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Harbor Bank Opens Northwood Commons Branch



(l-r) Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University; Senator Chris Van Hollen; Honorable Robert M. Bell, retired Baltimore Chief Judge, Court of Appeals; Kevin Johnson, CEO, Commercial Group, Maryland State Senator Mary Washington, 43rd District; John Lewis, President & Chief Operating Officer, The Harbor Bank of Maryland; Joseph Haskins, Jr., Chairman and CEO, The Harbor Bank of Maryland; Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd K Rutherford; Senator John Sarbanes (D-MD); Congressman Kweisi Mfume (D-7th); and James Degraffenreidt, Jr, Board Member, Harbor Bank of Maryland (See article page 8).

Cherry Hill Arts and Music Festival Returns

By Sierra Austin

The 6th annual Cherry Hill Arts and Music Waterfront Festival, hosted by The Youth Resiliency Institute and Cherry Hill Coalition, is set to commence July 4, 2022 at South Baltimore's Middle Branch Park. This year's Waterfront Festival is the first since the 2020 COVID pandemic.

Understandably, the COVID pandemic postponed enjoying the Cherry Hill Arts and Music Festival in-person July 2020. However, the celebration continued virtually. With relaxed mask mandates, the festival will resume in-person this year, as announced by the events founders.

The Cherry Hill Arts and Music Waterfront Festival was founded by activist and playwright, Shirley Foulkes, and cultural arts organizer, Fanon Hill. This year will be six years

of celebration. This year's celebratory festival will overlook the Patapsco River with a multitude of events to last through the entire evening. The event is free and open to the public.

The fireworks show will begin at 9:30 p.m. before the conclusion of the festival. The fireworks will happen simultaneously with the fireworks in the Inner Harbor. Festival goers are encouraged to grab a seat early, bring a blanket, and lawn chairs. There will be live musical performances from Lil Key, TT the Artist, The Legendary Ingramettes, Navasha Daya, and many more local artists.

This year's festival theme celebrates the bicentennial of Maryland Native Harriet Tubman's birth. A bevy of other activities have been planned for the celebration. According to Cherryhillfest.com, the festival will have "historical re-enactments,

exhibits, an elders' fashion show, the presentation of Harriet Tubman: 200 Festival Honorees and much more."

Located at 3301 Waterview Avenue, The Cherry Hill Arts and Music Waterfront Festival will be from

1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The public will be welcomed to participate in a variety of activities scheduled for their enjoyment. To learn more about this Cherry Hill festival, visit [www.https://cherryhillfest.com/](https://cherryhillfest.com/).



Fanon Hill, Navasha Daya, Mayor Scott, and others gather to announce the return of The Cherry Hill Arts and Music Festival.

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Mama Shirley and Fanon Hill took the podium to announce the return of the Cherry Hill Arts and Music Festival.



A man playing his Conga drum at the waterfront. The Cherry Hill Arts and Music Festival founders announced that Middle Branch Park will be the location for the festival.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Don't Shame the Kid Who Put College on Hold

By Andrea Blackstone

As graduation ceremonies close, parents are flooding social media with the smiling faces of young people who are college bound. While furthering education is certainly a commendable plan, it is critical not to shame the student whose passion led to embracing an alternative path. Young adults who opt to deviate from the "American ideal" could be tomorrow's union leader, a budding colonel, or an entrepreneurial guru who carves as path as the next Steve Jobs, Jeff Bezos, or community trailblazer.

While college life offers exciting academic and professional opportunities, we should clap just as loud for the young person whose solid plan is clear, although it may not be the village's first choice. When a relative decides to lace up combat boots, learn a trade, or dive into business, we should not behave as if their intended personal investment is not prestigious. Do not skip the sendoff party. Do not forget to send a 'good luck' token or congratulatory card. Clap. Encourage. Support. Repeat.

A central point is that an ambitious young person chooses to leave the nest to courageously try something productive. Anyone who managed to graduate during the world's dark pandemic deserves a double fist bump. The pressures of learning online for several years, living life in social bubbles, and feeling the weight of caution to move when someone coughs or sneezes has been a heavy emotional load for new graduates.

Even colleges are recognizing the need to change the landscape of postsecondary education.

"SAT and ACT scores will now become optional after a meeting was held by the University System of Maryland's Board Regents on Friday, June 17," according to WMAR.

Linda Gooden, who is the Chair on the Board of Regents, cited a cultural shift as a reason for the diminution of score importance in the news report.

"The system is moving from a university centered perspective to a student centered perspective," Gooden said, per WMAR.

If college requirements are changing, so can our views to decide what is best for a young person who embraces his or her authentic interests. Maybe we should let them grow and learn with peaceful support.

