

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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Four million low-income Americans connected to high speed Internet



David L. Cohen, a senior executive at Comcast who oversees Internet Essentials, and Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Internet Essentials' national spokesperson, work with children learning digital literacy in a computer lab in Houston. (See article on page 11) Courtesy Photo/Comcast

Baltimore native partners with City of Gary, Hill Harper to kick off BrownGirl Village Tour

Gary, Indiana— Gary, Indiana was the site for the 2017 inaugural BrownGirl Village tour. Over 200 girls participated in this highly-anticipated summit hosted by Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and the City of Gary.

Founded by Baltimore native, Sharon Page, BrownGirl Village is a non-profit organization with headquarters at City Garage in Baltimore City. The organization places an emphasis on underserved girls of color, between the ages of 12-18 and helps them realize that their goals are possible with hardwork, dedication and determination. The organization's mission is to deposit self-esteem and to inspire girls to serve, innovate and to lead by exposing them to things outside of their normal environment.

Featured speakers at the summit included accomplished actor, philanthropist and author Hill Harper; along with Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson; former Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; Emmy Award-winning journalist and news anchor Cheryl Burton of ABC 7 News-Chicago; Former Miss Black America and WWE wrestler Queen Sharmell; "Girl Power Hour" Radio Host Maria Wills, Detroit MBA President Paulina Johnson; and Digital Marketer Alicia Glenn – just to name a few. Hill Harper, co-star of the new ABC series "The Good Doctor," was the highlight of the day. He reminded the girls they were FINE (Fantastic, Interesting, Necessary and Exceptional). His personally penned, acclaimed release "Letters to a Young Black Sister: DeFINE Your



Over 200 girls participated in this highly-anticipated 2017 inaugural BrownGirl Village summit in Gary, Indiana. (Left to right) Accomplished actor, philanthropist and author Hill Harper with Gary, Indiana Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson during the event.
Courtesy Photo/BrownGirl Village

Destiny" was a steady narrative for the summit. Hill used excerpts from his book that related to the perils young teens face today in relation to inspiration, self-esteem, support of one another and self-love.

"I am overwhelmed by the success of the inaugural event. I am amazed at the number of participants and parents who have expressed how positive the experience was for them. We have the opportunity to grow this event in Gary, Indiana

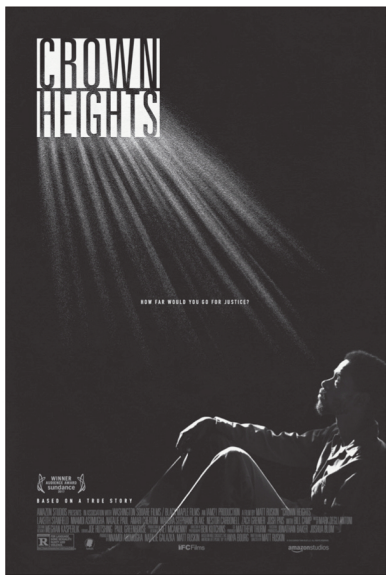
and look forward to building villages in other urban cities," said Sharon Page, founder, BrownGirl Village.

The retreat was a full day experience. Summit topics included: Women in Politics, The Beauty of Business, Social Butterfly, Naturally & Authentically You, Fit BrownGirlz, Youth Financial Literacy, BrownGirls Love Science and an Etiquette Lunch. The girls also participated in a 40-minute Zumba class, which was a first for many. The attendees were also surprised and provided a free book bags courtesy of The City of Gary.

"Our inaugural BrownGirl Village Summit was held in Baltimore last year and was very successful, so we decided to take BrownGirl Village on the road. Being a brown girl from Baltimore, I was eager to continue this tour across the United States to inspire and encourage other brown girls to walk in their destiny, in spite of their current situation," Page said. "Our goal is to have a village in every urban city and we are excited that our first 'Sister City' is Gary, Indiana."



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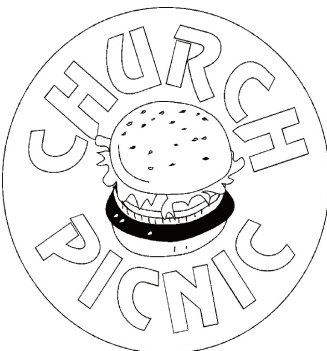
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Guest Editorials/Letters

Should I go to that Neo-Nazi rally to fight back?

By Stephanie Van Hook and Michael Nagler

When we hear that the Neo-Nazi movement is coming to our town, most of us naturally feel called or pushed to some kind of action. But not every action is going to be effective, especially if we are walking into a situation where the level of dehumanization is extreme—where people are prepared to harm or kill others. How then can we draw from the power of nonviolence in a situation of escalating violence?

