, visitors will likely encounter Paca himself and hear why he pledged his life, his fortune, and his sacred honor to the revolutionary cause of American independence. Day includes craft activities for children. More info can be found here.



Family Art Day with The Drawing Zoo!

Sunday, July 3, 2016 — 11 am - 1 pm

Come draw and color our LIVE collection of Lizards, snakes, spiders and bugs!

Crayons, paper, and colored pencils provided but feel free to bring your own sketchpad and supplies!

The Women's Exchange is located at 333 North Charles Street in Baltimore.

**Have a Safe
Holiday**

Get Your Grill On: Recipes from the family farm to your backyard

(Family Features) Firing up the grill is an American tradition. The farm families who produce the food so many people enjoy at backyard cookouts want to share some of their favorite grilling recipes, as well as an appreciation for how food gets from the farm to the table.

Farmers like Amanda Folkens, from Iowa, Danell Kalcevic, from Colorado, and Nicole Small, from Kansas, have joined with more than 70 other farmer volunteers across the country in the CommonGround program as a way to talk with home cooks about how food is grown and raised.

“On our farm, animal care is top priority, as it is for thousands of other family farms in the U.S.” said Amanda. “By keeping our animals indoors, we make sure they are protected from predators, disease and bad weather.”s

To learn more about family farms and facts about your food, visit www.FindOurCommonGround.com.

Here are some of Amanda, Danell and Nicole’s favorite grilling recipes.

Safe Minimum Internal Temperatures

145°F Beef, pork, veal and lamb (roasts, steaks and chops)

160°F Ground meat

165°F Poultry (whole, parts or ground)



Beef Rack of Ribs

GET YOUR

Recipes from the family farm to your backyard

GRILL ON

Beef Rack of Ribs

By Danell Kalcevic

Salt (to taste)

1 tablespoon black pepper (to taste)

1 tablespoon seasoned garlic salt (to taste)

Cayenne pepper (optional)

1 to 2 racks of beef ribs

1 tablespoon yellow mustard

1/3 cup brown sugar

One bottle of favorite barbeque sauce

The night before serving, prepare rub for beef ribs (salt, pepper, seasoned garlic salt and optional cayenne pepper). Sprinkle both sides of ribs and then rub vigorously. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

In the morning, place on medium temperature grill and spread yellow mustard and brown sugar on each side of the ribs. Grill for 5 to 8 minutes until each side is slightly browned and caramelized.

Remove ribs from grill and slice with sharp knife.

Place individual ribs in a crock pot on low. Add one bottle of your favorite barbeque sauce. Let simmer 6 to 8 hours.

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SHOP THE MEAT CASE

— There’s no need to pay extra for poultry or pork that’s labeled hormone-free. USDA prohibits farmers from using hormones to raise chicken and pigs.

— Nearly all beef cattle, whether raised organically or conventionally, spend the majority of their lives on pastures eating grass.

— Purchasing organic, grass-fed and free-range meats does not make them safer to consume. These labels refer to how the animals are raised, but all meat and poultry can contain bacteria that could cause illness.

— Most cases of foodborne illness can be prevented with proper processing, handling and cooking of food to destroy bacteria.



Country Barbecue Potatoes

By Nicole Small

2 pounds small red potatoes

2 tablespoons butter, melted

1 teaspoon honey

3 teaspoons seasoned salt

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 450°F.

Coat 9 x 13 baking pan with nonstick spray.

Cut potatoes into small to medium-sized pieces and put in pan.

Melt butter and honey, and then drizzle over potatoes. Sprinkle with seasoned salt, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Toss well to coat.

Bake, uncovered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until potatoes are tender and golden brown. Stir potatoes at least once.

African-American Festival to feature Common, Angie Stone and others

By Stacy M. Brown

Last year, Stephanie Mills and Doug E. Fresh were the primary attractions at the annual African-American Festival in Baltimore.

This year, festival producers may have one-upped the 2015 event. Popular hip-hop star and actor Common headlines the bill with Angie Stone, Joe, Mary Mary and others. The festival will also include a special tribute to the late icon Prince.

“We live in one most of the exciting cities in the country, and we’re going to have the chance to showcase that this summer,” Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said. “I love the opportunity to show off all that is Baltimore.”

Presented by Black Enterprise, produced by greiBO Entertainment and hosted by Rawlings-Blake, the festival is an annual celebration of life, music and culture, according to publicist Nika Watkins.

It includes performances, empowerment seminars and something for festival-goers of all ages. Also, the festival counts as the largest cultural festival on the East Coast as Charm City has welcomed more than 350,000 attendees each year.

