

WANN radio's history becomes part of Smithsonian exhibit



WANN deejay "Hoppy" Adams broadcasts from a storefront window in Annapolis, Md. in 1953. Adams was from Annapolis and worked for the radio station that was started by Morris H. Blum, who was considered a pioneer in race relations. Few stations were willing to play "race music," which included blues, jazz and gospel music. (See article on page 13) Photo:

After the Riots Lillian S. Jones Recreation Center Earns National Attention

By Stacy M. Brown

When the rededication of the Lillian S. Jones Recreation Center in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood took place last month, some residents may not even have noticed.

In the wake of the death of Freddie Gray and the ensuing unrest, the neighborhood became a flashpoint for all that was wrong in Baltimore.

Throughout the chaos, the center, which was built in 1976, continued to open its doors for local children, helping them to grow and to escape the violence in the area.

Still, it seemed to escape nearly everyone's attention that the "J" in Jones had been missing from the lettering on the building until Helena Hicks, the sister of the center's namesake, noticed and summoned the Department of Recreation and Parks to replace it.

Despite the large contingent of national and local media in the area covering the protests and riots, the center and all the good it represents went largely ignored.

Until recently, National Public Radio (NPR) profiled the neighborhood anchor and reminded everyone of all the good that takes place there.

"We are mom, dad, aunt, cousin," said the center's director Brandi Murphy.

"[The children] come here to get what they don't have at home. There are some parents that even to this day, I've had some kids for two years and still haven't met them," Murphy said.

When NPR profiled the center, they noted that adolescent boys play basketball, while a group of girls play Monopoly at a nearby table.

There's also air hockey, foosball and a computer room in back.

Murphy said there are also swim classes, science lessons, arts and crafts. But the center gives the kids — students age 5 to 12 who come after school and in the summer — far more than fun things to do.

It gives them a place to call home. The arrest and death of Gray three months ago laid bare the drug dealing, violence and lack of opportunity that plague Baltimore's poorest neighborhoods. Local recreation centers, which have a long tradition in the city, provide a much-needed refuge.

Located just behind the public housing complex where Gray was arrested, the Lillian S. Jones Recreation Center aims to make up for all that's missing in struggling Sandtown.



Najuel Gaylord plays foosball at the Lillian S. Jones Recreation Center. Photos courtesy of NPR

Murphy told NPR that many of the children are from a nearby homeless shelter.

Others are being raised by foster families, grandparents or older siblings. She says stressful home lives take a toll. "You can see the anger in the children. Sometimes it's hard for them to communicate. It's hard for them to focus," Murphy said. "There is no discipline at home, so when you come in and you're the discipline, sometimes it can be difficult."

Yet this safe space can help kids cope. Out on the front steps, Stacey Fowlks organized a summer basketball league. The middle-aged man shared fond memories of his time there.

"Most of the folks from this community at some point have stepped foot inside this center. As you can see it's connected



Zyon Height (in orange) passes the ball during a game of basketball at the Lillian S. Jones Recreation Center.

to the elementary school," Fowlks said. "We had some great leaders over the past that helped groom us to become adults."

Later, during dinnertime at the center, tacos were served and soon after they finished eating, most of the children signed themselves out and walked home. But the activities will keep going. A competitive cheerleading team arrived for practice while a group of men hold nightly ping pong matches.

Families even come to host meals after they bury a loved one.

"This place is our community," said Fowlks, the longtime Sandtown resident, "from the womb to the tomb."

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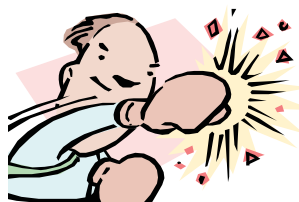
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Editorials/Commentary

About the Confederate Flag!

There was and is jubilation over bringing down the Confederate Flag in South Carolina. This flag, which in the minds of many represent the hate associated with slavery, needed to come down. A small minority of folks still think that the flag is a legitimate part of American history and that it should be respected. They may be right, but the flag now needs to reside in a museum.

Supporters of the flag are few, or they are silent. And the flag was finally, and rightly, moved from its prominent position on state grounds in South Carolina.

The history of this flag is rather significant. In the early 1960's, in response to the successes of the Civil Rights Movement, a Democratic governor had the flag raised in protest of those victories. Sometime in 1970's, a Republican governor tried to remove the flag and lost the next election, largely because of that issue!

Now, after nine Christians were murdered in an African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a Republican governor, working with a bi-partisan legislature, succeeded in removing this sorry symbol. Why do we call it sorry? Flags need to be symbols of unity, never symbols that divide. How can any state promote any symbol that makes a significant part of its citizenry uncomfortable?

So, we are glad that that flag is down. We hope that its future will forever be in museums, where history is recorded and preserved for posterity.

We have another concern, however.

The jubilation of African Americans over the removal of the flag was palpable. Many black leaders spoke as though Moses had just crossed the Red Sea and the people were forever in a new state of being. But that is not the case. That is never the case with black leaders. No significant action in black history is ever used as a marker of the before/after of their existence. Every action is just another activity that never changes anything.

What are we getting at here? It seems as though nothing will ever be sufficiently significant to force blacks to finally conclude that we are now living in a new reality, and that the new reality demands that we discover new ways of looking at life as we go forward.

The racist flag is down. There is currently no "Jim Crow-like law" anywhere in this nation. There is a black president, with the name Barak H. Obama. There are some African American billionaires; Oprah Winfrey is one of them. If any black person's civil rights are violated, the courts can and will fix that! There is no arena in which the law of the land authenticates laws that are specifically designed to harm blacks or keep them in their place. And now, with majority sentiment and action, a state symbol of the past has been easily and joyfully removed.

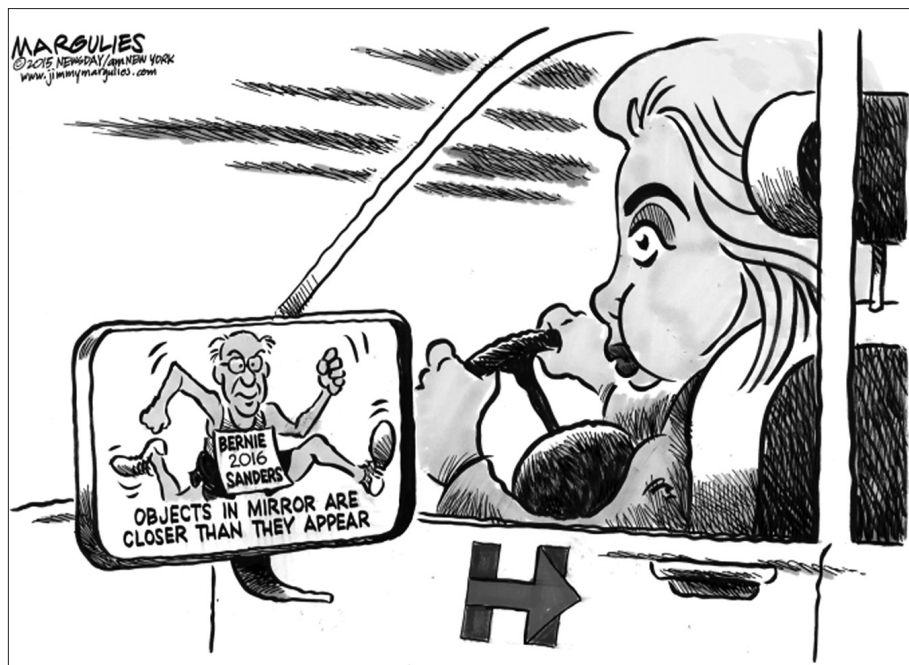
What now? In the history of mankind, when flags are brought down, they are used to signify a change in regime and attitude. When a colonial entity, like Jamaica, gains its independence, The Union Jack is brought down in a ceremony where the Jamaican flag is raised, and this simple act is used as the marker of the before/after of a reality.