First, we have to understand that nonviolence is strategic, principled, and revolutionary. It answers to the violence around us by offering, in a disciplined manner, its opposite. Nonviolence is by no means passivity. It is not inaction. And, we would include, it should not be shortsighted, reactive action. When using this power we should know what we are taking on and be prepared for encountering hatred without the fear of being overcome by it. Remember, the power of nonviolence comes from not opposing the real well being of anyone, even—or especially—when we have to oppose their actions.

When we choose to go against our "fight or flight" response, we can find creative, nonviolent ways for responding to "Unite the Right" rallies that do not escalate violent tensions with more violence—whether defensive or offensive. The real answer to violence is not counter-violence, however strongly we've been conditioned to believe that, but the demonstration of a counter-force. Human nature is such that even though we may not see the effects of such a demonstration in the short term, it always works under the surface to change the hearts and minds of our opponents—even those deeply conditioned by hate (and feeling deeply inadequate, though they themselves may not be conscious of it).

Here, then, are some of the things we can do:

1. When a hate group is coming to town, instead of directly confronting them and falling into the trap of chaos they want to create, instead of providing them the publicity that blows their importance out of proportion, we can engage in other activities and get the media pointed at those, such as a pro-peace concert or dance contest at the same time as their meeting. Failing such an alternative, just plain ignore them—the way the good people of Montgomery just ignored a normally terrifying Klan ride in 1958. It shows that we are reclaiming our spaces with humanity and safety while acting together as a mature, loving community.

2. Another creative solution that can deflate the vehemence of a hate rally is to gather the community to donate money to a group like the Southern Poverty Law Center for every square foot covered by the hate group. Turn their gatherings turn into nonviolent, anti-fascist, pro-peace fundraisers.

3. In all this, though, it's important to not unthinkingly imitate past sensational nonviolent actions or tactics. Each situation is different and we need to explore what is at stake and plan for a variety of possible outcomes. Maybe we'll get arrested by the police, but what happens if we don't? How will we take care of each other if we do? What if someone is hurt? If we don't ask these kinds of questions, we leave the door open to violence, which can only add fuel to the fire.

Make no mistake: nonviolent action takes courage, planning and intelligence. It's the best, and quite possibly the only way to really counter these manifestations of hatred and ignorance that are disfiguring our society.

Stephanie Van Hook is executive director of the Metta Center for Nonviolence, co-host of Nonviolence Radio, and author of Gandhi Searches for Truth: A Practical Biography for Children; and Michael is professor emeritus at UC Berkeley and co-founder of their Peace and Conflict Studies program, co-host of Nonviolence Radio, and author of The Nonviolence Handbook: A Guide for Practical Action. They both write for Peace Voice.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Orioles' Camden Yards, an Iconic Piece of Baltimore

As a lifelong, diehard Orioles fan, I'm sure I'm not the only Baltimorean reflecting this week as the team celebrates the 25th anniversary of the opening of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Just a few weeks before Opening Day in 1992, I was appointed chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department and was very involved in the preparation of Oriole Park's big debut. In my first visit to the stadium, I was in awe of the beauty of the park and what it

represented for the city as well as the Orioles team.

Twenty five years later, I feel the same excitement stepping into the stadium that I did back then. I love the fans, the food and the energy! Camden Yards is a jewel not only in Baltimore but in all of MLB and deserves to be celebrated.

Herman Williams Jr.

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Embrace racial healing to change hearts and minds

By La June Montgomery Tabron

Prior to the displays of hatred and the tragic loss of Heather Heyer, a young woman who seemingly embraced the virtues of healing, a transformation was taking place in Charlottesville, Virginia. This college town, where roughly 80 percent of the residents are white, culminated a lawful process in February when its City Council voted to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from a city park.

Passionate acts came from opposing sides, as opponents filed suit to stop the removal and the city changed the name of Lee Park to Emancipation Park. But there was honest dialogue and truth-telling, the ingredients for healing. Neighbors learned more about one another, their culture and motivations. But the progress was derailed.

The protesters who converged in Charlottesville were largely white men often perceived as privileged in our society, and among their slogans was "We will not be replaced" by immigrants, blacks, Jews, or homosexuals. Instead of feeling empowered, they were threatened

and seemed in pain. Their hearts and minds needed healing.

However, racial healing doesn't begin until you intentionally, respectfully and patiently uncover shared truths, as Charlottesville residents had begun to do before the violence and turmoil. Shared truths are not simply the removal of physical symbols, like monuments.

While it may begin to change narratives, it doesn't reach the level of healing that jettisons racism from the land or creates equitable communities. Racism has persevered because remedies ranging from public accommodation laws to Supreme Court rulings are limited in scope and reach: They fail to change hearts and minds.

A new approach is needed that penetrates the full consciousness of our society, draws in all communities and focuses on racial healing and truth-telling.

