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The 'I AM MENTality' Youth Mentoring Program: Investing in tomorrow's black men today



Darren Rogers, executive Director and founder of the I AM MENTality Youth Male Empowerment Project with participants Jamal Carter, Jackson Bailey, Deshayne Bacon, Devin Johnson, and Keondre Rich during a live filming of PressBox. I AM MENTality, is a free program, and offers group, peer-to-peer, individual and virtual mentoring that helps male youth with overcoming environmental challenges presented in some Baltimore communities. I AM MENTality serves approximately 100 youth, and is operated out of the Liberty Recreation Center located at 3901 Maine Avenue in Baltimore City. (See article on page 11) Courtesy Photo

Impact Hub celebrates three years in Baltimore City

By Natalie Wallington

The Impact Hub, a shared office and event space designed for social entrepreneurs, recently celebrated three years of operation at its Station North location in Baltimore. The venue hosts a wide variety of events, including: skill-share workshops, market space for local vendors, and lectures by members of the surrounding community, in addition to providing co-working space for small businesses.

“We’re more than just space. This space is really just a container for all of the incredible people and resources that are here,” executive director Michelle Geiss told the Baltimore Times.

A variety of freelancers, small business owners and entrepreneurs call the Impact Hub home. For a monthly membership fee, these individuals can access the venue’s facilities, connect with other startups and find assistance and support to help their businesses grow.

Kieta Iriarte-Amin, the business consultant behind Mpolo Business Solutions credits the Impact Hub with helping her business to flourish.

“Membership at IHB continues to be one of the best businesses decisions I have made,” she told The Baltimore Times. “When I joined IHB, my professional circle was very small and I did not trust the opinions or suggestions from others. IHB helped me perfect the vision and the mission of my business while getting feedback from others in my same place professionally.”

In addition to professional networking opportunities, the Impact Hub provides forums in which local small business owners can engage with the public they serve. Almost all of IHB’s events are free and open to the public.

“When I talk to people who come into the space, members or not, a lot of them see this as a public meeting space,” said Michelle Antoinette Nelson, the IHB’s director of community engagement. “I think people see Impact Hub as a community-based platform that they are welcome to.”

Diversity is a core component of the Impact Hub’s nonprofit model. In 2018, 59 percent of its members were women and 46 percent identified as black. Major areas addressed by its members’ startups



The Impact Hub is celebrating three years of operation at its Station North location in Baltimore City. The Impact Hub is a shared office and event space designed for social entrepreneurs. For a monthly membership fee, these individuals can access the venue’s facilities, connect with other startups and find assistance and support to help their businesses grow.

Photos by Natalie Wallington

included education, economic opportunity, health and the arts. In 2018, 45 percent of members worked in the nonprofit sector, mirroring the setup of the IHB overall.

“We’re one of the few [Impact Hubs] in North America that’s a nonprofit model,” said Geiss. “We wanted to be able to make sure this space was accessible and working towards economic opportunity and racial equity—we changed our whole co-working model in 2017 to reflect those values.”

A basic IHB membership fee for freelancers and other individuals costs \$50 per month, while \$150 per month gives members access to business support and an experience more tailored for entrepreneurs. These “Grow” memberships can also be earned through the IHB’s work trade program.

Iriarte-Amin considers the work trade program to be ideal for her needs as an entrepreneur.

“As a small business owner, the access to the space and the openness of the community made me want to invest more of my time. I then became a member of the work/trade program,” she said. “This was a perfect partnership. Giving tours of a place I love, greeting guests, all in exchange for a membership I would have gladly paid for.”

In total, there are over 100 Impact

Hubs in cities around the world, including twelve in the United States. Their success has largely been dependent on their roots within their local communities. For instance, the New York City Impact Hub recently shut its doors. However, Geiss notes that it faced difficulties due to being run from outside of the city.

“What’s different about us is we started in Baltimore, grew up organically here, and started with the community building piece of it,” she said. “It’s important to be investing in the entrepreneurs and the

small businesses of Baltimore. Our city is full of people who have an idea of what could be better, and what neighborhoods could look like, and how we can re-imagine the city for people that are long-term residents.”

“We need to be spreading out the investment in people really far and wide so it gets into neighborhoods that need reinvestment,” she added. “A lot of the folks that are working on that in really transformative ways are working out of this space.”

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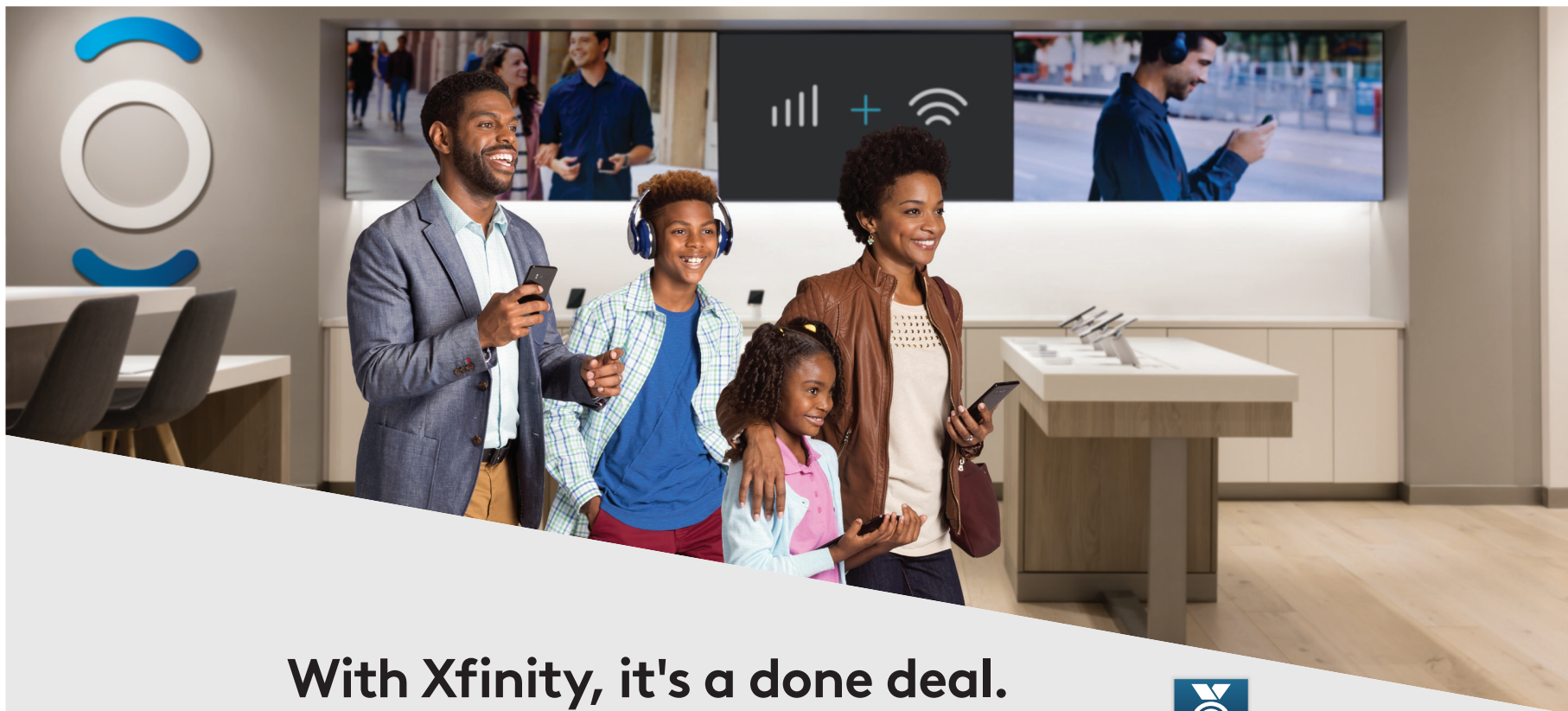
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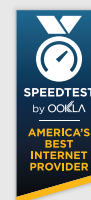
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Baltimore uniquely in spotlight for 2020 presidential election

The City of Baltimore is in a unique and unusual position regarding the upcoming 2020 presidential primary election. Baltimore represents the base for the Democratic presidential front-runner candidate, Kamala Harris, and with governor Larry Hogan being touted—and in some quarters recruited—to challenge Donald Trump, it could be argued that Baltimore is home to the top Republican contender for president as well.

