

# The Annapolis Times

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## *Maryland students chosen to compete in National History Day Competition*



More than 600 talented middle and high students, along with their proud parents and teachers, converged on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Saturday, May 2, 2015 to compete in the annual Maryland History Day state contest. Representing 10 counties and Baltimore City, 68 students were selected to advance to the National History Day competition. Winners were chosen at their district level for both individual and group efforts from five different categories: research papers, exhibits, performances, websites and documentaries. (Photo left to right): Nigel Cooper, Alana Hines, Seleru Owens and Kevin Rubio of Cross Country Elementary Middle School in Baltimore City celebrate their national advancement in the Junior Group Documentaries competition for their work "Frances Perkins – The Mother of Social Security." (See article on page 14)

Photo Credit: Mitro Hood.

# Inmates design and make quilts for a cause

By Stacy M. Brown

Sirilar Stokes, an inmate at the Patuxent Institution in Jessup, first started trying her hand at quilting about three months ago. It was another to pass the time while helping some local charities. Stokes warmed quickly to the idea while she sat inside what could probably be described as a cold and sterile environment.

"I needed something to do," she said. "And, once I got started, I saw it as a means to obtain peace and calmness."

Stokes counts among the dozen female inmates who worked for months on crafting the 150 quilts that will be donated to the St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families in Hyattsville and the St. Vincent Villa, which is part of the Catholic Charities of Baltimore.

"This is just one of many restorative justice programs [offered by] the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services," said department spokeswoman Renata Seergae.

"Many men and women only realize the pain they have caused once they have spent some time behind bars. This program is a way to give back to those they have harmed in the past," Seergae said. "Even if they are not directly giving back to their victims, the hope is they are giving something back to society and trying to help right the wrongs they have done."

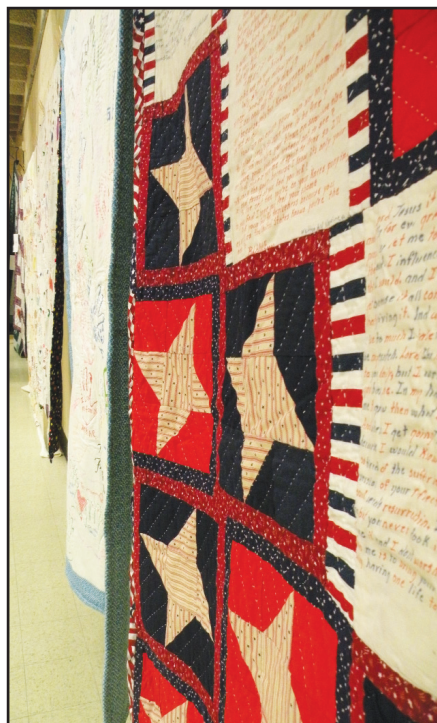
The Maryland Department of Public Safety opened up the Patuxent facility to the press on Friday, May 8, 2015 as the women busily stitched together the last of the quilts.

Stokes served as the spokesperson for the other inmates in the quilting group. She said she found delight in knowing that her work would assist children.

"[It's with] great pleasure that it will put a smile on a child's face," she said. "A child, who doesn't have much, but a child who will know that the quilt that I'm making is his or hers."

The quilt program is the brainchild of Dr. Erin Shaffer, the director of Behavioral Sciences at Patuxent Institution who took a period quilt to a local shop to have it repaired.

As shop owner Inge Stocklin decided



to close her local quilt business, Shaffer asked Inge to restore one of her quilts.

To her credit, officials said, Shaffer recognized great potential value in creating a quilting program for female inmates. Also, they said Stocklin didn't appear hesitant at the thought of coming into prison.

Seergae and other prison officials said the quilting program has served to help boost morale by allowing inmates to participate in a positive social activity.

It also has allowed those incarcerated to learn a new skill and understand the meaning of giving back to the community, officials said.

This year marked the fifteenth time that prison officials staged a quilt show. To date, inmates at the facility have donated about 850 quilts to various charities.

Two years ago, quilts that were made by the inmates were among those displayed and judged for their beauty at the Howard County Fair. Without knowing the source of the quilts, judges awarded ribbons to two of them.

Sister Mary Bader, the director of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville and a previous quilt recipient told correction officials how much the quilts meant to the young mothers and



(Top right) Sirilar Stokes, an inmate at the Patuxent Institution in Jessup is among a dozen female inmates who worked for months on crafting 150 quilts that will be donated to the St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families in Hyattsville and the St. Vincent Villa, which is part of the Catholic Charities of Baltimore. The quilt program is one of many restorative justice programs offered by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Courtesy Photos/Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

children at St. Ann's.

"You need to know that your labor of love is being carried back to St. Ann's,"

Bader said. "Your life is being changed, and you're also changing the lives of our teen moms."

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## The Way Forward for Congress

By Lee H. Hamilton

There have been encouraging signs on Capitol Hill of late that Congress's long slide into irrelevance may be slowing. Agreements on Medicare reimbursements in both houses, and on Iran, No Child Left Behind, Pacific trade and other issues in various committees led last month to a chorus of relieved approval both in Washington and in the press. Less noticed, but equally important, a report from the Bipartisan Policy Center found that Congress worked more during the first quarter of this year than the past few years, and that the amendment process in the Senate is once again functioning as it's supposed to.

However, let's not go overboard. Major challenges lie immediately ahead, chief among them, how Congress handles the budget. Politicians on Capitol Hill are coming more to agreement. Modest bills are being passed and we have a taste of bipartisanship. If Congress finds that it likes feeling productive, then I have some suggestions for turning these first, tentative steps into full-blown progress.

First, it needs to remember that our founders placed Congress first in the constitutional firmament. It has been far too timid. As has been noted, "Congress today is a reactive body, taking its cues from the President: sometimes in deference to him, sometimes in opposition to him, occasionally in agreement with him—but always in reference to him." That is not the definition of a co-equal branch of government.

However, it's not just the President. Congress leaves regulatory decisions to federal agencies with little direction or oversight, hands economic power to the Federal Reserve, and has allowed the Supreme Court to become the central policymaking body on controversial issues from campaign finance to affirmative action to environmental regulation.

Second, Congress needs to return to good process. This is not a panacea, but it enhances the prospect of getting things right. Returning in both houses to the so-called "regular order" of committee hearings and amendments would do wonders for restoring transparency, encouraging fact-finding, hearing all sides, weighing options, and finding agreement. Congress has adopted some really bad habits on procedure by passing huge bills in secret, bypassing committees, curbing participation of members, and sharply limiting debate and amendments. Calling an end to all of that would boost Capitol Hill's chances of crafting legislation that represents what's best for Americans. Discouraging legislators from tying two unrelated issues together—the tactic that led to the unconscionably long approval process for Attorney General Loretta Lynch—would help policy get made on its merits.

Third, members need to understand that their conduct has a direct impact on Americans' trust in Congress. Too many have a constricted view of what it means to serve. They understand their responsibility to represent their constituents, but apparently feel little or no responsibility to get legislation enacted into law or to make the country work. They are satisfied with issuing political statements, casting a vote, or passing a bill—but not caring if it can pass the other house and get signed by the President. This approach fails the ultimate test of the legislative process, which is to find remedies to the nation's challenges.

Finally, Congress should heed the lesson of these past few months and re-energize its commitment to negotiation and compromise. There is room in politics for elected leaders who do not back down on their principles, but these politicians can't be allowed to dominate the process. If they do, the legislative process deadlocks and representative government becomes impossible. Skillful legislators know how to honor their firmly held principles while still finding common ground. The progress we have seen of late on Capitol Hill is proof that these legislators exist.

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

## Rough Ride



## Letters to the Editor

**Editor:**

**Re: African-Americans  
and colon cancer**

Here is some promising news: A recent study suggests that you can reduce your risk for colon cancer—a disease that afflicts African-Americans more than any other racial group in the United States—just by eating tasty vegan foods.

