


The Annapolis Times

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10th Annual Harbor Harvest at Rash Field



Baltimore— Join the Waterfront Partnership for the 10th annual Harbor Harvest on Sunday, October 15, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Rash Field in the Inner Harbor. Entrance to Harbor Harvest is free. Featured at the event is a petting zoo, hay maze, face painting, a costume parade and more! Guests can also enjoy a variety of food trucks and live music by Milkshake! A pumpkin patch, pumpkin decorating and crafts are included in the purchase of a kids pass. Kids passes are \$7 at the door. Pony rides and trackless train rides will be available for \$3 per ride. For more information, visit: www.waterfrontpartnership.org. Photos: Ian Johnston Photography

University of Maryland Medical System hosts “Fall Back to Good Health” Fair

By Anne D. Williams, DNP, RN
 Director, Community Health
 Improvement, University of Maryland
 Medical System

Do you know your numbers? What’s your blood pressure? How’s your cholesterol?

Most American adults can tell you their salary, their anniversary or their grandchildren’s birthdays, but most adults cannot tell you their blood pressure or cholesterol level. If you want to stay healthy, you’ve got to know your numbers!

It’s important to know your numbers so that you can see if you are at risk for heart disease or have high blood pressure. High blood pressure, or hypertension as it’s called by health care professionals, occurs in 30 percent of American adults and over 40 percent of African American adults. Because high blood pressure is called the silent killer, meaning that it has no symptoms, it’s important to find out as early as possible if your blood pressure is high. Left untreated, high blood pressure can lead to heart disease, kidney failure, vision problems, and other conditions. And, the longer, high blood pressure goes untreated, the more damage it causes.

The good news is that high blood pressure can usually be controlled. Your health care provider may suggest healthy lifestyle changes, such as:



Health screenings and health information will be available at the University of Maryland Medical System’s health fair event at Mondawmin Mall on Saturday, October 20, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Courtesy Photo/UMMS

- Lose weight or maintain a healthy weight
- Quit smoking
- Get moving!— Get a moderate amount of physical activity most days of the week
- Limit your salt intake— get the salt shaker off your table and avoid highly

processed foods and fast food

- Practice portion control

If your blood pressure is too high or not controlled by healthy lifestyle changes, your health care provider may prescribe a medication for you. It is important that you take the medicine

exactly as it was prescribed to you and not skip or cut doses on your own. If you experience any side effects from taking the medication, talk to your doctor about changing to another medication if possible.

High blood pressure or high cholesterol doesn’t have to control you. You can be in control! The first step is to find out if you are at risk by having your blood pressure and cholesterol checked.

Join us at the free University of Maryland Medical System “Fall Back to Good Health” event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017 at Mondawmin Mall. Experts will be on-site for free blood pressure, cholesterol and vision checks and flu shots. Be sure to also stop by our diabetes awareness and prevention zone. There will also be line dancing and other fun activities, and you can groove to the music on Magic 95.9, which will be broadcasting live.

Nothing is more important than your health and the health of your family. So come out to Mondawmin Mall on October 20— we want to help you take charge of your health!

To learn more, visit the website: <http://www.umm.edu/about/community> or call 1-800-492-5538.

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Parents deserve 'real' school choice

By Dr. Elizabeth V. Primas

Program Manager

NNPA/ESSA Public Awareness Campaign

I was recently approached by a father of a student from Ann Arundel County, Maryland that was disappointed that his son was unable to attend his neighborhood magnet school; his son met all the requirements to become classified as a magnet student. Upon inquiry, administrators informed the father that the feeder school system did not permit his child to attend the desired school, even though the campus was less than two miles away from their family home. This was especially upsetting to the father, because he purchased the home 10 years ago with that specific school in mind. The school prescribed by the feeder school system is 12 miles away from his home.

Great Schools, the leading national nonprofit organization devoted to assisting parents in unlocking educational opportunities for their children, gives the prescribed feeder school a two out of five stars rating, compared to the four stars given to the school initially selected by the father. Realizing that the school's ratings may lead to a misguided conclusion, he and his wife toured the school to get a first-hand look. They were equally disappointed with the school climate and physical condition of the building.

His son is a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence. The administrators were adamant that the prescribed school would meet his son's educational needs; despite their insistence, the father was never convinced.

After failing to make progress with school administrators in Ann Arundel County, he made the hard decision to enroll his child in a local non-magnet school, which has only one Advanced Placement (AP) course and limited opportunities in advanced courses.

My question to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is this: Why is it that, despite your push for "school choice," parents are still being directed to lower performing schools with poor school climate, inadequately prepared teachers, and failing test scores?