Although Governor Hogan has not committed to challenge Trump, he has not made any affirmative statements to the contrary either. Larry Hogan is particularly attractive to anti-Trump Republicans because he not only won his office in a Blue State, he is also the first Republican since 1954 to win re-election as Maryland governor. Moreover, governor Hogan won his most recent gubernatorial contest in a state that is two to one Democrat versus Republican by 12 percent.

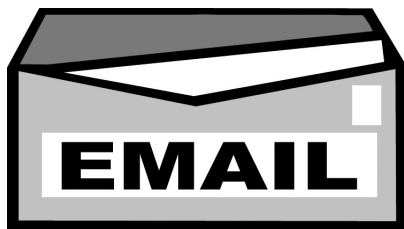
For many moderate, traditional Republicans Hogan is the ideal foil to Donald Trump because although Hogan has come from a business background like Trump he completed a successful first term as a novice government chief executive who has demonstrated the ability to successfully manage, negotiate and show collegiality and statesmanship, unlike Trump.

On the other hand, Kamala Harris, in the lead by most reputable media sources will have a major influence on Baltimore voters. The question of whether or not local voters will give the rest of the field of candidates for president a fair hearing is reasonable. Having two charismatic politicians from both parties based locally could possibly cloud the vision of the local electorate, discouraging turnout and engagement.

In the 2016 presidential election, over 178,000 Democratic votes were cast in Baltimore City. However, there were over 300,000 registered Democrats in Baltimore then. While it is possible that the 2016 Democratic presidential choice did not inspire the local electorate, which has been reported to be the case in electoral districts across the country. The result was Donald J. Trump for president.

That is the fear this time. Despite Kamala Harris's early appeal in the race, it is far too early to predict her finish. This fact, and the possibility that locally popular Republican governor Hogan could skew the prospects for the eventual White House victor should he decide to run. It is incumbent on Baltimore voters not to get distracted by star power and evaluate all viable presidential prospects throughout the electoral process in order to make the strongest possible choice to occupy the Oval Office in 2020.

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The Rush-to-Judgment 500

Community Affairs

MFB Celebrates 40 years of fighting hunger

Baltimore— To mark 40 years of leading the fight against hunger in the state, the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) launched a 40-week, statewide campaign that highlights why “It Takes More Than Food to End Hunger” on Friday, March 1, 2019 in Baltimore at City of Refuge, one of MFB’s most dedicated network partner organizations.

“Our 40th Anniversary is an opportunity for both celebration and reflection,” said MFB President & CEO Carmen Del Guercio. “We’re proud of our success over the last 40 years, but as we saw with the recent government shutdown, there is a fine line between food security and facing hunger. Given how vital our food assistance safety net has become, this is an ideal time to recommit to our vision and redouble our efforts.”

What started in 1979 with the distribution of donuts from a garage in Baltimore City has evolved into today’s Maryland Food Bank, an organization that oversees a statewide network of food

assistance that brings enough resources and partners together to distribute the equivalent of 102,000 meals every day, and more than 37 million annually.

“We know there is more to our mission than distributing food,” Del Guercio added. “During our anniversary celebration, we’ll shine a spotlight on all of the different components it takes to end hunger, including our innovative programs and collaborative partnerships that have enabled us to reduce hunger all over the state.”

Over the last four decades, the issue of hunger has grown increasingly complex. Today, MFB serves more children who would otherwise go to school hungry, more seniors who are forced to choose between medicine and food, and more working families who work long hours, yet are still unable to make ends meet. The food bank will travel across the state in the coming weeks, hosting events in Baltimore, Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, to both bring attention to these sobering statistics and highlight the “It Takes More Than Food to End Hunger” campaign, which will also introduce MFB’s new five-year strategic plan.

2020: End of beginning of equality or beginning of end of hate in America?

By Regi Taylor

As America concludes its 43rd Black History Month, we are 60 days into the 400th year since enslaved Africans were brought in chains to the Land of the Free. It should come as no surprise that African Americans are currently facing a struggle for full emancipation as vital as any time since slavery. Only in the last two generations have African Americans enjoyed any semblance of the freedom enjoyed by Caucasians after 250 years of slavery and a century of Apartheid, Jim Crow.

Were it not for the intestinal fortitude and all-or-nothing-at-all determination African Americans brought to the Civil Rights movement 50 years ago Jim Crow, or worse, might still be the law of this land. It was never the intention of the 1960's American power elite to capitulate on the issue of equal rights for African Americans, then, now or ever. In the intervening years between the civil rights crusade and now the cultural table turned 180 degrees in America.

The cries, pleas and prayers of African

Americans for racial justice transformed to an African American on the Supreme Court dispensing justice, and others who'd become captains of industry, renowned academicians, artists, scientists, religious and political leaders, and idolized multimillionaire athletes and entertainers.

On the other hand, the in-your-face,

dichotomy between the races that is stark, extreme and impossible to bridge because their connotations are so deeply entrenched in our psyches and in the historic American caste system that despite our slowly evolving appreciation for each other's shared humanity the intrinsic, subconscious identification of skin color repels our attempts to expedite

most consequential presidential election of our time. Well, 2020 may actually be that proverbial "most consequential" election.

Never mind Jim Crow, Charlottesville, and other places where violent protests and threats have accompanied attempts to remove Confederate symbolisms make it clear America would be great again for some if slavery still existed. Jefferson Davis-inspired "nationalists" extend far beyond the South.

Hovering just under 40 percent of America's voting population, most MAGA stalwarts want nothing less than to reclaim the America that existed before Civil Rights.

Original indigenous "Americans" notwithstanding, and except for the original European settlers, African Americans themselves are indigenous to America, a hybrid race existing nowhere else on this planet.

Yet despite being uniquely, distinctly and unarguably American their right to be here and enjoy the fruits of 400 years of free labor as builders of this nation they continue to be beguiled, exploited and denigrated.

Hatred towards Africans and other non-Caucasians in America, including 250 tears of slavery, will not allow this country to heal until there is an honest conversation about hate. Healing must take place or this country could implode. No amount of wealth or high-sounding ideals alone will rescue this republic.

The beast of hatred has been overfed for too long in America. There must be a catharsis. No outside threat or geopolitical foe poses a greater risk to the stability of the United States of America.

Regi Taylor is a West Baltimore native. The married father of four is an artist, writer and media professional specializing in political history.

