

Celebrity chef brings culinary arts program to Baltimore



Baltimore native Robert “Chef Stew” Stewart (back row, white shirt) made his mark as a personal chef and caterer to celebrities. He was also the winner of the television show, “Cutthroat Kitchen” on the Food Network. Chef Stewart, the visionary and CEO of a new community organization called Transition Kitchen is counting down to the final push to prepare for a projected September launch of his new project. Currently, there are 150 students interested in learning the basics of the baking and pastry fields that will be trained in the next three months. Youth and young adults will receive on-the-job training and employment opportunities as a part of the free program. A fundraising campaign to cover the cost of supplies is underway. (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photos/Robert “Chef Stew” Stewart

CCBC hosts Baltimore County College Promise Information Sessions

Students and parents can learn about tuition-free educational opportunity between July 31 and August 2, 2018

Baltimore County, Md.— The Community College of Baltimore County will hold Baltimore County College Promise Information Sessions from July 31 to August 2, 2018 for students and their parents, who are interested in learning about how to earn an associate degree or workplace certificate tuition-free.

Baltimore County's 2017 and 2018 high school and home-schooled graduates, parents, and those who have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) within the past two years are invited to attend.

Students and parents participating in CCBC's Baltimore County College Promise Information Sessions will learn about the scholarship program criteria, its benefits, scholarship requirements, and the application process. Interested participants are encouraged to register

online at www.ccbcmd.edu/college-promise.

To qualify for the Baltimore County College Promise, students must:

- Be a Baltimore County resident.
- Be a graduate of a public, parochial or private high school within the past two years, with a GPA of 2.5 or better.
- Be a home-schooled graduate within the past two years and have earned a GED score of at least 165.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Have an adjusted gross household income of \$69,000 or less.
- Be enrolled full-time at CCBC.

For more information, call CCBC Admissions at 443-840-1377 or email: ccbcadmissions@ccbcmd.edu.

The Baltimore County College Promise program covers tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying students to complete an associate degree or workplace credential at CCBC. Students are

Baltimore County College Promise Information Sessions:

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 6 p.m.

CCBC Dundalk, Roy N. Staten Building, Room 102

Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 6 p.m.

CCBC Essex, Student Services Center, Room 103

Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 6 p.m.

CCBC Catonsville, Center for the Arts, Lounge

For more information, call CCBC Admissions at 443-840-1377 or email: ccbcadmissions@ccbcmd.edu.

required to apply for financial aid and the Baltimore County College Promise program will cover tuition and fees not covered by financial aid. Students receiving the scholarship will still be responsible for other costs such as books, transportation, supplies and materials. The scholarship applies only to

the first degree or credential sought.

The new Baltimore County College Promise program was announced by the late Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz in March 2018, and passed by the Baltimore County Council in May 2018, and guarantees eligible students tuition-free attendance at CCBC.

CORRECTION

In the Larry "Poncho" Brown story on page 12 in the July 20, 2018, issue of The Annapolis Times, photo credit should have been attributed to photographer Leonard C. Wilson for the photograph with Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh and Larry "Poncho" Brown. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

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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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/Letters

This is why migrant parents travel with children

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Newswire Columnist

There has been a strange response by many white conservatives to the separation of migrant children from their parents. Whether we are discussing undocumented migrants or those requesting asylum, there has been rightwing pushback to the larger chorus of condemnation of the Trump administration for its zero tolerance. These right-wingers claim that it is the parents who are to blame for the separation crisis.

Let's stop and think about this for a moment. If the parents of these children are attempting to escape criminal violence or destitution, why would leave their children behind and who would they leave them with? Perhaps that would be the case if one were discussing migrants from economically, politically and socially stable countries who would first send one relative ahead and then bring the family. But what if a woman is trying to escape domestic violence? What if a family is attempting to escape intimidation carried out by criminal gangs? What if one is seeking freedom from political persecution and/or repression? Under those conditions how likely would you be to leave your children behind?

I have been thinking about this a great deal in the context of the current, Trump-instigated immigration crisis. But it came to a head for me in reading of Trump's remarks in Europe regarding immigration. He warned Europe that they were being overwhelmed and ruined by immigrants. My guess is that Trump was not talking about Polish immigrants moving to Britain. Rather, as has become clear for Trump, "immigration" means immigration from the global South to Europe and the United States. I cannot imagine Trump ordering the separation of undocumented Russian or Irish immigrants from their children but if one looks at immigrants from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, as originating from so-called "shithole" countries— as Trump apparently does— none of this should come as a surprise.

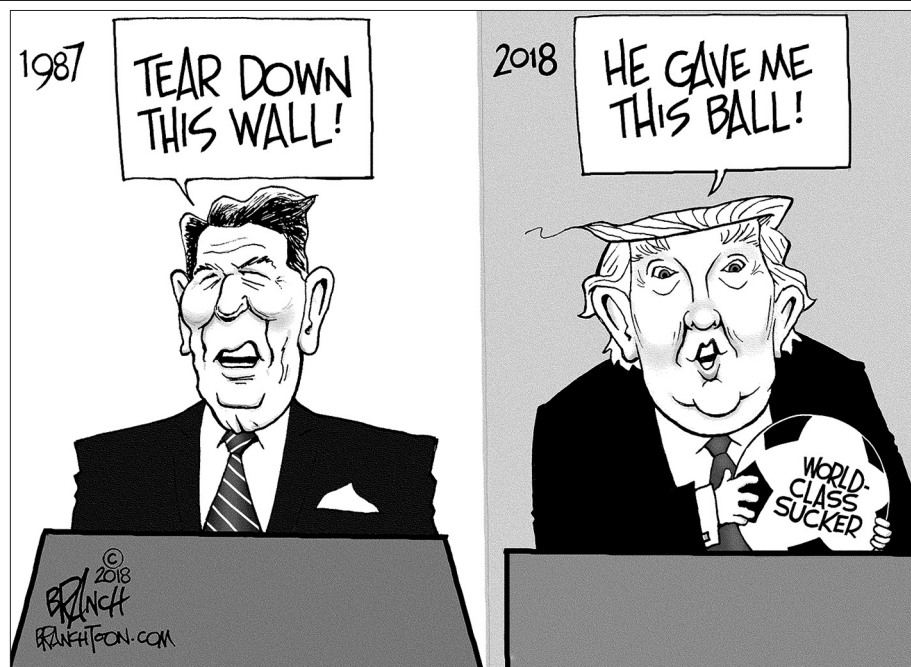
To blame migrant parents for the current Trump-instigated crisis and to suggest that the parents are wrong for bringing their children along is another display of the ignorance and a racial blind spot for much of white America; that ideology can only originate in the minds of people who know next to nothing about the conditions that migrants are fleeing and their near total amnesia concerning the experiences of other groups of migrants who arrived on these shores over the decades.