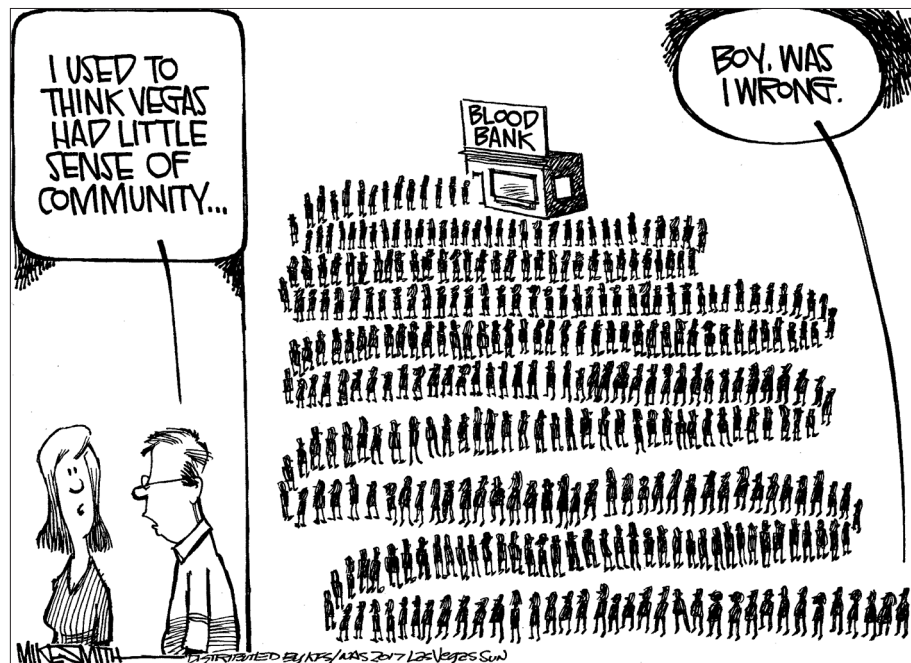
This is contradictory to the intention of the Every Student Succeeds Act. It is the opposite of the policies you and the Trump Administration say you support. The options offered to this parent were inadequate and did not allow him the opportunity to ensure his child will receive a quality education. Furthermore, the feeder school system, in this instance, was completely ineffective.

Instead of fixing education, it appears this administration has allowed states and local school districts to re-segregate, provide lower quality education to children of color and sentence our children to academic underachievement. This is not how ESSA was designed to operate.

Thankfully, this parent did not accept less for his child. Other parents may not have the ability to stand for their children. ESSA was supposed to provide a high-quality education to all children. Let's make sure no child is faced with choosing between potential social isolation for a higher quality education or convenience at the expense of academic achievement.

Get involved with education in your community and learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act at www.nnpa.org/essa.

Dr. Elizabeth Primas is an educator, who has spent more than 40 years working towards improving education for children of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds. Dr. Primas is the program manager for the NNPA's Every Student Succeeds Act Public Awareness Campaign. Follow Dr. Primas on Twitter @ElizabethPrima3.



Community Affairs

Coppin wins support for parents in school

Baltimore—Coppin State University (CSU) has been awarded a \$268,608 grant over a four-year period from the U.S. Department of Education for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program. CCAMPIS supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based childcare services.

"Coppin's unique strengths are in our cradle-to-career education continuum as well as our multigenerational student body," said Coppin State University President, Dr. Maria Thompson. "Our Child Development Center was established to address the needs of our students and the present day environment. This CCAMPIS grant strengthens our ability to continue to meet those needs, and we are grateful to the Department of Education for this support."

"We intend to provide CCAMPIS child care services to low-income student parents that are being provided services by our Student Support Serv-

ices Center and Veterans Services programs," said Dondra Davenport, program director of Coppin's James Edgar McDonald Child Development Center. "Other recruitment efforts will focus on low-income student parents that are already on our waiting list."

Project goals and measurable objectives cited as part of Coppin's grant application include increasing access to child care for low-income university students by providing child care subsidy scholarships, auxiliary parenting support, and academic support services.

"Not only does this grant position us to strengthen our support for student parents, but we know that early learning experiences for young children play a significant role in their development," Dr. Thompson said. "At Coppin, we are continuing to nurture potential by helping to produce future consumers of knowledge with a high motivation for learning."

The James Edgar McDonald Child Development Center located within the Health and Human Services Building, was established in 2013 to support the needs of students, University faculty, staff, and the immediate community.

The American flag is soaked in black blood

*By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Newswire Columnist*

I am not sure why the national anthem and the so-called American flag are part of our nation's sports pageantry. Before 2009, while the national anthem was played, sports gladiators were not required to suit up, stand up, and put their hands to their hearts; and why should they? The song that is sung is an insult to people of color. When I hear "the land of the free and the home of the brave," I think, "the land of the thief and the home of the slave." The Department of Defense paid the National Football League (seriously?) to promote a fake sense of cultural hegemony, and to spread the false notion that we are all on the same page when it comes to patriotism.

How could we be on the same page? How could the men who have been hauled out of their cars, pushed down to their knees, forced to justify the reasons they are driving high-end cars be on the same page with the men who "own"

them, who may or may not support them, or may or may not kneel with them?

Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem, not because he wanted to disparage the flag, but because he disparaged the many ways that African American people were being diminished by police brutality. Call the names, call the names, the men and the women who have been unjustifiably

white people. What flag did they serve under, and why should we celebrate it? Why do disingenuous fools, including "Mr. 45," chide NFL owners with strangely coded language, suggesting a lack of loyalty? Where is the loyalty to the black men and women who supported a country that would not support them? The paradox of loyalty is that African Americans love a country that does not love us. We pledge the flag,

This protest is more, though, than Colin Kaepernick. This protest is about police brutality. This is a protest about the fake-Jake way some would bond us together, linking arms and elbows, trying to make a point. There is no point beyond the fact that young, Black men, who play football, baseball, and basketball see their brothers and cousins on their knees, legs and arms splayed, forced to the ground by oppressive police forces. The professional athletes freely kneel, because others knelt when they were forced to, because they were not free.

We can fly this flag all we want to, we can sing melodious songs about "the star spangled banner," but the flag we fly in the name of sports is a flag that is drenched in blood. Players weren't "encouraged" to stand at attention during the national anthem until 2009, when the Department of Defense paid money to make it happen. I'd prefer for my tax dollars to be spent more wisely. I'd prefer that some of that money went to washing the blood out of the flag.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available at Amazon.com and at www.juliannemalveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

"There are those who have a story to tell about so-called disrespect to the 'American flag,' the same American flag that is drenched in blood. Black men went to fight in World War I and came back to this country and were lynched, because they refused to yield the sidewalk to white people. What flag did they serve under, and why should we celebrate it?"

killed, call the names, and call the names of the many ways Back Lives Must Matter. Call the names, call the names, of the structural racism that cuts like a knife, or kills like a bullet. Call the names.

