

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 34 No. 35

June 26 - July 2, 2020

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Art, activism, conversations merge with police issues in Annapolis



Susan Campbell Park located in downtown Annapolis, is the current home of a new mural which pays homage to George Floyd and others who lost their lives to police killings. The mural entitled, "Say Their Name," was painted live by Jeff Huntington; Deonte Ward; and Comacell Brown, Jr. Additionally, Douglas Day built the wall structure. Jeff Huntington served as the project's lead artist. The project was painted live on June 7, 2020, as a part of a vigil, which drew hundreds of people. (See article on page 8). Photo Credit: Andrea Blackstone

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. awards historic \$100,000 Founders' Centennial Scholarship

Zeta celebrates 100 years with largest single recipient scholarship awarded by a historically black Greek-lettered sorority or fraternity

Washington, D.C.— Cayla Withers, a recent graduate of A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, N.C., was awarded Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated's Triumphant Founder Arizona Cleaver Stemons Centennial Scholarship in the amount of \$100,000 on June 19, 2020.

"While we received over 2,000 applications from very high-achieving graduating seniors, Cayla's story was special. We were inspired by her strength, bravery and commitment to excellence, even when faced with adversity. That is what Zeta stands for, and what we all should aspire to be," said Valerie Hollingsworth Baker, Zeta's International Centennial President.

Withers plans to pursue a degree in aerospace engineering at the University of Virginia in the fall. She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average, volunteered as a tutor and mentor, and participated in extra-curricular activities like the North Carolina Governor's Page program and National Beta Club, while managing a chronic illness that requires her to travel three hours for monthly treatments.

Emboldened to become a NASA engineer after watching the movie *Hidden Figures*, Withers' career goals are to research environmental-friendly rockets and put the first human on Mars. Her legacy as the founder of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. chapter at her school will give future black students the resources to pursue STEM careers.

"I am my ancestor's wildest dreams... this scholarship will allow me to accomplish my goals, and one day

"All the traditional STEM fields, the science, technology, engineering, and math fields, are stoked when you dream big in an agency such as NASA." —Neil deGrasse Tyson



Cayla Withers who graduated from A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, N.C. was awarded Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated's Triumphant Founder Arizona Cleaver Stemons Centennial Scholarship in the amount of \$100,000 on June 19, 2020.

Courtesy Photo/Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

inspire kids who look like me, from communities like mine," Withers wrote in her application.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, founded in 1920 on the campus of Howard University, is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Zeta has initiated a diverse membership of more than 125,000 college-educated women with over 925 chapters in North America, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East. Through scholarships funded by its chapters, Zeta has given more than \$3.5 million in the past five years to help students achieve their college dreams. The Founders' Centennial Scholarship will be awarded annually for five consecutive years in honor of the sorority's five founding members. The first scholarship awarded was named after Zeta founder and first president, Arizona Cleaver Stemons.

For more information about Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. visit: www.zphib1920.org.

Comcast extends free public WiFi access to everyone for remainder of 2020

Philadelphia—As cities and towns across the country begin to open up, Comcast is continuing its efforts to help people connect to the Internet during the COVID-19 crisis. The company announced it will extend free access to its 1.5 million public Xfinity WiFi hotspots to anyone who needs them, including non-customers, through the end of 2020.

Recently, Comcast announced that it has extended an offer for 60 days of free home Internet access for new eligible Internet Essentials customers, to help provide additional support to students and families in need through the end of the year. Comcast will also continue to waive the requirement that those customers not have a past due balance with Comcast to qualify for the free offer.

"We saw a huge jump in usage after we opened up our public hotspots, and we're excited to keep them open through the end of the year as the nation begins taking steps to reopen," said Dana Strong, president of Xfinity Consumer Services. "We're pleased to see so many families and individuals take advantage of our 60 days of free home Internet through Internet Essentials, and the free access to public Xfinity WiFi hotspots to get online during this time



when connectivity is so important."

Since taking the unprecedented step of making all of these hotspots available for free, hundreds of thousands of non-Xfinity customers have taken advantage, and overall usage by consumers of the free public WiFi hotspots has skyrocketed. Comcast's public WiFi network is the largest of its kind in the nation, and three times larger than that of any other provider. It's available in outdoor and business locations, all of which can be found online at www.xfinity.com/wifi.

Comcast has a history of making its public hotspots available for free in individual markets to help communities stay connected after local emergencies like hurricanes in the South, wildfires in California, and the recent tornadoes in Nashville.

For more information about Comcast's COVID-19 response, visit: <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

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The Baltimore Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2513 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233. Postmaster send address changes to:

The Baltimore Times
2513 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

New dean appointed to lead Morgan State University's Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. School of Engineering

Baltimore— Morgan State University (MSU) President Dr. David K. Wilson announced the appointment of Oscar Barton, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., as the University's new dean of the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., School of Engineering. The announcement comes following a nearly five-month long national search led by a University selection committee in collaboration with an executive search firm.

In his new capacity as dean, Dr. Barton will implement a vision for innovative strategic growth; provide leadership through a shared governance process of dynamic faculty, staff and students; manage multiple research centers and facilities; administer the School's budget; develop curricula and advance academic and research programs that prepare students for careers in the industries of the future.

Dr. Barton will report to Morgan's provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, Lesia L. Crumpton-Young, Ph.D. He replaces Craig Scott, Ph.D., who served as the School of Engineering's interim dean. His appointment is effective August 17, 2020.



