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Peace Corps Volunteer from Baltimore Teaches in Mozambique



Nancy Holt, an education volunteer teaches chemistry in Mozambique. She is a graduate of Brown University and McDonogh School in Baltimore County. She joined the 207 Maryland residents currently serving in the Peace Corps and more than 6,000 residents who have served since 1961. Holt lived with a host family for several months to learn and understand the country. She also learned Portuguese to enable her to teach chemistry. (Left to right): Nancy Holt's mother, Nancy Brown-Holt; brother, Harry Holt II; Nancy Holt; and Nancy's father, Harry Holt, Jr. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo

Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center to be designated a Historic Landmark

Baltimore— Seventy years ago, and about eight years after the death of its namesake, the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center opened at 603 N. Eden Street in Baltimore.

Today, officials are preparing to celebrate that anniversary with a major announcement. On Saturday, November 17, 2017, the Dunbar Coalition in partnership with Change4Real Development Corporation Inc. and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks will dedicate the center as a historic landmark.

The dedication plans include an Open House and on the Sunday, November 18, organizers have scheduled a Harlem Night Cabaret and a worship service at Walters AME Church.

It was Webb himself who initiated the idea of a recreational center.

According to the book, “Musical Maryland: A History of Song and Performance From the Colonial Period to the Age of Radio” by David K. Hildebrand and Elizabeth M. Schaff, Webb never put Maryland behind him, returning again and again to play at community benefits in Baltimore and to perform at Pennsylvania Avenue’s Royal Theatre and in Cambridge, on the Eastern Shore.

Recalling his own childhood, Webb spoke of performing a series of benefits to establish a recreational center for young people in East Baltimore. He died in 1939, one year after the idea was hatched to construct the center, which residents of East Baltimore hoped would combat juvenile delinquency in the area by keeping young people occupied and off the streets.

Residents viewed the center as a venue to provide recreational activities and to inspire youth by commemorating Webb,



On Saturday, November 17, 2017, the Dunbar Coalition in partnership with Change4Real Development Corporation Inc., and Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks will celebrate the dedication of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center as a historic landmark. Courtesy Photos

an east Baltimore youth, who overcame a physical disability to become a renowned musician and drummer.

Dr. Ralph Young pursued the recreation development after the YMCA dropped the idea of opening a location in East Baltimore.

Young, Chairman of the Memorial Committee, approached the Baltimore City Council for money to develop the recreation center, which had an estimated price tag of \$120,000.

The committee formed by advocates of the center held a benefit, which attracted



Photograph of Chick Webb, which that hangs on the wall in Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center.

Joe Louis, and radio and stage stars, who counted among Webb’s friends. The proceeds from the benefit show, a baseball game featuring the Elite Giants of the Negro Baseball League and a fashion show earned \$10,000.

The city still failed to act and the money raised was invested in war bonds after the start of World War II.

Once the war ended, the recreation committee resumed its mission and purchased an old icehouse at 603 N. Eden to establish the center. The city kicked in \$75,000 approximately half of the estimated cost for construction and Young appealed to the community and received donations from doctors, a women’s civic league, neighborhood and citizens clubs and a local church.

Eventually, the Recreation Committee would turn the property over to the city for operations.

In 2016, the Dunbar Coalition was formed in a move that spared the center from demolition and ultimately earning the historic landmark dedication.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Ford empowers HBCU students to pursue STEAM careers

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., President and CEO, NNPA

There is no debate about the continuing historic importance and strategic mission and purpose of the nation's 120-plus Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). During the 2017 homecoming festivities that are now occurring on HBCU campuses across the nation, I believe it is also important to salute and recognize the companies that financially contribute to the success of HBCUs.

The Ford Motor Company has had a long track record of contributing to HBCUs that spans more than 30 years. Thus, it was noteworthy when Ford recently launched its "Drive2Greatness" initiative to support science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) programs at HBCUs.

We concur, that STEAM careers are vital and in high demand in today's global economy. The clear majority of African American college students, who complete their course of studies in STEAM fields graduate from HBCUs. Thanks to the Ford Motor Company and the Tom Joyner Morning Show, the "Drive2Greatness" initiative is off to a great start.

According to "Raj" Register at Ford's multicultural communications, "For more than three decades, Ford has been committed to implementing and supporting initiatives that encourage and inspire young people to pursue and succeed in STEAM careers...with the launch of our inaugural 'Drive2Greatness' program, we're excited to extend that commitment to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their STEAM programs."

The competition among HBCUs to win prizes in the Drive2Greatness program involves earning points through online voting at the Facebook page of the Tom Joyner Morning Show that includes using a Ford-dedicated hashtag via social media platforms. I just voted for my HBCU, Howard University, using the hashtag #Ford-HowardU. Howard University has a diverse array of many key STEAM academic disciplines. Make sure that you vote for your HBCU today.