"While it is true most Republican politicians have been lockstep with Trump, the blackface scandals of prominent Democratic politicians is likely only the tip of the iceberg of bigotry among so-called, liberals."

vociferous champions of a "white only" privileged America went mostly underground with their politics and became more subtle and strategic in their racism.

Thanks to the "Make America Great Again" movement it has become racial reckoning time in America. Not only have the former champions of Jim Crow become fed up with the societal strides of African Americans, the increasing browning of the U.S. population with non-Caucasian immigrants, and the ultimate signal of America's impending doom—the election of Barack Obama, the prospect of permanent loss of Caucasian preeminence in America has emboldened some to take drastic measures.

Despite all the gains made since MLKJ was martyred a half-century ago, African Americans continue to be complicit in maintaining the perception of their second class citizenship compared to Caucasians, through the acceptance and perpetuation of the labels, 'blacks' and 'minorities.'

The term "blacks" is antebellum and derogatory, defining Africans as subjugated and inferior. "Whites" on the other hand symbolizes superiority and privilege.

These terms create an artificial

racial and social equilibrium.

While it would represent a monumental step toward improved race relations to suspend the use of centuries-old terminology whose original application was to describe America's "superior" versus "inferior" populations, this only applies to African American and other non-Caucasians who use these labels because of longstanding indoctrination, and Caucasians who've been equally socially conditioned.

While it is true most Republican politicians have been lockstep with Trump, the blackface scandals of prominent Democratic politicians is likely only the tip of the iceberg of bigotry among so-called liberals. It is true that some abolitionists who vehemently opposed slavery believed in the inferiority of Africans to Caucasians and did not support racial equality in any regard.

Although it may appear Donald Trump is leading a movement, he is actually a not-very-astute front man chosen by a movement to resuscitate white supremacy in America. Trump is a symptom, not the source of an America that wants to be great...again.

Every four years it is said this is the

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After Baltimore boxer wins debut, eyes world title

By Stacy M. Brown

Renowned Baltimore boxing guru Mack Allison appears to have another champion on his hands.

Charm City native Destiny “Lady Tyson” Day-Owens outpointed Virginia’s Michaela Nogue at the Waldorf Cultural Center to win her professional debut. The 23-year-old mother of two and three time Golden Gloves champ says her first pro bout allowed her to adjust from being an amateur.

“Not having the headgear was different, you could see a lot more things clearer,” Day-Owens said. “I’m usually aggressive and throw power punches, but I just out boxed my opponent this time.”

Day-Owens started boxing at 19, but she says she has been training and “fighting my heart out for the last four to five years to catch up, and make it to where I am today.”

She also did a lot of fighting with her three brothers and two sisters while growing up.

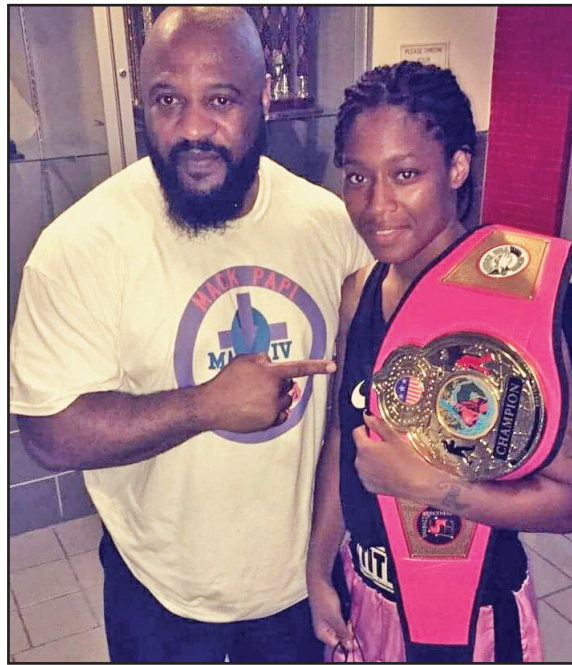
“I fought my brothers a lot,” she said. “I didn’t back down.”

Much of which was due to anger issues that could have derailed any hope of her ever enjoying a ring career.

“Boxing is a sport where you need discipline, and I had a bad temper,” Day-Owens said.

Under the tutelage of Allison at his Time 2 Grind Boxing gym, Day-Owens has learned to tunnel her anger and take it out on the heavy bag and her opponents.

“Mack Allison has been like a father to me,” she said. “He’s intense and we train hard all the time. He said he knew I had it in me, that I’m a diamond in the rough



(Left) Renowned Baltimore boxing guru Mack Allison with Destiny “Lady Tyson” Day-Owens, who started boxing when she was 19 years old. (Right) Charm City native Destiny “Lady Tyson” Day-Owens outpointed Virginia’s Michaela Nogue at the Waldorf Cultural Center to win her professional debut. Courtesy Photos/Time 2 Grind Boxing Gym



even though people counted me out and said I wouldn’t be able to control my temper.”

While her next fight isn’t expected to take place until sometime next month, Day-Owens says she is ready today.

“If I get a call today and they said I’m fighting this weekend, I’m ready,” Day-Owens said.

Allison backed up that notion.

“It’s exciting. In boxing, it takes time to put all those skills together to/ be successful,” Allison said. “She’s definitely going to be a world champion because she has that desire and love for boxing and it’s rare to find a female who loves the sport of boxing like she does.”

Boxing at Time 2 Grind has changed Day-Owens. She is more disciplined

now and she says her life is better because of that change.

“I’ve dealt with all kinds of trauma and abuse growing up,” she said. “I lost a lot of friends to gun violence— so, every day I try to encourage others so that they will not give up on their personal battles and [Allison] helps me a lot with teachings inside and outside of the ring.”

Like many others in the sport, she looks up to the late Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson. However Day-Owens says, she is particularly inspired by another Baltimore female fighter, Tyrieshia Darinetta Douglas, the world’s Super Flyweight Champion.

“They call her ‘Lady Tiga,’” Day-Owens said. “She’s helped me in the amateurs and she works so hard— I

can’t help but to look up to her.”

While her siblings weren’t boxers, Day-Owens insists fighting is in her DNA. In just three years of boxing as an amateur, she won three Golden Gloves. She has also won the acclaimed Baltimore 2017 Mayor’s Cup and Queen of the Ring.

“I’m on a mission to be the best female boxer of all time, and to show the young children all over the world that you can truly accomplish anything if you put your mind to it. I will never stop grinding until I achieve my goals,” Day-Owens said. “Winning my professional debut was just the beginning. It makes me want to push even harder and represent for my people, for my city.”