Oscar Barton, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Courtesy Photo/MSU

"After conducting a thorough nationwide search, Provost Crumpton-Young, and I, are pleased to announce that Dr. Oscar Barton Jr., has accepted our offer

to join the Morgan Family," said President Wilson. "To lead the University's highly touted School of Engineering into the future, we wanted an innovative administrator, an accomplished researcher/scholar and a dedicated educator who understands the challenges of and opportunities for a public urban research university, and with Dr. Barton, we've checked all of the boxes. His wealth of knowledge and experience will be a welcomed addition to our campus."

Dr. Barton currently serves as professor and founding chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at George Mason University's Volgenau School of Engineering. He joined the faculty at Mason in fall 2014, after completing a 22-year career at the U.S. Naval Academy. His research focuses on the development of approximate closed form solutions for linear self-adjoint systems, those that govern the responses of composite structures, and the analysis of dynamic systems. More recently, he investigated the dynamic response of flexible composite structures subject to

periodic and random excitation. He has mentored numerous midshipmen through independent research projects and has directed two Trident Scholars, the Naval Academy's flagship research program. He has published more than 60 journal and conference articles on these topics. Barton is also a fellow of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) and is actively involved in academic innovations and program assessment.

Morgan State University is a national treasure, and it humbles me that I have been entrusted to lead a faculty of immense expertise, a staff committed to purpose and a student-body of unbridled potential," said Dr. Barton. "Morgan's leadership under President Wilson and Provost Crumpton-Young stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation, essential elements critical to a school's success and that I will champion as dean of the School of Engineering. I am excited to join the Morgan State family and its community of leaders and change agents."



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Guest Editorials/Letters

Brandon Scott's Big Inheritance

By Regi Taylor

Historically, the winner of Baltimore City's Democratic mayoral primary has gone on to win City Hall in the general election. While congratulations are in order for Brandon Scott's recent electoral achievement, we might want to hold off on uncorking the champagne bottles until New Year's Eve.

Mr. Scott is inheriting perhaps the worst circumstances facing the city since Sheila Dixon faced down the Great Recession during her term in 2009 when the unemployment rate topped out at 10.6 percent.

By contrast, Baltimore City's recent unemployment rate jumped 250 percent in the 30 days between March and April of 2020 from 4.9 percent to 11.9 percent. While specific information is not yet available, we can surmise that the unemployment rate for Baltimore's African American residents is considerably higher.

In June 2019, the Brookings Institute, considered America's most prestigious public policy think-tank, released a report outlining one of Baltimore City's lowest historic unemployment rates for Caucasians at 3.5 percent, while the rate for African Americans was 10.4 percent, 300 percent higher.

If Baltimore's April 2020 unemployment rate of 11.9 percent is proportional to June 2019's rate then the city's African American community is currently suffering from nearly 36 percent unemployment, at least. Adding insult to injury, thousands of the unemployed have yet to receive benefit payments filed months ago.

Keep in mind the 11.9 percent figure is 60 days old. In the six weeks since April through June 13, 2020, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation reports more than 26,000 additional first time unemployment claims in Baltimore City.

This is where the comparison between Brandon Scott's and Shiela Dixon's "inheritances" ends.

The COVID-19 pandemic and all its ancillary social and economic ramifications will be waiting for Mr. Scott when he assumes office. If there's a silver-lining it is the waning statistics associated with the virus thanks to the commendable job of Gov. Larry Hogan.

With 10.3 percent of the state's population, Baltimore has suffered 11 percent and 10.5 percent, respectively, of Maryland's confirmed Coronavirus infections and deaths. That's 7148 cases among 65,007 in the state, and 310 deaths among 2963 fatalities. Hospitalizations, intubations and deaths continue to trend downward.

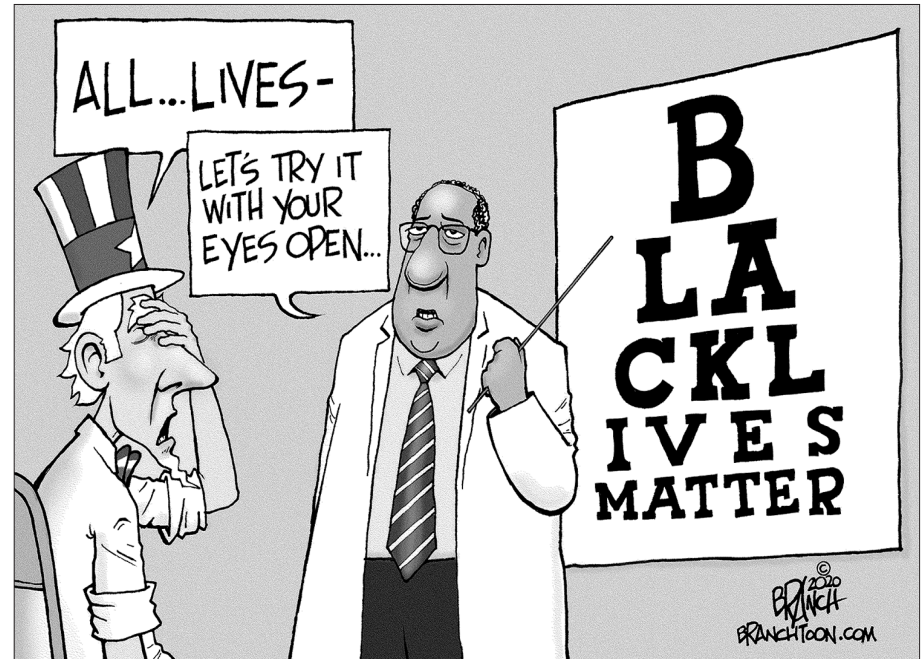
The threatening news for a Scott Administration regards a possible resurgence of COVID-19 in the fall, during flu season. Not only will this put a strain on the city's healthcare system, the associated costs will further squeeze the city's budget which is currently facing a roughly \$50 million deficit.

