

AKA's donate 700 backpacks to Baltimore City students



Seven hundred Baltimore City school students will return to school outfitted with backpacks filled with supplies as part of The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) One Million Backpacks Project. The backpacks were distributed to students in Pre-K to Grade 12 on Friday, August 12, 2016 at a back-to-school fair held at the Ivy Family Support Center on Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore City. (Above) Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Epsilon Omega Foundation Backpack Project Committee members Annamaria Joyner, Frances Parks, Barbara Howard, Jean Owens, Claudette Edgerton-Swain and Bettye Adams. (Story on page 13)

Courtesy Photo

New App Offers Free Movie Tickets to Baltimore Residents

By Stacy M. Brown

Atom Tickets, the first of its kind theatrical mobile ticketing platform and app, has arrived in Baltimore and moviegoers can get a free ticket to their favorite film.

The app, which is available now and can be used to buy tickets for use at Regal Cinemas and AMC Theatres throughout the Baltimore area and down south in Washington, D.C., can be downloaded on iOS or Android. Downloading to these devices will allow fans to receive their first ticket free.

Atom Tickets officials say the free ticket offering is only for a limited time. However, the app is here to stay.

“The limited availability refers to the first free ticket offer. It’s available at all Regal Cinemas and AMC Theatres in Baltimore and Washington ... Atom Tickets is making the entire movie going experience faster, easier, and more social than ever,” said Jackie Crystal, a spokeswoman for the company.

The company says its app allows for a hassle-free experience with the ability to discover new films, browse trailers, read reviews, invite friends, buy tickets and pre-order concessions.

More than 70 major metropolitan areas across the United States now have expanded ticket service for moviegoers—including those in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore—in collaboration with leading exhibitors AMC



Atom co-founders Matthew Bakal (left) and Ameesh Paleja (right) at the promotional launch outside the Regal Cinemas Riviera 8 theatre in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee on Friday, November 20, 2015.

Courtesy Photo

Theatres, Regal Cinemas and Studio Movie Grill.

Additionally, the growing list of cities with access to the innovative Atom app already includes Los Angeles, Atlanta, Nashville, Dallas, Houston, Miami, Tampa, Orlando, San Diego, Kansas City, Charlotte and Raleigh.

“We’re experiencing seismic growth with this wave of expansion to the East Coast, and we couldn’t be more thrilled

to introduce Atom Tickets to movie-lovers across the Northeast and the Midwest,” Matthew Bakal, Atom Tickets co-founder and executive chairman, said

in a statement. “In celebration of our launch, we’re giving new users in these markets their first movie ticket free. Try Atom with your friends and family, we think you’ll love it.”

With use of the app, Atom Tickets officials said they’ve made it easy for moviegoers to also check reviews and show times, conveniently coordinate movie outings amongst friends, and the app enables users to each pay separately.


Additionally, the app allows users to pre-pay for concession items with just a few taps.

“We are excited to offer our revolutionary service to movie fans in these dynamic markets,” said Ameesh Paleja, Atom Tickets co-founder and CEO. “Modern day moviegoers demand convenient, mobile-first solutions like Atom Tickets.”

The app is simple for those who would like a free movie ticket. Simply sign up for Atom Tickets, which allows users to instantly search for films, read reviews, connect with friends, buy tickets, pre-order concessions and more, according to Crystal.

The free app can be downloaded in the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Hillary Clinton stands on the shoulders of Shirley Chisholm

By Marc Morial, President/CEO, National Urban League

The nation has marked the historic occasion of the first woman in American history to win the Presidential nomination for a major political party.

While Hillary Clinton has come further than any woman presidential candidate, she is not the first. Victoria Woodhull ran as the candidate for the Equal Rights Party in 1872. Margaret Chase Smith challenged Barry Goldwater for the Republican nomination in 1964. More recently, Pat Schroeder in 1988 and Carol Moseley Braun in 2004 vied for the Democratic nomination. However, the most historically significant forerunner to Hillary Clinton was Shirley Chisholm, the Brooklyn-born trailblazer who was also the nation's first African-American Congresswoman.

The daughter of working-class immigrants from the Caribbean, Chisholm became interested in politics while serving as the director of a child day care center and an educational consultant for the New York City Division of Day Care. She served three years as a New York State Assemblywoman before running for Congress in 1968 with the slogan: "Unbought and Unbossed."

"My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss for reasons of political expediency," Chisholm said.

Chisholm hired only women for her staff, half of whom were African Americans. "Of my two handicaps, being female put many more obstacles in my path than being black," she said.

She announced her candidacy for President at a Baptist church in Brooklyn. In an article about her candidacy, the Associated Press wrote, "Ironically, her major headache seems to come from black politicians."

"They think that I am trying to take power away from them," she said. "The black man must step forward. But that doesn't mean the black woman must step back. While they're rapping and snapping, I'm mapping."

She competed in 14 states, winning 28 delegates to the convention. As a symbolic gesture, candidate Hubert Humphrey released his 83 black delegates to cast their votes for Chisholm. With the votes of several other delegates at that contentious convention, Chisholm finished fourth in a field of 13, with 152 delegates.

