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Maryland Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings Dies at 68



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Two-day conference aims to help returning citizens to 'Flip the Script'

By Stacy M. Brown

Having just a minor criminal record can often create substantial barriers to employment.

Further, studies have shown that a criminal record makes it more likely that returning citizens will end up back in jail or prison. However, one local entrepreneur is providing some hope.

Jamasee "Jay" Simms, the owner of J. Simms Events and Marketing, is combining her passion for criminal justice and public relations.

The criminal justice major, who once worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office, will host a two-day conference dedicated to rebranding individuals who have difficulty finding employment because they have a criminal record.

On Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26, Simms will host, "Flip the Script: Rebranding After Incarceration," a conference she hopes will go a long way in helping to break the cycle at Perfect Office Solutions located at 6811 Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale, Mary-

land. The conference starts at 9 a.m. each day.

"This event is the first of its kind. It's a rebranding conference for returning citizens where those in attendance will learn how they can use public relations tools and techniques to transform their lives successfully. These tools were once only for large corporations and brands," Simms said.

Simms says participants will engage in resume building, dress etiquette, re-branding, mock interview workshops, and other activities. A job fair that includes employers who are ready to hire individuals despite past criminal records will cap the conference.

"I am a firm believer that after incarceration, everyone should receive the help they need to reenter society. I want to use the tools and techniques that are typically reserved for CEOs and large corporations to help returning citizens," Simms said.

According to one study cited by Simms, within three years of release, 67.8 percent of ex-offenders are



Jamasee "Jay" Simms, owner
J. Simms Events and Marketing
Courtesy Photo

"I had to figure out what way I can give back, so I began to mentor children and returning citizens," Simms said. "And, this event is something that I wanted to do for a few years because when these citizens return home, things are often different for them."

One returning citizen Simms spoke with told her a sobering story.

"He mentioned technology, and you know technology is something that changes so much, even within a few months," Simms said. "This young man went to prison in 1992, and he was released in 2017. So, when he went to prison in the 1990s, you used paper to apply for jobs. He needed to know how to use a computer. It was a major change."

After one has paid their debt to society, they should be afforded a second chance to start a new life and become a productive citizen.

"Work keeps ex-offenders out of poverty, allows them to gain valuable skills and experience, and helps them avoid reoffending," she said. "Although returning citizens face many obstacles when they are initially released, one of their toughest is combating widely-held stereotypes and re-establishing their identity. 'Flip the Script: Rebranding After Incarceration' conference aims to address the battle returning citizens face when they are pre-judged and denied opportunities solely based on their past."

The conference is free to attend and registration is recommended. To register, visit: www.flipthescriptconference.com.

re-arrested. Within five years, 76.6 percent of ex-convicts are re-arrested.

Providing available opportunities should help, according to Simms.

"The stereotypes and negative perceptions of individuals who were in prison often supersede their skills and ability to perform job duties," Simms said. "Prospective employers don't often consider the mitigating circumstances of each individual that resulted in them being incarcerated. As a result, when prisoners are released, they face an environment that is challenging and actively deters them from becoming productive members of society."

It has always been Simms' goal to help others.

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Comcast increases Internet speeds for most customers from Maine to Virginia

Manchester, NH— Comcast is increasing download speeds for some of its most popular Xfinity Internet packages for residential customers in the Northeast Division, which includes 14 northeastern states from Maine through Virginia and the District of Columbia. Download speeds for the Northeast Division's most popular speed tiers—including Performance, Performance Pro and Blast!— have increased by as much as 60-plus percent, helping to power the rapidly-growing number of connected devices in consumers' homes. The speed boosts include:

- Extreme tier download speeds increasing 50 percent from 400 Mbps to 600 Mbps
- Blast tier download speeds increasing 20 percent from 250 Mbps to 300 Mbps
- Performance Pro tier download speeds increasing more than 30 percent from 150 Mbps to 200 Mbps
- Performance tier download speeds increasing more than 60 percent from 60 Mbps to 100 Mbps
- Performance Starter tier download

speeds increasing more than 60 percent from 15 Mbps to 25 Mbps

About 85 percent of Internet customers in the Northeast Division subscribe to one of these tiers and will have their download speeds upgraded, whether they purchase Xfinity Internet on a stand-alone basis or as part of a package.

Last year, Comcast boosted download speeds for Blast!, Performance Pro, Performance and Performance Starter customers, and today's speed increases are just the latest in a series of moves by Comcast to support growing consumer demand for super-fast, high-capacity Internet connections that can handle not only the explosion of connected devices that are powering the smart home, but also offer a single platform to manage and protect them.

"Modern homes require fast Internet, wall-to-wall Wi-Fi, and a way to manage the connectivity needs of the entire household," said Kevin Casey, President of Comcast's Northeast Division. "Faster speeds, combined with Xfinity xFi's advanced Wi-Fi coverage and con-



More than 75 percent of Comcast's residential Internet customers to benefit from speeds of 200 Mbps or higher from Maine to Virginia.