There are those who have a story to tell about so-called disrespect to the "American flag," the same American flag that is drenched in blood. Black men went to fight in World War I and came back to this country and were lynched, because they refused to yield the sidewalk to

drenched in blood, because we want something better.

Colin Kaepernick took a stand, and many of his colleagues support him because they cannot embrace a flag that supports the unjustified killing of African American men. Colin Kaepernick sacrificed his career to make a point, and he has been focused and fierce about his principles. Colin Kaepernick, by kneeling, encouraged all of us to stand up for our rights. Colin Kaepernick is a hero!

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Boyz II Men to perform benefit concert for Baltimore Homeless

By Stacy M. Brown

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, one of the most iconic R&B groups in music history will take the stage at the Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric for the annual “An Evening of Unexpected Delights” fundraiser to benefit “The Journey Home,” Baltimore City’s 10-year plan to make homelessness rare and brief.

The plan centers on a best practice known as “Housing First,” which emphasizes an increase in programs for men, women and families experiencing homelessness, as well as better coordination of existing services.

According to organizers, about 35 percent of all Maryland homeless are in Baltimore City, enough to fill the seats at The Lyric, which holds 2,564 people.

“The Journey Home brings together the public and private sectors, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and concerned citizens to work on solutions for preventing and ending homelessness,” said Chuck Tildon, vice president of Government Relations and Strategic Partnerships at United Way of Central Maryland, which serves as the fiscal agent and marketing partner for The Journey Home. “The Journey Home focuses on addressing fundamental causes of homelessness; the lack of affordable housing, inaccessible health care, inadequate incomes, and a lack of coordinated services.”

In January 2008, the Journey Home board adopted what they called “The Journey Home Strategic Priorities.” The purpose of those priorities is to create a strategic framework for continued commitment and collective action, according to Tildon. The Journey Home priorities and strategic plan are complementary documents that contribute to the vision



The iconic R&B group, Boyz II Men will take the stage at the Modell Performing Arts Center at the Lyric on Saturday, October 21, 2017 for the annual “An Evening of Unexpected Delights” fundraiser to benefit “The Journey Home,” the 10-year plan to end homelessness in Baltimore City.
Courtesy Photo/The Journey Home

that homelessness in Baltimore will be rare and brief, he said.

“The Journey Home was launched in 2008 in response to the growing call for cities nationwide to develop concrete plans to end homelessness in their respective communities,” Tildon said. ““An Evening of Unexpected Delights,” the annual fundraiser for the initiative, began in 2011 and was a collaboration between presenting sponsor Centerplate, the Baltimore City Mayor’s office and United Way of Central Maryland.”

Funds for The Journey Home come from a combination of public and private funds and the annual benefit provides needed flexible funding that is allocated based on real time need by Baltimore’s Continuum of Care.

“Understanding homelessness and why

it happens in Baltimore, along with the types of homelessness people are experiencing—from transitional to episodic—is the key to making homelessness brief,” Tildon said, noting that efforts have led to the reduction of homelessness among veterans by nearly 30 percent over the past three years.

The fundraiser stands as a signature event, which organizers put a lot of effort into making sure of its success.

“We pride ourselves on this annual event of unexpected delights by surprising the sponsors, friends and family who support our great mission. We’ve had some stellar acts in the past, but this year’s surprises will not soon be forgotten,” Tildon said. “Boyz II Men will be a fantastic performer and great way to say thank you to our community, bring us

altogether and united under a common cause to end homelessness in Baltimore.”

Tildon added that the popular group has broad appeal across several demographic groups and their presence will help introduce the program to more individuals in the community.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. event are \$50 to \$110. VIP tickets, which include a 6:30 p.m. reception, are \$225. General admission tickets are available through Ticketmaster and include the concert and access to an after party.

A limited number of VIP tickets, featuring a VIP reception catered by Classic Catering, premium concert seating and access to the after party, are available for purchase online at www.journeyhome-baltimore.org.

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Baltimore sailor continues 75 years of Seabee tradition

By Lt. Lorna Mae Devera,
Navy Office of Community Outreach

Gulfport, Miss.— “We Build, We Fight” has been the motto of the U. S. Navy’s Construction Force, known as the “Seabees,” for the past 75 years. Baltimore native and 2009 Hillwood High School (Nashville, Tn) graduate, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Monica Wahls, builds and fights around the world as a member of a naval construction battalion center located in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Wahls works as a construction mechanic, which is responsible for the operation, repair, and maintenance of military construction equipment.

“I learned early on that hard work and integrity are important,” said Wahls. “When no one is watching I still try to do my best and work hard. The library was a happy place for me because I love to read. To be a well-rounded sailor I not only need to be physically fit, but also academically smart.”

The jobs of some of the Seabees today have remained unchanged since World War II, when the Seabees paved the 10,000-mile road to victory for the allies in the Pacific and in Europe, according to Lara Godbille, director of the U. S. Navy Seabee Museum.

For the past 75 years Seabees have served in all American conflicts. They have also supported humanitarian efforts using their construction skills to help communities around the world. They aid following earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

“I am proud of the hard work that Seabees do every day,” said Rear Adm. Bret Muilenburg, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. “Their support to the Navy and Marine Corps mission is immeasurable, and we look forward to the next seven decades of service.”