It is hard to imagine, in this era of sharp division in politics, the remarkable moment during that campaign when she visited her segregationist rival, Alabama Governor George Wallace, in his hospital room after he was shot and wounded. "What are your people going to say?" he asked her. "I know what they are going to say," she said. "But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone." She recalled that her words moved him to tears.

Chisholm retired from Congress in 1982 and remained an outspoken activist for civil rights until her death in 2005.

It would be difficult to overestimate the impact and influence of Chisholm's Congressional service and Presidential candidacy. While Congress remains disproportionately White and male, one-in-five members of the current House and Senate are a racial or ethnic minority, making the 114th Congress the most diverse in history. The nation's first African-American President is winding up his second term, and a woman—a former senator and Secretary of State—has just won the Democratic nomination for President.

In her acclaimed speech on the Equal Rights Amendment in 1970, Chisholm said, "The Constitution they wrote was designed to protect the rights of White, male citizens. As there were no Black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers—a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so."

Marc Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League.



Community Affairs

Nutritionists offer five tips for building better lunches

Nutritious lunches provide long lasting energy in the classroom

Landover, Md.— To help families stay healthy and to keep kids fueled during the busy summer season, Giant Food of Landover, Maryland is offering tips to build better school lunches in the fall.

With guidance from ChooseMyPlate.gov, Giant's licensed in-store nutritionists have prepared five tips, illustrated in a new infographic, that can serve as a reminder to keep healthy choices top of mind when feeding your family.

"Parents are looking for easy ways to pack healthier lunches for their children," said Lisa Coleman, Lead Nutritionist, Giant Food "Giant's nutritionists offer tips to help busy families on the go to save time, save money, and eat well"

Follow these five tips to build a better lunch:

·Choose a grain. Whole grain bread,

wraps, crackers, pasta, and cereals are all nutritious options.

·Add a protein. These can include deli turkey, chicken, tuna salad, a hard-boiled egg, nut or seed butters, beans or hummus.

·Include a fruit and veggie. Add color to your child's lunchbox with carrot sticks, tomatoes, cucumber slices, apples, oranges or raisins. Each color provides a different health benefit.

·Including a dairy food or dairy alternative such as low fat cheese, Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, or milk.

·Healthy lunch boxes can include something sweet, too. Include a small treat, sticker or note on a napkin to brighten your child's day and create excitement at lunchtime.

For fast, fresh and easy meal ideas pick up the latest edition of Giant's Savory magazine during your next trip to your local store.

Families are also encouraged to reach out to their local Giant nutritionist for individualized nutrition recommendations and meal planning.

For more information about health and wellness, visit giantfood.com/live-well.

When The Past Comes Back To Haunt You: The Nate Parker Story

By Morgan Reid

To be young, gifted and black is a notable phrase wrought with many complications concerning the invisible glass ceiling considered difficult to break in a society where race and assumed perceptions of race are irrevocably interlinked.

“Birth of a Nation,” which marks Nate Parker’s directorial debut grants imagery to a story about a slave rebellion led by the then enslaved Nat Turner in 1831.

This is a story long overdue in Hollywood, which has been plagued with the issue of diversity for the past two years.

The movie made history in a bidding war at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival and for which Fox Searchlight Pictures purchased for \$17.5 million. Since then, there has been increasing interest in regards to Nate Parker’s past as is usually inevitable when doing work that garners attention and one chooses to bask in the limelight of being the star, writer, producer and director of a project.

Parker along with his friend, Jean Celestin (co-writer of Birth of a Nation), was accused of rape in 1999 when they

were student athletes at Penn State University. Parker was ultimately found not guilty but Celestin was convicted. Celestin was later exonerated due to prior witnesses being too difficult to locate for a re-trial.

Parker and Celestin have gone on to have families and carve out careers in Hollywood, while the victim never fully recovered from the incident. She committed suicide in 2012.

as a 19-year-old involved in a sexual situation gone horribly wrong doesn’t seem to be winning anyone over either.

In a recent interview with Ebony magazine, when Parker was asked if he thought about the victim or the rape case he was involved in at any point over the last 17 years. He responded, “No, I had not. I hadn’t thought about it at all.”

And here is where the problem may lie.

The problem may lie with not being

“Birth of a Nation” is a film that deserves its moment. However, many feel that Nate Parker is a questionable candidate to bring such a story to the silver screen. The failure to not anticipate the critique of one’s past despite overseeing a film about the past makes the short-lived positive attention in regards to the film feel bittersweet.

Parker should not be surprised that questions about race, sexual assault and the overall lack of concern shown towards violence against women will only intensify as award season in the film industry approaches. The questions will be complicated and hopefully bring attention to a much bigger conversation at hand— sex on college campuses throughout the United States.

America has evolved and so has what is now deemed appropriate behavior from boys and men. Blaming carefree, unmonitored behaviour on boyish youth, while exhibiting a lack of self-control is no longer acceptable.

What can be gleaned from this controversy is that one’s past is seemingly never truly erased no matter what is done afterwards for redemption. Innocence may be proven through loop-holes and technicalities exploited in a court of law but forgiveness is not so easily won when traumatic events may have played a part in destroying another person’s life resulting in their death.