Racial healing can facilitate trust and authentic relationships that bridge vast divides created by race, religion, ethnicity and economic status. Once the truths are shared, racism is acknowledged and hearts begin to mend, only then will communities begin to heal the wounds of the past and together move forward to address the bias in employment, education, housing and health that causes widespread disparities, and denies opportunities to our children.

To be sure, racial healing is predicated not just on an emotional encounter, such as saying, 'you're sorry,' rather it's predicated on a truth-telling—but whose truth? We all have our own truth and we need collective conversations to help us in reaching a common truth and a vision for the future, based on what we decide together.

And while sharing each of our individual truths requires sharing stories,

reaching a common truth is more than a blending of stories. It's about co-creating a common set of morals, principles, wisdom and guidance that is written on our hearts, captured in our faith and in how we treat each other as human beings. It is developed by all of us in the courtyard, in town halls, in living rooms with family and neighbors, all in the crucible of human goodness. That's where we develop "the" truth.

At the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), we promote racial healing because it moves people to act from their hearts. Real change happens when people work together and build relationships. Rarely does it occur when it is forced upon communities by laws and rulings. Last January, WKKF coordinated an annual National Day of Racial Healing, which inspired civic, religious, community and philanthropic organizations to collaborate on activities to facilitate racial healing. But we can't wait until next January to embrace racial healing.

Today, with the threat of unrest billowing through communities, our country needs to heal. All sides must air their pasts, fears, and anxieties, and articulate their visions for a future where all children can thrive.

After centuries of racial hierarchy, all sides have been wounded: Whenever a policy or decision gives privileges to some and not others or perpetuates injustices, the collective community suffers, and part of our common humanity is lost. It leaves some wounded and unable to work towards our collective interest.

What is inspiring is the healing that is happening around the country.

Earlier this year, 200 people gathered at the Chicago Theological Seminary for an extraordinary day of racial healing. People of all races, genders, religions

and ethnicities, gathered in healing circles to share their "truths" on the racism they endured or consciously or unconsciously unleashed on others. The healing circles were sanctuaries for truth-telling, and helped people see one another, acknowledge differences and begin to build authentic relationships.

WKKF, through our Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) framework, is supporting racial healing in the 14 places where the TRHT is being implemented. Since 2010, when our America Healing initiative launched, WKKF has actively promoted racial healing and supported racial healing practitioners who are available to help communities, concluding that:

- Racial healing accelerates human capacity for resilience, truly embracing one another and reconnecting many people who previously had their identities denied back to their roots, culture, language and rituals.

- The focus of racial healing is our "collective humanity," and lifting up that which unites us rather than that which divides us, while discovering, respecting and indeed honoring our unique experiences.

- Racial healing will facilitate narrative change, which will help everyone in communities articulate the truth about their collective histories and be exposed to full, complete and accurate representations of themselves and their communities.

Communities must heal so they can grow. Let's heal and build sustainable progress neighbor by neighbor, community by community to transform America so all children can have a brighter future.

La June Montgomery Tabron is President and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

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'Time 2 Grind' Boxing Club offers safe haven to Baltimore youth

By Timothy Cox

On the Northeast side of Baltimore, a youth boxing club is steadily earning a reputation as one of the city's premier recreation locations for developing young boxers, while serving as a "safe-haven" for at-risk youth.

The 'Time 2 Grind' boxing club is effectively making its mark, according to the boxing club's founder and coach, Mack Allison III, a native Baltimorean.

Although his interests in the "sweet science" started as a youngster before he graduated from Southern High School near Fells Point, Allison and his best friend, Earl Dent, had more of a passion for East Asian martial arts— Karate, Judo, Tae Kwon Do and knife-wielding fighting sports.

Dent is now a member of the Baltimore Police Department.

"We were really into Bruce Lee and people like that," explained Allison.

When the director at the City's Parks and Recreation Department where his wife worked mentioned starting a boxing program for youth, it was suggested that Allison help to get the program off the ground.

Two years ago, his pastor at Transforming Life Baptist Church, (TLC) said he was interested in starting a boxing program within the church. Allison, now 47, immediately started implementing his expertise as a martial artist and designed a gym and purchased required heavy bags, free weights and other equipment needed to create a legitimate boxing environment.

Allison was able to transform a novice, boxing group into a championship-based unit. He is proud that some of his members have attained championship status.

"So far, we have a National Silver Glove champion; and four Junior Olympic State champions. Other fighters have competed on a national and international level and we have a professional boxer that is undefeated with seven wins," he said with pride."

Naturally, he is proud of the undefeated pro-boxer, considering it's his 19-year-



Mack Allison III, coach at the "Time 2 Grind" Boxing Club in Northeast Baltimore surrounded by four talented young boxers (left to right) Antoin Lewis, 10; Tyrick Booth, 11; Andre Hudson, 11; and BJ Santana Brown, 9. Not only does the recreation club developing young boxers, it also provides a safe haven for at risk youth.

