



Vol. 25 No. 21 March 24 - 30, 2017

# The Annapolis Times

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

## Private school students assist public school students through unique initiative



*Every Thursday after school, students from the private school Mount Saint Joseph High assist Sarah M. Roach Elementary School youngsters in reading and other areas. The partnership initially was comprised of male students from both schools, but has since expanded to include females from Sarah M. Roach Elementary School, who are tutored by females who attend Mount De Sales Academy. Photo: Sarah M. Roach Tutoring Program participants Larry Bao, tutor; five-year-old Caleb; Luke Alli, tutor; and eight-year-old Kenion. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo*



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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## Nine-tenths of coal miners are gone!

By James A. Haught

America's coal industry is sinking sadly. Tonnage, usually above one billion, dropped to 749 million tons in 2016. Employment, which exceeded 800,000 in the 1920s, has fallen below 66,000. Four large mining corporations went bankrupt in the past couple of years. The decline is glaringly visible in my West Virginia.

Our state had 125,000 pick-and-shovel miners in 1950 when I was a teen. Most of the diggers lived in company-owned towns. Coal was the state's throbbing pulse. Explosions killing scores of miners were common. Violent strikes were common.

In the 1950s, coal owners began replacing human miners with digging machines and misery followed. Around 70,000 West Virginia miners lost their jobs and they fled north via the "hillbilly highway" to Akron and Cleveland but coal production remained high.

In the 1970s, long-wall machines could produce 10 times as much coal with half as many workers. And more jobs vanished because mining switched to huge surface pits, where monster machines and explosives do the work. The number of West Virginia miners continued falling to the 30,000s in the 1990s, then below 20,000 in the new 21st century. Official state figures put today's total around 12,000. The number of operating mines fell drastically.

Most of the decline happened because rich, thick seams in the Central Appalachian Basin—largely southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky—gradually became exhausted. Only thinner, difficult-to-mine coal remains. The slump worsened when horizontal drilling and hydraulic "fracking" loosed a flood of cheaper natural gas that grabbed coal markets.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration says Central Appalachian yearly coal production dropped from 235 million tons in 2008 to below 60 million today and is forecast below 40 million by 2040. That much loss is stunning.

When his coal firms were beset by unpaid fines and taxes, billionaire Jim Justice, now West Virginia's governor said, "The coal business is terrible, it's just terrible.... You may be witnessing the death of the coal industry."

McDowell County is a sad illustration. In 1950, during coal's heyday, McDowell had nearly 100,000 population but mines played out and closed. Thousands of jobs were lost. People moved away. Local businesses folded. Poverty and drug problems soared. Now McDowell has fewer than 20,000 residents. Departing industry leaves misery behind. The retreat is shattering several southern coal counties. Their governments reel from lost tax revenue. School systems are near bankruptcy.

Rapid advances in solar and wind energy are another menace to coal. If renewable sources eventually generate electricity more cheaply than coal does, they'll seize more of the power market. America now has more than 200,000 solar workers, far exceeding coal employment.

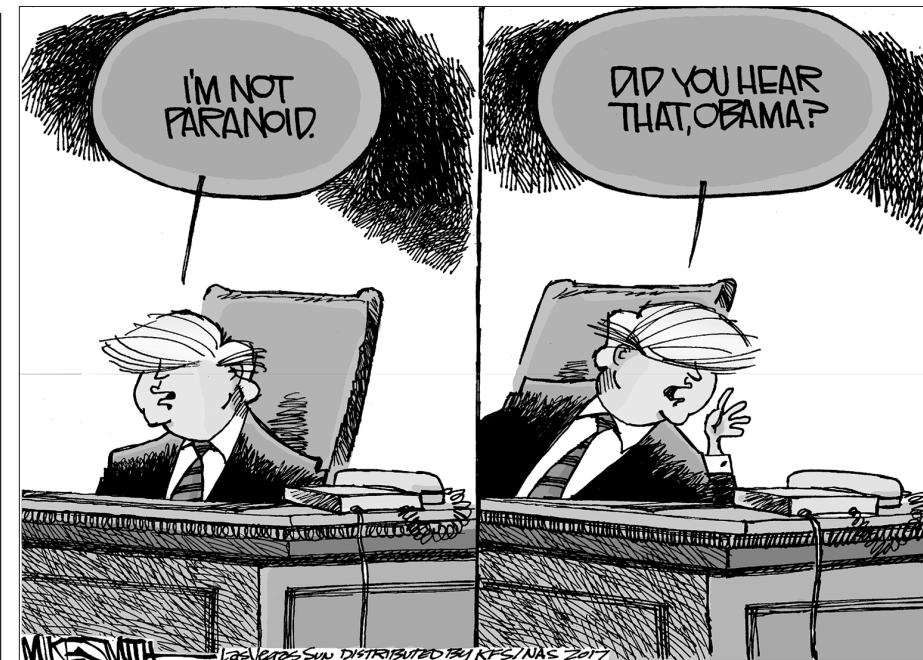
During coal's heyday, West Virginia was called the most unionized state and it voted solidly Democratic. As jobs fizzled, so did organized labor. The state turned "red."

In 2016, Donald Trump vowed, "We're going to get those miners back to work"—and West Virginia voted for him by one of the largest margins in America.

However, even if Trump wipes out federal pollution and safety controls, I doubt that it will "get those miners back to work." They would stand a better chance if Trump shifted enough federal funds to training for jobs of the future instead of easy but hollow promises that he can't possibly keep.

Inevitably, all fossil fuels become depleted. Britain's Wales finally reached the end for its fabled coalmines. Some U.S. regions still have good reserves, but the arc of history bends toward an inescapable outcome.

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia's largest newspaper, *The Charleston Gazette-Mail*.