What I find particularly unsettling is the way that a sizeable minority of the United States has become quite comfortable with the idea that migrants from the global South are somehow unworthy of the human rights guarantees that the United States is supposed to uphold.

I wonder how many of these same people would have questioned the rights of European immigrants in the aftermath of World War II who were crossing borders en masse to escape the results of that war.

Oh, but I forgot. That was a deserving population.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter @BillFletcherJr, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Trump is a Security Threat

Trump is a threat to our security because he continues to befriend Putin, who is an adversary of the United States and the Western world; and Trump continues to condemn our intelligence agencies.

Trump refuses to condemn Russia for interfering in the 2016 election, and he demeans Special Counsel Mueller, while trying to weaken the investigation into possible Russian collusion with the Trump campaign.

Trump fired FBI Director Comey and had Attorney General Sessions fire Deputy Director McCabe. They were heavily involved investigating the Russian interference in the election.

Trump refuses to condemn Putin for incursions into Ukraine and Georgia, and poisoning the former Russian intel-

ligence official in England.

Against the advice of his advisers, Trump called Putin and congratulated him on the Russian election victory, which was a sham election.

It appears Trump trusts and admires Putin and he is willing to overlook Russian transgressions. Will this affect Trump's strategic decisions impacting Russia? Trump has control over the launch of retaliatory weapons against Russia if it attacks the U.S. Our national security is in jeopardy. As a former holder of a top- secret cryptographic security clearance, I question whether Trump qualifies for a top secret security clearance.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

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Please send your letter by regular mail to: Letters to the Editor

The Annapolis Times

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Big data could set insurance premiums, minorities could pay the price

By Rachel Goodman

Are you a registered Democrat? You could be more likely to experience anxiety these days, causing you to need more mental health care. Have you lived in neighborhoods near industrial zones? That could increase your chance of chronic illness. Do you buy video or board games? You might be less likely to exercise, raising your medical costs in the long term.

According to an investigation that ProPublica and NPR released on Tuesday, health insurers have begun acquiring huge amounts of non-health-related data about the people they insure or will potentially insure. This data includes race, net worth, consumer behavior, criminal and civil court records, and prior addresses, among other things.

Health insurers buy it from data brokers, who scoop up pretty much everything from the data trails we all leave behind as we move through the world. Those data brokers, as well as the health insurers themselves, also create algorithms to find relevant patterns in this

data — like relationships between particular purchasing habits or life events and increased health care expenditures.

While health insurers claim they're not using these algorithms to set insurance costs for individuals, they're unable to cite any law that would prevent them from doing just that. And considering that the very purpose of insurance is to assess risk and charge customers accordingly, there's a very real concern that insurers will start using these algorithms

More broadly, people who live in poor neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color are much more likely to have health problems than those in affluent neighborhoods. The ProPublica piece quotes one health data vendor joking, "God forbid you live on the wrong street these days ... you're going to get lumped in with a lot of bad things." Is it fair to make health care more expensive for people based on zip code or race?

The Affordable Care Act prohibits

issued bulletins banning the practice.

Historical and ongoing racial discrimination has created an enormous racial wealth gap, and because we continue to live in such a segregated country, almost all the data held by data brokers reflects and encodes racial disparities. When predictive models are built using this data, people of color are consistently disadvantaged—black people whose credit scores are as good or better than those of whites might not get a loan simply because of the neighborhood in which they live.

If that happens in the lending context, the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act protects the borrower. When similar algorithmic discrimination occurs in the housing market, the Fair Housing Act provides protection, as does Title VII when there's a job at issue. Since, in addition to barring intentional discrimination, each of these statutes prohibits neutral policies that nonetheless have a disparate impact on members of protected groups—like people of color—they are vital in the era of algorithmic decision-making.

The ProPublica report shows that the danger of discrimination in insurance is increasingly real. But there's a big hole in civil rights law when it comes to insurance. State legislatures should explore new ways to prevent discrimination in health insurance, including requirements that insurers audit their own use of consumer data for discriminatory effects and publish the results. Consumers deserve no less.

Rachel Goodman is a staff attorney with the ACLU's Racial Justice Program.

“Existing health disparities mean that data will consistently show members of certain groups to be more likely to need more health care. What will happen, then, if this data starts being used against those groups?”

to set their fees.

Existing health disparities mean that data will consistently show members of certain groups to be more likely to need more health care. What will happen, then, if this data starts being used against those groups? We know, for example, that black women are much more likely to experience serious complications from pregnancy than white women. So, health insurers might conclude that a woman who is black and recently married is likely to cost them more money than a white woman in the same position. Even in cases where they don't have accurate race data, insurers might draw the same conclusion for women who purchase black hair-care products or those who have tweeted about television shows like Atlanta or Scandal.

insurers from discriminating on the basis of pre-existing conditions or gender, but it doesn't say anything about race, religion, national origin, or anything else insurers can learn about you from data brokers. At the state level, where insurance in this country is largely regulated, more than half of states don't even ban using race explicitly in pricing health insurance. That's a problem, especially in the age of big data, when it's extremely tempting for insurers to raise prices for customers they perceive to be risky, sometimes in order to drive them away.