If all this isn't bad enough, how will Brandon Scott handle the avalanche of mortgage foreclosures, evictions and utility shut-offs resulting when the State ends its moratorium forbidding banks, landlords and BGE from taking action during the pandemic? There's also the tremendous demand food assistance in the community.

Baltimore City renters represent more than half of residents, roughly 311,000 people. Another strong indication that Baltimoreans could experience mass evictions later this year is that prior to COVID-19's assault one-in-four residents lived below the poverty line.

Couple this situation with the fact that over half of renters pay more than a third of their income in housing costs, a condition considered untenable, and the recipe for disaster becomes clearer.

Unfortunately, all these debacles could land on Baltimore City's plate by Thanksgiving, just in time for the Holidays. This should not become Brandon Scott's problem alone. He will need and deserves everybody's support and cooperation to get through these crises precipitated by COVID-19. We wish Brandon all the very best.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Trump Ignored Obama's Pandemic Manual

President Trump said "the cupboards were bare" of PPE and ventilators when he took office, but they were bare three years into his administration. When asked about this he blamed Russian Gate, Ukraine Gate, and the impeachment, which is hogwash since there were adequate government resources available to address the need for medical supplies.

Ronald Klain, an Obama administration official who addressed potential pandemic outbreaks said Obama's administration provided the Trump administration with a 69 page pandemic manual called Playbook for Early Response to High-Consequence Emerging Infectious Disease Threats and Biological Incidents. This document was ignored by Trump's administration.

Additionally, Trump abolished the office for pandemic preparedness in 2018, and cut by 75 percent a global pandemic monitoring system.

Obama's pandemic manual references the need for the federal government to procure PPE, detect the outbreak, acquire funding and invoke the Defense Production Act at the earliest indication of a pandemic in the world. It calls for appointment of a single knowledgeable federal person to lead the response effort, which is not an unqualified president or vice president.

Trump said he could not have predicted the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Obama administration told Trump and his aides to prepare for a potential pandemic.

Donald Moskowitz

Londonderry NH

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The Baltimore Times

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Black workers more likely to face retaliation for raising coronavirus concerns

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire
Senior Correspondent
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As more corporations jump into the fray, offering statements of support for African Americans in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd and the ensuing protests, a new study reveals that many companies' actual policies and practices contradict their public statements.

With just a small amount of research, short-term marketing and public relations positioning using words proclaiming empathy, understanding and support of black causes can too often be found to be in direct contrast of long-term human resources dictates.

A survey by the National Employment Law Project (NELP) about working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic confirms that corporate America has treated black workers categorically worse than White workers during the pandemic.

African Americans were twice as likely to answer "Yes," or "Maybe," when asked if they or anyone at their company had been punished for raising COVID-19 safety concerns. The survey found that black workers were roughly twice as likely to have been retaliated against by their employers for speaking up about health concerns and requesting time off work.

For instance, Amazon fired black and brown workers who have organized to demand more substantial health and safety protections. Thousands of Instacart workers, many of whom are women of color, are reportedly waiting for facemasks and hand sanitizer promised months ago.

Three out of four black workers who took the survey said they showed up to work during the pandemic even though they believed they might have been seriously risking their health or the health of family members. Less than half of White workers said they had done the same.

"Our results suggest that virus transmission in the workplace may be exacerbated by employer repression and that the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on black communities may be related to greater exposure of black workers to repressive workplace environments," the study's authors wrote.

"While black workers at any given worksite tend to be treated worse than their white counterparts, the study's authors suggest that black workers, as a whole, tend to work in more repressive environments than white workers," noted vice.com.

The higher likelihood of retaliation that

black workers face means fewer of them feel safe reporting concerns or have had their concerns addressed.

The survey found that black workers were more than twice as likely to have unresolved concerns about coronavirus at their workplace than their white counterparts.

Thirty-nine percent of workers surveyed reported that they had either raised concerns to their employer and did not receive a satisfactory response or did not out of fear of retaliation.

Meanwhile, only 18 percent of white workers found themselves in the same position.

"This is saddening to hear and somewhat unsurprising. I can't believe the world we live in. Still, as I have lived in it for a great number of years, I am actually thankful that such practices are coming to light now," Andrew Taylor, the director of the Net Lawman. This firm provides legal document templates and law-related services to individuals and businesses who are looking for an alternative to using a traditional firm of lawyers.

"My thoughts on this study pushed me to ask about the segregation of employment and where these people are working. Obviously, we must focus on the roles black workers are in to make changes from here."

Amit Raj said he was working part-time as a pharmacist earlier this year when he raised concerns.

"As we were working within an office within a warehouse where there were almost no changes to working practice despite the pandemic. Since we were

deemed an 'essential service,' we were also not allowed to work from home," Raj stated in an email.

"Despite bringing this up on many occasions and management being aware, I was first just ignored. And was soon demoted from an assistant manager position," he said. "However, the reason given for the demotion was that my part-time hours were not allowing me to manage effectively. I have now decided to place my focus on my digital marketing business."

Raj has since founded Amit Digital Marketing.

Talia Fox, the CEO of KUSI Training, a global transformational leadership development firm, said in an email that the study concerns her mostly because of her two sons who have to work in the current environment.