Researchers with the University of Pittsburgh asked 20 African-Americans in Pittsburgh and 20 rural South Africans to "switch diets" for two weeks. The Pittsburgh residents ate a traditional African diet, which includes lots of fruit, vegetables, beans, and cornmeal, and very little meat. The Africans ate typical American-style meals, heavy in meat and cheese.

At the end of the swap, the researchers performed colonoscopies on all of the study participants. Those who ate the African-style diet had less inflammation in the colon and more of a fatty acid that may protect against colon cancer. Those who ate the typical American diet showed signs that indicated an increased risk of colon cancer.

If you want to stay on the safe side, visit [www.PETA.org](http://www.PETA.org) for a free vegan starter kit, or check out the Afro-Vegan cookbook by renowned chef Bryant Terry.

**Heather Moore**  
PETA Foundation  
Norfolk, VA

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## Baltimore: Another Horror Movie Rerun

By James Clingman  
NNPA Columnist

The movie we are watching in Baltimore is a re-run and a sequel. The price of admission has always been too high, but we continue to pay the exorbitant price anyway.

As the opening line in the old TV show, "Dragnet," proclaimed, "The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent." In today's society, that second line should say, "The names have been changed to protect the 'guilty.'"

My 11-year-old nephew, since the age of five or six, has been reciting, verbatim, the words from his favorite movies. He knows the directors, the release dates, and the bios of the stars in those movies. He has seen his favorite movies many times over. He reminds me of black people, as we watch the same movie over and over, except we do not remember the vital information contained in the movie, and we even forget who the main characters were and the roles they played.

The latest movie being run in Baltimore is a sequel to the ones we watched in Ferguson, Missouri; and Staten Island, New York. It is a rerun of what we saw in Los Angeles, Cleveland and North Charleston, S.C. How many times are we going to pay the price of admission to see the same movie without memorizing the lines and learning from them? How many times must we go through the same experience before we change our response to it?

The 1960s is unfortunate. Where were they before the looting and burning started in Baltimore? Were they busy teaching the youth that what took place in the 1960s was detrimental to their neighborhoods, as they now like to say to TV news reporters? If they have not, until now, passed on those lessons to younger folks their words ring hollow today.

Some of the sanctimonious comments being made by my generation very

me to see our grown men saying, "They need jobs." Well, create some jobs to give them. It's so sad to hear our adults crying out, "They need education." Well, provide them with education. Our youth see many of us as weak and impotent when it comes to protecting them.

We have the resources to provide everything we say our youth need. What must they think of our words, our prayer sessions, our news conferences, our political speeches, and our tepid efforts now to stop and correct their behavior, when we have not used our resources to take care of them? Our answer is to run to those who don't care about them and beg for jobs, food, education and everything else they need.

Frederick Douglass' words are clear regarding power, but as I always add, a demand not backed-up by power will not come to fruition; and the real power in this country is the almighty dollar. Just look at what happened in Indianapolis when the LGBT folks were upset. They did not burn anything down or throw one brick, because they know that dollars rule the day. Their threats to withdraw their dollars were immediately addressed by the politicians.

People whose families own storefront businesses are very unlikely to throw bricks through the windows and burn them down. Sgt. Joe Friday had another saying in Dragnet: "Just the facts ma'am, just the facts."

*Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for black people. He can be reached through his website: [blackonomics.com](http://blackonomics.com).*

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***"Just look at what happened in Indianapolis when the LGBT folks were upset. They did not burn anything down or throw one brick, because they know that dollars rule the day. Their threats to withdraw their dollars were immediately addressed by the politicians."***

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Some very interesting and pitiful responses (reviews) have come from some of the "leaders" in Baltimore in the aftermath of Freddie Gray's death. We knew what the politicians' reviews would be; they are always true to form. However the older folks, who decry the violence as "insulting" and "disrespectful" to Freddie's family, are even more disingenuous. They seem to have forgotten about 1968 when their generation, and maybe even some of them, burned down buildings and looted all across this nation, in the aftermath of MLK's assassination. Were their actions deemed insulting and disrespectful to King's family? If so, did that stop them?

The self-righteousness I hear from those in my generation about the youth who are doing the same thing they did in

strongly suggest that even though we have seen this movie many times, we are content to watch it again without having shared its lessons. Is it because we are ashamed of ourselves now? Do we think we are better than our youth today? We should be bringing the generations together rather than separating them and acting like we have not been where they are.

Amos Wilson said, "The violently oppressed react violently to their oppression." He also said, "Just as power corrupts, powerlessness also corrupts." This is the main plot of our 21st century version of the 1968 movie. Same theme—different characters.

Why do we only react to what young people do, rather than work with them every day by giving them alternatives to prevent their negative behaviors? It irks

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**Mailing Address  
The Baltimore Times  
2513 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218**

**Phone: 410-366-3900 Fax 410-243-1627  
[www.baltimoretimes-online.com](http://www.baltimoretimes-online.com)**

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# Hall of Fame Stable a Family Affair for Leatherbury, Thorpe

By Phil Janack

*Legendary horseman, longtime assistant team up for success*

Assistant trainer Avon Thorpe has described his two and a half decades of working in several roles for recently elected Hall of Fame horseman King Leatherbury as a family affair.

Never was that more true than on January 15, when Thorpe's 19-year-old nephew, Darius, won his first professional race aboard the Leatherbury-owned and trained Rainbowappears at Laurel Park.

Being his uncle is a mere technicality. Thorpe has raised Darius from a young age since his father died. Their relationship is clearly seen and more accurately described as father and son.

"I didn't adopt him, but I raised him. He's always called me 'Pops,'" Thorpe said. "He's my son now."

"He's been the biggest help that I could ever get," Darius Thorpe said. "He exposed my face to people that he knew to give me a better shot and just show what I can do, having seen me grow up and seeing my improvement. It makes me feel blessed."

Avon Thorpe was 18 when he started working for the now 82-year-old Leatherbury as a hotwalker at Pimlico. Now 42, Thorpe steadily rose through the ranks of the barn, now based at Laurel Park, to become Leatherbury's trusted, hands-on assistant.

"I didn't even know him. It was a case of just hiring him and him lasting and doing a good job," Leatherbury said. "Avon kind of graduated and worked his way up into that position. He does a real good job. He's on top of everything and very knowledgeable. He keeps people straight."

Thorpe said he's never considered going out on his own, and is content to work with the Mid-Atlantic legend who ranks fourth all-time in wins and was announced April 20 as a member of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame's Class of 2015 – his first year on the ballot.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it. King



*Assistant trainer Avon Thorpe with his 19-year-old nephew Darius, who he has raised from a young age since his father died. Their relationship is clearly seen and more accurately described as father and son. Thorpe was 18 when he started working for the now 82-year-old Leatherbury as a hotwalker at Pimlico.*

**Photo Credit: Jim McCue**

gave me an opportunity to learn a lot and he lets you pretty much use your own judgment on a lot of things where a lot of other trainers probably won't do that. He treats me like a son," Thorpe said. "I stayed because I saw an opportunity. It was my time, and I never looked back. I don't plan on leaving."

Thorpe is now passing that knowledge down to Darius, who has been an eager student from the time he was young.

"At eight years old he said, 'I want to be a jockey.' He kept saying it and I told him, 'Boy, you're going to get too big,'" Thorpe said. "At eight ears old he was in the tack room, just riding a saddle on the sawhorse the saddle sits on. When he got in high school, I got him an Equi-

cizer so he could practice. All day and all night he was on that horse. I had to tell him to go to bed.