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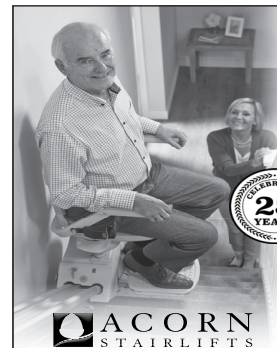
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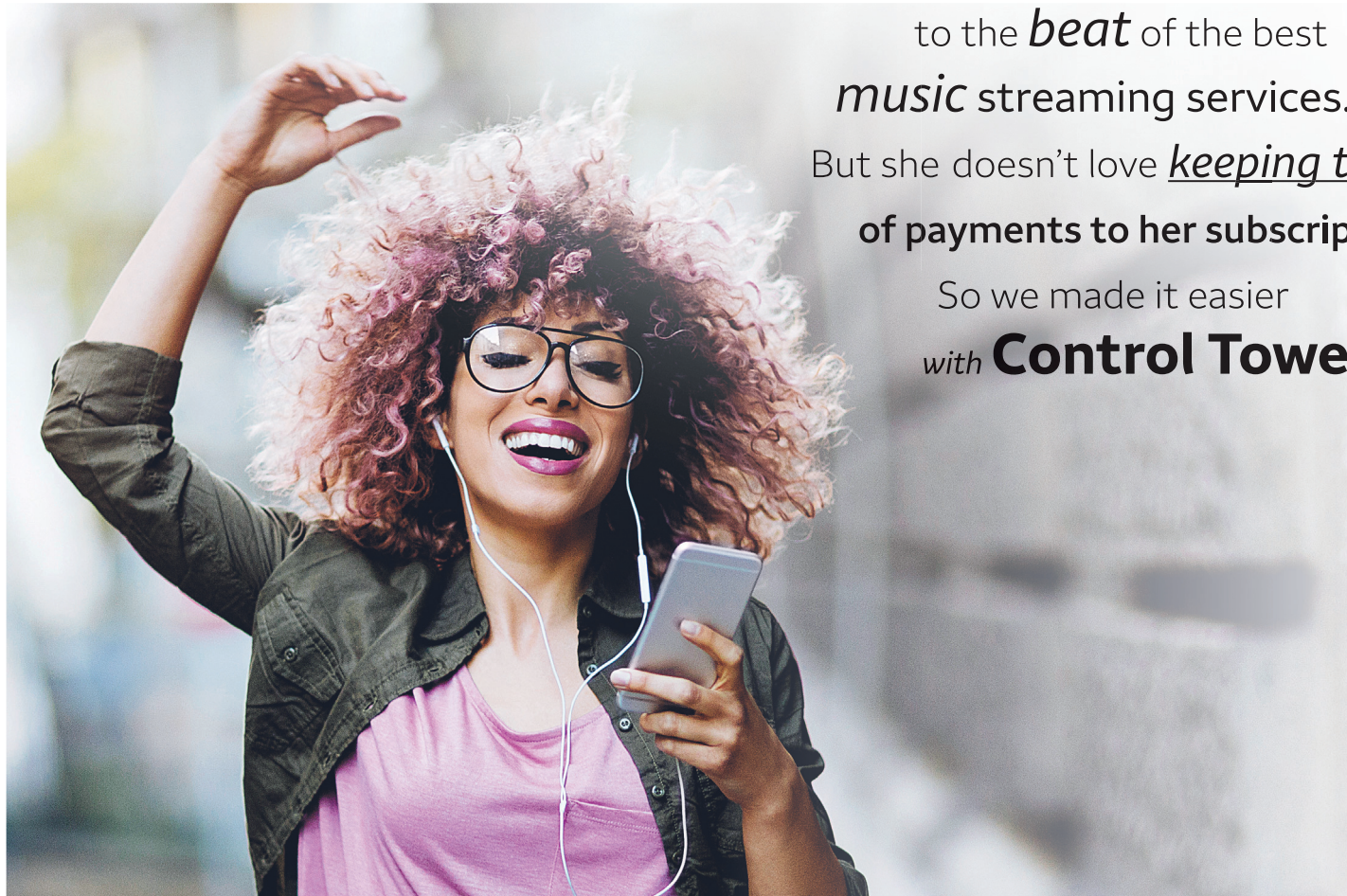
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NFL Combine Flashback: C. J. Mosley

By Tyler Hamilton

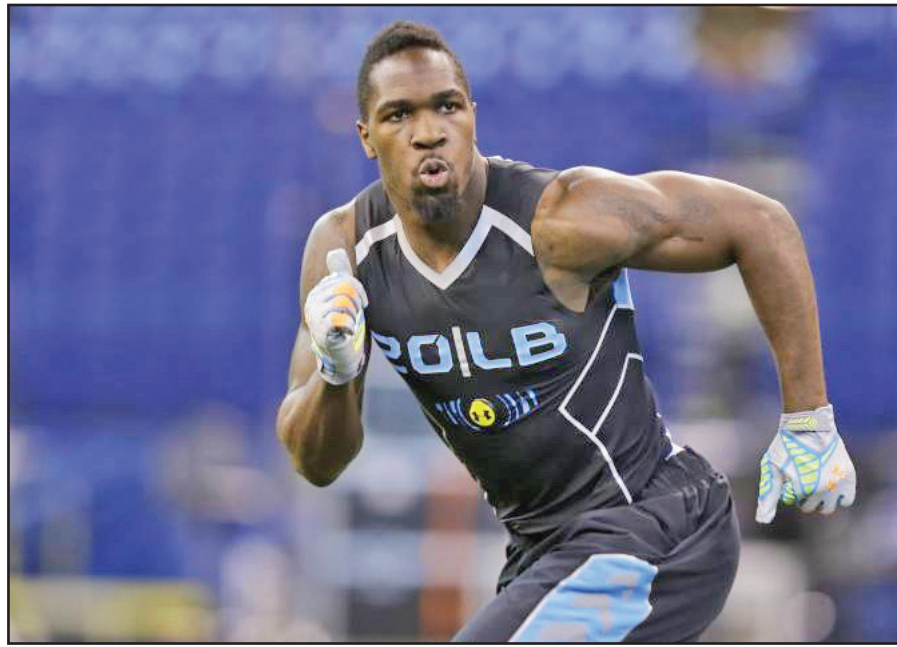
The NFL Scouting Combine takes place this week with the top college football prospects reporting to Indianapolis. The evaluating process is ongoing and can change as the process takes place.

Former University of Alabama linebacker and current Baltimore Ravens team captain C. J. Mosley is an example of the roller coaster ride draft prospects experience. Mosley, was voted a First-Team All American by the Associated Press and was the Butkus Award winner (Nation's top LB) coming out of college.

Things got a little choppy for Mosley before he reported to the 2014 NFL Combine. Mosley had surgery to repair a torn labrum, which prevented him from participating in all of the drills. He participated in the vertical jump (35 inches), short shuttle (4.40 seconds), three-cone drill (7.30 seconds), and broad jump (9 feet, 10 inches).

There were concerns about Mosley's shoulder but was medically cleared by most teams. However, teams wanted to see him complete testing on the bench press and run the 40-yard dash. Instead they had to wait.

NFL Scouts and team's personnel place a huge emphasis on the Combine workouts so not being able to do everything in Indianapolis placed more importance



Former University of Alabama linebacker and current Baltimore Ravens team captain C. J. Mosley is an example of the roller coaster ride draft prospects experience during the NFL Scouting Combine, which is an opportunity for the draft prospects to showcase their physical and mental abilities for all NFL teams.

Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

on Mosley's Pro Day. Projections for Mosley's draft status were all over the board leading up to the 2014 NFL Draft.

A fast time in the 40-yard dash at the Combine could have solidified Mosley's status as the top inside linebacker. The Pittsburgh Steelers fell in love with Ohio State linebacker Ryan Shazier after a stellar workout at the Combine and

chose him with the 15th pick in the

draft. Mosley went to the Ravens a couple of picks later (No. 17).

Mosley impressed coaches in meetings with his football smarts. As the quarterback of the defense for Alabama, it was imperative for Mosley to know the defense inside out. He was able to carry that comfort level and experience to meetings at the Combine.