"I have two sons and wear three hats, mother, black woman, leadership strategist. If I am honest, I am afraid, afraid of the challenges my two young black men will face in the world," Fox noted via email.

"When my fear settles, it turns to anger, and I wonder why people are not doing anything. I want to blame someone, anyone for the injustices in the world," Fox noted. "Then, my anger leads me to look in the mirror. What do I have to give? What is my role in this? I am a leadership strategist and an educator. I have seen knowledge, understanding, and strategy, and implementation transform businesses and inspire people to drive and lead change, which anchors my hope that a better future is possible for my two black men."

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Seniors unite for protest in solidarity with Black Lives Matter movement

By Demetrius Dillard

A passionate group of elderly individuals celebrated Juneteenth by outwardly expressing their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in a silent protest just beyond the premises of the Linden Park senior living facility in Bolton Hill on June 19, 2020.

About 20 participants, most of whom were older than 70 and served in the military, assembled for the brief protest on the cloudy Friday afternoon.

Dale McCullough, the organizer of the silent protest, said he didn't coordinate the event for publicity. Rather, he and some of the residents at Linden Park Apartments simply wanted to take a few minutes to show support for the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in light of the societal issues facing the nation over the last several weeks.

"We, the citizens of Bolton Hill, we sit around and we talk a lot about what could be and what would be, so we decided that we'd come out and show our solidarity to the Black Lives Matter (movement)," McCullough said, also conveying his disagreement with President Donald Trump's threat to deploy military troops against protestors. "We did kneel for the brothers that have died behind police brutality. And not only brothers—black, brown and white too, who have died behind police brutality."

To begin the protest, participants stood in a circle as McCullough delivered opening remarks indicating the purpose of the gathering. As Yolanda Preston delivered the invocation, those who were able to kneel did so, and those who weren't able to kneel stood with fists held high.



(Left) Dale McCullough, organizer of the silent demonstration, stands in the middle of the circle of protestors to give remarks. (Middle) Benjamin Fulton, pictured with the walker, was the oldest participant in the silent protest. The Korean War veteran is 85 years old. (Right) Ronald Curtis dons an "I Can't Breathe" Black Lives Matter t-shirt to show support for the demonstrations against police brutality and racial injustice.

Photo Credit: Demetrius Dillard

"We want it to be known to the young folks we can't march too much, we can't lay in the street because we can't get up," McCullough said with a slight chuckle. "We just want to let people know that 'we are with you.' That's it."

After Preston finished the prayer, kneelers stood up and the protest was essentially over. McCullough thanked everyone who took the time to participate and show support as the demonstration concluded.

Benjamin Fulton, an 85-year-old Korean War veteran, was the oldest protester to participate. Drafted into the Korean War in 1958, he served in the Army for three years.

"I'm coming out today protesting what they've been doing to black people," said Fulton as he explained his support for the BLM protests. "Nothing's going to change with the policemen until (leaders) do something about it.

Policemen don't have the right to kill people just because they're policemen."

West Baltimore resident Ronald Curtis was invited to participate in the silent protest, and gladly made the trip across town to show solidarity. He said that what he's seeing now is a reflection of the uprisings he witnessed as a youngster in the 1950s and 60s.

"The younger generation that's coming up now, they're actually tired. If Congress doesn't hear their voices now, they never will," said Curtis, another Vietnam War vet. "These kids are not being heard, and that's what it's all about right now."

Juneteenth is a day that holds special significance particularly in the black community as a commemoration of the abolition of slavery in the U.S., and McCullough figured it was the perfect date to organize the silent protest.

"It's a day that the last chains were

supposedly taken off the slaves in Texas. They said 1865 but they really didn't come off until 1867," he said. "I thought it was very significant... It was a good day that just so happened to be in June, and June 19 was available so I think that was the perfect day to hold it."

McCullough, a Navy veteran, served in the Vietnam War and retired as a 2nd Class Petty Officer. He said he feels the country is in an unpredictable state and hopes things improve soon.

"It's disgusting right now because our parents and their parents were fighting for the same thing that these kids are marching for now," McCullough opined. "It's troubling because we don't know where the nation is going. I'm not political, but we don't have any leadership and aye we pray that it goes the right way."

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After virtual ceremony, P-TECH grad looking forward to college in the fall

By Stacy M. Brown

Virtual graduations have been all the rage—and the only option—during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, and it was no different at P-TECH Carver in Baltimore.

“The virtual graduation the district hosted was okay, but nothing compares to in-person graduation,” said Jai’Marri Moulden, who graduated with both his diploma and an associate’s degree in cybersecurity in just four years. “I was expecting to walk across the stage having the feeling of completion, but now I have to turn something that’s abnormal into something positive. I’m not the first of my siblings to graduate high school, but I can definitely say I was the first in my family to graduate virtually.”

Moulden plans to attend McDaniel College in the fall—virtually or in the brick and mortar building—to study computer science.

“My expectations in going to McDaniel College are to, of course, have in-person classes and just to have things

revert to some sense of normalcy so that I can enjoy my college experience,” the new graduate stated.

He said he is grateful for the experience at P-TECH, which is a unique program where students have the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and no-cost associate degree in fast-growing STEM fields.

P-TECH Baltimore in Carver Vocational-Technical High School serves 138 students who complete the blended high school and community college coursework in four to six years.

Moulden counted among 29 students to graduate this year—12 of whom received an associate’s degree and a high school diploma simultaneously.