Morgan Reid is a graduate of Temple University with a B.A. in Film & Media Arts and English minor. Hailing from New York, Reid has gained experience working in the entertainment industry in both Philadelphia and Los Angeles. She currently works as a freelance writer in the Baltimore area.

“Parker should not be surprised that questions about race, sexual assault and the overall lack of concern shown towards violence against women will only intensify as award season in the film industry approaches. The questions will be complicated and hopefully bring attention to a much bigger conversation at hand— sex on college campuses throughout the United States.”

An interview with Variety magazine where Parker voluntarily commented on his past sexual assault case, has sparked outrage and questions concerning his moral character.

“Seventeen years ago, I experienced a very painful moment in my life,” said Parker. “It resulted in it being litigated. I was cleared of it. That’s that. Seventeen years later, I’m a filmmaker. I have a family. I have five beautiful daughters. I have a lovely wife. I get it.”

However, the question that should be asked currently is, what now? Now that his past is open to scrutiny, what do media outlets and potential moviegoers want from Nate Parker?

I doubt a confession of prior misdeeds would suffice, and it seems as though owning up to his misogynistic mindset

able to suspend disbelief long enough to separate Nate Parker the man from Nate Parker the artist. It has taken 17 years and a movie to promote for him to address, acknowledge and understand that his mentality towards women and consent, was selfish as well as destructive.

The timing for clarity, unfortunately for him is all too convenient and disingenuous. The lack of awareness and the ineptitude to see beyond himself conflicts with his interest in a story where a former slave rebelled against a white society that could not bring themselves to see the humanity in others.

Nate Parker will be making the media rounds to promote “Birth of a Nation,” which is in theaters on October 7, 2016. His campaign, come award season may be somewhat tainted, to say the least.

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Set the Stage for Success:

Tips for a smooth transition back to school

(Family Features) For parents putting bright-eyed students on the bus for the very first time and for seasoned moms and dads who know the drill inside and out, gearing up for another year of school is a process. The shopping extravaganzas, trips to the doctor for physicals, endless forms and paperwork all culminate in a single moment: the first day back to school.

Often, it's this first day (or days) that set the tone for the school year to come. Help your child feel prepared and confident to tackle whatever the school year brings with these tips for a successful start.

Plan well-balanced meals:

Summer break brings a lax approach to many aspects of life, and healthy eating is often one of them. However, nutrition plays an important role in overall development and countless studies show correlation between academic performance and good nutrition. As the school year approaches, work at creating healthy menus. If hectic scheduling makes it difficult to get well-balanced meals in lunchboxes and on the dinner table through the week, allocate a portion of the weekend for a family prep session.

Reinstate bedtimes:

Easing back into earlier bedtimes will make things smoother for everyone when the alarms start ringing on early school day mornings. Well before the start of school, gradually back off more time each night—in 15-minute increments, for example—to get kids back in bed early enough to capture at least 10 hours of sleep, the amount recommended for school-aged children and adolescents by the National Institutes of Health.

Get creative to boost enthusiasm:

Part of the fun of heading back to the classroom is a shiny new set of supplies. Build your kids' excitement by letting them select the tools they'll use to bring home good grades, like pens and pencils. Despite a keyboard and touch-screen-driven world, sales of color-focused products like felt-tip markers, porous (fine line) pens and colored pencils are on the rise.

In an effort to follow and respond to



trends, Zebra Pen continues to introduce products that allow for personal expression, whether in the ink color chosen for notes or the barrel design to complement your kids' style.

"We're conscious of the influx of technology in the school, but still see the importance of writing instruments in the school environment. There is a great deal of pen or pencil and paper activity in the classroom and we have focused on providing products that meet the needs of teachers and students alike," said Ken Newman, Director of Marketing at Zebra Pen.

"Our Sarasa retractable gel pen, which comes in 14 vibrant colors, boasts one of the fastest drying inks on the market. And for those looking to express style through design, consider a Z-Grip Plus ballpoint pen, featuring our smoothest ballpoint ink and a fashion-friendly barrel design, or perhaps a traditional Z-Grip ballpoint with a floral or animal pattern. For the younger writer whose world of writing is confined mostly to pencil, the Cadoodles line of No. 2 and colored mechanical pencils offers functionality and fun."

There are options for every stage of a student's development, whether they are a beginner, intermediate or have progressed toward the end of their academic careers. A complete selection can be found online at ZebraPen.com. Explore outside of academics: Developing interests outside the classroom builds confidence and character,

teaches discipline and may help reveal hidden passions or talents that translate into future scholarships or career choices. Now is an ideal time to explore the options available in your community and complete necessary registrations as many extra-curricular activities are closely linked to the traditional school calendar.

Follow the paper trail:

The volume of paperwork associated with sending a child to school can be overwhelming. From registration forms and emergency contact sheets to physicals and immunization records, the list goes on and on. Keep on track with a list of all the materials you're responsible for completing, along with special notes for those that require visits to the doctor's office or other appointments.

Take a tour:

Especially for new students, but even for experienced kids, spend some time getting familiar with the school before the big day. Seeing the bus drop-off location, classroom, bathrooms, cafeteria and any other major features ahead of time can help soothe the jitters and lets you proactively answer worries or questions about how those first days may unfold.