In black America, no matter that America elected a black president twice; no matter that there are no Jim Crow laws, no matter what progress has been made, nothing will function as the marker of the before/after of black life. Everything remains the same, and for eternity.

This must change at some point. Something must be made to mark the change.

Suggestions of events that could serve as markers of the before/after in the Black American Story: January 1, Emancipation Day; Juneteenth; the Civil Rights Victories of the 1960s; the death and later elevation of Martin Luther King, Jr.; the election of Barak Obama to the Presidency; the removal of the Confederate Flag!

Think about it! Something must serve as the marker, or forever nothing will really change, conceptually!



Letters to the Editor

Poverty - The Real Problem

Dear Editor:

The poverty rate for African-Americans is 27%, the highest in the nation. It has been the highest for years and yet you hear little about it. Instead the news is full of protest about the police shooting Black kids, confederate flags and I am somebody campaigns. These are diversions from the real problems and solutions. You can end all of the police shootings, lower every confederate flag and have a constitutional amendment declaring that every Black is somebody and still African-Americans will have the highest poverty rate in the nation. We need to ignore the diversions and get down to the problem which is poverty. By ending poverty you will end police killings. After all, how often do you hear of a rich kid being shot by the police.

Ending poverty is not that difficult. First you speak standard English which

will enable you to learn how to read and write. Second you apply that knowledge to earn a college degree. Preferred degrees would be in banking, accounting, finance, economics, marketing, business law, computers, science, engineering and math. Third you use that degree to start a business. Fourth you grow the business and create wealth. This is not a new idea. Poor immigrants have been coming to this country for centuries and doing what I described above and now they are the millionaires and billionaires of the country.

African-Americans have the most incentive to end poverty since they/we have the most to gain. Poor Hispanics who have a poverty rate of 24% and poor Whites with a poverty rate of 10% can also use the above approach. I have detailed the above recommendations in my book "No Excuses - A Guide Out of Poverty"

Elie V. Parker
San Leandro, CA

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Deal with the Deal. Nuclear Nonproliferation, Sanctions Relief, Then What?

By Patrick T. Hiller

The day the historic nuclear deal between Iran and the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5+1) was reached, President Obama declared that “the world can do remarkable things when we share a vision of peacefully addressing conflicts.” At the same time, Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Javad Zarif expressed his appreciation of a “process in order to reach a win-win solution ... and open new horizons for dealing with serious problems that affect our international community.”

I am a Peace Scientist. I study the causes of war and conditions for peace. In my field we provide evidence-based alternatives to war using language such as “peacefully addressing conflicts” and “win-win solutions.” Today is a good day, since this deal creates the conditions for peace and is the most effective way for all involved to move forward.

The nuclear deal is an achievement in global nuclear nonproliferation. Iran has always insisted it was not pursuing nu-

clear weapons. This claim has been supported by former CIA analyst and Middle East specialist for the U.S. State Department, Flynt Leverett, who is among those experts who do not believe Iran was seeking to build nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the framework of the deal should address the concerns of those fearing a nuclear armed Iran. In fact, this deal possibly prevented a nuclear arms race in the entire Middle East.

The relief of sanctions will allow for normalization of political, social and economic interactions. Trade relationships, for example, will make violent conflict less likely. Just look at the European Union, which originated out of a trade community. The current crisis with Greece shows that there certainly is conflict among its members, but it is unimaginable that they will go to war with each other.

Like most negotiated agreements, this deal will open pathways beyond nuclear nonproliferation and sanctions relief. We can expect more cooperation, improved relationships and lasting agreements between the P5+1 and Iran, as well as with other regional

and global actors. This is of particular importance when dealing with complex issues around Syria, Iraq, ISIS, Yemen, oil, or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Critics of this deal are already active in trying to derail it. This is not the expected “quick fix” that an illusory swift military intervention would have been. That’s good, since there is no quick fix for countries who have been at odds for more than three decades. This is a constructive path forward which can ultimately restore relationships. As Obama is well aware, it could take years to pay off and nobody expects the process to be without challenges. Here is where the power of negotiation comes into play again. When parties reach agreements in certain areas, they are more likely to overcome obstacles in other areas. Agreements tend to lead to more agreements.

Another common point of critique is that the outcomes of the negotiated settlements are unclear. That’s correct. In negotiation, however, the means are certain and unlike war they do not come with the unacceptable human, social, and eco-

nomie costs. There is no guarantee that the parties will uphold their commitments, that issues may need to be re-negotiated, or that the directions of the negotiations will change. This uncertainty is not true for war, where human casualties and suffering are guaranteed and cannot be undone.

This deal can be a turning point in history where global leaders recognized that global collaboration, constructive conflict transformation, and social change outweigh war and violence. A more constructive U.S. foreign policy will engage with Iran without the threat of war. However, public support is crucial, as there still is a sizeable contingent of congressional members stuck in the dysfunctional military solution paradigm. Now it is up to the American people to convince their representatives that this deal needs to be implemented. We cannot afford more wars and their guaranteed failures.

Patrick T. Hiller, Ph.D., syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Conflict Transformation scholar; professor, on the Governing Council of the International Peace Research Association.

Why we need to support normalizing all relations with Cuba

By Dr. Ken Morgan

President Obama said that 55 years of isolating Cuba has not worked as a reason for re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba. Kudos to President Obama. The US. still continues its economic embargo of Cuba.

Nelson Mandela provided a great response to anyone who would ask why blacks should support complete normalizing of relations. A questioner at a New York Town Hall meeting asked why he would hold Fidel Castro as a leader in human rights when he has one of the worst human rights records according to the U.S. government.

Mandela said, “One of the mistakes which some political analysts make is to think that their enemies should be our enemies. That we can’t and we will never do.” He went on to say, “Our attitude towards any country is determined by their attitude to our struggle.” I would have added, “The U.S. assessment was politically driven and wrong.”

According to the Chicago Council on

Global Affairs, 67 percent of the people in the U.S. support ending the 55-year embargo. For the last 23 years the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to vote against the U.S. embargo against Cuba. Getting back to Mandela, many people of the Cuban population share diaspora roots through the slave trade and confronting racial oppression with blacks. The U.S. civil and black rights movements strongly united with the 1959 Cuban revolution and third world struggles against colonialism and imperialism.

Such figures as James Baldwin, Robert Williams, Malcolm X, William Worthy, John Henrik Clarke, Stokely Carmichael, Julian Mayfield, and the Black Panthers supported the Cuban revolution. Cuba welcomed with open arms Robert Williams and Assata Shakur among others, who were black activist exiles fleeing U.S. prosecution.

