

B-360's Brittany Young is Making Her Mark



Brittany Young, founder of B-360 Baltimore, an organization that utilizes dirt bike culture to end the cycle of poverty, disrupt the prison pipeline, and build bridges in communities. B-360 is changing the perception of engineers and dirt bike riders in Baltimore and beyond. Young says that most dirt bike riders start riding dirt bikes at the age of three or four. Since they start at such a young age, they have natural ability. They also have mechanical ability. Most fix their bikes, which is mechanics. This is all a part of the engineering design process. They have a leg-up because they have a different way of thinking that would elevate them on any level.

(See article on page 10) Courtesy Photos

Baltimore school receives \$100K grant from Cooke Foundation

By Stacy M. Brown

The Ingenuity Project at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute is among four recipients to equally share a \$400,000 grant issued by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to selective public high schools.

Also issued to programs at schools in Virginia, South Carolina and Pennsylvania, the grant allows the recipients to launch or expand programs for high-achieving students with financial needs to access information and adequate preparation for success at those institutions.

The Ingenuity Project will use its \$100,000 share of the grant to help its mission of increasing the number of Baltimore City students with financial need who are prepared to enroll and succeed in the school's rigorous curriculum and continue their academic career at top colleges and universities, according to officials.

The grant also will support the program's expansion to two additional middle schools and the development of a new innovative research-internship pathway.

"The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation grant will allow the Ingenuity Project to expand the number of students it serves and develop new innovative practices in STEM and the grant supports the Ingenuity Project's 2020 strategic plan improving and expanding the pipeline of talented STEM leaders in Baltimore City from underserved communities," said Lisette Morris, the executive director of the Ingenuity Project. "To attract high-achieving low-income students, Ingenuity revised its recruiting and admissions practices removing barriers for parents to apply and we converted a lengthy multi-step application process into a 5-minute online application and launched several elementary and middle school outreach initiatives to build stronger relationships with families and schools in underserved communities."

The grant also will allow for the development of new systems and innovative curriculum to meet the interests of a growing and more diverse population.

This year, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation grant recognized the four public



The Ingenuity Project plans to use the funds from the grant to help its mission of increasing the number of Baltimore City students with financial need it prepares to enroll and succeed in the school's rigorous curriculum and to continue their academic career at top colleges and universities. (Left) Ingenuity middle school students working on a long-term environmental engineering project. (Right) Ingenuity middle school students hard at work in science class.

Courtesy Photos/Ingenuity Project

schools that have made dedicated efforts to close Excellence Gaps by identifying promising students early in their academic careers and providing them with the support and guidance they need to access and capitalize on advanced educational opportunities.

The foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need and, since 2000, its awarded \$175 million in scholarships to more than 2,300 students from 8th grade through graduate school. Further, the foundation has provided more than \$97 million in grants to organizations that serve such students.

"Ingenuity has a long, successful history partnering with Baltimore City Public Schools since 1995 to provide an accelerated math, science and research program with proven academic and college enrollment outcomes," Morris said. "This year, close to 900 students applied for 240 seats in Ingenuity. Families across Baltimore want better access to rigorous and advanced middle school and high school experiences like Ingenuity."

In 2017, the Fund for Educational Excellence released the report "Calcu-

lated Choices" mapping the advanced academic opportunities across the city. The report identified that families in lower income neighborhoods have disproportionate access to advanced programming.

In 2016, Ingenuity served 547 students in grades sixth through 12. By 2020, the program is estimated to serve over 800, according to Morris.

Close to 100 percent of Ingenuity 8th graders pass high school Algebra in 8th grade and are offered seats at the city's four academic entrance criteria schools. All of Ingenuity's first-generation college-

bound 2018 graduates from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute will be attending highly selective colleges next year.

"With support from [the] Jack Kent Cooke Foundation in 2015, Ingenuity launched a middle school science initiative with 350 students in non-Ingenuity sites which resulted in triple the number of applicants to Ingenuity's high school program at Poly," Morris said. "With new funding from the Foundation this year, the program is expanding partnerships with K-5 schools to support and prepare students for admissions to Ingenuity."

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Wells Fargo ups donations to more than \$1 Million a day to charities

Wells Fargo & Company last year continued to invest in communities across the country through its philanthropy and volunteerism, donating more than \$286.5 million in 2017 to more than 14,500 nonprofits, the company announced.

The company's plan to target \$400 million in donations to nonprofits and community organizations in 2018 is an increase of approximately 40 percent from

2017. Wells Fargo already is one of the top corporate cash donors, ranking first among financial institutions and third among all U.S. companies in a 2016 report (most recent ranking) by The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

"We understand the important role we play in helping our communities, so we will continue to identify additional opportunities where Wells Fargo can make a difference," CEO, Tim Sloan said. "Wells Fargo's

increased philanthropy will have a positive effect on the causes and communities we support and further enhance our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, which will continue to focus on advancing diversity and social inclusion, creating economic opportunities in underserved communities, and accelerating the transition to a lower-carbon economy and a healthier planet."

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Wells Fargo commits \$3.5 million to increase financial capability across U.S.

Toncé Jackson was at a low point four years ago. In Chicago's Cook County Jail for a fourth time, she was struggling with substance abuse, had no job, a limited education, terrible credit, and was burdened with debt — she didn't even have a bank account. Caught in a painful cycle that was destroying her family, she resolved to change.

"I wanted to start my life over," said Jackson. "I just needed a little help with my beginning."

The Wells Fargo Financial Capability Grant program focuses on helping people, like Jackson, who are facing destabilizing economic challenges. Started in 2017, the program's grants help people from diverse populations who are underbanked by connecting them to income supports and financial training.

The program has just awarded \$3.5 million to two nonprofits with thoughtful and focused financial capability programs — the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and the Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund.

The Wells Fargo grants will provide \$1 million funding for the CFE Fund and \$2.5 million funding for LISC financial capability programs in a total of 25 U.S. cities and regions over three years.

"All of the cities we are working with demonstrated that they are looking to make financial empowerment front-and-center in the work they can do," said Tamara Lindsay, a principal at the CFE Fund. "The long-term vision is to create a permanent home for this work, to help make sure it is sustainable."