Establish a transition tradition:

Celebrate the end of summer and the fresh start ahead by creating a special family tradition. It may be a final backyard campout for the season or a scrapbooking project that captures memories from the summer and describes goals for the school year. The time together to talk about what

lies ahead can help get the family geared up for a successful school year.

Express Personality with Style

Encouraging your child to develop his or her own unique personality can be tough with social "rules" and official policies that determine dress code, supplies and more. When you get down to it, though, there are dozens of ways to let kids explore personal expression without breaking any rules or subjecting them to unwanted attention.

Accessories: Even at schools with uniforms or dress codes, there is some latitude when it comes to accessorizing. Dress codes vary, but many allow flexibility in things such as socks, shoes, hair bows and jewelry.

School supplies: Let kids choose their own writing implements as a personal statement of self-expression, which is especially important to middle and high school students. With so many options, it's easy to bypass the basic bargain selection and choose from an array of new designs and creative features, such as those offered by Zebra Pen.

Personal space: For younger students, the area designated as a student's own may be limited to a backpack or storage cubby. For older kids, there's an entire locker to consider. Customizing these personal areas lets kids assert a clear stamp of individuality. Photos, artwork and treasured mementoes bring these personal spaces to life.



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Generational tribute honors seniors, encourages youth

By Deborah Bailey

“Just as we reach back to our ancestors for our fundamental values, so we, as guardians of that legacy, must reach ahead to our children and their children” —Paul Tsongas

More than 100 youth, seniors and all ages in between spent the afternoon reaching back, ahead and across the years at the first “Bridging the Generational Gap” Luncheon sponsored by the St. John Mission and Outreach Ministry on Saturday, August 27, 2016. The energized group of youth and community supporters gathered at the Keaser Lloyd Community Center to honor church and community seniors ages 70 through 101 years.

More than 25 seniors from the Saint John congregation and the community were recognized for their work in the church with family and in community.

“It is an honor to celebrate all the seniors for what they have seen, experienced and endured,” said Reverend Michael Parker, new to the pastorate of the St. John congregation. “It certainly is a testament to the younger ones of us, to let us know that we can make it too.”

The event is the first in a series of activities planned by The St. John Experience, a United Methodist Congregation, for church members and residents to strengthen the community by reaching across generational lines, according to event host and organizer, Gloria Jean Smith.

Adrian Mosely, administrator of the Johns Hopkins Office of Community Health was one of the visionaries for the weekend’s inaugural event.

“The vision for me is that I believe it takes a village. I see in everyday life how much that gap is widening. But as we start to see that we’re at different life stages but all have the same desires, the same visions, the same things that we want— it will bring us closer together,” Moseley said.

Marion Jordan was the eldest honoree of the afternoon at 101 years old. Dressed in white, she received not only a framed certificate also given to all the honorees, she received a special commendation from the State of Maryland



and was crowned queen of the afternoon’s festivities by event organizers. Her Red Hat club members and friends came out to support her and all the senior honorees.

“I’m so surprised and so thankful,” Jordan said. “I want to thank everyone who invited me here to take part in the program.”

The honorees were served by the youth from the congregation, including Raven Gaither, an 11-year-old Grove Park Middle School student eager to meet the elders and connect with them.

“I’m here to help the older generation and to learn to bond with them,” Gaither said as she served a plate of down home fried chicken, macaroni and cheese and other sumptuous treats to the honorees.

Other youth from across the community and the city including Kenya Chase and Ne’Shae Hillerburton of the Let Go and Let God Mime Troupe came to pay tribute to the city’s elders.

“To continue the cycle of life, the young people should be looking after the old people and the old people their way of giving back is through their wisdom and guidance,” said Hillerburton.

The highlight of the afternoon was a full mini concert by Demetri Reeves, a young Michael Jackson impersonator who had the table of 70-somethings clapping and practicing dance moves in their seats as Reeves moonwalked throughout the room. Reeves spoke to the gathering



(Top) Marion Jordan, Everlyn White, Melenardo Bowen, Ethel Honemond and Georgie Redd are five of the seniors who were honored at the “Bridging the Generational Gap” luncheon hosted by the St. John Mission and Outreach Ministry at the Lloyd Keaser Lloyd Community Center in Baltimore on Saturday, August 27, 2016. (Above left) Raven Gaither, age 11, served the honorees during the luncheon. (Above right) “Bridging the Gap” Chairperson, Gloria Jean Smith with friend and community supporter Fandreia, and Community Health Administrator, Johns Hopkins Health System, Adrian Mosely.

Photos by M.R. Rollins

about the elders who are special in his own life after his performance.

Smith said that the Bridging the Gap luncheon is just the beginning of an effort to harness the strength of a united community.

“Next, we’re going to have an ice cream social and we’re already working on a cookbook,” Smith said. “It’s going to be called Kizzy’s Country Kitchen and Remembrances.”

Reverend Davis said events that bring

youth and seniors together are an essential part of Baltimore’s healing after the unrest in 2015.

“One of my sayings for us as a church is ‘fresh ideas plus seasoned wisdom equals Kingdom success,’” Reverend Davis said. “As a city that definitely needs revival renewal and fresh energy, we can gain wisdom, if we allow ourselves to be poured into by the amazing wisdom and energy that these ‘young men and women’ are able to share with us.”

