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'Pretty In Pink' Parade Illuminates Loch Raven Drive



These "tough guys" attend Cardinal Shehan School and were a part of the Pink Parade held on Thursday, October 30, 2016. Close to 400 students, parents, teachers, friends and alumni/ae gathered in front of the school and marched through the Loch Raven community to champion breast cancer, memorialize instructors and loved ones who succumbed to the disease and raise funds for innovations to transform the lives of breast cancer survivors. Principal Fametta Jackson led the charge for the school and walked with her students through the community. (See article on page 10) Photo: Deborah Bailey

BrightStar's Caregiver of the Year keeps on giving

By Deborah Bailey

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."
— Winston S. Churchill*

Kathy Carter demonstrates again and again why her clients and co-workers alike at BrightStar Care of Baltimore consider her a national treasure. The recent winner of the company's national 2016 Caregiver of the Year competition lives her life by giving generously not only to her clients, but to her co-workers as well.

Ada Sanchez, one of Carter's co-workers got quite a surprise on Thursday, October 20, 2016, when she learned that Carter decided to give the \$5000 scholarship prize that came with the Caregiver of the Year award to her. Sanchez is currently enrolled at Baltimore City Community College with the dream of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Sanchez has been working with Carter at BrightStar Care for just a little over a year. She works two jobs and supports a grieving mother after the death of her father just two months ago. Like Carter, Sanchez gets energy from connecting with the senior adults she takes care of at BrightStar Care.

"They surprised me. It's still like a dream right now. My dad was like my support. This feels like one of the bless-



(Left to right) BrightStar Care of Baltimore owner, Lynn Berberich with Ada Sanchez and Kathy Carter, winner of the 2016 Caregiver of the Year award. Carter decided to give the \$5000 scholarship prize that came with the Caregiver of the Year award to her co-worker Sanchez. A check was presented to Sanchez in a celebration of Carter's generosity on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the BrightStar facility in Lutherville where they work. Courtesy Photo/BrightStar

ings that my dad left. Right now, it's just me and my mother here, we don't have any other family here," Sanchez said.

Lynn Berberich, owner of the Lutherville-based BrightStar facility where Carter has worked for the past six

years, shared the astonishment felt by the entire staff upon hearing the news of Carter's generosity.

"This is an incredibly unusual occurrence. First, the fact that Kathy was the national caregiver of the year [was] nominated by two clients. Kathy is just so generous," said Berberich. "She's really doing what she loves, but to see that there's somebody else that she can help and it's one of her co-workers. You don't see that kind of generosity very often."

Sanchez, who met Carter through a

mutual friend, will use the prize money to pay tuition for her second year at BCCC, to help with books, uniforms, equipment and the many non-tuition expenses of a nursing program.

"I was inspired that she's holding down two jobs. She's going back to school, she's had the recent loss of her father, and through it all, she rises.

"When I won the national [award], one of the ladies came up to me and asked what was I going to do with the scholarship. I said 'I'm going to give it to Ada— I knew it immediately,'" Carter said. "We're a team. I couldn't do the job that I do without my team behind me."

Berberich said that the best thing about Carter being named National Caregiver of the Year was that it came with a gift that has already multiplied.

"After she won the national caregiver award of the year at this big banquet with all the owners from all over the country. Somebody asked her, 'what's your dream job' and she said, 'I'm doing it.'" Berberich said.

The fact that Carter wants to use her gift to make another staff member's dream come true reveals the spirit of what the caregiver's award is all about, according to Berberich.


Both women demonstrate a love for their clients when they're together. They can't stop talking.

"There's so much that you want to give to them. You want to give them life," said Sanchez. "I love what I do."

"I love just what I'm doing too," said Carter, smiling.

It's the genuine care for the clients who depend on them, which makes them both champions, Berberich said.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Despite incomes, black families still denied access to home loans

By Charlene Crowell, NNPA Newswire Columnist

In recent weeks, a spate of news coverage has referred to America's "inner cities." Some may even interpret it as a new code word for minorities, usually referring to blacks and Latinos. Yet today, according to Richard Rothstein, a research associate with the Economic Policy Institute, the inner city experience does not encompass all of black America. More blacks now live in the suburbs than in urban ghettos, and approximately one-third of black Americans have incomes higher than that of the respective median earnings.

So why is access to homeownership still so out of reach for consumers of color? Why do so many blacks and Latinos continue to suffer disproportionate denials for mortgage loans?

A recent analysis of the 2015 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data by the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) sheds further light on the fact that even years after a national recovery from the housing collapse, the American Dream remains elusive for much of Black America.

