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Reginald F. Lewis widow celebrates anniversary of historic \$1 billion deal



Loida Lewis, widow of Reginald F. Lewis and others celebrated the anniversary of the \$985 million leveraged buyout deal of Beatrice International Foods, one of the largest offshore transactions in the United States, which took place on November 30, 1987. A self-made man from Baltimore and the first person to be admitted to Harvard Law School without ever applying, Lewis owned a law firm on Wall Street to go along with a multi-billion dollar business empire. Photo:Reginald F. Lewis (center), wife, Loida and daughters Christina and Leslie. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo

Gavin Buckley sworn in as new mayor of Annapolis

By Andrea Blackstone

Gavin Buckley, the 137th mayor of Annapolis, took the oath of office on Monday, December 4, 2017 in front of a large diverse crowd on West Street.

Onlookers gathered to witness the new step being taken by the 54-year-old optimist armed with new ideas and a prominent Australian accent.

Buckley was raised in Australia by a single mother. He is husband to Julie Buckley, father of sons Dash and Miles, a cancer survivor and an avid runner.

The ambitious businessman who has lived in Annapolis for nearly 25 years arrived with only a few hundred dollars in his pocket.

“Gavin is an American success story,” said Steve Schuh, County Executive of Anne Arundel County during Buckley’s inauguration. “I’m so glad to see an official delegation from Australia here.”

Buckley is a former server who worked at Middletown Tavern. He later started a coffee shop called The Moon. Then, Lemongrass, Metropolitan and Tsunami restaurants were also established by the entrepreneur who played a role in the revitalization of West Street.

Buckley was able to rely on his working partners to take care of their restaurant businesses, while he took a political leap.

“A couple of years ago, I got a crazy idea that I could run for mayor, based on the current mayor (Mike Pantelides) who hadn’t actually been a [councilman] before. I didn’t think it would be possible without that experience, but Mike has always been my inspiration,” Buckley said before his public mayoral debut. “I joke with him about that, and today I’m getting sworn in.”

Buckley’s campaign was rooted in inclusivity. He remarked that individuals must stop hating one another just because of voting for different parties.

“You shouldn’t surround yourself with people that just think like you. I’m looking forward to bringing new ideas to this city—with the County Executive (Steve Schuh) [and] with the Governor (Larry Hogan),” Buckley said, during his inaugural speech. “We all need to work together. I truly believe that it is going to be on the



Gavin Buckley, 54, was sworn in as 137th mayor of Annapolis on December 4, 2017, in front of a large diverse crowd on West Street. Buckley was born and raised in Australia and has lived in Annapolis for 25 years. The entrepreneur established several restaurants in Annapolis and played a significant role in West Street’s revitalization. Photo by Andrea Blackstone

local level, that we are going to heal the country, and come together as one.”

Buckley faced an attentive crowd as he revealed that the economy, the environment and the community are points at the top of his mayoral list. He reminded everyone that Annapolis is known for its colonial history. However, Maryland’s capital has great music history. Annapolis can be utilized for various local events.

“Yesterday we had a big, massive chocolate festival in the street that had over 20,000 people come to it,” the then mayor-elect first mentioned in an upstairs room at Tsunami, before beginning his four-year term. “We’ve driven things like the First Sunday Arts Festival, comedy festivals—anything that could kind of identify this street (West Street) as an Arts District.”

Buckley said that he ran out of money the day before the primary. He had a fleeting moment when he wondered if no one cared about progressivism. The next day he waved a sign on West Street and the day of the election and it felt like every second person tooted their horn. Buckley added that this response ‘kind of lifted him.’

As Buckley stepped forward to embrace his new responsibilities, he mentioned that the budget, union negotiations and other tasks such as finding out the needs of local businesses, speaking to city employees, and finding out some of their ideas and making them feel confident that he has their back, are other priorities.

When it comes to youth and education, Buckley stressed that there is a moral imperative to stop public schools from reflecting the prison system. He noted that problems such as disenfranchised youth, the presence of the MS-13 gang and the national rise of white supremacy require involvement.

“We’ve got to get in there and give kids some answers. Give kids some hope,”

Buckley said, mentioning that fixing things is possible. “We have a small population, and I think you can drill down on individual situations [to] find out what’s going on.”

Anne Arundel County Executive Schuh underscored that Annapolis citizens are Anne Arundel County citizens.

“We all walk the same streets, drive the same roads and want to improve the quality of life in this city,” Schuh said, noting shared challenges. “I look forward to working with his (Buckley’s) partners to make his vision a reality, so that our two jurisdictions can achieve their share of destiny. There is no limit to what our city and county can do by working together, and I look forward to the path ahead.”

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Rethink office layouts to improve workers' health

By Dick Resch

Americans are gung-ho about getting in shape. Seventy percent say they want to take steps to improve their health, according to a new study from UnitedHealthcare.

Those steps usually stop at the gym door. More than six in 10 workers don't take advantage of subsidized gym memberships and other wellness benefits, even though nearly three-quarters of employers offer them. This lack of physical activity takes a toll on worker well-being—and drives up health costs.

Employers may think they can't force their workers to exercise. But indeed they can— by subtly integrating more physical activity into the 9-to-5 routines. Office spaces that “nudge” employees to move around are proving that they can provide a hefty boost to workers' health and productivity.

Most Americans are sedentary. The typical person sits 13 hours a day. Only one in five exercises enough, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All this sitting makes people sick. Inactivity increases the risk of costly chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, depression and stroke. These diseases devastate workers and their families. They also harm businesses' bottom lines. Lost productivity due to poor worker health costs the economy \$84 billion a year.

To recapture these costs, companies are changing up their office layouts to encourage workers to get up and move more, a philosophy known as “active design.” For instance, firms create multiple work areas, so employees have to travel to different rooms depending on whether they're making calls, conducting meetings or compiling reports.

Consider the offices of architecture firm Gensler in Newport Beach, California, with workspaces spread around, often on different floors. Employees are encouraged to change locations regularly by walking around the office, climbing stairs, even riding on company scooters and bicycles.

These nudges toward movement may sound trivial. But they have a huge impact on health and productivity. Workers who take a five-minute stroll every hour exhibit increased energy levels, an elevated mood, less fatigue and fewer food cravings.