The annual festival, which takes place on Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3, 2016 at the Camden Yards Sports Complex between lots B&C, also will include the Community Connection, an area with obstacle courses and team-building exercises geared to create bonds between the city’s youth and the Baltimore Police Department, according to festival producers.

Sponsored by Visit Baltimore, Xfinity, Music Choice, the U.S. Army, Shoprite, TV One, the Baltimore Times and others, the festival also will include a health and wellness pavilion; a beauty bar; and a culture tent, where attendees will have the chance to research their genealogy and experience African traditions.

The event is free to attend and organizers will have more than 150 vending booths and attractions to go along with two stages of entertainment. In addition to the mayor, hosts include actress Vivica A. Fox; Jonathan Slocumb,



Brave and Maurette Brown Clark.

Saturday’s entertainment lineup includes Damond Blue, Ruff Endz, Goapele, Gourdan Banks, Ro James, Angie Stone, Joe and a tribute to DJ Reggie Reg.

On Sunday, Ex Music takes the stage followed by Anthony Brown & Group TherAPy. Mary Mary, Joe Maye, Estelle, and the tribute to Prince kicks off the entertainment with Common serving as the headliner.

At a news conference announcing the lineup, Rawlings-Blake revealed just how much of a fan she is of the rap superstar.

Reportedly, when the crowd at the news conference expressed particular excitement over featured artist Common, Rawlings-Blake said she was excited to have the musician and human rights activist on the main stage. She also mentioned that he’s not too bad to look at either.

“I got in trouble, but I’ve got eyes, you know,” she said.

Among the new experiences this year will be “BrownGirl Village,” a tent that will host photo sessions, charm classes and entrepreneurs.

Inside the tent, showcases will include hair care, etiquette and fashion tips for young ladies as well as celebrity guests and a teen makeup artist who will be onsite to assist young women with beauty tips.

A Culture Village, where attendees can



The African American Festival is free with over 150 vending booths and attractions, as well as entertainment on two stages. Among the new experiences included this year is the Cultural Village, where attendees can experience a world of cultures from Africa to the Caribbean and beyond. For more information about the festival and a complete entertainment line up, visit <http://www.africanamericanfestival.net>.

Courtesy Photos

experience a world of cultures from Africa to the Caribbean and beyond, will also be included. Producers have also included an Empowerment Tent, which they say will be a focal point of this year’s festival. Activities will include panels and keynotes from some of the nation’s leading voices on topics from relationships and politics to entrepreneurship. Invited guests include best-selling author Zane; Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant;

Terrie Williams; Kwame Jackson; State Senator Catherine Pugh; Alfred Edmonds; Cyrene Tankard; Brave; and journalist Armstrong Williams.

“It’s a commercial for our city,” Rawlings-Blake said. “And people get a sense of what we’re about and they want to be here to enjoy us.”

For more information about the festival, visit <http://www.africanamericanfestival.net>.

Comic Book Released in Memory of Prince

By Ursula V. Battle

Publication released on Music Icon's Birthday

Storm Entertainment is keeping the memory of late music icon Prince alive in a special edition comic book entitled "Tribute: Prince." Based in Portland, Oregon, Storm Entertainment released the 24-page comic book on Prince's birthday, June 7. Born Prince Rogers Nelson on June 7, 1958 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the popular singer died April 21 at age 57.

Toxicology tests for Prince concluded that the entertainer died from an accidental overdose of Fentanyl, a powerful opioid painkiller.

"I grew up listening to Prince," said Storm Entertainment Founder and Publisher Darren G. Davis. "I hope readers come away with not simply a sense of the richness of his life, but how he influenced practically every artist that came after— regardless of genre."

The comic book, which is written by Michael L. Frizell, chronicles the story of Prince's life and features art by Ernesto Lovera and Vincenzo Sansone. The special edition comic book features three collectable covers by Sansone, Frizell, and Pablo Martinena.

"People really love the Prince comic book," said Davis. "The comic book tells the story of Prince's life up until the day he dies. My ultimate goal is for people who didn't know Prince's legacy and music to get to know him, and for those who were familiar with his legacy to have a different way of mourning him. Since this is a comic book, it's visual and different. That makes this tribute even more special."

Formerly known as Bluewater Comics, Storm Entertainment has published well-received tribute biographies of other musicians, which include John Lennon; George Harrison; Whitney Houston; Amy Winehouse; Michael Jackson; and David Bowie.