Moulden also received the honor of speaking at IBM’s virtual graduation celebration for all P-TECH graduates on June 24, 2020.

He noted the challenges of virtual school during the pandemic.

“I’ve always been a person who’s had to overcome many adversities, so overcoming this pandemic and still graduate



P-TECH Baltimore in Carver Vocational-Technical High School graduate Jai’Marri Moulden
Courtesy Photo

wasn’t new to me,” Moulden said. “Of course, it was difficult, but I believed in

myself and used my circumstances as motivation instead of being complacent. My biggest challenge may have been my time management because I had so much, yet so little, time on my hands. It was very easy to fall behind, so I had to make sure I was where I needed to be.”

He called his field of choice—cybersecurity—interesting and exciting.

“Being able to stop cybercrimes with cybersecurity excites me. I’m very excited about the future, and I just know that I’m going to be very successful, and I want to have my own business and give back to my community,” Moulden said.

The graduate also offered thoughts on future P-TECH students.

“I want the future P-TECH grads to know that life isn’t easy, and you shouldn’t expect it to be,” Moulden said. “Know that you are in control of your own actions and stay hungry for success. Never forget where you come from so that you can help your community and bring success to the world.”



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CBC hosts virtual CCBCKids@Home! summer programs

Baltimore County, Md.—Community College of Baltimore County is offering a new virtual summer adventures program: **CCBCKids@Home!** Due to COVID-19 and social distancing needs, on-site CCBC sponsored youth camps and programs have been canceled for Summer 2020.

CCBCKids@Home! will feature enrichment classes in academics, cooking and crafts, health and wellness, STEM, and visual and performing arts for children and teens ages 7-17.

The camp is also offering a wide variety of Black Rocket computer courses. All classes will be held on the Zoom platform. Sessions, most of which are one or two weeks, start July 6 and run through August 7, 2020. For more information or to register, visit:

www.cbcmd.edu/cbcbkidsathome.



Art, activism, conversations merge with police issues in Annapolis

By Andrea Blackstone

In hopes of dismantling racism for good, protests, walks, events and supportive displays by diverse races are popping up both locally and globally. Demonstrators from all walks of life have been filling public spaces in record numbers to speak up about police brutality; the need for reform; and the pursuit of acquiring justice for George Floyd and other victims who have died at the hands of the police.

June 7, 2020 marked one of those hope-filled days, despite the backdrop of social unrest. Hundreds of people attended a peaceful vigil at Susan Campbell Park, located in downtown Annapolis, to pay homage to George Floyd and others who have lost their lives to racism. Additionally, a mural entitled “Say Their Name” was painted live by local artists utilizing spray paint, permanent markers, and oil-based and acrylic paint to craft a facial representation of Floyd, along with names of other victims who tragically died in police custody.

Jeff Huntington; Deonte Ward; and Comacell Brown, Jr. collaborated to complete the project. Additionally, Douglas Day built the wall structure and Jeff Huntington served as the project’s lead artist. Hundreds of onlookers heard from speakers and witnessed art come to life.

Ward—who specializes in photography and abstract art—also serves as the Youth Program Director for B.L.A.C.K. (Becoming Leaders Acquiring Critical Knowledge) Excel. The Annapolis native says the names painted on the mural were obtained from an online list of police brutality victims. More were added, while Ward listened to speakers at the event. A local shooting involving Cochise Daughtry in 1996 was among them.

“I didn’t think something like this had happened in Annapolis in recent times. For me it was more eye-opening, and it kind of gave me people to look up, really realizing it was a lot more than I thought it was,” Ward said. “As an artist, part of my message is always to let my voice be heard, whether I’m doing moti-



Comacell Brown, Jr, Deonte Ward, and Jeff Huntington paint a mural of George Floyd and others who have lost their lives to police brutality. The mural is located in Susan Campbell Park in downtown Annapolis.

Photos: Andrea Blackstone



Courtney Garton shows support holds a thought provoking poster in Annapolis,

ational speaking or art, because art is an expressive form of speaking itself. When you get to use different forms of protesting and things like that, again, the list was crucial to me because some people don’t know about those names. Some people may just come to see the painting, but they go there and see a name. Maybe just one name will catch

their eye out of the rest of them, and you research that person’s story.”

Ward added that the whole list of individuals who lost their lives to police brutality could not fit on the mural, but each victim should still be cherished and honored. Ward and Brown agree.

Brown is the owner of Cell Spitfire Paintings and Designs, LLC. The full

time, freelance artist who runs classes for children, paints murals and volunteers in the community. Brown has been a part of several marches and he says that recently, he has seen white people talking with their children as they walk by the George Floyd mural. He added that honest conversations with youth about history, as well as current events will help to ensure a brighter future for black people.

“It’s a big shift going on in the world,” Brown said. “I’ve already seen in the 24 hours that it’s (the mural) been up, it has already created great conversation.”

A former white classmate even reached out to tell Brown that he wants to know more about black culture, and that he now realizes that his life journey has not been as difficult. Brown’s friend is not the only one who is interested in delving into social issues many African-Americans face.

The day after the mural was constructed, Courtney Garton, an Annapolitan of 45 years, stood outdoors in Annapolis holding a neon sign, while trying to raise consciousness about changing police culture. African-American men drove by in their cars, while beeping their horns, to affirm agreement with the written poster message. On one side, the sign read “STOP KILLING BLACK PEOPLE!!” On the other, “CHANGE POLICE CULTURE” was inscribed in large letters. Garton says he wants conversations about reforming police departments to occur, as opposed to defunding them.