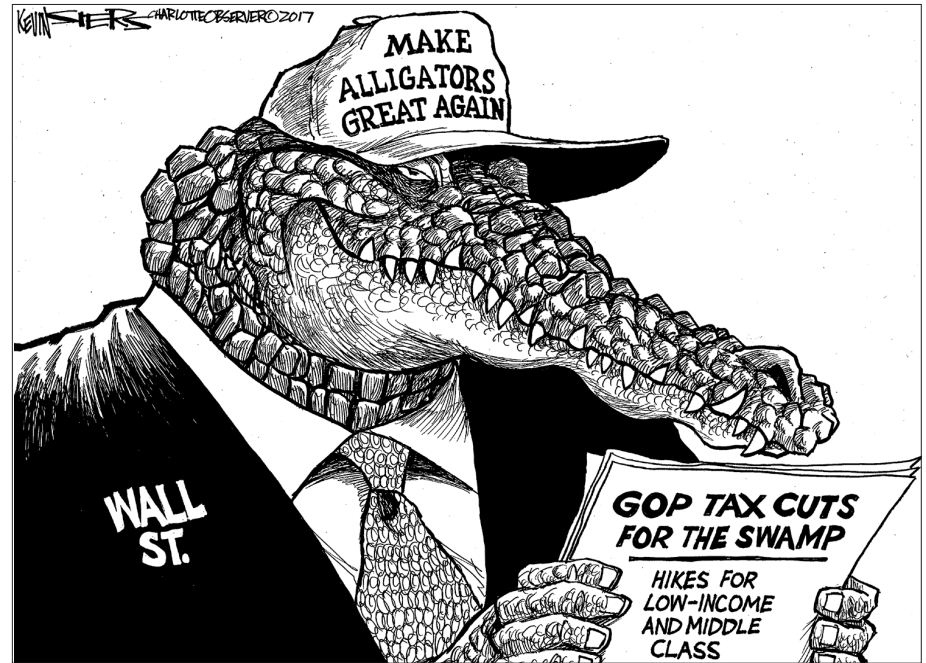
Other companies encourage workers to shun the elevator and use the stairs by designing visually compelling, inviting staircases. The BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee headquarters in Chattanooga includes a monumental staircase with multi-story outdoor views in each of its buildings. The insurance giant reasoned that workers would eagerly take stairs that offer picturesque views of the Tennessee River. Views of a musty stairwell with no natural light? Not so much.

Many employers also provide workers with sit-stand desks. Allowing workers to alternate between sitting and standing throughout the day is among the simplest ways to improve worker health. Employees love this flexibility. Seventy percent of full-timers admit that they dislike sitting all day.

Reducing the amount of time spent sitting at work lowers the risk of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and even cancer. Cutting sitting time by just three hours a day can increase life expectancy by two years. Other firms are experimenting with active design by adding outdoor workspaces, healthy onsite food options and light, airy rooms. Natural lighting has been linked to improved moods and better sleep quality— nearly one more hour per night. That makes for a more engaged and productive workforce.

These investments in smart design pay off. When companies improve the health of their sickest workers, those employees become 11 percent more productive, according to a new study. Americans say they want to make their health a priority— but often fail to follow through. Their employers can help, often unbeknownst to them, by adopting the principles of active design.

Dick Resch is CEO of KI Furniture (www.ki.com).



Community Affairs

NAACP opens voting for 49th NAACP Image Awards to the public

Baltimore— For the first time in its award show history, voting for the 49th NAACP Image Awards will be open to the public. Viewers will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite nominees in 36 different categories across film, television, and music.

In previous years, the award-winners were selected by members of the NAACP. However this year, members of the public who are not NAACP members may cast votes by visiting the NAACP Image Awards online at Naacpimageawards.Net.

“We are excited about the opportunity to open voting to the public,” said Derrick Johnson, NAACP President and CEO. “The Image Awards represents a universe of powerful stories and images, told in ways that express our beauty and make us proud.”

Since 1967, the NAACP Image Awards has been the preeminent multicultural awards show celebrating the accomplishments of people of color in the fields of television, music, literature and

film, and has also honored individuals or groups who promote social justice through creative endeavors.

While, this year, voters do not have to be members of the Association, the NAACP encourages those who participate in this year's voting process to become members.

“To become a member of the NAACP is to join a community of individuals from all facets of life who like you are committed to the elimination of discrimination of any type and making our nation a better place for all people,” said Johnson.

The deadline to cast votes for the 49th NAACP Image Awards is December 15.

Viewers can watch the winners claim their trophies just one month later during the two-hour LIVE TV special, hosted by Anthony Anderson on TV One on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 9 p.m. EST, with a One-Hour Live Red Carpet Pre-Show at 8 p.m. The evening will be the culmination of a day of volunteer service, citizen action, and celebration on the national holiday honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For more information, visit the NAACP Image Awards website: naacpimageawards.net.

Need for a cultural shift on gender-based violence!

By Laura Finley, Ph.D.

November 25 kicked off the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. At no time has this work been more necessary than now. From rampant sexual harassment to sexual assault, domestic violence and sexual trafficking, women across the globe and in the United States face gender-based violence at horrifying rates.

I'd like to start with my recent personal experience, although it was definitely not the first time I have experienced it in my 45 years. I share these experiences because while there has been important attention paid lately to men in power abusing women who are their subordinates in the workplace or other realms, it's essential to remember that "everyday" men also commit these same acts of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.

Not because their work position affords them any particular power over a woman but because the general sense that they are entitled to do and act as they please is prevalent in how many boys and men are socialized.

Not long ago, I experienced unwanted sexual conduct from someone half my age. He had no social power over me other than the fact that he is a male in a culture in which some males are taught that things are theirs for the taking. Likewise, on my campus I have been catcalled by boys recently out of high school who feel entitled to yell repulsive things.

can women are twice as likely to suffer domestic violence as breast cancer. In the United States, more women are injured from domestic violence than from car accidents, rapes and muggings—combined.

A woman in the U.S. is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds, according to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN). Women and young

Bill Cosby, Bill O'Reilly, Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Matt Lauer, Garrison Keillor, Roy Moore, Al Franken and of course, Donald Trump.

What are we to do? The good news is there is a lot that is already happening. New laws are criminalizing revenge pornography, helping to stop males from sharing provocative photos and imagery as a means of controlling women. Women are speaking out about the harassment, abuse and assault and refusing to be silenced. Legal settlements like the recent one in Seattle that three women who were sold into sexual slavery when they were 13 to 15 years old were awarded against Backpage. Activists are continuing to strategize and build on the energy and momentum from last year's Women's marches.

In South Florida, I am fortunate to be able to work with a non-profit organization, "No More Tears," which helps victims of many of these forms of gender-based violence. This unique organization is entirely volunteer-run and provides comprehensive services that allow victims to heal and to build happy and healthy lives. Additional information about No More Tears is available at www.nomoretearsusa.org. I am also co-organizer of the College Brides Walk, a dating and domestic violence awareness campaign that reaches several thousand high school and college youth. More information can be found at www.collegebrideswalk.com.

We know more such organizations are needed nationwide.

It is my hope that the increased conversation about these issues is indeed a cultural tipping point. Enough is enough.

Laura Finley, Ph.D. teaches in the Barry University of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice

“Far more people in America—largely women—have been killed by their partners than were U.S. forces in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, combined. American women are twice as likely to suffer domestic violence as breast cancer. In the United States, more women are injured from domestic violence than from car accidents, rapes and muggings—combined.”

A 15-year-old girl that I know was harassed by much older men while wearing a caroling costume for a holiday event. This is ubiquitous, so normalized that people are surprised by all the allegations that are emerging. We shouldn't be. Horrified, yes. Outraged, yes. But not surprised.

Here is why we should not be surprised: Statistics have long shown the scope of these problems. Studies have found that some one-third of American women experience sexual harassment in the workplace. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly one-third of the world's women have endured physical or sexual intimate partner violence. Domestic violence kills more women worldwide than civil wars.