One of the most successful and financially stable people that I know wears a hard hat to work. While I am juggling student loan debt, he can return to college because his military service will cushion the cost of it. This savvy entrepreneur is now benefiting from military benefits and excelling in a trade. He loves his job. The long hours and heights rarely bother him. I look up to my personal hero who reshaped my previous mentality.

And in yet another case I know, a young man dropped out of college to head to the military, then become a writer. That man was my uncle, author Alex Haley. His father, my Grandpa Simon, certainly was disappointed when his son first left college. Even so, sometimes we must take a deep breath, leave destiny alone, and just clap.



"IT'S A RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE THAT HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT."

Community Affairs

Transit Fare Increase 2022

As required by the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, MDOT MTA will increase transit fares effective Sunday, June 26, 2022. This increase was scheduled to go into effect on June 27, 2021, but was mitigated by Governor Larry Hogan through use of funds from the American Relief Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

Single-trip fares will increase from \$1.90 to \$2.00 for Local Bus, Light RailLink and Metro SubwayLink. MobilityLink single-trip fares will increase from \$2.10 to \$2.20. MDOT MTA encourages riders to purchase monthly fare passes which will increase from \$74 to \$77. The monthly pass provides savings, particularly for

Marylanders using transit every day to get to work, shopping and entertainment.

MDOT MTA also offers **CharmFlex**, a discounted fare option to accommodate Marylanders who are returning to on-site work on a more flexible or hybrid work schedule. Launched in August 2021, CharmFlex three- and 10-day passes can be used on consecutive or non-consecutive days, and are valid for up to 12 months after purchase. Using CharmFlex, riders pay about 15% less compared to the cost of a day-pass or single-trip fare. As of June 26, the three-day CharmFlex pass will cost \$11.70 and the 10-day pass will cost \$39.10.

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With Pending Transaction: Media Mogul Envisions Escalated Voices of African-Americans in Broadcast Media

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - In the early days of broadcasting, the faces of local television newscasters, reporters and management were almost exclusively White and male.

Although progress in diversity has been made, much work remains to assure that local media teams look like the communities they serve. Advocates for newsroom and media diversity have constantly pointed to the need for people of color in newsroom management as well as on the screen.

Therefore, a pending transaction between two companies with reputations for supporting racial and gender inclusivity is being welcomed. Federal regulators, namely the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) currently have the opportunity to support more diverse local broadcasting by approving the purchase of major broadcaster TEGNA by Standard General, a minority-owned firm. Together, Standard General and TEGNA, will be led by television industry veteran Deb McDermott, the first woman from



Soo Kim, owner, Standard General, wants to see more Blacks in broadcasting. Courtesy Photos/NNPA



Ben Chavis of NNPA and PBS's Chavis Chronicles says the issue of diversity, equity and inclusion in the broadcast industry is major.

broadcast management to be inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, forming America's largest minority-owned, women-led broadcasting company.

As the principals await approval, they are brainstorming ways to increase minority participation, including Black voices.

"One of our key initiatives is to give our communities a voice," says Soo Kim, founding partner of Standard General and current managing partner and chief investment Officer. "We want to partner with community journalism groups to amplify the work they're doing and the communities they represent," Kim said. "We're open to exploring new partnership models to get diverse viewpoints and perspectives on the air and to make sure people have the resources to do it. We're calling it enhanced community access or creative community access and we're excited about the possibilities it will open up."

Although newsrooms are much more diverse than they used to be, data shows that they are still less inclusive than other industries. A Pew Research Center survey released in 2018 found that 77 percent of newsroom employees, including reporters, photographers, and videographers at not only newspapers but also internet and broadcasting outlets, were non-Hispanic whites. For U.S. workers in all occupations, that number is 65 percent.

Diversity in television news reporting

and programming matters. Women and minority onscreen and behind-the-scenes employees bring in different points of view that strengthen content for all viewers. They also build trust with a wider range of viewers in an increasingly diverse U.S. population, an important goal in today's often divided society. Given the long wait and struggle for equality, advocates for Black media participation are hopeful, but are taking a wait and see posture on Kim's ideas.

"I'm very pleased to see Soo Kim's statements about wanting to involve Black journalists more with his company and I look forward to seeing how that develops," says Jim Winston, president/CEO of the National Association of Black-owned Broadcasters. "There is a definite need to escalate Black voices. He is buying a company that has substantial network television assets which is an area where Black voices are greatly needed to be expanded. So I hope that he is able to make that happen."

Ben Chavis, president/CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, who also hosts a PBS television talk show, "Chavis Chronicles," says Kim is pursuing an important need if it succeeds.

"It's the issue of diversity, equity and inclusion in the broadcast industry – both radio, television as well as social media," Chavis said. "Given the demographic changes in America, we're much more a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multilingual society. The broadcast industry should re-

flect that diversity."