“I believe that systematic racism was created by white people, and I think that white people are [the] ones that need to change it,” Garton said. “I’m trying to get to a point where I really understand what it is like to be a black person in this country, and more and more, I’m understanding that the color of your skin is discriminated against in this country.”

‘If Loving You Is Wrong’ Actress Edwina Findley Talks Tyler Perry, Passion and Protest

By Nadine Matthews

Like many Americans of late, Washington DC native and actress Edwina Findley has become more politically active recently. The actress who is fresh off of closing out her role on Tyler Perry’s series “If Loving You Is Wrong” has also appeared on Shots Fired starring Sanaa Lathan, Ava DuVernay’s Middle of Nowhere, and Red Tails about the Tuskegee Airmen.

Findley, driven by the recent incidents of police brutality and of course, the death of George Floyd has taken to the streets with thousands of others to make her voice be heard. The actress explained to The Baltimore Times that though she has always been an activist in other ways such as her public speaking, or acting in projects like Shots Fired, “This time, I really felt like, in addition to those things, protesting was important. Being out there, being seen was important. It was another method of joining in this fight for justice.”

Findley studied theatre and classical music at storied high school Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC. It was a place she knew she wanted to go since she was a little girl. “When I was eight, I begged my mom to let me go to Duke Ellington,” she recalls. It was a bit too early for eight year-old Edwina but there were plenty of other opportunities in the area for Edwina to start training in the performing arts. “There were all these different programs around town



Edwina Findley, actress

specifically for young predominantly African American artists to help us find our voice and cultivate our talents. For that I am honestly grateful. Growing up in DC is something that I will always treasure.”

After graduating NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, Findley cut her TV acting teeth playing Tosha Mitchell in HBO’s

classic drama “The Wire.” She says, “It was wonderful. I was working at the Shakespeare Theater in DC when I got the role of Tosha so I was in Baltimore during the day robbing drug dealers and then running back to DC in the evening to do Shakespeare!”

Findley also feels fortunate to have worked on the Tyler Perry created, written, and directed soapy drama, “If Loving You is Wrong,” for five years as “Bright-eyed, somewhat naive, dream-filled” Kelly Isaacs. It was her first time working in that genre and the loyalty and passion of soap fans was one of the best parts of the whole experience for her. “When I go somewhere and I see them, they tell me all the ways in which they wanted to defend me from these crazy lovers. I love how invested the African-American demo that watches the show have been in the plotlines and

the characters. They love the drama, the twists and turns, and they love us!”

She also feels fortunate that the show allowed her to get to know Perry and Oprah Winfrey, on whose network the show aired. “Humility is personified in him in the most beautiful way. My experience of Tyler has been that it’s been as important for him to bring other people up as it has been for him to be successful himself. He takes great pride in sharing that success with others. When you’re in his presence you never feel like he’s doing all the things he’s doing. He’s right there with you. And I feel the same about Oprah.”

Though Black Lives Matter felt intensely personal for many of us, it truly hit Findley close to home. Her cousin and his friends, who all attend Morehouse and Spelman, were recently targeted by police. “They were absolutely brutalized by police with no provocation at all. You can be as upstanding as you want, that doesn’t protect you from police brutality or racism.”

Though her cousin is physically okay, she shares that he battles with the after effects. “The level of fear now imposed on him is not fair. He wasn’t walking around the world like that before.”

Edwina and the family have stepped in to help her cousin cope with the trauma. “We’ve been trying to assure him he’s surrounded by people who are here to protect him and care for him.”

Even with the misfortune, Findley is optimistic about the impact the protests have had. “I think we all feel it. This time something is different. This movement is both public and behind the scenes. We’re seeing people who have not historically paid attention, pay attention and I’m encouraged seeing the changes.”

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Dr. Shirley Basfield Dunlap

Beloved Morgan Professor 'Played a Part' in Many Lives

By Ursula V. Battle

When people talk about "Theater" in Baltimore, the name Dr. Shirley Basfield Dunlap often comes up. Dr. Basfield Dunlap, who served as the Coordinator of Theatre Arts and Associate Professor of Fine and Performing Arts at Morgan State University had directed numerous plays, locally, nationally, and internationally. A lover of August Wilson's work, those productions include *FENCES*, and *The Piano Lesson*.

On June 15, 2020, the beloved director and professor died at the age of 67, of what was described as "suspected heart failure." A Memorial Service for Dr. Dunlap will take place on July 18, 2020, 11 a.m., at Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Avenue. A Celebration of her life is being planned later that day from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. (location to be determined).

Dr. Basfield Dunlap had many shows in her repertoire, which also included "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf." But Dr. Dunlap considered her son and daughter as her "greatest production."

"My mother sacrificed a lot for us to have what she felt her children deserved to have," said daughter Stacie Dunlap. "And that was to be able to experience anything we wanted to experience, go anywhere we wanted to go, and not think there were any limits to what we wanted to be. I am proud of the woman she was, and the woman I have become."

She added, "Hearing from her students, I shared my mother with numerous people around the world. It's overwhelming, but gratifying. That's what's helping me to get through this. She's not gone, because what she left is a legacy of greatness."

Wesley Dunlap is Dr. Basfield Dunlap's son.

"My mother was very involved with her teaching and theater," he said. "It took a lot of her time, but she always put me and my sister first. Both my sister and I have master's degrees. My mother instilled the importance of education in us. I am grate-



Dr. Shirley Basfield Dunlap served as the Coordinator of Theatre Arts and Associate Professor of Fine and Performing Arts at Morgan State University.