Cubans gave their lives to support African struggles. Cuban support was the tipping point in the defeat of apartheid South Africa. Cuba has sent medical per-

sonnel around the world including Haiti and Ghana to help combat deadly diseases. Cuba offered to send medical personnel to help Katrina victims. It trained thousands of doctors including African Americans.

No, Cuba is not perfect concerning race matters. Let’s say racism was produced through a socio-political economic environmental stain that soiled our clothing. In the U.S. it has been permanent. It remains in the air although through hard work some could be removed. Witness the oppressive conditions that produced the recent Baltimore uprising.

In Cuba, its 1959 revolution produced ingredients that removed permanent socio-political economic environmental stains. Many were rooted in Cuba’s 1959 pre-revolutionary history that included U.S. domination, the US embargo and the demise of the Soviet Union. Still, well over 95 percent of the Cuban people support the revolution.

So we need to renew or make new our solidarity with Cuba. Maybe we can learn how to remove our old stains permanently.

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Health Power for Minorities Unveils New Site and Digital Network

Website to feature tackling the “Big Four” diseases and first-ever communications network

New York, NY, July 8, 2015 -- Health Power for Minorities LLC (Health Power), the leading source of health information for minority/multicultural populations worldwide, announced the launch of its re-designed nationally unique website, which is the centerpiece for the first-ever National Minority Health Communication Network.

Health Power's mission is to improve the health and longevity of multicultural/minority populations, and, thus, society as a whole. Rated by Google, Yahoo and Bing as the most sought after online source for ethnic health information worldwide, more people turn to Health Power for health and wellness information than to CDC, NIH, Office of Minority Health and American Public Health Association. Further, the new Health Power website markedly expands the information previously offered, and introduces a unique, multiplatform national communication network to better reach a variety of audiences.

The site utilizes 20 well-recognized medically and culturally competent contributing editors and advisors on minority health. With these resources, visitors will find enhanced information channels that include:

- Special focus on preventing and controlling Health Power's “Big Four” diseases and conditions which disproportionately affect minorities: obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease - each of which often contributes to the development and complications of one or more of the other three conditions. This focus helps users easily identify their risk, gain information on prevention and treatment, and develop and implement realistic action plans.

- The Health Power Food and Fitness Channel offers diverse and delicious cultural recipes by celebrities, chefs and nutritionists. Also, the Fitness section contains practical and low-cost information to achieve and sustain physical fitness. It also features a Tip Sheet to identify which activities and how many calories are needed to burn off those delicious meals, and even more to burn off unhealthy meals, as well.

- The Racial & Ethnic Channels feature tailored information for specific populations, especially African Americans and Hispanics, who together comprise a substantial majority of the nation's minorities. Therefore, directly addressing the health related needs of these populations, along with other racial and ethnic groups, will greatly decrease the nation's gap in health equities.

The gemstone of the new website is the one-of-a-kind National Minority Health Communication Network,



Norma J. Goodwin, M.D., Health Power for Minorities' President, CEO

which features multiple platforms to disseminate information and provide resources through:

- A visually captivating website with more than 2,000 print-friendly web pages.

- An active social media network that pushes out information - and interacts with the public - through Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn and a host of other outlets.

- The Health Power blog with more than 10 new posts every month written by some of the most notable experts in health and wellness.

- Access to easy to use customized print brochures and other shareable materials.

In addition, the Health Power mobile network provides instant access to health information for anyone with a smartphone, anytime and anywhere in the world.

Founded in 2007 by Norma J. Goodwin, M.D., Health Power for Minorities' President, CEO and Editor-in-Chief, the organization has now grown into the leading source for trusted

health information, in no small part due to her long-standing efforts to improve the lives of others and eliminate the health disparities that exist in minority and ethnic communities around the nation.

“Although in many ways we are all the same, we must still embrace the unique health-related differences and needs among ethnicities, cultures and geographical locations,” said Dr. Goodwin. “That’s why Health Power speaks directly to the unique interests of diverse groups, thus helping to close the health disparities gap.”

To find great information on improving your health, sign up for the newsletter or become active in the National Minority Health Communication Network, stop by Health Power's new website - www.healthpowerforminorities.com – today and learn how Knowledge + Power = Action!®.

Dr. Goodwin, a national minority health and public health expert, is also Clinical Associate Professor of Public Health at the State University of New York – Downstate Medical Center. Her many consultancies include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As well, she has published and lectured on health and minority health widely nationally and abroad.

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Ravens Chris Canty returned to Baltimore for some ‘unfinished business.’

Defensive tackle Chris Canty had a chance to test the free agent market but decided to return to the Baltimore Ravens. Canty signed a two- year deal that is worth \$4.65 million with a \$1.5 million signing bonus. The Ravens held a 14 point lead twice against the eventual Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. Because of that, Canty and the Ravens feel that they have unfinished business. He believes that the Ravens have an opportunity to do something special this season.

“This team has been close in the past in terms of competing for a championship, and so I definitely feel like we’re in position to be able to put in that kind of work and give ourselves an opportunity. That’s what you fight for, the opportunity.” Canty continued; “You don’t know which way it’s going to bounce, but you want to at least have the opportunity to compete for [a championship], and I think that if this team continues to work the way we’ve been working, continues to figure things out and put it together, we’ll have an opportunity to do that.”

Canty is really excited about coming back to the Ravens. He said that he is thrilled to return and play with his teammates who he refers to as his “brothers.” One of those brothers will be missing this season. Haloti Ngata was traded to the Detroit Lion and it is a loss that Canty will feel personally.

“That’s really tough. You can’t replace a guy like that



Ravens defensive tackle Chris Canty cracks a smile during mini-camp while the reserve defense is on the field. Courtesy Photo: www.baltimoreravens.com

– a future Hall of Famer, one of the best to ever do it at that position. And beyond that, [he is] just a good friend. It’s going to be tough having him not be a part of our group, not be a part of our defensive unit, not be a part of our football team, but we have to move on.” Canty said.

The Ravens have taken steps to attempt to make the transition from a defensive line that included Ngata. Canty will play a large role by being a mentor to the young defensive linemen. This is something that he has no problem with. He said that he is here to serve the

Ravens in “any capacity” that the team needs him. He also pointed out that he has been a starter in the NFL for a decade and doesn’t see that changing this year. The main thing that Canty wants to do is teach the young players how to be a pro. Canty talked about this during mini-camp. “More so than anything else, teaching them not only what to do as far as how to carry yourself in this building and what you’re supposed to do in your profession, but off-the-field stuff as well. I just try to provide that guidance for them. But those guys are really excited. They love football, and they really attack every day with the intent in mind to get better. I’m excited to be a part of that group.”

There are some specific things that veteran players like Canty have to be sure to do in order to last in the NFL, Canty pointed out how it is crucial it is to train wisely and to take care of his body. He said that it requires a lot of discipline. He also said that it took some creativity to make sure that he got all of the necessary work in without beating down his body. “The last couple years, I’ve tinkered with a little regimen that I’ve been doing, and it’s working out. I feel really, really good.” Canty said.

According to him, Canty is the strongest he’s ever been as far as being a pro football player. He’s excited to see what he can do going into training camp and going into the season.