Storm Entertainment released the comic book entitled, "Tribute: Prince" in memory of the superstar entertainer who died on April 21, 2016.

The 24-page publication was released on his birthday, June 7th.

Courtesy Photo/Storm Entertainment

According to Davis, the "Tribute" series serves as a pop culture companion to Storm Entertainment's successful "Female Force," "Political Power," "Orbit," and "Fame" series. The biogra-

phy comic form allows Storm's talented writers to delve into the history of certain newsworthy figures and explore what shaped them. Storm Entertainment's biographical comic books have

been featured on CNN, The Today Show, FOX News, in People Magazine and other news outlets.

Davis is 47, and says he grew up listening to Prince's music and is a long-time fan. Prince's early music career saw the release of Prince, Dirty Mind and Controversy. Later albums released by the seven-time Grammy Award winner included 1999, Purple Rain, Diamonds and Pearls, The Gold Experience and Musicology.

"We have been doing biographical comic books for about four years now," said Davis. "We initially featured politicians, but started doing biographies and then moved into celebrity comic books. We did a Michael Jackson tribute, and Michael Jackson's family really loved it. We wanted to do a Prince tribute that tells his life story that his fans would be happy with."

As one of the top independent publishers of comic book and graphic novels, Storm Entertainment unites cutting-edge art and engaging stories produced by some of the publishing industry's most exciting artists and writers. Its extensive catalog of comic book titles includes the bestsellers "10th Muse" and "The Legend of Isis," complimented by a line of young adult books and audiobooks.

According to Davis, "Tribute: Prince" will only be available for a limited time.

"This is a one-time shot," said Davis. "There is a cap on the number of copies we are doing, so we are encouraging people to get copies while they are still available."

"Tribute: Prince" is available on e-reader from iTunes, Kindle, Nook, Trajectory, ComiXology, DriveThru Comics, Google Play, My Digital Comics, Overdrive, Iverse, Biblioboard, Flipkart, ComicBin, Axis360, Blio, Entitle, Comicblender, Kobo and wherever eBooks are sold. Print copies of "Tribute: Prince" can be ordered for \$3.99 at Comic Flea Market by going to www.comicfleamarket.com

A lot of people think that addiction is a choice. A lot of people think it's a matter of will. That has not been my experience. I don't find it to have anything to do with strength. —Matthew Perry

Retired scientist recounts her journey in new memoir

By Mary B. Banks

Hailing from Suffolk, Virginia, Dr. Margaret Ellen Mayo Tolbert's story is one of triumph and defying the odds. In her memoir entitled "Resilience in the Face of Adversity: A Suffollian's Life Story" (Balboa Press, 2015) she chronicles her road to success— from handling the sudden death of her mother when she was only seven to becoming an accomplished career woman.

When Tolbert retired from the National Science Foundation five years ago, she found that she had a lot of time on her hands. She began to skim through documents that she accumulated throughout the decades and decided to pen her autobiography.

It took Tolbert approximately a year to complete her manuscript. Tolbert's main inspiration for writing the book was for her son and grandchildren her to have her life story in writing.

In her memoir, Tolbert recounts her childhood growing up in Saratoga, a segregated area of Suffolk, during the 1940s.

Racial segregation was the norm. She vividly describes the discrimination she witnessed as a child: the "Colored" signs, separate entrances for whites and blacks, and store policies that prohibited African-Americans from trying on clothes. This was the world that Tolbert grew up in.

Not only did she have to overcome racial hostility, but there was chaos in her household. Tolbert's father, Jessie "Clifton" Mayo, a World War II veteran, was an alcoholic.

In spite of her father's violent temper



Dr. Margaret Tolbert was the first African-American to serve as director of the New Brunswick Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy.
Courtesy Photo

and alcoholism, Tolbert's mother, Martha created a warm hospitable atmosphere for her children. She worked as a domestic worker cleaning houses.

Sadly, Tolbert's mother passed away from untreated military tuberculosis. She was only 30 when she died.

After her mother's untimely death, Tolbert and her five siblings lived with their paternal grandmother, Fannie Mae.

As the sole provider, Tolbert's grandmother found thrifty ways to keep the family afloat.

"We would have all our birthdays on November 6th," recounts Tolbert with a chuckle. She still remembers the delicious cake her grandmother made, which had jelly in the middle and chocolate on top.

There was also the Cook family who supported and nurtured Tolbert throughout her life by exposing her to a stable, loving home environment.

"They were God-sent," says Tolbert, whom she affectionately called Mama and Daddy Cook.