"The HMDA data has shown a persistent difference in denial rates by race and ethnicity and this year is no exception," wrote CRL. "20.8 percent of African-American applicants were denied a loan in 2015 compared to 16.1 percent of Hispanic applicants and 10 percent of non-Hispanic white applicants."

Last year, more than six million home purchase mortgages were made, but only 51,202 or 2.7 percent were conventional loans to black home buyers. By comparison, non-Hispanic Whites received 1,361,564 conventional loans, and Latinos received 96,975 of these loans. Conventional loans are the most widely available and often the most cost-effective and sustainable mortgages available.

The vast majority of loans to black consumers in 2015 continued a trend that has grown stronger year to year since the housing meltdown: government-backed loans like FHA or VA account for the overwhelming majority of loans made to black consumers— 120,618, more than double that for conventional loans. Latino consumers received more with 162,317 loans, but far less compared to 765,880 for whites. Government-secured mortgage loans are an important source of credit and also tend to be more costly than other home loans.

Now contrast those dismal numbers with those from the Census Bureau that found black Americans are more than 13 percent of the nation's population, and 1.8 million blacks, ages 25 and older, hold advanced degrees. So, how is it that when black college graduation rates are growing and many are living in the suburbs with higher earnings, why are conventional mortgage loans so rare for black borrowers?

One reason could be that the average credit score needed to get a loan has risen substantially. In 2015 the average credit score for all new loan originations neared 750, a near 50-point increase from the average used in 2001.

"Although the nation's banks have largely recovered from the financial crisis," continued CRL, "the 2015 HMDA data illustrate that they are not using their rebuilt capital to create homeownership opportunities, particularly not for borrowers of color and low-income families."

"Before the Great Recession," added Rothstein, "half of all African-Americans owned their own homes. By 2013, it had fallen to 44 percent. Before the Great Recession, the net worth of African-American homeowners averaged \$144,000. By 2013, it had fallen to \$80,000. This was not a natural calamity that befell the black middle class but one precipitated in part by unlawful banking and governmental practices."

When it comes to homeownership, the facts are clear. The real question for black America is, 'what do we intend to do about it?' Economic inclusion— not exclusion—would offer a real chance to build more black economic security.

Charlene Crowell is a communications deputy director with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



Community Affairs

Tips from BGE to help customers "fall" into savings

Baltimore— It may be the beginning of the fall season, but Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) says now is the best time for customers to take the necessary steps to save energy and money this winter.

By following a few simple tips and making a few easy energy efficiency improvements, customers could save 20 percent or more on their winter heating bills:

- Keep it sealed.** A drafty house lets warm air escape and is much more costly to keep warm – especially during cooler weather. Use caulking around doors, windows and any openings for utility services. Locks on your windows can make them tighter and more resistant to drafts. Keep your fireplace damper closed when the fireplace is not in use.

- Upgrade your insulation.** Insulating your home can significantly reduce your heating costs, while increasing the comfort of your home. Reducing air leaks— in floors, walls, ceilings, ducts, fire-

places, doors, windows and vents, and around plumbing— could cut 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill.

- Check ducts for air leaks.** Look for joints that should be connected but have separated. Leaky ductwork can increase your utility bill significantly.

- Warm up your system.** Service your heating system at the beginning of each heating season. A well-maintained system will last longer, operate more efficiently and save you money.

- Manage your thermostat.** Keep thermostats set at a constant, comfortable level. You can save about two percent on your heating bill for every degree you lower your thermostat.

- Be prepared for cooler weather.** Remove screens and air conditioners from windows and install storm windows.

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Black women will elect the next president

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Newswire Managing Editor

Black women will play a key role in electing the next president, according to a recent report by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), a national trade group and the largest federation of unions in the United States.

Carmen Berkley, the director of civil, human and women's rights policy at the AFL-CIO said that the labor group wanted to provide context to the power that Black women voters have displayed over the past two presidential election cycles. In the briefing paper, researchers provided a case for why labor unions and non-profit organizations should be paying attention to Black women.

"Without black women, President Obama would not have won the White House in 2012," said Berkley. "Black women voters delivered in key battleground states like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida where President Obama picked up 67 additional electoral votes."

Berkley continued: "If black women had not turned out, President Obama would have been five electoral votes shy of winning the presidency."

Denise Rolark Barnes, the publisher of The Washington Informer and chairwoman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) says that black women voters could make a monumental difference in the outcome of the 2016 election, just like they did in 2012.