Photo by Jerry Brown

old son, Mack "Papi" Allison IV.

Allison also says that his minister, Pastor David Biggers was very impressed.

"Sure, there are several boxing gyms in Baltimore, but we're the first one born out of a church," said Allison. "It's our goal to keep the children who come

here, safe. We want to keep them away from drugs and the fast life," he said. Maintaining good grades is another priority at the club, he stressed.

Since starting the boxing club in 2015, Allison says things are moving along at a steady pace. The group recently

received its 501 (c) 3 non-profit status.

The church-gym is located at 4801 Simpple Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21206.

He also appreciates the support he receives from his assistant coach, Gary Lewis.

A billboard project is in the works, according to Allison.

"We would like to put positive messages on many of the empty billboards around the city. We need a more positive message on them like, 'go to school, don't be a fool.' It's my way of presenting something positive to the kids. A subliminal message that they'll look up and see on these billboards," said Allison.

"People blame the mayor and politicians for children's short-falls [but] it's not their fault— it's the parents who aren't there. The kids are taking care of themselves, so we need a safe-haven for them. It really does take a village to raise these kids. Too often, the kids won't listen to [their] parents, but they'll listen to others— coaches, teachers, mentors, etc.

"Ours is a religious-based boxing program. We train to win, but more so, [it gives] them a place off the streets to enjoy new friendships and camaraderie," said Allison.

Allison considers his wife, Dawn Allison, as his his rock.

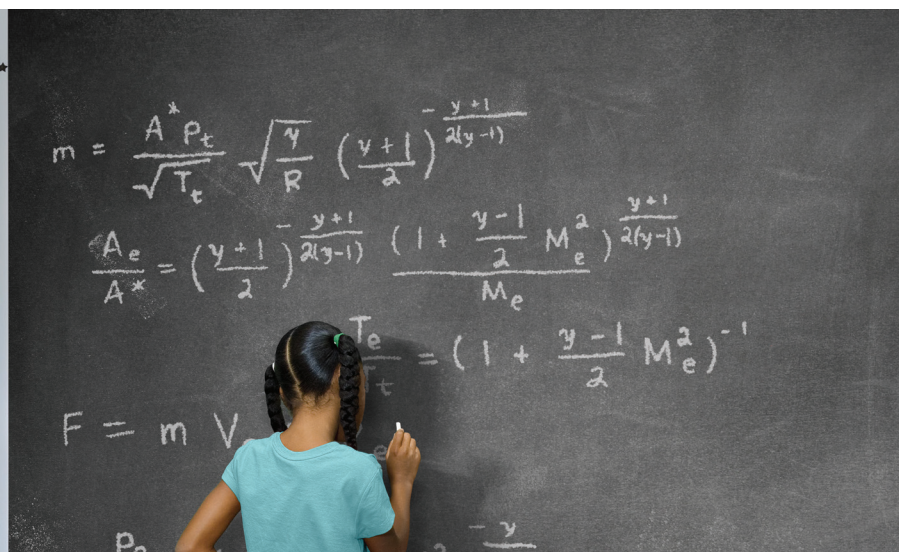
"She's the one that encouraged me to do what I'm doing," he said.

The couple has been married 22 years, with three grown children, including a daughter and two sons.

"When my kids were young, I got them very involved in training— including my daughter. It helps build confidence for all young people, especially when peer pressure starts to arise," he said. 'Time 2 Grind' is open to boys and girls and Allison encourages parents to bring their young daughters to the gym. It's good for all kids."

For more information about the "Time 2 Grind" boxing club, email Mack Allison IV at: mallison5020@gmail.com or call 443-631-1663.

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Jeremy Zuttah back with the Ravens and pushing to be starting center

By Turron Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens traded center Jeremy Zuttah to the San Francisco 49ers in March of 2016. Zuttah had been a starter at center for the Ravens for three years and was named to the Pro Bowl the same year he was traded.

Zuttah became available after the 49ers released him earlier this month. He had options but chose to re-sign with the Ravens. He is happy to be back in Baltimore.

"It's cool," Zuttah said after practice last week. "[I'm] just getting out here, getting back with some of the guys I haven't seen in a while— like Marshal [Yanda]— getting back into the flow of things, learning the offense, and we'll go from there."

Zuttah cited his familiarity with the organization as a deciding factor in his return. He also appreciates the fact that the organization is equally as familiar with him. It will allow the change of teams to be a smooth transition.

Having been with the organization

before, Zuttah knows what is expected of him. They haven't told him that he will be the starting center.