Actors in other lines of insurance, like auto or homeowners' insurance, have started to use digital data to raise prices for customers who they predict won't switch insurers if their rates go up. It's a big enough problem that 20 states have

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Future Baltimore earns prestigious national award

By Stacy M. Brown

In 2017, Kaiser Permanente announced a \$1.7 million commitment to launch a neighborhood revitalization project in partnership with Bon Secours that both entities said would advance health equity and economic opportunity in West Baltimore.

The announcement was built on previous planning grants to Bon Secours Community Works and solidified a long-term partnership between Kaiser Permanente, Bon Secours and several communities in the 21223-zip code.

Today, officials at Future Baltimore, the flagship partnership between Bon Secours and Kaiser Permanente, received national recognition for its exemplary partnership to transform an entire zip code in West Baltimore.

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Council on Foundations (COF) announced the 2018 winners of The Secretary's Award for Public Philanthropic Partnerships, a national award presented by HUD Secretary Ben Carson at HUD headquarters in Washington recognizing 10 foundations and their public-sector partners for collaborations to transform communities and improve lives.

"We are deeply humbled to have our transformative initiative recognized by HUD and COF. It gives us national visibility and will only help enhance what we are accomplishing on the ground," said Dr. Destiny-Simone Ramjohn, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic's director of community health. "Future Baltimore is the cornerstone of Bon Secours, Kaiser, and neighborhood leaders that are attempting to leverage the power of hope and partnership to dramatically



Dr. Destiny-Simone Ramjohn
Director of Community Health, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic
Courtesy Photo

disrupt the inequity in [the area]."

Future Baltimore remains dedicated and focused on addressing the social, economic and health needs of community members who live in three neighborhoods in the 21223-zip code, which includes Fayette Street Outreach, Boyd Booth and Franklin Square.

The centerpiece of the Bon Secours and Kaiser Permanente collaboration is the renovation of an abandoned library located one block south of Bon Secours

Baltimore Hospital at 31 S. Payson Street. The plan is to transform the property into a community resource center to house support for issues ranging from health care to economic and social services.

The community resource center will be supported by local partners.

"The partnership between Bon Secours and Kaiser Permanente is building relationships and changing lives in West Baltimore. Neighbors are excited about the transformation underway and look

forward to taking the journey into a Future Baltimore with us," Dr. Samuel Ross of Bon Secours Baltimore said in a statement.

Also, in a statement, Secretary Carson praised the collaborative approach to service that he said would lead to solutions to help the most vulnerable communities.

"I'm pleased to recognize these award winners for the important work they do to serve the housing, health, and safety and educational needs of their fellow Americans," Dr. Carson said.

The cross-sector partnerships demonstrated among the winners highlight the power of collaboration, said COF president and CEO Gene Cochrane.

The unofficial model of the Future Baltimore program is "Nothing about me without me," Ramjohn said, meaning that the organizations serve at the pleasure of the community and responds to their needs.

She said the partnership has nine programs that address four community health needs; mental health, economic security, health care access and community safety.

"We are in this for the long haul," Ramjohn said. "We will consider it successful when we have disrupted the cycle of poverty, disrupted inequity in [the zip code] and when we see expanded opportunities for employment and affordable housing and communities that are hopeful and socially adhesive.

"We have to make sure we're agile enough to continue to be a good partner because it's the kind of issues that can't be solved overnight.

"We plan to be lock-step in the community and responding to their needs."

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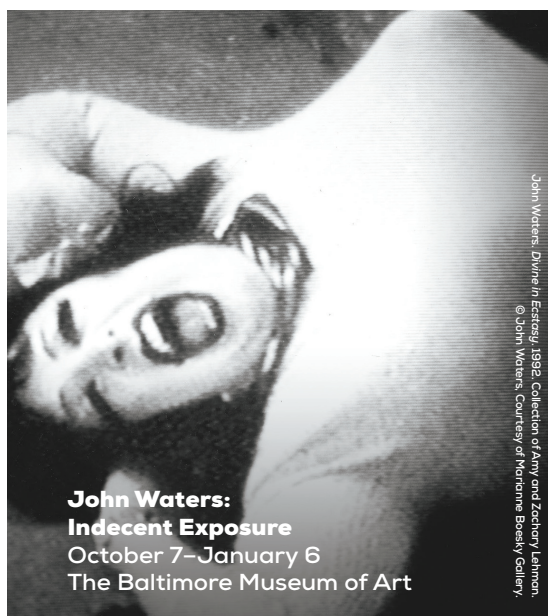


Baltimore Book Festival
September 28-30
Baltimore's Inner Harbor



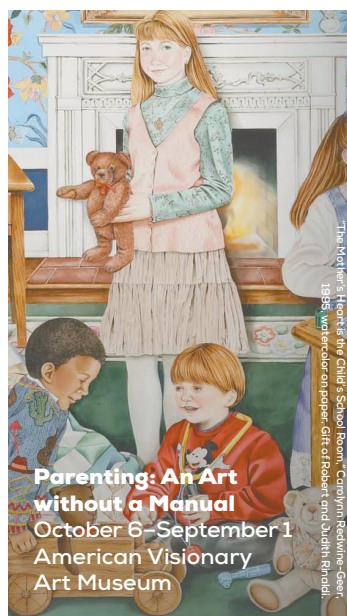
**Maryland Fleet Week
& Air Show Baltimore**
October 3-9
Baltimore's Inner Harbor

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**John Waters:
Indecent Exposure**
October 7-January 6
The Baltimore Museum of Art

John Waters, *Divine in Ecstasy*, 1992. Collection of Amy and Zachary Lennan. © John Waters. Courtesy of Mordana Beesly Gallery.