Seabees around the world are taking part in commemorating the group’s 75-year anniversary this year. The theme of the celebration is “Built on



Baltimore native Monica Wahls is currently serving in the US Navy as a construction mechanic at a naval construction battalion center in Gulfport, Mississippi. Construction mechanics are responsible for the operation, repair and maintenance of military construction equipment.

Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tom Gagnier

History, Constructing the Future.” “Seabees deploy around the world providing expert expeditionary construction support on land and under the sea, for the Navy and Marine Corps, in war, humanitarian crisis and peace,” said Capt. Mike Saum, commodore, Naval Construction Group (NCG) 1. “Seabee resiliency, skill, and resolution under hostile and rough conditions prove our motto ‘We Build, We Fight.’ The Seabee patch we wear on our uniform signifies to the warfighter and civilian alike that they’re in good hands.”

According to Saum the sailors who make up Seabee battalions are very driven and accomplished individuals.

“I was honored with the Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year Award,” said Wahls. “That’s an accomplishment that keeps me pushing to work hard.”

Serving in the Navy allows people to create a legacy for the next generation.

“There is a certain amount of pride tied to serving in a non-traditional career path,” added Wahls. “I get that serving in the Navy as a Seabee.”

Kaiser Permanente Brings Health and Wellness Program to Community

By Stacy M. Brown

An innovative public health program that provides free flu shots and a wide range of health and wellness services to Baltimore City residents continues to expand after a successful pilot program that began a year ago and now includes various neighborhood barbershops and beauty salons.

“From our perspective, we feel a part of the Baltimore community. We’re investing and we have invested in Baltimore, and part of our mission has always been improving the health of the community we serve,” said Dr. Bernadette Loftus, the associate executive director of the Permanente Medical Group, which provides medical care to Kaiser Permanente members.

Loftus says it was a conversation with former BG&E director and Cryor Group president, Michael Cryor, that helped to kick off a small pilot program involving Kaiser and New Beginnings Barbershop in West Baltimore, last year.

“We had such a nice response, it was such a great experience and we wanted to duplicate that this year and make more services available to the community, thus, we’ve expanded our services and expanded the number of barber-shops and beauty salons we’re working with,” Loftus said.

This year, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States decided to partner with four barbershops and salons— Illusions Barbershop, New Beginnings Barbershop, Short Cutz, and Vanity the Salon.

The partnership offers free flu immunizations and a wide range of health screenings and wellness services to residents, regardless of whether they have insurance or are Kaiser Permanente members. It’s part of a concerted effort to afford community members a closer look at Kaiser’s commitment to the area.

Earlier this summer, Kaiser also announced a flagship partnership with Bon Secours in West Baltimore and launched the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Equitable Leadership, in an effort to strengthen five Baltimore organizations.

They also partnered with a West Baltimore neighborhood to renovate a park in



Dr. Bernadette Loftus
Courtesy Photo

Park Heights, which created a safe place for children to play.

“At the heart of the original genesis of the program, which all came out of a conversation with Cryor at a special event where we talked about the challenge of closing health disparities in minority communities and we focused on influenza and the flu vaccine,” Loftus said. “There is less uptake of the vaccine in minority communities, particularly the African-American community which comes from a little distrust as to what’s in the vaccine.”

“We’re trying to say that we’re a part of the community and we’re partnering with trusted community assets like barbershops and beauty salons and showing the community that they trust us and we’re hoping that you come to trust us as well,” Loftus said.

Primarily, people need to understand that influenza kills both adults and children and Kaiser— whose nurses and doctors have agreed to work in the community at mobile health events— want to do what it takes to help individuals feel good about getting the vaccine.

Additionally, the mobile units that Kaiser will continue to station outside various barbershops and salons through December 16, 2017, will provide a number of other health services at no cost, including body mass index calculations, blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, HIV tests, screenings for liver and kidney disease and take-home



Kaiser Permanente Mobile Health Unit

Photo: Stacy Brown

colorectal cancer tests.

Kaiser members will have the opportunity to schedule follow-up visits while non-members may be referred to community clinics.

“This started as a flu campaign,” Loftus said. “If we aren’t successful in convincing someone to get the flu vaccine, then maybe we can address something that has them really worried and help them with that.”

Kim Horn, president of Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States says the company is excited to work hand-in-hand with local barbers and salon owners.

“Kaiser strives to eliminate health disparities and build healthier communities,” Horn said in a release. “We couldn’t do that without strong partnerships like the ones we have with these local businesses.”



Janelle Holt of Vanity the Salon

Photo: Stacy M. Brown

Barber, Salon Owners Praise Kaiser's Mobile Health Unit

By Stacy M. Brown

If Brenda M. Fletcher had any concerns about the viability of the ever-popular Kaiser Permanente Mobile Health Van parked a few blocks from her Short Cutz Hair Salon in West Baltimore, one of her clients arrived with news that could be categorized as a game-changer.

"One of my clients had a check-up in December and did a test in the van which allowed her to know her cholesterol and diabetes numbers and get her blood pressure checked," Fletcher recalled. "The doctor told her she had a mini-stroke that she wasn't aware of. She was referred to the emergency room and that probably saved her life."

Saving and improving lives are among the primary reasons that Kaiser of the Mid-Atlantic States decided to host a mobile health van in underserved communities like West Baltimore.

Fletcher's business counts among the four local barber and beauty shops that have partnered with Kaiser to offer up and encourage free flu immunizations and a wide range of health screenings and wellness services to residents, regardless of whether they have insurance or are Kaiser members.

The concerted effort affords community members a closer look at Kaiser's commitment to the area, company officials said.