Meanwhile, many younger Americans are increasingly turning to social media for news, but significant numbers of people – especially middle-aged and older – heavily depend on local, network and cable television stations for information on current events and politics. Not to mention, that social media is often fraught with disinformation, and thus, a diverse range of trusted journalism outlets is important to truth and accuracy.

TEGNA boasts a reputation as one of the most impactful and geographically diverse broadcasters in the U.S., with 64 brands in 51 markets. By going private, no longer encumbered by quarterly performance pressures, and with financial and managerial backing from Standard General, the new company will be able to invest in all aspects of local news operations, from people to technology. The acquisition will also benefit aspiring minority journalists by creating new jobs with a company that has a proven track record of inclusivity and a commitment to wages and benefits, Kim says. They will be able to do this not by creating a nationally driven monolith of national news, but instead, by creating a bottom-up model where local news is prioritized so that it can continue to meet the targeted to the needs of local communities that rely on broadcast news, he says.

Racial diversity is not new to Kim who was born in Seoul, South Korea, but moved to Queens County, N.Y. - among the most racial diverse counties in the nation when he was a young child. "I came here when I was 5 and I grew up in Queens and spent my formative years growing up in Queen County," Kim said. Queens County is known as one of the most diverse counties in America with about 150 different languages spoken. "I didn't know anything different really," Kim added and he underscored that he attended public schools. "More diversity is needed throughout the broadcast industry, and now I find myself in a position where I can make an impact."

He concluded, "Bringing these diverse voices to the forefront not only will better reflect the communities we serve, it will also be good for business."

The Annapolis Times

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Resilient Baltimorean from Cherry Hill Creates Successful Football Career Overseas

By Andrea Blackstone

Malcolm Gasque, 29, was destined for greatness, including playing professional football. He has been known for displaying blazing speed with his quick feet in countries such as Portugal, Brazil, France, Belgium, Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt and Poland since 2015. The Baltimorean was nicknamed “Noodles” in his youth, when he was being raised by his late mother, Rosetta Gasque, in Cherry Hill. Oodles of Noodles was mostly all that he had to eat, so the name stuck.

“Where I’m from in Cherry Hill, a lot of people don’t make it out of Cherry Hill,” Malcolm said. “Baltimore taught me how to survive.”

Then at 16 years old, his beloved mother passed away. Malcolm became a homeless tenth grader who focused on making something out of his life. Two friends convinced their parents to let him stay at their homes. After graduating from Baltimore City College High School, the determined young man headed to New York to embark upon his freshman year of college at Erie Community College, before transferring to Orange Coast College in California. Malcolm earned

an associate degree in Business Management. His path took another sharp turn.

“After my sophomore year, I went to Portugal and that’s when I started playing (football) overseas,” Malcolm said. “My last year of college, somebody contacted me on Instagram, and was asking me if I wanted to make money to play football and go pro. I decided to go pro overseas.”

Posting footage on Instagram of his workouts for football and staying in shape, when he had been playing football at Orange Coast College was what led the person who sent the social media message to contact Malcolm.

“I came back to Baltimore and I trained for... the whole summer, before I left to go overseas. I stayed with my brother, and then I left to go to Portugal,” Malcolm said. “I signed the contract for seven months. And we (The Lisboa Devils) won 11 games without losing.”

Malcolm’s big move was playing football in Portugal as a running back on the team through American Football International, which is now the European Football League (EFL). “The EFL is a tournament for European American football teams. These

teams are affiliated to IFAF Europe, which stands for the International Federation of American Football – Europe,” according to EFL’s website.

This developed into a substantial foot in the door opportunity. Malcolm has played for eight sports teams abroad. His ninth opportunity will be playing on the football roster in Romania for the Bucharest Titans in August. A conversation Malcolm shared with his late mother keeps him pushing to achieve remarkable strides.

“I made a promise that I was gonna make a name of myself,” Malcolm said.

Even when his mother was alive, resources were scarce. Keeping the promise required substantial determination.

“I found a pair of football cleats on a practice football field that I was playing on in Cherry Hill. It was one Nike one and Under Armour. I used to play with two different pairs of cleats, so that basically was like my motivation, when I first started playing,” Malcolm said.

Reginald Samuels—a Baltimorean who met Malcolm when he was a youth football coach in Cherry Hill for The Cherry Hill Eagles—knew Malcolm when he was a track runner who wanted to try out football. He noted that Malcolm took directions well and Malcolm grew to regard Samuels as a father figure. Samuels said that he thinks Malcolm’s career accomplishments are great considering his mother’s passing when he was so young.