"He paid attention a lot. He looked at every race everywhere. He watched the good riders. He stuck with it, and it means so much," he said. "That's what he loves. That's what he wanted to be, and I'm going to stand behind him 100 percent. He's still going to college to have something to fall back on if he gets too heavy or whatever. I just like to let him live his life. I'm doing what I want to do and what I love, and I want him to do the same."

Darius Thorpe juggles studying architecture at Ann Arundel Community College with riding. He has two wins,

three seconds and four thirds at Pimlico's spring meet, which opened April 2 after going 61-2-6-8 during the winter session at Laurel Park that ran January 1 to March 29.

"Pretty much since I've been little I've been around the track. I always found a comfort zone being around horses, so I knew I wanted to do this for a long time," he said. "It's been better than I expected. It's picking up."

An apprentice currently riding with a 10-pound weight allowance, Thorpe's first win came as an amateur last year before launching his professional career in the fall at Laurel Park. Getting his first pro win for his father and Team Leatherbury made it extra special.

"It made me feel blessed to know that I had the chance to win for a Hall of Famer who gave me a shot on a good horse. Everything just played out right," he said. "I just want to stay humble, always listen and follow directions and be the best rider I can be for as long as I do this."

Thorpe won the first race of the current Preakness Meet at Pimlico by a nose aboard Gold Hill (\$29), and rode \$28.20 winner Sizzling Lassie on the Federico Tesio undercard April 18 for owner-trainer Robert Gamber.

"I heard a good report on him when he won that race. Eric Camacho, who's a friend of mine and a good rider, said he switched sticks good and looked good on a horse," Leatherbury said. "That's what he's got to do, just get more experience. The more you do something, if you're good enough, you're going to benefit from it."

Historic Pimlico Race Course, home of the Preakness® Stakes, the middle jewel in horse racing's famed Triple Crown, first opened its doors on October 25, 1870, and is the second oldest racetrack in the United States. Pimlico has played host to racing icons and Baltimoreans have seen the likes of legendary horses such as Man o' War, Seabiscuit, Secretariat, Affirmed and Cigar thunder down the stretch in thrilling and memorable competition. For more information about Pimlico, visit [www.pimlico.com](http://www.pimlico.com).

# Randallstown student earns major college scholarship

By Stacy M. Brown

Like so many others in Baltimore, Kamal Al-Mateen witnessed the protests, demonstrations, discord and ultimately the rioting in the aftermath of the death of local resident Freddie Gray.

However, Kamal's story might be a bit different from most. The 17-year-old Randallstown High School student, who stood out as the quarterback of the football team, has remained focused on the one thing that he says could really help solve at least some of the problems that led up to the Baltimore riots.

"I try to stay away from the negative influences that are out there," he said. "I know that I have a bright future and I don't want to get caught up in anything that's bad or anything that'll mess me up."

Kamal, a true scholar/athlete can be counted among the select few high school football players in the Baltimore area who will be moving on to play in college.

He received a \$65,000 academic

scholarship to attend Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, a school which in 2013 was ranked by Forbes magazine in the top 12 percent among private colleges and universities for financial strength and operational soundness.

"I'm very excited about it," Kamal said. "It's nice to play up there and I know that my family is excited too."

Kamal says his initial choice to attend the historically black North Carolina A&T didn't pan out, but it also didn't dampen his enthusiasm for Lycoming. He says he is following in his older brother Khari's footsteps.

Khari, 22, recently graduated from the University of Maine and he also excels in football.

"My biggest influence has been my brother and my mom," Kamal said. "They're both very spiritual and my brother and I stay active with football and we stay active with our school work."

Academics are more important to him



*Kamal Al-Mateen  
Courtesy Photo*

and his family than athletics. Studying and being good role models for other

young African-Americans is a major part of the family's narrative, according to Kamal. He said that both he and his brother were taught to be positive individuals.

"We have to stay positive because our mom is a positive person," Kamal said. While he won't decide a major until a little later, Kamal says he is considering architectural engineering, business and mass communications as his primary courses of study.

When he looks back and reflects on the riots that damaged his beloved city, Kamal said others could be better served by taking the course of he and his brother.

"I didn't believe what was happening," he said, adding that the silver lining was that the actions of demonstrators appears to have led to the charges of the six police officers involved in Gray's death. "I thought the riots would stand out in people's mind more than the silent protesters," Kamal said. "But, I guess the silent protesting worked."

## "O, Say Can You Sing" the National Anthem with the BSO?

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Contestants will vie for the chance to sing the national anthem alongside the BSO in front of thousands at the BSO's annual Star-Spangled Spectacular concerts held at Baltimore County's Oregon Ridge Park, July 3-4, 2015. The competition is open to singers age eight to 18.

Contestants must be able to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" in the key of B-flat Major (starting note is F) or A-flat Major (starting note is E-flat) along with an accompanist provided by the BSO. Contestants will be judged on singing ability and stage presence. For more information, visit: [www.BSO.org](http://www.BSO.org).

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# For new Ravens player Maxx Williams, it's a family affair

By Turrón Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens used their second round pick to select Maxx Williams, a tight end from Minnesota. Williams decided to make himself eligible for the 2015 NFL Draft after his red shirt sophomore season. The decision to enter the NFL was a tough one but it was an opportunity that Williams could not resist. Becoming a professional football player is something that Williams has always wanted to do. He says that walking through the doors into the Ravens' facility was "a dream come true."

"It was a hard decision. It came down to my goals in life, which is to be the best that I can be. To do that, I needed to play in the NFL because it's the best competition." Williams said; "I wanted to be like my dad. I know he had a long career."

The Williams family has their share of athletes. Maxx's father Brian Williams was drafted in the first round by the New York Giants and played in the NFL for ten years. His grandfather, Robert Williams played quarterback at Notre Dame and was drafted by Chicago in 1959. It doesn't stop there. Williams' mother Rochelle played volleyball at the University of Minnesota from 1984-1987 and was named to the Big Ten Medal of Honor in 1988. His uncle also played football for Minnesota and professionally for Barcelona in the World League of American Football.

Having so many athletes in his family had a big influence on Williams' development as an athlete. "It helps growing up in a house that has two parents that were college athletes. My dad played in the pros and to have them install that work ethic in me from the start." Williams continued, "They always taught us that we have to work hard for what we want.



*Maxx Williams is introduced to the media by (left to right) Director of Scouting Joe Horowitz; Head Coach John Harbaugh; General Manager Ozzie Newsome; and Assistant General Manager Eric DeCosta. The Ravens selected the tight end from Minnesota with their second round pick at the 2015 NFL draft.*  
Courtesy Photo/www.baltimoreravens.com

That's what they did for their careers. Just growing up around that, knowing that everything that you do, you do your best and good things happen if you do that. Having my dad as a pro athlete, being able to lean on him when I needed him, it was a great way to grow up and get ready for this moment."

When asked who the best athlete in his family is, Williams had no problem identifying who it was, "Mom was the best athlete in the family. She was the one who that taught me how to catch, kick and throw the ball. Dad was always gone at practice."

Once his dad was done playing foot-

ball, Williams was able to go to him for advice because he had been through it himself. Williams leaned on his father for football advice and just life advice in general. Williams readily identified what he says was the most relevant piece of advice that his father gave him after he was drafted.

"He told me that I am a rookie, I have to go to work and show everyone that I am there for a reason. I have to earn respect by going in, shutting my mouth. He told me to go out there and prove that I can play with them," Williams said.

Ravens tight ends coach Rich Angulo played in the NFL for a short period of

time and is pleased with his new protégé.

"As a tight ends coach, I couldn't be happier. This guy plays with fire. He makes me excited as a position coach to coach him. I can't wait to get on the field." Angulo said.

New offensive coordinator Marc Trestman sees a bright future for Williams.

"This is a young guy. He's only 21 years old and still growing," Williams said. "He has a great skill set. He is getting stronger yet he has a skill set that is ready made for this league. We are excited to have him with us."