Photo Credit/ClipArt.com

trols, give our Internet customers an unmatched experience along with the tools to manage an expanding number of connected devices, apps and constantly-evolving technologies."

Xfinity xFi is Comcast's differentiated Internet experience, giving customers more speed, the best in-home Wi-Fi coverage, and easy-to-use controls over their home Wi-Fi networks. With xFi, customers also can manage their children's screen time and pause Internet access, as well as protect all their IoT and home automation devices from unwelcome security threats. XFi customers receive powerful all-in-one modems and Wi-Fi routers, that, when combined with xFi pods, can extend Wi-Fi coverage to hard-to-reach rooms of virtually any home. Additionally, xFi customers receive complimentary access to the nation's largest network of Wi-Fi hotspots and five lines of Xfinity Mobile service to extend their Internet experience outside of the home.

Over the next several weeks, customers who lease a gateway will automatically receive the new speeds. Other customers who purchased their own modems should check online to see if they need a new device that is capable of handling these faster speeds.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Four ways to protect yourself from deadly superbugs

By Greg Frank, Ph.D.

Every year, drug-resistant bacteria and fungi known as "superbugs" infect two million Americans and kills up to 162,000 of those patients. Sadly, that toll could soon skyrocket. Microorganisms like bacteria and fungi build resistance to medical treatments over time. Each time someone uses an antimicrobial— think prescription antibiotics or antibacterial soaps— those microorganisms have a chance to evolve into a drug-resistant superbug.

Superbugs are evolving faster than we're creating new treatments. It's up to everyday Americans to prevent this looming public health crisis. Here are four easy steps to fight the spread of these deadly infections:

1. Avoid antibacterial products— Soap and body wash that contain "antibacterial" ingredients sound healthy. But they aren't.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that antibacterial soaps are no better at preventing illness than regular soap and water. These added ingredients just turn people's bodies into breeding grounds for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.

Antibacterial cleaning products, meanwhile, leave behind chemicals designed to wipe out bacteria. However, these chemicals aren't 100 percent effective. The surviving bacteria may evolve to become resistant to antimicrobials— posing a threat to humans' safety.

2. Take antibiotics appropriately— When prescribed antibiotics, patients should always complete the full course of treatment, even if they feel better halfway through. Stopping treatment early allows some bacteria to live on and evolve.

Patients should also only take antibiotics when absolutely necessary. Many often clamor for antibiotics as soon as they catch colds, even though most colds along with the flu, bronchitis, and the stomach flu, are caused by viruses, which antibiotics can't treat. Thirty percent of antibiotics prescribed in the United States are unnecessary, according to a study in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*. Only one in 10 sore-throat patients actually needs antibiotics, but six in 10 receive them.

By overusing antibiotics or not taking them as directed, Americans inadvertently accelerate the spread of superbugs. Patients can exercise caution and only use antibiotics as a last resort. For instance, folks should confirm they actually have strep throat before taking amoxicillin. Otherwise, they may increase their risk of resistant infections down the line.

3. Get vaccinated— It's crucial that people stay up-to-date on their shots. A single vaccine prevents the same infections as a whole regimen of antibiotics.

Consider the bacteria responsible for many ear and sinus infections, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. If every child in the world was vaccinated for that bacteria, the World Health Organization estimates it would prevent 11 million days of antibiotic use every year.

4. Tell Congress to support the DISARM Act— In June, Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced the Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistance, or DISARM, Act. The bipartisan bill would incentivize doctors and hospitals to use newer antibiotics, instead of older less effective ones. The proposal would also require hospitals to start stewardship programs to monitor how and when they administer antibiotics. Such programs have proven effective at reducing the amount of unnecessary prescriptions that doctors write.

The DISARM Act is an essential first step in preventing the misuse of antibiotics. Americans can call or write their senators to advocate for the bill. By taking small steps to prevent antibiotic resistance, everyone can help save millions of lives from the scourge of superbugs.

Greg Frank, Ph.D., is the director of infectious disease policy at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization.



Community Affairs

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Leadership meets with Maryland's faith leaders to discuss 2019 enrollment period

Baltimore— Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) leadership met with Maryland's faith community leaders at Coppin State to discuss the 2019 open enrollment period starting November 1, 2019.

MHBE and the Ministers' Conference of Baltimore hosted the roundtable discussion around the Faith community's health care needs to explore strategies and gain insight to address community concerns.

More than 372,785 individuals still remain uninsured in Maryland. Open enrollment begins November 1 and runs



until December 15, and Marylanders can shop for plans beginning in early October.

For the second year in a row, most insurance plans offered on Maryland Health Connection, the state's health insurance marketplace, will offer lower monthly rates for consumers. New plans this year, Value Plans, feature lower deductibles and increased access to primary care, mental health care and generic drugs before deductibles apply.