City leaders collaborate with CFE Fund partners to open Financial Empowerment Centers, or FECs, for their residents. At FECs, professionally trained counselors help consumers with low and moderate incomes manage their finances, pay down debt, increase savings, establish and build credit, and access safe and affordable mainstream banking products. The FEC model integrates counseling into other social services, including housing and foreclosure prevention, workforce development, prisoner reentry, benefits access, domestic violence services, and more. First piloted in New York City under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2008, the FECs are a proven success — about 80,000 consumers have reduced individual debt by almost \$94 million and increased their families' savings by about \$12 million. A recent CFE Fund evaluation showed that this program works even for residents with very low incomes and other complex financial challenges.

"Offering financial counseling as a public service, though local governments, helps stabilize struggling households and communities. Local leaders know the importance of helping families and neighborhoods build financial stability and make better use of social services," said Jonathan Mintz, president and CEO of the CFE Fund.

Wells Fargo's grant to LISC will strengthen and expand the Financial Opportunity Center, or FOC, model across 15 target markets. Working through local nonprofits nationwide since 2006, FOCs offer services including employment and career counseling, one-on-one

financial coaching and education, and connect individuals with low-cost financial products that help build credit, savings and assets. FOCs also have a remedial education component that provides participants with foundational reading and math skills that they need in order to get into job training programs that can lead to higher paying, living-wage careers.

"Promising talent exists in all our communities, and we have to invest to help people realize their full potential. That's where FOCs come in," said LISC CEO Maurice A. Jones. "By connecting people to the tools they need, they can compete for the quality jobs that employers must fill to innovate and grow. They'll be able to earn more, save more and access life-changing opportunities for themselves and their families."

During a conversation with her parole officer, Jackson found out about a local Financial Opportunity Center housed at Chicago's Jane Addams Resource Corporation, a nonprofit local community resource center. The FOC helped Jackson find additional education opportunities and got her into a job placement program. After she successfully landed her welding job, Jackson continued to receive guidance from a financial coach. She created a budget, reduced her medical debts, and established credit.

Mike Rizer, head of Wells Fargo Community Relations, said results like Jackson's are the goal.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Something we can learn from the rescue in Thailand

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

The world celebrated the rescue of 12 Thai soccer players from a flooded cave in Mae Sai, Thailand. We grieved over the loss of one brave man, Saman Kunam who sacrificed his life to deliver supplies to the trapped boys. Many of us watched the media reports fearfully, while praying and hoping for a miracle.

The deliverance of all 12 young boys at the hands of skilled divers was something we jointly cheered about. Reports indicated that time was running out for them—more flooding was coming; oxygen and food were in dismal supply. However, thousands of people participated in the rescue effort, including 2,000 soldiers, 200 divers and representatives from 100 government agencies around the world.

We don't want a scenario like what happened in Thailand to ever happen again. Such a scenario was a global nightmare and was something that no political group, religious entity or anyone would surely debate. Everything possible that could be done was done to save those young Thai boys.

Yet, everyday on this planet there are desperate plights playing out around the globe. Young children in Syria still live in desperate conditions daily. Families in Iraq and Afghanistan don't face a day without the fear of who may invade their homes to rape, pilfer and murder their families. There are a lot of problems around the world. Hunger; clean water shortages; the availability of good medical care; and violence exists to some degree, almost everywhere it seems.

We have all the above and more in America. Employment is better, the stock market is up and the military is stronger than it has been in a long time, yet with all we have going for us, how many people feel like they are in a watery cave and time is running out for them?

Throughout our country people still struggle with medical care. Insurance companies continue to call the shots on procedures and treatments. Doctors order tests and treatments they feel the insurance company will agree to, or pay for. Is that always in the best interest of the patient or is it always in the best interest of the insurance company? How many Americans are on the verge of drowning from inadequate medical care and are also up to their necks in debt from medical costs? Surely, this is a call for national concern and prayer, but more than anything, it's a tremendous alarm for us to continue to work together to improve the situation.

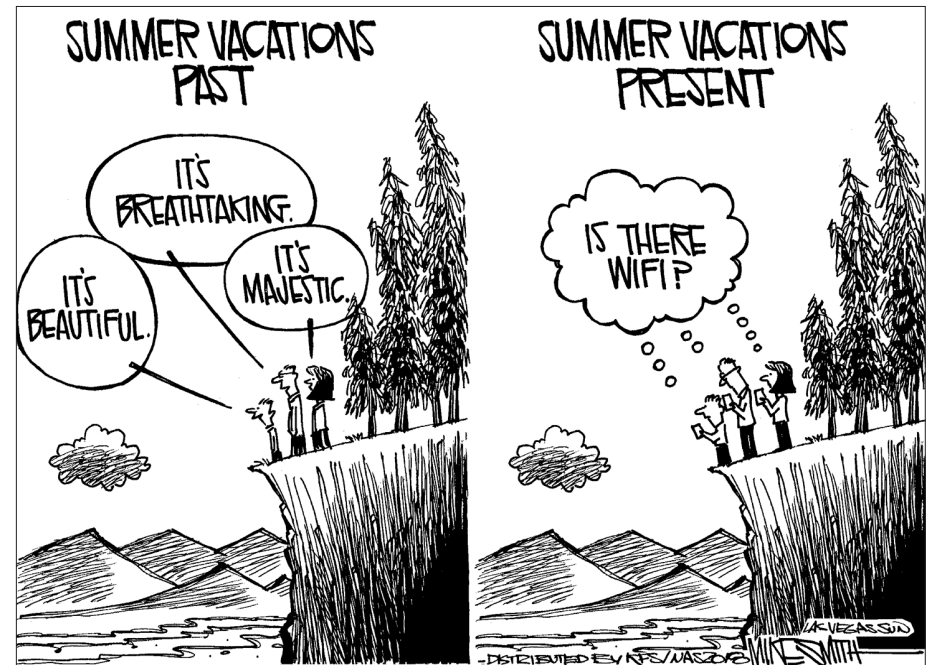
The recent shooting in Annapolis, Maryland reminded us again that we have a violence issue, mental health issues and gun availability issues in this nation. Everybody should not have a gun in America. Do we not feel like we all die again and again every time there is a school shooting or some other random shooting?

We have to quit arguing about "your gun" and "my gun" and work together to fix all of this— and it's a lot to fix!

Of course, poverty is still rampant in America. We have too many citizens that are afraid to drink the water in their communities. Kids are still being bullied at school. Nursing homes are often financial and emotional nightmares; and there is always another hurricane, tornado, flood or fire just around the corner.

There is so much about our everyday world that strains us and keeps us fighting for survival. Maybe, we can all learn something from the divers and the many people from all over the world who came together to rescue those young boys from a watery grave. If we don't fight each other but work together to find solutions, we just might solve more of the problems that threaten to end our very existence.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of 12 books. His syndicated column appears in all 50 states. To contact him, email: GMollette@aol.com or visit his website: www.glenmollette.com.