**Parenting: An Art
without a Manual**
October 6-September 1
American Visionary
Art Museum

The Mother, *Heart of the Child's Sacred Room*, Carolyn Fedline, c.1975. Undercover on paper. Gift of Robert and Judith Rieff.

Lamar Jackson already excelling at Ravens camp

By Turrion Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens traded back into the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft to select rookie quarterback Lamar Jackson with the No. 32 overall pick. The Ravens offense has been in need of a jolt over the last few years.

Jackson's dynamic playmaking ability led to him winning the Heisman Trophy in 2016. He tortured opposing defenses both throwing and running with the ball while at Louisville. Now, his goal is to do the same in Baltimore.

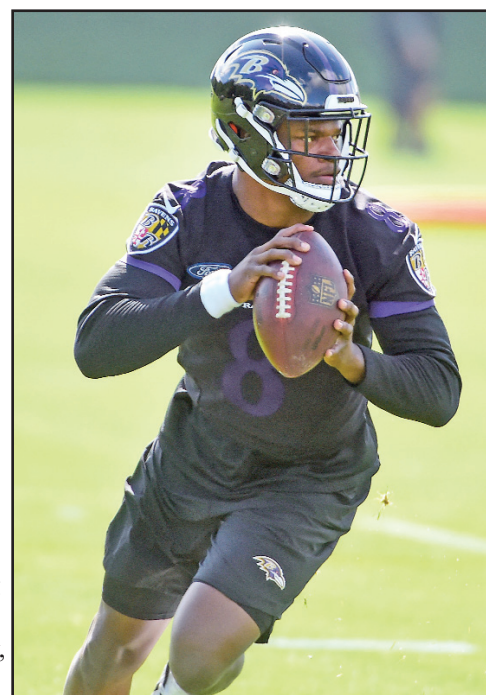
"When they see my running ability, they see me make people miss in the open field; they just try to label me. I don't want to say as an 'athlete' but at the same time, they could say, 'He could play running back or receiver,' or something like that," Jackson said during his first press conference in Baltimore back in April.

"That's just a plus for me. I can throw the ball with the best of them like I always say. I can make any throw on the field, but I can bring something else to the table, and that's dynamic running ability."

The evidence is already has started to surface already as Jackson has made numerous deep throws for touchdowns to wide receivers such as undrafted rookie free agent Jordan Lasley. The effortless flick of the wrist that Jackson uses to launch the ball down the field is reminiscent of former Atlanta Falcons and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick.

That is no coincidence. Jackson grew up watching Vick dominate football games.

"He's been a big influence on me. My first Madden game was 2003, but I played with Michael Vick [in] 2004, and he was out of control," Jackson said. "Just watching him on a video game and



Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson scrambles before making a throw during training camp at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills
Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

watching him on TV and seeing what he did, what he brought to the table with his team, winning games for Atlanta, it was like, 'Man, I want to do some of the things he did on the field.'"

Jackson's play has stood out to veterans on the Ravens already in camp. Veteran wideout Michael Crabtree called Jackson a 'baller' and said he plans to encourage the young quarterback to go out and make plays to prove doubters wrong.

Offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg worked with Vick in Philadelphia. He likes what he's seen from Jackson so far.

"He's done an outstanding job up to date. He's way ahead of the curve," Mornhinweg said in a recent press conference. "You can see on the practice field; it's coming now. He's getting better every day. He's done a fabulous job here of improving every day becoming a pocket passer."

Jackson will get a chance to showcase his skills when the Ravens open the pre-season at the Hall of Fame game in a couple of weeks.

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Morgan State student receives first McDonald's-TMCF Scholarship

By Stacy M. Brown

Morgan State University Freshman Quamir Payton, a first-generation college student who boasts a 3.9 GPA, has earned the first \$10,000 scholarship from a partnership between McDonald's and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

McDonald's, the fast-food giant, and the nonprofit Thurgood Marshall College Fund formed a partnership this year to provide five students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with scholarships to cover tuition, fees, room and board and other school expenses for the coming year.

Payton earned the "Inspiration Celebration" scholarship, which is awarded to a student pursuing music education or performance. The scholarship counts as an extension of the McDonald's Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour, now in its 12th year and carries the distinction of being the longest running gospel tour of its kind.

At each stop, the national tour raises a "love" offering to support families served by Ronald McDonald House Charities. In the last five years, the love offering has raised nearly \$800,000 allowing families stay close when their children are ill. Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was raised in 2017 alone. "The annual Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour is so important to us as a brand. It allows us to further connect with the community as we empower one another to make a difference," McDonald's owner and operator Hazel Smith said in a news release. "Plus, we create a platform for our neighbors to join us in helping families stay close when their children are ill by raising donations for those served by local RMHC Chapters."

The \$10,000 Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarship is one of five



Morgan State freshman, Quamir Payton, a first-generation college student was awarded the first ever "Inspiration Celebration" scholarship in front of nearly 5,000 attendees at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Austell, Georgia on Friday, July 13, 2018.

Courtesy Photo/McDonalds

scholarships McDonald's has agreed to sponsor throughout the year.

"Having the privilege of being this year's McDonalds Inspiration Celebration Scholarship recipient is a reminder that all of the hard work, blood, sweat, tears and time that I have sacrificed to perfect my craft have not gone in vain," Payton said. "Music is a part of my being and my only dream is to master and cultivate my gift and use it to inspire others. With this scholarship, I now have the chance to continue my education and grow as a musician, vocalist and young scholar."

Payton, who received the scholarship during the Atlanta concert stop in front of about 5,000 spectators at the Word of

Faith Family Worship Cathedral, says he will use the award to continue pursuing musical theater.