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Black pilot flying with a mission of diversity

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor
@StacyBrownMedia

Walking on to an airplane and seeing a black pilot is as rare as a blood moon sighting.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that of the approximately 690,000 active certificated pilots in the U.S., less than three percent are African American.

While a blood moon occurs about every two years, Jerome Stanislaus often takes the pilot's seat in the cockpit of a private aircraft.

He pilots friends, family members, and others from New York to Philadelphia. Sometimes, he flies further south to Virginia and, there are occasions where he traverses the skies above the Big Apple on a traffic-beating short flight to Long Island.

"Right now, I'm in San Antonio going through Flight Engineer School in the Airforce for the C5 Galaxy," Stanislaus said.

The C5 Galaxy is a large military transport aircraft.

"It's a huge cargo plane, and I would like to continue training to make it [as a commercial airline pilot] when I am done with this school," Stanislaus said.

Despite the limited amount of African Americans in the cockpit, Stanislaus said now is the time for people of color to join the pilot ranks.

"There is about to be a mass exodus of commercial pilots, and their spots will

need to be filled," he said. "African Americans should know that this is possible for them."

2015, Stanislaus took his first solo flight on a Piper Warrior II single-engine plane.

While he doesn't own a plane yet, Stanislaus said that is a dream that will one day become a reality.

It also makes sense because of the number of free flights he's doled out to family and friends. He said he's focused on saving money and he's started a Go Fund Me to help expedite the process.

"The demand for what I offer is growing and renting no longer makes the most sense. In the long run, buying a plane is the most cost-effective course of action, so that is where I am focusing my money," he said.

Stanislaus hopes to raise \$50,000, and

officials at GoFundMe have reached into their pockets, too.

"As part of our Gives Back program, we're grateful for the chance to donate to campaigns that have touched us," GoFundMe officials wrote on Stanislaus' page. They donated \$750 toward his goal.

Flying isn't the only sky-high activity Stanislaus enjoys. He is also a licensed skydiver.

"In April 2014, I went on my first skydive for my [ex] girlfriend's birthday," Stanislaus said. "I was really calm and excited until I got into the plane and it started to leave the ground. During the climb, I had this internal fear that intensified tremendously, but I was calm externally."

When the door opened, Stanislaus said he could no longer "keep it together."

"I began to freak out. All of my dignity, pride, and masculinity went out the door," Stanislaus said. "It was hands down, the scariest moment of my life."

He later found the courage to complete the jump and then began searching drop zones to other jumps.

"I saw myself living myself to the fullest and inspiring others to do the same. Most importantly, I saw myself finding the courage to face the biggest fear in my life and enjoying the fuck out of it," he said. "My ultimate goal in life is to inspire others."

To contribute to Stanislaus' GoFundMe, go to:
www.gofundme.com/f/nowthisfuture-tuskegeebloodline?utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=p-email+4803-donations-alert-v5

“Earlier this year, Stanislaus began donating his free time to a nonprofit that helps racially diverse children and young adults explore their interest in flying.”

The Annapolis Times

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Maryland Congressman Elijah Eugene Cummings Dies at 68

By Stacy M. Brown
@StacyBrownMedia

Representative Elijah E. Cummings, (D-MD 7th District), a political giant, died early Thursday morning at the age of 68.

Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, the congressman's wife, said Cummings died at 2:45 a.m. at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Mrs. Cummings said her husband's death resulted from complications concerning longstanding health challenges.

Over the past couple of years, Cummings had been in and out of the hospital.

"Dr. Elijah Saunders and I took care of Congressman Cummings for [years] for his blood pressure," said Cummings' longtime nurse, Barbara "B.J." Shaneman.

"He always called me the "boss" because he told his team I was a short woman with a big voice. I would fuss at him about watching his blood pressure. His health was my concern. I screamed when I heard the news. I said, 'this can't happen.' I said they [Cummings and Saunders, who died in 2015] were the last of the old guard," stated Shaneman.

Recently, and in increasingly rare sightings of the congressman, Cummings was seen using a walker.

He underwent an undisclosed medical procedure, and his office expected that he would only miss about one week of work.

"He was an honorable man who proudly served his district and the nation with dignity, integrity, compassion, and humility," Mrs. Cummings said.

The congressman was known as a passionate advocate for his beloved Baltimore. Earlier this year, he defended Baltimore after President Donald Trump disparaged the city – particularly parts of Cummings' district.

Trump labeled areas of the city a "rodent-infested mess where no human being would want to live." Cummings immediately responded.

"Those in the highest levels of government must stop making hateful, incendiary comments that only serve to divide and distract the nation from its real problems, including mass shootings and white supremacy," Cummings said



Congressman Elijah E. Cummings presents Publisher Joy Bramble with a Congressional Achievement Award at The Baltimore Times 30th anniversary celebration held at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum in 2016.

File Photo: Gar Roberts.

"Those in the highest levels of the government must stop invoking fear, using racist language and encouraging reprehensible behavior," Cummings added.