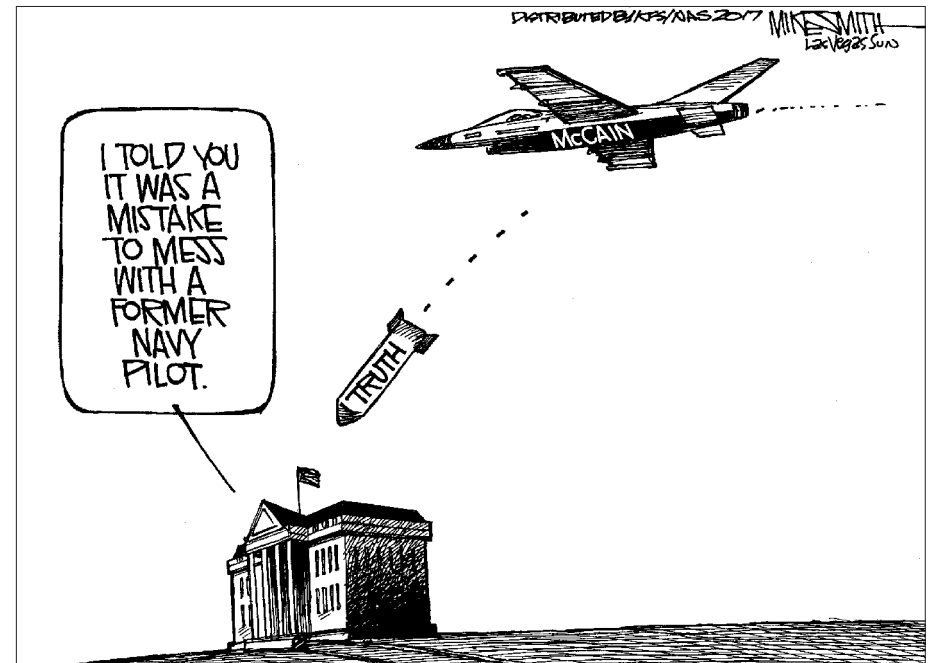
Last year, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) awarded Tom Joyner our 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding national broadcast leadership and his dedication to our nation's HBCUs. Ford selected the right national radio partner and outstanding leader in Tom Joyner. Our African American college students do need more support, encouragement and engagement, particularly with respect to STEAM careers.

The Ford Motor Company and the Tom Joyner Morning Show deserve our salute and tribute, because, together they are helping to make a positive difference in our communities and with our HBCUs. Driving toward greatness necessitates adequate preparation and attaining a quality education. Drive2Greatness is timely given the increasing demand for STEAM college graduates in the current expanding economy.

Dr. Lezli Baskerville is the President and CEO of the National Association for Equality Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the umbrella organization of all of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly Black Institutions. Dr. Baskerville stated, "The Drive2Greatness program by the Ford Motor Company and the Tom Joyner Morning Show is an effective model on how to encourage STEAM careers. NAFEO is proud of what our HBCUs are accomplishing in these transformative fields of study."

Our most precious resource in our communities is our youth, who are gifted and talented and also need more opportunities like the Ford Motor Company's initiative on STEAM.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) based in Washington, DC and can be contacted at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.



Community Affairs

GoFundMe and TCMF partner to help students pay for college

Redwood City, Calif. — On October 31, 2017, GoFundMe announced a partnership with Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the nation's largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community.

GoFundMe and TCMF are teaming up to raise money in support of students at the nation's 47 publicly, supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"No American should be prevented from enrolling in and graduating from college because of money. Sadly, that is a reality for many HBCU students," said Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., TCMF President & CEO. "This innovative partnership with GoFundMe makes ordinary people extraordinary philanthropists, through their online giving platform now used to support deserving HBCU students pay for their college education."

"We are proud to partner with Thurgood Marshall College Fund and help HBCU students pay for college. Thousands of students have turned to GoFundMe to

help pay for college, and with college tuition on the rise, it's more important than ever to help support students pursuing their higher education," said Rob Solomon, GoFundMe CEO. "This new partnership will make it simpler and easier for HBCU students to get the financial support they need to thrive at college."

GoFundMe released a new TCMF fundraising hub, which will serve as a resource for students and their communities. We want to make it as easy as possible for GoFundMe donors to find students attending HBCUs, as well as giving students and their families the tips and tools they need for a successful campaign. GoFundMe and Thurgood Marshall College Fund launched six GoFundMe campaigns for students attending college at Howard University, Fayetteville State, Norfolk State, and South Carolina State. To make a contribution or to start a GoFundMe, visit the TCMF fundraising hub here: www.gofundme.com/tmcf.

Over the past several years, students, teachers, and parents are increasingly turning to GoFundMe to raise money for education expenses, including college tuition.

Trump makes George W. Bush sound eloquent

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Newswire Columnist

I never thought I would miss President George W. Bush, our 43rd president, and I've never thought of him as a great, or even a good speaker. However, the speech he gave at a conference convened by the George W. Bush Institute was simply eloquent, excellent, thoughtful and compelling.

After keeping a low profile for the past eight years, he spoke up to decry the fact that "bigotry seems emboldened."

Bush said, "Bullying and prejudice in our public life sets a national tone, provides permission for cruelty and bigotry, and compromises the moral education of children."

Why did George W. Bush choose to speak so forcefully, in a speech that did not mention "45," but was at least partly directed at him? Perhaps, it was the violent protests in Charlottesville; he and his father, President George Herbert Walker Bush, issued a joint statement denouncing White supremacists, something that it took "45" forever to do. The

younger Bush was blunt when he said, "Bigotry or White supremacy in any form is blasphemy against the American creed."