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## Caregivers encouraged to care for themselves with healthy lifestyle

By Jacqueline Williams and The PATIENTS Program

A few years ago, I left the corporate world and decided to take a different path. I had been practicing yoga for several years and always thought about how rewarding it would be to teach. I was so busy changing my life that I didn't notice that my parents were getting older.

Last year, my dad had a stroke and he now lives in a nursing home. Our roles have changed and I am now one of his caregivers.

I spend a lot of time making sure that his physical and emotional needs are met. This means working with the healthcare providers at his facility to ensure that his treatment and care plans are fulfilled. My two siblings and I also believe it's important to try and visit our father every day.

It's easy to get so caught up in caring for a loved one that you forget to make sure that your own needs are being met. When you burn the candle at both ends, you can burn out. It's especially important for caregivers to care for themselves so their physical and mental health doesn't falter.

I always eat lots of fresh fruit and vegetables to keep colds and flu at bay. I also get plenty of protein to keep myself strong enough to face daily challenges. I meditate and practice yoga about five times per week and highly recommend yoga and meditation as a way to ward off stiffness and injuries. Practicing yoga and meditation can also bring more peace and balance into your day-to-day activities.

Yoga doesn't have to mean a bunch of complicated poses. You can start by closing your eyes, taking deep, slow breaths and practicing good posture for ten or fifteen minutes a day. People often carry tension in the body and hold their breath without even realizing it. Yoga is a wonderful way to unite the mind, body and spirit.

Being a caregiver can become stressful and sometimes lead to using food or other substances as forms of comfort. Adopting a healthy lifestyle can help to avoid this behavior. It's been my experience that people who are struggling this way will appreciate a supportive hand extended in loving kindness.

You can research and discuss treatment options with your loved ones and help them take the steps needed to move forward. Remind them of how important they are, especially to the people they care for. Help them to recognize the triggers that lead to the addictive behavior and work with them to come up with healthy, positive activities to replace the unhealthy ones. Exercise can keep the mind and body strong and alert as you transition out of negative, addictive behaviors. Also, if it proves necessary, you can help your loved one find a therapist or support group.

Fortunately, we live in a time when helpful information is a lot more accessible but being responsible for someone else's care and wellness still comes with many challenges.

As a caregiver, my biggest request of the medical community is availability. I realize that doctors are extremely busy and sometimes under stress but no one wants to feel forgotten or ignored. Even if the communication can't be face to face, an email, call or text can go a long way towards making caregivers and their loved ones feel more secure. In the meantime, take care of yourself and the ones you love.



**Jacqueline Williams**  
Courtesy Photo

# Bowie State breaks ground on Center for Natural Sciences

*Building will house natural science, mathematics and nursing departments*

*By Andrea Blackstone*

An exciting event took place at Bowie State University (BSU) on Monday, May 11, 2015. A morning groundbreaking ceremony marked the anticipated end of using the Crawford Science Building, which was constructed in the 1960s.

University president Mickey L. Burnim delivered remarks celebrating the start of the construction of a state of the art Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing. The construction site of the new 148,995-square-foot building will fill the space where the demolished Wiseman Student Center was once situated.

Slated to open in 2017, the modern educational facility will house three academic departments—Natural Science, Mathematics and Nursing— offering an optimal environment for learning and collaboration. Burnim explained the forthcoming building will help to produce highly skilled graduates prepared to work or teach in the three aforementioned fields. Future students can look forward to conveniences like glass-walled laboratories, 3D printer rooms, 14 teaching labs and 15 classrooms.

“This is a very special day in the life of Bowie State University, and it’s an extra special day for me, because it represents my second opportunity to officially break ground for a new academic building, and not just any academic facility” Burnim said.

He spoke about the significance of the new building’s science and math focus and how they are crucial to student’s success in today’s economy. “Any university that was about the business of preparing its graduates for leadership positions in the world had to be an organization that was focusing on the preparation of students in STEM, as well as the Arts and the Humanities,” he said.

Burnim acknowledged Gov. Larry Hogan and his administration’s support of the project. Hogan reportedly visited BSU’s campus a few months prior to view the current science building and discuss plans for the new facility. Nearly \$40 million was reportedly included in



*Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford joined other state elected officials on Bowie State's campus to mark the groundbreaking for the Center for Natural Sciences. (Left to right) David Tacchetti, vice president of Clark Construction Group; Maryland Delegate Adrienne Jones; Maryland Senator Ulysses Currie; Comptroller Peter Franchot; Bowie State President Mickey L. Burnim; Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford; State Senator Douglas J.J. Peters; and Maryland Delegate James Proctor Jr.*

Gov. Hogan’s capital budget to make the needed improvement at BSU, when he made the visit. Hogan was not in attendance during BSU’s May 11 groundbreaking ceremony. However, Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford offered remarks.

“It is great to see the expansion of the school. This project is something that is key to economic and workforce development for the state. It is a key area for us and where the state of Maryland can distance itself from some of our competitors.” Lt. Gov. Rutherford said. “On behalf of the entire administration, we appreciate what the president (Burnim) is doing and all of the Bowie State staff.”

Leadership at BSU and supporters expect that the university will be better positioned to attract and retain qualified faculty in STEM fields and recruit more interested students. Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey, Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences, agrees that the new building will help to offer an improved learning and teaching environment.

“This is going to give an outstanding benefit to our students here at Bowie State University and our faculty, because right now we don’t have the facility to be able to provide the quality of education that we would like to provide our

students, because the (Crawford Science) building is very old. It does not provide [a] facility that we need in order

for us to have world-class programs, and so it is going to be great,” Ramsey said.

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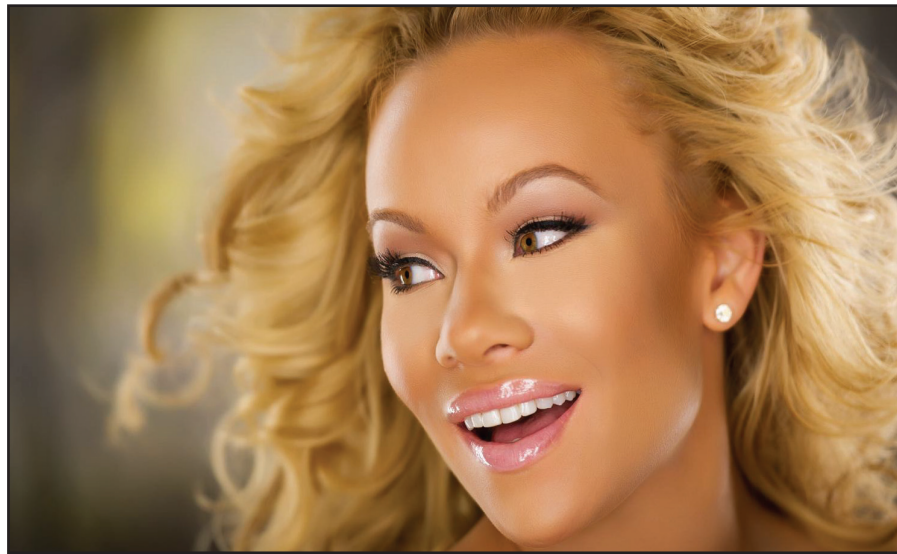
# Musical lineup announced for 2015 African American Festival

The Historic Music Festival, hosted by the City of Baltimore, returns to Camden Yards Sports & Entertainment Complex for a celebration of life, music and culture

Baltimore, Md.— The City of Baltimore and greiBO Entertainment announced the musical talent lineup for the 2015 African American Festival (AAF), to take place on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday, June 21, 2015 from noon to 9 p.m. at the Camden Yards Sports & Entertainment Complex.