Although his workout wasn't stellar, the play that Mosley put on film spoke for itself. In the end, teams new he was an elite football player. That's why the Ravens so readily selected Mosley. As a four-time Pro Bowler and four-time second-team All Pro, Mosley has more than proved his worth since coming to Baltimore.

There will be a lot of stories about different prospects having outstanding performances at the Combine this week, but never lose track of the most important aspect which is what the prospect does on the football field. C.J. Mosley is proof of that.

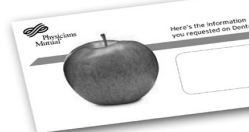
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Antiguan Women Make History in Row Across Atlantic

By Stacy M. Brown

The four Antiguan women who made a triumphant rowing trip across the Atlantic Ocean made a stop at a school near Baltimore to encourage young ones that they too can achieve dreams that sometimes appear unreachable.

The Baltimore Times had an opportunity to speak with three of the women, Kevinia Francis, Samara Emmanuel, and Christal Clashing, about their historic journey. The fourth team member, Elvira Bell, wasn't immediately available.

"When I came about this expedition, what attracted me was the opportunity to retrace that slave trade route. To be able to do something as historical was great motivation for me," Clashing said. "It combined my love of history, adventure, Antigua and of becoming a pioneer."

In January, they became the world's first all-black team and the first all-women team to represent the Caribbean to row across the Atlantic Ocean as part of the annual Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge—considered the world's toughest row.

The competition, which the women participated to raise \$150,000 for Cottage of Hope, a charity that focuses on providing shelter for orphaned girls who experience abuse, is a premiere event in ocean rowing.

Dubbed "Team Antigua-The Island Girls," they began the journey on December 12, 2018, in the Canary Islands and returned to Antigua to a hero's welcome on January 29, 2019.

The 3,000-nautical mile route was the same route used during the international slave trade hundreds of years earlier.

"We had nine months to prepare," Emmanuel said.

For Francis, the expedition proved a real challenge because she had to take swimming lessons and she has never been fond of the outdoors.

"I'm an athlete, but I'm a land athlete," Francis said. "I worked with one of the guys from last year's team and they said they were looking for an all-female team and he knew that I loved adventure."

Francis says she first needed to test the waters because she doesn't "like the ocean touching me."



The Island Girls (Crystal Clashing, Samara Emmanuel, Elvira Bell, Kevinia Francis) rowed more than 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean over 47 days, 8 hours and 25 minutes for the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Upon reaching their final destination, they celebrated. Photo Credit: Gemma Hazlewood

"So, I had a fear of the unknown. However, my love for adventure, competition, country and charity was bigger than my fear of ocean life," Francis said, noting that for peace of mind, she took swim lessons to help her survive in case anything should happen.

"We encountered a rogue wave. It wasn't a treacherous or windy night at all, it was actually a very calm night but out of nowhere, there was a rogue wave that slammed against our boat and it went 90 degrees perpendicular, shoving me into the safety strap and throwing us all for a loop," Francis said. "There was no night light, it was pitch black, and we didn't know what that wave looked like or where it came from. There was absolutely no one around. We were paranoid the rest of the way after that."

Once the trip began, the women said each team member had a responsibility.

Francis served as captain, which meant motivating the team, monitoring their progress and making decisions for the good of the crew. Emmanuel, with her boating experience, entered the coordinates that the weather team directed them to, maintained the boat log and

handled most of the mechanical and electrical repairs. Bell was in charge of maintaining the boat's order and cleanli-

ness, and she dealt with the water maker when it acted up. As a self-proclaimed "water baby," Clashing explained that she "had the task of jumping overboard into the Atlantic to clean the hull of the boat of barnacles that slowed the boat down," which she had to do four times during the crossing.

According to ESPN, the women were competing with other teams and trying to finish as quickly as possible, so someone always had to be rowing. Most of the time, two people were rowing and two were resting, in two-hour shifts. Rest time included eating, preparing food, washing, using the bathroom, maintaining the boat and sleeping. The rowers slept in the two cabins at each end of the boat, which fit one person each.

"We didn't finish first, but we finished and, for me, the most important thing that stood out was that it's usually a white male dominated race," Emmanuel said. "We were also retracing the slave route coming off the coast of Africa back to the Caribbean and that stood out for us as well. And the fact that in the end, our country was proud and our charity was proud."



The 'I AM MENTality' Youth Mentoring Program: Investing in tomorrow's black men today

Baltimore native Darren Rogers recalled the challenges of his childhood.

By Ursula V. Battle

"I was the child of teenage parents," said Rogers. "My mom was 14, and my dad was 16. My dad wasn't involved in my life for the first ten years. I grew up in poverty, and also lacked leadership and support."

For some youngsters, such circumstances might have served as a catalyst for becoming wayward or getting into trouble. But not for Rogers, it fueled his desire to mentor young, black males.

"My relationship with Jesus was my game changer," said Rogers. "Much of my success came from the way God made me. Although we lived in a bad neighborhood, there [were] some things I just could not do. I decided to start an organization that would support young, black men."

Rogers is the executive director and founder of "I AM MENTality" Youth Male Empowerment Project. The Baltimore-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization's mission is "to enlighten the minds of male youth through mentorship and leadership development." The program, which is free and open to males ages five to 18 was founded in January of 2016.

"I founded the organization based on all of my experiences and the huge need," said Rogers. "In urban communities, there is a severe lack of development opportunities for kids who want to grow up and become leaders. Leadership is an innate part of what we are, but we aren't taught that. We are taught that a few elite are leaders and everyone else follows."

I AM MENTality, is a free program, and offers group, peer-to-peer, individual and virtual mentoring that helps male youth with overcoming environmental challenges presented in some Baltimore communities, according to Rogers. He says the organization provides a comprehensive leadership academy offering leadership skills, conflict resolution, anger management, financial literacy, health and wellness, professionalism and character building.

Rogers says I AM MENTality serves ap-



Darren Rogers is the Executive Director and Founder of the I AM MENTality Youth Male Empowerment Project.

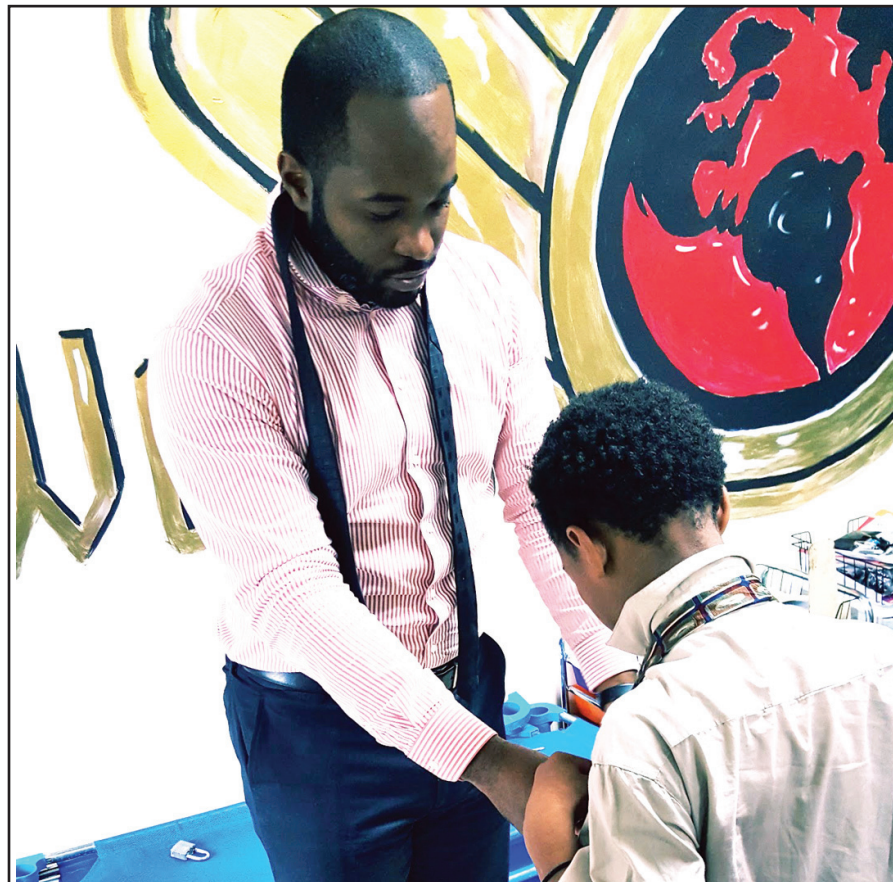
proximately 100 youth and operates out of the Liberty Recreation Center located at 3901 Maine Avenue.