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Professional athletes, partners, mentor youth through free sports camp

By Andrea Blackstone

A group of committed volunteers planned to invest in inner city youth, to offer a free youth football skill camp called Off The Streets & Into Cleats, from June 22-July 10, 2015. However, the endeavor evolved into something bigger. Although the majority of current participants were from the District of Columbia, over 2,000 boys and girls from the nation's capital, Maryland and Virginia participated. As a result of positive parental feedback, the sports camp for all ages that has been held at the Deanwood Recreation Center in Washington, D.C. has been extended an additional week.

Volunteer coaches like Jack Roy Wright, who works with the Deanwood Cowboys, University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) football players, Arena Football League (AFL) players, current and former professional athletes are offering sports training, which would typically cost more than low-income families could afford.

The grassroots effort included community leaders like Steven Lee and his brother, Kenneth Frasier, founder of We R 4 Justice. The pair has worked to empower D.C., Md. and Va. youth. Frasier collaborated with former and current professional athletes who are UMD alumni, such as Richard Taylor, Dominic Berger and Baltimore-born LaQuan Williams to start the brand, Off The Streets & Into Cleats. The sports camp also includes decision making and educational components. The men hope that the concept will expand beyond the District of Columbia.

"We founded Off The Streets & Into Cleats to take the kids off of the streets...giving them some type of structure," Frasier said, "It's a brand that we can basically bring anywhere. We want local people...to sponsor Off The Streets & Into Cleats to come to their area, and provide a high-level skills training and educational program to benefit the children."

John Stokes, who works with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), helped with camp logistics and obtaining 500 daily meals for participat-



Dominic Berger, middle, a professional track and field athlete, speaks with youth who are interested in the field at Deanwood Recreation Center, during a free youth football and track camp on July 7, 2015. Berger is a USA Indoor Championship Silver Medalist and is an alumnus of University of Maryland at College Park.
Photos: Andrea Blackstone

ing youth through Feed The Children. D.C. Hunger Solutions, which seeks to create a hunger-free community, played a significant role in meal delivery and informing youth about nutrition. In addition to mentoring youth, Shaniece White worked as a licensed food handler. Raushaad Harvey led sponsorship and marketing efforts. He noted that Dale James, CEO of Aligned Development Strategies, Inc. (ADSI) was a sponsor.

Athletic talent like Taylor works with youth at the sports camp as a sports trainer. In 2013, Taylor founded Operation Hunger DC. The goal of the organization is feed those who cannot afford food on a daily basis in the District of Columbia. The philanthropist participated in sports at UMD and was later signed to the New York Jets as a defensive back.

"I'm one of the partners, so we (Operation Hunger DC) partnered with Kenneth's nonprofit. We want to keep the kids off of the streets (and) keep them away from the violence. It's just a great alternative to get them involved, feed them (and) mentor them..." Taylor said.

Taylor and Frasier's leadership extended to Baltimore during the Freddie Gray riots. Armed with additional volunteers, they visited Penn North in Baltimore to feed community members who

had difficulty getting food.

Berger, another sports camp volunteer, was a track and field champion who also attended UMD. Although the USA Indoor Championship Silver Medalist is preparing for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, he wants take some time to

invest in local youth. Berger, who started running at four or five-years old, said that building friendships and comradery are perks that accompany sports participation.

"When Richard Taylor brought up this idea a couple of months ago, I was all in day one. Most of my family grew up in N.E. (D.C). I was all for supporting, especially a free camp in this area. I know this time of year, kids are out of school. It's a lot of bad things to get into with a lot of free time. I think this is one of the constructive things to do," Berger said.

Marvin Bowser, brother of D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, watched youth engage in different on-field activities, while recognizing the value of the sports camp.

"It's something that needs to grow. Particularly in the summertime, the kids need something positive to do. This teaches them team work, discipline, physical fitness, all of that. If they find a future in it, that's great. Right now, it's keeping them occupied in a positive manner," Bowser said.

Please visit www.weareforjustice.org to obtain more information about Off The Streets & Into Cleats.



Youth workout under the direction of a volunteer. Mentoring at-risk youth through athletics, and by offering educational program components, are core pieces of Off The Streets & Into Cleats.

Return to Reasonable Lending Opens Door to Homeownership

By Dave Liniger

Home-buying season is heating up. Homes sold faster in April than at any point in almost the last two years, according to data released by the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Existing-home sales are on pace to top 5 million this year.

Consumers are rushing into the housing market thanks in part to the Federal Housing Administration's decision to reduce mortgage insurance premiums by 0.5 percent earlier this year. The move could save 2 million homeowners an average of \$900 a year and allow a quarter of a million Americans to buy their first home.

Affordable financing doesn't just help homebuyers. An increase in the number of potential buyers boosts prices for sellers. And it encourages builders to expand the supply of housing, which benefits the entire economy.

Lenders and regulators must commit to maintaining reasonable mortgage

lending standards like these, which lay the foundation for sustained economic prosperity.

In recent years, many potential homebuyers have faced excessively strict lending requirements, including higher fees and premiums for mortgages insured by the federal government. These regulations prevented thousands of Americans with good credit from buying homes -- especially young people and minorities.

In 2014, the millennial generation was responsible for 32 percent of all home sales. Currently, only 30 percent of sales are to first-time buyers. That's 10 percent below the historical average.

FHA has been seeing fewer mortgage applications because of the agency's high fees and insurance rates. Homebuyers have found cheaper mortgages elsewhere -- or put off homeownership entirely.

FHA was created to help expand access to homeownership, especially to



first-time buyers. By cutting insurance premiums, it will be able to fulfill that mission once again.

The agency's critics claim that "loosening" credit standards will lead to another housing crisis. But today's lending environment is vastly different from the pre-crisis one of seven years ago. It's wrong to punish today's borrowers for the problematic lending practices of the past.

Further, when evaluating a mortgage application, lenders prefer to develop a complete picture of a borrower. The financial crisis came about in large part because lenders failed to verify the information behind that picture. A return to the traditional practice of documentation and verification has led to the highest quality of underwritten loans and the lowest default rate in over a decade.

FHA has coupled its lending reforms with a \$21 billion improvement in its single-family insurance fund, which compensates lenders in the event of default. Last year, for the first time since 2006, the agency's capital reserves increased year-over-year and had a positive balance.

Other players in the mortgage market are following suit. Mortgage guarantors Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have reduced down-payment requirements for first-time homebuyers. Under the new terms, buyers will only need to put down

3 percent of the home's cost, rather than the previous minimum of 5 percent.

Down payments alone are poor predictors of default. FHA has successfully insured loans with 3.5 percent down for decades.

Like FHA, Fannie and Freddie have retained guidelines ensuring that potential borrowers have strong credit scores and full documentation.

The two government-sponsored enterprises have also promised to pursue a more reasonable practice of mortgage "put backs." They'll no longer require private lenders to assume responsibility for loans simply because they had typos.

Rather than lead to another financial crisis, the federal government's new policies will empower folks who were previously prevented from becoming homeowners.

That's good for the economy. Every home sale generates \$60,000 in additional economic activity.

By committing to lower mortgage insurance costs and reasonable lending requirements, our nation's top housing officials can signal that they're serious about making homeownership a reality for millions of Americans. That's a move we should all get behind.

Dave Liniger is CEO, chairman, and co-founder of RE/MAX LLC.



Homeownership is important.