Head coach John Harbaugh is glad to have Zuttah back in the fold. It creates competition at center with current starter Ryan Jensen.

Zuttah fully understands how the Ravens approach football as a meritocracy. He knows the starting job won't be handed back to him. It has to be earned once again.

"The role for right now is to come out, work hard and earn playing time," Zuttah explained. "They said to go out there, compete, and we'll see where we're at. That's honestly where we are."

Harbaugh expects him to pick up where he left off but pointed to some scheme changes that will take a subtle adjustment.

"Jeremy obviously gets right back into practice. It is good to have him back. He did a good job. It was a good start, and it helps us," Harbaugh said last week.

"There are some changes with the run-game scheme that are really different in



Ravens center Jeremy Zuttah prepares to make a block against the Cleveland Browns during a game in the 2016 season. Zuttah has recently re-signed with the Ravens after he was released by the 49ers. Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

the sense of calls, terminology and even the blocking patterns that he will have to learn and get up to speed on, but he is a veteran player."

With so little time left before the start of the season, the starting center job is

up for grabs. Zuttah has previous experience as a starter but Jensen has the inside track since he was around for the complete off-season. It will be interesting to watch the battle unfold.



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Baltimore artist paints her way to college

By Stacy M. Brown

When Chavella Bell (also known as VelaRae) isn't painting, she is active at her Bay Ridge Christian Church where she teaches Sunday School, singing and leading youth group programs.

Perhaps, though, it's Bell's art that may make her a household name.

"I have always enjoyed creating art as far back as I can remember. I can pinpoint my official discovery of my artistic talents to the time when my artwork was featured at the St. Johns College Mitchell Gallery in Annapolis," Bell said. "It was at that point in my freshman year of high school, that I realized that what I simply enjoyed as a pastime was of much greater talent and value. Seeing my own artwork framed and displayed sparked a desire in me to paint more and explore a career in art."

Now, Bell wants to attend college for further training to an already unique body of work. She says she is literally trying to paint her way to college, even establishing a Go Fund Me page seeking tuition and other assistance.

And, if one picture is worth a thousand words, Bell's art has told millions of stories.

She is already the recipient of the Distinguished Merit Scholarship for the School of Art Institute of Chicago where she plans to enter this fall.

Being the youngest of 11 siblings, Bell says she has worked diligently to make her voice known through expressions of art.

In 2015, she received the Sheriff's Citation and recognition as Maryland Masters Award presented by Governor Larry Hogan for her artwork.

In consecutive years, she has earned the high school "En plein air" competition held by the Maryland Fine Arts Association and her oil pastels and self-portraits have been featured in St. Johns College gallery and the Walters Museum in Baltimore.

Bell has been lauded for her ability to capture emotions, expressions and beauty in exploding color and her talent has provided her access to paint murals for the Annapolis Children's Museum and Eastport Elementary School and to design sets and logos for her drama department at Glenn Burnie High School.

While she expects to receive a \$6,000

AACC Merit Scholarship and an additional \$6,000 through federal student loan programs, it still leaves Bell a balance of about \$25,000 that she is trying to raise for tuition and room and board.

"I am a self-taught artist, for the most part. My older sister, an art major, was the first to teach me about art history and encouraged me to explore drawing and painting, when I was in 7th grade," Bell said.

"I admired her work and tried to emulate what she was doing. By time I reached high school, I was bored with the beginning classes and found myself experimenting with new mediums because I finished all my work so quickly," she said, noting that it was then that she found oil paints and began using them and experimenting.

"I looked for help. I applied to the Gifted & Talented Program in 11th grade and was accepted. I also attended Anne Arundel Community College for art classes," she said.

"Finally, I was given instruction and encouragement to continue pursuing my passion."

The art of Chuck Close has been kind of model for Bell, particularly seeing how he uses many colors to make a face and still show fine detail and personality in his work, she said.

"I would sit for hours watching videos of him creating huge, massive, masterpieces. He helped me see the many minute details and how color is in everything," she said, while also noting that she gets inspiration from Monet, particularly his brushstrokes.

"My favorite pieces to date are my self-portraits because they come from a place within and hold a special meaning for me," she said of her own work. "My portraits are less about the medium and more about expressing the emotions I was feeling at the time. For instance, the piece 'Daisy Eyes' was during a period of growth in my life where I was insecure and uncertain about my talent. It now serves as a reminder to me to always press through insecurities."

For more information about Bell and her works or to contribute to her college fund, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/chavella-painting-her-way-to-college>.



Chavella Bell, also known as VelaRae, artist
Courtesy Photo

Paintings by VelaRae



Comcast's Internet Essentials Latest Milestone:

Four million low-income Americans connected to high speed Internet

By Ursula V. Battle

In the summer of 2011, Comcast Corporation unveiled the Internet Essentials program for low-income

On August 15, 2017, just six years after the start of the program, Comcast Corporation announced the program has now connected more than four million low-income Americans, in one million households, to high-speed Internet service at home. Locally, this includes 27,000 Maryland families, or 108,000 Maryland residents. That is inclusive of more than 8,500 Baltimore families, or 34,000 Baltimore residents.