It was the Cook clan who encouraged Tolbert to pursue her Ph.D. at Brown University—even though she was a single mother who had recently divorced.

Mama and Daddy Cook took care of Tolbert's son as she pursued her studies. As a result, Tolbert became the first African-American woman to earn a doctorate in biochemistry at Brown.

Although Tolbert achieved academic and professional success, there were obstacles that she had to overcome. She escaped poverty, survived two divorces, and coped with the tragic murder of Daddy Cook.

In spite of the hardships that Tolbert endured throughout her lifetime, she continues to have an upbeat outlook.

Tolbert stresses the importance of receiving an education and surrounding

oneself with positive people.

"Think about what you want to do in life," she advises.

Ultimately, she tells her story to encourage others to strive toward greatness regardless of circumstances.

"My hope is that readers of this book will benefit from learning about the way I lived from birth to the time of the writing of the manuscript for the book. Hopefully, they will learn from my actions and decisions, my failures and successes.

I do hope that each reader will be inspired to persevere through his or her own trials until success is achieved," said Tolbert.

RESILIENCE — in the Face of — ADVERSITY

A Suffollian's Life Story

Margaret Ellen Mayo Tolbert

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Building STEPS helping Baltimore students thrive

By Stacy M. Brown

Anthony Watters considers himself a revolutionary. The Baltimore resident and Dunbar High School and Howard University graduate has started his own nonprofit, "It Takes Once, Inc.," as he continues to pursue a master's degree at McDaniel College in Westminster.

"It's our responsibility, the responsibility the next generation to make a better future," Watters said during a recent event held by Building STEPS, a local nonprofit launched 16 years ago and built on the principle that a college education changes an individual's life.

The multi-year program supplements students' classroom learning and exposes underserved high school students to science and technology-based careers while helping them excel in fields where minorities are overwhelmingly underrepresented.

Watters began to participate in the Building STEPS program as "a shy 15-year-old student at Dunbar," he said. "I was very ambitious. I knew I was smart



Anthony Watters
Courtesy Photo

and could achieve success but I was unaware of what success really meant," Watters said.

Program officials work with students from seven Baltimore City public high schools. The students are accepted through an application process.

Students with a minimum 3.0 GPA,

strong attendance and an interest in science and technology are encouraged to apply during the spring of their sophomore year, according to Debra Hettleman, the program's executive director.

Programming begins in August of the student's junior year and, this year, Building STEPS anticipates serving 80 to 100 incoming juniors and 65 returning seniors in addition to more than 200 college students.

The program helps students apply for college and fill out financial aid forms. Advisors are employed to help students find jobs after graduation.

"More than 80 percent of Building STEPS program graduates earn a college degree compared to the 11 percent national average for low-income, first generation college students," Hettleman said.

"Building STEPS students are bright, however they attend under resourced schools and lack the exposure and support critical to academic and career success. Through comprehensive and progressive programming, Building STEPS provides the exposure and tools critical to college access and completion and career success," she said.

There's no admission charges and the program relies entirely on philanthropic support, Hettleman said.

Annually, Building STEPS provide each student an education in workplace dynamics and counseling in college and career choices. Programming is regularly evaluated and modified to meet students' growing needs.

A prep portion of the program engages sophomores in hands-on science oriented activities while a Junior Seminar Series exposes students to careers that rely on science and technology through interactive seminars hosted by local businesses and institutions.

A summer experience includes a paid internship and weekly professional and

academic programming. There are also college workshops, college connect, alumni services and other programs.

For Watters, Building STEPS has helped him to already reach some of his life's goals and it has instilled in him the will to give back to his community.

His "It Takes One" company seeks to provide scholarships and educational resources to selected Baltimore City Public High School Seniors.

The nonprofit works daily to create a platform that allows the community to come together and create change, Watters said.

"Our inaugural effort was to give a \$1,000 scholarship to selected Baltimore City Public High School seniors, for use toward tuition, books and/or educational supplies at the college of his or her choice," he said. "We were able to raise enough money to give away another scholarship of \$500 to another student as well."

There are over 620,000 people living in Baltimore City; If everyone just gave one dollar, 620 students could be sent to school with \$1,000 scholarships, Watters noted, adding in his bio that it only takes one person to change the world, one person to spark the mind of another.

"When we come together as one, we are powerful beyond measure," he said.

Watters credits Building STEPS with helping him to obtain the resolve to achieve. And, for students currently in the program or for those who might consider it, Hettleman says the organization is strengthening for the future.