Far more people in America—largely women—have been killed by their partners than were U.S. forces in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, combined. Ameri-

girls are sold into sexual slavery—not just overseas but on American soil. They are often recruited from websites like Backpage and Craigslist with promises of lucrative modeling or acting jobs.

More than 3,500 sex trafficking cases were reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center in 2016, a figure that far underestimates the scope of the problem given that most instances are not reported and a girl can be trafficking multiple times per day.

Males in powerful positions are even more able to exploit and demean women and those they see as powerless, as these people fear they will lose their jobs, their reputation, and even their lives if they resist or if they tell anyone. This is tremendously clear with the spate of sexual harassment, misconduct and assault allegations being levied against politicians, media moguls and celebrities, including but sadly not limited to

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Your kids' FOMO is not worth more holiday debt

News & Experts— With the holidays upon us, parents are making a list and checking it twice— and that list seems to be getting longer while the bank account gets smaller.

That often happens when kids catch an acute case of FOMO during the holiday season. The “Fear of Missing Out” includes not getting some of the gifts they want, or the latest, cool things their friends are receiving.

So mom and dad go way over the family budget. They hit the credit cards, and the holiday bills climb. After all, overspending on gifts and beginning the New Year with added debt is as much a holiday tradition as mistletoe and stockings hung by the chimney with care.

“Many adults annually prove they have not learned their lesson, and it’s an expensive one that keeps adding up,” says Jeff Dixon (www.nwfts.net), a financial educator and author of *Winning The Retirement Game*.

“Discipline is a prerequisite for financial stability, and this kind of chronic overspending of money they don’t really have certainly doesn’t bode well for a family budget, let alone a retirement plan. But habits can change, and the sooner the better.”

Dixon gives four tips for how to keep holiday shopping reasonable and avoid excessive debt:

•**Look at the big picture.** Credit card use means putting off paying for something you didn’t have the money for. So forecast what that mounting credit card bill will add to your regular monthly expenses. “The long-term pain isn’t worth the short-term gain of getting the kids everything they wanted and more,” Dixon said. “Seeing their smiles on Christmas morning is nice, but you also



have to see on paper the money crunch ahead; that can act as a deterrent.”

•**Use one card.** If you must use a credit card, Dixon says, put the rest of your cards aside and use the one with the lowest interest rate. This also makes it easier to track your spending. “If the one card is included in your budget, fine, but remember you’re paying interest each month,” Dixon said. “You need to impose a holiday limit on the card.”

•**Make a real budget.** It’s the easiest thing to do before all the shopping. Set up a budget each year as to what you can afford to spend (for example, \$600 = \$50 per month) and set this aside each month in order to have the money you expect to spend. But for many people it’s the hardest thing to execute when they’re out shopping. “They lose will power,” Dixon said. “It gets to be a little like gambling; you have to decide how much you can afford to lose, or

how much you’ll go over without being totally stretched in January and beyond.”

•**Make it a teaching moment.** The holidays are a great time to teach your kids about money, a lesson that could last a lifetime. It’s not a matter of being

Scrooge; it’s about showing them money doesn’t grow on Christmas trees. Most families have budgets, and part of being responsible means not over-spending.

“The greater good of the family is served rather than immediate gratification,” Dixon said. “They’ll learn something meaningful about money, appreciation and responsibility that will stay with them when they have families of their own.”

“If more parents could apply these forms of financial discipline during the holidays,” Dixon says, “it would greatly help them develop a long-term financial plan, as well as greatly help their kids.”

*Jeff Dixon (www.nwfts.net) is known as “The Retirement Coach” and is the founder and president of Northwest Financial & Tax Solutions, Inc. A respected financial educator, Jeff hosts a weekly radio show that airs on seven stations and is author of *Winning The Retirement Game*.*

Maryland Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division needs Volunteers

Are you interested in learning about your rights as a consumer? Would you like to help other Maryland consumers resolve their complaints with retail businesses, landlords or health care providers? Volunteers and interns are trained and work eight to 10 hours per week at the Consumer Protection Division at 200 St. Paul Place in Baltimore, as complaint mediators and to provide information over the Division’s consumer hotline.

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Maryland Defense Contractor Seeking 100 New Employees

By Stacy M. Brown

Polaris Alpha is looking for a few good men and women— 100 to be exact.

The defense contractor, which recently more than doubled the size of its Aberdeen Proving Ground office, wants to hire 100 individuals, and company officials say they are seeking Maryland residents to fill at least 50 of the new vacancies.

“Polaris Alpha has enjoyed better than average growth across key areas in the Defense and Intelligence market, specifically in Cyber security domain,” said Polaris CEO Peter Cannito. “We anticipate continued double-digit growth – greater than 10 percent – for 2018 as this trend continues.”

Formed in 2016, Polaris reportedly has about 1,300 employees and offices in Alexandria, Virginia; and Colorado Springs, Colorado. Locally, the company has locations in Annapolis Junction, Fredericksburg, Aberdeen, Columbia and Elkrige.

The new job openings are all high-end



Peter Cannito
Polaris CEO
Courtesy Photo

positions involving scientists and engineers.

“Cyber security professionals, network

engineers software engineers,” Cannito said about the kinds of available jobs.

The desired qualifications “vary but an understanding of enterprise software development, data analytics, cloud computing, machine learning and network operations [are being sought],” he said, noting that applicants must be U.S. citizens with a security clearance.

“Cyber security professionals, network engineers, software engineers,” Cannito said about the kinds of available jobs.

The company develops technology and security solutions for defense and intelligence clients and is growing because of increased spending by its federal clients, including the U.S. Army, according to Cannito.

Polaris was formed when Bethesda private equity firm Arlington Capital Partners combined three smaller firms, including Annapolis Junction software company Protensus Technologies.

The company recently moved from a 6,900-square-foot space to a 16,500-

square-foot office in Aberdeen where extra meeting rooms, testing areas and demonstration labs have been installed.

“We are a high-tech industry leader focused on the most critical national security missions,” Cannito said. “We are leading the way in emerging technical areas such as Space Operations, Cyber, Electronic Warfare, Machine

Learning and Data Analytics. We have approximately 1,300 dedicated employees working on cutting-edge capabilities in a people-focused culture.”

Cannito didn’t hesitate when asked what makes Polaris Alpha an attractive place to work for potential employees.

“Collaborative culture,” he said.

“Meaningful work and cutting-edge technologies. We are seeking highly-technical professionals looking to perform meaningful work right here in Maryland.”



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Find more events at
MarylandHealthConnection.gov/last-chance

Living Classrooms ‘Changing the Game’ in East Baltimore

When Baltimore City Public Schools are closed Healthy Cities Game Changers Initiative offers a safe space for health, wellness and play

Baltimore— Living Classrooms Foundation has partnered with Morgan Stanley to provide local Baltimore families with wellness, nutrition and sports programming as part of Morgan Stanley’s Healthy Cities Initiative. The Game Changers Initiative will educate 300 of the most at-risk children, youth and families living within an impoverished area of East Baltimore with quality programming during Baltimore City school breaks throughout the 2017-18 school year.

Since 1985, Living Classrooms Foundation has worked to strengthen communities and inspire young people to achieve their potential through hands-on education, job training, and health and wellness programs, using urban, natural, and maritime resources as “living classrooms.”