However, Rolark Barnes also expressed concerns that neither of the presidential candidates have touched on the issues that are important to black women and single parents, who are also the primary breadwinners in their families; issues like health care, education and the environment are very important to black women and their families.

"I don't think we've heard enough from the candidates about how they plan to address issues that affect black and Latino families," Rolark Barnes said.

Recently, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke at a campaign rally in Durham, North Carolina, flanked by "Mothers of the Movement," a group of black women who have lost children to gun violence or during interactions with law enforcement. The group included Gwen Carr, the mother of Eric Garner, Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, Lucia McBath, the mother of Jordan Davis and Geneva Reed-Veal, the mother of Sandra Bland.

Clinton also delivered remarks at the Black Women's Agenda conference in September, where she acknowledged that even though the contributions of black women are "often missing from the history books— make no mistake— you are the change makers, the path breakers, and the ground shakers. And, you are proof that yes, indeed, black girl magic is real."

Berkley said that Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has said that he knows the black community, but he hasn't proven that he understands the impact that black people, especially black women, have on society.

"Black women drive turnout for the black community," said Berkley. "We care a lot about police reform, raising the minimum wage, protecting social security and we are economically liberal when it come to the government."

Berkley also noted that black women have been very reliable voters in the past two election cycles. In 2012 and 2014 black women voted at higher rates than other women.

According to the briefing paper on the importance of black women voters in 2016, "In 2012, 83 percent of registered black women turned out, compared to 73 percent for all other women, a ten-point difference. Black women turned out at a higher rate than other women in 2014 as well. Fifty-five percent of registered black women turned out in 2014, compared to 53 percent for all other women."

Berkley said that black women do more than vote.

"We're very active in our churches, we're very active in our communities and we're very active in our unions," she said.

According to a survey by Lake Research Partners (LRP), a leading public opinion and political strategy research firm, black workers are far more likely to view labor unions favorably (77 percent for blacks vs. 50 for all respondents) compared to other workers.

Petee Talley, the secretary-treasurer of Ohio branch of the AFL-CIO, said that evidence shows that black women union members have stepped up in remarkable ways.

"Not only are they organizing inside of

their unions, they are organizing the black community around vote registration efforts," said Talley.

And when black women take on leadership roles, they have the power to significantly affect elections inside their unions.

The briefing paper said: "As labor scholars Kate Bronfenbrenner and Dorian Warren found in their oft-cited study "Race, Gender, and the Rebirth of Trade Unionism," unions won 89 percent of elections where black women were the lead organizers compared with 53 percent for female organizers overall and 42 percent for male organizers."

The report noted that black women were more likely than any other group to skip at least on race on the ballot.

"By skipping down ballot races, black women lose the potential to be a political force in local races, which arguably have a more direct impact on the day-to-day lives of black people," the report said.

The briefing paper said that as the labor movement grows, it should look to black communities and black women organizers as a potential base for power.

"This requires incorporating black communities into long-term strategic thinking and lifting up the most progressive voice of the Democratic base," the briefing paper said. "For organized labor and other parts of the political left, black women are a smart investment, in 2016 and beyond."

Rolark Barnes says that black women hold the power of the vote and also have the influence in their households to make sure their families and friends get out to vote.

Rolark Barnes continued: "We need to come out strong, like we did before, and make the difference we know we can make in November."

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Mailing Address
The Baltimore Times
2513 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627
www.baltimoretimes-online.com

Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

Please contact: The Annapolis Times

2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-366-3900 Fax: 410-243-1627

email: btimes@btimes.com

A Survivor's Story: The Cost of Surviving Cancer

By Stacy M. Brown

Kimberly Curtis has battled and overcome breast cancer.

Despite having what she says is excellent health insurance, the local resident has also had to reach deep into her pocketbook to pay for the costs associated with the illness.

Curtis, a registered nurse, said co-pays for doctor visits and examinations, as well as medications the change in diet that most survivors experience can leave many breast cancer patients broke.

"I am a grateful survivor. I am very grateful for the services I received," she said. "[However], a couple of things that are very concerning include the frequent visits, meal plan changes and the financial expenses that I've incurred after I was diagnosed."

After her initial diagnosis three years ago, which was followed by surgery and other planned treatments, Curtis, like most cancer patients, had to schedule visits with several oncologists including surgical, radiation and chemotherapy and medical. Such visits often occur every three months during the first year and, if treatments prove to be going well, the patient can then visit oncology doctors once every six months.

"However, if one decides to be on medication treatment, that person must see the medical oncologist every three months for five years," Curtis said.