Baltimore is standing tall, strong and united as the festival celebrates more than 35 years of life, music and culture. Presented by Black Enterprise, this year's festival will include memorable and energetic performances, empowerment sessions, and non-stop fun for the entire family. As one of the largest FREE cultural festivals on the East Coast, Baltimore has welcomed more than 200,000 attendees annually.

"I am proud of the heritage of the



*On Thursday, May 21, 2015, singer and TV One 'R&B Divas' cast member Brave Williams releases her first solo project "Fearless." The Baltimore native will be one of three hosts of the 2015 African American Festival, which will be held on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21 at the Camden Yards Sports & Entertainment Complex in Baltimore. Brave Williams' music videos and the "Fearless" EP can be downloaded at [www.BraveWilliamsWorld.com](http://www.BraveWilliamsWorld.com).*

African American Festival and its impact on our community with free

health screenings, empowerment sessions and employee recruitment. This year it's positioned to one of the best ever with our commitment to "One Baltimore," said Mayor Rawlings Blake.

Since its inception, the African American Festival has always procured local, aspiring and veteran entertainers to perform in the community, as well as showcase innovative and engaging onsite activations.

This year, AAF will introduce Toyota's Tech Playground, One-on-One financial counseling by Prudential, a Beauty Bar with demonstrations, sam-

ples and techniques, sponsored by Covergirl and Uncle Funky's Daughter, the Beer Garden, sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, and Festival Live with celebrity panels, conversations and talks presented by CharmTV.

The 2015 African American Festival lineup includes: Grammy Award Winners Will Downing, Faith Evans and Stephanie Mills; Legendary Musician Sheila E; R&B Crooner Eric Roberson; Hip Hop Icon Doug E. Fresh; Empire breakout stars Yazz AKA "Hakeem" and V. Bozeman; Top-Selling R&B Female Group SWV; Stellar Award-Winner Tamela Mann; Actress and Singer Demetria McKinney and R&B Boy Band 4EY the Future.

This year's hosts are Real Husbands of Hollywood Producer Chris Spencer, Singer and "R&B Diva" Brave Williams and actor and singer David Mann. Special invited guests include: Sister 2 Sister's Jamie Foster Brown, Author Zane, Model Beverly Johnson, Music Vet Kevin Liles and festival DJ's, DJ Beauty and the Beatz and DJ Tanz. More talent will be announced in the coming weeks.

"I am happy to support the City of Baltimore and excited to celebrate the 20 year anniversary of my first album, "Faith," with the fans on the festival stage," says 2015 AAF performer Faith Evans.

For more information about the African American Festival, performance schedule and other events, visit [www.AfricanAmericanFestival.net](http://www.AfricanAmericanFestival.net). Also, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at BmoreAAF.

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# Life In Baltimore: Continuing Our Celebration of Mothers

## Part II

By Brenda Bowe Johnson

We continue to celebrate mothers because they are the gems of our lives. Regardless of life challenges, these unique women shower us with love and support.

Mothers, are the core of our existence. Our history has shown us that the “matriarch” of the family is the strength which supports the dynamics of the family. A mother is someone who loves her children and in many cases loves the children of others. Many mothers open their hearts to love and provide for others their entire lives. The women highlighted this month have a common thread among them, Love. During this beautiful month of May, we continue to “Celebrate our Mothers.”

Having children changed Kristin Lynnette Williams’ outlook on life simply because it made her every thought and effort focus on them. She believes it is much more important to spend as much time as possible with the children creating memories and lasting experiences. When Kristin’s first child was born, she was finishing school and working full time, which was extremely difficult, though she had help from her family and was able to avoid paying for childcare.

Working from home now, having a partner, a new baby and a blended family, requires a great deal of flexibility and careful planning together to balance dedicated family activities. As a more seasoned mom of a seven-year-old and a new mom of a one-month-old, Kristin can appreciate the joys of watching her children grow, learn, and develop their own personalities. Also, being the mother of two African American boys, she wants to be certain they know where they came from and give them the educational tools needed to achieve not just for themselves but to change the future. Kristin said, “Motherhood is an important job and an honor.”

Phylliss Nelson married her high school sweetheart, Robert L. Nelson fifty-seven years ago and they are blessed with six beautiful children, thirteen outstanding grandchildren, and four adorable great-grandsons.

Phylliss said, “This has been the great-



*Kristin Lynnette Williams and 7-year-old son.*

est accomplishment of my life. Motherly love has always been extended to nieces, nephews and friends of my children and grandchildren. An open door policy gave me the opportunity to have discussions on a myriad of issues, offer advice when requested and knowing the difference between right and wrong.”

The youngest in a large family, she observed the child care of her nieces and nephews, loved babies and always wanted a large family. When you give birth to a baby, motherly instinct is immediate and you shower your baby with loving care and affection.

As they grew and became school age a continuation of nurturing takes place through teaching them how handle responsibilities at home, in school, in church, and as they interact with others. Much of this is learned by observing their mothers. Phylliss’ mother was an important part of caring for her children before she became a full time housewife.

During these early years her volunteer activities were focused on their school activities, PTA, assisting in the classrooms, sports, and Girl and Boy Scout activities.

Phylliss said, “Each child is different, with different personalities. Therefore, you are challenged to deal with each accordingly. It isn’t always easy, but is a challenge to continue to learn who your children are as they grow. One thing is certain, God must be in the forefront of every step you take in raising children, because you can do nothing without Him. That’s why it is important to raise your children with a firm spiritual foundation and keep them involved in church activities. It has been a rewarding experience raising my six children and assisting with the care of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I am proud of every one of them and their accomplishments. I can’t say how blessed I am for what God has given me.”

Helen Dale is the “Supermom” in a family with five living generations, from her mom, Edna O. Harris, age 101, down to great-great grandchildren. She is truly a remarkable woman. Helen states that over her lifetime, she has been blessed with many mothers; women who realized that her mother was working, refusing any kind of public assistance, and valiantly rearing her children without any family support in Chicago. In church, at work and during everyday life these surrogate mothers filled in for her hardworking and exhausted mother.

Helen became a widow at a young age and was left alone with three children, Sterling, Michael and Elizabeth. She returned to work and abiding by her grandfather’s dictum, “always buy and never sell land” Helen invested in properties. Her mother helped by moving in to assist the children.



*Robert L. Nelson and Phylliss Nelson*

Helen eventually retired to Guadalajara, Mexico, but was shot in the face and forced to return to Baltimore for reconstructive surgery. She joined Bethel AME Church and later met and married Dr. Grady Dale, Jr. For thirty years, Helen and Grady have operated the American Institute for Urban Psychological Studies conducting numerous conferences addressing topics of interest to the community.

Helen is a dynamic person who has al-

ways been an activist. She is active in the NAACP, participated in civil rights marches, marched with Dr. Martin L. King in Chicago and Selma, and passionately worked for the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

She has followed a tremendous career path. She is knowledgeable, sincere, warm hearted and compassionate. She is available for friends and family in sickness and distress. Helen opens her home weekly to fellowship with family,



*Helen Dale*

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# Maryland students chosen to compete in National History Day Competition

*Sixty-eight students advance; eighty-two receive special awards*

Baltimore— More than 600 talented middle and high students, along with their proud parents and teachers, converged on the campus of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County on Saturday, May 2, 2015 to compete in the annual Maryland History Day state contest. Representing 10 counties and Baltimore City, 68 students were selected to advance to the National History Day competition. Additionally, 82 students won special awards at the contest.

A program of the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) now in its 15th year, the statewide competition involves nearly 23,000 students at the school level, representing 18 counties and Baltimore City. Students research topics that address the National History Day theme and participate in school and county competitions to qualify for the state contest. The 2015 theme is “Leadership and Legacy.”