I knew that I would miss President Barack Obama (44). Like his predecessor, he has kept a low profile since leaving office, stepping out very briefly to campaign for Virginia gubernatorial candidate Ralph Northam and to reflect on

reminded me of how far the quality of our nation's leadership has fallen. I saw two men who, with absolute class, reminding us of our nation's values and everything that is repugnant about the current administration. The contrast is the persistent crassness of "45," an ill spoken, bumbling, coarse, and classless individual. He never met a fight he could not pick and escalate, never met

Medical Center to look in on wounded soldiers, or hosting White House luncheons for Gold Star families. Crass is calling widow Myeshia Johnson, never mentioning her deceased husband, Sgt. La David Johnson, by name and telling her "he knew what he signed up for." Class is refusing to disparage either predecessor or successor. Crass is trashing anyone and everyone, including his predecessor. Class is disagreeing with dignity and civility. Crass is name-calling, challenging people to IQ tests, making fun of ill and disabled people, making fun of war hero and veteran Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) for being shot down and captured during the Vietnam War.

To be sure, I don't think that "45" maliciously called Myeshia Johnson in an attempt to cause her pain. I think he simply does not know how to talk to people, and we have plenty of evidence.

The recent book, "The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President" (Macmillan, 2017) explains that the sociopathic narcissist we elected is so fundamentally flawed that he could easily imperil our very survival by pushing us into war.

President Trump told Myeshia Johnson "he knew what he signed up for." So did nearly half of our nation's voters when they chose crass over class.

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 on her website. For more info, visit: www.julianneomalveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

"Watching Presidents Bush and Obama reminded me of how far the quality of our nation's leadership has fallen. I saw two men who, with absolute class, reminding us of our nation's values and everything that is repugnant about the current administration. The contrast is the persistent crassness of '45,' an ill spoken, bumbling, coarse, and classless individual."

the challenges we face in our democracy. Like President Bush, President Obama did not refer to "45" by name, but his speech in Virginia was a repudiation of virtually everything that our prevaricating current president stands for.

"Some of the politics we see now, we thought we put that to bed," said Obama. "That has folks looking 50 years back. It's the 21st century, not the 19th century. Come on!"

Seemingly scolding the current administration, Obama said, "Instead of looking for ways to work together to get things done in a practical way, we've got folks who are deliberately trying to make folks angry, to demonize people who have different ideas, to get the base all riled up, because it provides a short-term tactical advantage."

Watching Presidents Bush and Obama

an opposing viewpoint he could not demonize. He has belittled everyone he has disagreed with, from his own inner circle to football players he does not even know, calling them "sons of bitches."

In his entire eight years of service, President Obama never disparaged his predecessor, President George W. Bush, even as he cleaned up some of his messes. In his several months of leadership, "45" has missed no opportunity to criticize President Obama. If I had a dollar for every time President Obama critiqued President Bush, I'd barely have enough money for a fast-food meal. If I had a dollar for every time "45" disparaged President Obama, I could dine at the nation's best restaurants for a full week!

Class is visiting Walter Reed Army

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Maryland Film Festival presents Student Film Showcase featuring high school, college students

By Stacy M. Brown

On Monday, November 6, 2017, and one week later on November 13, the Maryland Film Festival will host the Fall 2017 Baltimore Student Film Showcase at Theater 2 at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway located at 5 W. North Avenue in Baltimore City.

Among the must-see films being showcased are “Strange Fruit,” a production from Griot’s Eye, which reflects on police brutality as highlighted in the song, “Strange Fruit,” by Billie Holiday and Nina Simone.

Organizers of the showcase say some of the works are poignant and illustrate the obstacles and worries that young people face living in Baltimore and throughout the country.

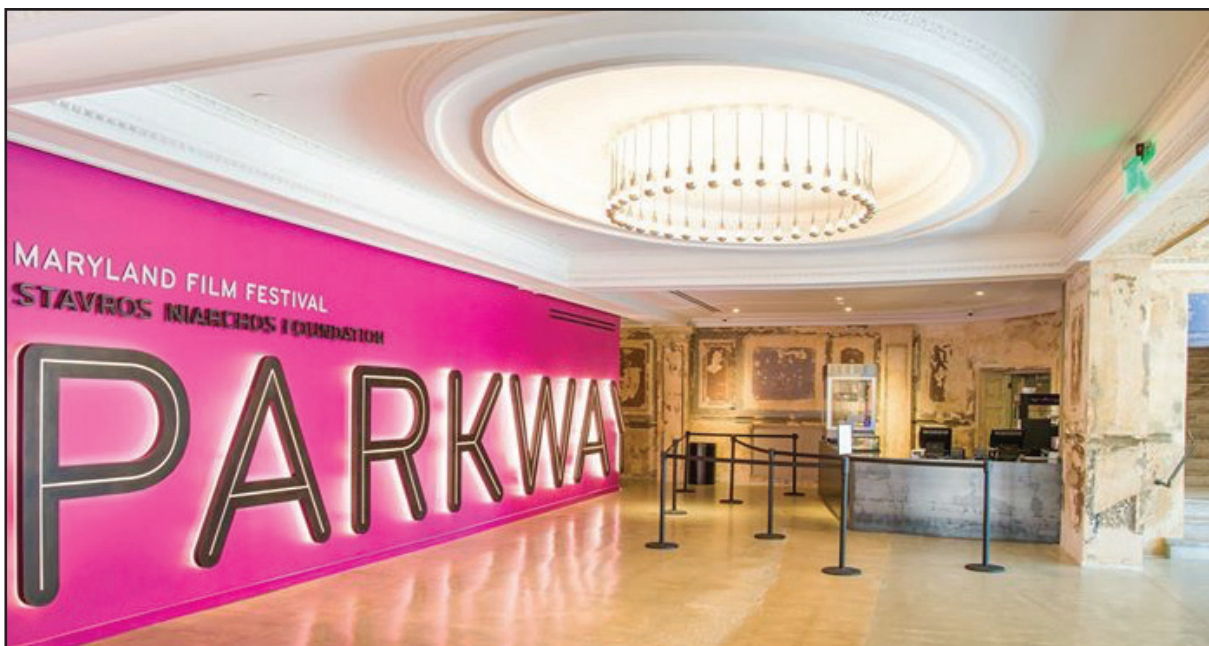
Scheduled over two days, the showcase will feature a youth session on November 6, and a college session on November 13. Both sessions are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Films like “Strange Fruit,” “The Defenders,” and “Pretty Boy,” are among the anticipated highlights of the showcase, hosted by WYPR producer Aaron Henkin and sponsored by the Baltimore Equitable Insurance Company.