The congressman told a local report that he and Trump had just one face-to-face conversation since the president took office in 2016.

"I said, 'Mr. President, you're now 70-something, I'm 60-something. Very soon, you and I will be dancing with the angels. The thing that you and I need to do is figure out what we can do – what present can we bring to generations unborn?'"

Cummings was born and raised in Baltimore. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Howard University, serving as Student Government President and graduating Phi Beta Kappa.

Later he graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law.

The recipient of 13 honorary doctoral degrees, Cummings dedicated his life of service to uplifting and empowering the people he is sworn to represent, according to his biography.

He began his career in public service in the Maryland House of Delegates, where he served for 14 years.

Cummings became the first African American in Maryland history to ascend to the position of Speaker Pro Tem.

Since 1996, Congressman Cummings has represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings often said that children "are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see."

He was committed to ensuring that the next generation has access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water, and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility.

His last act in Congress came on Oct. 8, when he joined three others from a bipartisan group to introduce legislation called "The Family Asthma Act."

The bill seeks to expand federal, state, and local efforts to improve care for individuals with asthma.

"He was a champion of the people, a soldier and a warrior for his city, the state, and the nation," said Baltimore Times Publisher Joy Bramble. "Elijah Cummings made Baltimore and all of those who came across better."

"Long live the freedom-fighting spirit of Brother Leader Congressman Elijah Cummings," National Newspaper Publishers Association President, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., said. "On behalf of the Black Press of America, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Cummings and the Cummings family."



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Thursdays, Oct. 17, 24, & 31; 10:30 a.m.
- **Historically Speaking: The Bold World by Jodie Patterson**
Wednesday, Oct. 23; 7:00 p.m.
- **Finding Adventure in DC as a Family**
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National Museum of African American History and Culture
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Getting CB Marcus Peters good for Ravens now and future

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens sent linebacker Kenny Young and a 2020 fifth-round pick to the Los Angeles Rams in exchange for cornerback Marcus Peters in a surprise move on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. The fact that Peters was available via trade raised some eyebrows but the picture came together later in the day when the Rams acquired Jalen Ramsey from the Jacksonville Jaguars. Now Peters will suit up for the Ravens and bring an added edge to the defense.

Baltimore is stocked at cornerback with Peters joining a group that already includes Marlon Humphries, Brandon Carr, Cyrus Jones, Maurice Canady, Justin Bethel and Anthony Averett. Veteran Jimmy Smith should be able to return from a knee injury he suffered in the season opener. Smith's return will create a crowded group.

Humphries, Peters, Carr and Smith are all starting caliber cornerbacks that have played the CB1 role in the past. Peters gives Baltimore a young defensive player with the swagger of last Ravens defenses. He is not afraid to trash talk on the field and has the ability to back it up.

The Ravens defense is coming off a solid outing against the lowly Bengals but struggled in their two previous games. Adding Peters was a good move and comes at a low cost. He remains one of the better cornerbacks in the league and is playing in his fifth season. He already has two interceptions this season.

The bigger question is whether or not the Ravens will sign Peters to a contract extension. He will likely command a large salary. Carr's contract expires after the



The Baltimore Ravens obtained cornerback Marcus Peters in a surprise move from the Los Angeles Rams on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. He makes his debut with the team on Sunday, October 20, 2019 against the Seattle Seahawks.

Photo Credit: USA Today Sports Images

2020 season but Baltimore can save \$6 million in cap space if they release him.

Smith's contract will expire after this season. Given that Humphries still has two years remaining on his deal, it's likely that he and Peters will form the Ravens top cornerback duo in the future.

Through four seasons and six games, Peters has 24 career interceptions. He is capable of playing man or zone defense but is best suited in a zone scheme. His ball skills and aggressive approach to coverage gives him a chance against most receivers, even those bigger than him. Add in his willingness to come up and tackle running backs and you have the makings of a top corner.

Peters makes his Ravens debut on Sunday, October 20, 2019, against the Seattle Seahawks. It will be a homecoming of sorts since he played college football nearby at the University of Washington.

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Black superheroes take over the Reginald F. Lewis Museum!

By Cheyanne Gordon
Morgan State University SCOM student

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture located in the heart of Baltimore is giving visitors a different way to take in the black experience through a new exhibit called: EMPOWERED! Black Action Figures, Superheroes & Collectibles

Two-dozen black action figures await those who want to see familiar superheroes like Lt. Uhura from “Star Trek.” Not so familiar figures are there too, like the crime-fighting Omega Man. The action figures date from the 1970s to the early 2000s.

We’ve seen it first hand with kids that come in here just excited to see black and brown faces looking back at them as heroes and toys, so that’s why we did this exhibition,” said Jenn Biddle, marketing and communications manager of the museum.