## Letters to the Editor

### Editor:

#### *Re: Rebuilding Our Military*

As a Navy veteran and a strong supporter of our military, I commend President Trump for initiating a program to rebuild our military with a defense budget increase of \$54 billion. However, it should be decreased by \$1.3 billion and the \$1.3 billion added to the Coast Guard budget within the Department of Homeland Security, so it is not cut by \$1.3 billion.

Our military has dramatically shrunk and has been neglected in recent times. Although we have increased the capabilities of our military through technological advances, we have downsized our forces and we have not adequately replaced worn out equipment.

Due to the cuts imposed by the 2014 sequestration act our Army has significantly decreased from a high of 570,000 soldiers after 9/11, and it is heading down to 450,000. The Marines are going from 184,000 to 175,000 and the National Guard and Reserves will lose tens of thousands. The Air Force will have 700 fewer aircraft, and the Navy remains at 286 ships. My Navy has 11 carrier battle groups but at any one time a number of them are not available due

to overhaul and maintenance requirements, in port rest and relaxation, and ships in transit. It should have 12 carrier battle groups to fulfill its global missions in a dangerous world. George Will in an article on October 1, 2015 stated, "the sun never sets" on our Navy.

Potential adversaries continue to build up their military forces. Iran has a large army and continues with its missile development program. North Korea continues to test long-range missiles and develop nuclear armaments.

The two significant potential adversaries are China and Russia. China has a huge army, is adding to its air force, and is building up its navy, including aircraft carriers and submarines. China lays claim to the South China Sea and has established island bases in the region, which our Navy will have to contest. Russia is rebuilding its navy and maintains a large army and air force, and it continues to threaten Europe.

Trump should continue to rebuild our military so we can meet the military challenges in the world, preserve our national security—and keep the peace.

**Donald Moskowitz**  
Londonderry, NH

# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## *Trump's budget cuts will hurt the same people who voted for him*

By Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

If you happened to have voted for the man who now occupies the White House, you may be feeling bamboozled, right about now. The man who said that he wanted to take care of the little people, those who were forgotten by the elites, now wants to cut programs that affect these working-class people, ranging from Legal Aid to Meals on Wheels to housing assistance to job training. He would cut the Environmental Protection Agency by more than 31 percent, leaving more than 3000 workers in the cold. Many of his other budget provisions will call for federal reductions-in-force (RIFs), and these chaotic RIFs may cause instability in some government agencies, since workers can appeal their RIF, or bump other workers out of their jobs.

He is not using a scalpel to make the cuts; he is using machetes and weed whackers. His budget makes his position on the culture wars clear. He would entirely eliminate federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting,

the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Public Radio. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will get \$6.2 billion cut, and even though the Department of Education will get a 12 percent cut, \$1.4 billion dollars are slated to support private schools through school choice. HBCU programs have not been cut, but many of the programs they depend on, including work-study programs, have been cut.

minds. There are physicians among those elected Republicans who must surely understand the value of the medical research "45" has threatened to cut. There are educators, who understand the importance of summer Pell grants. There must be a handful of Republicans who will fight the cuts of the EPA and the cessation of other climate change research. These are the Republicans who need to step up, and they are the ones who must be lobbied.

inability to understand our governmental system of checks and balances. He seems to think that he can unilaterally declare a policy change. He wants to get rid of the Environmental Protection Agency. Does everyone? He wants to put more money into private schools. Are there members of Congress who would resist? It is time for Republicans of conscience—if there are any—to step up and say that it's not okay to stop Meals on Wheels. It's not okay to damage our environment. It's not okay to cut off funds for medical research. All of us need to speak up!

People have marched, and both women and immigrants have stayed home to express their resistance. The presentation of this warped budget offers another opportunity for resistance, and the very future of our nature depends on this resistance. It is unfathomable that these Bible-thumping Republicans will turn their back on children, the elderly, and those who desperately need job training to contribute to the economy. The key to altering this budget process is resistance.

*Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her podcast, "It's Personal with Dr. J" is available on iTunes. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at [www.julianneMalveaux.com](http://www.julianneMalveaux.com) at Amazon.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.*

**"There will be lots of moaning and groaning, teeth-gnashing and horror about this budget, but there should also be resistance. There will be hearings, and those who resist ought to attend those hearings. Members of Congress will be visiting their districts and resisters need to be there to confront them about this budget. The proposed White House budget is nothing but a request. It is not a fait accompli, and it won't be unless we roll over and accept this madness."**

It's an ugly budget, but it's the budget that Trump promised, a budget that "puts America first with a \$54 billion increase in defense spending and \$2.6 billion for the wall that Mexico is supposed to pay for.

We need to rail against this budget even as we tease out its odious details, but we also need to realize that it is too early to panic. Why? The United States Congress still has to pass this budget. Though Republicans control the House of Representatives and the Senate. I can't believe they have all lost their

There will be lots of moaning and groaning, teeth-gnashing and horror about this budget, but there should also be resistance. There will be hearings, and those who resist ought to attend those hearings. Members of Congress will be visiting their districts, and resisters need to be there to confront them about this budget. The proposed White House budget is nothing but a request. It is not a fait accompli, and it won't be unless we roll over and accept this madness.

Our 45th President exhibits an unusual

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Baltimore, MD 21218  
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# Pi Omega Chapter hosts 61st Annual Talent Hunt

Baltimore—Pi Omega Chapter, Graduate Chapter of Baltimore, MD, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., hosted the 61st Annual Bro. Kelvin J. O’Neal Talent Hunt Competition on Sunday March 5, 2017 at The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, located at 830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore City.

The Talent Hunt demonstration was created in 1945 from the Fraternity’s Sixth District (North Carolina and South Carolina), and is one of the international projects of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Pi Omega has participated in this event for 60 years, and many of our talented high school youths have benefited from this project through all-expenses paid trips, U.S. Savings Bonds, trophies, certificates, print and televised media exposure.