“Our Student Film Showcase is only the beginning,” said Jed Dietz, founding director of the Maryland Film Festival – or MdFF. “Through ongoing youth and college programming at the Parkway, we have the ability to cultivate the voices and talents of young filmmakers, and to forge a connection between film education and career development.”

In making “The Defenders,” students in Wide Angle Youth Media’s Patterson Park Public Charter School researched historical figures that were considered heroes in their community. They developed superhero characters to depict these historical role models. Meanwhile, “Pretty Boy,” tells the story of a young man redefining himself after a war injury that renders him impotent. He learns various lessons from this devastating injury.

The youth session will include Baltimore City and Baltimore County School Students enrolled in film and media programs at the Baltimore School for the Arts, Baltimore Youth Film Arts, G.W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology, Griot’s Eye, Lansdowne High School, Root Branch Film Academy, and Wide Angle Youth Media.



The Baltimore Student Film Showcase is scheduled over two days with a youth session on Monday, November 6, and a college session on Monday, November 13 in Theater 2 at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway located at 5 W. North Avenue in Baltimore City. Admission is free, but tickets are required. For tickets and more information about the festival, visit: www.mdffilmfest.com.

Courtesy Photo

The G.W. Carver School submitted several portrait pieces, one of which portrays a woman who has fostered 84 children since 1994, and another who addresses living with Sickle Cell Anemia. Root Branch also entered various pieces into the showcase, one of which documents the importance of a community recreational center and another titled, “Youth Truth,” which depicts the concerns of young people in Baltimore.

The college session is expected to include Baltimore-area college students representing film and media programs from Johns Hopkins University; Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA); Morgan State University; Towson University; Stevenson University; and University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Both showcases are part of the Maryland Film Festival’s initiative to support the city’s growing youth media and college film movement throughout the year, according to in a news release.

Festival organizers say they want to educate students and connect them with wider audiences and the film community. Filmmaking allows youth to share their

stories and those of others.

The showcase will help students to share their work and their experiences with youth in other parts of the city, tackling various issues including community-policing and public service announcements.

“Film students are hungry to learn and we’re excited by the opportunity to improve access to the film making world with Baltimore’s film students,” said Beatriz Bufrahi, founder of the Baltimore High School Film Festival and faculty member at Baltimore School for the Arts. “We’re hoping that this experience will inspire students to be creative and tell their stories, in and out of the classroom.”

Founded in 1999, the MdFF brings films, filmmakers, students and audiences together in what organizers call a friendly, inclusive atmosphere. The unique and creative aspects of the Baltimore community are reflected over five days each May during the MdFF.

Admission to the showcase is free, but tickets are required. For tickets and more information about the festival, visit: www.mdffilmfest.com.

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i-Ready® Mathematics Wins a 2017 THE Journal Readers' Choice

North Billerica, Mass.— Curriculum Associates' i-Ready® Mathematics recently won a 2017 THE Journal Readers' Choice Award.

Based on votes from the publication's tech-savvy readers, the online diagnostic and instruction program for students in Grades K–12 received a Silver award in the Favorite Interventions & Remediation Software category. The i-Ready program, which is currently used by more than five million students and educators nationwide, also received a Silver award in 2015 in the Adaptive/Personalized Learning category.

"In classrooms every single day, i-Ready is supporting educators and driving growth for millions of students in the areas they need it most, both in math and in reading," said Rob Waldron, CEO of Curriculum Associates. "We are honored to see the program recognized by THE Journal's readers who use i-Ready in their own schools and districts and see firsthand its remediation and instructional power."

THE Journal is dedicated to informing



Based on votes from the publication's tech-savvy readers, the online diagnostic and instruction program for students in Grades K–12 received a Silver award in the Favorite Interventions & Remediation Software category. Courtesy Photo

and educating K–12 senior-level district and school administrators, technologists, and educators within districts, schools, and classrooms to improve and advance the learning process through the use of technology. This year is the publication's third annual Readers' Choice Awards in which readers name their favorite technologies, including i-Ready Mathematics.