"The scholarship will help me cover the cost of attending Morgan State University. That includes books for classes and money toward the cost of living on campus," Payton said.

"Trying to cover the cost of school is a daily struggle that my family and I have to endure. This scholarship has lifted some of the stress and strain off my family's shoulders, and for that I am eternally grateful for McDonald's and everyone who has played a part in selecting me as this year's scholarship recipient."

Dior George, the U.S. Marketing Representative for McDonald's says the scholarship continues the company's mission in supporting the communities it serves.

"McDonald's goal has long been to support economic empowerment through academic and professional achievement, areas which are part of TMCF's core mission as they are the largest HBCU-specific scholarship organization," George said. "McDonald's and TMCF have been offering joint scholarships since 2005. However, the Inspiration Celebration Scholarship awarded to Quamir Payton is the first of its kind."

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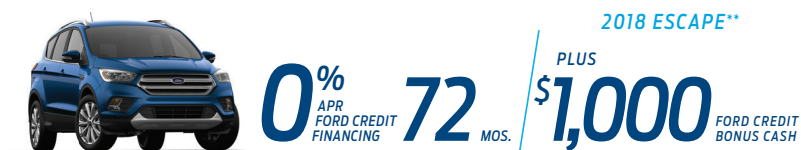
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Local Head Start Administrator Graduates from UCLA Head Start Management Fellows Program



Local head start administrator, Aamil Abdul-Saboor recently completed a leadership and management development program at UCLA Anderson School of Management. (Left to right) Alfred E. Osborne, Jr., Ph.D., Interim Dean, UCLA Anderson School of Management; Ariella Herman, Ph.D., Research Director, UCLA Health Care Institute; Yasmine Daniel-Vargas, director, National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations; Aamil Abdul-Saboor, Family Service Coordinator Supervisor, Union Baptist-Harvey Johnson Head Start; Shawna Pinckney, director, Grants Division, Office of Head Start; and Conrad Person, director, Corporate Contributions, Johnson & Johnson (retired).

Courtesy Photo/Head Start

Los Angeles— Training completed by Head Start executive Aamil Abdul-Saboor will ultimately benefit children and their families from Union Baptist-Harvey Johnson Head Start in Baltimore City.

Aamil Saboor is one of 38 graduates of the 2018 UCLA Head Start Management Fellows Program, an intensive 12-day leadership and management development program, conducted at the UCLA Anderson School of Management in Los Angeles.

The program was developed in 1991 to strengthen the management and leadership skills of Head Start administrators and is currently funded by the Head Start National Center on Program and Management and Fiscal Operations.

Throughout the program, fellows are equipped with the tools they will need to effectively lead and deliver developmental services in changing environments, secure funding, efficiently implement programs and network with other Head Start executives across the

nation. Since the program's inception, 1,560 executives have graduated with enhanced management and leadership abilities.

"Head Start creates the foundation for a wonderful future for children and their families," said Yasmine Daniel-Vargas, director of the National Center on Program Management and Fiscal Operations. "Graduates of the UCLA Head Start Management Fellows Program have introduced successful community initiatives that make a lasting impact on the health, nutrition, and school readiness of the children they serve. The commitment of the UCLA Anderson School of Management to teaching excellence is a hallmark of the program's enduring success."

Head Start programs provide comprehensive developmental services to low-income, preschool children and their families. Head Start also provides a range of medical, dental, mental health and nutrition care, and parent involvement services.

Celebrity chef brings culinary arts program to Baltimore

By Andrea Blackstone

Baltimore native, Robert “Chef Stew” Stewart made his mark as a personal chef and caterer to various celebrities. He is also the winner of the television show, “Cutthroat Kitchen” on Food Network. While living in Las Vegas, Nevada, the entrepreneur’s culinary quest led him to prepare cuisine for corporate and entertainment A-list clients.

Now, Chef Stewart’s latest endeavor incorporates lending a helping hand to Baltimore youth and young adults who want to learn to cook and bake their way to better opportunities.

Tucked inside the old Samuel Morse Elementary School, located at 424 South Pulaski Street, a free culinary arts training program offering employment opportunities, and on-the-job training for Baltimoreans is in development.

Chef Stewart is the visionary and CEO of a new community organization called Transition Kitchen, which is counting down the final months of preparation for a projected September launch. Registration kits with a list of supplies that the students will need are being requested from anyone who is willing to donate items. Kits include everything from pens, pencils, highlighters and flash drives to cut gloves, slip resistant shoe covers, chef beanie style hats, digital thermometers, aprons and tote bags. Raising \$12,000 through GoFundMe is Chef Stewart’s current goal to cover the cost of items for 120 students at a time.

“Although Transition Kitchen was an idea I planned to incorporate into my journey, once I obtained the funding to finance it completely, watching the (Freddie Gray) riots and the ruling from the Department of Justice, the Korryn Gaines incident, and a few other heartbreaking events, I decided literally to step away from my pursuit of a restaurant and utilize my resources to provide a solution for the city,” Chef Stewart said. “So, if you can help with anything on the [registration kit] list, we plan to train 75 students monthly or 825 yearly.”

Update at press time: “On yesterday, a major donor with roots in Baltimore, pledged \$20,000 to Transition Kitchen. It was given to cover the costs associated with Transition Kitchen Student Registra-

tion Kits, and one month of operational costs,” Chef Stew said. “We are extremely excited about our first major donation! Our strategy has been to ask for donations in increments that allows us to build relationships with sponsors and keep the community’s trust. We will soon release our financial statement and overview of the Transition Kitchen Program expenses to launch a fundraising campaign that will cover year one. I believe that if we collectively build, collectively the City of Baltimore benefits.”

Chef Stewart noted that the dedicated staff will not receive any financial compensation from the program, until they can begin training youth and show Transition Kitchen’s impact. A nonprofit organization called The Food Project is a partner.