Nearly 200 students from kindergarten to high school joined Living Classrooms staff and volunteers from Morgan Stanley and local nonprofit partners at UA House at Fayette, which is operated by Living Classrooms for the Game Changers initiative kickoff when schools were closed for professional development on October 19 and October 20, 2017.

Volunteers from Morgan Stanley, Playworks Maryland and Freestate Challenge Academy led activities throughout both days, including yoga, meditation, dance, and activities related to basketball, soccer, dodge ball, running, and football. Each student was also served a healthy breakfast and lunch, and provided education lessons on healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.

One in four children in Baltimore faces food insecurity and many students receive their only meals of the day at school. During the academic year, Baltimore City Public School students experience over 25 weekdays when schools are closed. This creates a critical need for healthy meals, supervised activities, and an opportunity to use that time to affect positive health outcomes for stu-



Living Classrooms Foundation staff partnered with Morgan Stanley volunteers on October 19 and October 20, 2017 to launch the Game Changers Initiative, which will provide more than 300 local Baltimore students with wellness, nutrition and sports programming during the 25 plus weekdays during the 2017-2018 academic year when schools are closed.

Courtesy Photo/Living Classrooms

dents and families through engagement in meaningful, quality physical education and nutrition programming.

“We are excited about the opportunity to work with Living Classrooms as part of Healthy Cities Baltimore to give local students the resources needed for a healthy start to life,” said Joan Steinberg, Global Head of Philanthropy, Morgan Stanley. “Thanks to collaboration with partners like Living Classrooms, we’re able to further our impact for children in underserved Baltimore neighborhoods.”

The Game Changers Initiative is a part of Morgan Stanley Healthy Cities, which is designed to fuel innovation by coordinating the wellness, nutrition and play resources, which will strengthen a child’s healthy start to life.

Living Classrooms’ Healthy Cities Game Changers Initiative is designed to expand the scope and scale of Living Classrooms’ existing initiative to bring nutrition, fitness and wellness education to a targeted area of East Baltimore

known as the Baltimore Target Investment Zone (TIZ).

Living Classrooms’ TIZ initiative is a strategic comprehensive community effort to disrupt the cycle of generational poverty that concentrates core education, workforce development, and health and wellness programs within an impoverished area of East Baltimore. The TIZ is home to 35,000 people, including: 9,100 students in 18 schools, and over 2,500 public housing units that span 122 acres, including Pleasant View Gardens and Perkins Homes. It encompasses the neighborhoods surrounding Patterson Park and Johns Hopkins Hospital, Oldtown/Middle East, the Fayette Street Corridor and McElderry Park. These neighborhoods struggle with low educational achievement, high poverty and unemployment, high-density crime and recidivism rates, and chronic health problems.

“Having access to a place where their children can go and not just be safe, but also fed a nutritious meal and engaged in

meaningful academic and athletic activities when schools are not in session, is quite literally a “game changer” for many of the families that we serve in the Baltimore Target Investment Zone, especially for those who may not otherwise have a plan for their children’s care” said James Piper Bond, President and CEO of Living Classrooms Foundation. “We are grateful to Morgan Stanley to have this opportunity to empower our students to begin making smart choices about their own wellness.”

The Healthy Cities Game Changers initiative will improve health outcomes in Living Classrooms’ Baltimore Target Investment Zone (TIZ), an area of highly concentrated poverty, by capitalizing on out-of-school time with exemplary programming and healthy meals.

For more information about Healthy Cities Baltimore, visit: www.morganstanley.com/about-us/giving-back/healthy-cities/baltimore and follow #HealthyCities.

Ginna Barilone overcomes challenges to succeed as Mzz B

By Stacy M. Brown

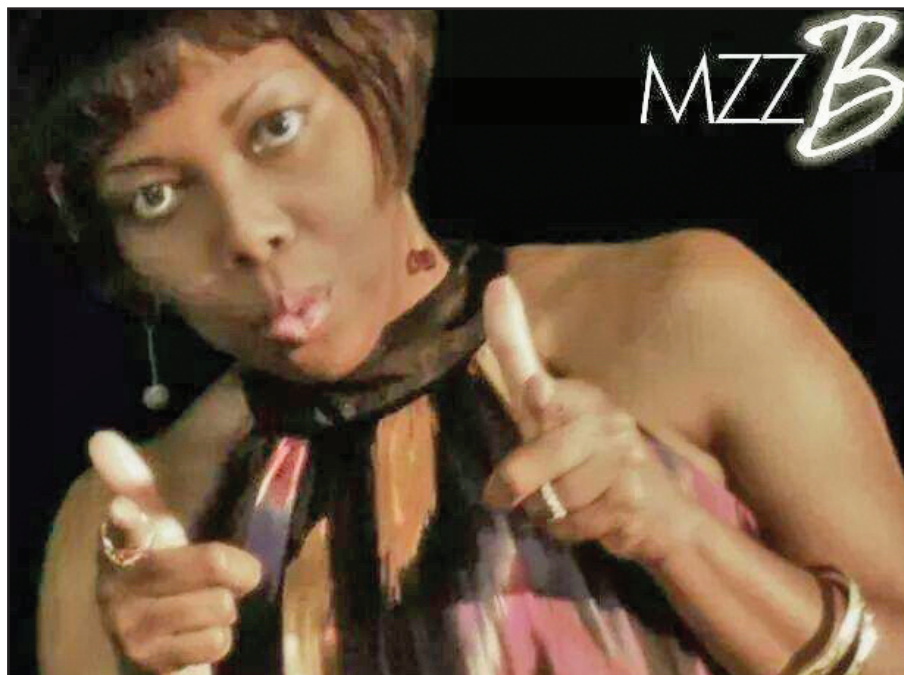
Ginna Barilone's friends know all about her Mzz B Productions, a business she started after a sudden and painful divorce two years ago. However, what most probably know little about is just how this Haitian immigrant started an entertainment company with less than \$500 that is now taking Baltimore by storm.

"I created a website and designed business cards," Barilone said. "I knew I needed the educational piece so I quit a dead-end job and I went back to school to earn a second degree in business management and a certification in entrepreneurship."

Mzz B Productions, which has selective band combos, is a fee-based entertainment company that offers dance and other styles of bands and solo performers, including Barilone who has performed at weddings, casinos, and various other locations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington.

The company's "MELO" band consists of an electric variety of local musicians who perform jazz, Latin fusion and a blend of songs from artists like John Coltrane, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis and others. They perform at parties, weddings, private events and a host of other functions.

However, the business hasn't been all



Haitian immigrant Ginna Barilone started her entertainment company Mzz B Productions with less than \$500. After a slow start, her company has started to flourish. She has gone from booking 15 gigs to 37 in one year. For more information about Mzz B Productions or to make a booking for weddings, parties and other gatherings, visit: www.mzzbncompany.com

Courtesy Photos

glitz and glamour for Barilone, particularly as a black woman business owner. "It's challenging as a black woman living in Baltimore and being a full-time student. I don't qualify for any loans or funding," she said.

Then, there is also the lack of financial backing and expertise that other established entertainment companies possess, said Barilone, who has also had to contend with stereotypes.