“He used it to actually fuel himself to just...do the things that his mother would’ve wanted him to do, because she knew he was destined to do better than most kids in his environment,” Samuels said.

Despite achieving success abroad, Malcolm returns to Baltimore in between football seasons. He is also known for mentoring youth, coaching football for the Park Height Saints,

motivational speaking, working as a personal trainer, and utilizing his sports agency expertise. For Malcolm, staying grounded is linked to investing in young people who can look up to a man who beat the odds.

“The kids I mentor is what keeps me going because I feel like I didn’t have somebody like me growing up, and so the kids have somebody like me, a person that’s actually a professional athlete, to actually be there in person and spend time with them. It’s big, so I gotta keep on doing what I’m doing,” Malcolm said.

A moving documentary about Malcolm is available via https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUIz6pN_0kM.



Malcolm Gasque, right, appears with his mother, the late Rosetta Gasque, left. All photos courtesy of Malcolm Gasque



Malcolm Gasque plays football in Belgium on the Mons Knights team in 2019.



Malcolm Gasque will be playing on the football roster in Romania for the Bucharest Titans in August. The native Baltimorean has been playing football abroad since 2015. Today, Gasque mentors youth in Baltimore, coaches football, provides motivational speaking services, works as a personal trainer, and utilizes his sports agency expertise, between football seasons. A short documentary about his life reminds others what is possible against the odds.

Healthcare Engagement

Balanced Billing

By La-Villa Brooks

How many of you have heard of balanced billing? How many of you understand balanced billing? Do not worry, most people have neither heard nor understand what balanced billing is. Medical billing has different moving parts based on Medicare, Medicaid, the type of primary insurance you have and if you have supplemental insurance. Once you move past patient registration, insurance eligibility and verification, there is the claim submission and payment posting that occurs. Payment posting is what will affect your out-of-pocket costs, if any.



La-Villa Brooks

What is balanced billing? Balanced billing, sometimes referred to as “Surprise billing” is when you receive an unexpected bill for services rendered after your insurance has paid the bill. A balanced bill can occur, for example, from an emergency room visit for services provided, outside of your control, by a doctor that is out-of-network. This can also happen as a result of seeing a specialist who is not part of your network of providers.

On the back end of insurance, there is the contractual agreement between the provider and the doctor and the provider and the hospital. This differs from the Medicare rule of 80/20 which is Medicare paying 80% of the

medical bill and you are responsible for the remaining 20%. If you have Medicare, you will receive a quarterly statement listing the services that you received, what they paid, and what you must pay. Unlike Medicare, managed care health does not have an 80/20 rule, and the difference of whatever your insurance does not pay for, you become the responsible party for that difference. Medicaid recipients should not receive a bill.

Take note, when you sign the billing waiver at the doctor’s office, you are not only agreeing to the services being rendered but also any billing associated with the visit and payments due beyond what your insurance company does not pay. You should always scrutinize the bills you are receiving. If you have an upcoming procedure, you should make an inquiry as to whether all participants are in or out-of-network so that you do not receive any surprise bills.

Sometimes balanced billing can be an honest administrative error or a coverage issue wherein Medicaid doesn’t provide coverage for certain procedures that you were unaware of. Oftentimes, a doctor that you have been seeing for a long time no longer accepts your insurance, does not inform you and you receive a bill for the full amount due. It could also be due to unethical practices in an attempt to get more money from the patient.

Protect yourself and be proactive:

- ✓ Whenever you change insurance companies, update your doctor’s office with the new information. This will avoid any unnecessary billing, delays in processing or scheduling upcoming appointments and procedures.



Courtesy Photo

- ✓ Make sure your basic information is correct, to include your plan ID and dates of service.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to look at your bill. As soon as you receive it, do not toss it into a “read later pile.” You will want to address any discrepancies right away.
- ✓ Protect your credit and communicate with your provider’s billing department right away. Let them know that you are working on it. Medical bills that have been in collection for a year will be reported to the credit bureaus. However, if you’ve paid off your medical, effective July 2022, TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian will remove the negative credit reporting.
- ✓ Inform your plan, whenever possible and in a non-emergency case, of any upcoming procedures to ensure that the hospital, doctors, and specialists are a part of your network services; sometimes referrals are not needed, therefore you want to make sure you cover your basis.
- ✓ Know what your insurance does and does not cover.

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Harbor Bank Opens Its Northwood Commons Branch

By Baltimore Times Staff

On the Juneteenth federal holiday, guests, stakeholders, and officials gathered at the renovated Northwood Commons near Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore to celebrate the eighth branch of The Harbor Bank of Maryland's opening. In 1982, the only Black-owned and managed commercial bank in Maryland first opened its doors for business with assets totaling \$2.1 million. As of December 31, 2020, Harbor Bank's assets have

reportedly grown to \$321 million. Juneteenth was a fitting time to consider the importance of local redevelopment, circulating Black dollars, and addressing the needs of today's community bankers.