“I know it’s said that charity begins at home and Charm City is my home, so I personally came back to see this thing take shape,” Chef Stewart said. “Transition Kitchen is designed for anyone [at least] 15 and a half, with a work permit, to ensure that the goal of lowering unemployment numbers would be honored. After all the stuff, I plan to implement in training is highlighting positions within the hospitality industry. It’s also very important to learn how to cook, [know the] benefits of ingredients, healthy eating habits, and importance of food safety, even if you have no desire to work in the industry as a career choice.”

Chef Stewart’s early story is rooted in perseverance. His 33-year-old father’s funeral was held the day before his twelfth birthday.

Chef Stewart recalls watching his grandmother cook in the kitchen, then returned home while wanting to duplicate the short order cook’s dishes. The young boy began calling her on the phone to ask questions and he began cooking for his brother and mother. The future chef later enrolled in Eastern Vocational Technical High School’s Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Program. After graduation, he worked at Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel as a banquet server. His beginning point is connected to his current efforts to help Baltimoreans.

Transition Kitchen is a community-based effort and a call to action for leaders and individuals to collectively



Baltimore native Robert “Chef Stew” Stewart wants to empower the community by teaching culinary arts. Courtesy Photos/Robert “Chef Stew” Stewart

contribute to an innovative program. Gail McGee, who has been a pastry chef since 1995, will serve as the pastry chef for Transition Kitchen. Chef Stew’s former school friend will teach youth and young adults how to make diverse signature items, while teaching entry-level skills. A sous chef will work with culinary students, when Chef Stew is not present. The program will also incorporate an afterschool component.

“Each class runs for 30 days, and every 30 days, the end of that month, we have a celebration for those students. And every month, we start a new set of students, so it will be culinary and the baking, so they can choose between the two,” McGee said. “At the end of the day, he [Chef Stew] is like pretty much showing them [Baltimore’s youth], ‘Hey, I was in your position, look where I am. I used my hands to get me out of this bad situation, and the culinary position can take you far.’”



Chef Gail McGee met and greeted community youth who enjoyed fresh pastries on Sunday, July 15, 2018. McGee will serve as the pastry chef for Transition Kitchen. Photo: Andrea Blackstone

Please visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/registration-kits> to donate to the GoFundMe campaign. Email transitionkitchenbmore@gmail.com for more information about the program. Please note if there is an interest in the culinary or pastry portion.

Monument City Brewing Company to host Benevolent Baskets fundraiser

By Stacy M. Brown

Everyone is invited to the so-called “Dog Days of Summer” event at Monument City Brewing Company to help an important nonprofit whose work over the past decade has helped women throughout the Baltimore area get back on their feet.

Organizers say everyone— meaning both humans and “furry creatures” are welcome to the event on Thursday, August 5, 2018 at the Monument City Brewing Company located at 1 N. Haven Street in Baltimore City at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Cassandra Vincent will serve as the emcee for an evening featuring musical guests, Edjacted Phools; plenty of food; Monument City beers; entertainment; and a silent auction that will help support Benevolent Baskets, a Baltimore-based nonprofit, which helps women transition from homelessness to independent living.

“This is our first Baltimore-based fundraiser, and while the program has always operated from Baltimore,” said Karen Goodrich Lerario, the executive director of Benevolent Baskets.

“The founders are from Anne Arundel County, and therefore much of our support base is from there,” Lerario said. “This year, as planned, our program is growing and will require a larger cadre of volunteers and we’re super-excited to increase awareness of our mission to Baltimore millennials, as well as raise necessary funds to continue to serve.”

Located at 22 Light Street, Benevolent Baskets was launched in 2008. Its mission is to provide life skills and job training to formerly homeless women through a growing gift basket business.

The organization seeks to strengthen women with the support, tools and confidence to regain their independence and to make meaningful contributions to the community, officials said.

Lerario says she and co-founder Lesley Geisel met through Woods Presbyterian Church in Severna Park where they shared a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of women battling addiction and those seeking wholeness.

With Geisel’s experience as a special education teacher and Lerario having a background in hotel management, the pair said they had the confidence to believe in their vision.

“Soon a business plan was proposed, and the rest is history,” Lerario said.

Until March, the nonprofit operated from the dining room of My Sister’s Place Women’s Center on West Franklin Street. However, after a growth spurt, the nonprofit was finally able to move into a space of its own at 22 Light Street.

“Our programs have directly impacted over 100 women, most of whom are in sustained, independent housing,” Lerario said. “The impact on families of some our ladies ... there are sweet stories there, too,” she said.

At Benevolent Baskets, women participate in different parts of running a gift basket business to develop marketable skills and regain their confidence and sense of worth. Depending on their interests, women participate in a range of activities and receive training in many facets of the business from designing the baskets to marketing, sales, customer service, procurement and logistics.

Primary objectives include helping the women regain a sense of stability, support and a sense of belonging, which are critical to their healing process, according to Lerario.

The organization works with other organizations like Second Chance, United Way and other Catholic Charities programs to help the women with job and housing placement and to assist them in building a sustainable future.

“Our neighbors at 22 Light Street are other nonprofits— we’ve already had multiple opportunities to collaborate, share clients and have a greater impact on those deserving a second chance,” Lerario said.

For more information about the Dog Days of Summer charity event or for additional information about Benevolent Baskets or to make a donation, visit: www.benevolentbaskets.org.



Anita proudly displays a gift basket she assembled. Since this photo was taken, she is in her own apartment and employed! Courtesy Photos



Elizabeth & Liz on the assembly line making Wedding Welcome Bags that are to be delivered to The Sagamore Pendry Hotel.

Baltimore's Allison Brown is more than just an entrepreneur

By Stacy M. Brown

Baltimore native Allison Elizabeth Brown has amassed more than twenty years experience in youth based, non-profit work. She has also worked professionally in the entertainment industry.