Commentary

Is the aim of education to get good jobs or to be good citizens?

Washington, D.C.— You'd think that the National Academies of Sciences would be out there promoting STEM education: the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. However, a new report questions whether the purpose of education is to provide students with "a path to educated citizenship or employment."

"There's no question that a knowledgeable citizenry is a responsible and productive one. President Lincoln surely had that notion in mind when he signed the charter creating what was then known as the National Academy of Science. Indeed, the future generations of Americans would need to be proficient in new emerging technologies. But, ultimately, they would need to put their knowledge of the sciences in context. And, that frame work can only be provided by studying the humanities as well—including history," according to education advocate David Bruce Smith.

The polls show that the great majority of students and their parents see higher

education as the road to a good job. As a result the liberal arts have taken a subservient position to the Sciences as the majors of choice—in colleges and universities— over the past several decades.

Scott Carlson is a senior writer at The Chronicle of Higher Education; in a recent article he argues that the humanities may be equally as important as the sciences. Carlson writes that the "noncognitive skills" you learn from the study of history and the arts, for example, provide qualities employers seek—"pluck and ingenuity" and "cultural awareness and critical thinking."

As he puts it: "Major in the "useless" liberal arts, and you'll get the training you need to work for the giants of Silicon Valley and burgeoning creative industries. You will inoculate yourself against the threat of machines and robots that may automate once-stable careers like accounting and manufacturing out of existence."

Smith, who co-founded the Grateful American Book Prize with the late Dr. Bruce Cole, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, agrees with Carlson's position on the issue.

A small gift can leave a lasting legacy when you invest in HBCUs

By Dr. Harry L. Williams
President & CEO
Thurgood Marshall College Fund

Earlier this year, a man named Jack Weldon Patrick passed away in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. A long-time lawyer, Patrick was remembered as a family man, an advocate for social justice, and a respected community leader.

One day a check arrived by mail for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) in memory of Jack Weldon Patrick. A few days later, another one arrived, and a few weeks later, another check. Individual donations kept coming to support the work of TMCF and our publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in honor of Jack. His obituary read, “in lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations in Jack’s name to causes he cared deeply about.” One of those causes was TMCF.

So many of us outside of TMCF headquarters and Menomonee may have never known Jack as a stalwart of access and opportunity for students attending

black colleges. Many of us aren’t even aware that Jack was part of the reason why in 2016, private giving and contracts earned by HBCUs increased for a second straight year, posting a four-year high of \$320 million. But we do know he was a living embodiment of the famous quote by Nelson Henderson: “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

our impact, through monthly and annual donations, as well as the legacy gift.

TMCF combines these individuals’ gifts with foundation grants and partnerships with major corporations and government agencies to provide the funds that allow us to transform lives. It takes a philanthropic village to develop young minds, and we are humbled to be good stewards of the resources that our donors and partners entrust to us.

careers. Now TMCF wants to illustrate that same culture within our giving networks.

Anyone believing in the power of education to transform lives should invest in HBCUs. This includes alumni who want to have a tangible way to support their schools. All people in our networks at work, at church, in our communities, fraternities and sororities, and other circles of activity are worthy of soliciting for support. Age, earnings and personality are not elements for disqualifying those who might be willing to give, or those who have the capacity to do so.

TMCF member-schools like North Carolina Central University are experiencing record gains in gifts secured from younger donors. Texas Southern University recently raised more than \$1M at its annual Maroon and Gray gala, an event which just in its second year which has cultivated new supporters for the university and has raised nearly \$2M for student scholarships and institutional support.

So today, we honor one man—Jack Weldon Patrick—and his commitment to HBCUs, and we thank his friends and family for their continued investment in the work of TMCF. We hope his example encourages others to consider impacting people’s lives by supporting our nation’s HBCUs.

Harry L. Williams is the president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. Before joining TMCF, he spent eight years as president of Delaware State University. Follow him on Twitter at @DrHLWilliams.

“Showcasing the faces and stories of those who give is an important tool in cultivating similar donors, encouraging a culture of giving around our campuses. This is a critical strategy that grows an organization’s base of support every year. For non-profit organizations, individual giving is the largest type of charitable gift—four times the amount as the next largest category in 2015, according to Giving USA.”

While philanthropic anonymity is honorable, philanthropic leadership helps organizations like TMCF reach new supporters, encouraging new donor circles to give. Showcasing the faces and stories of those who give is an important tool in cultivating similar donors, encouraging a culture of giving around our campuses. This is a critical strategy that grows an organization’s base of support every year. For non-profit organizations, individual giving is the largest type of charitable gift—four times the amount as the next largest category in 2015, according to Giving USA.

Organizations like TMCF thrive due to the generosity of individuals who believe in our work and want to expand

TMCF, its 47 member-schools and the nearly 300,000 students attending them each year, want to play a role in redefining HBCU philanthropy and support. The data on finances and the number of degrees we produce in areas like STEM, education, social sciences and criminal justice already show just how productive HBCUs continue to be in graduating black students. Seventy percent of our publicly-supported HBCUs attendees are first generation college students (like I was) and eligible for Pell Grants. In comparison, the national average is only 37 percent for all public schools. By providing this quality education, students transform their lives and prepare to enter economically sustainable

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Artscape, America's largest free arts festival returns for three days

Baltimore—The 37th annual Artscape, America's largest free arts festival returns to Charm City from Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22, 2018 at Mount Royal Avenue and North Charles Street. Artscape opens from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, with Artscape After Hours taking place Friday and Saturday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

In recent years, Artscape organizers have applied an overarching theme, relevant to both the arts and Baltimore City into the festival's creative thinking. In 2018, Artscape is going back to the basics—ART! For "the year of no theme," Artscape encourages artists and festivalgoers alike, to embrace Artscape for what it is— a fully accessible, free world-class arts festival in the heart of Baltimore City.

The 2018 festival is headlined by legendary girl group TLC on Friday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Reggae group Toots & The Maytals on Saturday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. and blues rock sensation ZZ Ward on Sunday, July 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the MICA Main Stage.

Also, Dance returns to the Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric with Garth Fagan Dance from Tony Award-winning choreographer Garth Fagan.

New to Artscape this year is Youth Day, taking place on the festival's opening day, Friday, July 20. On Youth Day, Artscape features a variety of performances and visual art by Baltimore youth artists, makers and performers at indoor and outdoor venues.