Students from public and private schools in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and the surrounding area were participants in this year’s competition. The winners were as follows:

**Vocal Contemporary:** (1) Jasmine Oyefusi (Towson High School), (2) Trinity Kinsler (Edgewood High School), (3) Shamijah Dorsey (Western High School), Sierra Kinsler (Catonsville High School) **Instrumental Classical:** (1) Myla Brown (Pikesville High School) **Dance:** (1) Alexis Eley (Maryvale Preparatory School)

Jasmine Oyefusi will represent Pi Omega Chapter at the District Talent Hunt Competition, which will be held during the 69th Second District Conference at the Westchester Hilton Hotel in Rye Brook, New York, the weekend of May 4-7, 2017.

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This year’s Talent Hunt contestants with members of Pi Omega Chapter and the Pi Omega Foundation at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture on March 5, 2017. (First row, left to right) Sierra Kinsler; Trinity Kinsler; and Alexis Eley (Second row, left to right) Allen Taylor, Ron Williams, Basileus, Pi Omega Chapter; Autumn Hancock; Shimijah Dorsey; Myla Brown; Jasmine Oyefusi; and Talent Hunt Chairman John Berkley.

Photo Credit: Joseph McNeill and Lamonte Tyler

Autumn Hancock from Sudbrook Magnet School played a musical selection on the trumpet at the 61st Annual Talent Hunt. Hancock is considered a “Futures Performer” since she is not old enough to formally participate in the program. She did an excellent job and was invited to perform again next year.

The Talent Hunt competition was renamed in 2011 following the death of Bro. O’Neal who was the Talent Hunt Chairman for over 20 years.

Bro. John Berkley served as the chairperson for the 61st Annual Bro. Kelvin J. O’Neal Talent Hunt. Bro. Allen Taylor once again did an outstanding job as MC

for this event. Special thanks were extended to the Pi Omega Foundation

for providing the funding for this year’s competition.

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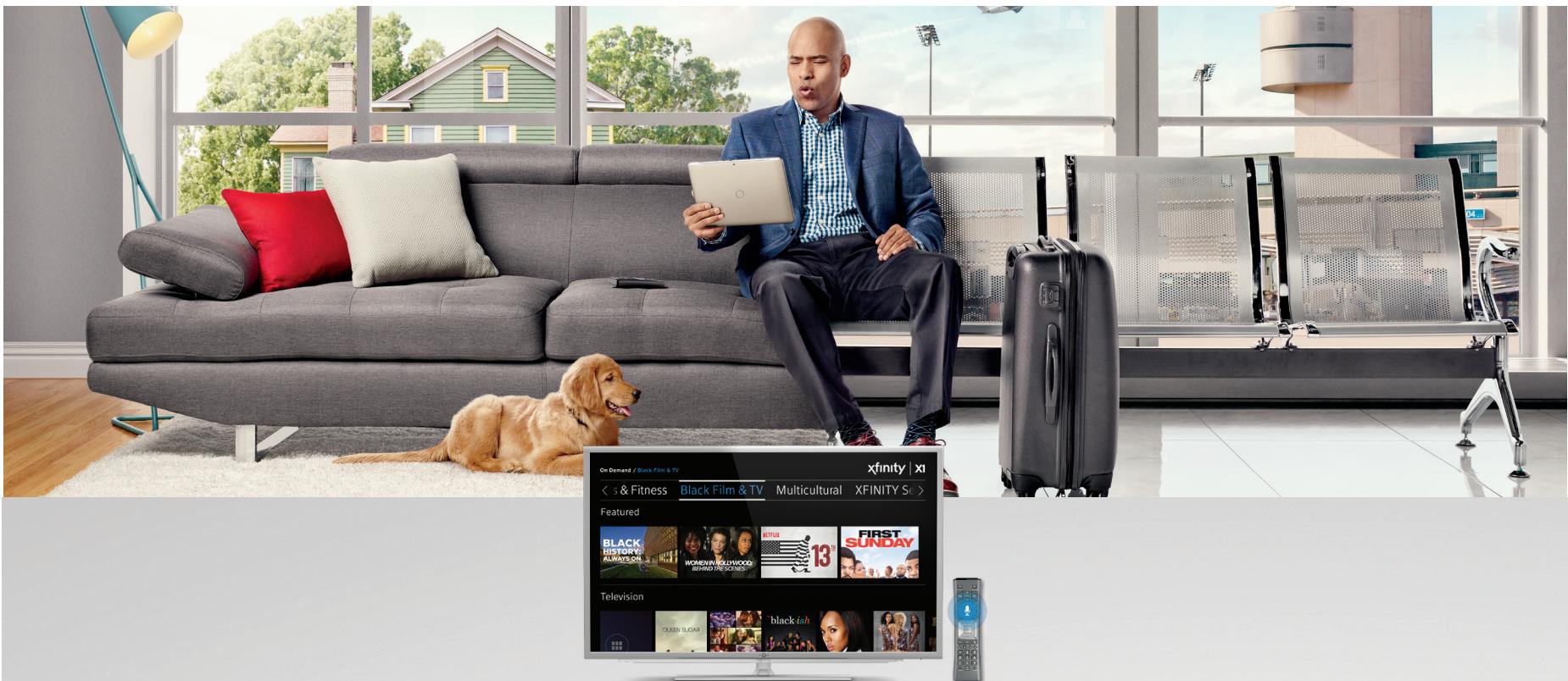
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# Helping Our Veterans Back to Work!

By Deborah Bailey

Joseph Quarles was among the first in line at the "Marching Our Veterans Back to Work" event on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Cromwell Business Park in Glen Burnie, Md.

More than 800 suits were provided to veterans in the Fort Meade area.

The honorably discharged United States Seaman (US Navy) didn't know his suit size but knew that he was in the middle of starting a new chapter in his life, as a returning student at the University of Baltimore.

"I love my country and I love helping veterans," said Quarles. "I came from an organization called McVET. I'm in the job market and I thought I'd come out and take advantage of meeting new people and getting a new suit."