Built to address the rigor of the new standards, i-Ready's mathematics and English language arts programs help students make real gains. i-Ready collects a broad spectrum of rich data on student abilities that identifies areas where a student is struggling, measures growth across a student's career, supports teacher-led differentiated instruction, and provides a personalized instructional path within a single online solution.

i-Ready is currently being used this school year by nearly 15 percent of all K–8 students nationwide across all 50 states. Additionally, more than 1 million students use the program every school day.

To learn more about i-Ready, visit www.i-Ready.com.



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Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore Benefits from PNC, Donors Choose Initiative

By Stacy M. Brown

For Mary Gunning, the new PNC Foundation alliance with DonorsChoose.org has been a godsend for Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore.

Gunning, Head Start's director, says as a result of the foundation's \$5 million "Grow up Great" program and partnership with DonorsChoose.org, teachers at the Harlem Park site in Sandtown-Winchester have received play equipment, art supplies and other materials that enhance the classroom environment and instruction.

"The teachers were very excited about being able to create their own wish lists and post them on DonorsChoose.org," Gunning said. "It allowed them to individualize to the specific needs of their classrooms and children."

Adrienne Kearney, a teacher at Catholic Charities Harlem Park Head Start says she was able to complete her first project under the initiative and is readying a second project.

"We received all of the items that we needed and my students loved it," Kearney said. "With the project we were able to get things like jump ropes, hula-hoops, soccer balls and other items."

In April, the PNC Foundation announced it would fund hundreds of pre-K classroom requests as part of a \$5 million grant to DonorsChoose.org—the online charity that connects individual donors with classrooms in need—to provide teachers with enhanced classroom resources and experiences to inspire their students' love of learning.

Officials say PNC entered the alliance to further the mission of the company's "Grow up Great" program, a \$350 million, and multi-year bilingual initiative in early childhood education.

The foundation's gift to support pre-K classrooms also enables DonorsChoose.org to expand its education, funding platform to include project requests from Head Start teachers for the first time.

"We're thrilled to be a part of PNC's longstanding commitment to early childhood learning," Charles Best, DonorsChoose.org founder, said in a news release. "Their generosity will help



Children from Adrienne Kearney's class at Catholic Charities Harlem Park Head Start in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood playing with outdoor play equipment, which was one of the funded projects. Courtesy Photo

us expand the DonorsChoose.org platform to serve Head Start classrooms nationwide, ensuring that many more pre-K teachers have resources they need to give their students a solid educational foundation."

Teacher requests for educational resources range from books to art supplies, science equipment, field trips and other pertinent items.

A recent study conducted by the National Head Start Association showed that 94 percent of teachers said they need more resources to enrich the classroom, but 84 percent say they are unable to fund experiences they want to provide. The study also noted that 93 percent of those queried either considered buying or bought classroom supplies out of their own pockets; 88 percent reported spending up to \$500.

"Head Start supports our nation's most vulnerable children by offering a comprehensive, high-quality early learning experience that prepares them for kindergarten and strengthens family participation in their children's learning," Yasmina S. Vinci, executive director, National Head Start Association, said in a statement. "Our research shows almost

all Head Start teachers are spending their own dollars on basic resources for students. This is a great opportunity to empower Head Start teachers to secure the resources needed to maximize the Head Start advantage."

Also, "PNC's work with DonorsChoose.org reflects our commitment to helping children get a strong start in life," said PNC Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

William S. Demchak. "This program will directly improve pre-K teachers' ability to help more students reach their full potential and through their successes, will strengthen the communities we serve."

Having the appropriate type and quantity of equipment and educational materials encourages and enhances hands-on learning throughout all development areas, including social-emotional, physical and cognitive, Gunning said.

"This, in turn, helps us to improve our early childhood outcomes and ensures that our children are ready for elementary school," she said. "In addition, studies have shown that investing in high-quality early childhood development programs can deliver an annual return of 13 percent per child on upfront costs through better outcomes in education, health, employment and social behavior."

Both Gunning and Kearney noted how grateful they were to PNC for the program.

"Many early childhood education programs like Head Start rely very heavily on alternative funding streams and community partnerships to support our work and mission," Gunning said. "DonorsChoose.org is an innovative crowd-sharing program that gives educators the flexibility and creativity to dream big and come up with wish lists to enhance the incredible learning that takes place every day in early childhood programs."

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The Holts visited Mozambique this summer to meet Nancy's host family. (Left to right) Nancy's father, Harry Holt, Jr.; mother, Nancy Brown-Holt; brother, Harry Holt II; Nancy Holt and host family in Ribaue, Mozambique.

Courtesy Photo

By Dr. Brenda Bowe Johnson

"When I graduated from college, I was looking for the next great adventure of my life," Nancy Holt said about her desire to join the Peace Corps, a world-class organization with a remarkable track record for making a positive impact all around the world for more than fifty years.

Nancy Holt, an education volunteer teaches chemistry in Mozambique. She is a graduate of Brown University and McDonogh School in Baltimore County.

Holt joined the 207 Maryland residents currently serving in the Peace Corps and more than 6,000 residents who have served since 1961. She learned about the Peace Corps programs

from a classmate at Brown peaking her curiosity so much that she applied and pursued the training.

Teaching in Mozambique has been a unique experience. Holt finds that the people are friendly and hardworking.

Mozambique is a southern African nation whose long Indian Ocean coastline is dotted with popular beaches as well as offshore marine parks.