Winners were chosen at their district level for both individual and group efforts from five different categories— research papers, exhibits, performances, websites and documentaries. First and second place winners will represent Maryland at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition June 14–18, 2015 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Students from Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties and Baltimore City will represent Maryland at the national contest.

Students conducted in-depth research over several months, delving into primary and secondary sources and conducting interviews with experts. Topics ranged from national themes such as “Frances Perkins—The Mother of Social Security” and “Woody Guthrie: How His Protest Music Helped Change History,” to local topics such as “Harriet Tubman: Conducting the Fight for Freedom in Maryland” and “The Legacy of the Baltimore Fire—The Mayor’s Leadership 1904.”



**Mack Godfrey, representing exhibits category sponsor Columbia Gas of Maryland, with Maya McAfee and Aaliyah Beckles of Accokeek Academy in Prince George’s County following their victory for “Helen Keller: A Fight for a World without Sound and Sight.”**  
*Photo: Mitro Hood.*

Students also addressed issues related to science and technology, such as “Smallpox Eradication: The End of a Disease and the Beginning of a New Era in Public Health,” “Alan Turing: The Things No One Could Imagine,” and “George Eastman: Establishing the Camera as the American Documenter.” Projects that focused on the contributions of women included “Madame C. J. Walker: The First Self-Made Female Millionaire,” “Evita: Opening New Horizons for Women, Workers and Impoverished Argentina,” and “Marie Curie: The Mother of Radioactivity.”

Special Prizes and Teacher Awards In addition to first and second place medals, 41 special prize plaques and cash awards were presented to students during the awards ceremony. Teachers in 12 counties and Baltimore City also received district awards, and three teachers received statewide recognition. RaeLynne Snyder, Social Studies Specialist with the Baltimore City Public Schools, received the Educator of Distinction Award. The Patricia Behring Middle School Teacher of the Year for Maryland was awarded to Leah Olsen of Stephen Decatur Middle School in

Worcester County. Sara Romeyn of Bullis School in Montgomery County received the Patricia Behring High School History Day Teacher of the Year for Maryland.

A complete list of advancers, special prizewinners, and teacher awards is available at [www.mdhc.org](http://www.mdhc.org). Maryland History Day is made possible with generous support from the Maryland State Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and The Abell Foundation. Columbia Gas of Maryland, Whiting-Turner, and Ziger/Snead Architects sponsored specific award categories.

# 'The Wayward Wife' debuted on Amazon May 1!



Baltimore, Md.— Baltimore educator T. S. Wallace's debut fiction novel "The Wayward Wife" is an introspective look into a woman's mind, whose love life, and subsequently her entire life, is spiraling out of control.

Atlanta socialite, Janine Dupont, is married to a man who gives her everything, but is that enough? Jon Dupont, although a great provider and father, has a lot to lose if his secret gets out. Reputation is everything in their town, but he may have gone to the wrong place for help.

Douglass Detective Agency is Robert Matthews' newest venture, The ex-football player put his bid in both literally and figuratively and is back to get his girl no matter what. The problem is Janine Dupont is

Jon's girl and the wayward wife.

The odds are stacked in the fast paced lives of these three characters. Follow them as they show you what it feels like to be cheated on, cheated with and to be an adulteress who wants to make it all right again.

Reader Donna Kelly-Bell said, "I feel as though I am watching a movie! The storyline is so different from what I initially expected. What I am enjoying most about it is the callous sex acts juxtaposed with the morals and values of the characters. Often we get caught up with judging folks without knowing their story."

Tanefa Wallace is a writer, educator and coach. Her writing has been featured in both Philadelphia and Baltimore local anthologies and she currently blogs at [TheWriteWayFaye](http://TheWriteWayFaye) about her journey in

creating her publishing company, The Write Way. As a member of Charm City Writers' group, she has conducted workshops for her own and other's literary works. She earned her BS in Business Management and Communications from The College of Notre Dame, Maryland and her Master's in Counseling from The University of Loyola, Maryland. Wallace has worked with women in life coaching and in group counseling as well as with teens and young adults and is a student of human behavior.

Wallace has also published an ebook of eclectic poetry entitled, "Tangerine Blues," available on iTunes, Barnes and Noble and directly from Smashwords.

To learn more about T.S. Wallace and her book, *The Wayward Wife*, visit: [TanefaWallace.com](http://TanefaWallace.com)

## Music of Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin featured at Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis



*The Unified Jazz Ensemble performs three jazz greats: Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and George Gershwin at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis on Friday May 22 at 8 pm. Ensemble members (L-R) pictured above are Tim Stanley, trumpet; Mike Noonan, vibraphone; John Pineda, bass and Dominic Smith, drums.*  
*Photo Credit: Larry Melton*

Annapolis— On Friday, May 22, 2015 local and regional favorite Unified Jazz Ensemble will present songs that have stood the test of time at 8 p.m. Featured will be works by composers Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and George Gershwin.

Mike Noonan leads the ensemble; he is a composer and multi-instrumentalist and will play the vibraphone in this concert. He will be joined by Dominic Smith on drums; John Pineda on bass and Tim Stanley on trumpet. The concert, part of the fourth Friday Concert Series with Brian Ganz and Friends, will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 333 Dubois Road in Annapolis.

The Unified Jazz Ensemble (UJE) is well known in the Annapolis area. In addition to their regular gigs here, UJE has delighted audiences at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall, The Smithsonian Jazz Café and Blues Alley in Washington, D.C. The group is known for their fresh dynamic sound and cueing and playing off each other instinctively. Mike Noonan on vibraphone contributes a unique "vibe" in concert with bass, drums, and trumpet in their innovative performance of jazz standards and original compositions. As to the jazz

UJE performs, Noonan states "Jazz is improvisatory in essence but does follow form very similar to other styles of music. One of the more exciting aspects of a jazz performance is that the listener and performer experience this improvisational element concurrently."

Unified Jazz Ensemble has been based in Annapolis for the past 19 years, has recorded eight well-received CD's, received awards for their original compositions and performance style, and praise from educators as enlightening and engaging. They were chosen to bring jazz to rural parts of the United States by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Subsequently they partnered with Class Acts Arts to perform in residence in schools and other community settings in the Maryland and Washington, D.C. area.

This program is part of a year long ticketed concert series offered monthly on the 4th th 4th Fridays at 8 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis (UUCA). Tickets are \$15 at the door. For more information, visit [www.tinyurl.com/UUCA-concerts](http://www.tinyurl.com/UUCA-concerts) or call 410-266-8044 Monday to Thursday.

## Indie Soul Music: Javion and Von Shorter

By Phinisse Demps

Summer is fast approaching and that means slow jams. The jams that are usually the key to a great summer! This week, Indie Soul shines the spotlight on two independent artists: Ja'Vion from Daytona Beach, Florida and Von Shorter from Las Vegas, Nevada who have some nice smooth joints for you to check out.

"Illusions of My Reality" by Ja'Vion McVadian: What's impressive about this CD are the slow jams. The track "Daddy" is a song about his love for his father.

There's not too many songs about fathers and Ja'Vion delivers a classic. Check out the song "I Luv Makin Luv" and the absolute winner "Someone for Me," which I believe is an absolutely beautiful wedding song and one of the best songs written by Ja'Vion. You can listen to snippets of this CD and purchase the entire CD or individual song by going to CDbaby.com.

Von Shorter: Von Shorter is a singer/rapper/songwriter/actor from College Park, Georgia. He emerged onto the scene in 2013 as an underground artist with IMDB Credits for the "Lyrics Of Life" web-series, several plays including "Where is the Love," and "I Need Help" and extra background work for Black and Single TV.

His song "Unhappy" showcases his distinguished voice and it reminds me of



Johnny Gill. The song is great because for a guy to talk about being unhappy in a relationship is really a joy to hear. Another track

"Would You Be Happy" hits home for us fellas who just want a woman to accept us for who we are. The track "Bloom" is one radio should be playing right now. Catch more of Von Shorter on Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/pottrecords>.