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION



PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

The Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) released the second draft of the BaltimoreLink transit network redesign in July 2016. As a result of feedback received since last fall, this draft is a significant revision to the multi-phase plan.

MTA invites you to learn more about the BaltimoreLink transit network plan and to be involved in planning the final draft of the network redesign. The final three public workshops will be hosted in August and September. Please join us at any of the workshops, each location will provide the same information and offer the same opportunities to participate. An introductory presentation, informational handouts, and exhibits will be provided as well as comment forms to submit your input. MTA will accept comments through September 30, 2016. For additional information, the dates of all workshops, and to download a comment form, visit BaltimoreLink.com or call 410-539-5000.

Workshops will be conducted open house style with project staff available to answer your questions. Feel free to visit when convenient for you. The schedule of the final three public workshops follows.

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Other ways to be involved:

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BGE Launches 5th Annual Electric Safety Contest for Elementary Students



Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric today announced the beginning of its fifth annual BGE Wires Down Video Challenge to educate elementary school-aged children on the importance of practicing electrical safety. From August 29 until November 18, 2016, elementary school teachers (kindergarten through fifth grade) in public and private elementary schools across BGE's electric service area are encouraged to work with their class to submit 30 to 45-second videos of their interpretation of BGE's popular "Wires Down" electrical safety commercial. Entries have a chance to win between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to fund a school enrichment project. At least one winning school will be chosen as a winner from each participating county. Up to \$34,000 will be awarded this year to winning schools with an additional \$500 awarded to the submitting teacher from the first place winning school.

Originally produced in 2000, the Emmy Award-winning BGE "Wires Down" commercial with its "do not, do not, do not touch" melody aims to help raise awareness of electricity hazards, especially among young children. Last year's \$10,000 grand prize winning school, Krieger Schechter Day School, used the funding to install scientific discovery tools for their playground to include outdoor equipment that demonstrates scientific principles such as swings, balance ramps and gears and an outdoor shed which would house magnifying glasses, measuring tools and butterfly nets.

To date, BGE has awarded \$111,000 to 33 elementary schools across central Maryland as part of the BGE Wires Down Video Challenge. For more information on the contest, to download your free entry kit or to view last year's winning video, visit: bgevideochallenge.com.

Public and private elementary schools in the BGE service area are also welcome to schedule free, in-person safety

demonstrations from BGE safety experts who arrive in real utility bucket trucks or other service vehicles. To schedule a demonstration, please email our community affairs team at BGEEducationalOutreach@bge.com.

BGE reminds all customers to stay away from power lines and report any downed power lines or electrical emergencies immediately by calling 800-685-0123. Follow these safety guidelines:

- *Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down, appears to be insulated or if power is out at nearby premises.

- *Never touch a fallen overhead power line. Call BGE at 1-800-685-0123 to report fallen electric lines.

- *Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead wires during cleanup and other activities.

- *If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires.

- *Avoid touching anything that may be in contact with an overhead wire like tree limbs or other debris.

- *If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line. If the engine stalls, do not leave your vehicle. Warn people not to touch the vehicle or the wire. Call or ask someone to call emergency services.

- *Never operate electrical equipment while you are standing in water.

- *Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized.

- *Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that has gotten wet before energizing it.

- *If working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) and always use caution when working near electricity.

Howard Park ShopRite, Community Enjoy Successful Barbecue Cook-Off

By Stacy M. Brown

More than 350 local residents and others braved the hot elements for the inaugural Klein's ShopRite of Baltimore's Barbecue Ribs Cook Off on Saturday, August 20, 2016.

"All of the contestants had some free tastes and all of them offered their grilled meat for purchase," said organizer, the Reverend Elisha B. Morris, a community engagement manager with UpLift Solutions, a national nonprofit organization that supports food businesses, government, and nonprofits to create sustainable environments for underserved communities.

Morris says that no one left the ShopRite of Howard Park parking lot with an empty stomach after the event.

"Barbecue was the meal of the day with choices from a dry rub to a sweet sauce to a spicy sauce," he said. The cook-off was the first of two that was planned for this year. The second is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Parkville ShopRite parking lots and grounds located at 2401 Cleanleigh Drive.

The events are designed to be feel good community days, Morris said.

The Howard Park event included an appearance by the Baltimore Fire Department's Truck 12 and crew who were on hand to educate children and others about careers in firefighting.

Sample food stations were in place inside the store, allowing customers a chance to learn more about eating healthy, Morris said.

Outside, DJ Mr. Quinton Hagan provided the music and 12 Barbecue Cook Off contestants competed for cash prizes and trophies, which were made at Joe Mann's Awards at 2105 Gwynn Oak Avenue.

"From big air conditioned trailers where they prepared the food, to everyday out back grills were used to put the smell of charcoal and seasoned meat in their air all day," Morris said.

The contestants included Neil Bergerstein of Tree Frog Hot Sauce in Baltimore, who camped out overnight before



Reverend Elisha B. Morris, Community Engagement Manager for Uplift Solutions, Josh Thompson, Store Manager for Shop Rite, Sarah Klein, CEO of Shop Rite, Darryl Mckay, Community Relations Coordinator. Photos by Gar Roberts

the event so that he could smoke his meat for at least 13 hours.