Helping give veterans a hand up and enabling them to confidently make an entrance at their next job interview is exactly what Farmers Insurance had in mind when they imagined what a new suit could do to bolster a veteran looking for work in the civilian marketplace.

Then, Farmers stumbled upon Captain Pete Smith, United States Marine Corps Reserve, (Fort Meade) who is also a city councilman in Anne Arundel County (D-District 1). From that run-in, a unique idea was born for the veterans in the Fort Meade, Anne Arundel County, Howard County and the Baltimore area.

"Farmers launched a program nationally with the goal of collecting 50,000 suits and [other] pieces of business attire for our transitioning military. We've actually exceeded that goal and have

collected 70,000 pieces nationwide," said Carly Kraft from Farmers Insurance.

A colleague of Kraft's connected with Smith who saw the possibilities for veterans who lived near Fort Meade and surrounding areas.

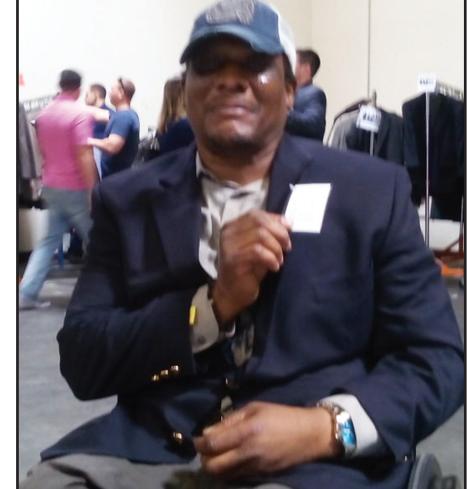
"When he found out that we had suits to donate, he thought about putting together the event, and here we are," Kraft said.

"We decided to make this a community event. Once Farmers told us how many suits they had to give, I was like, 'wow we're really going to need all the help we can get,'" said Captain Smith.

"I reached [out] to my extended network and brought these people together to see if we could make this work," Smith said. "All of my different lives—on the City Council, as marine captain and as budget officer at Fort Meade came together to make this work."

Howard County Councilman Calvin Ball said that he was excited to see the level of inter-governmental collaboration between Anne Arundel and Howard counties as well as the corporate response to serving veterans.

"Pete and I often talk about ways that we can better serve our community, and when he brought this idea to me, I was so excited to see how we could serve our veterans," Ball said. "We thought this



(Left) Private First Class Selena Johnson, Active Guard Reserve, selects a suit (Right) Joseph Quarles, who was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy models a new suit jacket that he selected the Marching Our Veterans Back to Work" event on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Cromwell Business Park in Glen Burnie.

Photos by Deborah Bailey

was going to be an event for about 250 veterans but we were amazed to get a response from close to 800 veterans."

Farmers Insurance has a longstanding commitment to the military. The company was founded by two World War I

veterans and launched Suits for Soldiers nationwide in October 2016. ZIPS Dry Cleaners laundered the items provided to veterans at the event free of charge. St. Johns Properties also served as a major corporate donor for the event.

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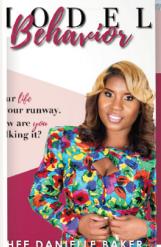
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# *Symposium encourages blacks to get involved in \$17 billion tourism industry*

By Stacy M. Brown

Baltimore's tourism counts as a \$5 billion industry. Overall, tourists help bring in about \$17 billion throughout the state, according to the latest figures from the Chamber of Commerce.

However, with all the money dedicated locally to what's billed as a diverse Baltimore, Lou Fields said the vast dollars that help to revitalize downtown and the Inner Harbor rarely makes its way uptown and into inner city Baltimore.

"We have a lot of tourism, but black people get very little from it," said Fields, the president and CEO of the Baltimore African-American Tourism Council, a nonprofit whose mission is to educate, promote and preserve Maryland's African-American history and culture.

Fields has organized the council's second Charm City Cultural Heritage Tourism Symposium, where he promises to provide a current and future outlook on tourism in Baltimore and how African-Americans might be able to share in the lucrative business.



**Lou Fields**  
President/CEO of the Baltimore African-American Tourism Council  
Courtesy Photo

Scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at the Reginald F. Lewis

Museum of Maryland African-American History & Culture, the event will include tourism presentations and panel discussions; Charm City Tourism Awards & Taste of Soul Luncheon with chef Jim Britton; and a Charm City Bus Tour that culminates with a visit to the Horseshoe Casino. The doors open at 10 a.m.

The theme for the symposium is "The Tourists are Coming Let's Get Bmore Ready," Fields said. "It's based on the fact that...we might ordinarily have one or two major black conventions coming to Baltimore—this year, we have as many as seven."

Casey Jenkins of the Maryland

Tourism Development board; Dr. Joanne Martin, co-founder of the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum; Al Hutchinson, CEO of Visit Baltimore; Tessa Hill Aston of the NAACP; Michael Haynie, CEO of Parkway Hospitality Management; and Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce head Kendrick Tilghman are all scheduled to attend.

"We will also be inviting students from Morgan State, where a hospitality program is offered; small businesses; museum people; and those who work in the hospitality industry," Fields said.

The primary motive behind the symposium is simple, according to Fields.

"Tourism is a multi-billion-dollar industry, yet there are no black millionaires in the industry in Maryland," Fields said. "We're doing symposiums to educate small, minority and black-owned businesses about the value and benefits of being in the industry because of the revenue it generates and the employment opportunities it creates, including the entry-level opportunities for young people who need work."

The previous symposium held in 2014 attracted several special guests, including Dr. Skip Saunders, the director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and Ambassador Tebelelo Mazile Seretse from Botswana.

"The 2014 symposium connected our communities to a huge economic industry," Fields said. "But, we need to make sure the money that's derived from tourism reaches our communities."

For more information about the symposium, call 443-983-7974 or email: bbhtours@gmail.com.