Mozambique gained its independence from Portugal in 1975, ending 470 years of Portuguese colonial rule in the East African nation. The official language is Portuguese although there are sixty different dialects. Mozambique is still suffering from the effects of a 16-year civil war, which ended in 1992.

Holt lived with a host family for several months to learn and understand the country. While with the family, she had to learn Portuguese to enable her to teach chemistry. She has become fully immersed in the country's language and culture. The students try to do their best. There is a strong effort to get more girls involved and active in school and in science in general which is a cultural shift for Mozambique. She has integrated the scientific method and hands-on laboratory lesson, which is unusual in the classroom experience for the students.

"I believe that Peace Corps service will have a profound impact on my

personal and professional aspirations. By the end of my service I am hoping to be fluent in Portuguese, have a comprehensive knowledge of teaching strategies and methods, create international connections and life-long friendships," Holt said.

Nancy's parents, Harry Holt, Sr. and Nancy Brown-Holt, her brother, Harry Holt, Jr. had the opportunity to visit Mozambique this summer to visit Nancy and to enjoy family time.



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Free Film Presentation Featuring Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

The One God, One Thought Center for Better Living, Inc. (OGOT), in recognition of the Baltimore Ceasefire 365 weekend, is having a free viewing of Arun Gandhi's discourse on non-violent advocacy and the lessons he learned growing up with his grandfather, India's legendary leader, Mahatma Gandhi. **Don't miss this special event!** Registration is **STRONGLY** encouraged! FREE tickets can be obtained at <https://goo.gl/vEZJF3> or scan the QR code below.



A discussion led by the Reverend Bernette Lee Jones, OGOT Senior Minister, follows the presentation.

**SUNDAY,
NOV 5, 2017**

NOON-2PM

**OGOT
3605 Coronado RD,
Baltimore, MD 21244**

(Registration begins at 11:30am)

Local Mortgage Professional Travels to Africa to Help Refurbish School

By Stacy M. Brown

While many often travel to South Africa to experience the rich culture and the world famous safaris, Academy Mortgage District Manager Shawn Williams discovered an entirely different way to enjoy that nation.

The Glen Burnie resident participated in a Service Expedition there with a group of more than 160 loan officers, managers, executives and other company representatives.

Given as a unique reward for extraordinary performance, Academy Mortgage's Service Expedition is an important and differentiating component of the company's heavily service-oriented culture, which focuses on numerous service initiatives both at home and abroad, according to organizers of the expedition.

"Honestly, it was indescribable. I am so grateful that I was able to stay in the moment and soak in everything about the experience," Williams said. "I was mesmerized by South Africa and the people."

Williams joined others from Academy Mortgage in helping to provide two days of service to benefit The Makwetse School, located near the famous Kruger National Park where more than 700 students attend.

Despite having classrooms overflowing with more than 100 students, the school risks losing government funding if it turns away any child, so the group focused on improving the school's infrastructure. He and other volunteers assisted with the construction of a desperately needed school kitchen, which officials called life-saving addi-



Academy Mortgage District Manager Shawn Williams participated in a Service Expedition in South Africa with a group of more than 160 loan officers, managers, executives and other company representatives. He helped to install irrigation for a community garden at The Makwetse School, located near the famous Kruger National Park where more than 700 students attend. Courtesy Photo

tion in an environment where school meals are often some students' only meals of the day.

"This experience gave me a lot of hope. Seeing the local people celebrate

each small victory and treasure life's simple pleasures that we in the United States often take for granted meant so much to me," Williams said. "I wanted a little bit of what they have—a slower

pace, happiness, resourcefulness, and a deep sense of appreciation. Knowing its history, it was amazing to see how far the nation has come."

To help keep the kitchen shelves stocked, the volunteers also built key-hole gardens, which the students are charged with taking care of.

The volunteers also painted classrooms and windows, refurbished over 400 student desks, and painted bookshelves for the school's new library in bright colors.

Each project, including the construction of the school library and the planned new playground, were funded by Academy Mortgage, one of the top independent purchase lenders in the United States.

"I witnessed and experienced some of the greatest acts of joy, kindness, and love in my life," Williams said. "The people were enlightening, and I was encouraged by their talents and resourcefulness."

Only Academy's highest-performing managers, loan officers, and employees earn the opportunity to participate in the Service Expedition, according to a news release. Since the program's inception in 2011, Academy team members company-wide have to come to recognize that there is truly no greater reward than the chance to serve others, the release stated.

"I was blessed to be able to share this once-in-a-lifetime travel experience with my uncle who kept saying, 'I don't think that I'll ever have to travel again,'" Williams said. "Participating [in] a Service Expedition such as this gives you a stronger sense of purpose in your life and an opportunity to discover more about what you are made of."

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2018 Michael S. Powell

High School Journalist of the Year

Grammy Nominated Calvin Richardson's 'All or Nothing' touches the soul!

By Eunice Moseley

The voice of Calvin Richardson stirs emotions deep within with his earnest delivery but on his newest album "All or Nothing" (Shanachie) the multi-Grammy Award nominated vocalist goes beyond that and touches the soul.

Maybe it's because he is older now but he stirred in me images of James Brown where in the past, he produced visions of Otis Redding. Produced by Willie Clayton, the "All or Nothing" album offers 11 outstanding selections.

"I'm glad to be here," Richardson said. "It was that time. The last album was in 2014— it's been three years. It was just time to create. You have to be obedient to the universe. This particular album was put together with Willie (Clayton). Him and I decided to create."