Courtesy Photos



Dr. Shirley Basfield Dunlap with son Wesley Dunlap and daughter Stacie Dunlap

ful for the outpouring of support from her colleagues and students, and thankful to have shared her with so many folks. She looked at the students as if they were her own kids. She drove them to New York for auditions. She cared deeply for her students, and did whatever she could to support them."

Dr. Basfield Dunlap's dissertation for a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) was noted as

"ground-breaking research" entitled "The Oral History Project of African American Stage Directors of American Theatre."

She was a 2018 Broadway World "Best Director of a Play Regional Award" finalist for her direction of "Red Velvet" at the Baltimore Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore. She was invited by Intercult an initiator and leader of collaborative culture projects

based in Stockholm, Sweden to facilitate a workshop on American and Nordic women writers.

"Shirley advised me on everything up to the last conversation I had with her," said sister Enid Basfield-Holland. "I hear so many students talking about how supportive she was. That's how she was to me. She was also close to my children. They called her 'Aunt Mommy.' She had such insightful dreams for her family. She noticed my son liked to draw a lot when he was little. She was instrumental in him becoming an artist. He teaches at the Parsons School of Design in New York."

She added, "Shirley didn't just give nuggets. She gave boulders you could run with to be successful. I will continue to tell her story."

Cheryl J. Williams is Dr. Basfield Dunlap's longtime companion.

"We met 33 years ago," said Williams. "My fondest memories are our travels. We traveled all over the world to places and once took a nine-day road trip. We could have flown, but we wanted to take a historic trip. My life with Shirley was awesome. There is no hurt or pain. I am blessed to have had the time we spent together."

She added, "I think Shirley's legacy was giving unconditionally. To know that the best is in each one of us. She had the gift and the talent to pull it out. Her other legacy was for people to create your art regardless of what that art form is, and to bring it forth."

Carol Pitts met Dr. Basfield Dunlap through One God One Thought Center for Better Living.

"My fondest memory of Shirley was on a cruise to Alaska," said Pitts. "She was very gracious to my granddaughter who was going away to college. She gave her a gift with some money and told her 'to never go on a date without your own money. In case something happens, you have your own money to get home.' She was such a good-spirited person and very humble. She never let her job or titles define who she was. She was just Shirley. A wonderful human being who touched a lot of lives."

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Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor



Ravens GM John Harbaugh hopeful to have NFL season

By Tyler Hamilton

Like many other NFL teams, the Covid-19 pandemic changed the way the Baltimore Ravens conducted their offseason. With training camp set to take place in just over a month, there are questions about whether or not the league will be able to have a season.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, offered some not too promising words when asked about the NFL 2020 season.

"Unless players are essentially in a bubble insulated from the community and they are tested nearly every day—it would be very hard to see how football is able to be played this fall," Fauci told CNN chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta. "If there is a second wave, which is certainly a possibility and which would be complicated by the predictable flu season, football may not happen this year."

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh told reporters on Monday that he is hopeful the NFL season will move forward as scheduled.

Other sports that have attempted to take the next steps were met with an uptick in positive tests for Covid-19. Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic tested positive after an exhibition match in Croatia.

College football started their summer workouts last week. Clemson announced 23 of their players and five of their staff members have tested positive. Texas had



Baltimore Ravens General Manager John Harbaugh is hopeful that the NFL Season will move forward as scheduled

Photo Credit: NFL.com

13 positive tests and they currently have 10 players in quarantine. Kansas State shutdown their workouts after 14 cases.

The NFL has said they will make the necessary adjustments to provide the safest possible work environment for the coaches and players. The league issued a memo outlining tiers of access for team employees.

They'll work to implement their strategy before the start of training camp. When they do start, the same challenge that other sports are encountering will be presented to NFL teams.

Harbaugh remains optimistic about the NFL's chances and is speaking it into existence.

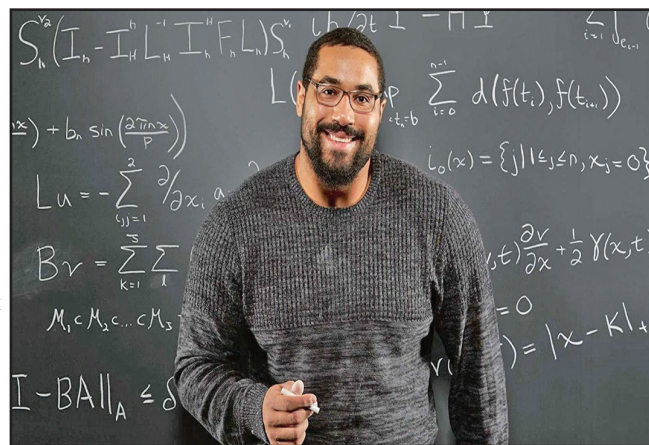
"I'm confident that it will happen. I'm very hopeful. I'm praying for it," Harbaugh said. "I want it to happen and think it will happen. I believe it will happen. I think we'll have the protocols in place."

Former Baltimore Raven helping students and teachers with online STEM lessons

By Stacy M. Brown

When John Urschel announced two years ago that he was retiring from the Baltimore Ravens to pursue a Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), it caught many by surprise.

Urschel was just 26 and hadn't yet carved out the reputation line-backers in the league usually do: the pursuit of tackling quarterbacks. Instead, he



Former Baltimore Ravens line backer John Urschel retired in 2017 to pursue a Ph.D. at MIT.