Harbor Bank's Chairman and CEO, Joseph Haskins, Jr. remarked that the bank has become increasingly selective about where branches are opened while recognizing online banking's growth.

"How do you meet them where they are? And that's looking at technology, and the type of technology that you need. But you also know there is going to be a need at times for them to be in a physical location, i.e. the branch," Haskins said.

He deliberately selected the ribbon cutting date of the new branch on Monday, June 20 to coincide with the oldest celebratory commemoration of emancipation of African Americans in the United States. Although formerly Morgan College's (MSU's) campus was near what is now Northwood Commons, and formerly known as Northwood Shopping Center, African Americans were once restricted from

shopping there or enjoying entertainment at Northwood Theatre. After taking a closer look at the area's lesser discussed history, racial covenants permitted the Northwood community to exist as a residential neighborhood

for whites only. Shopping amenities initially catered to them.

Hecht Company opened as an anchor store in 1954. A laundry service; beauty salon; dentist; shoe repair; a large discount department store; Northwood Theatre; and other places of business were present at the shopping center, back in 1951,

according to Northwood Commons' website. MSU's president, Dr. David Wilson referenced the shopping center's unjust past, during the event.

"Nearly sixty years ago, as you've heard, I and so many of you in the audience would not have been welcomed in the shopping center, and that was certainly the case with students as you've heard attending Morgan during that era, as well as for all of the residents in this neighborhood who were Black," Wilson said.

Over 400 of MSU's students were jailed for participating in a demonstration to demand the right to enjoy the entertainment facilities and patronize the shops, according to Wilson. February 19, 1963 was one recorded date when "members of MSU's Civic Interest Group (CIG) were denied entry in protest of anti-segregation laws," per information provided by Northwood Commons' website. In a photo which accompanied the timeline, students are visible standing near Northwood Theatre.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell, a retired Baltimore Chief Judge of the

Court of Appeals of Maryland is a Morgan College alumnus who recalled the historical chapter chronicling a fight for equal rights dating back to the '40s and '50s. Students such as Bell boycotted stores, while the shopping center continued to refuse to comply with the public accommodation law for people of color.

Considering the discriminatory history of Northwood Shopping Center, the redeveloped shopping center, which was also formerly known as Northwood Plaza Shopping Center, exemplifies long-term progress. A black-owned bank, and other black-owned businesses, have a presence there. This achievement underscores the value of teamwork and having vision. Congressman Kweisi Mfume remarked that he was among The Harbor Bank of Maryland's first depositors. He recalled using his job on MSU's radio station, WEAA, to help raise money for it.

More chapters have been written in Northwood Commons' modern-day story. The \$50-million redevelopment project is located adjacent to Morgan's West Campus, per MSU's online information that was provided about the project. In 2018, Wilson announced today that "the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW) recently approved leases related to the relocation of the universi-

ty's Barnes & Noble-operated bookstore and the construction of an MSU public safety facility at the site of the Northwood Plaza Shopping Center."

It is noteworthy to mention that Harbor Bank provided \$20 million in New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) financing for the project. The program "attracts private capital into low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities (CDEs)," per information provided by The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

Commercial Group, another Black-owned company, built the shopping center. The project's developer, David Bramble, serves as Black-owned MCB Real Estate's managing partner. He recalled growing up hearing his father, retired priest named Dr. Peter Bramble, encouraging his parishioners to deposit money in The Harbor Bank of Maryland. David encouraged everyone who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony to utilize the shopping center.

"Next time someone tells you you can't do projects like this in our city, and in our neighborhoods, laugh at them and give them directions to Northwood Commons," he said.



(l-r) **Jerome Stephens, Community Outreach Director, Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and David Bramble, Partner, MCB Real Estate and Project Developer**



Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University; Senator Chris Van Hollen; and Joseph Haskins, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Harbor Bank



(l-r) MCB Real Estate team members, Malcolm Victor, Building Engineer; Mike Epps, Construction & Development; Patrick Reid, Vice President, Construction & Development; Marty Lastner, Vice President, Property Management; and Jamie Isaacs, Construction & Development



(Standing) Harbor Bank acknowledges its employees



(l-r) Congressman Kweisi Mfume, 7th Congressional District and Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford



(l-r) Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University and Joy Bramble, Publisher, The Baltimore Times



Maryland State Senator Mary Washington, 43rd District, shared the community's input and involvement in the planning process.



Inside the newly opened Harbor Bank of Maryland.