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A vertical advertisement for Exquisite Transportation. It features a black SUV in the foreground against a starry night sky. The company name "EXQUISITE TRANSPORTATION" is at the top in yellow and red, followed by service options "BWI - DULLES AIRPORT - AMTRAK REAGAN NATIONAL - CAR SERVICE" in red. The phone number "443-992-2844" is at the bottom in large red digits.

## The Sarah M. Roach Tutoring Program

# Private school students assist public school students through unique initiative

By Ursula V. Battle

It all started as a conversation. Two years ago, Katy Illuminati, a kindergarten teacher at Sarah M. Roach Elementary School mentioned to fellow teacher Jason Adler, a Science teacher at Mount Saint Joseph High School (MSJ) that it would be a wonderful idea if students at his school could tutor youngsters at her school. Sarah M. Roach Elementary is a Baltimore City Public School located at 3434 Old Frederick Road, while Mount Saint Joseph is a Catholic college preparatory school for young men from 9th to 12th grade.

Mount Saint Joseph is located just minutes away on 4403 Frederick Avenue.

"I thought it would be great," recalled Illuminati. "Sarah M. Roach and Mt. St. Joseph are only about two miles away from each other, but the schools are vastly different. I thought it would be a great learning experience for both sides."

Adler moved forward with the suggestion, and with the assistance of Illuminati and others, the idea came to fruition. Every Thursday after school, students from Mount Saint Joseph High School assist youngsters at the school in reading and other areas through the Sarah M. Roach Tutoring Program.

"I attended a private school," said Illuminati. "I think it's great for a private school to get involved, because oftentimes they don't know what is going on outside of that particular school."

Everett Jackson is a senior at Mount Saint Joseph High School. He serves as the Working Group chairperson of the Sarah M. Roach Tutoring Program for the National Honor Society at Mount Saint Joseph.

"This program creates a bond with the kids who may not get to see young positive role models," said Everett. "For those of us who are not from the city, this program puts faces to the situation involving the youth in the city, and opens our minds up. I don't see this as a job. I see this as an opportunity to help the youth in Baltimore City and to have fun with them."



*Mount De Sales Academy seniors Valerie, Molly, and Carly, along with Sarah M. Roach Elementary School second-grader Harlie. Photos: Ursula V. Battle*



*Sarah M. Roach second-grader Makaylah and Maggie, a senior at Mount De Sales Academy.*



*Aaron Johnson, tutor, and seven-year-old Gerard.*



*Gabrielle, a seven-year-old student at Sarah M. Roach twisting the hair of Mount De Sales Academy senior Danielle, who is a tutor with the program.*

Everett, 17, has worked with the program since it started. He says he will be attending Morgan State University in the fall on a full scholarship.

"I coordinate the car pools, the lesson planning, activities, and other things relative to the tutoring program," he said. "If anything comes up, I am the go-to person. I really enjoy working with the kids. This program has been great, and is a wonderful way to help the community."

Aaron Johnson, a senior at Mount Saint Joseph is also a tutor.

"This has been great," said Aaron.

"This is a neat way to help Baltimore. These youth are the future of our society, and this provides a nice way to give back and get them prepared."

Gerard, a second grader at Sarah M. Roach Elementary School, is among the youngsters who are in the tutoring program.

"It's fun," said Gerard with a big smile. "I learn math, reading, and a lot of fun stuff."

Jkahi, a nine-year-old student at the school, added, "I think it's great. I like learning about triangles, reading, and the other activities that we do."

The partnership initially was comprised of male students from both schools, but has since expanded to include females from Sarah M. Roach Elementary School, who are tutored by females who attend Mount De Sales Academy located at 700 Academy Road in Catonsville. Mount de Sales Academy is an all-girls secondary school.



Seven-year-old Markkiecee, who attends Sarah M. Roach Elementary School reading a book along with Connor Churko, a student at Mount Saint Joseph High School. The two are participants in the Sarah M. Roach Tutoring Program.



Mount De Sales Academy student Maggie assisting Sarah M. Roach second-grader Makaylah with homework. Photos: Ursula V. Battle

## Five Guys Named Moe to be Performed at Hopkins

*Production is part of Unified Voices' 23rd Anniversary celebration*

Baltimore— Unified Voices (UV) of Johns Hopkins will present the highly anticipated stage play, Five Guys Named Moe April 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2017 in Johns Hopkins' Turner Auditorium located at 720 Rutland Avenue in Baltimore. Five Guys Named Moe is being presented through special arrangements with Cameron Macintosh and Music Theatre International (MTI). The play is the Theatrical portion of UV's 23rd Anniversary Celebration, which also includes a May concert.

Five Guys Named Moe is a musical with a book by Clarke Peters and lyrics and music by Louis Jordan and others. The play is based on an earlier musical short of the same name by Louis Jordan from 1943. It had its UK debut in 1990 at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, running for over four years in the West End, and then premiering on Broadway in 1992. It was revived in 2010 at the Edinburgh Festival, starring Peters himself, and returned later in 2010 to the theatre in which it originally premiered. The musical won the "Laurence Olivier Award" for Best Entertainment.

The play's storyline is centered on Nomax (Carltaise Ransom), who has no money, and whose girlfriend has left him. He finds Big Moe (David Bell), Four-Eyed Moe (Avery Pearsall), Eat Moe (Arnold Harper), No Moe (Christopher



*Five Guys Named Moe is coming to the Johns Hopkins' Turner Auditorium on April 7 through 9, 2017. Courtesy Photo*

Lay), and Lil' Moe (Aaron Rowell) emerging from his 1930s-style radio to comfort him.

They sing the hit songs of songwriter and saxophonist Louis Jordan, whose new slant on jazz paved the way for rock and roll in the 1950s. The UV performance will also include background singers Liam Lindsay, Demorrice Mattox, Will McNair, Willie Robertson, and Keith Stewart.

Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch is Stage Director of the production, while Howard "Buddy" Lakins, Jr. is the Musical Director. Terrell Kellam is the Choreographer. On May 21, 2017 at 5 p.m., UV will pres-

ent the Musical portion of its 23rd Anniversary Celebration, with a concert featuring special guest performers Eric Waddell & The Abundant Life Singers.

"We are excited to present these dynamic performances to celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins," said Dr. Branch, who also serves as Executive Director of UV. "We are asking everyone to come out and support Five Guys Named Moe and our May concert as UV celebrates 23 years of spreading hope, health, and healing through harmony at Hopkins. People can expect to laugh, cry, and most of all, to be uplifted as Hopkins turns into the Hippodrome."

Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins is a gospel choir that consists of a diverse group of individuals with different personalities, lifestyles, and backgrounds working together to bridge the gap between the medical institution and the historic East Baltimore community and beyond.

Show times are as follows: Friday, April 7, 2017 (7 p.m.), Saturday, April 8, 2017 (2 p.m. & 7 p.m.) and Sunday, April 9, 2017 (5 p.m.). Tickets are \$10. Seating is General, with doors opening 30 minutes before the performance. For more information or to purchase tickets call (410) 955-8888 or visit [www.unified-voices.com](http://www.unified-voices.com).

# Non-profit plans full court press for round four of Brackets for Good

Melissa Gerr, Guest Contributor  
Maryland New Directions

Maryland New Directions (MND), the award winning non-profit organization, which has provided no-cost employment counseling and specialized career training programs for Baltimore area residents for more than 40 years, slam dunks its way into "Round Four, the Engaged Eight" in Baltimore's first ever "Brackets for Good" tournament style fundraising competition.

Playing off the nation's March Madness college basketball bracket-frenzy each year, Brackets for Good hosts this single-elimination, bracket-style fundraising tournament across the country that raises funds and promotes awareness for nonprofit organizations of all sizes.

In Round Four, which runs through March 24, 2017 at 8 p.m., MND plans a full court press to move forward to the penultimate round with an eye on taking the championship.

In Round Four MND competes against the Red Devils Breast Cancer Support, two of only eight nonprofits that remain in the competition of the original 56 selected. They will battle it out for their spot in the semi finals, as only four nonprofits will advance. However, with all of the funds being raised, it's obvious that everybody wins!

Currently MND holds the title of Top Scorer in Baltimore (points equal dollar donations) and the overall champion in each city will receive an additional \$10,000 from Brackets for Good—so

the game is heated and the stakes are high.

"Our team is playing hard and we are in WIN mode," said Barbara Reed, MND development manager.

Baltimore businesses are warming the bench by joining the "Jump Shots for Jobs" campaign.

The local business support has been incredible, including game-changers

invited to join the fundraising for MND and help improve the economic future for Baltimore and its residents.

"If you're interested in supporting families, youth and economic growth, join our team today and help raise awareness, become a partner and participate in the giving," Reed said.

One of the programs that will benefit from the funds raised is MND's Oppor-

most of whom face significant obstacles in finding a job or establishing a new career. Maryland New Directions' holistic approach and valuable employer partnerships create opportunity for long-term careers and produce remarkable outcomes that include industry recognized credentials, a livable wage and an impressive employment retention rate of more than 80 percent of its graduates.



*Maryland New Directions prepares for the Semi-Finals with only eight of the original 56 non-profits in Baltimore remaining in the tournament. Playing off the nation's March Madness college basketball bracket-frenzy each year, Brackets for Good hosts this single-elimination, bracket-style fundraising tournament across the country that raises funds and promotes awareness for non-profit organizations of all sizes.*

Courtesy Photo/MND

CohnReznick, Greater Chesapeake Charitable Foundation, MECU, Mt. Washington Tavern, R-House, On The Border, Uno Harbor Place, and many others. Everyone is in the game and we are scoring," she said.

Don't drop the ball! The public is

tunity Youth Employment Program, which provides additional coaching, internships, support services and other certifications to help launch young Baltimoreans into their careers.

Also in for the win are the more than 350 motivated job seekers annually,

To donate and help position Maryland New Directions for the 2017 Brackets for Good Championship, visit <https://baltimore.bfg.org/city>. To learn more about MND, visit: [www.mdnewdirections.org](http://www.mdnewdirections.org) or [www.facebook.com/MNDBaltimore/](http://www.facebook.com/MNDBaltimore/).

## Summer camps for grieving children and teens return for 26th year

Pasadena, Md.— The Chesapeake Life Center, a program of Hospice of the Chesapeake, is now registering participants for Camp Nabi and Phoenix Rising to be held simultaneously over the weekend of August 11 to 13, 2017 at the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland.

•Camp Nabi, a weekend camp for grieving children ages six to 13, provides time for children to share their stories, play and work together while also enjoying camp activities. Now in its 26th year, Camp Nabi has served more than a thousand children. Children entering first and second grade will attend a day camp on Saturday, August 12. Children entering third through eighth grade will stay the entire weekend.

•Phoenix Rising, a weekend retreat for teens, promotes resiliency and an exploration of coping strategies through team building activities.

Both camps provide an interactive program supported by a professional staff and team of trained volunteers to help participants to process their grief in a safe, accepting environment. All lodging, meals, snacks and activities are included in the one-time application fee. There are several small scholarships available for those in need. Space is limited.

To apply, visit [www.chesapeakelifecenter.org](http://www.chesapeakelifecenter.org). To have an application mailed to you, call 888-501-7077 or email [campnabi@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:campnabi@chesapeakelifecenter.org). The deadline to apply is July 15, 2017.



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## BGE Residential Customers' Winter Electric Bills 25 Percent Lower

Baltimore— Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) residential electric customer bills were down 25 percent on average this winter compared to winter bills from two years ago. This translates to an average customer savings of \$72 per month during this past winter. Customers also used less electricity this winter through February thanks to mild weather, participation in energy efficiency programs, and by managing their energy use with detailed, real-time information provided by smart meters.