A performance by the Cardinal Sheehan Choir takes place for Youth Day on the MICA Main Stage at 4:30 p.m.

Also new this year, festivalgoers can have a dance party via their own set of headphones at Artscape's new Silent



Legendary girl group TLC headlines at Artscape on Friday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the MICA Main Stage. The 37th annual Artscape, America's largest free arts festival returns to Charm City, Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22, 2018 at Mount Royal Avenue and North Charles Street. For a complete list and schedule of all events at Artscape 2018, visit: www.artscape.org.

Courtesy Photo/Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts

Disco featuring some of Baltimore's best DJ talent. For the first time ever, Artscape is offering free Pedicab rides to festivalgoers who wish to see the Artscape their missing by bicycle. Artscape welcomes Squonk Opera who brings their show Pneumatica to Artscape for three days of performances. In this show, the "Squonkers" pump up the volume with live original music that permeates the air, while inflatables

pump up and immerse the audience. Other new Artscape components include

Teenscape, a section dedicated to teen programming presented by BOPA's Youth Arts Council and a new Kidscape performance space.

Artscape features 11 large-scale art-work projects for festivalgoers to explore, interact with and admire throughout the festival footprint. Among these projects are Trash-scape by the Department of Beauty Maintenance and Thick Air Studios, which is an evolving street performance surrounding a sculpture of recyclable material in the shape of a mandala. Also along Charles Street is Choose Your Own Adventure by Becky Borlan & Graham Coriel Allen, which transforms an intersection of Charles Street into a colorful and safe pedestrian playscape of creative crosswalks and an immersive environment of floating beach balls. Some projects have a very specific tie to Baltimore like Screen Station, where festivalgoers will be able to try their hand at screen-printing and print their own messages related to youth advocacy and justice. Another art installation worth exploring is Headspace by Magdalena Sudnik, which is a giant wooden head that people can walk through and engage with others from the inside.

A full list and schedule of all events at Artscape 2018, visit: www.artscape.org. Stay connected by following Artscape on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and using the hashtag, #Artscape

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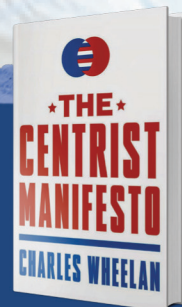
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Quarterback Robert Griffin, III finds himself in an unfamiliar backup role

By Turron Davenport

When the Baltimore Ravens took the field for the start of training camp, one of the players in the mix was a new face to the team. As a former No. 2 overall pick by the Washington Redskins in the 2012 NFL Draft, quarterback Robert Griffin III finds himself in unfamiliar territory.

Once considered to be the cornerstone of a particular franchise down the road, Griffin now finds himself as a backup to Joe Flacco and a mentor for 2018 first-round pick Lamar Jackson.

For Griffin, this is his path back into the NFL after spending a year away from the game as an unsigned free agent. Griffin was supposed to be the next great thing for the Redskins. After a fast start, Griffin suffered a Grade 1 LCL sprain in a Week 14 game against the Ravens when he collided with then Baltimore defensive tackle Haloti Ngata.

Griffin led the Redskins to a playoff birth but tore the ACL and LCL in his right knee during a divisional playoff loss to the Seattle Seahawks. That was pretty much the start of the end for Griffin in Washington. The injury robbed him of his dynamic playmaking ability, and after a series of injuries over the next couple of years, he was released by the Redskins in 2016.

After signing with Cleveland, a should-



Cleveland Browns quarterback Robert Griffin III throws the football while warming up before facing the Ravens during the 2016 season. Griffin is now in Baltimore with a new number and new attitude starting his first season as a backup for the Ravens.
Photo is courtesy of NFL.com

er injury against the Philadelphia Eagles in the 2016 season opener kept Griffin out until December. The Browns released him in March.

Now Griffin is in Baltimore. He has a new number and a new attitude entering

his first season as a backup.

"There [are] a lot of guys that are sitting at home right now who want to be in this position," Griffin said during his opening press conference as a Raven. "When you have the right perspective

you cherish every moment and maximize your opportunity. My job is to go out and show them that I'm an asset to the team, not a detriment. Do what I have to do to make it to where they can't afford to let me go."

The Ravens are happy to have Griffin in the fold. Head coach John Harbaugh quickly realized that Griffin is an asset. This was before he got to see Griffin actually take the field.

"Robert Griffin in the quarterback room has been excellent," Harbaugh said in April. "A pro's pro in every way. Not just the quarterback room. We're down here, and we do our early morning coaches workouts, and he's the guy who's down there working out extra. I love everything about the way he handles it."

The chance to be on an NFL roster and to get his groove back during actual practices, even if it's as a part of the scout team is much better than not being in an NFL facility at all. The disappointment of not being on a roster is a feeling that Griffin doesn't want to once again experience any time soon.

The rise and fall early in his career has put things in perspective.

"It's not that I wasn't appreciative before," Griffin said. "It's not like I didn't work hard before. But sometimes things have to happen to you in life. You have to face a little bit of adversity. Do you really want it?"

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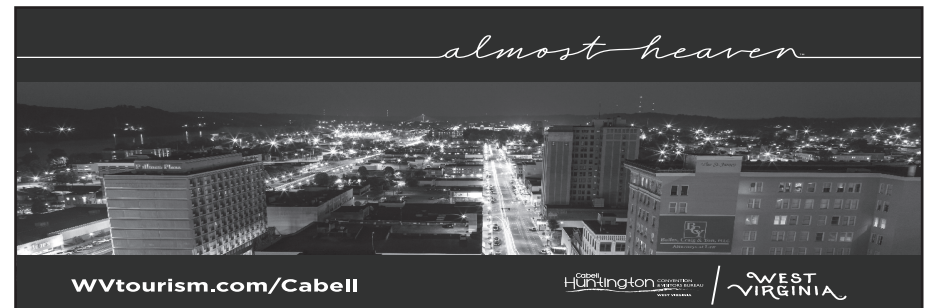
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Is your business prepared and protected for hurricane season?

News & Experts— Hurricane season arrived on June 1, but the busiest period is fast approaching— typically mid-August to mid-September generates the most hurricanes in the United States. Home homeowners are already pricing generators, restocking hurricane supplies and getting ready for Mother Nature's annual visits.

However, what about businesses? What should they do to prepare for hurricane season or for any disaster that could strike and potentially upend the business?