(l-r) Attendees included Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan State University; The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, 7th Congressional District and Chairman of the Board, Morgan State University and Morgan alumnus; Harbor Board Member and the Honorable Robert M. Bell, retired Baltimore Chief Judge, Court of Appeals and Morgan alumnus; a host of politicians and project stakeholders

Local Boxer Hosts Fundraising and Training Event in East Baltimore

By Demetrius Dillard

Dorian “Educated Boxer” Bostic, a local boxer with aspirations of becoming the first Black American world champion to earn a Ph.D, hosted a fundraising and training event at Corner Team Boxing and Fitness Club on June 17th, 2022.

Dozens of supporters and community members attended the two-hour event that also featured live music, food and “Educated Boxer” merchandise for sale. Bostic (11-0, 11 KOs) is moving his own boxing career and is raising funds for training expenses and fees.

He also held the function to showcase some of his training routine. The evening began with Bostic going through some of his warm-ups, including jumping rope and shadow boxing before he went on to hit punching bags for a few rounds. He then stepped in the ring with a training partner to spar for several minutes, displaying his boxing ability, before



Dorian “Educated Boxer” Bostic, a local boxer on a quest to be the first Black American in the sport to be a world champion with a Ph.D, hosted a fundraising and training event at Corner Team Boxing gym in East Baltimore on June 17.

Photos by Demetrius Dillard and Troy Hackley.

rounding things off with a few rounds of mitt work to give guests a glimpse into everyday life in the gym.

“I kind of expected that because I invited so many people,” Bostic said of the turnout. “I know I have a local buzz and I’m doing something that’s never been done before.”

Washington, D.C.-based ring announcer Henry “Discombobulating” Jones attended the event as well, in addition to a few other media outlets. About an hour in, Jones led a Q&A session for guests to inquire about Bostic’s career, training regimen, adversity and more.

Boxing has been one of the most challenging ventures Bostic has ever taken on in his life, he said.

“It’s been the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life. I played college football and other sports growing up, but the discipline it takes to even be a C or D-level fighter is extremely difficult,” Bostic said, also speaking upon the importance of understanding contracts and business.

The fundraising and training event came as he prepares for a few upcoming fights that will preface a major bout slated for September according to Bostic, who became an American Boxing Federation-Atlantic lightweight title holder after a fourth-round stoppage of Walberto Ramos on Dec. 4, 2021.

Bostic, who trains and coaches at Corner Team gym, is a few credits shy of his Ph.D. in human services administration from Walden University. A Patterson High School graduate, Bostic went on to earn an associate’s from CCBC-Essex, a bachelor’s from Coppin State University and a master’s degree from the University of Baltimore.

Ultimately, Bostic wanted to leave young people with this message: “Believe in yourself, invest in yourself and stay away from negative people.”



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continued from page 7

Healthcare Engagement **Balanced Billing**

The Balanced Billing Protection Act protects patients from being railroaded into paying for services that are contractually covered whether it is an emergency service at a hospital that is in-network or at a treatment center and seen by an out-of-network provider. As of January 1, 2020, this applies to all state-regulated health plans. The Affordable Care Act also requires most private insurance companies and Medicare to cover many preventative services to include screenings for a colonoscopy, blood pressure, and adults who are at risk of a chronic disease, for example, ESRD (End-Stage Renal Disease).*

*Note: Insurance plans that are grandfathered (in existence prior to March 23, 2010) and have not made significant changes to coverage since then, are not required to cover preventative tests completely.

Balanced billing is deemed illegal for those who have providers that accept Medicaid or Medicare. If your providers have a contract with your health plan and they send you a bill to cover the difference of what the contract allows, that's balanced billing and it is illegal. If you feel that you that are in receipt of a balance bill, you should contact the provider first, in writing. If you do not get any resolve there, then contact Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on their website cms.gov.

If you have questions or would like to read about a specific healthcare topic, please email your questions to LrTBrooks@gmail.com. I look forward to your engagement.

Rambling Rose

Baltimore's Own, Viola Griffin Productions Celebrates, Honors "Ol Skool" Singers And Groups



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello Everyone,

I hope and pray that my column finds you in good health. Hope all of my guys had a wonderful and Happy Father's Day last weekend. I am so sorry I missed some of the celebrations last week.

This week my column will be about a young lady I so admire. Anyone who knows me and my background in the entertainment business world, know that I offer up few such compliments. But this young lady will be famous one day because of her work and what she does to support local Baltimore musicians.

Let me tell you a little bit about this young lady who I am so proud of. Her name is Viola Griffin; she is a native Baltimorean who went to Lombard Junior High School #57 and then later to Keystone Joy Corps in Drums, Pennsylvania where she studied business. She continued to PTC Career Institute in 1984 where she was certified in Business Administration.