Like the reaction to the release of the Marvel movie “Black Panther,” the 2018 runaway hit comic book adoption starring a predominantly African American cast, museum staffers said they are getting the same reaction from exhibit visitors taking in EMPOWERED!

“When diverse people are shown in the role of superhero, it is actually a commentary of where we are as a nation. The rise of the black action figures shows that they would actually sell. There was a market there. People actually wanted to see a black action figure, a black hero,” said Biddle.

The first black action figures date back to the mid 1960s with the debut of the first black G.I. Joe. Historians say after that, more and more black action figures became available as toys.

Robert Hall, who was an associate director of the Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum, is the collector who made the exhibit available for the world to see. Hall originally wanted to showcase his collection at The Smithsonian, but discovered the Lewis Museum. He told Lewis officials hosting the action figures the museum would be the best fit for the collection.

Jackie Copeland, museum executive



EMPOWERED! Black Action Figures, Superheroes & Collectibles exhibit opened in August and runs until February 23, 2020.
Photos: Cheyanne Gordon

director, said the exhibit marries Hall’s enthusiasm about his collection and the importance of representation.

“This is a fun exhibition, and it’s very relatable. It’s also a teachable moment for our audiences to understand the complex nature of black superheroes and collectibles,” said Copeland.

Fans taking in the exhibit agreed that it is something worth experiencing.

“My favorite part was seeing all the figurines and all the representation in black culture because I wasn’t really aware how much there actually was. So I think that in a time where black superheroes seemed a bit taboo, I didn’t realize how much that was pushed,” said Vincent Fasano of Long Island. “I think it definitely had a cultural impact, and I am glad that this exhibit is here to commemorate that.”

“I am a huge superhero fan and it was very interesting to get to see how much African American culture has shaped



that and how superhero culture has been influential in improving the roles of African Americans in the media,” said Ashna Pathan, a Baltimore area college student.

EMPOWERED! opened in August and runs until February 23, 2020.

Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins presents celebrated Broadway production *The Wiz*

Baltimore— Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins (UV) proudly presents the highly acclaimed, Broadway classic *The Wiz*. The performances will take place Friday, October 25, 2019 (7 p.m.); Saturday, October 26, 2019 (2 p.m. & 7 p.m.); and Sunday, October 27, 2019 (5 p.m.) in Turner Auditorium, located in the Johns Hopkins Turner Building, 720 Rutland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21205.

The gospel stage play is being directed by Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch (Theatrical), and Howard “Buddy” Lakins (Musical). Aaron Lewis is the Choreographer. LaKeisha McClendon is the Executive Producer.

The Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins presentation will feature a wide cadre of talented performers. Power vocalist Malvilyn Simpson Statham of the legendary Clara Ward Singers will be performing in the production as “Glenda the Good Witch”. National gospel recording artist Randy “Fruity” Roberts (“Watch Me Work”) of The Choir Boyz will portray “The Wiz.”

The production also touts a phenomenal cast of youth, including Baltimore School for the Arts student Jade Underwood, who will portray “Dorothy,” and John Paige who will be performing as one “The Crows.” Paige is a member of the nationally recognized Cardinal Shehan School Choir from Baltimore City.

The *Wiz* tells the story of “Dorothy,” a restless Kansas farm girl who is eager to see more of the world. She is transported by a tornado to a magical world of Munchkins, witches, and a yellow brick road. On her way to the Emerald City to meet the Wizard of Oz, who she believes can help her get back home to Kansas, she encounters the “Scarecrow,” the “Tin Man,” and the “Cowardly Lion”— friends who help her battle the “Wicked Witch of the West” and eventually learn



(Left) Baltimore School for the Arts student Jade Underwood will portray “Dorothy.” (Right) National gospel recording artist Randy “Fruity” Roberts of The Choir Boyz will portray “The Wiz” in the Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins presentation.

Courtesy Photos

that there really is “no place like home.”

The *Wiz*, Charlie Smalls’ musical adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, opened at the Majestic Theatre on January 5, 1975. The show ran 1,672 performances and won the Tony Award for “Best Musical.” The *Wiz* retells L. Frank Baum’s classic “*The Wizard of Oz*” in the context of African American culture. The cast of the original Broadway production featured Tiger Haynes, Ted Ross, Hinton Battle, Stephanie Mills, Clarice Taylor, Mabel King, Andre De Shields, Tasha Thomas, and DeeDee Bridgewater.

“We are ecstatic about bringing *The Wiz* back to Turner Auditorium once again,” said Dr. Gregory Branch, who also serves as Executive Director of UV. “We performed *The Wiz* nearly twenty

years ago, and are excited about its return engagement.

“We are asking everyone to come out and see this beloved Broadway classic, which perfectly aligns with UV’s mission of spreading hope, health, and healing through harmony at Hopkins. Through this presentation, people can expect to laugh, cry, and most of all, to be uplifted as Hopkins turns into the Hippodrome.”