Lower commodity prices, which are set by global markets, are also a significant factor. In addition to the savings created by efficiency and lower commodity costs, beginning this month BGE residential electric customers' bills also will be additionally reduced by an average of \$5.47 with BGE's retirement of long-term bonds used to fund past power purchase costs. The average BGE residential customer's total monthly bill remains lower than 2008 levels.

"Partnering with our customers so they can manage their monthly usage to have greater control of the cost of their electric service is a win-win. Lower usage contributes to lower bills and helps us meet our efficiency goals while also benefiting the environment," said Rob Biagiotti, vice president and chief customer officer for BGE. "At the same time, we are also investing more than ever in equipment upgrades and maintenance to better serve our customers with quality electric power and safe, reliable natural gas. This has resulted in significant improvements in reliability for our customers."

In 2016, the average number of electric service interruptions was the fourth lowest rate in BGE's history, and when customers did experience an outage, BGE restored power faster than ever before. The average length of a service interruption has been reduced by 49 minutes over the last five years.

# Rambling Rose

**More daylight. More live music!**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, Daylight Savings Time has begun. It gives us more time to hang out, to hear live entertainment, especially given that the weather been very strange in a good way. We want to tell you about some fun places to go. So follow my Rose-mobile and let's hit the road.

Now depending on what you are interested in, we can start with the Griots Circle of Maryland, who are the sponsors of a storytelling event to celebrate Women's History Month, entitled "The Mothers of the Movement" on Sunday, March 26 from 2 to 3 p.m. Mannnnnnn! I have no idea why it is only for an hour but it is going to be at the Hampton National Historic site located in Towson, so check this out! The Griots will present portrayals of Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, Mother Mary Lange, Zora Neal Hurston and Maya Angelou through word and song. The presentation will be held in the Orangery. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call 410-788-3555 or email at baltimore-griot@hotmail.com.

Next, we are going to hang out at MarvaD's located 9603 Deereco Rd., in Timonium, on Sunday, March 26 to check out some more live entertainment with MarvaD. We are going to see Stan "The Man" Hampton doing a tribute show to Teddy Pendergrass and a special performance by Douglass High Alumni Jazz Band and my adopted daughter, Ms. Maybelle, will host this event. I already have my tickets, so call MarvaD and get yours at 410-599-9159.

Remembering the "Jazz Jam Sessions" at the Sportsmen Lounge back in the day on Monday nights, and the Bird Cage on Chester Street in East Baltimore, well it is all back! If you really like live entertainment, with a jazz and a

little bit of a blues kick then check out these clubs for jazz jam sessions:

- Mondays at An die Musik Live, 409 N. Charles Street 7:30 p.m. for participating musicians call 410-385-2638;
- Tuesdays at Randallstown Community Center, 3505 Resource Drive in Randallstown, Maryland 6-8 p.m. for more information, call 410-887-0698;
- Every first and third Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m., at 49 West Street in Annapolis, Maryland. For more information, call 410-626-9796;
- Every Thursday at The Place Lounge, 336 N. Charles Street from 8-11 p.m. For more information, call 410-547-2722 and tell them "Rambling Rose told you.

Okay, I am going to take you to west Baltimore to the 2100 block of Edmondson Avenue. Yes! I am talking about the Gentle 10 Lounge, which is under new management. Tim White, the owner, is a nice guy. Shorty and I stopped by there on Monday afternoon at the invitation of Carl Beasley, former manager of the Poet's Athletic Club on East North Avenue. He told me about the dynamite happy hour he goes to every Monday starting at 1 p.m., which is a good time of day for me. The starmaid, Debbie, serves great drinks. There's a dinner buffet for you to feed the alcohol. By the way, all drinks are under \$6. With some old jazz and oldies playing on the jukebox, meeting and greeting some old friends, honey child, we had a ball! So I tell you what, meet me there next Monday, I promise you that you will have a great time. Tell Debbie, I sent you.

I have got to go now, I'm parking the Rose-mobile so if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



**Art Sherrod, Jr. CD Release Concert will perform at Rams Head in Annapolis, Maryland on March 26 for one night, 6:30 p.m. Rams Head Onstage is located 33 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland. For ticket information, call 410-268-4545**



**Stan "The Man" Hampton will give tribute to Teddy Pendergrass at MarvaD Event "Sunday Serenade on Sunday, March 26, starting at 5 p.m. at the Magooby's, 9603 Deereco Road, Timonium, Maryland with comedian, Mrs. Maybelle as the host. For ticket information, call 410-599-9159.**



**Dr. Lonnie Smith, organist will perform at the 27th Annual Berks Jazz Festival Concert on Saturday, March 31, 2017 at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. The Festival runs until April 9, 2017 at various venues in Reading, Pennsylvania along with Baltimore's own Greg Hatza Organization.**

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# LBJ Kicks Off opening night at Annapolis Film Festival 2017

LBJ, the Rob Reiner-directed drama chronicling the life and times of the legendary and controversial Texan who would inherit the Presidency at one of the most fraught moments in American history, will be the Annapolis Film Festival's Opening Night film Thursday, March 30 at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts.

Starring Woody Harrelson as LBJ, Jeffrey Donovan as John F. Kennedy, Richard Jenkins as Senator Richard Russell, Jr., and Jennifer Jason Leigh as Lady Bird Johnson, this film with contemporary relevance is slated for theatrical release this summer. LBJ shows Johnson confronting the challenge of leading a nation still grieving its beloved President Kennedy, even as he grapples with urgent calls for social justice led by Martin Luther King Jr. Shrewd by nature even when he was appallingly coarse, Johnson emerges in Harrelson's full-blooded characterization as a man willing to drive through landmark legislation partly on principle and largely on



**LBJ** is the story of U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson from his young days in West Texas to the White House. Opening night starts with a screening of **LBJ** followed by a Q&A with director Rob Reiner, screenwriter Joey Hartstone, actor Jeffrey Donovan, and producers Matthew George, Tim White, and Trevor White.