"There just aren't enough men driven to build strong relationships with youth," said Rogers. "Many youths are stressed because they don't have strong relationships with their fathers. We want to mentor these youths and help to fill that void. We also stress the importance of leadership. Leadership is something you can teach. Showing a young male how to shake someone's hand is an opportunity to teach.

"Other examples are showing them how to communicate with a woman, taking care of their personal needs, and communicating with people outside of their own community. Others are tangibles, such as dealing with adversity and not using drugs. These are all things that can be taught. We want to give them the opportunity to learn these things. Our young, black males are self-destructing because they have no one to speak life into them and tell them who they are. I AM MENTality is working to change this troubling reality. None of my efforts would be possible without the support of my loving family, and exemplary team."

Rogers works as a supervisor at an outpatient mental health agency and is also employed with the Baltimore City Department of Public Works. The Edmondson High School graduate is married and has two daughters.

"It's expected for our young men to dress a certain way and deal with women,



Darren Rogers showing a group participant how to properly put on a tie.
Courtesy Photos

but there is no training. We are trying to put them in a position to be successful by giving them opportunities at an early age. We try to expose them to as much positiveness as we can. Lack of exposure stunts your ability to grow. Many of today's black males have not been trained to understand what success really is. A car isn't a success. To pay off a home is a success.

"If you start working when you are 18 until the age of 65, you will make a million dollars in your lifetime. But they don't believe that. They try to rush to get things, but they have to develop and learn how to work for these things. We also teach them they can earn money and not use the money they earn to buy tennis shoes and chicken boxes. We teach them how to break a dollar down. We also teach them the more you learn, the more you earn."

Jackson Bailey, 13, has been in the program for three years.

"I really love the program," said the seventh-grader. "It's a lot of fun, and I get to interact with a lot of people. The program has taught me about leadership and communication, and has helped shaped me into the person I am today. The biggest thing I learned is you have to be patient and take your time."

Taeleya Bailey is Jackson's mother. "Darren Rogers' dedication to the boys is outstanding," she said. "The boys also see how much he loves on his wife and daughters, which is so valuable. The program has helped Jackson tremendously. It has taught him about the value of brotherhood and leadership. The program has also helped his confidence and improved his ability to speak publicly, which he often does in church. This is an amazing program."

For more information about I AM MENTality Youth Male Empowerment Project, visit: www.iammentality.org.

Community agencies partner to provide services for families in Perkins community

By Timothy Cox

Perkins Homes prepares for massive razing and renovations

Cierra Jones and her two-year-old niece Angelique spent a few precious hours at the Perkins Community housing headquarters in East Baltimore on the afternoon of Friday February 22, 2019.

Their time was “well-spent,” according to Jones, a three-year resident at one of the city's five federally funded housing apartment complexes. Thanks to a collaborative effort between the Baltimore City Community Action Partnership (BCCAP) and St. Louis-based Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI), about 100 family households, including Jones and her four young children, were invited to a kick-off “Food Commodity Day” initiative where the two agencies provided residents with information and resources about eating healthy and financial literacy and strategies, in addition to free (uncooked) food staples for generating healthy meals in the home.

Lori Cunningham, director of Baltimore City Community Action Partnership, further explained that the event is first of an ongoing project in accordance with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) and a \$30 million federally subsidized Choice Neighborhood Grant administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Held at the Perkins Community headquarters, which is located in the 1400 block of Gough Street near the Fells Point neighborhood, the event was a debut-kick-off of a program set to occur twice a month through 2022 to benefit the remaining 500 family households at Perkins Homes, plus the residents in the greater Perkins-Somerset-Oldtown neighborhoods.

Cunningham says the new project is in-synch with the city’s priority of building stronger neighborhoods. “BCCAP aims to reduce and prevent causes and effects of poverty by providing resources to educate the community and promote economic and housing stability.”



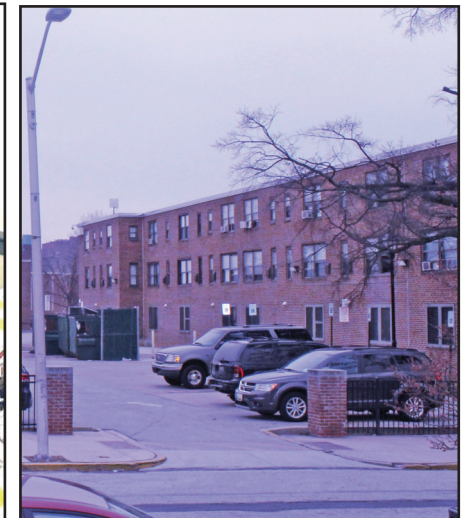
Urban Strategies, Inc. is a national non-profit group with 40 years experience in developing human capital strategies for communities undergoing comprehensive physical revitalization.

The Perkins Housing Community is targeted for major renovations, which could impact residents over the next several years. According to the Baltimore City Housing Authority's website, the complex will undergo major renovations which could possibly temporarily displace some of its 1,400 residents, who currently live in nearly 700 units.

Conversely, officials have urged that existing tenants not be displaced, but instead be relocated to existing vacant units during constructions over the multi-phase project.

Some units within the facility are reportedly inundated with rodents and roaches, and some long-term residents enthusiastically favor razing the dwellings. During her three-year stay, Cierra Jones says she has no major complaints.

“It's relatively safe here and normally quiet,” said the mother of four, including a set of nine-year-old twins. However, Jones, 28, says she is “all-in” for razing the current property and supports plans to institute a proposed mixed-use, residential-commercial combination property style.



The Baltimore City Community Action Partnership kick-off event at Perkins Homes located on Gough Street in East Baltimore was held on Friday, February 22, 2019. (Top left) Cierra Jones and her niece, Angelique. Jones has been a Perkins Housing resident for three years. (Top right) Books and other educational materials were on display during the event. (Above right) Partial view of the Perkins Homes Complex (Above left) Table with free uncooked food staples for generating healthy meals in the home. Photo Credit: Timothy Cox

Mayor Pugh fully supports the new renovation project, too.