Founded in 1993, UV is a gospel choir that consists of a diverse group of individuals with different personalities, lifestyles, and backgrounds working together to bridge the gap between the medical institution and the historic East Baltimore community.

In addition to *The Wiz*, Dr. Branch has

directed numerous productions including Ursula V. Battle’s *DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please!*, *The Teachers’ Lounge*, *My Big Phat Ghetto FABULE\$\$ Wedding*, *Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance and For Better or Worse*. He has also directed *Steel Magnolias*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Stella Adams’ Heavy Is The Rain*. Dr. Branch also serves as Director of Health and Human Services for Baltimore County.

The *Wiz* is being presented by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, a Concord Theatricals Company. Tickets are \$25, and are available for sale online at www.unifiedvoices.com.

For more information, call Unified Voices at 410-955-8888 or visit: www.unifiedvoices.com.



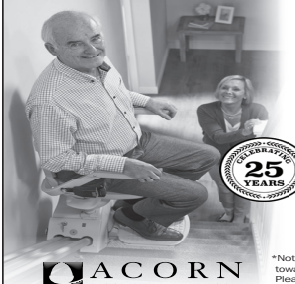
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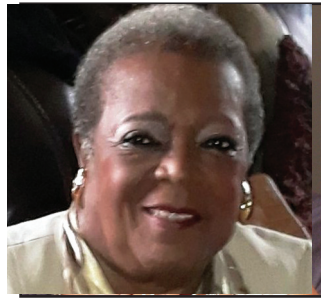
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Rambling Rose

**7th True Blue Jazz Festival
Returns to Rehoboth Beach**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, how are you? Oh, I am doing fine, thank you for asking.

This may be the month of October the beginning of fall, but my calendar is full as if it were the middle of summer. So grab a pen and take notes.

First, I want to tell you about the True Blue Jazz Festival while we are packing. Yes, my “Boo Boo” and I are going. I had the opportunity to book one of my groups at this festival—Greg Hatza and his band. Believe it or not, this will be my first opportunity to go to this festival. Let me give you some background of this festival, not to be confused with the Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival, which will also be on at the same time but not associated with each other. Okay, the True Blue Jazz is an independent Jazz Festival. They are a recognized 501(c)3, conceived and produced by Eddie Sherman and Peggy Raley who are focused on “Straight Ahead” or “Mainstream” Jazz, largely featuring songs of great American Standards songbook from 1900 to present day, from the birth of the Blues and Dixieland Jazz to the popular tunes that become the soundtrack of American.

The 7th Annual True Blue Jazz Festival returns to downtown Rehoboth Beach Delaware from October 16 to October 20, 2019. True Blue Jazz delivers the real deal in the most intimate setting of jazz show venues in the area, including: the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel on Olive Avenue Downtown Rehoboth Beach and the Rehoboth Beach Firehouse as their primary venues.

The line-up is as follows: True Blue Youth Jazz appreciation night, The Fred Hughes Trio with guest artist, saxophonist & clarinetists, Peter & Will Anderson, Kat Edmonson, Baltimore’s Own Greg Hatza ORGANization and a second show with Hammond B-3 Quartet,

The Greg Hatza ORGANization, Maynard Ferguson Tribute Orchestra Columbia Jazz Band; the Bill Charlap Trio, Cody Leavel & Gerald Chavis, Eddie Sherman Show featuring vocalist, Peggy Raley with guest Artists and so much more.

Here in town, join us for an afternoon of incredible music by composer, musician, and educator Dr. John Lamkin in one of Baltimore’s most significant historic buildings, the Carroll Mansion located at 800 E. Lombard Street on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at 2 p.m. Dr. Lamkin received the “Jazz Heroes Award” from the Jazz Journalist Association for having a significant impact on jazz music in the Baltimore community. Currently he is a member of the National Association for Music Educators and the international Trumpet Guild. Congrats my friend.

Want to have some fun, feel like dancing, then “The Crew” invites you to their Friday Nite Oldies Dance Party” on Friday, October 18, 2019 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Caton Castle Lounge every third Friday of the month this group packs the house at 20 S. Caton Avenue off Hilton Street.

Oh! You don’t want to miss Gary Thomas, Baltimore’s renowned saxophonist with his trio and guest pianist Miki Hayama on Saturday, October 19 for two shows, 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at the An Die Musik Live!, 409 N. Charles Street. Those of you who love jazz this should be a real treat. Welcome home Gary.

I am so sorry, I have so much more to tell you, but I am truly out of space, but I do want to send my condolences to the family of Dr. Reppard Stone who passed away last week.

I really got to go now. Remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I’M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Peggy Raley and Eddie Sherman, renowned musicians, producer, and founder of the True Blue Jazz Festival in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, is showcasing many gifted local and national artists at the festival from October 16 - 20, 2019.



Carlos Hutchins, the man of the hour, the founder of CH Productions will be celebrating the 24th anniversary of his production with tributes to some of the best bands in Baltimore and a special tribute to Baltimore community leaders on Friday, October 18th starting at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post #22, 125 York Road in Towson, Maryland. For information, call 443-963-5711.