While growing up, she was told that Haiti was the poorest country in the world and that many who hailed from that nation rarely accomplished anything useful.

"Some days, my sisters and I fought with [both] black and white kids our age going to and coming from school," said

Barilone, who grew up in Queens, N.Y. "At some point, I stopped telling people where I was born, [but] I had to carry my green card everywhere until I eventually became a U.S. citizen," said Barilone, who immediately noted that she's proud of her Haitian heritage.

She pointed out that her father spoke six languages, as a school principal in Haiti and her mother is a second-generation niece of the former Haitian President Florvil Hyppolite, who served in that capacity from 1889 to 1896.

While it didn't begin as she initially envisioned it would, Barilone's entertainment business has started to flourish. This year, she finished second in the Business Innovative Competition at The

Community College of Baltimore County after previously winning the Dundalk Idol and Baltimore Idol contests, which is now called "The Voice of Baltimore" competition.

"In one year, I went from booking 15 gigs, to having a total of 37," Barilone said. "My business began with a passion, concept and a mission."

Barilone has also displayed a philanthropic side, introducing a \$500 scholarship program named "Mzz B's Music and Dreams Scholarship," which she awards to four students majoring in business, music and audio productions. Ultimately, she hopes her business' success will allow her to give out 25 scholarships per year.

"Philanthropists inspire me. I believe that we are all philanthropists if we tap into our humanity and forget about self-interest for a change," Barilone said. "I've had to reflect on the countless challenges of being a single mother raising children. My daughter Jade now 26 and my son Jordan, 22, motivate me."

For more information about Mzz B Productions or to make a booking for weddings, parties and other gatherings, visit: www.mzzbncompany.com

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Reginald F. Lewis widow celebrates anniversary of historic \$1 billion deal

By Stacy M. Brown

Thirty years after Reginald F. Lewis made history with a \$1 billion leverage buyout of Beatrice International Foods, his widow is leading the commemoration and celebration of her husband's never duplicated feat.

"My hope is that one or more of those who read about Reginald Lewis, in an article and in his book titled, 'Why should white guys have all the fun?'" Loida Lewis said in an interview with the Baltimore Times.

Lewis called her husband a "rock star," and says he was the Jackie Robinson of business.

"Until he came around, no person of color would think about buying a business on borrowed money financed by equity firms," she said. "Not too many African-Americans thought of going into finance but growing up black in America, my husband wanted to disprove the lies that a person of color couldn't go to the highest level of economic achievement."

In the 1980s, Reginald F. Lewis—whose name appears on the museum in Baltimore and on several colleges and schools and other monuments—was named on Forbes' "Richest Americans" list.

A self-made man from Baltimore and the first person to be admitted to Harvard Law School without ever applying, Lewis owned a law firm on Wall Street to go along with a multi-billion dollar business empire.

Having already purchased the McCall Pattern Company for \$22.5 million, Lewis made history buying Beatrice International Foods for \$985 million.

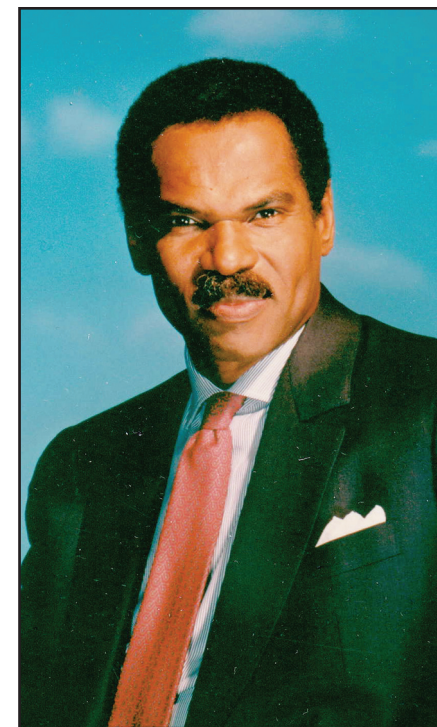
At the time, it was the largest offshore leverage buyout ever.

As chairman and CEO, he moved quickly to reposition the company, pay down the debt, and vastly increase the company's worth, according to his biography. By 1992, the company had sales of over \$1.6 billion annually, and Lewis was sharing his time between his company's offices in New York and Paris.

"For me, this was earth shaking in the sense that he was the first African-American, really the first American to



Loida Lewis
Courtesy Photo



Reginald F. Lewis
NNPA/Reginald F. Lewis Museum

do an overseas deal," Loida Lewis said. "With racism apart of [America's] DNA, he was able to empower his community and Latinos."

While his legend is cemented in Baltimore through the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, Lewis' legacy reaches further.

An exhibit in the Smithsonian National African American Museum of History and Culture features Lewis and there's also the Reginald F. Lewis International Law Center at Harvard Law School; the Reginald F. Lewis High School of Business and Law; and the Lewis College of Sorsogon City in the Philippines.

Now, Loida Lewis and others are celebrating the anniversary of the Beatrice deal, which happened on November 30, 1987.

"We want the new generation to be inspired by his work. He demonstrated his belief in and commitment to human rights, civil rights and economic development," Loida Lewis said.

Lewis died in 1993 at the age of 50.

He doted on his daughters, Christina



Photo Courtesy of Reginald F. Lewis Museum

and Leslie, and loved champagne, which his wife says at one point the couple couldn't afford. Instead, she would buy him a case of ginger ale to go with his meals.

Loida Lewis also said her husband was a focused and intense man who loved jazz, opera and the music of Louis Armstrong, whose "What a Wonderful World," was played as Lewis' casket was led out of the church at his funeral.

"He loved my daughter Christina's jokes and he loved Lena Horne; Sade;

Nat King Cole; Natalie Cole; Aretha Franklin; and others," Lewis said.

For the family, seeing so much done to remember Lewis remains an honor.

"He lived like a rocket ship," his widow said. "He accomplished so much but he was very much a family man.

"So, I'm celebrating his \$1 billion deal 30 years later which is sort of an indictment that no other person of color, Asian, black, Latino has ever brought a billion dollar company. Hopefully, that will change."

Light of Truth Center Continues to Shine

Residential treatment program to open two more locations

By Ursula V. Battle

Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC) continues to shine brightly in the lives of woman who have struggled with addiction. Karen Hall, who has been with LTC since April 26, 2017 is among them. Founded by the Rev. Vaile Leonard, LTC provides residential therapeutic treatment for women recovering from addictions.

“I have been here since April 26, 2017,” said Hall. “I found out about LTC one day, when I was on the computer. Being here has been a wonderful experience. Being in a house like this makes a difference when you are trying to heal and recover.”

LTC operates homes located at 224 N. Patterson Park Avenue, where Hall resides, and at 1736 Payson Street. Women living in the homes work on a self-improvement plan while living as a family unit to support their own and each other’s recovery process. The homes have been credited with helping dozens of women overcome drug addiction.

LTC will be opening additional locations at 1933 W. Lafayette Avenue and 902 N. Wheeler Avenue.

“I am so happy here,” said Hall. “The women here are nice. We have our differences, and we are all different, but what we have in common is the disease of addiction, and wanting to recover. Words cannot describe how I feel. I am so overjoyed.”

Hall reflected on her decision to contact LTC.