It's also suggested that patients consult with a nutritionist.

"I decided to eat healthier to lose weight and to do all that I could to not have the cancer come back," Curtis said. "With these frequent follow-up visits comes a very expensive medical bill. I am blessed to have insurance and yet there are still bills that are constantly coming in. To be honest, I am not even sure if all my original bills are fully paid. It's saddening at times."

Reportedly, insurance companies, patients and government health plans are paying \$1 billion per year just for a routine test to confirm a diagnosis and billions more for treatment.



Kimberly Curtis is a grateful cancer survivor but knows first hand that the cost of treatment for breast cancer from diagnosis through treatment can quickly erode a patient's life savings.

Courtesy Photo

Dr. Sharon Giordano at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, says patients often get stuck with thousands of dollars in bills that can take years to pay off.

Giordano and a team of doctors recently went through insurance claims

filed by more than 14,000 breast cancer patients between 2008 and 2012 and found expenses across a single class of drugs varied by as much as \$46,000.

"There were big variations in the cost of treatments we could prescribe," Giordano told NBC News. "What I think was

more concerning was that the top 10 percent of patients are getting really hefty bills costing them \$10,000 or more."

Those with so-called catastrophic health insurance plans, which charge low premiums but which also don't reimburse for much, paid the most out of pocket. "Expenditures for cancer care have grown from \$72 billion in 2004 to \$125 billion in 2010 and are estimated to reach \$158 billion by 2020," Giordano's team wrote.

"The costs of cancer care are increasing at an unsustainable rate—two to three times faster than other health care costs. Patients' out-of-pocket costs have also been rapidly increasing," Giordano said.

Roxanne Martinez, a six-year survivor, received a dual blow when she was diagnosed in 2010. Pregnant at the time of her diagnosis, Martinez was terminated from her airport job because of the time she was forced to call in sick, she said.

"That left me in a huge bind, having to pay COBRA insurance premiums of about \$600 to \$700 per month, on top of co-pays, deductibles and other costs. I ended up cashing out my entire savings and retirement accounts—about \$30,000—to help fund my cancer treatment and health premiums," Martinez said.

With help from family and friends, Martinez raised an additional \$20,000 to help pay for medical and living expenses.

"After I exhausted my COBRA benefits, I was uninsured for several months due to having a pre-existing condition, of course that was before Obamacare," Martinez said. "I had to navigate the healthcare system without insurance and negotiate a cash payment with my surgeon for a reconstruction surgery."

Martinez ultimately filed for bankruptcy.

"I am now in remission and happy to be alive," she said. "Breast cancer may have taken my breasts, my hair, my job, my retirement and savings, but it will never take my faith or hope."



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New President and CEO hired at Visit Baltimore

Baltimore— After an extensive national search John Frisch, chairman of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Board of Directors, announced the hiring of Al Hutchinson, 57, as Visit Baltimore's new president and CEO. Hutchinson assumes the position on November 14, 2016.

Hutchinson brings more than 24 years of experience in the hospitality and destination marketing industry to Baltimore, most recently serving as president and CEO of Visit Mobile, where he was recognized as the 2016 Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Alliance's 'Tourism Promoter of the Year.' Under Hutchinson's leadership, Visit Mobile launched a new brand campaign, 'Born to Celebrate;' saw record visitor attendance; a large increase in visitor inquiries; and an increase in the city's hotel occupancy rate and revenue collection.

As president and CEO of Visit Baltimore, Hutchinson will be responsible for leading the growth of the convention and tourism industry in Baltimore, overseeing the day-to-day management of all sales and marketing programs and serving as the hospitality industry's liaison to the business, civic and local community, while demonstrating the impact of tourism on the City and State.

"Visit Baltimore is a strong bureau well positioned for growth and I have great confidence that Al is the right leader to build upon recent successes of the organization," said Frisch. "From hosting a record 30 citywide conventions in 2015 coupled with multiple years of record visitation numbers, to the creation of a separate Visit Baltimore Education & Training Foundation, he is taking over the helm of a very strong organization. I know that the organization, and in turn the City, the region and the State, will benefit from his sales and marketing experience and strong reputation as a collaborative, transparent leader and effective communicator."

Prior to joining Visit Mobile, Hutchinson served as the vice president of con-



Al Hutchinson
Courtesy Photo

vention sales and services at the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau where, for more than 11 years, he led the convention sales and service team, directed the advertising agency and worked closely with community leaders, industry decision makers, elected officials and tourism partners. Hutchinson has spent a good portion of his professional career in the hospitality industry also serving in leadership positions with the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Charlotte Convention Center, the Park Hotel in Charlotte and the Richmond Metropolitan CVB.