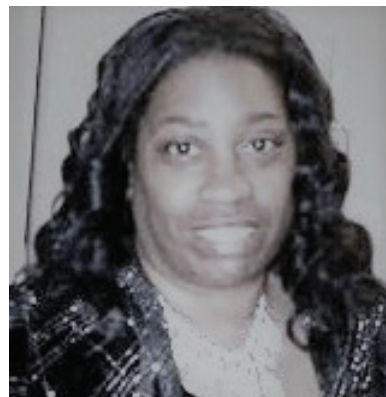
Viola has loved music all her life. At the age of 5, she and her siblings played as a DJ for their parents (held concerts for their parents), neighborhood families and friends. In high school, she regularly participated in talent contests called, "Showcase 57." Ms. Griffin was always a part of any musical activity in school or in her neighborhood. She collects hard to find and rare oldies records and music and has a wide collection of vinyl albums and "45's."

In 2001, she began traveling from state to state to hold concerts and musical seminars. In 2004, she started a production called "An Angel's Touch

Productions," which spotlights new gospel talent. She promotes various young artists and helps them to get started in the business. In 2012, Ms. Griffin founded VG/Viola Griffin Productions and began organizing an Annual Award Banquet which honors Baltimore's Metropolitan area Legendary Legends who never received the recognition, appreciation, or the support they deserved. So, in honor of these performers that entertained so many of us over the years, Ms. Griffin told me, "I just want to salute them with gratitude and appreciation and say, "Thank you" for your musical career and entertaining us in shows, bars, nightclubs, and parties back in the day." "I am a lover and fan of "Ol Skool Music," and I want to tell these performers thank you and job well done." Viola Griffin's motto is "Keeping "Ol Skool" Music Groups alive and always keep a melody in your heart and a tune on your lips."

Her Awards Ceremony and Banquet is Sunday, June 26, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Waxter Senior Center, 1000 Cathedral Center in Baltimore 21205. The Awards Ceremony will feature live entertainment by The SheDevil's, Tommy Vann, "Tee-Shirt" Brian Hall, Soul Experience, Starpoint, and Al Brown & The Tune-Toppers, just to name a few. The Ice Man (Phillip Lindsey spinning music from the past) and JB Brown, former radio station personality will be there. Yours truly "Rambling Rose" will be Master and Mistress of Ceremony. For more details, call 443-822-5356.

Well, my friends, I we will see you somewhere. Until then, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474.



Viola Griffin Productions is honoring Baltimore's own renowned "Old Skool Groups," singers and promoters from the 1950's, 70's and 1980's in an Award Ceremony and Banquet on Sunday, June 26, 4-8 p.m. at the Waxter Center, 1000 Cathedral Center. It is BYOB and dinner will be served. For more information call 443-822-5356.



Vincent & PJ Allen of Street Entertainment Productions will have an Event Day Concert featuring Leslie Tanner and her band on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at Shannon Brook Farm, 3004 Hernwood Road, in Woodstock, Maryland from 12 noon to 7 p.m. It is an outdoor event; food, beer, wine and cocktails on sale. DJ, Line Dancing, Vendors, BYOB, folding chairs, blankets, picnic baskets and tents are welcome. For more information, call 443-848-4797 or 443-756-5893.

or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Jesse Moody III Hammond B-3 Organ Sextet will grace the stage at An Die Musik Live, 409 N. Charles Street on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 7 p.m., featuring Jesse Moody III on drums, Jesse Moody IV on guitar, Mike Raitzyk on guitar, Michael Hairston on saxophone, Greg Hatza on Hammond B-3 Organ and the one and only vocalist Gabrielle Goodman.



An Evening of Classic Jazz celebrating Joyce Jones-Magwood's 70th Birthday featuring Ralph Magwood and the Vintage Band on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 8 p.m. at the Gala Soundstage, 6233 Kenwood Avenue, Rosedale, Maryland.

Young Ravens WRs Work to Bond with Lamar Jackson

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have been searching for a consistent impact wide receiver for quite some time now. The Ravens seemed to have gotten one with 2019 first-round pick Marquise Brown who finished with a career-high 91 receptions and 1,008 receiving yards last season.

Brown and Lamar Jackson bonded thanks to their common South Florida roots. Jackson figured Brown would be around for years to come. But that was before he was shocked by the trade that sent Brown to the Arizona Cardinals for the No. 23 overall pick in the 2022 draft.

Now Jackson is left with Rashod Bateman as his likely top receiver entering this season. The two got to spend three days together at minicamp last week. Judging from their com-



Rashod Bateman

Photo credit: Scott Taetsch/USA TODAY Sports

ments, the chemistry is already off to a good start.