"It's been real effective and it tackles the issues in the community where you find a health desert, high poverty, low education and a low graduation rate," said Troy Staton, the owner of New Beginnings Barbershop, the first of the neighborhood establishments to sign on to the program when it began almost one year ago.

Staton says he wants to address issues pertinent to the community and health stands above most.

"We can ask customers about the last time they had their blood glucose level checked, or if they have health insurance and we can direct them to the mobile unit," he said.

Kathy Eccles has been a customer of Staton's for years and she says the mobile unit encouraged her to get her first flu shot last year.



Brenda M. Fletcher owner of Short Cutz with customer Tania Jenifer.

Photos: Stacy M. Brown

"It's good for the neighborhood and I didn't have to go anywhere, yet you're dealing with real nurses and doctors," Eccles said. "This allows for everyone in the community, especially the men who usually don't get checked, to do what they haven't done."

Janelle Holt, the owner of nearby Vanity Salon says that the Kaiser program has more than paid dividends.

"It's a wonderful idea to reach out to the community," Holt said. "My clients don't mind going to the mobile unit and talking with a doctor. In the past they were hesitant but this is so important and it has brought my clients closer to medical professionals."

Marcus Howard, owner of Illusions Barber Shop, agreed.

"Being a part of this has brought everyone closer in the community and more people now can go to the unit and get their health checked," Howard said.

For nearly a year, Kaiser has operated the mobile health van, staffed with a doctor, nurse and lab tech in a setup that is not unlike a regular medical office. Health professionals in the van provide health screenings, flu shots, blood pressure tests, blood sugar screening, HIV tests and other services.

To date, Kaiser has provided health care and education to more than 170 patients.

More than 140 have received blood pressure checks, over 60 flu shots have been provided and more than a dozen take-home colon cancer screening kits have been distributed, Kaiser officials said.

Kaiser has also teamed up with personal fitness trainer Donovan Cox and his gymGO concept which provides subscribers access to live trainers around the world via tablets, smartphones or laptop computers.

The gymGO platform leverages two-way video live streaming and the easy integration of wearable devices to create a virtual fitness journey for users.

gymGO's mission is to provide consumers with the ability to find a trainer and workout anywhere to achieve personal health and fitness goals on their own terms, according to Cox. The company aims to overcome the fitness and personal training barriers that so many consumers face, while retaining the benefits of in-person instruction, including real-time feedback, performance accuracy, accountability and motivation.

"I thought this was an excellent opportunity. I've been in the health and fitness



Troy Staton of New Beginnings Barber Shop with customer Kathy Eccles.



Marcus Howard the owner of Illusions Barber Shop in Baltimore.

industry for 25 years and, with this program, we can facilitate a project in person and go into the community and talk to the patrons and then there's the virtual aspect of it," Cox said.

"Having a personal trainer really helps to guide the patrons and get them to eat better and exercise more so it's a well-rounded process because now they have an advocate not just for immunizations and screenings but for the entire process that affects their overall health."

NNPA, Chevrolet Honor 2017 Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellows

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Chevrolet recently recognized the achievements of eight students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. that participated in the 2017 Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellowship program.

The class of 2017 DTU journalism fellows included: Alexa Imani Spencer and Noni Marshall from Howard University; Kelsey Jones and Taylor Burris from Spelman College; Jordan Fisher and Tiana Hunt from Clark Atlanta University; and Ayron Lewallen and Darrell Williams from Morehouse College.

The eight fellows were recently rewarded for their intrepid, diligent work in the Chevrolet-backed program that provides students from HBCUs scholarships and summer internships at NNPA member, black-owned newspapers.

The aspiring journalists and media professionals worked with The Washington Informer, The Atlanta Voice, The Carolinian and The Louisiana Weekly to create print, digital and social media content for the publications.

"This is a joyous occasion," said hip-hop pioneer MC Lyte, the national spokesperson for the DTU journalism program and the master of ceremonies for the award reception held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the NNPA, a trade group that represents over 200 black-owned media companies, said that it's vital that the black community, especially black publishers, educate young people about the the importance of the Black Press.

"We have a responsibility of raising a new generation of freedom fighters and we have, over the past year, discovered the unexpected," said Chavis, noting that the 190 year-old Black Press has enjoyed a partnership with General Motors, the automakers behind the Chevrolet brand, which has lasted more than 40 years.

Chevrolet's Diversity Marketing Manager Michelle Alexander said that the



MC Lyte, hip-hop legend and national spokesperson for the NNPA Discover The Unexpected Journalism Fellowship program with the 2017 NNPA DTU Journalism Fellows.
Photo Credit: Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

company has vowed to continue the DTU journalism program.

NNPA Chairman Dorothy Leavell told the recipients how proud she was of their efforts and stressed the importance of the Black Press and noted how vital young journalists are to its mission.

"We need to create a space for them to tell their stories," Leavell said.

But, the day belonged to the up and coming journalists.

Jordan Fisher and Kelsey Jones received the Social Media Maven Award for their outstanding work on various digital platforms.

"Being part of the DTU fellowship program taught me a great deal about social media and journalism," Fisher said. "Breaking news, catastrophes... will be shown all over the world and with this power, we have a responsibility to uplift our communities."

One of Fisher's most memorable stories for The Atlanta Voice was an interview with a sea lion trainer, after a video of a 700-pound sea lion pulling a little girl into the water off a pier in Vancouver, British Columbia went viral.

"I learned authenticity can go hand-in-hand with passion," said Kelsey Jones, who received a lot of attention for her Atlanta Voice pieces on West End development near downtown Atlanta.