"I look forward to leading Baltimore's tourism efforts and to working with the Visit Baltimore team, Convention and Tourism Board of Directors, the city's elected officials and the citizens of Baltimore to lead the City to new heights," said Hutchinson. "I'm excited by the opportunity to take the helm of such a strong organization."

"Al is well-respected within the industry," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "We are lucky to have him and I am confident that he will serve as a strong advocate for tourism in Baltimore while also working to build relationships and partnerships within the community. I was impressed by his passion and perspective on how tourism can further advance Baltimore's economy."

Tavon Young proving to be Ravens best draft pick

By Turrón Davenport

At 5-feet 9-inches and 183-pounds, Tavon Young doesn't fit the mold of the big and long cornerbacks that NFL teams have used high draft picks on. However, after a solid career at Temple University along with an impressive showing at the Senior Bowl and NFL Scouting Combine, the Baltimore Ravens used a fourth round pick to select Young.

The organization thought he would play as a slot corner initially, but the Baltimore area product wanted to show that despite his size, he could play outside as well.

"When we picked him, it was primarily to be a nickel corner," Defensive backs coach Leslie Frazier said on Tuesday. "We moved him outside, he has done a terrific job. We saw it in practice and training camp that he had the potential to do it. But we felt like we would be stronger if he could hold up inside. It has been a pleasant surprise for all of us that he could match up with some of these receivers and do as well as he has."

Frazier was impressed with Young being able to move outside because he is not the tallest guy. He pointed to Young's competitive spirit and feistiness as reasons for him to hold his own on the outside.

That feistiness showed every week while Young was at Temple. He locked down current Houston Texans wide receiver Will Fuller on national television when Temple played Notre Dame.

Young has 20 tackles and a fumble recovery so far this season. The Ravens like his physicality when playing against the run. He won't back down from anyone.



Ravens rookie cornerback Tavon Young makes a diving interception in the game against the New York Giants during week five of the NFL season.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

The rookie cornerback also has two interceptions on the year. The Ravens as a unit only had six interceptions last season.

One of Young's interceptions greatly impressed Frazier, a former NFL defensive back, which lead Frazier to boast about the payoff from drafting the Temple product.

"Tavon has been a shining star for us," Frazier said. "We have asked him to do a lot in his rookie season, and he has responded. It was a great draft pick by our organization."

"Being able to come in and play the slot position in the National Football League— you are like a starter. He has held his own against some really good

receivers. That pick he made against the New York Giants, that is one of the finest interceptions you will ever see in man coverage. It was just an outstanding play."

Young has proven to be a big addition to a team that needs help in the secondary. His style of play is very similar to Lardarius Webb before his knee injury a couple of years ago. Coincidentally, Young's smooth transition to the NFL has allowed Webb to move to safety, which is a more natural position for him at this point in his career.

Frazier pointed out that Young has the versatility to do whatever the Ravens need and has high hopes for him in the future.

"He goes outside, and he is matching up against the DeSean Jacksons of the league and other guys as well," Frazier explained. "The sky is the limit for him. He has proven that he can do both, and we will just see how things go as the season goes on. The fact that he has that kind of versatility is great for us."

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The Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) invite you to attend a public workshop where plans will be presented to provide dedicated bus lanes on several major downtown streets. Dedicated bus lanes are part of MTA's BaltimoreLink project to improve the quality and reliability of bus service across the Region. Dedicated lanes will allow buses to move more quickly through downtown as well as help keep them on schedule. At the workshops, BCDOT and MTA will share concepts under consideration and listen to your ideas about how the lanes could work. Workshops will be held in three locations and provide the same information

Wednesday, November 2, 2016 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

War Memorial, Memorial Hall

101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Access to this location via Bus Nos. 5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, 26, 31, 35, 36, 40, 46, 48, 91, 310, 420, and Metro Subway.

Thursday, November 3, 2016 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

University of Baltimore
Wm. H. Thumel Sr. Business Center, Multipurpose Room

11 W. Mount Royal Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201

Access to this location via Bus Nos. 3, 11, 21, 61, 64, Charm City Circulator-Purple Route, and Light Rail.

Monday, November 14, 2016 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

University of Maryland, Baltimore
SMC Campus Center, Elm Room A

621 W. Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Access to this location via Bus Nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 19, 20, 27, 31, 35, 36, 40, 46, 48, 91, and Charm City Circulator-Orange Route.