The Baltimore-born entrepreneur possesses a passion for the development of minority owned businesses and programs designed to strengthen minority youth.

At the recent Baltimore Times Access to Capital 2.0 free financial education workshop, Brown showcased her two entrepreneurial endeavors—AEBBusiness.com and AllisonElizabethBrown.com.

"I have two companies. The first company [AEBBusiness.com] is about nine years old and I personally have over 12 years of experience, specifically in branding and entertainment development," Brown said.

At the Access to Capital 2.0 event Brown not only helped to inspire others but she says she also drew inspiration from the other participants.

"I thought the 'Lendistry' presentation was concise and informative. The panel consisting of lenders was exceptional as well, and I would love to see them both provide a more in-depth conversation to more experienced business owners," Brown said.

Invited to attend the workshop by Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble, Brown participated in a question and answer session featuring entrepreneurs and business people who talked about their road to success and their experiences managing personal and business credit.

Brown says she wasn't sure what to expect when she was invited to attend and to be a participant.

"Within the first 15 minutes, it was very clear that the Baltimore Times was offering a comprehensive event for both novice and seasoned business owners that both enforces sound business practices as well as effectively disseminates what resources are available for financing business startup or growth," she said.

At AEB Business, Brown seeks to assist startups and established enterprises to successfully communicate their distinct brand identity and mission, along with relevant campaigns to their appropriate demographic.

Specifically, she says she offers an array of services from conceptualizing to full execution, acting either as the consultant or service provider in several areas.

Her AllisonElizabethBrown.com business invites shoppers to a uniquely curated world of urban fashion, glamour and style. Brown boasts more than a decade of fashion experience and industry knowledge, and in her webpage, she has created more than just a site—it's a destination.

"I've brought four distinct brands together on this one site for one easy shopping experience," she said in describing her site. "There's something for every woman and for almost any occasion."

Branding and fashion isn't all that occupies Brown's time.

For more than five years she has managed businesses for fashion virtuoso Marjorie Harvey, the wife of talk show host and comedian Steve Harvey. She



Allison Elizabeth Brown
Courtesy Photo

has also performed work branding the southern gospel artist tour "Embrace the Change" for President Barack Obama's initial presidential campaign

Brown, who earned a Master of Arts degree in Urban Education and is a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts, has also excelled in screenwriting, directing and choreography, among

many other ventures.

She is the recipient of a George Soros Community Fellow grant for her extensive work in both West Baltimore and East Baltimore and has modeled under the famed Wilhelmina's creative talent division in New York.

Through all of her accomplishments, Brown remains focused and recognizes the various challenges that entrepreneurs face, particularly those with online businesses.

"We must create live experiences that counter balance our digital marketing initiatives. It's important in business to have both forms of marketing and not heavily rely on one," Brown said. "Especially because of the algorithms and other digital manipulations online business owners have to have [plus] multiple business marketing strategies to ensure that they are effectively reaching their consumer."

When asked what advice she would give to young aspiring entrepreneurs, Brown said that it's important they do their homework.

"Establish a network of mentors and advisors, build partnerships, practice the habit of visualizing your success on a regular basis and jot down constant strategies to get there—determine very early on to keep going no matter what," she said.

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Rambling Rose

What's going on this week!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone! How are you? Well, I hope you're doing fine. We have a few things coming up this week that I want to tell you about.

S.O.A.C. Media & Entertainment is hosting a "Crab Feast & Bull Roast on Sunday, July 29, 2018 featuring the New Ebony Gospel Singers at Tall Cedars Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue in Parkville, Maryland from 5-9 p.m. Hey Mannnnnnnnnn! This is different; crabs, bull roast and gospel. Check it out by calling 410-340-8879.

Liberty Live Concert this week will be Saturday, July 28, 2018 instead of Friday featuring songstress, Karen Linette and her band. The event starts at 6 p.m. til' 9 p.m. located in the 4100 block of Deer Park Road in Randallstown, Maryland. So don't forget your lawn chairs.

My goodness, I was told there is a new sheriff in town, in my lingo; I mean a new nightclub has been making a lot of noise lately. It is called "The One Sports Bar & Lounge," located 4314 Curtis Avenue in Curtis Bay. They have live entertainment, too! On Saturday July 21, Greg Cooper (a James Brown impersonator) will be on stage. Show time is 8 p.m. and Big Daddy Stallings will be there on August 4. For more information, call 410-830-1077.

There is one more thing I want to talk to you about. I need your support. For all of you who consider yourselves my fans and love to read my "Rambling Rose," column, I want to invite you to a special luncheon sponsored by the Baltimore Times and Times Community Services, Inc. that I am hosting—"Banging with the Boomers," a party for the young at heart. It takes place on Thursday, August 9, 2018 from noon until 3 p.m. at the Promenade Dance

Sport Facility located at 2605 Lord Baltimore Drive in Windsor Mill. Honey Child, you don't want to miss this! Please come out to join me for a lot of fun with live oldies but goodies and old school music; DJ playing your favorite oldies while you enjoy a most delicious, all you can eat soul food buffet, catered by Shirley Duncan, Bring a deck of cards and play card games such as Pinochle, Spades, Bid Whist, etc. You can line-dance; hand-dance; shop from vendors and be entertained by Captain Fly & Friends. Call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com to let me know how many tickets you want. I will be waiting to hear from you. I promise you will have a fantastic time. You can pay by credit card, check or cash. Tickets are 35.00 per person or two for \$60.00. I thank you for your support.