Von Shorter

## Indie Soul: Prince Rally4Peace

On the evening of Sunday, May 10, 2015, Prince kept his promise to bring people together in Baltimore with his Baltimore Rally4Peace Concert. With the statement "We are your servants Baltimore. We are here for you. We are here for the city," Prince began a barrage of songs starting with "Let's Go Crazy."

I have been to Prince concerts in the past and without question this night was something different. The events that took place in Baltimore recently, must have really touched Prince deeply, because in my opinion, this was his most passionate and heartfelt performance!

Prince even remixed one of his hits to

give that Baltimore Club feel. Some of the highlights of the show are when Prince brought Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and her husband Baltimore City Councilman Nick Mosby on stage; when one of hip-hop's greatest entertainers Doug E. Fresh hit the stage with Prince; and finally, when Prince let the world know he "got hits" by showing his deejay skills mixing his hit songs together and performing them.

The final few minutes were the best when he jumped on the piano to go through a series of slow jams such as "Do Me Baby," "Diamonds and Pearls," and ending with the song "Purple Rain."

## Indie Soul: New Fall TV 2015 with African-Americans

By Phinisse Demps

It's early to be talking fall TV, but this season African-Americans are truly getting the chance to make an impact on what people watch. With the breakout hits "Empire," "Black-ish," and the influence of Shonda Rhimes with hugely popular shows like "Scandal" and "How To Get Away with Murder" with black women in the lead roles, it is not a surprise to see the networks announcing black shows that will be leading the fall 2015 lineup.

This has not happened seen since FOX announced their Thursday Night line-up of "Martin," "Living Single" and "New York Undercover."

Here is a look at a few shows to look out for:

The Catch (ABC) -- Another Shonda Rhimes show starring Mirelle Enos as a fraud investigator who's about to become a victim of fraud herself.

"Minority Report" (Fox) -- Tom Cruise's 2002 movie gets a TV adaptation produced by Steven Spielberg, set 10 years after the end of the Pre-Crime unit. Meagan Good, Stark Sands, Wilmer Valderrama and Daniel London star.

The Player (NBC) -- Wesley Snipes stars as a security expert in a high-stakes Las Vegas game frequented by shady in-



Uncle Buck

dividuals as he seeks vengeance for the death of his wife.

"Rosewood" (Fox) -- Morris Chestnut stars as Dr. Beaumont Rosewood, Jr., a private pathologist who "finds the secrets in bodies that others usually miss."

Rush Hour (CBS) -- Justin Hires and Jon Foo are the new Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan, respectively, in this reboot of the action-comedy movies about a loud-mouthed LAPD cop and a kung fu fighting police officer from Hong Kong.

Uncle Buck (ABC) -- Mike Epps plays the John Candy character in this all-black reboot of the 1989 John Hughes movie about an irresponsible man who helps take care of his brother and sister-in-law's (Nia Long) kids.

Members of the group Revolution Club ([www.revcom.us](http://www.revcom.us)) stood outside Royal Farms Arena wearing t-shirts with banners and posters to ensure that the real reason for the protests and rallies were not lost in the excitement of the concert.

"People need to keep speaking out. We are not here to stop the concert but we want to make sure that people don't forget what happened, not only to Freddie Gray but other black and brown people who have been harmed by the police not only in this city but throughout the world," said Noche Diaz, a spokesperson of the group.

Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 410-366-3900 ext. 3016 or 410-501-0193 or email:



Prince performed at the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore in the "Rally 4 Peace" concert on Sunday, May 10, 2015. Courtesy Photo/NPG Records, Ralston Smith

[pdemps@btimes.com](mailto:pdemps@btimes.com). Follow him on Twitter @pdemps\_bt看times.com



# Young DJ blazing a trail of success

By Stacy M. Brown

While most students are looking forward to a summer break that may include barbecues, a trip to the beach or a family vacation, one local high school standout is preparing to go on tour with music superstar Chris Brown.

Bernard Brooks III— better known as DJ Young Music— has created quite the brand for himself and a loyal following of fans who listen to him spin the latest tunes every Wednesday at 10 p.m. for WPGC 95.5 FM or those who know him as the official DJ for singer Ginuwine.

The 18-year-old wunderkind, who will graduate high school on May 22, 2015, recently became the youngest artist to sign a distribution deal with eOne Entertainment, an international company with offices across the globe.

DJ Young Music has also been called on to spin music for rap mogul Diddy and superstar Nicki Minaj's Super Bowl after party.

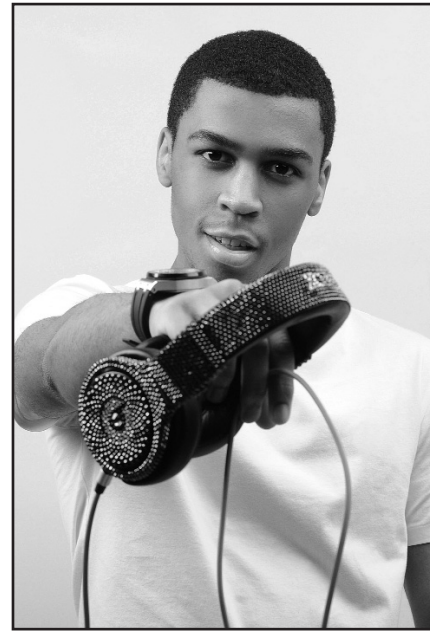
What's more, with all of the immedi-

ate success, he has maintained a spot on his high school's honor roll. If the accomplishments sound surprising for someone as young as him, it certainly is not to DJ Young Music.

"Some things you know are going to come and some things you don't know are going to come," he said. "Since I was nine and 10-years-old, I have been telling people what I was going to do and what I would accomplish. This isn't a surprise to me because if you put in enough hard work and have the heart, things will start coming."

A good portion of his success can be attributed to a focus that is not as common with other teens. In what may have been an unintentional nod to a Snoop Dogg song, DJ Young Music says he keeps his mind on his music and on earning money.

"The way I'm working, right now music is my friend. Music and money—and at the end of the day, if you're not helping me then I don't need you around," he said. "The majority of my



*DJ Young Music*  
Courtesy Photo

time is spent doing radio mixes and the radio stuff is really serious."

In addition to his WPGC gig, DJ Young Music also spins for stations in other markets. He also noted that he has a project in the works featuring members of his own independent label.

"We have a compilation mix tape with me, my artists Frank Benz, Da-Rai and other musicians," DJ Young Music said.

In December, he became the youngest artist to sign a full development deal that allows him to release music, films and soundtracks of new artists through his own label.

His "Something for the Streets, Vol. 2," mix tape has garnered more than 250,000 downloads and DJ Young Music says it's just the beginning.

"I'm in phase two of my life and right now I'm the youngest in history to touch the airwaves in Washington, D.C., with music and film deals, and I have the number three independent song in the country," he said.

Despite the bravado, DJ Young Music says he realizes the importance of an education and not getting involved with the wrong crowd. Simply put, he doesn't have the time or the inclination for that.

His handlers aren't surprised by his focus and dedication to his craft. They say when most six-year-olds were mastering the art of ramp jumping on their BMXs, DJ Young Music was taking notes from Grammy nominated producers such as Kevin "Khao" Cates, who shared with him the importance of learning beat counts.

By age 11, DJ Young Music had become seasoned enough to earn a tour invite from Ginuwine. He was promoted from roadie to official national tour DJ at age 16 and recently, he earned the crown of being Live Nation/Scream Nation Mad DJ of the DMV.

The soon-to-be high school graduate who will perform with Chris Brown this summer isn't bashful when giving career advice to other young aspiring musicians.