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. For more information or to request additional accommodations, an interpreter, or this information translated or in an alternate format, please contact the department listed below.

Los sitios tienen acceso para personas con discapacidades. Para mayor información o para requerir acomodos adicionales, un intérprete o esta información traducida o en formato alterno, por favor contacte al departamento enlistado abajo.

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Maryland Students invited to submit best problem solving app ideas



Fifth Annual Verizon Innovative Learning App Challenge is open for new submissions until Friday, November 18, 2016. Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

Baltimore— The Verizon Innovative Learning app challenge— the no-coding-skills-needed contest that gives middle and high school students a chance to bring their problem-solving app ideas to life— is now accepting new app ideas for the 2016-2017 competition.

Winning student teams will be chosen from each state, earning a \$5,000 grant for their school or organization and free tablets for each team member. Then the Best in State teams will compete for the ultimate prizes: an additional \$15,000 for their respective organizations, and the chance to turn their app ideas into real, working smartphone apps that will be made available for download.

Now in its fifth year, thousands of students across the U.S. have participated in the app challenge— gathering teams, dreaming up ideas, and creating concepts for mobile apps that could solve problems in their schools and communities.

Past winners have been featured at the White House Science Fair and even gone on to sell their completed apps for cash.

Students can submit ideas until November 18, 2016, and the winners will be named in January and February 2017.

Last year's Best in State winner from Maryland was a group of students from Montgomery County. They created the AutBuddy app, which helps children

with autism manage tasks and helps their parents and teachers communicate. AutBuddy is available for free download in Google Play.

For more information about how to register for the Verizon Innovative Learning app challenge or to download the completed apps, visit www.verizon.com/appchallenge. Follow us on Twitter (@VerizonGiving and Facebook (www.facebook.com/verizonfoundation)).

The app challenge, part of Verizon Innovative Learning, was developed to give all students, regardless of their technology experience or access to technology, a chance to make a difference, and to help spark their interest in STEM subjects and careers.

Over the past 10 years, STEM jobs have grown three times faster than other jobs. STEM jobs are expected to grow by one million by 2022 to a total of more than nine million jobs.

The app challenge provides hands-on, experiential learning that can equip students with the in-demand skills of the future and empower them to envision brighter futures for themselves as business owners, app inventors, coders, technology professionals and more. Teams of students currently in grades 6 through 12, who are affiliated with schools and nonprofit groups or clubs can enter the contest. All teams must have a faculty advisor.

'Pretty In Pink' Parade Lights Up Loch Raven Drive

By Deborah Bailey

The entire student body of Cardinal Shehan School was "pretty in pink" last week for the school's second annual Pink Parade, bringing attention the fight against breast cancer.

Close to 400 students, parents, teachers, friends and alumni/ae gathered in front of the school and marched through the Loch Raven community to champion breast cancer, memorialize instructors and loved ones who succumbed to the disease and raise funds for innovations to transform the lives of breast cancer survivors.

Principal Fametta Jackson led the charge for the school and walked with her students through the community.

"Breast cancer is something near and dear to our hearts. We recently lost a loved one at the school, Ms. Mahallack; and two years ago we lost another member of the Shehan community, Ms. Byrd," said Jackson. "We all have been touched directly or indirectly by breast cancer. We just wanted to paint the area pink and encourage both our school community and the broader neighborhood."

For eighth grader Laura Leek, the Pink Parade was a personal way to remember a family member who suffered from the disease. "My grandmother, Laura Leek, passed away from breast cancer, so today's walk meant a lot to me," Leek said.

Tracey Johnson, parent volunteer and secretary for the Cardinal Shehan Home School Association, has faith that there's a cure on the horizon.

"We're raising money for the breast cancer cause. A lot of us have family members and friends who have lost loved ones to breast cancer. With God's prayer, we'll find the cure soon and I hope that maybe even one of our Cardinal Shehan students will be part of finding that cure," Johnson said.

Lisa Taylor, an art teacher and librarian at the school is the founder of the Pink Parade initiative.

"Our vision was to create an event that would honor our two teachers who

passed from breast cancer. We wanted to make it fun and lively. We wanted to encourage our students to help their families to get check-ups," Taylor said. "This is our second year of donating to the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel cancer Center. This year the school will make a \$1000 donation."

The school got off to a good start the first year with a \$700 donation, said Taylor.

Several fathers came out to support their daughters at Cardinal Shehan to let them know that men wear pink and are concerned about breast cancer, too.