“It started with marijuana,” recalled Hall. “I then went on to use alcohol, cocaine, and then heroin, which was the worst. If I did not have it, I could not function and I was sick. My son looked in my eyes with tears and told me I looked a mess. I had already thought about going in anyway, but that was it.”

She added, “I felt beaten up all the time, didn’t have nothing, and allowed people to do all kinds of things to me that I didn’t want them to do. I was sick of me. I was just done. I used drugs for 23 years, and now I have two years clean. My son and the rest of my family are so proud. God can clean you as white as snow. I thank Him for Rev. Vaile Leonard



The Rev. Vaile Leonard, Founder of Light of Truth Center, Inc. (LTC), holds a Certificate of Recognition she recently received from the Office of Mayor Catherine Pugh. Photos: Ursula V. Battle

and this program.”

Vanessa Smith Boissiere also resides at LTC.

“I have been here five years,” said Smith Boissiere. “I am an introvert, and would go off to myself. However, since I have been here, I have learned to socialize with the ladies, and picked up some good friends. Rev. Vaile is fantastic. I used to have multiple addictions, but now I am 14 years clean. Recovery has been great.”

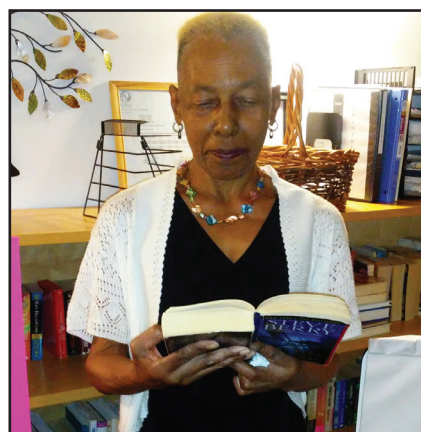
Rev. Leonard, who is a former heroin addict, says stories like Hall’s and Smith Boissiere’s serve as proof that the program works.

“We are here to create fertile ground in an environment that is conducive to change and that eliminates barriers that these women face, such as the fear of no place to live, no food, imminent violence, and disapproval from family and friends,” said Rev. Leonard.

She added, “We then replace those bar-



Constance Mann Leonard and Karla Jenkins during LTC's Open House event.



Vanessa Smith Boissiere has been clean for 14 years, and says LTC has provided her with a safe place to stay

riers with things like a nice place to stay, warm meals, and teaching them to love themselves. We replace fear with unconditional love and are consistent about it. There is no judgement. We serve with the pure joy of giving, with no expectation of anything in return. We are ecstatic about opening the additional locations. We will now have a total of five buildings – four residential and one training, which is located at 2233 Orleans Street.”

Light of Truth recently held an Open House event at its Patterson Avenue location.

“Some people are frightened by what we do, but they should not be,” said Rev. Leonard. “So we wanted to invite them in to show them exactly what we do. The atmosphere here is conducive to recovery



Karen Hall has been with LTC since April 16, 2017, and says the program has put her on the road to recovery.

and provides housing to keep these women safe and off the streets.”

Leonard is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for her work.

“What kept me out there using for so long is that I didn’t know what was going on with my body,” said Leonard. “Now, I realize all that I went through was for my soul’s unfoldment. I am on fire for God, and realize that everything that happened was supposed to happen to help others.”

For more information about LTC call (443) 414-7562 or visit www.lightoftruthcenter.org

UMMC JACQUES Initiative helping HIV/AIDS patients live healthy lives

One in 43 individuals in Baltimore over the age of 13 is living with HIV, stunning statistics provided by the University of Maryland Medical Center. However, officials at UMMC are continuing to do their part in trying to curtail the deadly illness.

On World AIDS Day on December 1, for instance, health officials provided free and confidential HIV testing, prevention tips and access to care.

The free testing sponsored by the UMMC Community Outreach and the JACQUES Initiative, a program of the Institute of Human Virology at UMMC, was part of World AIDS Day to raise awareness about HIV and eliminate the stigma that surrounds it.

It's also part of an overall goal to provide testing to at least 20,000 people and get people who test positive into treatment.

"HIV can be treated if you are willing to take your medication as prescribed and see your primary care doctor as directed for routine check-ups," said Cynthia Richardson, Linkage to Care Navigator, at the JACQUES Initiative who is living with HIV. "HIV is not a death sentence, it's a life sentence if you are willing to be compliant and willing to be linked into care. You can live a normal life."

Dr. Sarah Schmalzle, an assistant professor of medicine in the infectious diseases division and the medical director of the Center for Infectious Diseases in the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine says it's always difficult for doctors to break bad news to patients, including an HIV diagnosis.

"In the case of HIV, the added difficulty is knowing how emotionally devastating this news can be to the



Community Health Education Center and JACQUES Initiative staff provide HIV testing and prevention counseling at the University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus.
Courtesy Photo/UMMC

recipient. People can react very differently [which] can range from being relieved to know; feeling guilty about others they may have transmitted the virus to; wondering how they became infected; being angry; or even being in denial," Dr. Schmalzle said.

"This means that in addition to a new illness, they may also have a lot of other emotions to contend with and work through. One thing we try to do is have an HIV counselor with us when we break the news," she said, adding that some counselors are people living well with HIV themselves. "They can talk to patients from their own experience,

which people find very comforting."

Maryland has one of the highest rates of HIV diagnosis in the country. Statistics also show that one in two black men who have sex with men and one in four Latino men who have sex with men will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime.

The JACQUES Initiative offers targeted community-based testing throughout West Baltimore and although there are some who are nervous about testing, linkage and retention in HIV care are even larger challenges, according to Sally Bjornholm, program manager for HIV/HCV Routing Testing and Linkage to Care at the JACQUES Initiative.

"There are a number of barriers to care and treatment that are faced by persons living with HIV in Baltimore, including homelessness, poverty, stigma, health literacy, transportation, mental illness, substance abuse and other health disparities," Bjornholm said.

Even though most people know there is treatment for HIV, there may be misperceptions about how the treatment works, side effects and even the cost of HIV treatment, said Dr. Jamie L. Mignano, executive director of the JACQUES Initiative.

"Many people may not be aware that in Maryland, HIV treatment is available to everyone, thanks to the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program, even persons without insurance can access treatment," Mignano said.

There are also many in Baltimore who know someone who has died as a result of AIDS before good treatment was available or because of limited access to regular care.

"These experiences may cause uncertainty and fear," she said, adding that many new cases of HIV in Baltimore are among young African American of the same gender. "This population face multiple challenges and HIV provides a double stigma. Therefore members of this population may be less likely to get tested and therefore risk getting sick from HIV if they are infected due to not knowing their status and getting care and treatment."

However, there is good reason to be optimistic.

"If you have not been tested for HIV, the time is now," said Richardson, who has lived with the illness for some time. "It's better to know your status than to not know. You can live well with HIV, I'm living proof!"



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MDOT MTA celebrates holiday season with annual Holiday Bus and Train Garden

Santa to appear on Holiday Bus that will provide free rides for bus patrons

Baltimore—Free bus rides and an interactive train garden are two ways the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) is already spreading holiday cheer.