We're here to help first-time homebuyers navigate the mortgage process and make buying a home affordable, even if you have:

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iD Tech Summer Camp Takes Students' STEM Skills to New Height

By Ruth Young Tyler

Technology has significantly changed the way people, businesses and institutions interact at a record-breaking pace. Thanks to iD Tech Camp, students ages seven to 17 are educated and trained in small class sizes to gain the skills they need to thrive in a tech-driven world. Industries understand the importance of having a solid foundation in STEM education. STEM stands for science, technology, education, and math. STEM disciplines engage students in vital 21st century skills centered on problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, critical thinking and effectively communicating ideas. The iD Tech summer camp hosted 52 students at a local university to engage in hands-on computer coding, App development, game designing, 3D modeling, robotics, digital photography, web design and filmmaking.

Andrew Pham who served as the camp director for four years says his role is to ensure the children's safety, maintain order and guide the instructors so that they can maximize their time in assisting campers with their daily designing projects. Camp instructors work in the fields they are teaching at the camp. The instructors include a professional biostatistician and video game programmers. Working with a maximum of eight students, camp instructors provide campers with the direction they need to complete their tech projects. Even with its successes, iD Tech has its challenges too. Many of its instructors are eventually recruited by big tech corporations like Google and Microsoft which leaves the organization in a constant mode of hiring qualified camp alumni.

Eleven-year old Ali Brooks attended the camp for the first time this summer. By the fourth day, he had created nine games from newly learned skills using Scratch. Scratch is a programming language where one can design a myriad of video games. Ali designed an age computation, as well as paintball and basketball-themed video games, just to name a few. "What is really exciting about the camp is finishing a big project after working on it for two days," said Ali. He



L-r: Camp instructor Faith Udofa; London Littleton; Alexia Anderson; Katie Hay; Kyleigh Hall; Olivia Novick; Cara Richardson; camp instructor LeNyia Preston; and lead camp instructor Meghan Straus (seated) represent 15 percent of the female population studying technology at the camp.

Photos: Ruth Young Tyler

contributes his success at camp to his classes during the school year where he excels at mathematics and technology education. "I like Scratch because it's easy for anyone to pick up and learn," said Ali.

Milo Kiddugavu, 11, wrote coding for Minecraft. He designed, "a creepy apartment building with creepers inside." The creepers include skeletons, zombies, spawn skeletons and spawn mooshrooms - a red and white cow with mushrooms on its back. He also wrote coding commands to teleport his game character from one area to another space in the game. The aspiring game coder input data so that the player will receive an "achievement" which consisted of a new weapon to use during battles and food items to help restore the life of the character.

Milo takes his education and the industry seriously and studies programming an hour each day and watches tutorial videos online. Milo began studying a year ago and aspires to continue when he goes to college. He contributes math to his success in coding and uses division to help him figure out the center of an area during the process. "I love Apple computers but I choose Microsoft for designing, gaming and coding. Macs don't have the

proximity for that," he said. In his second week of camp, he said he learned a lot about Minecraft, designing new games and meeting new friends.

The campers also gained access to cutting-edge 3D print technology which uses Cura software. The printer has the capability of producing prototypes for game pieces and designing buildings. With variations of the 3D printer, it can develop prototypes using concrete, steel, metal and even gold. Pham, who teaches at Baltimore City Public Schools and at a local university said, "This is what can happen when you have resources."

Students who study STEM disciplines can position themselves to be highly marketable and be head-and-shoulders above their non-STEM counterparts.

There is still plenty of room for more students to embrace STEM. According to data from Burning Glass Technologies, in 2013 there were 5.7 million openings in STEM fields. The data also indicated that 4.4 million openings required at least a bachelor's degree and 2.3 million of which were entry-level jobs that call for less than two years of experience.



(L- r.) Camp instructor and college student Marcus Willacy congratulates Ali Brooks on designing another video game.



Milo Kiddugavu smiles during his second week at camp as camp director Andrew Pham reviews his game coding project.

WANN radio's history becomes part of Smithsonian exhibit

By Andrea Blackstone

There was an era when playing black music on the radio was nearly forbidden, but the late Morris H. Blum was not deterred. The Jewish immigrant who founded the historic Annapolis-based WANN radio station in 1947, was one of the first in Maryland to play “race music”—blues, jazz and gospel music—when Annapolis was still segregated. Blum also hired an Annapolitan named Charles W. “Hoppy” Adams to be a disc jockey (DJ). In the late 1960's, Adams became the station's executive vice president. While rejecting segregation, Blum allowed community members to voice their concerns on air. Now, these important parts of local history that weave the story of WANN, Blum and Adams will be permanently on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, as a part of an exhibit called American Enterprise. The opening of the exhibit was held on July 1, 2015 in the Mars Hall of American Business.

Although Adams became WANN's star radio personality, he initially worked in Annapolis at Chambers Barber Shop and drove a taxicab. Deni Henson, executive director of the Hoppy Adams Foundation recalls the story that Adams told her about how he found his way to radio. During the time of segregation, Hal Jackson was a popular black DJ who reportedly enlisted his talents at five or six D.C. area radio stations. Mr. Blum wanted to try something new at WANN with Jackson, but Jackson's hectic schedule presented difficulties.

“It got very busy for him, so they held a contest looking for someone here in Annapolis to assist Mr. Jackson, so it would take off some of the pressure of him traveling, because he lived in D.C. They held a contest and Hoppy was asked to audition. He did it reluctantly, and they picked him,” Henson said. Jackson ended up becoming Adams' mentor. Afterwards, Adams worked at WANN.

“If it wasn't for WANN, which was one of the first stations (in this area) playing black music, a lot of stars, and especially people like James Brown, would not have made it the way they did, because the DJs had to play your music. That's how people would hear about you and buy your songs,” Henson said.

Dr. Larry Blum—the son of Morris Blum—also knew Adams. He recounted how bushels of fan mail started coming into the station, after black music first entered WANN's airwaves, when music fans still had transistor radios. He said that when Adams began working at the station in 1953, Adams brought people together who might not otherwise have known each other.

“My father began to realize there was an underserved community. Being a minority status himself, he was fairly interested in...how to help. He gradually became



WANN remote-ready box
Photos Courtesy National Museum of American History, American Enterprise exhibition

more and more bonded to the people that were helping to support his business,” Larry said.

The Annapolitan explained that allowing Carl Snowden and other activists to get on the air to express themselves was a huge part of what WANN did. Larry explained that his father was equally or more concerned about public service as he was about profits.

Pleasant memories emerged, when Henson reminded that WANN started promoting “Bandstand on the Beach,” which was broadcast live and held on Sundays at the all-black Carr's Beach in Annapolis. The major venue hosted celebrity performers like Duke Ellington, Ike & Tina Turner, James Brown and the Motown Review.

“Everyone played at the beach. They would have everywhere from 10-15,000 people on these shows. Those shows were so popular, they would hold up traffic from the beach up to [Route] 50 or 301 (on) Sundays during the summertime,” Henson said.

WANN was reportedly sold in 1997. Before the building on Bay Ridge Road was demolished about five years ago, Larry said that he removed artifacts, pictures, tapes and banners. In 2000, the Smithsonian took custody of the items. Around 2005, due to budgetary issues, the status of an exhibit was unknown. Blum recently discovered the exhibit that told the story of his father—a pioneer in race relations—and the late “Hoppy” Adams—through Smithsonian Magazine.