"My daughter's mother is a breast cancer survivor. So, it's important for the kids to understand what's going on," said Anthony Oliver, a parent with two children enrolled at Cardinal Shehan.

Another student's father, Simon Benjamin, was dressed head-to-toe in pink.

"It's important to be here with my dad today because we're family," said Benjamin. Her father Simon said it's his responsibility as a father to make sure Sydney is equipped with the knowledge to make healthy decision about her lifestyle as she becomes a young woman.

"I have a young lady, so I have to [make] her aware and keep her on top of things."

Taylor is already thinking ahead to next year and ways to reach out to neighborhood churches and other community institutions that have responded to the excitement of this year's Pink Parade. She was especially grateful that several Cardinal Shehan alumni/ae returned to support the event.

"Our students are really more aware of breast cancer than we realize," Taylor said.

Principal Jackson is proud that the Pink Parade enables her students to demonstrate peacemaking to the entire community.

"Unfortunately we have people who don't practice peacemaking as much as we would like. So, we the role models and examples of peace," Jackson said.



(Left to right) Fametta Jackson, principal; Lisa Taylor, art teacher and creator of the Pink Parade; and Corinne Davison, assistant principal.

Photo: Dennis Roberts



Tracey Johnson is a parent volunteer and secretary for the Cardinal Shehan Home School Association. Photo: Deborah Bailey



Reagan Holmes in Mrs. Paulson's First Grade Class Photo: Carol A. Nanton



Father and daughter Sydney and Simon march together in Pink Parade Photo: Deborah Bailey



Combination Kindergarten class of Mrs. Hawley-Creighton and Mrs. Davenport



Photos: Dennis Roberts

Young writer travels to California for book signing

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

Nia Jolivet, a sixth grade student at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County was recently honored at the Jack and Jill of America Convention in Palm Desert, California. She received a medal and certificate for her entry into the 2016 Literary Masterminds Contest.

Jolivet was excited to submit a short story when she heard about the opportunity to be an author by submitting a piece on the theme "The Power to Make A Difference."

The title of her work "The Best Gift," highlights an unforgettable story about her grandmother.

The Literary Minds Masterminds Contest is an initiative powered by a partnership with Brown Girls Books Publishing Company and Jack and Jill of America (JJOA), Inc. in an effort to promote the literary talents of children by choosing the best short stories and poem entries for inclusion in a JJOA children's book, according to the organization's website.

"The Best Gift" is a story about three sisters who could not decide what to get their grandmother for her birthday. Their grandmother was in an automobile accident and the other driver was badly injured. The sisters gave their grandmother's gift to the other driver causing their grandmother to exclaim that was the best gift they could have given her.

"She has always enjoyed writing journal entries, stories and poetry," said Jolivet's mother, Kendra.

When asked about being selected to be part of the children's book project, Nia said, "I was surprised and [I] felt good about having my story published. Sign-



Nia Jolivet received a medal and certificate for her entry in the 2016 Literary Masterminds Contest, an initiative powered by a partnership with Brown Girls Books Publishing Company and Jack and Jill of America (JJOA), Inc. Her short story entitled, "The Best Gift" is about her grandmother.

Courtesy Photo

ing the books gave me a good feeling because people wanted the book."

Nia's dad, Arnold Jolivet II is proud of his baby girl. "She is a dreamer who loves life and will try new things. She is fearless and very competitive."

Although Nia is uncertain about a career as a writer, she is certain about continuing to enjoy middle school, participating in the French magnate program and learning more in the field of science in pursuit of her dreams of becoming a doctor.

An anthology will be published and released at the 2016 42nd Biennial National Convention in Palm Desert, California.

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'Brakes for Breasts'

Car repair shops raise funds for cancer vaccine

By Stacy M. Brown

Auto Stream Car Care on Smith Avenue and Frame Rite Auto Repair on Harford Road in Baltimore are among the 20 car repair shops in Maryland that have signed on to participate in a charity to help breast cancer survivors and ultimately help to fund research for a new vaccine that some doctors believe might eventually cure the dreadful illness.

After losing her mother to breast cancer, Laura Frank wanted to do something different. The owner of Repair Pal Might Auto Pro said her mother was a social worker who was committed to making a difference; only Frank had to determine what she could do to honor her mother's memory and to help other families who continue to struggle with cancer.

Using her experience in the automotive industry, Frank created a program called "Brakes for Breasts." During Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, her company provides free brake pads to car owners and she donates a portion of the labor costs to the cancer vaccine research center at the Cleveland Clinic.