“We just had chemistry off [the] bat,” Jackson said. “It was like I never stopped playing, really, and I just felt like when I got to camp, it was going to be the same way, and it has.”

“I just think that he’s coming in and he’s about his business,” Bateman added. “He’s been out here working day-by-day, and his approach to the game is definitely different. He’s eager, he’s ready to ball, he’s ready to show everybody who he is. We all know who he is, and I think we all are tired of the Lamar [Jackson] slander. But, I know who he is.”

Bateman is entering his second season and says the No. 1 receiver role is one that he always wanted to be in. After catching 46 passes for 515 yards and a touchdown, Bateman could see a huge leap thanks for more targets from Jackson this season.

“He’s getting open at the line super, super quick,” tight end Mark Andrews said of Bateman. “And then he’s got a burst of speed people don’t really talk about. Second-year, he’s a guy that’s just gonna get better and better and better. The sky’s the limit for him.”

James Proche and Devin Duvernay are also cemented at the top of the Ravens depth chart. Proche didn’t have the same success as Bateman (20 receptions, 202 yards) last season but has found a similar bond with Jackson so far as they prepare for 2022.

“I think that chemistry is important just as people. We can go out and throw all day, but the closer we get as people, watching film, knowing each other’s thinking, knowing each other’s tendencies, what makes them tick, what makes them go,” Proche said.

“How to get each other going, when we’re in a rut ... I think that stuff matters more when we’re involved in chemistry. That’s an everyday grind. As the season goes – it’s not just an off-season thing – during the season, we’ll keep picking it up and hopefully for years to come.”

The team isn’t scheduled to be back together until training camp starts in late July. Jackson didn’t give any indications that they’ll have a throwing session before camp starts. He’s done it in the past with Brown and the results followed.

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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 **WATER CONTRACT NO. 1410R-Urgent Need Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvements Phase I-FY21** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **July 20, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates and can be watched live on Charm TV's cable channel (Channel 25/1085HD); charmtv.baltimore.com/watch-live or listen in at (443) 984-1696 (ACCESS CODE: 0842939) from City Hall in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at Contract Administration 4 South Frederick Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the 3rd floor (410) 396-4041 as of **June 24, 2022** 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 OBC at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 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 **B02551-Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Conference Call. Vendor can call 443-984-1696 PASSCODE 9805562# on **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM.**

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:
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Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Urgent need water main repairs and replacement as necessary, including, but not limited to, replacement/installation of various size new ductile iron pipe, valves, fittings, and appurtenances replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, roadway paving, sedimentation and erosion control measures and maintenance of traffic, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates
APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Acting Director
Department of Public Works

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

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at 4 S Frederick St., 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 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 **B02551 Water Mains**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00**.

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Team Meeting. Vendor can call 443-984-1696 PASSCODE: 1751018# on **June 29, 2022 at 11:00 AM.**

To purchase a bid book, please make an electronic request at:
<https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/dpw-construction-projects-notice-letting> For further inquiries about purchasing bid documents, please contact the assigned Contract Administrator Latonia.Walston@baltimorecity.gov and dpwbidopportunities@baltimorecity.gov

Principal items of work for this contract include, but are not limited to:

Urgent need water main repairs and replacement as necessary, including, but not limited to, replacement/installation of various size new ductile iron pipe, valves, fittings, and appurtenances replacement/installation of fire hydrants, small (residential) meter settings and meter vaults, renew and replacement of existing water services, sidewalk restoration, curb and gutter, roadway paving, sedimentation and erosion control measures and maintenance of traffic, as required.

The MBE goal is **12%**
The WBE goal is **5%**

APPROVED:
Clerk, Board of Estimates
APPROVED:
Jason W. Mitchell
Director
Department of Public Works

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 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.**

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TR22009 MATERIAL TESTING AND COMPLIANCES OF VARIOUS PROJECTS, CITYWIDE will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **July 20, 2022**. 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. As of **June 24, 2022**, the proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge by contacting emailing Brenda.simmons@baltimorecity.gov or calling (443) 865-4423. Anyone wishes to purchase a bid book in person may do so by **appointment only** for a nonrefundable cost of **\$75.00, which is payable to the Director of Finance. 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 **G99999 (Various Materials Testing); G99999 (Filed Technician and Engineer) and G99999 (Ground Penetrating Radar Test)**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00**. "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams at **10:00 A.M. on July 8, 2022**. Email your contact information to uttam.khadka@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting) no later than **July 7, 2022** at 4:00pm. Principal Items of work for this project are site work including Various Materials Testing 4700 Each; Field Technician and Engineer 2400 hours; Ground Penetrating Radar Test 10 Numbers. The MBE goal is **10%** and WBE goal is **10%**.

APPROVED:
M. Celeste Amato,
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