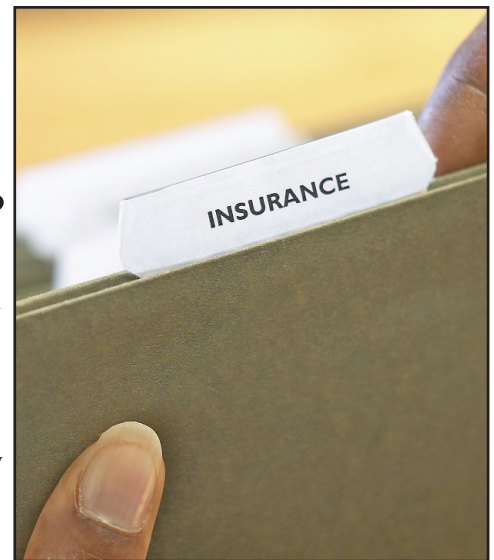
Peter J. Strauss, a captive insurance manager and author of the book *The Business Owner's Definitive Guide to Captive Insurance Companies* (www.peterjstrauss.com), says the time is now for businesses to prepare.

"A remarkable number of business owners will spend a lot of time preparing their homes, but very little time preparing their businesses," Strauss said. "Once a storm is on the radar, there is barely time to prepare your home, let alone your business."

Experts from Colorado State University— regarded as the nation's top seasonal hurricane forecasters— recently predicted 2018 will have seven hurricanes among 14 named tropical storms. Both numbers are above the average of six and 12, respectively.

Strauss says some preparations a business needs to take include:

- Survey its staff members to determine what their needs will be during a storm and what they will need in order to return to work once the storm passes. The staff is the company's biggest resource, so this should be a priority.
- Start stockpiling water now if you have some extra space in your business. In an emergency, the first thing most



retail stores run out of is bottled water. Also stockpile canned goods and extra food items that can remain fresh for your employees.

- Take stock of all your software, hardware and data and arrange for duplication and off-site storage if necessary.

- Purchase a generator and make other precautions for the inevitable disruption of power that will happen during the storm. Come up with an alternate plan of how you will be able to continue to service customers if there is a prolonged outage of power or if there is structural damage to your place of business.

- Call your insurance agent and review your policy to make sure you have all the coverage you need. Also, videotape and photograph everything in your business and store for insurance purposes.

Strauss stresses that procrastination is not your friend when it comes to hurricanes.

"Once a storm is approaching, everything moves twice as fast as you think it will. Generators, water and plywood will go fast," he said. "Gas lines will get longer sooner. You can save yourself a lot of headache and worry by being prepared."

Peter J. Strauss is an attorney, captive insurance manager and author of several books, including most recently "The Business Owner's Definitive Guide to Captive Insurance Companies." For more information, visit: www.peterjstrauss.com.

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B-360's Brittany Young is Making Her Mark

Engineer helping to put youth on the track of success

By Ursula V. Battle

For most, it would be hard to correlate Baltimore's dirt bike culture to STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math). However, for Brittany Young, a connection between the two seemingly vastly different worlds made perfect sense.

"Growing up in Baltimore, the sound of summer in the city was dirt bike riding," said Young. "Most dirt bike riders start riding dirt bikes at the age of three or four. Since they start at such a young age, they have natural ability. They also have mechanical ability. Most fix their bikes, which is mechanics. This is all a part of the engineering design process. They have a leg-up because they have a different way of thinking that would elevate them on any level."

Young is the founder of B-360 Baltimore, an organization that utilizes dirt bike culture to end the cycle of poverty, disrupt the prison pipeline, and build bridges in communities.

"'B' means be the revolution, and '360' means a 360-degree turn in helping people to think better," explained Young.

Through STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) education, community engagement and workforce pipelining, B-360 is changing the perception of engineers and dirt bike riders in Baltimore and beyond.

The 29-year-old engineer launched B-360 in March 2017. Since that time, the organization has provided service to more than over 2,200 students.

"Dirt bike riders are geniuses," said the Polytechnic High School graduate. "B-360 shows them how to build dirt bikes and exposes them to different ways to express themselves. Most don't realize they can naturally build dirt bikes."

She added, "We are about getting people off the streets. We teach them to think and help them to realize they have a different way of looking at things to problem solve."

Young is an instructor at Baltimore City Community College. She also teaches in the Baltimore City Public School System. She said her teaching

positions provide a gateway for her to tap students for participation in B-360. She also reaches dirt bike riders through various outreach efforts.

"We go into communities and do STEM workshops," she said. "We have done about 15 dirt bike clinics and meet them where they are. We also go to community events."

There has been a 'positive reaction' to Young's work. The brilliant engineer is the recipient of several accolades and fellowships, which include Red Bull Amaphiko Academy, a launch pad for grassroots social entrepreneurs who are making a positive difference in their communities.

"Participating in the Academy allows me to realize my potential and the potential of the city," she said. "I really appreciate Red Bull, the students, and all of those who believe in B-360. I can see the direct impact."

Young is also an Echoing Green Fellow. Echoing Green is an 800-strong community of America's top social innovators. Past Fellows include former First Lady Michelle Obama. The organization provides seed funding and leadership development.

"My mom passed on April 22, and I did my interview for Echoing Green that same day," said Young. "Being the first to win from Baltimore was great. We have so much talent in Baltimore. People here are smart. Echoing Green gives me an opportunity to elevate and show the talent we have in our city. It is wonderful to follow behind the legacy of people like Michelle Obama."

She added, "There aren't a lot of opportunities like this for a young black girl from Baltimore. This is the first time B-360 has received funding. The fellowship allows me to go after more funding, and more time for me to grow my vision."

Young's accolades also include Baltimore Corp's Elevation Awards and the Social Innovation Lab at Johns Hopkins. She recalled her days as a "Young Mad Scientist".

"I was bored in school, and had to find something to do all the time," she recalled. "I got my first chemistry set in the first grade and started doing experi-



B-360 students learn about Marvel Universe LIVE's dirt bike stunts and technology during the show's recent performances in Baltimore. Courtesy Photos



B-360 has provided service to more than over 2,200 students.

ments. It kept me busy, and allowed me to be creative.

"It also got me into a lot of trouble," she added with a laugh. "I blew up my eyebrows and glued my sister to the chair. From there, my interest in science just grew. Soon, the basement became my lab, and was outfitted with a telescope and a microscope."

Young's first chemistry set certainly 'revved' up her interest in science. She talked about the continued 'results' she

would like to see in the future.