Others competing included Firehouse Smokin' BBQ, Joe Jennings Jr. of Havre De Grace, Eric Nelson of Baltimore, and Donte Hagan of Lady Shutdown Basketball Program.

Keith Womack of Windsor Mill took home the \$200 prize for third place while Erick Sessions of South Carolina BBQ & Catering in Baltimore finished second and captured the \$300 runner-up bounty.

Proudly wearing his Baltimore Ravens jersey, Kelly Motley of Baltimore earned the top prize and took home \$500 for his efforts.

The judges included Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, James D. Ward of JD Ward's Catering, Sarah Klein, Tony Savage and City Council President

Bernard C. "Jack" Young."

ShopRite opened in Howard Park in 2014 and immediately began offering a wide array of groceries and fresh produce, meat, seafood, fresh bake shop, natural, organic and gluten-free products and a full-service pharmacy.

The store has remained community friendly and the cooking contest was among the resident-oriented themes ShopRite has performed.

"ShopRite has been really good for the community. Nothing was here and now we have a great place to shop," Morris said. "The Barbecue Cook Off only makes the stores friendlier to the community. A great time was had by all."



Michael Jackson Impersonator, Dimitri Reeves, performed at the BBQ cookoff



Corliss Walker & Kelly Motley, Head Chef of C&T Family Caterers



Erick Sessions from South Carolina BBQ & Catering



Dante Hagans from Ladies Shut Down Basketball Program



Dante Hagans from Ladies Shut Down Basketball Program



Dante Hagans from Ladies Shut Down Basketball Program



Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Class of 1966 Gathers Online

Baltimore— Alumni from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Class of 1966 are participating in a class reunion website at <http://classreport.org/usa/md/baltimore/bpi/1966/>. No registration fees are required to join in the fun. Each class member has full participation privileges.

The Poly Class of 1966 Reunion Committee would like to invite all Class of 1966 Alumni to stop in and fill out a profile so they can be reached regarding the 50th Class Reunion scheduled for October 8, 2016.

The class-based reunion website features dynamic changing content. Stop in to view current class news; exchange opinions and stay up to date with the Message Board; view the featured alumni biography of the day; send a birthday greeting to a class member listed in the upcoming birthdays panel; get reunion announcements; book and movie reviews; favorite recipes and featured links will keep one checking in regularly to see what's new. This class-based reunion website is hosted by Classreport.org.

For a refreshing change from the large commercial alumni directories, Classreport.org provides non-commercial class reunion websites for every graduating class of every high school, and extends full access to all class members without regard to financial ability.

Classreport.org has no advertising, no pop-ups, no spam, and no registrations fees. Classreport.org pledges to never sell names and addresses to third parties and to let the website be administered exclusively by Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Alumni.

Other alumni classes from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute can be accessed at <http://classreport.org/usa/md/baltimore/bpi/>.

For more information about the reunion, contact Mike Berney at 717-350-6070, Larry Faulkner at 571-354-6450 or email: poly66reunion@gmail.com.

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AKA's donate 700 backpacks to Baltimore City students

By Ursula V. Battle

It's back-to-school time and thanks to Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Epsilon Omega Foundation, 700 Baltimore City school students will return outfitted with backpacks filled with supplies. The effort is part of The AKA One Million Backpacks Project, a component of educational enrichment, which focuses on the sorority's ability to support education by supplying backpacks loaded with school supplies.

The backpacks were distributed to students in grades Pre-K to 12 on August 12, 2016 at a back-to-school fair held at the Ivy Family Support Center on Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore City.

The Education Committee of Epsilon Omega Chapter, chaired and co-chaired by Frances Parks and Jean B. Owens, led the chapter in the implementation of the "Backpack Project," now in its second year. According to committee member Bettye Adams, the 700 backpacks double the number prepared last year by the sorority and foundation.

"As a school administrator, I see daily the needs of students who cannot afford to replenish school supplies on a regular basis," said Adams. "Students who start school fully prepared and equipped have a positive energy as they begin the school year. Epsilon Omega's goal is to ensure students are equipped at the beginning of each semester."

She added, "The project is evidence of the Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Epsilon Omega Foundation joint efforts to impact the lives of students and their families of the Greater Baltimore Community."

Adams noted that at the North Atlantic Regional Conference held in April 2016 in Hartford, Connecticut, Epsilon Omega Chapter won first place for the largest number of backpacks distributed in the region last summer. The Backpack Project is chaired by Claudette Edgerton-Swain.

"Now, the children of Baltimore are packed, polished and prepared for this school year," said Edgerton-Swain, who is a retired Baltimore City school teacher. "They were blessed to be the



These students were among the 700 to receive backpacks filled with school supplies on Friday, August 12, 2016 at a back-to-school fair held at the Ivy Family Support Center on Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore City, thanks to Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and Epsilon Omega Foundation.

Courtesy Photos

recipients of a backpack full of school supplies, and with special blessings for a successful school year from each of the ladies of the sorority. Each member had a loving hand in selecting just the right school supplies. We all purchased and packed the backpacks as if they were for our own child. The beauty of it all, was that no child left the back-to-school fair empty-handed."