“Redeveloping our most distressed communities and improving the amenities available to Baltimore City residents are major goals of my administration,” she said in a recently published statement. “The Perkins transformation project will incorporate a neighborhood plan

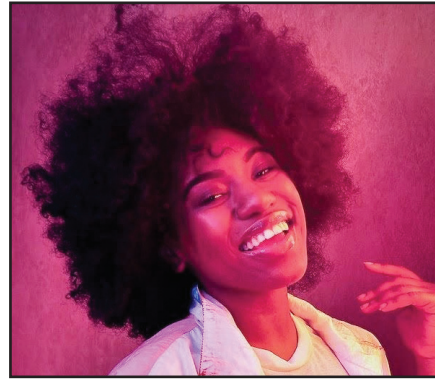
that combines new housing, infrastructure improvements, economic development, public safety strategies, and enhanced educational opportunities for the community.”

Renovation efforts at Perkins Community are likewise funded through HUD’s \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Grant Initiative.

Baltimore poet Cherrie Amour hosts 5th Words, Wine & Wings Poetry Show



Baltimore poet and spoken word artist Cherrie Amour is the founder of the Words, Wine & Wings poetry series
Courtesy Photo



Teaching artist “Meccamorphosis” has performed at venues like Busboys and Poets, and the Kennedy Center
Courtesy Photo



Author Tracy Dimond is a 2016 Baker Artist Award finalist
Photo by Mollye Miller Photography



Writer and educator Anthony Morales has appeared on HBO's Def Poetry and toured the US and Puerto Rico
Courtesy Photo

Baltimore— Poetry lovers are invited to the 5th Words, Wine & Wings poetry show on March 3, 2018, at Next Phaze Café at 112 E. Lexington St. Baltimore from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Five diverse poets from Baltimore, Baltimore area and beyond will bring their poetic talent to the 5th poetry event in the series with the theme “What’s Goin’ On?”

Hosted by Baltimore-based poet Cherrie Amour, poets in this show include: Meccamorphosis (Baltimore, MD), Tracy Dimond (Baltimore, MD), Alan King (Bowie, MD), Anthony Morales (Washington, DC) and Lamar Anthony Hill (Newark, NJ). The poetic menu will also include an open mic, a variety of

vendors and Next Phaze café bar menu and cash bar.

“I’m a poet who has had the opportunity to be among a variety of poets— both written and spoken word. What they all have in common is talent. That is what “Words, Wine & Wings is all about— bringing together talented poets with wings and wine on the side,” said host and founder Cherrie Amour.

To learn more about the Words, Wine & Wings event and to purchase tickets (\$12, admission only / \$20 admission, wine & wings), visit: www.cherrieamour.com Eventbrite, Cherrie Amour on Facebook or email cherrieamourpoet@gmail.com.



Award winning poet and author Alan King
Courtesy Photo



Poet, playwright and spoken word artist Lamar Anthony Hill
Courtesy Photo

‘me too.’ Movement founder guest lecturer for 2019 President’s Distinguished African-American Lecture Series

Baltimore County, Md.— CCBC President Sandra Kurtinitis welcomes social activist and founder of the ‘me too.’ Movement, Tarana Burke as the guest lecturer for the 2019 President’s Distinguished African-American Lecture Series.

Scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the F. Scott Black Theater (Romadka College Center) at CCBC Essex, Burke will share her powerful story, as creator of what is now an international movement that supports survivors of sexual assault and harassment.

A sexual assault survivor herself, Burke has dedicated more than 25 years of her life to social justice issues and laying the groundwork for a movement



Tarana Burke
Founder, ‘me too.’ Movement
Courtesy Photo/CCBC

that was initially created to help young women of color who survived sexual abuse and assault. The movement, now inspires solidarity amplifies the voices of thousands of victims of sexual abuse,

works as senior director of programs at Brooklyn-based Girls for Gender Equity.

During the lecture, Burke will share her personal journey from “victim to survivor to thriver,” and participate in a

CCBC President’s Distinguished African-American Lecture Series is free and open to the public. Tickets are required. For tickets, contact the CCBC Box Office at 443-840-2787.

and puts the focus back on survivors.

Burke, now works under the banner of the ‘me too.’ Movement to assist other survivors and those who work to end sexual violence. She was the genesis of the 2017 TIME Person of the Year-winning ‘me too.’ Movement and currently

dynamic discussion as she engages the audience in an intimate conversation.

CCBC’s President’s Distinguished African-American Lecture Series is free and open to the public but tickets are required. For tickets, contact the CCBC Box Office at 443-840-2787.

Annapolis Restaurant Week 2019

Celebrating the 11th Anniversary of highlighting the culinary delights of Annapolis

Annapolis— Annapolis Restaurant Week is one of the best times to make reservations at Annapolis area restaurants. From March 2 to March 10, forty five of the areas restaurants are participating in this annual event and will offer two-course, price-fixed meal selections for just \$12.95 for breakfast and \$15.95 for lunch. A three-course dinner for \$34.95 will be the main attraction. Select locations will also offer additional bonus items and specials. Bonus specials may include 1/2 price bottles of wine, discounted appetizers, and specialty drinks.

"Due to the popularity of Restaurant Week, we traditionally see a huge up swing in reservations. To accommodate the increased demand the event is being expanded by two days this year to allow everyone the opportunity to dine both weekends as well as the weekdays," said Erik Evans the Executive Director of the Downtown Annapolis Partnership.

This years dining options have also increased with 45 restaurants participating and more menu options to accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free diners.

This is the perfect time to try out new restaurants along with your favorites.



The city has become a culinary dining destination over the years and this event highlights some of the areas most popular dining destinations. Several of the areas local restaurants regularly make the list of the top restaurants in nearby metropolitan publications like the Washingtonian Magazine, Baltimore Magazine and local publications including

What's Up? Magazine, and Bay Weekly Newspapers. Television shows including Man vs. Food and Diners Drive-in and Dives have also featured some of the participating restaurants.

"Annapolis Restaurant Week is popular with both locals and tourists. With so many dining options and specials you will want to go out to eat every night

this week," said Matt Schatzle, chairman of the Downtown Annapolis Partnership. There is a wide range of restaurant types including seafood, steakhouses, international restaurants and comfort food options.

The first week of March is also a good week to pair that meal with a show, theatre, concert, live music, St Patrick's Day Parade or Mardi Gras at Market Space in Annapolis. Every day during Annapolis Restaurant Week you have entertainment options in downtown Annapolis to enjoy.

Many of the restaurants are also going greener. Starting last year during Annapolis Restaurant Week many opted to give straws only on request or convert to paper straws. With the Chesapeake Bay on our doorstep we always encourage the public to look for ways to reduce their impact on our environment. This year we will continue to suggest that restaurant goers only take a straw if needed.

Annapolis Restaurant Week restaurants are posting their menus, additional specials and reservations options online at www.annapolisrestaurantweek.com

For Your Information

Brooklyn Park Elementary School Childcare

Childcare help is needed Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8pm, at Brooklyn Park Elementary, 200 14th Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225. In collaboration with Anne Arundel Community College, free ESL classes are being offered to adults eager to learn English, but the school needs volunteers to help watch the children while the parents are in class. You can help for just an hour or every week, or anything in between. High school students are welcome. The top priority is dependability. Bilingual (English-Spanish) is a plus. For more information and to volunteer, contact Nannette Simmons at tutoring@hotmail.com.