“We had a lot of tapes to give to the Smithsonian about this unique era...to reflect the diversity of America. That's why we have a spot in the Smithsonian of which I am very proud,” Larry said. I went to see it (the exhibit) on Sunday... “It was a little bit of a surprise. A very pleasant one.”

To learn more about the exhibit, please visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/american-enterprise-exhibition/consumer-era/african-american-markets>.



Cases in the American Enterprise exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American history in Washington, D.C. now house WANN objects that are on display. WANN was a 1000-watt daytime station that aired black music, when few would in the pre-Civil Rights era. In a time when Annapolis was still segregated, the station's owner, Morris H. Blum also hired African-Americans for on air and management work.



Rambling Rose

**Great Entertainment
returns to Baltimore!**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I am so excited to know that there are new venues opening up for live entertainment and old venues are revamping by bringing in live entertainment. I tell you folks, there is nothing like live musicians and singers on the stage to entertain you. Now no offense to the DJs, because it's better to go out to a club and have a cocktail with DJ music than no music at all. I would rather have a DJ than juke box music. But, HONEY CHILD! Bring on the band!

Okay, let us talk about this "Monday Night Jam Session"

at Amy's Place in Anne Arundel County. When I heard about this, my first thought went back to the days of the Sportsmen's Lounge, the Bird Cage and the Lorman House just to name a few, when they had "Jam Session" with Mickey Fields, Dave Ross, Andy Ennis, Sir Thomas Hurley, Bobby Ward, Johnny Polite, Arnold Sterling, Bill Byrd, Joe Hosea, and O'Donel "Butch" Levy just to name a few. Mannnnnnnnnnn! That was entertaining, those were the days. So everyone in the sound of my words, head over to Amy's Place located 5517 Ritchie Hwy, Suite B in Brooklyn Park and support this event every Monday night starting at 8 p.m. I will meet you there.

Don Jones and Kris Miller of D&K Entertainment have stirred

up the pot a bit with some Motown and R&B live entertainment in Baltimore, which I love. D&K Entertainment, hosts live R&B music at the Arch Social Club every month featuring the best of the best. On Saturday, July 25,

2015 they will host two bands featuring Rosa Pryor's group; Signature Live! a Motown group out of Washington, DC and North Philly Funk Band out of Philadelphia at the Arch Social Club, 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue in the beautiful reno-

uated upstairs lounge from 8 p.m. until 12 midnight. BYOB (bring your picnic basket), cash bar, 50-50 raffle and a lot of fun. Dress to impress and meet me there.

Happy Birthday to my best friend, my lover, my business partner, the love of my life and my husband, who I call "Boo-Boo", William "Shorty" Trusty. Join me at the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund Oldies but Goodies Crab Feast when we celebrate not only his birthday, but our 19th Annual and final crab feast fundraiser. We are going out in style and I want you there. DJ Sugar Chris will spin the oldies and live dances and my group Signature Live will make a special appearance to celebrate my "Boo-Boo's" 75th birthday in style. And you all are invited.



**William "Shorty" Trusty.
My "Boo-Boo"**

Tickets are \$50.00 and include all the hot, spicy, big, and heavy crabs you can eat (dumped on your table), a full hot/cold buffet, free beer, cash bar, door prizes, 50/50 raffle as well as a raffle for a bushel of crabs and a case of beer. Our fundraiser crab feast and Shorty's Birthday Party will be held at the VFW Post 6506, 8779 Philadelphia Road in Rosedale, Maryland on Saturday, July 18 from 2-6 p.m. No tickets are sold at the door, but you can pay by PayPal by going to our website: www.rosapryormusic.com, and we will have your ticket at "Will Call" or you can call me at 410-833-9474 to pick up tickets, at 214 Conewood Road, Reisterstown, Maryland 21136. We only have a few left.

Well my dear friends, I am out of space. I will see you soon. Enjoy your weekend. Remember to send your flyers, letters, press releases and upcoming events to rosapryor@aol.com. or call me at 410-833-9474. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



BWT Productions presents "Live Comedy with Comedian, Howard G and B.E.T. Larry Lancaster hosted by Rickey Shackelford on Sunday, July 19 at Arch Social Club on Pennsylvania & North Avenue from 5 p.m. until. For more information, call 443-226-9157.



"Spice" is the host for "Monday Night Live" at Amy's Place, 5517 Ritchie Hwy. Suite B, in Brooklyn Park, Maryland. Jam session, open mic from 8-12 midnight. All musicians and singers are invited. For more information, call Jesse Powers at 410-952-4009.



Corinthia Cromwell, Baltimore's own renowned saxophonist will grace the stage with an evening of Gospel/Jazz Concert on Sunday, July 26 at 4 p.m. at the Ivy Family Support Center, 3515 Dolfield Avenue; hosted by Vincent Street Entertainment and radio personality Lauren Thompson



Don Jones & Kris Miller of D&K Entertainment are the promoters for the R&B shows of live entertainment at the Arch Social Club such groups as: Lakeside, the Intruders, the Spindles, Greg Hill's Delfonics, Diane and the Ravenettes and the North Philly Funk Band, just to name a few.

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July 15 - July 21, 2015

Friday & Saturday

2 DAY Sale

Starts Friday @ 8 am

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1⁹⁹
LB

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Pork
Back Ribs
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Rest of Week: \$2.99 LB MVP

Hot SALE
2⁴⁹
LB

MVP

Value Pack
Fresh Ground Chuck
Without MVP Card \$4.69 LB
Limit 2
Rest of Week: \$3.49 LB MVP

Hot SALE
4⁹⁹
LB

MVP

Snow Crab Clusters
Without MVP Card \$6.99 LB
Limit 2
Rest of Week: \$5.99 LB MVP

Hot SALE
99¢
LB

MVP

Whole Chickens
Without MVP Card \$1.09 LB

single item at 1/2 price
**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

MVP

16 Oz. Pkg. - Select Varieties
Gwaltney Sliced Bacon
Without MVP Card \$4.49 EA

Low PRICE
2 \$4
FOR

15 Oz. - Select Varieties
Ball Park Meat Franks
Low Price Every Day

Hot SALE
1⁹⁹
EA

MVP

1 Lb. Container
Strawberries
Without MVP Card \$2.29 EA

Hot SALE
1⁹⁹
EA

MVP

Pint Container
Blueberries
Without MVP Card \$2.99 EA

Hot SALE
2 \$4
FOR

MVP

9-11 Oz. Pkg. - Select Varieties
Fresh Express Salad Blends
Without MVP Card \$2.79 EA

Hot SALE
1⁸⁹
EA

MVP

8 Pack
Wonder White Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

WOW!
5 \$5
FOR

MVP

7.25-15 Oz. - Select Varieties
Chef Boyardee Microwaved or Canned Pasta
Without MVP Card 4/\$5

Hot SALE
2 \$4
FOR

MVP

6-8 Oz. - Select Varieties
Food Lion or my essentials Shredded or Chunk Cheese
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