According to Edgerton-Swain, the nine-month effort including contacting businesses and institutions to donate items for the backpacks. Donors

included Target, March Funeral Home, Vaughn Green Funeral Home, Shoprite Super Market, Thrivent Financial, and the Johns Hopkins University Oncology Department.

"Undergraduate Soror Kirsten Adams presented Epsilon Omega Chapter with a bin filled with school supplies collected by her chapter, Theta Pi at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill," said Edgerton-Swain. "Faculty, staff and students

of Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) also collected school supplies through a sponsored backpack drive."

In addition to Edgerton-Swain and Adams, the Backpack Project Committee also included Dorothy Coleman, Barbara Howard, Phillis Doggett, and Annamaria Joyner. The effort involved chapter members in a nine-month Epsilon Omega "Sisterly Yours" group challenge.

Local girl with lupus honored for strength and leadership

Cockeysville, Md.— As the Olympics concluded and athletes were awarded their medals, people all over the world watched, transfixed in admiration. These champions pushed themselves everyday a little closer to their goal. Luckily, we need not wait until the next Olympics to admire these qualities. Meet Willow Job, a champion by any standard. Willow was recently selected as the 2016 Child Champion for the Walk to End Lupus Now™ in Baltimore.

At just six years old, Willow was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease where the immune system, which normally protects us by attacking foreign invaders such as germs, starts to attack the body's healthy organs and tissues. Doctors do not yet understand why this happens and there is no cure. Lupus can attack any organ and leaves patients feeling fatigued and often in a great deal of pain.

Now 12-years-old, Willow explains, "Some days I hurt so bad I can't get out of bed." Her grandmother helps to take her mind off of the pain through exercise, reading, drawing, crafts, piano, violin, and of course her school studies. "I have to be strong...there are many things going against me. I don't have my health, so I focus on my grades." Willow is a hard-working, dedicated straight A



Willow Job
Courtesy Photo

student on the honor role, a student of the "Gifted & Talented" Art program at school, and a member of the glee club. She also plays chess and is an alter server at church. She has her eye on

medical school, and not surprisingly, she wants to be a Pediatric Rheumatologist so she can study lupus and children who have it.

In all, Willow takes seven different prescriptions. In addition to the hair thinning and bald spots that are side effects from these medications, steroids can cause great weight gain. Willow recalls, "One woman thought I was pregnant...I'm a kid!" She covers the hair loss and protects herself from the sun with stylish hats and moses, "I have so many hats; I could open up my own shop!"

Willow draws strength from her grandmother, who cares for her, and although she finds it difficult to watch her granddaughter experience this disease, she encourages her to work towards her goals.

"I feel I push her too much, but I have to." Willow explains that her grandmother is also there to comfort her. "My grandma wakes up and comforts me whenever I need it and tells me it's just another bump in the road. I know we will get through this together as we always support each other."

No matter how many bumps, or how rough the ride, Willow is not losing sight of where she wants this road to lead. She wants a cure, and at just 12, she has some ideas on what needs to happen. She explains that there should be more attention paid not just to lupus but to the children who have it.

"Lupus is not as recognized as other childhood diseases. I want to be a voice for other kids," she said.

Willow would like to see more advertising for lupus awareness and fundraising, such as for the Walk to End Lupus Now which was held in Baltimore this past Saturday, August 20, 2016. Now at almost \$500, Willow and her team are hoping to raise \$1,000 by September 21, 2016—the last day of summer—as part of Survivors' Summer Strides for a Cure.

Members of the community are encouraged to show their support for Willow's fight against lupus by donating to her team, Willow's Lupus Warriors online at: baltimorelupuswalk16.kintera.org/willowj7 or by calling 202-787-5390.

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Success in Style seeking volunteers for new Annapolis Location

By Andrea Blackstone

Ill-fitting borrowed clothing can distract a job seeker from putting their best foot forward, but the right outfit can make a world of difference. Success in Style (SIS) is a nonprofit, which helps job seekers in Anne Arundel County to dress in style for job interviews free of charge.

All donated clothing that is not job interview appropriate is priced to sell to the public at retail shops, Phil's Closet and Charity's Closet in Historic Savage Mill, Maryland for \$5.

Proceeds from the two retail stores plus the bridal resale shop, Cherie Amour, all benefit SIS. An additional donation center and resale venue, Charity's Closet, is expected to open in mid-October in Annapolis.

SIS was founded by Jeannette Kendall, a fashion designer in 2002 and the non-profit is primarily run by volunteers.

An information session will be held for potential individual and corporate volunteers, as well as organizations interested in partnering in the exciting new venture "Charity's Closet" on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 in the Community Room at the Annapolis Regional Library, located at 1410 West Street in Annapolis from 11:15 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.

"Our mission is to help disadvantaged men and women [who] are trying to find employment to support their families by providing them with interview attire. People are referred to us from various government agencies, private nonprofits [and] educational institutions. They may be taking a class to learn something to improve their job [prospects] and our part is a very small part but very important. [They] to go on an interview and really don't have interview appropriate clothing. All of our studios are outfitted with everything that a person would need to put together an interview outfit," said Kathy Botsford, SIS's outreach coordinator who became a volunteer with the organization after accidentally shopping at one of the resale stores. "We provide that at no cost to our clients, no matter what agency that they're coming from."