Courtesy Photo/MIT Alumni

pursued science. Now, Urschel is helping to provide free lessons in STEM via YouTube as part of the recently announced National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). The initiative is a set of free video lessons in math, science and English to help educators as they continue to adjust to online teaching.

"While teachers and students continue to adjust to online learning, we knew we could help by providing high-quality, ready-to-use lessons," NMSI CEO Bernard Harris said in a statement.

Harris noted that NMSI's mission is to increase access and achievement in rigorous STEM education for all students.

"I'm grateful to our outstanding trainers and to John Urschel for helping us do this small part for our country's education system," Harris stated.

Urschel said he provided a video for high school students because he wants to inspire more students to understand and appreciate math.

"Math is foundational to everything in our lives, and I'm happy to do what I can to show young people that they can be successful in it," said Urschel, who has also authored the book, "Mind and Matter: A Life in Math and Football."

"I'm also happy to provide help to teachers and to families struggling to deliver online education. It's a challenging time, but we'll get through it together," he said.

Urschel is in his fifth year as a doctoral student at MIT. He was a standout offensive lineman at Penn State University

and earned the William V. Campbell Trophy for academic and athletic success and community service. The Ravens drafted Urschel in 2014 and he retired in 2017 to focus on his doctoral work.

In addition to Urschel, the NMSI's video lessons come from teachers across the country each of whom has a record of successfully preparing students for college. Those and hundreds of other teachers help the NMSI deliver two of the non-profit's primary programs.

The Laying the Foundation program helps grades three to 12 teachers prepare students for rigorous high school courses, such as those under the College Board's Advanced Placement program, officials noted in the release.

The flagship College Readiness Program supports AP teachers and students and helps school systems reform how they manage access to advanced courses.

In addition to LTF and CRP, the NMSI supports students of military members through its Military Families Mission.

It also increases access to computer science education in grades K-12 and helps prepare preservice STEM teachers through a partnership with the UTeach Institute at the University of Texas at Austin.

"The heart of our efforts is dedicated to school districts and systems, teachers and students who are supported by our programs," Harris said. "At the same time, we felt called to help more teachers, students and families, and we're happy to provide these free lessons."



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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **BALTIMORE CITY NO. RP20801 RACHEAL WILSON MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **August 5, 2020**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Dept. of Rec & Parks at 2600 Madison Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21217 by appointment only on Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm by emailing benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov as of **June 26, 2020** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00. Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **G90041 Installation of Playground Equipment**, Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.00 to \$225,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams at **10:00 A.M. on July 7, 2020**. Email your contact information to jennifer.zhaj@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team(video conference meeting) no later than July 6th at 4:00pm. Principal Items of work for this project are Installing, replacing, servicing, repairing and maintaining city playgrounds and playground equipment. The MBE goal is **13%** and WBE goal is **5%**.
APPROVED: Joan M Pratt, Secretary, Board of Estimates

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CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS 19817 – Baltimore Street Garage Restoration**, will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **WEDNESDAY, August 5, 2020**. Board of Estimates employees will be stationed at the Security Unit Counter just inside the Holliday Street entrance to City Hall from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. every Wednesday to receive Bids.

Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00** by sending a letter to the Department of General Services, Capital and Energy Projects Division, Suite 204, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, Attn. Ms. Azza Rizkallah as of **FRIDAY, June 26, 2020**. In the letter, include a \$50 check addressed to the Director of Finance, and a Fedex Acc. No. in order to ship the documents to your office.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture (“JV”), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004**

—**Rehabilitation of Structures.**

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000.00** A” Pre-Bidding information” session will be conducted at the **site: 15 Guilford Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202 on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** All attendees are required to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing at all times during the pre-bid meeting.

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Lining and Sealcoating of Parking Lots

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2. Rehabilitation of Structures 3. Concrete Construction

The MBE goal is **10%**
The WBE goal is **4%**

CONTRACT NO. GS 19817

APPROVED:

Joan M. Pratt
Secretary, Board of Estimates

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Chichi Nyagah-Nash
Director, Department of General Services

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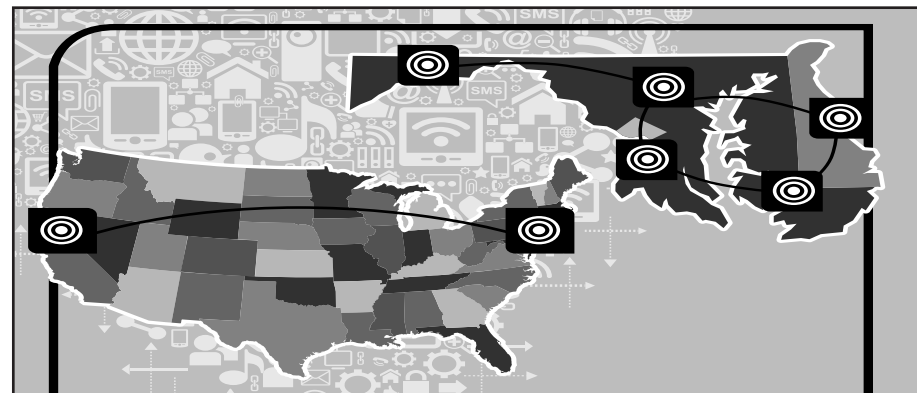
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Millions of people are in danger of losing access to the authoritative

local information they need to stay informed. That's why the Local Media Association and the Local Media Consortium are working with local news providers to build a strong future for local journalism. And that's why our long-time partner Google is purchasing ads like this in local publications across the country, as well as providing a Relief Fund to help struggling local news outlets. But those actions alone aren't enough.

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