The specially decorated, free Holiday Bus will operate on different CityLink and LocalLink bus routes weekdays until December 20, 2017. Customers will receive candy canes and greetings from Santa, who will be on the bus with his elves. The inside of the Holiday Bus also is decorated for the holidays, and festive music will be played for passengers.

"The Holiday Bus is our way of thanking our riders and wishing them a happy and joyous holiday season," said MDOT MTA Administrator Kevin B. Quinn, Jr. "MDOT MTA cares about our passengers, and we are dedicated to providing them with world-class customer service. I personally look forward to meeting and speaking with many of our customers along some of the Holiday Bus routes."

The train garden is on display at the Mondawmin Metro SubwayLink Station until January 2, 2018 on the Mezzanine Level of the Mondawmin station and available for public viewing during the Metro SubwayLink system's normal operating hours. The miniature interactive attraction features a subway train that travels through a cityscape, neighborhoods, a zoo, a park and a construction site. Children can take part in the fun by pushing buttons that make objects inside the train garden come to life.

MDOT MTA's goal is to provide safe, efficient and reliable transit across Maryland with world-class customer service. To learn more, visit: mdot.maryland.gov or mta.maryland.gov.



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BGE Ready to Provide Safe and Reliable Service this Winter

BGE is investing more than \$1.6 billion during 2017 in the electric and natural gas systems serving customers with safe and reliable energy

BALTIMORE—As temperatures begin to drop, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) asks customers to prepare for a return to normal winter temperatures after mild winters during the past few years. Colder weather can cause heating systems to work harder in order to maintain comfort, increasing energy usage and average bills. To ensure that customers' energy needs are met this winter, BGE has completed natural gas and electric infrastructure system upgrades throughout its service area.

“BGE’s commitment to reliably meeting our customers’ energy needs is vitally important during the cold, winter months,” said Stephen Woerner, president and chief operating officer of BGE. “Our employees work year-round to keep our systems running so our customers can live their lives without electric or gas service interruptions, no matter the weather. We also appreciate the efforts our customers take to prepare their homes and explore ways to use energy more efficiently and safely. This way they can better manage energy costs when temperatures drop.”

By the end of 2017, BGE will invest approximately \$500 million in the natural gas system to provide safe and reliable service for customers. This work includes equipment inspections, repairs and replacements, preventive maintenance, and new construction such as recently completed pipelines along Veterans Highway in Anne Arundel County and in the Hamilton neighborhood of Baltimore City. Since 2010, major gas system reinforcements have also been installed in Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties.

BGE also replaces existing gas mains with durable new pipes that will deliver gas safely and reliably to communities well into the future. Part of this work is the replacement of cast iron and unprotected steel mains at an accelerated rate under BGE’s Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement

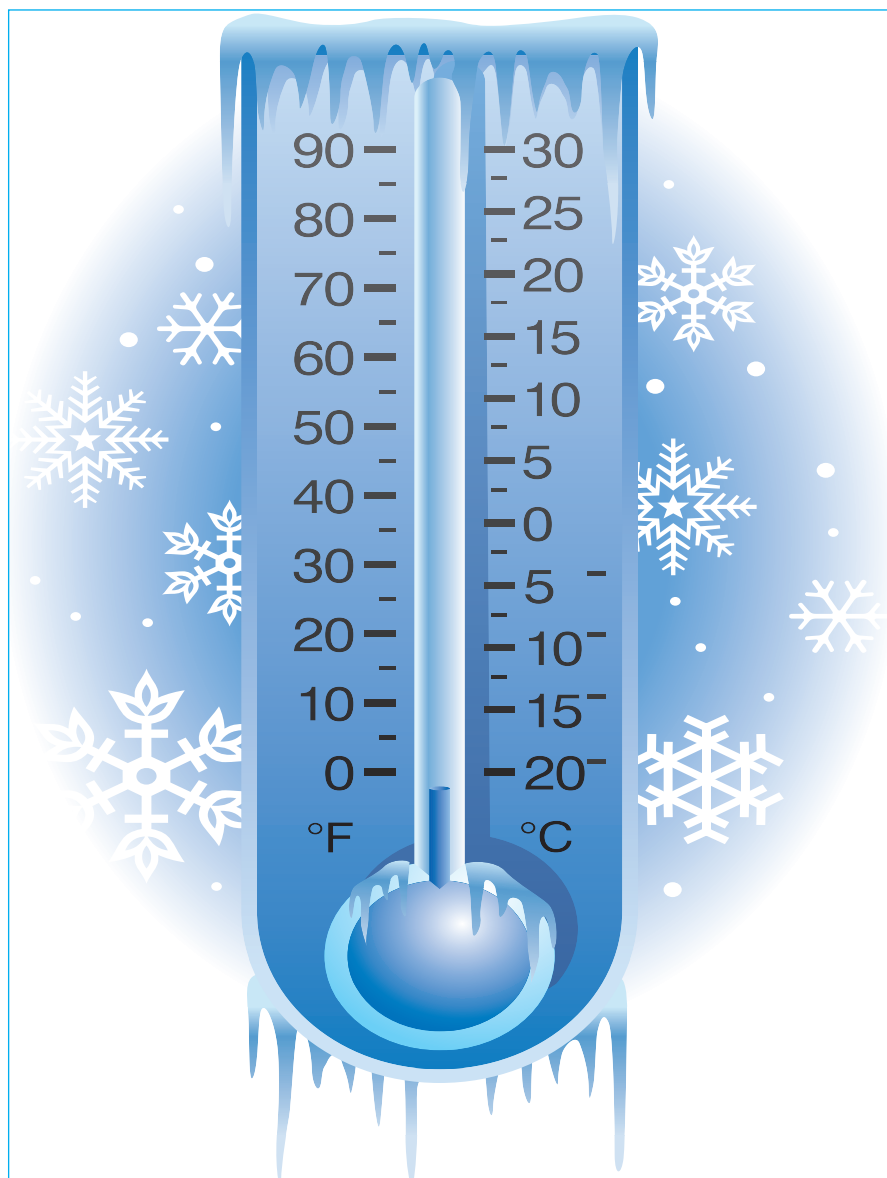
(STRIDE) gas system modernization plan. Through STRIDE, BGE will have replaced more than 150 miles of gas mains and more than 25,000 service pipes connecting customers to the gas system by the end of 2017. BGE has also secured natural gas contracts and filled its storage facilities to maintain gas supply for customers who purchase natural gas from BGE.

Electric system upgrades and maintenance in preparation for winter weather have occurred on schedule as part of the approximately \$1.1 billion BGE is investing in the company’s electric system during 2017. In addition to inspecting more than 4,500 circuit miles of overhead power lines and more than 40,000

utility poles this year, the company is also taking steps to minimize the threat to power lines by trees weakened by heavy snows and winter storms with \$24 million in vegetation trimming near overhead lines.

As BGE prepares for winter, customers are reminded to prepare as well by following these tips:

- **Maintain Your Heating Systems** – Most of your cold weather energy expenses are related to heating your home. Schedule service for your heating system to find out what maintenance is required to keep your system operating efficiently.
- **Lower Your Water Heating Costs** – Water heating accounts for about 18%



of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save.