"When we started this program six years ago, we never imagined four million low-income Americans would benefit from it," said David L. Cohen, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer of Comcast Corporation. "We also never would have reached this milestone without our many dedicated nonprofit partners, elected officials, educators, employees, and advocates who were all united by the belief that the Internet is essential, not only to compete in the 21st century economy, but also to be connected to loved ones and the world."

"While this milestone is a wonderful moment to celebrate," he added, "It also inspires all of us to keep going to connect even more families to all that the Internet has to offer for education, jobs, healthcare, news, information, and entertainment."

Cohen made the announcements in Miami, Florida with six-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who will serve for the second year as Internet Essentials' national spokesperson. The State of Florida is second to California with the most connected households in the country, having connected more than 120,000 low-income households benefiting nearly 500,000 Floridians. Cohen also introduced Adamari López, host of Telemundo's *Un Nuevo Día*, who will become the program's first ever national Hispanic spokesperson. The three kicked off a multi-city tour, which will run through October.

Cohen also announced three key Comcast Essentials program enhancements. They are: Plans to increase the program's Internet service speeds; that program par-



Now in its sixth year nationally, Comcast's Internet Essentials program offers \$9.95-per-month Internet, low-cost laptops and free digital literacy training.
Courtesy Photos/Comcast

ticipants will receive 40 hours of free out-of-home WiFi access per month to the company's growing network of 18 million Xfinity WiFi hotspots to help family members connect to the Internet on the go and save money on their wireless bills; and that Comcast is also expanding its pilot program for low-income senior citizens from five cities and metropolitan areas to 12.

Comcast Corporation is a global media and technology company with two primary businesses, Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Each year, the company has announced Comcast Essentials milestones as well as new enhancements that help reaffirm the company's commitment to bringing the transformative power of the Internet to more low-income Americans.

While Cohen was ecstatic about the company's latest announcement, he also noted that the company's efforts must continue.

"While we are thrilled that Internet Essentials has come this far, there is still much more work to be done," said Cohen. "Far too many families remain on the wrong side of the digital divide. Connecting these families remains our core

mission and has become part of our organizational DNA. Our goal remains to ensure that all households, irrespective of their income or the zip code in which they live, can benefit from the life-changing resources and opportunities that having home Internet provides."

Joyner-Kersey runs the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation in East St. Louis, where she grew up. The Foundation houses a computer lab where she helps underprivileged youth to connect to the Internet to do homework and learn after school and on weekends.

"I remain so honored that Comcast asked me to serve as the national spokesperson for Internet Essentials," she said. "In my post-Olympic career, I've tried to inspire students and athletes to reach their dreams. They can't do that, however, if they don't work hard or have the tools they need to succeed. The Internet Essentials program gives every child access to a level playing field so we don't leave an entire generation behind."

López, who holds the distinction of becoming the program's first national Hispanic spokesperson, also applauded

Comcast's efforts.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Internet Essentials program as the national Hispanic spokesperson," said López. "Fifty five percent of Internet Essentials customers are Hispanic, which shows how much they appreciate the value of the Internet because it is a connection to their families and their culture. They also value it because of what it means for education and employment opportunities. I look forward to helping to connect even more Spanish-speakers to the amazing resources this program offers."

Internet Essentials provides low-cost high-speed Internet service for \$9.95 a month plus tax; the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer for under \$150; and multiple options to access free digital literacy training in print, online and in person.

For more information about Comcast's Internet Essentials, or to apply for the program, visit: www.InternetEssentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. Spanish-only speakers should call 1-855-765-6995.



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JA kicks off partnership with Living Classrooms with Snowball City at UA House at Fayette



On Friday, August 18, 2017, 16 students from Junior Achievement of Central Maryland and Living Classrooms Foundation entrepreneurial summer camp program hosted Snowball City, a classic Baltimore snowball stand. They sold nearly \$150 worth of snowballs. (Above) Students preparing snowballs.

Courtesy Photo/JA

Baltimore— Junior Achievement of Central Maryland Inc. (JA), a non-profit organization dedicated to educating young people to succeed in a rapidly changing economy, kicked off its partnership with Living Classrooms Foundation by hosting Snowball City, a classic Baltimore snowball stand run by middle school students from the UA House at Fayette summer camp entrepreneurship program.

On Friday, August 18, 2017, the young entrepreneurs showcased the successful results of their business lessons by selling nearly \$150 worth of snowballs. The 16 students working the stand used the skills they developed this summer by working in a variety of real-life business teams, including customer service, marketing, social media, inventory/clean up and pricing/budgeting.