“Jazz in Cool Places” featuring John Lamkin at the Carroll Mansion October 19th 2-4 p.m. 800 E. Lombard Street with Mike Harriston on sax, Bob Butta on piano, Mike Graham on bass and Jesse Moody on drums.

Southwest Partnership plans to turn home of free black man into museum

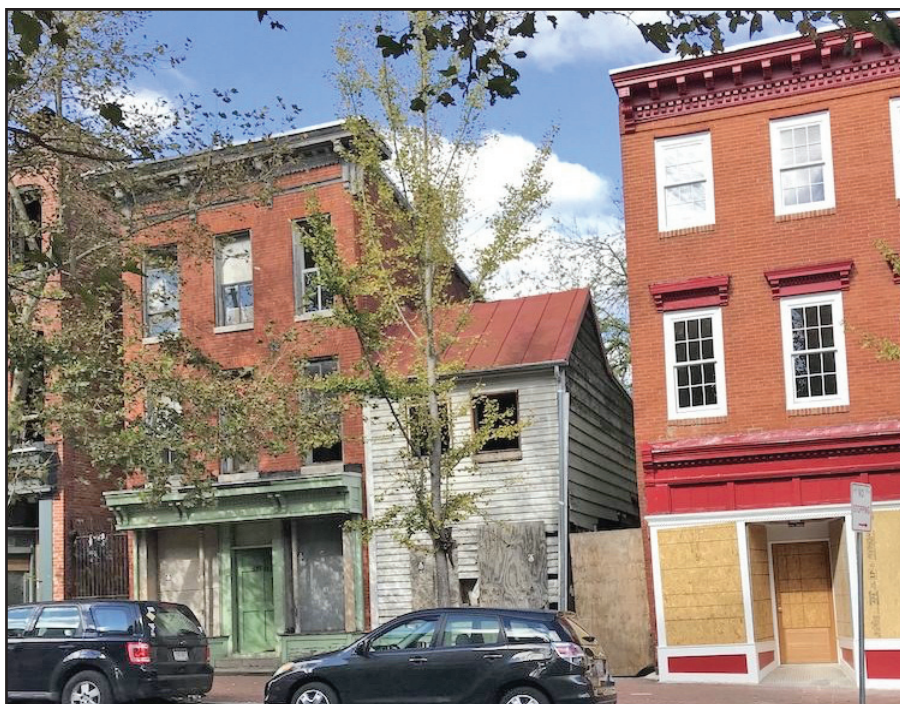
By Stacy M. Brown

The Southwest Partnership continues to step up its work to build what officials call an awesome community in Southwest Baltimore.

Executive Director Michael Seipp says among the more intriguing projects is the home that sits at 1504 West Baltimore Street. It is believed that the home dates back to the 1820s, which makes it among the oldest in the district. What's more, it may be the only frame house in the area; and was once owned by Malachi Mills, a free African American carpenter.

"We're turning it into a museum," Seipp said of the historic landmark. "We have received grant money to stabilize it, and then we'll have a fundraiser to help us turn it back to what it originally looked like."

According to the Baltimore City website, the vast majority of existing residential structures in the Union Square district date to the period 1845 to 1880, with institutional and commercial buildings continuing to be added in the late 19th and into the 20th Century. The period of significance of 1820 to 1930 encompasses the range and location of housing for residents of a variety of socioeconomic circumstances and the institutions and businesses that served them.



It is believed that the Malachi Mills House, which sits at 1504 West Baltimore Street in Southwest Baltimore dates back to the 1820s. The Southwest Partnership plans to restore it and turn it into a museum.

Courtesy Photo/Courtesy Southwest Partnership

In addition, the period captures the eras of Baltimore's growth as it expanded from its original core around the Inner Harbor into formerly open spaces, transforming them into dense urban neighborhoods adjacent to burgeoning industries. The Mills house itself is rich

with history.

"The Malachi Mills House is a unique Baltimore historic site both for its architectural features and for its social history. It's one of the few—if not the last—wood-frame houses in West Baltimore; and one of the oldest buildings

along W. Baltimore Street which historically has been a major commercial corridor," Elizabeth Weber of the Southwest Partnership told ExploreBaltimore.org.

"The survival of the Malachi Mills House represents continuity through change along the corridor—a fixed point in an evolving neighborhood," Weber said. "The Malachi Mills House offers insight into under-represented aspects of Baltimore's history—the lives of craftspeople of color and their families in the early nineteenth century—as well as an opportunity to explore the history of W. Baltimore Street and the surrounding neighborhoods."

Seipp says The Southwest Partnership is diligently working to secure more details about Mills. He further says the project should yield some of the more exciting finds in recent memory.