"Building STEPS is positioned to grow, enabling more Baltimore City public high school students to achieve college and career success," she said. "We are always looking to expand partnerships and engage volunteers."

For more information about Building STEPS, visit www.buildingsteps.org.

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Maryland Federation of Art Needs Volunteers

Through exhibitions and organizational activities, the Maryland Federation of Art provides opportunities to encourage and support artists in their work and to promote awareness of the visual arts in the community at large. Volunteering at the MFA is a great way to network with peers and creative types, learn new skills and use old ones, and meet new friends. Training is hands-on. For more information, call 410-268-4566 or e-mail: info@mdfedart.org or visit: www.mdfedart.org.

Rambling Rose

Summer is Party Time in Baltimore!



By Rosa Pryor

Hello everybody! I hope everything is well with you. I am doing okay, just worried about my dear sister, Maxine Pryor who is very special to me and has been very ill. She is back at Johns Hopkins Hospital waiting to be placed in hospice care. She has cancer of the heart, living with just 20 percent of heart function. Please keep her in your prayers. She keeps a very positive attitude, which keeps her smiling and the desire to keep fighting. So I will too. I have been staying very busy thanks to my friends and fans. I thank you for all the invites.

I just got some good news about one of my favorite groups—the Sunset Band led by the one and only Phil Butts will be performing at Blues Alley Super Club, in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 for two shows: the first show is at 8 p.m. and the second show is at 10 p.m. The Sunset Band is a unique music aggregation that presents a “mix of great jazz and rhythm & blues.” Blues Alley is located at 1073 Wisconsin Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. If you are in the Baltimore area and prefer not to drive, there will be a chartered coach to take you to each show. For the 8 p.m. show, Dillon’s Coach departs from 1926 Monroe Street at 6:30 p.m. For the 10 p.m. show Dillon’s Coach departs at 8 p.m. from 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore. We will see you there.

Also on this same date, another one of our musicians, Dontae Winslow with his band Winslow Dynasty will be performing at the Bethesda Jazz & Blues Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland on Wednesday, July 6 at 8 p.m.

The band features Dontae Winslow



Brian Keith of D.O.T. Entertainment will host his “4th Annual All Open Crab Feast” on Sunday, July 10th from 5-9 p.m. at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore, Maryland. You will be entertained by Comedian, Ms. Maybelle; DJ Kenny K, DJ Sean Marshall, DJ Boobie, and DJ Shannell B. For more information, call 410-929-1360.

on trumpet with Tim Green, and Gary Thomas on saxophones, Tom Baldwin on bass, Allyn Johnson on keys and CV Dashiell on drums.

“Liberty Live Outdoor Concert and festival” is already jumping every Friday from 6-9 p.m. rain or shine with live entertainment, lots of foods of all kinds, vendors selling everything and book signings by yours truly at Kings Point Square, 9900 Liberty Road in Randallstown. Bring your folding chairs and camera. There’s free admission and parking. If you want to be a vendor, call Kelly at 410-655-7766.

More vendors are needed for the Randallstown Farmers Market, including: arts & crafts, food, clothes, shoes, hats, jewelry, etc. For more information, call the Liberty Road Business



Charles Faison and Carlos Hutchins will host the 30th Annual Splash Party, Disco and Picnic of the year, “The DipNic Festival” on Saturday, July 9, 2016— rain or shine— from noon until 8 p.m. at the Elks Camp Barrett, 1001 Chesterfield Road, Crownsville, Maryland. For more information, call 443-801-1100.

Don Jones of D&K Entertainment will host the “Classic Soul Cabaret Show” featuring The Blue Notes, The Intruders and also “Heat” on Saturday, July 2 from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Prince Hall Mason, 1307 Eutaw Street. It is Cabaret Style, so BYOB and BYOF also food will be on sale. They are offering free set ups. For ticket information, call 443-525-2715.



Association at 410-655-7766.

Here comes my favorite event this summer and every summer in Baltimore— The Faisonian Club DipNic Festival. I just love this event, which will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2016 from noon until 8 p.m. It is located at the Elks Camp Barrett, 1001 Chesterfield Road, Crownsville, Maryland. It is strictly for grown folks, no children allowed. It is a party for adults where you can bring or wear your swimwear and go swinging all day long. Bring your jazz concert gear, folding chairs, tables and tents, canopy, sun umbrella, grill, food and drinks, coolers, charcoal and your deck of cards and picnic like you have never before with live entertainment and DJ music all day long.