And, what a creation it turned out to be! They took the good old sounds of Soul music and mixed it with contemporary beats and rhythms using styles borrowed from Hip-Hop, R&B, Rock and Jazz. The influences from these genres are slight but it's just enough to make it the freshest Soul album to come out in a long time.

"We put it out there and radio just started playing it," Richardson said about 'Treat Her Right,' the album's first single. "The labels started coming. So I've been out there working. I just did the video for 'Treat Her Right.' Lots of labels are interested in people doing things for themselves."



Calvin Richardson
Photo by Gar Roberts

Calvin Richardson was doing his thing on the Gospel circuit when he met K-Ci and JoJo (Jodeci) who inspired him with their group to create his own and their song "Love Slave" ended up on the soundtrack of the film New Jersey Drive in 1995. He was doing his thing with his group when Uptown/Universal signed him as a solo artist in 1999 and released his debut "Country Boy." He was doing his thing at Uptown when Angie Stone heard him and did a duet with him on her album "Mahogany Soul." Well you get the picture. Calvin is also a songwriter and has written songs for Charlie Wilson, Angie Stone, Joe, and Raphael Saadiq.

My favorite cuts on the "All or Nothing" project include the title track "All or Nothing" because it's a funky song and I like to dance; I also think the lead guitar support is awesome and the harmony tight; "The Only One" because his vocals are smooth and offer an R&B sound with Hip-Hop influences in the background that give it that club feel; "Can't Let Go (acoustic)" because of the

old-time Soul sound that had me thinking of James Brown and I love the organ

that takes you to church at the end; the single, "Treat Her Right" because it offers his signature Calvin Richardson vocals, that still evoke images of James Brown; "Breaking Down Inside" where his vocals are calmed down as he sings about love lost; and lastly, "Holding On/Can't Let Go (remix)."

To learn more about Calvin Richardson, visit: www.IAmCalvinRichardson.com and for more on the "All or Nothing" album release, visit: www.Shanachie.com.

Eunice Moseley is a Public Relations Strategist and Business Management Consultant at Freelance Associates. For more entertainment, visit: www.ThePulseofEntertainment.com.

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Space is limited — Registration encouraged.

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More than 2,600 students received **BOOST** scholarships in second year of program

BOOST provides financial assistance to attend nonpublic schools

Baltimore— The second year of the State’s Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program provided scholarships to more than 2,600 low-income Maryland students to attend nonpublic or faith-based schools during the 2017-18 school year, this fall.

The BOOST legislation was created in the 2016 legislative session with the support of Senate President Mike Miller and House Speaker Michael Busch, and was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan. BOOST provides scholarships for low-income students eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program. The program provided about 2,400 scholarships in 2016-17.

“Our administration is proud to support the BOOST Program and to expand it to provide opportunities for even more children again this year,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “We owe it to our kids to think more creatively when it comes to education, and we must continue to encourage innovative ideas that give Maryland families more choices to prepare our students for higher education and for the jobs of the future.”

For the 2017-18 school year, \$6.1 million in scholarships were awarded to 2,659 students. Scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$4,400 each, with the highest award amount going to students who qualified for the Free Meal Program and attended a public school last year. There were 964 scholarships provided to new applicants this year, while 1,695 scholarships went to students who had received a scholarship last year.

The BOOST program this year was available for students in kindergarten through 12th grade who already attend or had applied to attend one of the participating schools.

Rambling Rose

Local Promoter brings Royal Theatre Reunion Live! to Community



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone! I truly hope everything is well with you. It has been a sad couple of weeks for me, because of the passing of loved ones. I have been to several funerals and viewings in the last couple of weeks; David "Hollywood" Hollingsworth; Gabrielle Goodman and David Bun's Mother, Elizabeth Gambrill Bun; Dr. Doo-Wop, Howard Easley's brother and renowned popular drummer, Bobby Ward's brother, John Ward who was a renowned saxophonist. However, it's my duty to cheer you up and my deepest condolences to all the families.

We will start off by talking about a friend of mine Hassan Rasheed, president of New Africa Community Builders (NACB). New Africa Community Builders is a non-profit interfaith organization armed with a simple but profound mantra "Our Community, Our Responsibility." (NACB) has sponsored nine New Africa Community Festivals celebrating the excellence throughout the community under Rasheed's leadership.

This time HONEY CHILD! For the first time ever, they are hosting the "baddest" show, bringing the old Pennsylvania Avenue back from the good old days to the Baltimore community with "The Royal Theatre Reunion" featuring; The Manhattans, featuring Gerald Alston, Ray, Goodman & Brown; Dynamic Superior; and Crosswinds live on stage for your entertainment pleasure. The entertainment continues with comedienne, Ms Maybelle; First Impression, "Janay", Style; D.J. Sugar Chris, D.J. Mike Jones; Larry Young; Wanda Coe-Stewart; and Yours Truly.

All of this and more, takes place at the Patapsco Arena located at 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

You don't want to miss this one! Tickets are available at the Patapsco Arena or you may call: 410-354-1338 or from T-Shirt Brian at the Patapsco Flea Market; Marshall's Music at 1946 W. Pratt Street; DeAngelo's Hair Salon; Turning Point; Davis Barber Cuts; or call Mike Grady at 410-905-4695. This event is cash bar but BYOF (bring your own food, picnic style). Under no circumstances can you bring in your own bottle, they will search you. We will see you there!