"We are researching Mr. Mills more extensively," Seipp said. "We also have a design team working to recreate how the house would have been originally laid out, and we hope to have a clean title in the next couple of months. At that point, we will be able to move full steam ahead."

"The building definitely sticks out. We were very excited when we had the opportunity to save this piece of Baltimore history. As one of the largest populations of free blacks in the country, the contribution of these citizens is rarely told."

MD Board of Elections, MSDE extend student art competition deadline

Baltimore— The Maryland State Board of Elections, in partnership with the Fine Arts Office of the Maryland State Department of Education, have extended the deadline for submissions in a statewide "I VOTED" Sticker State Elections Student Art Competition.

The competition is accepting entries until October 25, 2019, and is open to all public school students, from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

The student who wins this contest will make history, with their original artwork printed on voting stickers for distribution at voter polling locations across the state

during the 2020 elections.

The winning artist will receive a \$100 gift card for new arts supplies. Their art teacher will receive \$500 to purchase art supplies or equipment for their designated school or community art program.

For more information, including rules of the competition, visit <https://www.msdefinearts.org/state-election-sticker-art-competition>.

The design must contain the theme of the State of Maryland, voting, or elections in the State of Maryland or the United States. The design should not contain any text, and submitted designs with text will be disqualified. The dimensions of the design should fit on a circular sticker two inches in diameter. Selected artwork will fit the circle inside of the "I VOTED" circular border.

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Classical meets Jazz in surprising ways in Annapolis

Annapolis— On Sunday, November 3, 2019, The Clazzical Project (TCP) comes to Annapolis with “Clazzical Plus,” previewing selections from their upcoming CD of the same name at 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis (UUCA) located at 333 Dubois Road.

Part of the Arts in the Woods music series, The Clazzical Project is comprised of accomplished musicians who play classical music in jazz arrangements and offer humorous anecdotes along the way. Featured are Don Stapleton (flute), Peter Fields (guitar), Fred Lieder (cello), and guest oboist Dr. Mark Runkles.

The program will feature innovative jazz interpretations of selections by Mozart, Bach, Beethoven and Chopin, performed in the group’s style they call “outside the ‘Bachs.’” Classical music crosses over to jazz to appeal to music lovers of all kinds. Jeffrey Silberschlag, Music Director of Chesapeake Orchestra and Italy’s Alba Music Festival, refers to their “ingenious and beautiful juxtaposition of jazz treatments against iconic classical melodies.”

The performance will take you on a journey of mind-bending “What ifs,” combining famous classical works with improvisational jazz. Through stories both fictional and funny, commentaries on each piece include an almost believable fantasy allowing you to imagine the

possibility of unusual musical classical composer and jazz artist meet-ups surprising the listener again and again.

The Clazzical Project trio combines well-known musicians who discovered their mutual love of improvisation, storytelling, and their “outside the box” music tastes. Don Stapleton, group leader as well as performer on flute and sax, is director of the St. Mary’s College Jazz Bands and performs with his group, The Don Stapleton Quartet. He has performed with Ray Charles, Dexter Gordon, Wayne Newton, Nancy Wilson, and Martha Reeves, and has performed at the National Theater, Folger Theater, and on soundtracks for recent television series. Peter Fields (guitar) has mastered diverse musical styles and unique guitar techniques with performances in the U.S. and Europe. His repertoire includes classical guitar, jazz, and Latin music. He has composed scores for films, compositions for ballet and modern dance, and award-winning CDs. Fred Lieder (cello) has been a fixture on the Washington area music scene playing classical, jazz, blues, rock, and celtic. He has arranged rock tunes for solo cello, including works by the Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Jimi Hendrix, and Carlos Santana. Lieder released his solo instrumental tunes on “Cello Blues” and his first book *My Cello Has the Blues*.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; youth 16 and under, free. For more information,



The Clazzical Project brings you the “clazizies” (classical/jazz fusion) on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 3 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis located at 333 Dubois Road. Tickets are \$15 at the door; youth 16 and under, free. For more information, visit www.uuannapolis.org or call 410-266-8044.

visit www.uuannapolis.org or call 410-266-8044.

The November 3 program concludes the sixth season of Arts in the Woods concerts at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis (UUCA).

The 2020 season will begin on Sunday,

January 5, 2020 at 3 p.m. with a solo performance by classical pianist Brian Ganz, who serves as artistic director and periodic performer for the series. For future programming, visit: www.uuannapolis.org.

Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture Needs Volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as Docents, for Special Events, and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with kid’s activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college, and high school students. Service learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Contact Joy Hall at 443-263-1800 or email: hall@lewismuseum.org; or visit the website: www.lewismuseum.org.

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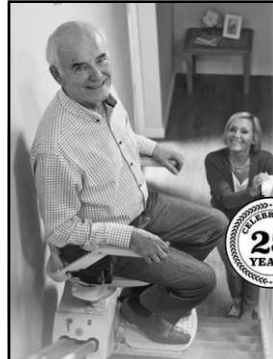


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