Earl Wilson (Maultsby) Memorial: I regret to inform you about the death of a great musician and vocalist, Earl Wilson. He had a massive stroke while alone at his home. He passed on Wednesday June 8. His Memorial Musical Service was held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, June 26, 2016. You can send cards to his wife, Rosie Morton-Maultsby at 45 K Street NW, Apt. 609, Washington, D.C. 20001.

There are all kinds of vendors, selling everything. The campgrounds offer a gigantic swimming pool, indoor dance hall, two large pavilions, door prizes; a large hot BBQ pit, ice and vendors. For tickets, contact, Carlos Hutchins at 443-963-5711; Millie Battle at 410-448-0033; or Charles “Rudy” Faison at 443-801-1100.

Oh man! I’ve got so much more to tell you about, but I am out of space this week, so I will see you on the flip side. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

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Maryland Historical Society proudly launches newest exhibit

Baltimore—The “What & Why: Collecting at the Maryland Historical Society,” exhibit opened on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. The exhibit contains more than 50 items spanning four centuries of donations to the Maryland Historical Society, including two of Eubie Blake's practice pianos, period clothing, portraits, silver, a wool tapestry of George Washington, the sign from Club Hippo and a video installation of images from the Preserve the Baltimore Uprising project. The exhibition runs through June 30, 2017.

"This exhibition is a not only a wonderful opportunity to showcase the newest additions to the institution but also one in which we can show the breadth of what material comes into this nationally important collection," says President and CEO Mark B. Letzer.

When touring the Maryland Historical Society's galleries, visitors will discover a broad range of objects from paintings to textiles, and, oftentimes the stories behind the items donated are touching and important to the object's history.

"This exhibition explores not only what MdHS has been collecting for the past five years, but the stories behind why donors share their possessions with us," said Chief Curator Alexandra Deutsch. "The range of what we collect is very broad— from 18th century portraits to objects from the Baltimore Uprising of 2015— because we strive to represent the fullest possible picture of Maryland's history from first settlement to the present. Donors are motivated by many reasons when they give an object or objects to the museum and each donor has a special story to tell."

Eubie Blake's practice piano, traveling pump organ— perhaps the first instrument he ever played— his banjo and never-before seen ephemera, were in the care of Blake's longtime entertainment lawyer, Elliott Hoffman and his wife, Nancy. They developed a deep friendship with the master musician and composer and in May 2016, donated the items to the Maryland Historical Society.

"Eubie Blake is a legend from the jazz

era. These pianos allow us to interpret a pivotal time in the history of music and to celebrate a Baltimore icon," said Letzer.

Blake was one of the most popular performers of the ragtime era and one of the first African American composers of a Broadway musical. The Eubie Blake



Mustel celesta piano. Practice and travel piano that belonged to James Hubert "Eubie" Blake. Ca. 1923
Photo Credit: Md. Historical Society

Manuscript and Ephemera Collection at the Maryland Historical Society, consists of 72 boxes and two over sized folders of materials from the estate of Eubie Blake. These materials include a large amount of Eubie's personal correspondence, legal correspondence, financial records, programs from performances, public press, lyrics and scripts for Eubie's musicals including: "In Bamville" and "Shuffle Along," miscellaneous music related and travel ephemera and more.

This collection, as well as a photograph collection, has recently been re-inventoried and more detailed finding aids have been created.

Founded in 1844, The Maryland Historical Society Museum and Library occupies an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore. The society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage." For more information, visit: www.mdhs.org.

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Former teacher finds new niche as film producer, prepares for movie debut

By Andrea Blackstone

Fifteen years ago, Tressa “Azarel” Smallwood took a life-changing leap of faith. She resigned from Prince George’s County Public Schools to fulfill her dream of becoming an author. Although Smallwood earned a master’s degree in teaching from Bowie State University, becoming an entrepreneur was something the Maryland resident of 40 years still yearned to achieve.

The journey officially began when she published her own book “A Life to Remember” through her company, Life Changing Books (LCB). After beginning to accept manuscript submissions in 2003, approximately 141 book titles have been published by the thriving operation. Smallwood is an ambitious wife and mother who added executive producer to her list of accomplishments.

The entrepreneur who resides in Prince George’s County, recently returned from the 20th Annual American Black Film Festival held in Miami Beach, Florida, where Smallwood’s first film project under her production company, “Life Changing Books and Film,” was screened on June 17, 2016. The sold out movie, “Secrets” is based on J. Tremble’s novel “Secrets of A Housewife,” which was published by LCB.