Success in Style consultant, Karen Cropper reviews interview etiquette with a client from the Jobs Work Arundel program at the Glen Burnie Courthouse studio location. Success in Style helps disadvantaged residents in Anne Arundel County find employment by offering free professional business attire and interview coaching at studios in Savage Mill and the Glen Burnie District Courthouse. A new resale shop (Charity's Closet) and donation center is scheduled to open this fall in Annapolis and anyone interested in volunteering or any organizations interested in becoming a partner in this exciting new venture is invited to attend an introductory informational session on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 in the Community Room at the Annapolis Regional Library located at 1410 West Street in Annapolis.

Courtesy Photo

When job seekers need clothing, trained consultants help them to find suitable clothing. Separate outfits are provided to allow for several callbacks during the interview process. Donations come from stores or individuals who clean out their closets.

The prospect of moving Charity Closet's from the Glen Burnie Mall to Annapolis arose last year.

"In the spring, we got a notice that there was a new landlord, and they were going to be renovating the mall and we would have to move," Botsford said. "We had decided that we are going to relocate that donation center closer to where people might be interested in donating. We had a lot of people from Annapolis who said, 'I'd love to donate, but gosh, Glen Burnie is a long way to drive, so Annapolis puts us [close] to volunteers and donations. We would just

like to engage the community there."

The services provided to clients is not limited by locality but Botsford explained that walk-ins are not accepted. Referrals for clothing help typically comes from job coaches and caseworkers. Botsford also says that the best outcomes for jobseekers come from working with people who are truly job ready. They have already connected with an organization such as workforce development, Department of Social Services and other nonprofits. Some male clients even come from the VA (Veteran Affairs) Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Some people find their way to SIS through facilities in Baltimore County, Howard County and Anne Arundel County.

The MultiService Center located in the North Laurel/Savage community brings

together multiple service agencies including SIS to offer easy access to a wide range of resources and support for community residents. Quinton Askew, the Center Manager in the Office of Community Partnerships, noted ways SIS benefits community members.

"Clients have been able to access professional attire, as well increase self-esteem with their new clothing," Askew said. "Clients always rave of the assistance they have received from SIS staff, and the hope that is provided to them as they continue their journey of looking for employment, or seeking other business related activities."

For more information about Success in Style and for updates about the organization's new location in Annapolis, visit: www.successinstyle.com.

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ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. C2017-17-P INTERNATIONAL CULINARY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

Anne Arundel Community College requests proposals from qualified firms for assistance in the development and management of its Italy culinary internship program. Requirements include, but not limited to development, management/coordination of the program, housing options, transportation, logistics and liaison with local worksites. No instruction is required by the awarded firm. This contract is intended to arrange an internship experience, including fieldtrips, and vocational courses as required. Proposals will be received until 11 a.m. EST on October 4, 2016.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained from the Purchasing office by contacting Heidi Frist, Senior Purchasing Agent, by e-mail: hmfrist@aacc.edu.

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Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center Commemorates 15th Anniversary of 9/11

Local volunteers are encouraged to join the National Day of Service and Remembrance Initiative on Saturday, September 10, 2016

Annapolis— The Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center will commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the September 11 attacks through service and volunteerism, marking the tragic events by rekindling the spirit of hope and community that followed the devastating day.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, we have the opportunity to create a positive legacy through the powerful force of service.

On Saturday, September 10, 2016, the Volunteer Center and its partners, including Anne Arundel Recreation & Parks; Friends of Anne Arundel Trails; Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Ocean Conservancy; the USNA Midshipmen Action Group; and community volunteers will remember September 11 with environmental projects starting at the Maryland W.W. II Memo-

rial overlooking the Severn River and continuing to Jonas Green Park.

The public is invited to join County Executive Steven R. Schuh at 8:30 a.m. on September 10 for a brief ceremony at the Maryland World War II Memorial. Keynote Speaker Michael Hopmeier, President of Unconventional Concepts, Inc. will show how to empower the community to be prepared and resilient. Dr. Mark Chapin will receive special recognition for his commitment to our community and his work with wounded warriors and their families.

The ceremony begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ends by 9 a.m. so that the volunteers can maximize their time with environmental service projects at the Memorial and at Jonas Green Park.

This is a "rain or shine event" and will only be delayed or cancelled if there are local thunder storms.

Pre-registration for volunteers is required. For more information please call 410-897-9207, info@aacvc.org or go to www.aacvc.org/SpecialEvents

This 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance is supported by a grant from the Points of Light, helping millions of volunteers to change the world, visit on the website: www.pointsoflight.org.

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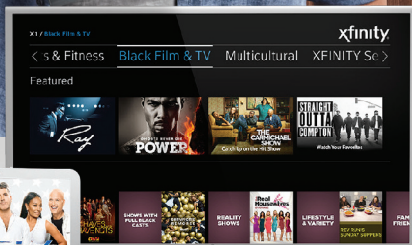
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