- **Adjust the Temperature** – When you are at home and awake, set your thermostat as low as it is comfortable for you. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

- **My Account Online Tools** – Your BGE online account contains tools and detailed energy usage information. By tracking your energy usage right after you use it, comparing usage trends, and discovering the results of energy-saving practices, you can manage your energy more efficiently. Log onto BGE.com/MyAccount to get started.

- **Keep Your Natural Gas Appliances Vents Clear** – Know where your natural gas appliances vent to the exterior and ensure the vents are clear. Some high efficiency gas appliances, such as water heaters and furnaces, vent along the foundation of buildings. If these vents become blocked by snow or ice, exhaust may back up resulting in carbon monoxide build-up or a release of natural gas.

Customers should also explore the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® to identify new ways to save energy, money and the environment. The program, which supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, has provided \$464 million in rebates to BGE customers and helped customers save more than 2.8 million megawatt-hours of electricity. EmPOWER Maryland programs are funded by a charge on your electric bill. EmPOWER programs can help you reduce your electricity consumption and save you money. Help in paying winter bills is also available to income-qualified customers. Call (800) 352-1446 or visit <http://www.dhr.state.md.us> and click on “Services.”

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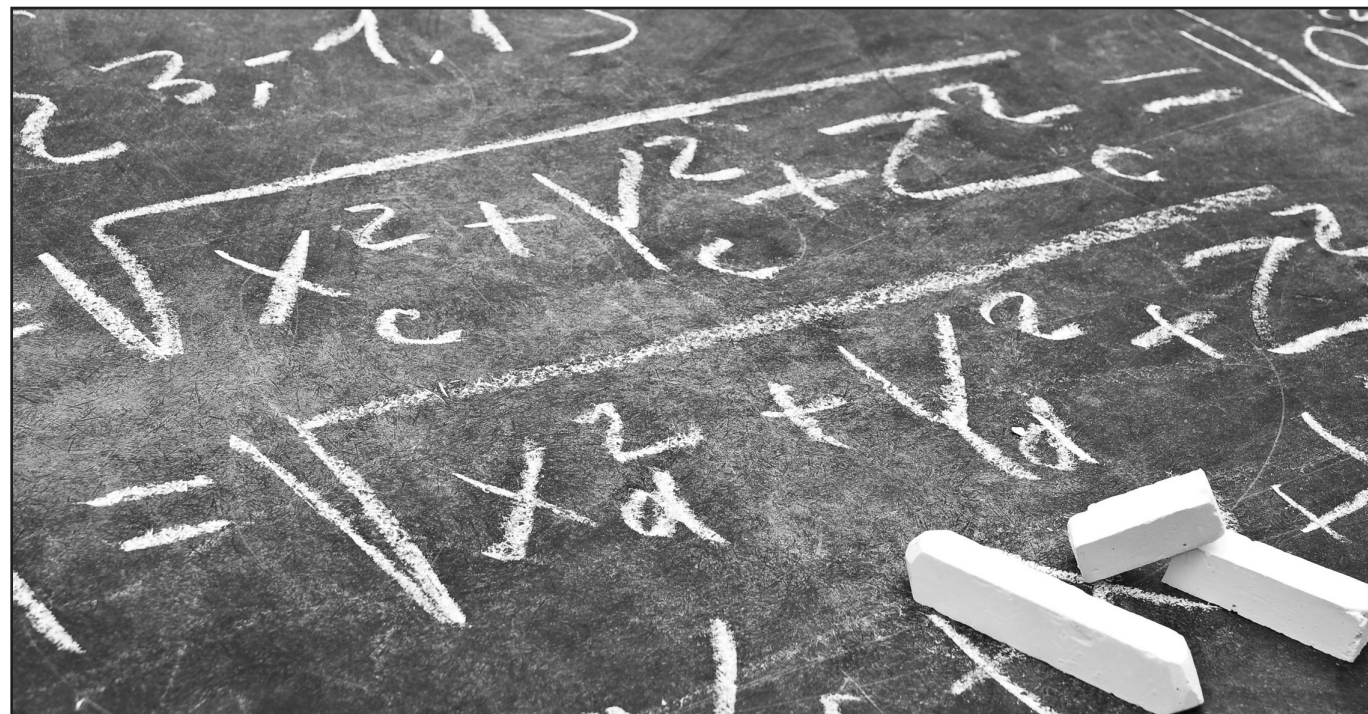
Now accepting applications for 2018 Vernier Engineering Contest

Vernier to recognize two teachers with \$5,500 in prizes each for their creative use of Vernier sensors to introduce engineering concepts

Beaverton, Oregon— Vernier Software & Technology is accepting applications for its 2018 Vernier Engineering Contest, which recognizes science, engineering, and STEM teachers for their creative uses of Vernier sensors to teach students engineering concepts and practices. Two winning teachers— one middle school teacher and one high school teacher— will each receive prizes valued at \$5,500.

“We are committed to helping educators develop the next generation of engineers and scientists,” said John Wheeler, CEO of Vernier Software & Technology. “Our annual Engineering Contest is part of this commitment and a great way for educators to share their engineering best practices for the chance to win cash, technology, and valuable professional development opportunities.”

Applications for the Vernier Engineering Contest are due by February 15, 2018, and winners will be announced in March on the Vernier website and Facebook page. To enter, educators must complete an online application, as well as produce a video showcasing the engineering project in action, the Vernier



sensors being used, and the engineering concepts being addressed. The sensors may be used in conjunction with any Vernier software or with NI LabVIEW™ software, Arduino, Scratch, LEGO®, VEX®, or any other system.

Applications will be judged by a panel of Vernier experts based on innovation, engineering objectives, and the ease by which other teachers can replicate the project. Applicants will specifically need

to explain how the project addresses the engineering practices called for in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Each winner will receive \$1,000 in cash, \$3,000 in Vernier technology, and \$1,500 toward expenses to attend the 2018 National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA) STEM conference or the 2018 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference.

The winning projects from the 2017 Vernier Engineering Contest involved students reducing the intensity of a sound travelling through a box and creating a safety device for cars that warns operators when the interior is becoming too hot for infants.

For complete information on the 2018 Vernier Engineering Contest and to submit an application, visit www.vernier.com/grants/engineering/.

Give the Gift of Time or Service: 2017 Holiday Volunteer Guide

Give the Gift of Time or Service: 2017 Holiday Volunteer Guide Now Available—The Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center now has a Holiday Volunteer Guide listing volunteer opportunities through December 2018! Volunteering is a way to support your favorite cause. Gifts of time and in-kind donations can be pivotal at this time of year for the charities listed in the Holiday Volunteer Guide. You can receive a FREE copy of the Holiday Volunteer Guide via e-mail by sending a request to info@aacvc.org. This new Holiday Volunteer Guide is also posted on the Volunteer Center's Website: www.aacvc.org/Resources and can be downloaded for FREE. Why should you volunteer? To help other people, make new friends, brighten the holidays for the homeless, volunteer with your family, learn about our community, earn community service credit, and most important - HAVE FUN! Many of the organizations listed in the guide also have listed their wish lists for donations. For more information, please contact the Volunteer Center at 410-897-9207 or email: info@aacvc.org, or visit the website: www.aacvc.org.

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