Noni Marshall and Alexa Imani

Spencer both received the State of the Union Award at the reception for their work covering politics and other issues for The Washington Informer.

"The people I've connected with not only made me a better woman, but a better journalist," said Marshall, who teamed with Alexa to write several exciting stories including a feature on how "News One Now" host Roland Martin had issued a call to action to address the critical financial state of HBCUs.

"I was surprised when I was accepted into the program," Spencer said. "The truth is, I didn't have much confidence in my journalism, but that changed on 'Day 1,'" she said, noting that Denise Rolark Barnes, the publisher of the Informer, assigned her a story about a young man who had been accepted to 14 of the 16 colleges he'd applied for.

Washington Informer Editor D. Kevin McNeir pushed Alexa, late into the night, to turn the story in, she said, adding that, "the article was published the next morning on the front page."

The Live on Air Award went to Tiana Hunt and Darrell Williams.

Hunt penned a story in August in The Louisiana Weekly about Williams' dreams of being a creative director, while one of his signature features was about the 2018 Chevrolet Equinox, which he said should be in every

neighborhood across the country.

"I've discovered so much of the unexpected with great mentors and great people," Williams said.

Meanwhile, Hunt said the DTU journalism program helped her to see how much hard work and dedication pays off. "I can honestly say, I 'discovered the unexpected,'" Hunt said.

Ayron Lewallen and Taylor Burris received the Entertainment Reporting Award for their work interviewing celebrities and other high-profile individuals.

"This program taught me that being a journalist is more than interviewing celebrities," said Burris, who wrote a fascinating story for The Carolinian about Nita Key Enrichment, the first black music enrichment company in North Carolina. "I've become stronger than ever and it means that I have to be prepared to advocate for my community."

Lewallen, who blogged for The Carolinian about how his Detroit immersion trip changed his mindset, said he had always been big on ideas, but being a DTU fellow was about more than just big ideas.

"I had to dig deep," said Lewallen. "I will continue my path toward becoming a broadcast journalist and I will never forget what everyone in this program has taught me."

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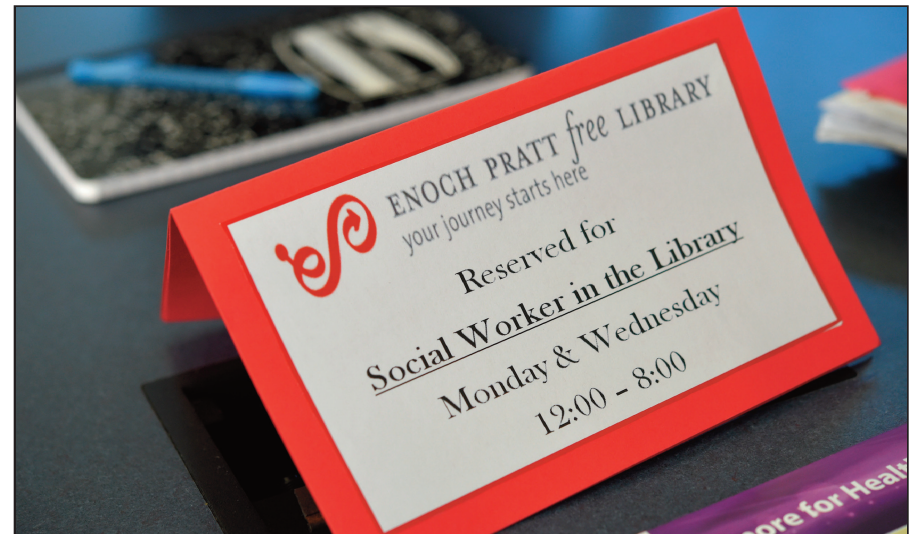


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Social workers now available at select Pratt Libraries



The Enoch Pratt Free Library has partnered with the University of Maryland School of Social Work to bring the “Social Worker in the Library” program to Baltimore. The initiative brings graduate student social work interns into the Hamilton, Brooklyn, and Pennsylvania Avenue branches to help customers address issues such as poverty, food insecurity, homelessness and addiction.

Courtesy Photo/Pratt Library

Baltimore— The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to partner with the University of Maryland School of Social Work to bring the “Social Worker in the Library” program to Baltimore. The new initiative brings graduate student social work interns into several library branches to help customers address issues such as poverty, food insecurity, homelessness and addiction.

“Every day Baltimore residents in need of vital government services walk through the doors of our libraries,” said Pratt Library President and CEO Heidi Daniel. “Offering connections to these services inside a strong community anchor, like the library will make a difference in so many lives and contribute to the long-term health of our city.”

“When two Baltimore anchor institutions combine forces, great ideas can become powerful programs,” said Richard P. Barth, Ph.D., MSW, dean of the University of Maryland School of Social Work. “We are delighted to provide expertise and direct services to assist the many library visitors who have social and behavioral health challenges that can be addressed with effective support. In so doing, this program will help the Enoch Pratt Free Library continue to be

a national leader in library services.”

The pilot program begins this fall in the Hamilton, Brooklyn, and Pennsylvania Avenue branches, as well as the Southeast Anchor Library. The social work interns will be in the libraries at least two days a week providing one-on-one counseling to customers, conducting programs to serve the community, and training library staff on topics such as crisis management and positive engagement.

“Libraries, often embedded in the community serve as urban sanctuaries, contain natural support systems, and remain a safe place to find answers to questions and to acquire resources. What a fantastic opportunity to merge these important community-based organizations with the practice of social work,” said Lane A. Victorson, clinical instructor with the UMB Social Work Community Outreach Service. “Social work students, guided by a licensed, seasoned social worker, will enhance the capacity of these important mediating institutions to provide both relief and life-changing services.”