“The UA House at Fayette provides a wonderful platform to spark the entrepreneurial spirit in Baltimore City youth

and give them a hands-on experience running a business,” said Kim Fabian, Senior Vice President of JA of Central Maryland. “During the operation of Snowball City, it was great to see the students’ enthusiasm and engagement. They really worked hard to attract people to the stand and provide great customer service. Our goal is that, because of exposure like this, some of these students will emerge as our future business leaders and innovators.”

Snowball City introduces the partnership between Junior Achievement of Central Maryland and Living Classrooms Foundation at the UA House at Fayette, which will be overseen by Jeneanne Collins, the Manager of Entrepreneurial Experiences, who will continue to work on entrepreneurial and business exploration activities with approximately 500 Baltimore City K-12 students this school year.

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Rambling Rose



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone! Hope you have enjoyed your summer so far as much as I have, but it is not over yet. I first want to give my condolences to my fans, friends and family who have lost a loved one this summer; know that they are in a better place and hopefully the family can heal soon. I believe you can do this by going out and enjoying good music and live entertainment with people who are dancing, laughing and having fun. Life is so short, live it like there is no tomorrow in a positive way.

Now, let's talk about this Vegan SoulFest. Have you ever been? Honey child it is awesome! It takes place on Saturday, August 26 from noon to 7 p.m. at the Baltimore City Community College located at 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore. It's free and open to the public. You can check out some of Baltimore's retail vendors for delicious food and great local vegan products; speakers and demonstrations, entertainment for the whole family. The festival will also feature vegan food, nutrition experts, vegan cooking demonstrations and giveaways. Animals are prohibited on campus, so leave them at home!

The Whatnauts, a Baltimore National recording 70's R&B singing group is back! The group's whose hits include: "I'll Ease Away Your Pain," "Why Can't People Be Colors Too?" and many more will perform in concert on Saturday, August 26 at 8 p.m. at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore. The original members Carlos "Billy" Herndon, Garnett Jones Ray Mitchell and Tommy Fraling. For ticket information, call 410-262-6604 or contact T-Shirt Brian.

Let me tell you my friends, there is nothing like a good festival especially when there is live entertainment included. I try to go to as many as I can to support the communities. One musical

festival I attended recently just blows my mind because of the acts. There were musicians and singers that I have not seen in years. I had the pleasure of booking and managing many of them back in the day. If you are not over 60-years-old, you may not know how much these groups controlled our lives in a positive manner from the doing the 40s through the 70s. The line-up looked like this: Barbara Washington; The Young Bucks; The Dynamic Superiors; Winfield Parker; Ronnie Dove; The Swallows; The Orioles; The Clovers; The Crests; The Limelites; The Charts; The Dubs; Peaches & Herb; and The Drifters, just to name a few.

The show was going great and everyone was having a good time until suddenly before the last six acts were introduced on the stage, the sound man, the musicians started packing up their equipment in the middle of the show. The show was produced by this "so called" promoter Peter Lemongello, Jr. and his father and a local "so called" promoter Mildred Russell, the widow of the lead singer Albert "Diz" Russell of "Sonny Til" & the Orioles out of Washington, D.C. sneaked out of the Lamont's Entertainment Complex in Indian Head, Maryland where the event was held with a State Trooper escort without paying the artists and the soundman. Terrible situation! I have a lot more to say on the subject, but not enough space. I am so furious that these "so called" promoters take advantage of our musicians.

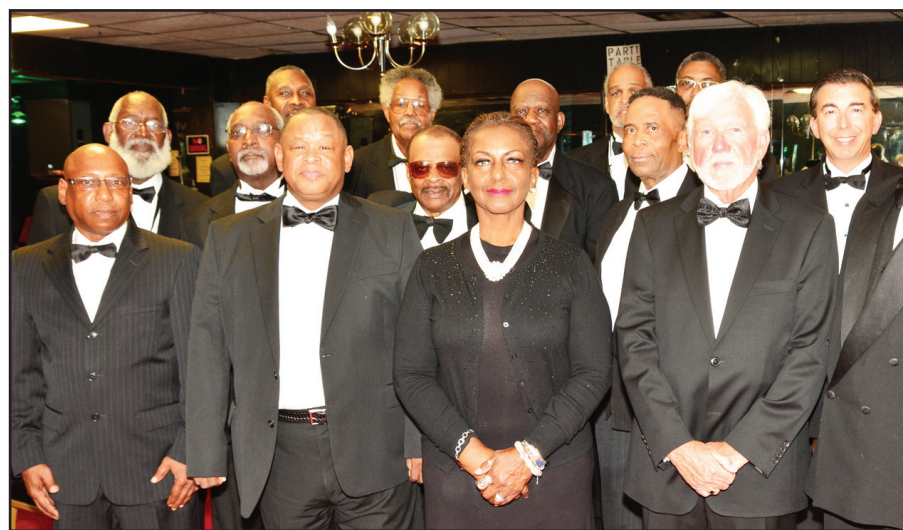
One more thing I want to mention, the Jazz Expressways Foundation Breakfast Fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, located 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue in Baltimore, with live entertainment fea-