“I’d always dreamt about my project going to the next level, but seeing it on the big screen for the first time made those dreams a reality,” Tremble said.

Smallwood plans to turn more books that were published by LCB into films through her production company, Life Changing Books and Film, and by incorporating her studio, Mega Mind Media.

“I saw people around me dive into entrepreneurship on different levels and I kept saying I know I want my own [business],” Smallwood said. “I just



Tressa “Azarel” Smallwood
Courtesy Photo

don’t know what.”

Smallwood has worked with 49 authors in her highly respected independent publishing company, which publishes everything from urban to inspirational reads. Smallwood says that she became interested in film three or four years ago.

“I kept saying, ‘You know these books would make great films.’ But again, I didn’t know how to go about it, so I really just did a lot of research, and spent a lot of time studying the industry before jumping into it. I knew when it was time

to do it. I said, ‘You know what? This is going to be huge, because I’ve taken the time to study the craft,’”

Smallwood continued, “I think it’s a male dominated industry and we need more women to come in and be a part of this industry. It’s a come up for everybody.”

“Secrets” is about infidelity, forgiveness and saving the black family, according to Smallwood.

“A lot of times in the African American society, we have a lot of fatherless children and sometimes we have those situa-

tions because the relationships with the parents went sour because they gave up too easily,” Smallwood said.

Smallwood believes more movies that deal with the reality of the black experience are needed and we cannot get that from Hollywood, so we have to create it ourselves.

“The film is going to be released on September 27 and we’re doing a 252 theater release,” Smallwood said. “We’re doing a “Secrets” promo event in Baltimore...and also we’ll be in Baltimore for a movie premiere.”

The cast includes Harold “House” Moore who is well known for acting in the TV show, “Single Ladies.” Tobias Truvillion is an award-winning actor who recently appeared in episodes on “Empire.” Denise Boutte has appeared in the big-screen adaptation of Tyler Perry’s hit stage play, “Why Did I Get Married?” Actress Denyce Lawton, who is from Maryland, and actor Dennis White also appear in the film. Raheem DeVaughn—a Maryland-based singer—contributed to the soundtrack.

Collaborating with a multi-talented team has also helped Smallwood to make more entrepreneurial strides. MegaMind Media is the studio Smallwood founded that will allow her to bring in investors and partners. Smallwood added that budding artists and artists who dream of doing big things, or who are looking for a deal, should consider remaining independent if they possess business savvy.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re an author, a recording artist, whatever you’re doing. If you have the ability and the business talent to keep it in-house, do that because maintaining those rights forever will set you apart. Truly,” Smallwood said.

For more information about “Secrets,” visit: www.secretsmovie2016.com.

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Biotech pioneer hopes to heal with honey

By Luis Vasquez-Ajmac,
Urban News Service

Show Kayla Rodriguez a jar of honey, and she will tell you it's medicine.

Against the odds is one way to describe the young, Latina entrepreneur in the predominantly white, male-dominated, global biotech industry. Kayla Rodriguez, a 28-year-old of Puerto Rican descent, co-founded SweetBio, a start-up biotech company that uses honey to heal the body.

Rodriguez started the Memphis-based company with her brother Isaac, 31, who holds a Ph.D. and is CEO and chief scientific officer. Marsalas Whitaker, 25, also a co-founder, is chief marketing officer. Together, they are pioneers in adapting an ancient remedy into an oral-medicine treatment.

Honey has been used for thousands of years because of its wound-healing and antibacterial properties.

Medical patients already enjoy the benefits of Manuka honey. Hospitals use it to treat burns, cuts and ulcers. Manuka honey even may be effective against MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), an antibiotic-resistant bacterial infection that sometimes plagues hospitals and kills patients.

SweetBio, which launched in 2015, is the first company to introduce honey into the practice of dental surgery. The epiphany came to Isaac who knew that skin cells are similar to gum cells and if honey can work on skin, why not on the mouth? SweetBio soon was born.

Heart and respiratory problems are some of the risks associated with gum infections. "This technology will help fight infections. It will decrease your chances of getting heart or lung disease," Kayla Rodriguez said. "I want everyone to know this is a natural remedy."

Dr. Martin Green, director of the University of Tennessee's graduate periodontal program, agrees.

"This will help grow back jaw bone structure, help people live a more fulfilled life, smile and eat better," he said.

SweetBio's product is designed to be easy to use and pain-free. The SweetBio



Kayla Rodriguez

-Courtesy Photo

membrane device is like a Listerine strip. It's placed in the mouth after oral surgery. It helps one's mouth heal correctly and dissolves on its own. This device can also be used after a tooth has been pulled.