"People don't understand dirt bikes and STEM," she said. "We want to expand our programming and get more partnerships for businesses to hire dirt bike riders. We also want to expand B-360 to other cities, and continue to explore working together for the interest of students to promote positive change."

Pilot program seeks to encourage African Americans to consider careers in architecture, historic preservation

By Stacy M. Brown

The numbers are glaring, disconcerting at best.

Only five percent of architecture students are black, according to data from the National Architectural Accrediting Board, and a meager 0.3 percent of licensed architects are African American women. However, all of that could soon change.

A pilot program is underway to bring African American young professionals into historic preservation and related career paths, such as architecture and conservation, and raise awareness of the cultural legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's HOPE Crew; Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore; and the National Park Service's Western Center for Historic Preservation on the program called, "Touching History: Preservation in Practice."

Six MSU architecture students spent 11 days training at the Center, located at White Grass Ranch in Grand Teton National Park in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

"This is something that has been near and dear to my heart for many years and something that the advisory council has been open to for many years," said Susan Glimcher, the director, of Communications, Education and Outreach at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The MSU students are currently working with the HOPE Crew rehabilitating the courtyard at the Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture in Baltimore.

The oldest museum building in America, the house was built by Rembrandt Peale and was used as Baltimore City Hall for a number of years. It later served as the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore until it closed in 1997 due to lack of funds. It sat vacant for 20 years until it was reopened as a city cultural center.

The students are scheduled to undergo additional training from July 23-27 at the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick, Maryland.

They will be taking field trips to historic places in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area in their final week, July 30-August 4.

The project is being funded by the National Park Service with in-kind donations from the ACHP and the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

As a final project in "Touching History: Preservation in Practice," the students will create a portfolio that will point out the importance of preserving and restor-



Peale Historic Garden before renovation



Students repointing the brick wall

ing the historic buildings that are a part of the MSU campus, Glimcher said.

MSU has 20 structures eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, in 2016, the National Trust designated the university as a National Treasure and is partnering with the school to develop a preservation plan.

"We are very pleased in that two things connect here. First, it's engaging young people in historic preservation, a field that doesn't have enough young people involved and we've been working on an effort to build a more inclusive field," Glimcher said.

Under the current landscape, the architectural and historic preservation landscape is dominated by older white individuals, Glimcher said.

"Obviously, it isn't the true history of the United States of America and that matters," she said.

"We are looking at how to make a difference."

Overall, the effort is part of the new program that officials hope will bring African American young professionals into historic preservation and related career paths, such as architecture and conservation, and raise awareness of the cultural legacy of HBCUs.

"Historic preservation is extremely important," Glimcher said. "This experience has inspired me to go find out where our history is. A lot of our history is repressed and lost. It's ignored."

Morgan is the first HBCU to implement a "Preservation in Practice" program and the collaborators said they plan to introduce it at other HBCUs in the future.

Glimcher said she hopes the diversification of architecture-related fields will lead to a more accurate portrayal of history.



Monique Robinson and Tiffany Dockins set pavers in the courtyard. Courtesy Photos

"We wanted to raise awareness to the rich history of the HBCU legacy," Glimcher said. "They're also losing their heritage and we want to get more of these HBCUs into restoring their schools."

Larry “Poncho” Brown

Soundscapes Exhibit Currently ‘Playing’ at City Hall

By Ursula V. Battle

This collection of musicians includes saxophonists, guitarists, and pianists. They include “Big D” who is blowing away on the saxophone. “Big D” and the others have been “composed” over a 20-year period by Larry Brown. Currently, they are ‘playing’ at City Hall. “Big D” and his counterparts comprise a group known as “Soundscape.” However, these are not people—they are paintings created by Brown.

Known as “Poncho,” Brown’s artwork is currently on exhibit in the Baltimore City Hall Courtyard Galleries. “Soundscapes” features 30 original works of musically themed paintings. The pieces are a musical retrospective of two decades of the works by the longtime artist. The exhibit runs until August 18, 2018.

“To be honored this way is real special,” said Poncho. “Often local artists are not recognized by the city they live in. From that perspective, I am honored to do a ‘One Man Show’ recognizing my work. It shows the collection of music works I have done.”

He added with a laugh. “All art for me is therapy. It stopped me from killing a whole lot of people. I would rather be at City Hall than on the news for hurting somebody.”

Poncho was invited by Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh to house a solo exhibition of his work to commemorate Black Music Month, which is observed in June, as an annual celebration of African-American music in the United States.

On June 29, 2018, Mayor Pugh hosted a reception at City Hall in honor of the exhibit, which drew more than 200 people. During the event, Mayor Pugh presented him with the Mayor’s Medallion for Meritus Service and a Mayoral Proclamation.

“After 39 years of being an artist, I was grateful, but not surprised,” he said. “I have a good system of support in Baltimore. I really appreciate Mayor Pugh approaching it the way she did. It was a class act, and I am proud.”



(Left) “Big D,” is one of a collection of musicians that is part of Larry “Poncho” Brown’s Soundscapes Exhibit currently on display at Baltimore City Hall until August 18, 2018. (Right) Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh presenting the Mayor’s Medallion for Meritus Service to Poncho.



Courtesy Photos

Some of the paintings were commissions for music and jazz festivals all over the country. According to Poncho, the exhibit also includes a small collection of pieces on loan from Baltimore collectors Dr. Sheila D. Wright, and Anthony Ingram.

“The exhibition is being extended through August 18,” said Poncho. “When people walk through, they will see it’s a striking show. It exhibits the positive side of Baltimore, but all we hear about is the negative side of Baltimore.”

Poncho said the chance to display his artwork at City Hall “was music to his ears.” The Baltimore native talked about what led to the “Soundscapes” exhibit.

“I was donating a bust of Former President Barack Obama at Coppin State University,” said Poncho referring to an event held at the college in February to commemorate President’s Day and African American History Month. “The mayor was present, and asked if I wanted to do an exhibition at City Hall. I was elated.”

Poncho attended Mount Royal Elementary School, Eutaw Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Garrison Junior

High School, Carver Vocational-Technical High school, and the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He earned a BFA from MICA in 1984.

“The place I realized I wanted to be an artist was at Carver Vocational High School,” he recalled. “A teacher gave me the entrepreneurial spirit which helped me in the art business. Times are changing rapidly. Now, school programs are geared towards graphic arts, and computer labs are replacing music and art labs. Many kids are now computer literate, but culturally illiterate. Kids with art talent have nowhere to go with that talent but to the computer. A decade later, we are now seeing the effects.”