GROCERY GIVEAWAY

July 15 - July 28 *See store for details

One Winner Every Store Every Day

single item at 1/2 price
**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

MVP

16 Oz. - Select Varieties
Ken's Salad Dressing
Without MVP Card \$2.69 EA

Hot SALE
6⁹⁹
LB

MVP

Food Lion Fresh Deli Roast Beef
Without MVP Card \$7.99 LB

Low PRICE
2 \$6
FOR

MVP

59 Oz. - Select Varieties
Simply Orange Juice
Without MVP Card \$3.49 EA

Hot SALE
2 \$4
FOR

MVP

8.4-16.4 Oz. - Select Varieties
Eggo Waffles
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

Hot SALE
4⁹⁹
EA

MVP

22.4-36 Oz. - Select Varieties
Edwards Pies
Without MVP Card \$6.49 EA

MVP SAVINGS CENTER

4⁹⁹
EA

Hot SALE
3⁹⁹
EA

MVP

40 Oz. Liquid or 14 Ct. Pods
Select Varieties
Tide Laundry Detergent
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

WOW!
2⁵⁸
EA

MVP

48 Oz.
Wesson Vegetable Oil
Without MVP Card \$3.19 EA

Hot SALE
2 \$5
FOR

MVP

48 Oz. - Select Varieties
Turkey Hill Ice Cream
Without MVP Card \$3.39 EA

single item at 1/2 price
**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

MVP

10-10.5 Oz. - Select Varieties
Lay's Family Size Potato Chips
Without MVP Card \$4.29 EA
Limit 2 Free

single item at 1/2 price
**BUY 1
GET 1
FREE**

MVP

9.9-14.8 Oz. - Select Varieties
Keebler Chips Deluxe Cookies
Without MVP Card \$3.79 EA
Limit 2 Free

Hot SALE
4⁹⁹
EA

MVP

6 Big or 8 Regular Rolls - Select Varieties
Sparkle Paper Towels
12 Double Rolls
Angel Soft Bath Tissue
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

Indie Soul Spotlight: J. Anthony Brown

By Phinesse Demps

The one and only “take no prisoners” comedian, J. Anthony Brown recently performed at the Baltimore Comedy Club to make audiences laugh and to announce his new radio show called appropriately the “J. Anthony Brown Radio Show.”

The syndicated radio show debuted the weekend of June 6, 2015, and can be heard in more than 10 markets, including Houston, Texas, Tampa, Florida and the US Virgin Islands.

The show can also be heard via the I-Heart Radio app at the Accelerated Radio Network at AcceleratedRadio.net. Don’t worry, Brown, is not leaving the “Tom Joyner Morning Show,” so you will continue to hear him crack you up every morning, but now you get more of him on the weekends.

Just like the entrepreneurs we feature here with Indie Soul, Brown understands what it is like to try and get your brand to the public. For 30 years Brown has been on the grind, showcasing his brand of comedy to the masses and helping other comedians along the way. With more than three decades of comedy under his belt, Brown is also the only African American owner and operator of a comedy club in Los Angeles. His club, The J. Spot, offers live comedy featuring some of your favorite comics from Comedy Central, “Def Comedy Jam,” and “Comic View,” including such headlin-



J. Anthony Brown
Courtesy Photo

ers as Don DC Curry, Earthquake, George Wallace, Sommore, Sheryl Underwood and Faizon Love.

Much love to funnyman J. Anthony Brown for stopping through Baltimore and satisfying crowds with great fun and entertainment! Support J. Anthony Brown and find out more about the funny man at www.JAnthonyBrown.com and on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/janthonybrowncomedy>.

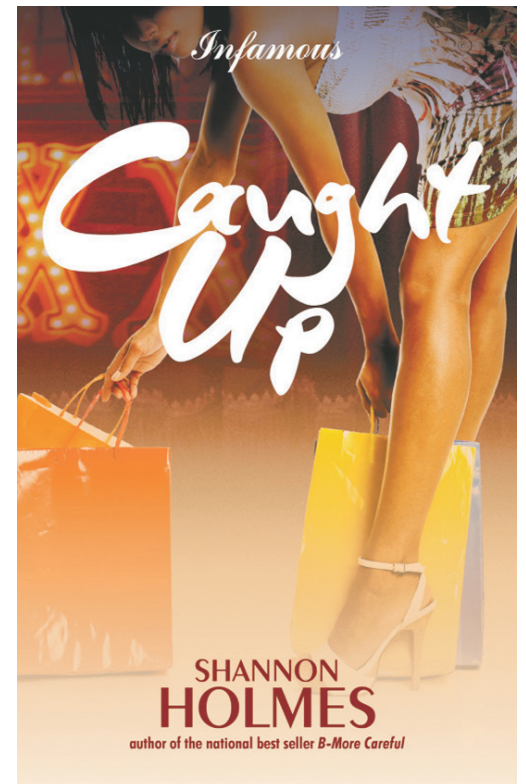
Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinesse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: lfpindiesoul@gmail.com Follow him on Twitter: @lfpindiesoul.

Indie Soul: Caught Up by Shannon Holmes

For my hip-hop heads “Caught Up” by Shannon Holmes is for you. His first book “B-More Careful” was written about the streets of Baltimore. Holmes knows a lot about street life, especially after serving five years on drug charges. It was at this point in his life that he chose to turn his life around. Five books later he is back with “Caught Up” another hip-hop thriller published by Akashic Books. So what is “Caught Up” about?

The central character, Dixyn Greene, has it all. She is a hustler’s wife, the mother of a beautiful daughter, and she owns a town house and a nice car. She’s living the life. When the feds arrest her man, Dixyn’s whole world begins to crumble. Things quickly go from bad to worse. The bills begin to mount and her ability to continue to maintain her lavish lifestyle is put to the test.

Strapped for cash, her good intentions lead to bad decisions. Enter Brian Winters, B-Dub, and her one saving grace, or so she initially believes. In Dixyn’s time of need, B-Dub turns out to be no more than an opportunist with his own agenda. Dixyn becomes indebted to him and is forced to do his bidding in order to survive. With B-Dub on her back, she submerges herself into the murky waters of street life and is soon entangled in a web of lust, be-



Book Cover Photo: Courtesy of Akashic Books

trayal, blackmail, and deceit. She ultimately discovers that there are no rules in the game. In the game, loyalty is limited. Trust will get you hurt and love will get you killed.

I read this book in one sitting. It had me open. Now I have Holmes at the top of my list of authors when it comes to street novels. It’s a great way to escape and be entertained for a few hours. The book hits stores August 4, 2015!

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Indie Soul Music: Tori Kelly

If you caught the 2015 BET Music Awards Show a few weeks ago when the show paid tribute to Smokey Robinson, the stage opened up with a female vocalist standing on the stage with her guitar. The first thing everyone on social media and at home said was, "Who is this white girl?" Then she opened her mouth and stole the show. Her name is Tori Kelly and you better get used to it. By the way, her father is half Jamaican/half Puerto Rican and her mother is Irish and German.

She is one of these YouTube sensations so she already had a huge following. She also appeared on American Idol and was not chosen, but that has not stopped her. Her CD, "Unstoppable Smile" was released in June of this year. Kelly is co-executive producer/writer and by listening to the music you can tell she put a lot of herself into the album. Her words, music, and voice are deep. She sings with so much passion. The vibe is very old school, spiritual, and more importantly she gets back to the basics of being in love and showing its okay to be vulnerable.