The Food and Drug Administration has yet to greenlight SweetBio. This government-approval process can take months to years. Related FDA fees can cost from a few thousand to a quarter million dollars. Still, SweetBio hopes to be in market next year.

Kayla Rodriguez says her grandmother, Lluminda Rodriguez, inspired her entrepreneurship. "She left her kids in Puerto Rico to start a better life in New York," Kayla Rodriguez said. "She worked hard at a sewing factory. At a young age, she embodied the entrepreneur spirit of passion, persistence and self-awareness by making smart decisions to turn your life around." Based in Puerto Rico today, Lluminda Rodriguez now owns one of the largest bridal chains in the Caribbean.

"Our community has helped to open

doors for SweetBio," Kayla said. "Unfortunately, because we are young, we get the door shut on us a little sooner than I like... Just because we are incredibly positive, that does not mean we are not aware of the prejudice, and we don't feel these rejections. We live them and use them to empower us. I want young Latinas to know they can do this and not have to settle for less."

"What appeals to investors about SweetBio and specifically about Kayla is her authenticity," said Katie Milligan, director of Small Business and Entrepreneurship with the Delta Regional Authority. "In any pitch or any conversation, she loves her company, her team and she is always engaged in her community and wants to sup-

port other entrepreneurs."

"It's important for others in the medical field to see the journey of a young entrepreneur," said Dr. Elena Rios, president of the National Hispanic Medical Association, which co-sponsored an event where Kayla Rodriguez recently spoke.

"If you are thinking about starting a business, do it now", said Rodriguez. "You will never be ready, and there will never be a perfect time in your life. If you have a good idea, go talk to 10 people and see if there is a market. You need to see if someone else wants your product or service. If you find the interest of 100 people, you have something going."

Every man is enthusiastic at times. One man has enthusiasm for thirty minutes, another man has it for thirty days. But it is the man who has it for thirty years who makes a success in life.

-Edward B. Butler

The Baltimore Times

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Historic Annapolis offers tours of Whitehall Plantation

After years of being kept private, the historic Whitehall Plantation will open its doors to visitors beginning this July. Historic Annapolis will be providing tours for guests on the second Sunday of each month from July to October. The tours will run every half hour beginning at noon and concluding with the last tour at 4:30 p.m.

The first tours will be given on July 10, 2016, and will continue on August 14, September 11, and October 9. Admission is \$20 per person. On September 11, the Ridout Family Cemetery will also be open to the public with tours and genealogical research available. Access to the cemetery will be included in admission that day, however, if you would like to come just for the cemetery, the cost is only \$10. Tickets are available at: www.annapolis.org or by phone: 410-267-7619.

Naval Academy Museum Announces New "Ability, Not Gender" Exhibit

Annapolis, Md.— The new exhibit "Ability, Not Gender" opened on Thursday, June 30, 2016 and will be on display at the Naval Academy Museum through May 31, 2017, to commemorate 40 years of women in the Brigade of Midshipmen.

On Induction Day in 1976, eighty-one women out of 1,300 inductees arrived at the Naval Academy, composing the first co-educational class in its history.

"Ability, Not Gender" explores the history as well as current experiences of female midshipmen. It focuses on the social, academic, athletic, and military challenges and achievements of Naval Academy women. The exhibit highlights the strength, determination, and characteristics they upheld within those four themes. More than 50 items will be on display to represent each theme and era, including uniforms, letters, sports and academic memorabilia. It also includes a memorial wall.

"We wanted to tell the story the right way, so we met with representatives from nearly all of the 40 classes very early in the process," said project lead and Museum Curator Tracie Logan. "Based on their collective input we were able to be more comprehensive than we might have been otherwise. In a way, this is the first time we've crowd-

sourced exhibit concepts."

To add to the experience, QR-Codes linked to first-person accounts will be available at the exhibit as well as on the museum website: (<http://www.usna.edu/Museum/AbilityNotGender/Stories/index.php>). These codes can be scanned via visitors' own smartphones and provide audio for each display.

"This exhibit is part of the museum's new rotating schedule in the Cheevers Gallery focusing on various themes in naval history," said Museum Director Claude Berube. "Last year the museum focused on the history of naval ideas with Warrior Writers: The U.S. Naval Institute exhibit. This year it is an aspect of the Academy's history. Next year the museum will commemorate the centennial of Navy and Marine Corps operations in the First World War."

The Naval Academy Museum is open 362 days a year— except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. It is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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