Poncho, 56, was among the artists who found national commercial success between 1985-2000, during a period known as “The Golden Age of African American Art.” The group of artists made their art accessible to the masses through direct participation in community art and cultural festivals, foregoing the traditional artist arrangement of artist representation, gallery representation, and art publisher distribution.

“You want to keep your work relevant to people,” he said. “That’s what keeps

my career going. I am glad to see the city is getting back to the business of exposing arts to the community. Art is an important part of our culture.”

Poncho says he has presented events, including: Baltimore’s *Unsung*, and Baltimore *MASTERS Art of the Ancestors*, to expose the artwork of Baltimore artists. Baltimore’s *Unsung* was held at the Downtown Cultural Arts Center in February 2014, and featured 40 Baltimore artists. Baltimore *MASTERS Art of the Ancestors* was held at the Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum in February 2016 and featured the artwork of 15 artists who had passed away.

“I am an artist advocate first,” he said. “These events allow me to pull together artists who haven’t gotten recognition. Some of them are going undiscussed and undocumented. I want to bring homage to those artists.”

Poncho hopes to “play on” at City Hall.

“Plans are underway to present Baltimore’s *Unsung 2* in February 2019,” he said. “City Hall is the proposed host location for the exhibit.”

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Annapolis City Dock named to list of America's 11 most endangered historic places

Annapolis— The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Annapolis's City Dock to its 2018 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, an annual list that spotlights important examples of our nation's architectural and cultural heritage at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. Almost 300 places have been on the list over its 31-year history, and in that time, fewer than five percent of listed sites have been lost.

Since it's listing as a National Historic Landmark District in 1965, Annapolis has remained one of the most intact and authentic colonial towns in the nation. Over the course of the past 50 years, numerous Annapolitans have invested in the care, upkeep and protection of this unique place. Providing the city with economic vitality, these efforts have made Annapolis one of the state's premier heritage tourist destinations, drawing visitors from around the globe who are attracted to the its charm and history.

Key to the success of Annapolis have been the reasonable and carefully enforced historic district guidelines that have protected the National Historic Landmark's irreplaceable buildings, character, and unparalleled views. The current proposal to re-zone portions of the historic district and allow for incompatible development on the historic waterfront threatens to upend five decades of effort to safeguard Annapolis's exceptional heritage.

"To the dismay of residents and visitors alike, the proposed rezoning of the Colonial Annapolis Historic District opens the door for permanent loss of the area's unique character," said Stephanie K. Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Annapolis deserves redevelopment that

embraces the history of the community and provides for compatible growth within the framework of the already adopted preservation guidelines—ensuring that one of the state's premier heritage tourist destinations is maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations."

"The current rezoning proposal is not worthy of Annapolis and should be rejected," said Robert C. Clark president and CEO of Historic Annapolis. "The 11 Most Endangered Listing is a formal recognition by the National Trust that "This Place Matters," and the proposed re-zoning is a serious and imminent threat to a place designated as one of America's Treasures."

Historic Annapolis, along with the National Trust and its statewide partner Preservation Maryland, is not opposed to thoughtful redevelopment of underutilized areas of the Annapolis Historic District. The organizations are, however, opposed to lifting critical height and bulk restrictions that have preserved the authentic, human-scale setting that defines the Annapolis experience and preserve the intersection of the built and natural environment. Over-scaled development at the water's edge threatens to eliminate the critical connection between the water and the city, create untold environmental challenges, and invites further degradation of the historic district. If not approached with careful consideration, new development could be accompanied by added stress on fragile foundations, historic masonry, and the quality of life of District residents.

Preservation Maryland and Historic Annapolis have launched an online petition to gather names of individuals opposed to this damaging plan. Resident of the City of Annapolis and anyone else who appreciates the history of Annapolis are encouraged to sign the petition at: presmd.org/annapolis

Members of the public can view the full 2018 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places and learn about what they can do to support these treasured sites at:

www.SavingPlaces.org/11Most

Bowie Baysox donate ticket proceeds to Capital Gazette Families Fund, Capital Gazette Memorial Scholarship Fund

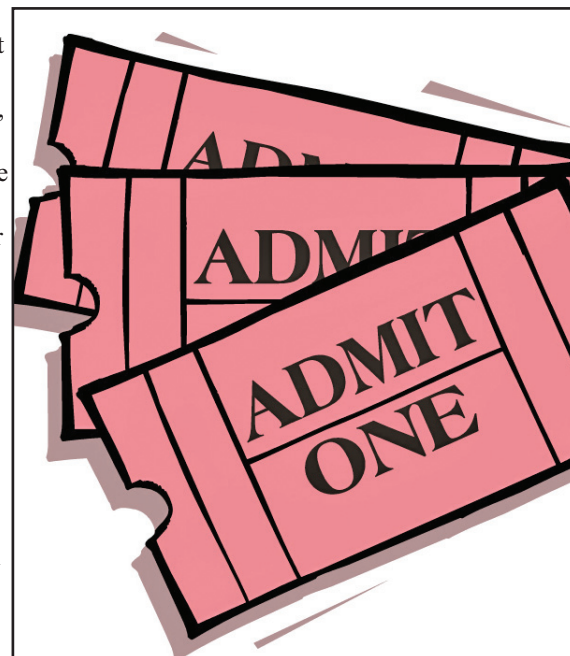
Bowie, Md.— The Bowie Baysox will donate 50 percent of the ticket proceeds from their home game on Thursday, July 19, 2018 against the Erie SeaWolves (Class AA Affiliate of the Detroit Tigers) to two funds set up to help and honor the victims and families affected in the Capital Gazette tragedy that occurred on June 28, 2018.

Fifty percent of all ticket sales that occurred online at Baysox.com between 9 a.m. on Friday, July 13, and 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18, for the Baysox home game on Thursday, July 19, will be donated to the Capital Gazette Families Fund and the Capital Gazette Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"The Annapolis Capital and its affiliate papers— including the Bowie Blade-News and West County Gazette— have been such important partners to the Baysox since our first game in 1993," said Baysox General Manager Brian Shallcross. "Over the many years of working together, we have come to know many great people at the Capital Gazette family who have put their heart and soul into their craft. We are saddened at the tragic loss of our good friend John McNamara and colleagues Gerald Fishman, Robert Hiasen, Wendi Winters and Rebecca Smith.

"The Baysox wanted to provide a forum for our fans to be able to contribute to their memories and celebrate the lives and legacies of those lost in the tragic events of June 28, and we hope that these efforts at our home game on July 19 will bring those in our community together to do just that."