Funding for this program is being provided by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as PNC Foundation, the Bunting Family Foundation and Greif Family Foundation.

St. Mark United Methodist Church celebrates 175 years Anniversary

By Timothy Cox

One of Maryland's oldest black-based congregations will celebrate 175 years of consecutive service during a special gala on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the BWI Hilton Hotel located at 1739 West Nursery Road in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. The event dubbed "Come Feel The Spirit and Share The Love," begins at 7 p.m.

Internationally, acclaimed gospel artist Pastor Donnie McClurkin, along with Pastor Beverly Crawford and Maurette Brown-Clark are scheduled to appear. Minister Regi McClurkin, will also perform. Pastor Crawford is a former member of Bobby Jones' New Life Singers, while Brown-Clark was a member of Richard Smallwood's Vision group.

The emcee and host for the evening is Ernestine Yvonne Jones, the voice of Gospel Grace Brunch WEEA 88.9-FM at Morgan State University.

In addition to being a first-cousin to Pastor McClurkin, Minister McClurkin is a renowned recording artist and Minister of Music at St. Mark United Methodist Church. Last June, Minister McClurkin released his latest CD project entitled "Music in the Air." The debut single from CD is "Rejoice."

St. Mark's Pastor Herbert W. Watson Jr., noted that the theme for the gala is "Love Matters." Having served at the church for more than 20 years, Pastor Watson says he is cognizant that today's church must continue to have a relevant presence not only with its current members but with potential members in the community as well.

While his church's congregation is of a traditional African-American base, Pastor Watson says it's a fact that Anne Arundel County demographics confirm that while the black population has not decreased, other ethnicities have grown resulting in an overall decrease in black population percentages.

"In the midst of the church's historical longevity, it's pertinent to develop a mission of inclusiveness," he said. "To remain and sustain. It's now about what do we need to do to attract some of these people who are near-by. Our neighbors in our community— newcomers who



(Left) St. Mark United Methodist Church Pastor Herbert W. Watson Jr. and First Lady Rochelle Watson (Right) The congregation of St. Mark United Methodist Church and the community will celebrate 175 years of consecutive service at a special gala on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the BWI Hilton Hotel in Linthicum Heights.

Photos by Timothy Cox

reside in the many new housing communities near our [church]. Another question is, how do we engage the younger people [and] people with young families?"

With an active membership roll averaging about 300 parishioners, St. Mark United Methodist Church hosts two services each Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Church ministries include music, public address, trustees, ushers, property upkeep, security, women's (retreat), bible study, visitation, youth, Girl Scouts, sick-and-shut-in, dance, outreach and new membership assistance. The church was founded in 1842.

A native of Summerton, S.C., Pastor Watson migrated to Baltimore as a youth with his parents. He is the middle-child of five siblings. After graduating from Baltimore's Polytechnic High School, Pastor Watson initially had his sights on becoming an engineer. After being "called to the ministry," he matriculated to Western Maryland College (now



Minister Regi McClurkin, Minister of Music at St. Mark United Methodist Church will perform at the 175th Anniversary Gala. Courtesy Photo

McDaniel College), where he earned his Master's of Divinity degree. He is also a graduate of Garrett— Evangelical Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology of The United Methodist Church located in Evanston, Illinois. Pastor Watson, now 65, has 40 years of ministerial experience.

Pastor Watson proudly notes that he is St. Mark's "longest-serving pastor, at this point, with my 21 years."

The current temple was constructed 50 years ago in 1967, according to its cornerstone. St. Mark is part of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Watson served at Christ United Methodist of East Baltimore prior to coming to St. Mark UMC in July 1996.

Gala tickets are \$75. For gala tickets or for more information about the event, call St. Mark UMC at 410-859-5352 or OYEZ Productions at 410-379-9050.

Urban Alliance Baltimore helping to build bright futures

By Ursula V. Battle

Carver graduate lands apprenticeship at Homewood General Contracting

Vernon Woodly, 18, a graduate of Carver Vocational Technical High School in Baltimore has dreams of starting his own Home Improvement business one day. Thanks to the Urban Alliance Baltimore's Career Technology Education (CTE), he is well on his way.

"If anybody from Urban Alliance comes to your school, or if you hear of anybody who is connected to Urban Alliance, you should join," said Woodly. "It's hard at first, and it's not easy, but if you think about the long-term effects of what it will have on your life, then it will be much easier to go back."

Woodly, is among 10 high school seniors who were enrolled in the CTE program during its pilot year. Urban Alliance Baltimore offers half-year and year-long career opportunities for high school seniors from underserved communities in the city to have access to professional growth and experiences.

Urban Alliance Baltimore's CTE pilot program was funded by a two-year, \$200,000 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders grant. The High School Internship Program (HSIP) lasts a full year, with high school seniors from underserved communities in Baltimore receiving six weeks of soft skills training, followed by a 10-month, paid, professional internship in a variety of



Vernon Woodly speaking about his Urban Alliance experience before a panel of judges at the program's culminating Public Speaking Challenge in July at the University of Baltimore. Woodly landed an internship at Homewood General Contracting after graduating from the Urban Alliance Baltimore Technology Education (CTE) program.

Courtesy Photo

industries, mentoring and intensive case management.

The CTE program is a shortened version of HSIP, with students who already have vocational training matched with work experience in that same field.

Woodly and the other students in the Baltimore City CTE pathway took rigorous academic courses, preparing them to graduate from high school with industry certification or college credit.

Urban Alliance started the program this spring in partnership with the Baltimore City Public Schools 21st Century Schools Building Program. According to Urban Alliance, the goal of the program is to transition CTE high school seniors in the construction pathway to immediate employment, an apprenticeship/career training program, or an institution of higher learning.