Moving right along, I have to go now, just remember if you need me, call me or email me. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



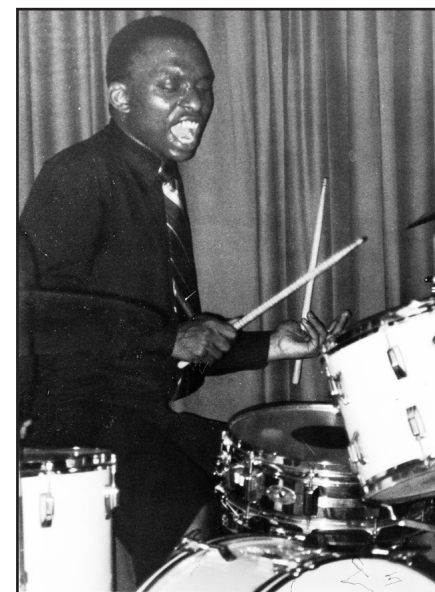
Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor invites you to her Edmondson High School 55th Class Reunion on Friday, September 14-16, 2018. Tickets and RSVP by August 10, 2018. For more information, email: VirginiaBluntJones@virginia2745@gmail.com.



Productions and the Swanee Quintet presents the 35th Anniversary celebration of Claude Alston & Zion Hill Singers on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at 3 p.m. with special guests Shirley Caesar and the Swanee Quintet at the Bibleway Church, 1100 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC. For ticket information, call Claude Sr. at 202-361-2918.



Justin Lees Duo will be performing at Cassatt's located at 4536 Lee Hwy in Arlington, Virginia featuring Aaron Clay on Bass, Nasar Abadey on drums and Justin Lees on Guitar. No Cover Charge! For more information, call 703-527-3330.



Baltimore's Favorite Love Child Drummer, Bobby Ward has been away from the nightclub scene for a while but he is very active. He may be out of sight but never out of mind! Bobby Ward plays every 3rd and 5th Sunday at Christ United Methodist Church located at Chase and Washington Streets, as well as the New Solid Rock Church on Reisterstown Road and Northern Parkway on the 1st and 4th Sunday. I have also added him and his Trio to my Production for bookings for private events. To book him for your event, call: 410-833-9474.

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Marylanders reminded to take basic steps to reduce risk of West Nile Virus



Baltimore— The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) announced the first confirmed and locally acquired case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Maryland this year. The infected individual is an adult who lives in the Baltimore Metro region. MDH routinely tracks and responds to mosquito-borne infections, including Zika virus, and no other locally acquired arboviral infections have been identified this year.

The number of human WNV cases in Maryland has varied over time. The peak years of human activity occurred in 2003 and 2012, with 73 and 47 WNV cases reported statewide, respectively. In 2015, there were 46 human cases of WNV infection in Maryland, nearly reaching the 2012 peak.

Marylanders are reminded that they can take simple steps to reduce the risk of getting infected. Those protective measures include:

- Avoiding areas of high mosquito activity
- Wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and hats, when concerned about mosquitoes
- Using an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent according to package directions

Most individuals infected with WNV will not have any symptoms. Those who do develop illness usually will have any combination of fever, headache, body aches, skin rash, and swollen lymph glands. These symptoms generally appear two to 14 days following the bite of an infected mosquito. Fewer than one percent of individuals exposed to the virus will develop more severe infections, with symptoms such as headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disori-

entation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

In rare instances, WNV can be fatal. Individuals older than 60 have the greatest risk of developing severe disease. Individuals with compromised immune systems also may be at high risk of WNV infection.

Marylanders are urged to monitor their own yards and gardens for standing water that can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Small amounts of water in a discarded can or container will support dozens of mosquitoes.

To eliminate mosquito-breeding areas:

- Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely
- Empty or screen corrugated drain pipes
- Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used as playground equipment
- Turn over wading pools, wheelbarrows, wagons, and carts when not in use
- Flush water from the bottom of plant holders twice a week
- Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week
- Turn garbage can lids upside down and make sure trash receptacles are empty of water
- Fix dripping faucets
- Aerate ornamental pools and water gardens or stock with fish and use a circulating filter system

For additional information on West Nile Virus, visit MDH at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEO/R/CZVBD/Pages/west-nile-virus.aspx> and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>.

Special night with Bowie Baysox benefits Chesapeake Kids programs



Kids who attended Camp Nabi in 2017 run with Bowie Baysox starting players to take their positions on the field before the "Star-Spangled Banner" is performed.

Photo by Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

Pasadena, Md.— Hospice of the Chesapeake invites the community to spend an evening at the ballpark for Chesapeake Kids Night with the Bowie Baysox on Thursday, August 16, 2018. The game against the Richmond Flying Squirrels starts at 7:05 p.m. at Prince George's Stadium, the team's home field in Bowie, Maryland. The fundraiser is sponsored by M&T Bank.

Not only do spectators get to experience Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics Night at the ballpark, but when they buy tickets directly from the nonprofit, proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Chesapeake Kids, a pro-

gram of Hospice of the Chesapeake that supports children in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties living with and affected by advanced illness. It also offers counseling and support programs for children and families grieving a loss, including the Camp Nabi and Phoenix Rising children's bereavement camps.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 11 and younger. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hospicechesapeake.org/event/bowie-baysox-night-for-chesapeake-kids.

For details, contact Megan Lawton, Events Coordinator at 443-837-1531 or mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org.

Maryland Theatre for the Performing Arts Needs Volunteers

Maryland Theatre for the Performing Arts will create and sustain a world-class performing arts center, offering premier artistic programming, innovative arts education and a unique cultural venue for the greater Annapolis region and the state of Maryland. MTPA has a variety of volunteer needs, from individuals looking to help with a one-day outdoor event, to professionals who would like to join a nonprofit Board of Trustees or volunteer their time and business expertise to help a local arts organization grow. With only one full-time staff member, we rely on volunteer services to help fulfill our programming, and we are always happy to meet new people! Currently, we are also seeking a grant writer that is passionate about the arts in our community. For more information contact: Mattie Fenton at mattie.fenton@mtpa-annapolis.org or call 410- 626-6055 or visit the website: <http://www.mtpa-annapolis.org>

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