"Just look at me," he said. "Pick your path and become the best you could be because that's what I did. I'm trying to be myself, so you too be yourself."

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# Scholarship fund established to help local residents pursue tourism careers

By Andrea Blackstone

On May 6, 2015, Connie Del Signore—president and CEO of the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau (AAACCVB) and Erin McNaboe — AAACCVB board chairman and president of The Rams Head Group, announced the establishment of a scholarship fund that will make it easier for Anne Arundel County residents to pursue tourism careers. Tourism industry leaders and elected officials gathered at Rams Head On Stage in Annapolis, along with members of AAACCVB and partners. AAACCVB presented a \$12,500 check to the Maryland Tourism Education Foundation (MTEF), which is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable foundation. MTEF will distribute scholarship application forms through its established network of colleges and universities.

Del Signore and McNaboe challenged event attendees to help match AAACCVB's donation amount to reach the financial goal of collecting \$25,000 in time for AAACCVB's 25th anniversary celebration on September 17, 2015. In response, Senator John C. Astle presented a check to the Maryland Tourism Education Foundation (MTEF) at the function. The public is currently encouraged to make a scholarship donation.

"The Maryland Tourism Education Foundation is dedicated to building the capabilities of Maryland's tourism workforce. We do this in part by identifying and assisting promising individuals who will add to the strength and vitality of the industry. Every dollar that comes into our foundation goes toward achieving that goal," Deb Carter, MTEF's president said.

As a part of the observance of National Travel and Tourism Week, which championed the power of the travel and tourism industry from May 2-10 this year, "Travel is Jobs" was the selected theme that was highlighted by AAACCVB. Gary Oster, U.S. Travel Association executive vice president said that travel is a 2.1-trillion dollar industry for the direct and indirect spend in the U.S.



**The Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau (AAACCVB) announced the creation of a tourism scholarship fund during its National Travel and Tourism Day celebration on May 6. AAACCVB President and CEO Connie Del Signore and AAACCVB Board Chairman Erin McNaboe presented a \$12,500 check to Maryland Tourism Education Foundation (MTEF) President Deb Carter and challenged attendees to match the amount in time for the AAACCVB's 25th anniversary celebration in September. Pictured left to right are: AAACCVB Board Chairman Erin McNaboe; Annapolis Mayor Mike Pantelides; AAACCVB President and CEO Connie Del Signore; MTEF President Deb Carter; Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh; and Maryland State Senator John Astle. Courtesy Photos**

Oster's remarks underscored the potential benefits of investing in tourism professionals who may be in need of scholarship money.

"It's an absolute huge industry. We employ one out of nine Americans. We're in the top 10 largest employers in every major large city in America in all 50 of the states...so this is a great, great industry," Oster said. "This is an industry that has seen more rapid growth in the hiring of people than in any other segment within the U.S. economy. In fact, our hiring has gone up 37 percent as an entire industry.."

According to a 2015 Choice Communications Systems study, the tourism industry in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County directly employed 34,737 individuals, which accounts for 17% of private sector jobs and \$932.3 million in wages earned in 2014.

"Our industry is a significant player in Anne Arundel County's economy. We can help keep it that way by providing

promising individuals with the help they need to jump-start a career in travel and tourism. Our young people are the future of the hospitality industry, and money spent on helping them realize their dreams will come back to this community and our nation 100 fold," Del Signore said.

Anne Arundel County Executive, Steve Schuh remarked that Anne Arundel County is an incredible destination for tourists. Schuh added that nearly three million overnight visitors a year travel to Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. He estimated that the economic activity totals 10 percent of Anne Arundel County's economy.

"I am especially excited about this scholarship program because...it is going to give young people an opportunity to be a part of this exciting industry of tourism that we have here in our county," Schuh said.

Scholarship application and scholarship donation forms are available via



**Gary Oster, U.S. Travel Association executive vice president**

<http://www.visitannapolis.org/articles/view/Join-the-AAACCVB-Scholarship-Fund-for-Anne-Arundel-County-Residents/342/>. The deadline to submit applications for the scholarship is July 31, 2015.

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# Grow your best tomatoes yet!

By Melinda Myers

Nothing beats the flavor of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes. Make this your biggest and tastiest tomato harvest yet with proper planting and care.

Reduce pest problems and increase the harvest by growing your tomatoes in a sunny location with well-drained soil or in a quality potting mix for container gardens. Improve your garden soil by adding several inches of organic matter to the top eight to twelve inches of soil prior to planting. Compost, aged manure, and other organic materials help improve drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water holding ability of sandy soil.

Add a slow release organic nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite (milorganite.com) according to label directions at planting. Slow release fertilizers provide a constant diet that is better for your plants and less work for you. Save yourself more time by mixing the fertilizer into the soil when incorporating the organic matter. Then give your plants a midseason boost as needed.

Once the soil is prepared, wait for the air and soil to warm to plant your tomatoes. Planting too early when the soil is still cool and the nights are chilly can stress the plant and delay your harvest.

Plant your tomatoes slightly deeper or in a trench for better rooting. Trench tomatoes by digging a shallow trench about three to four inches deep. Remove the lower leaves and lay the plant on its side in the hole. Roots will eventually form along the stem. Carefully bend the stem, so the upper leaves will be above



*Tomatoes should be planted slightly deeper in the soil or in a trench, which allows for better rooting.*

*Photo Credit: Melinda Myers, LLC.*

the soil. Fill the trench with soil and water.

Stake or tower your tomatoes to reduce insect and disease problems and make harvesting easier. The type of tomato and your schedule will help determine the training system that works best for you.

Determinate tomatoes (look for the D on the tag) grow a certain height and stop. They work well in towers, containers or even hanging baskets. Indeterminate tomatoes, labeled with an I, keep growing taller, producing more flowers and fruit until the end of the growing

season. These do best when grown on tall sturdy stakes or extra tall strong towers.

Towering tomatoes is easy. Simply place the tower over the tomatoes at planting. Tomatoes grown in towers produce a larger, but later harvest than staked tomato plants.

Allow a bit more time if you decide to stake your plants. Place the stake in the ground at planting. Be careful not to injure the roots. As the plants begin to grow prune off all side branches, suckers, that develop between the main stem and leaves. Loosely tie the remaining

one or two stems to the stake. Cloth strips, twine or other soft ties work well. Keep tying up the plants as they continue to grow. Staked tomatoes produce the earliest and smallest harvest.

Check new plantings every few days and water often enough to keep the developing root system moist. Reduce frequency as plants become established. Water established plants thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are slightly moist. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking and misshapen fruit.

Harvest your tomatoes when fully colored. Leave them on the plant an extra five or six days for even better flavor. Unfortunately, the animals often move in and feast on the ripening fruit. In this case, you may need to finish ripening tomatoes indoors.

And once you taste that first red ripe tomato, you'll be looking for more sunny spots for containers or to expand your garden.

*Melinda Myers is a gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist with more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books. For more information about Myers, gardening videos and tips, visit her website: [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).*

## Reginald Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture needs volunteers

The museum is dedicated to serving the community by providing multifaceted support through meaningful interactions with history and material culture of Maryland African Americans. Volunteers are needed to assist at the Information Desk, as docents for special events and more. There are ongoing opportunities on Saturdays and Sundays for assistance with greeting guests and patrons at the main entrance and to work with children's activities during public hours. The minimum age for volunteers is 14. Volunteering is open to adults, seniors, college and high school students. Service-learning credit hours can be earned by high school students. We are accepting applications for the following volunteer positions: Special Event Volunteer, Administrative Assistant, Curatorial Assistant, and Visitor Services. Volunteer orientations are held at 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. For more information, contact Erica Holmes at 443-263-1800 or email: [holmes@maamc.org](mailto:holmes@maamc.org) or visit the museum's website: [www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanCulture.org).

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