James "Big Jim" Staton, WEEA 88.9 FM, Saturday mornings "Oldies But Goodies" icon radio personality has left the building for good. For over 30 years he has played your favorite oldies that you will never hear any place else using his own collection. Saturday mornings on WEEA will never be the same again. He will be truly missed.



Journalist and Playwright Ursula V. Battle, returns for encore Dinner Theater performances of her play, a romantic comedy "For Better or Worse" on Saturday, August 26, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and August 27 at 3 p.m. at the "One God One Thought Center for Better Living," located at 3605 Coronado Road in Windsor Mill, Md. For ticket information, call 443-531-4787.



See Jazz meet Motown, live with Dr. Phill Butts Big Band featuring vocalist Larzine Talley at the Caton Castle Lounge located at 20 South Caton Avenue in Baltimore from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, August 26. For tickets information, call 410-294-4821.

turing Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark, a down home blues band doing a mixture of some R&B and Jazz; a full buffet breakfast, free set-ups, BYOB, dancing and vendors. If you are interested in being a vendor for this event or want tickets please call me.

Well my dear friends, I have to go, but I am only a phone call away; 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I AM MUSICALLY YOURS.

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Final Date for Payment is September 6, 2017

Coppin State joins Baltimore Mayor Pugh in educational initiative

Baltimore—Coppin State University (CSU) has joined with Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh to help make a college education more affordable for graduates of Baltimore City Public High Schools.

"We are all inspired by Mayor Pugh's proposal to provide free community college for all Baltimore public high school graduates. We at Coppin are pleased to join her effort by offering any Baltimore City Public High School graduate, who also graduates with an Associate's Degree from Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), free tuition for two years at Coppin State University to continue their education," said CSU President Dr. Maria Thompson.

Mayor Catherine Pugh was excited by the expansion of her idea.

"I thank Coppin for responding in such a positive way to the proposal. This unique partnership between the city, BCCC and Coppin State University will ensure that more of our young people have the educational opportunity they need to succeed," she said.

As with Mayor Pugh's proposal, Coppin will cover any tuition shortfall that qualifying students have after applying required federal student aid.

"I believe we will create a win-win situation for Coppin, for BCCC and for Baltimore City Public School graduates," Dr. Thompson said.

Coppin, located four blocks from the BCCC campus, has programs in criminal justice, social work, rehabilitation counseling, nursing, education, business, STEM and the liberal arts.

"This is great news," said BCCC President, Dr. Gordon May. "Working with Coppin to provide our Baltimore City students with a continuum of educational opportunities can only enhance the communities around both campuses."

Both the Mayor's plan and the coinciding Coppin plan will take effect with the entering class of 2018.

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Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS 16815 – Mitchell Court-house Jury Assembly Room 320 Renovations** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, October 4, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, August 25, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture ("JV"), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004 – Rehabilitation of Structures**.

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$500,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at **The Site: 100 North Calvert St., Baltimore MD 21202 on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Finishes
2. HVAC

The MBE goal is **32%**
The WBE goal is **6%**

CONTRACT NO. GS 16815

APPROVED:
Bernice H. Taylor
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:
Steve Sharkey
Director, Department of General Services

MECU Neighborhood Event Grants Available for 2018

Neighborhoods and community-based non-profits can receive up to \$1,000

Baltimore— The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is excited to announce the return of the MECU Neighborhood Event Grants for 2018. Each year, the program awards cash grants to Baltimore neighborhood associations and community-based non-profit organizations for the purpose of producing special events.

Thanks to the support of MECU, Baltimore's credit union, eligible groups can receive up to \$1,000 to produce an event for the community and residents they serve, such as art workshops, back-to-school rallies, block parties, book drives, food drives, health fairs and neighborhood clean-ups.

Applications and guidelines are available at www.promotionandarts.org. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 1, 2017. MECU Neighborhood Event Grants are a program of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and are supported by MECU, Baltimore's Credit Union.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization and based in Baltimore City. Proposed events must be free and open to the public and take place between April 1 and December 31, 2018. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Required materials include a completed application, tax exemption documentation, financial statement and project budget. Grant recipients must attend a mandatory workshop on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 10AM, exact location TBD. For more information on the MECU Neighborhood Event Grants, call 410-752-8632 or visit: www.promotionandarts.org.



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