Check out the songs: "Should Have Been Us" and "Where I Belong." She



Tori Kelly

Photo: Courtesy of Capital Records

added some hip-hop flavor to her acoustic soul mix with help from Daye Jack (Expensive Love) and LLCool J (California Lovers). It's the song with Ed Sheeran, "I Was Made For Loving You," that is an instant classic. If you want to really know who Tori Kelly is, just listen to the song "Unbreakable Smile," the title track and she will tell you who she is. It's refreshing, just like her music. Rated G for good, no wait, great music!

Indie Soul Stage: Usha Tyson stars in 'Ms. Brown'



Usha Tyson in a scene from 'Ms. Brown,' a one-woman performance written by author and playwright Donnie Manuel,

Usha Tyson has been successful in the Baltimore theater scene performing in stage plays from local writers and directors. The last couple of years she has been part of "Humdadao" a play produced and written by Baltimore's very own Donnie Manuel, where she played lead character Tara.

"I really had a great time with 'Humdadao.' The cast was great. The script was fun and the one thing I loved about being in that play, was the fact that it was clean. No cussing or profanity. Everyone could come and see that show," says Tyson. It was because of that experience that she chose to work with Manuel again in a one woman show based on Ms. Brown, one of the characters from "Humdadao."

"Ms. Brown is a trip. She's a little out there but she means no harm and in a lot of ways she has a lot of wisdom. The

challenge for me was being up to that role, doing this one person, or one woman performance, remembering lines, and engaging the audience. The first time I was really nervous and not sure what to expect. The more I did it, I was able to get comfortable and really bring her to life," states Tyson.

What's next for the up and coming actress? "Well I am in Atlanta now looking to expand on my acting. Hopefully we can do a tour with Ms. Brown. I will be between ATL and B-More doing shows."

If you have not had the chance to see Usha Tyson perform, friend her on Facebook, www.facebook.com/usha.tyson to see where she will be performing next and to catch the next performance of "Ms. Brown."

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Indie Soul welcomes your questions and comments. To contact Phinisse Demps, call 443-885-9183 or 410-501-0193 or email: lfpindiesoul@gmail.com Follow him on Twitter: @lfpindiesoul.

First Sunday Arts Festival in Downtown Annapolis has its Biggest Music Line up Ever!

The hottest in Summer Fun returns to downtown Annapolis on Sunday August 2, 2015 with the First Sunday Arts Festival on Calvert and West Streets from 11am to 5pm

The day is going to be filled with one of this street festivals biggest music line ups ever! The music starts big in the Stan and Joe's parking lot at noon with the Jello Boys playing the hits from the Grateful Dead. At 3pm is your opportunity to hear a band that played at the historic Carr's Beach when The Pipe Dreamers take over the stage.

In Weisman Park next to the Visitor's Center the music line up starts at noon with your chance to get your funk on with The Late Bloomers, followed by some great rock with the Grey Dog Band at 3pm.

In Whitmore Park check out the sounds of summer with the Chesapeake Steel Drum Band starting at 3pm. On a softer note under the trees by City Gate you can take in the sounds of Joanne and Adriene.

Entertainment for the kids includes a kids band at noon in Whitmore Park, plus balloon animals from the Gypsy Queen, face painting by Shannon Sterner. Kids can also take a break in the shade and enjoy a free story time throughout the day in Whitmore Park hosted by JNP Project.

The most popular part of the festival, remains true with the streets and parks will be filled with over 100 artisan vendors starting at 11am selling handcrafted furniture, baskets, sculptures, blown glass, pottery, jewelry, books, home décor, paintings, photography and more. Three will be plenty of unique and original art and craft items for you to shop for.

Chesapeake Arts Center Needs Volunteers

Volunteers, age 18 and up, are needed to serve as ushers, ticket attendants, and help with concessions and will call for performances at the Hammonds Lane and/or Studio 194 Theatres. Volunteers can also help in the office, conducting daily administrative duties, distribution of flyers/newsletters in the community, mailings, and more. Extra volunteers are also needed to help with special events such as the Gala, gardening help for the front garden is also needed. Email Debbie Hofler, dhofler@chesapeakearts.org, or Call 410-636-6597 for more information. Web: www.chesapeakearts.org.



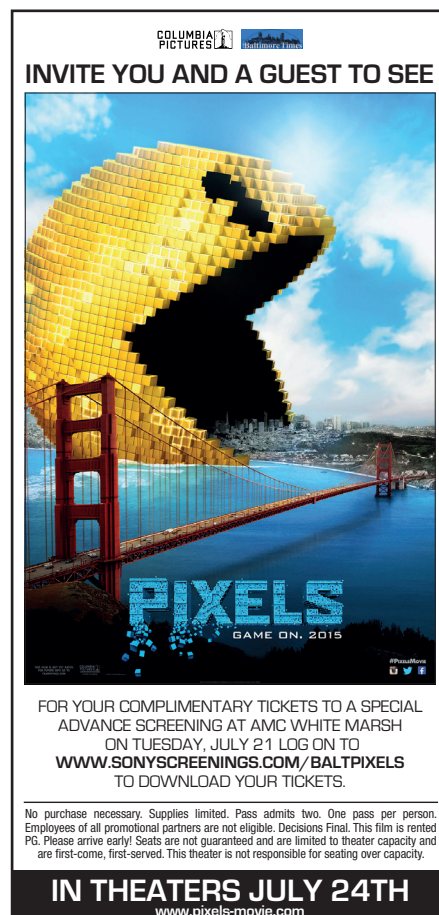
When you get hungry the cafes on West Street will spill into the streets giving you a chance to eat some of the best in international fare. Choose from Italian, Mexican, Asian, Irish and American cuisine. At Whitmore Park on Calvert Street the food options continue

for those on the go from the food trucks. There is also wine tasting from the local Annapolis Great Frogs winery and a local root beer maker Thunder Beast in Whitmore Park.

Once the First Sunday Festivals end at 5pm the festival After Parties begin. Head inside and check out the following After Parties; Gospel Sushi at Tsunami, folk music and a art reception at 49 West Coffeehouse, live music on the back patio at Rams Head Tavern and a outdoor movie at dark on the back patio of Reynolds Tavern.

Parking at the festival is always easy. Two parking garages (Whitmore Garage and Gott's Court Garage) are located right next to the festival on Calvert Street. Free parking is available two blocks from the festival at the State Parking Garage on the corner of Calvert and Bladen Street. Admission is always free to the festival and friendly pets are welcome.

The First Sunday Arts Festivals will continue this year on September 6, October 4 and November 1. The October festival will be a special Double feature Festival with the First Annapolis Chalk Festival being held simultaneously. For more information about First Sunday Arts Festivals please visit www.firstsundayarts.com



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Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) is seeking proposals for the selection and implementation of a new content management system to improve the user experience of the college's website. Proposals will be accepted until 11 a.m. EST on August 12, 2015.

Request for Proposal (RFP) documents may be obtained from the Purchasing office by contacting Heidi Frist, Senior Purchasing Agent, by e-mail: hmfrist@aacc.edu.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: AACC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, Title IX, ADA Title 504 compliant institution. For information on AACC's compliance and complaints concerning sexual assault, sexual misconduct, discrimination or harassment, contact the federal compliance officer at 410-777-1239 or Maryland Relay 711.

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