Job partners include Gilbane Building

Company, Cain Contracting, Dustin Construction, Hess Construction, JRS Architects, J. Vinton Schafer & Sons, Inc., STV, and Turner Construction.

Woodly was an intern with Gilbane Building Company.

"Urban Alliance did not send you out into a job, they trained you for a job first," he said. "They prepared you mentally with positivity, and they showed you different aspects of what to look for, and how to remain professional, how to dress and how to talk in a professional setting. It taught you a lot."

Woodly's mentor at Gilbane subsequently took him to a contracting meeting at Homewood General Contracting, where he was offered an apprenticeship in carpentry. Woodly accepted.

His mentor was so impressed with Woodly that he even asked for an extension of his internship so that they could keep him around as long as possible before he started at Homewood.

Urban Alliance's second year of CTE interns starts training in February 2018, with their internships starting March 2018.

"They're not just coworkers, they're mentors," said Woodly. They're someone to help you. I'm still receiving help from them."

Urban Alliance is located at 1500 Union Avenue in Hampton. For more information, visit: www.theurbanalliance.org.

Free Preventive Dental Care for Seniors at BCCC

The Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) Dental Hygiene Program will provide free preventive care dental services to seniors age 62 and over October from October 16 to 20, 2017 at the Dental Hygiene Clinic on the first floor of the Liberty Campus Life Sciences Building located at 2901 Liberty Heights Avenue in West Baltimore. Free services are provided each year in celebration of National Dental Hygiene Month and Senior Week.

Appointments are necessary and will be taken for Monday, Oct. 16, 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 17, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.; and Friday, Oct. 20, 1-5 p.m. No appointments will be taken for Wednesday, Oct. 18. Due to limited space, walk-ins will not be accepted!

Each senior dental session includes an oral cancer exam, x-rays and cleaning, all at no charge to the patient. To schedule an appointment call the BCCC Dental Hygiene Clinic at 410-462-7712.

*Send your community calendar events
to: kreevie@btimes.com*

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New law in Maryland allows free credit freeze

Baltimore— Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh is reminding Maryland residents of a new law effective October 1, 2017, that provides consumers the right to place a freeze on their credit reports free of charge.

“A credit freeze is one of the most effective methods of protecting yourself against identity theft,” said Attorney General Frosh. “The recent Equifax data breach is a clear example of why consumers should use every available resource to help keep their personal information out of the hands of identity thieves.”

A credit freeze prevents anyone from seeing your credit report without your express permission. If a potential creditor can't see your credit report, they are less likely to open a new credit card, cellphone, utility or other account at the request of an identity thief. A credit freeze remains in effect until the consumer decides to remove it.

Equifax, which suffered a recent data breach affecting 143 million consumers, is currently offering free credit freezes to consumers. To place a credit freeze through Equifax, consumers may go to <https://www.freeze.equifax.com> or by calling 1-800-685-1111.

In addition to Equifax, consumers may also freeze their reports with the other two major credit bureaus, Experian and TransUnion. Information about placing freezes with those bureaus may be found

at www.experian.com/freeze and <https://annualcreditreport.transunion.com/fa/securityfreeze/landing>.

Consumers should be aware that the new Maryland law only waives the fees



for freezing a credit report, but not the fees for temporarily “thawing” or lifting the freeze for a credit report if the consumer needs to apply for credit, rent an apartment, or engage in another transaction in which the credit report needs to be reviewed. The fee for temporarily thawing a credit report is \$5 for each credit bureau, but creditors generally only need to review one bureau’s report.

Consumers who are actively seeking credit to buy a new home or car may

want to wait before placing a freeze on their credit reports.

Both credit freezes and temporary thaws are free for victims of identity theft who have a police report.

Information about protecting yourself against identity theft can be found on the Attorney General’s website: www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/pages/identitytheft or by calling the Attorney General’s Identity Theft Unit at 410-576-6491.

Stanton Community Center Needs Volunteers

The Stanton Community Center serves as a community resource that provides children and adults with recreational and cultural enrichment opportunities and health, medical, therapeutic, and counseling services. The center displays historical portraits of Annapolis' diverse community and features many offices, a multi-purpose gymnasium, commercial kitchen, fitness area, historic classroom, media center with computers, and two conference/meeting rooms. Volunteers, age 18 and up, are needed as academic tutors for elementary, middle and high school students in the After School Homework Program on Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. from September–June to help with homework, core subjects, school projects and academic skills. The program ends with a Homework Club Banquet to recognize students for their in-school academic accomplishments and for their after school Homework Club academic accomplishments. Also needed are volunteers to help with the computer lab, which is available free to city residents. For more information contact Archie Trader at 410-263-7966 or email: atrader@annapolis.gov or visit the website: www.annapolis.gov at Department-Recreation & Parks.

The Father Academy seeks volunteer fathers

The mission of The Father Academy is to enhance the lives and relationships of fathers with their children through peer mentoring, education and support. The Academy is looking for fathers who feel like they've gotten a good handle on fatherhood, as well as fathers who want help. The Father Academy needs dads who are willing to commit to a 9-month program where they will provide each other peer mentoring and education based on the Responsible Fatherhood curriculum. For additional information, contact Christopher Moore at 240-547-9806 or email: chris@thefatheracademy.org or visit the website: <http://thefatheracademy.wixsite.com/thefatheracademy>.

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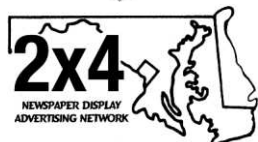


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