For every brake service performed at a participating shop, customers receive their brake pads for free and just pay for the labor and other parts. Each shop then donates 10 percent of that brake service to The Cleveland Clinic Breast Cancer Vaccine Research Fund.

"Brakes for Breasts is truly a grassroots fundraiser that began in August 2011 with my favorite saying, 'As a small business owner that gives you a lot of visibility and with visibility comes responsibility,'" Frank said.

"My business partner, Leigh Anne Best, and I were thinking about what we could do to make a difference in the world," she said. "We had done fundraising on a local level and wanted to figure out a way our efforts could help globally."

Just two months after they brainstormed, the pair launched their first fundraiser with five local repair shops. Initially, Brakes for Breasts was viewed as just another fundraiser and the charity



(Left to right) Armando Chardiet, Chair of Cleveland Clinic Philanthropy Institute; Dr. Vincent Tuohy, Creator of the Breast Cancer Vaccine; Mike and Coreen McGroarty, Nordonia Goodyear in Northfield, Ohio; Leigh Anne Best and Laura Frank, Founders of Brakes for Breasts; Thomas Hamilton, Ph.D., Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute Interim Chair, Billy Hillmuth, Hillmuth Automotive Maryland; and Nelson Wittenmyer, Vice Chair of Cleveland Clinic Philanthropy Institute at the 2016 "Brakes For Breasts" check presentation to the Cleveland Clinic. Courtesy Photo

wasn't taken as seriously as Frank and Best had hoped, according to Frank.

"Then, we presented our first check for \$10,000 which caught the attention of more shop owners who wanted to join our efforts the following year," she said. "With the amazing and humbling support of repair shops across the country our idea is turning into a reality."

While most cancer fundraising programs contribute resources to breast cancer awareness and treatment, funds from Brakes for Breasts support research for the first cancer vaccine—an innovation that some medical experts believe could revolutionize the way individuals think about breast and ovarian cancer, Frank said.

The initiative is dedicated to surpassing

its \$150,000 fundraising goal with over 100 repair shops in 33 states participating, she said.

The vaccine is now in the initial stages of the FDA approval process.

In May 2010, when results of his years-long research were published, Dr. Vincent Tuohy told Cleveland.com that he was hopeful that the ensuing attention—including his appearances on national television programs and articles in foreign newspapers—would help generate grant money that would allow him and his six-person lab to move that vaccine research forward.

The research demonstrated that a single vaccination with a substance called alpha-lactalbumin, which is found in the breast milk of healthy women and in

most breast cancers, can prevent breast cancer tumors from forming and halts the growth of existing tumors.

The success of the "Brakes for Breasts" initiative has already exceeded expectations, Frank said.

"Our expectations were not high. We surprised ourselves with the \$10,000 outcome and knew from that day we could make a bigger impact," she said. "In 2015, 174 repair shops across 32 states raised \$141,868, and this year we have 170 shops across 34 states supporting us. We are truly hoping to raise \$140,000 this year which will surpass the \$500,000 mark in total contributions."

For participating "Brakes for Breasts" auto shops, visit www.brakesforbreasts.com.

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Gibbs is an award-winning historian, humanities scholar, and exhibitor of artifacts. He is noted for writing, researching, and narrating Sketches in Color, a 13-part companion series to the acclaimed PBS series, The Civil War.

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Customers reminded about natural gas safety this heating season

Baltimore—Despite the unseasonably warm temperatures this month, the cold weather is quickly approaching. Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) would like to remind customers to familiarize themselves with the natural gas safety tips provided in BGE's natural gas safety brochure which is being distributed to homes and businesses in and around BGE's natural gas area. Customers should also have their heating systems checked and inspected by a qualified technician to ensure safe and efficient operation for the heating season.

"BGE is dedicated to maintaining a safe and reliable natural gas system. Just as BGE prepares for the heating season, we urge customers who utilize natural gas to heat their homes and businesses to prepare as well," said Christie McMullen, vice president gas distribution for BGE. "BGE's natural gas safety brochure educates our customers on living and working safely around natural gas, pipelines and facilities."

BGE's natural gas safety brochure will be mailed to all customers. The brochure

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

If you detect a gas leak:

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

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

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



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

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

- When you call, BGE will respond promptly to survey the area, perform

safety measures, and repair BGE's equipment. There is no charge to investigate a gas leak.

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

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Public Notice

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- Review alternative options for infrastructure improvements

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For more information contact Tim Cooke at 410-537-5675.

Visit the project website:

http://www.mdta.maryland.gov/Capital_Projects/I-95_Access_Study/Home.html

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