Courtesy Photos

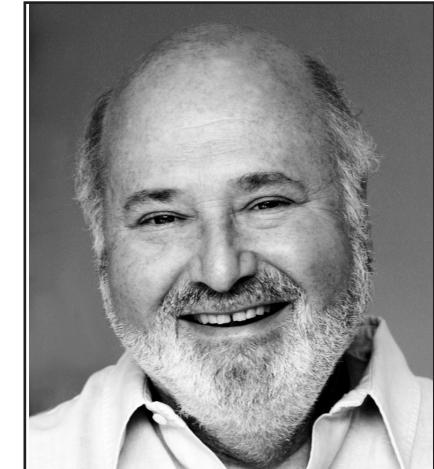
guts. Producers of LBJ include Reiner, Matthew George, Liz Glotzer, and Annapolis natives Trevor and Tim White.

Now in its fifth year, the Annapolis Film Festival (AFF) brings independent cinema to the Chesapeake with an ex-

traordinary lineup of narrative, short, and documentary films. The Festival takes place March 30th to April 2nd, 2017 in downtown Annapolis. More than 70 of the world's smartest and edgiest just-released films will be screened across the four days of the Festival, kicking off with the Opening Night Film at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts.

The Opening Night screening is followed by an After Party hosted through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. Film screening venues include Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, the Francis Scott Key Auditorium at St. John's College, Asbury United Methodist Church on West Street, St. Anne's Parish Hall on Duke of Gloucester, and Annapolis Elementary School on Green Street. Panels will be held at the O'Callaghan Annapolis Hotel. Moviegoers can stroll through historic Annapolis between venues or catch the AFF-exclusive City Circulator trolley, a free ride when an AFF pass or ticket is presented.

Signature AFF programs include the Friday night African-American Experience Showcase, Chasing Trane, a Denzel Washington-narrated documentary about the origins and worldwide impact of jazz titan John Coltrane. This year's Environmental Showcase presents the documen-



Rob Reiner, director

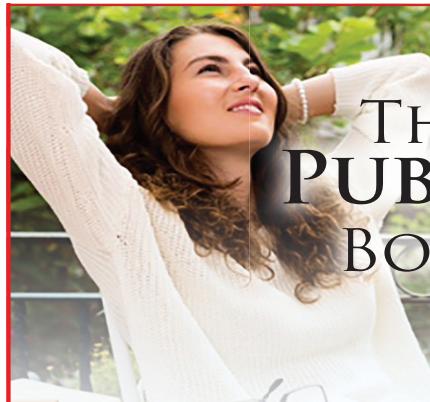
tary The Islands and the Whales, directed by Mike Day and featuring pioneering ambisonic sound design by George Lucas' Skywalker Sound. Other film topics include our Jewish Experience showcase, sailing, the military, politics, food, the LGBTQ community, global issues, current events, and the fine arts.

An array of Shakespeare-inspired short film programs features titles such as All the World's A Stage and Farewell, Fair Cruelty. There is also a Local Focus showcase of locally-produced short films and a program of top-tier student films. The Juried Shorts competition returns to the weekend lineup.

"Coffee Talks with..." is an intimate opportunity for VIP passholders to hear behind-the-scenes talk about directing, acting, and producing. Hosted at Chesapeake Brewing Company with beverages provided by Baltimore Coffee and Tea Co., these informal morning chats take place 9-10 am, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Tickets cost from \$12.50 for a single screening or panel to \$125 for a general festival pass. The pass includes the Opening Night Film and After Party and unlimited films and panels for four days. Student and senior tickets are \$10. Day Passes are \$40 each and Student Passes are \$50.00 for all four days.

Passes can be obtained from [www.anapolisfilmfestival.com](http://www.anapolisfilmfestival.com) now with tickets to individual films available for purchase on March 1, 2017.



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# Workshop offers methods to change one's personal narrative through writing

Pasadena, Md.—Discover how to use writing as a personal tool to express, clarify and ultimately change your emotional landscape. Register today for "Writing: A Power Tool for Change," an interactive workshop presented by award-winning author Laura Oliver from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 29, 2017, at Chesapeake Life Center on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus at 90 Ritchie Highway in Pasadena, Maryland.

Oliver will introduce a number of journaling methods that might appeal to grieving adults more than the traditional "write down what's in your head" technique. By exploring the power of story and words, participants can learn to express the chapter of loss that has been written into their lives while writing a new chapter envisioning hope and well being.

"Words are so powerful," Oliver said. "Words change your thoughts. Thoughts change your feelings."

The workshop is open to the community and does not require any writing skill. "Only an open spirit," Oliver said. Participants can share their stories or they can write privately. It is up to each individual.

Author of "The Story Within," Oliver's short stories and essays have appeared in numerous regional and



national publications. She has a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and literature from Bennington College and teaches writing workshops at St. John's College. Learn more about

Oliver at [www.thestorywithin.com](http://www.thestorywithin.com).

The workshop is open to adults ages 18 and older. The cost is \$25, which includes a copy of "The Story Within." Registration is required and can be

completed online at <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/the-life-center-109/tlc-calendar/event/302-laura-oliver-journal-workshop> or by calling 888-501-7077.

**Send your community calendar events for Annapolis area to: [kreevie@btimes.com](mailto:kreevie@btimes.com)**

## Hate doing your own taxes?

Then you're in luck! You may qualify for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at Anne Arundel Community College.

In the program, IRS-certified volunteers—faculty, alums and current students—provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals, generally residents with \$54,000 or less of annual income.

The program runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays until Wednesday, April 12, 2017 in the Careers Building Room 326 at 101 College Parkway, Arnold.

"Our goal is to do 100 returns successfully, e-filed and accepted," said Reb Beatty, site coordinator, assistant professor in business administration at the college and an active CPA.

To schedule an appointment, call 410-777-2390 or email: [hcharrington@aacc.edu](mailto:hcharrington@aacc.edu).

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