Now check this out, you will be able to go to two events in one day, plus/or do a bus trip. Okay, first you must go and support my guys, Terry Battle & Jumpstreet for their Fall JazzFest on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Church of St. Mary, the Virgin, but their event is from 1-4 p.m. You will have time to go home and change for the Royal Theatre Reunion which doesn't start until 8 p.m. or if neither one of those are your cup of tea, how about supporting Mt. Zion United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 11 as they travel to Maryland's Eastern Shore to tour the new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center? To get your tickets and more information, call Dorothy Randall at 410-298-0701 or 410-664-7490.

Well, my dear friends, I am out of space. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Do not send me information by face book if you want me to know about your event, I will not get it. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Ray, Goodman & Brown as well as the Manhattans will grace the stage for Rasheed's 1st Annual Royal Theatre Reunion Show November 11, 2017.



Hassan Rasheed, president, New Africa Community Builders since 2001, is also a renowned entertainment promoter. He will host the 1st Annual R&B show of our times labeled "Royal Theatre Reunion" on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Patapsco Arena located at 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore. For more information, call 443-621-7449.



The Dynamic Superior will perform at the 1st Annual Royal Theatre Reunion Show on Saturday, November 11 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road in Baltimore. For tickets call 410-905-4695.



Terry Battle & Jumpstreet will perform at the Annual JazzFest at the Church of St. Mary, the Virgin located at 3121 Walbrook Avenue in Baltimore City on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets include: Lite fare buffet, wine, beer and sodas. For tickets and more information, call: 410-484-1952



Dinner time.

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An alarming number of pre-teens are drinking alcohol — which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how — and when — to begin the conversation, visit:

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First Sunday Arts Festival Holiday Market Sunday, November 5th



Annapolis— This holiday season, experience shopping from the regions best artisans at the popular First Sunday Arts Festival - Holiday Edition on Sunday November 5, 2017 in the historic streets and parks of downtown Annapolis, Maryland.

This event hosts 130 of the regions best artists, crafters, musicians and food. Plus downtown Annapolis is filled with boutiques and galleries just a short stroll from the festival.

The First Sunday Arts Festival has themed the November 5 festival as the "Holiday Edition" as this is one of the best days to start your holiday shopping with 130 artisan vendors packing the

streets with original and unique gifts.

Thousands of shoppers visit Annapolis for this fun street festival. Shop from handmade jewelry, wheel thrown pottery, hand knitted hats and scarves, alpaca clothing, photography, paintings, books, metal arts, fused glass, ornaments, home décor, handmade candles, soaps and more.

This is your opportunity to have fun while shopping made in Maryland. No mall store hassles with untrained seasonal staff and no boring nights shopping home alone off the internet. Here you can meet the people that make the gifts you select and truly get to appreciate the American craftsman.

Send PSAs and Community Calendar events to: kreevie@btimes.com

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.

AACC Recognized as One of Top 150 Community Colleges in U.S. by Aspen Institute

Arnold, Md.— Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) recently was named one of the 150 top community colleges eligible to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

AACC was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges throughout the nation using publicly available data on student outcomes. AACC is one of only two community colleges in the state to be named.

"To be selected as one of the country's top community colleges invited to apply for this prestigious award is a testament to the student-centered approach and innovative spirit of AACC's staff and faculty," said Dr. Dawn Lindsay, president of Anne Arundel Community College. "Through our college's strategic plan, we have clear direction to create a new experience that ensures greater success for our students. We're honored by this recognition from the Aspen Institute."

Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize honors those institutions that achieve exceptional outcomes for student success – while in college, and after they graduate— in four areas: learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

AACC has begun the next round of the competition and will submit an application for review in a rigorous evaluation process. The top 10 finalists for the 2019 Aspen Prize will be named in spring 2018. Teams of experienced researchers then will join the Aspen Institute to conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select the Aspen Prize winner in 2019, and a Finalist with Distinction and Rising Star also will be announced.

Anne Arundel Community College is an award-winning, fully accredited public two-year institution serving approximately 47,000 students each year through classes offered at more than 50 sites in Anne Arundel County or online. AACC offers national and regional studies leading to a degree, certificate, industry credential, transfer to a four-year institution or career enhancement, personal enrichment and lifelong learning.

Bello Machre needs help this month

All during the month of November, individual volunteers, or groups of volunteers, are needed to rake leaves and to decorate Bello Machre homes for Thanksgiving. Also, donations of Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets filled with non-perishable foods are needed for both the community homes and support services families in need. Donations of grocery store gift cards would also be appreciated. There is a continuing need for volunteers to help adults with developmental disabilities improve their reading skills, time commitment of one hour per week minimum, as well as volunteers to help at our front desk, answering phones and helping with other light administrative duties. For more information, and to volunteer or make donations, contact Michele Marshall, Manager of Outreach and Volunteer Services, at michele.marshall@bellomachre.org or 443-702-3064.

Your caring heart will make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Lend your time and talents and open your heart to the individuals we serve; we have a variety of volunteer opportunities available throughout the year. If you have a day or even a few hours, your support will bring a smile to someone's face. For more information or to submit an application online, visit: <http://bellomachre.org/you-can-help/volunteer>.

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