Crayon Initiative

The Crayon Initiative needs you to donate your unwanted crayons and they will recycle them into new ones. Then they will donate them back to schools, hospitals, arts programs and other organizations invested in our children. Suzy Provine and the Glen Burnie Civitan Club are starting this initiative in Anne Arundel County. Let her know if you are interested in a drop box. The Glen Burnie Civitans are volunteers who help families, children and individuals with developmental disabilities in and around Anne Arundel County, MD. Contact Suzy Provine at suzy@provine.com or 410-733-3767. Also see <http://thecrayoninitiative.org/>

Secure the Call

We give away free phones to over 425 community-based organizations around the US including Senior Citizen Centers, Domestic Violence Shelters and Police and Sheriff's Departments. Secure the Call collects used and unwanted cell phones and redistributes them as 911 emergency only phones. Volunteers, age 18 and up, are needed to form groups and go into mapped parts of Anne Arundel County to place Secure the Call phone collection barrels in any place it may be allowed. For more information call (301) 891-2900 or E-mail info@securethecall.org. See the web site for more information at: www.securethecall.org.

Hope for All

We are still looking for good strong individuals to assist with pickups and deliveries of furniture, clothing, and other donations, to help families in Anne Arundel County. Times are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to around 12 noon. We can use help for a day, a few days, or whatever. We also do schedule some Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Please call 410-766-0372 or 443-867-0977 or email hopeforall72@gmail.com. See web site: www.hopeforall.us/volunteer.

Six Not-To-Miss March Events in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Maryland

ANNAPOLIS— What's happening in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in March 2019? Plenty! To make it easier for you, Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) is highlighting six celebrations you won't want to miss.

Annapolis Restaurant Week ushers in the month with price fixed breakfasts, lunches and dinners at new and old favorite dining hot spots. For the first time, the March 2-10 event covers two weekends.

Food and drink will be front and center at the first-ever Mardi Gras at Market Space on March 3. Market House and Market Space restaurants will serve up crawfish boil, grilled oysters, shrimp gumbo and shrimp po-boys cooked on outside grills during the noon to 5:00 p.m. event. Hurricanes, Orange Crushes and craft beers from New Orleans will flow as revelers dance in the streets to live Dixieland and zydeco music.

The partying continues March 9-10 with the Annapolis Hooley Celebration and St. Patrick's Parade. Grab a spot along the parade route for an earful of some of the best pipe bands around.



First-ever Mardi Gras at Market Space on March 3, 2019



St. Patrick's Parade March 9-10

Film lovers will get their fill at the March 21-24 Annapolis Film Festival. The 7th annual event screens more than

70 shorts, documentaries and feature films spanning the globe – some for the very first time.

The action cuts from the red carpet to the shores of the Chesapeake for the March 23 Annapolis Oyster Roast & Sock Burning. You can add fuel to the fire by tossing in those smelly old socks you've saved for the occasion. In addition to a grand bonfire, the Eastport tradition includes live music, a shucking contest and plenty of raw and roasted oysters!

If you're hungry for history, the March 29-31 Maryland Day Celebration provides the perfect opportunity for families to explore historic sites and attractions throughout the Four Rivers Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town and South County for free or \$1.

For a more complete listing of events, visit the online calendar of events at VisitAnnapolis.org.

VAAAC is a nonprofit, membership-based destination marketing organization that generates revenues for the local economy by promoting Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to leisure and business travelers across the country and around the world.

www.VisitAnnapolis.org.



Annapolis Oyster Roast & Sock Burning, March 23, 2019

Chase Cook
@chasecook

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Six flutists highlight women's contributions to music



Flutist Karen Johnson
Courtesy Photo

Annapolis— Six flutists, including performers from California, Boston and the District of Columbia area present “Flutes Fatale,” a program of music by women composers, performed by all women, as part of the Arts in the Woods concert series, Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis located at 333 Dubois Road in Annapolis.

Washington-area flutist Karen Johnson organized the ensemble of outstanding flutists specifically to perform compositions that reflect women's contributions to music.

“One of the unique things about this program is that none of the pieces is a transcription; meaning they were all written for the precise combination and types of flutes found in the program, said Johnson. “For example, there is a piece for piccolo, two C flutes, and bass flute called Umoja, by Valerie Coleman. Umoja is Swahili for unity. It's based on an African song that is traditionally sung the first day of Kwanza.

“Another piece, Gaelic Offering by Catherine McMichael, for four C flutes, charms us with various Gaelic-inspired dances and ballads. Garnet Valley Groove, written by jazz flutist Ali Ryerson, for four flutes and alto flute takes us to a jazzy groove.

“We have a quintet called Flock, based on Minimalist Music. It is written by a young flute duo (two young women) named Flutronix! And we are also performing a haunting duo, Au Dela du Temps, for two flutes and piano by the Japanese composer Yuko Uebayashi.

“There are other, equally compelling, pieces that complete this uplifting program.”

Johnson also noted that almost all members of the flute family are represented in the program: Piccolo, C Flute, Alto Flute, and Bass Flute.

Performers for the March 2 concert include Johnson, who is principal flutist of the Chesapeake Orchestra, is on the music faculties of St Mary's College of Maryland, the Levine School of Music, and the Northern California Flute Camp in Carmel, and performs widely as a soloist and with her group Dancing Heart; Stacy Ascione, who is principal flutist with the U.S. Air Force Concert Band in Washington, D.C.; Rebecca Carey and Kathleen Jacobi, both teachers of traditional and Suzuki flute at the Levine School of Music; Lauren Panfili, who has performed extensively in the U.S. and in Brazil and is currently on the faculty of Indian Hill Music in Littleton, Massachusetts; and Karen Van Dyke, director of the Stanford University Flute Ensemble and director of the Northern California Flute Camp. Also performing on pieces that include piano will be Mariko Hiller, D.C.-area chamber and jazz musician.

The March 2, 2019, program “Flutes Fatale” is part of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis Arts in the Woods concert series, now in its sixth year. Classical performances are held every other month. Regular attendees should note that the March 2 performance is Saturday evening, starting at 8:00 p.m. and is a departure from the usual Sunday matinee schedule. For information, visit www.uuannapolis.org or call 410-266-8044.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; free for youth 16 and under. For more information, visit www.uuannapolis.org or call 410-266-8044.

Work of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis members on display in Gallery 90



Thomas Point Lighthouse
Photo by Robert Peterson
Courtesy Photo

Pasadena, Md.— The work of members of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis will be featured in an exhibit in Hospice of the Chesapeake's Gallery 90, the art gallery located throughout the nonprofit's administrative building on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

The exhibit will be on display from March 4 through May 3, 2019. An artists' reception will take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 20, 2019 and will include light refreshments.

The club is a diverse group of photographers from beginners, hobbyists, serious amateurs, and professionals who love to take and share their photographs. It meets at Maryland Hall twice a month from September to June so that digital camera enthusiasts can share their work, hear from well-known local speakers,

plan field trips and take part in photo exhibits at venues throughout the community.

For details, visit <https://dpca.photoclubservices.com>.

Gallery 90 was established to realize the vision of creating a harmonious work environment for Hospice of the Chesapeake administrative staff and visiting nurses, caregivers and volunteers who work directly with patients and their families.

To register for the reception, or to schedule a private tour for your group, contact Renate Little at 443-837-1512 or rlittle@hospicechesapeake.org.

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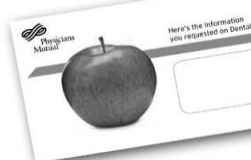
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