During the Baysox game on Thursday, July 19, there were tributes to those who perished in the tragedy as well as opportunities for fans to bid on silent auction items throughout the game that will include autographed items from Baysox and Orioles players. One hundred per-



cent of the proceeds raised from the silent auction will benefit the two funds named above.

The Capital Gazette Families Fund is being managed through the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County. The family fund has been established to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery support to those individuals directly and indirectly affected by the tragedy. Grants can be applied to grief and trauma counseling, medical expenses not covered by insurance, funeral expenses, and other associated expenses and services. The Michael and Jacky Ferro Foundation will match up to one million dollars in donations to this fund.

The Capital Gazette Memorial Scholarship Fund has been created to provide an annual award for select students pursuing a degree in Journalism at the University of Maryland, College Park. The fund celebrates the lives of Gerald Fishman and John McNamara, who were alumni of the University; Robert Hiasen, a lecturer in Journalism at the University; Wendi Winters, a reporter at the Capital Gazette; and Rebecca Smith, who worked on the Capital Gazette sales team.

*Please send your community calendar events to:
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Hair Cuttery supports underprivileged children with Share-A-Haircut program



Vienna, Va.— Hair Cuttery, the largest family-owned and operated chain of hair salons in the country, will be donating back-to-school haircuts to children who need it most this summer. From August 1-15, 2018, for every child up to age 18 who purchases a haircut at one of Hair Cuttery's nearly 900 salons, one free haircut certificate will be donated to an underprivileged child in the community.

"A fresh haircut to celebrate a milestone is something that can easily be taken for granted," said Dennis Ratner, Founder and CEO of Hair Cuttery. "Through our Share-A-Haircut program, we strive to provide every child with this simple but impactful service that will help send them back to school with confidence and enthusiasm to kick-off the year."

Within the first two weeks of August, Hair Cuttery is aiming to donate tens of thousands of free haircut certificates ahead of the new school year. Certificates will be distributed with the help of more than 200 local government and non-profit organizations in communities across the country.

Since 1999, the Share-A-Haircut program has donated more than 2.4 million free haircut certificates valued at nearly \$50 million. This year marks the 19th year of Share-A-Haircut, with Hair Cuttery's most recent campaign donating more than 80,000 haircuts to survivors of domestic violence this past spring.

For more information visit: www.haircuttery.com

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Are you ready for summer heat and storms?

Get set for hurricane season and be prepared to take advantage of Energy Savings Days to help reduce energy costs

Baltimore— Summer's high temperatures translate to more electricity use, as air conditioning units work harder to keep homes and businesses comfortable, but there are opportunities for customers to save. Starting June 1, 2018, the average BGE residential customer who purchases electricity from BGE will see a bill reduction of \$11 a month due to the lowest electric commodity prices in a decade and distribution rate reductions spurred by federal tax-reform.

Customers are also using less energy today, thanks to energy efficiency programs and smart grid upgrades. This includes taking advantage of Energy Savings Days, which occur when the demand for electricity is expected to be particularly high, typically on very hot summer weekdays when both homes and businesses are using higher amounts of electricity. BGE notifies customers via phone, email or text usually the day before a BGE Energy Savings Day. Use less electricity between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on an Energy Savings Day and earn bill credits!

For those who want to use energy even more efficiently, the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® can help identify new ways to save energy, money and the environment.

The program, which supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, has provided \$779 million in rebates to BGE customers and helped customers save more than 3.3 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.

Customers can also save energy and lower their bills this summer by following a few simple tips:

•**Maintain your A/C system:** Most warm weather energy expenses are directly related to cooling your home. Regular maintenance will keep your system running at peak efficiency.

•**Use MyAccount online tools:** Track your energy usage in near-real time. Compare energy usage trends, measure energy-saving practices, and set alerts to know when usage is trending high.

•**Reduce hot water usage:** Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of home energy consumption. Install faucet aerators and efficient flow showerheads and adjust your hot water heater to 120°F, or the low setting, to lower usage.

•**Manage your thermostat:** Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level when at home. Raise the thermostat setting for days of extreme heat to save even more. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.

•**Close window shades and blinds:** Sunlight passing through windows heats your home and makes your A/C work harder. Block this heat by closing your window blinds or drapes.

•**Conserve with lighting:** Turn off

unnecessary lights and use LEDs, which can save you about \$80 in electricity costs over their lifetime.

•**Reduce kitchen heat:** Cook outdoors



on a grill when possible.

•**Keep the air moving:** Run your ENERGY STAR® certified ceiling fan counterclockwise to produce downward airflow and a cooling effect.

Customers can also prepare for summer storms and hurricane season, which runs until November 30.

•Connect with BGE for additional

ways to report outages and get status updates:

*Download BGE's free mobile app at the Apple Store or Google Play.

*Sign up for text, email and/or phone alerts at bge.com/alerts.

*Text "ADDOUTAGE" to MYBGE (69243), for two-way texting.

•Store a supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods.

•Keep cell phones and mobile devices charged.

•Customers with landlines should keep a corded phone to report outages if cell phones lose power.

•Have a flashlight with fresh batteries on each floor of your home.

•Customers requiring refrigeration for medication or electricity for medical equipment should have alternate arrangements in place in the event of an extended power outage.

•Bookmark BGE's enhanced outage map at bge.com/outagemap for general information on outages in BGE's service area.

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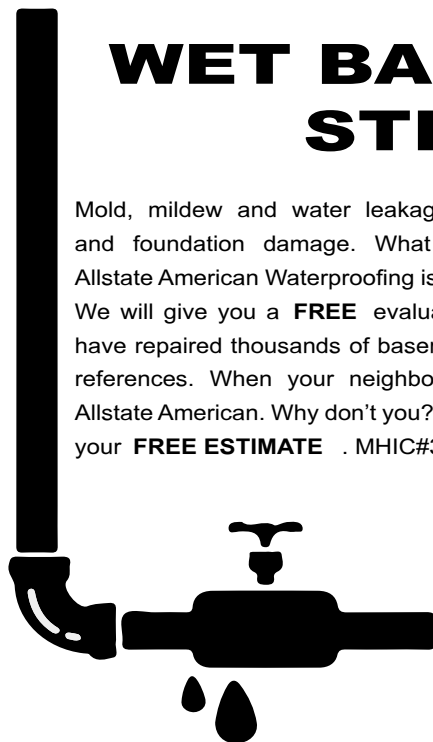
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