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EdAnime Productions creates educational animated hip hop series for youth



The educational animated hip hop series, Meltrek is designed to preserve African-American history and to project positive images of African Americans into the national consciousness. Jalen Bailey, (front), inspired the creation of it. His mother, Dr. DeAnna Bailey, (third from left), is the CEO of EdAnime Productions. Youth from Baltimore are the voices of characters in “Meltrek Episode 1: Exploring Ancient Africa” that was produced by EdAnime (Educational Animation) Productions. Adults and students from Baltimore invested in the film and company. (See article on page 19)

Courtesy Photo

BCCC Voting Machine Demonstration Nets New Voters

By Linwood Outlaw III

Since 2008, Baltimore City Community College (BCCC), through its partnership with the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, has registered more than 2,500 voters (and counting) through on-campus voter registration drives held during the school year.

With the onset of the 2016 presidential and mayoral elections, the BCCC is busy ramping up its effort to register more student voters and familiarize them with the new process for casting ballots on Election Day.

BCCC hosted a voter registration drive on February 2, 2016, which gave students and others an opportunity to test out Maryland's newly revamped voting system, presently being converted from touch-screen equipment to machines that produce verifiable paper records. The event was held in conjunction with the Baltimore City Board of Elections.

"It's very different, more than I was expecting," Kelvin Howard, 20, one of a number of BCCC student-athletes who visited voter information tables in the Student Atrium, said of the new voting equipment. "I thought it was going to be a simple pen-and-paper-and-scanning process. It's something new and modern. It's really cool."

During early voting, according to the State Board of Elections website, all voters will use a ballot marking device similar to the touch screen machines Marylanders have used in recent years. The device prints voters' selections onto a paper ballot card. Voters will then review their ballots and insert them into



a tabulation device. The ballots will automatically drop into a secure ballot box. Come Election Day, voters will have multiple options to choose from. Some voters, including those with disabilities, will use ballot-marking devices to mark and print their ballots; others will mark pre-printed paper ballots by hand.

"The new system does give people the reassurance of having a paper copy of their votes," said Lois Hybl, a League volunteer. "It is a learning process, but the Board of Elections has been doing a good job of showing how it works."


The new voting machine demonstration at BCCC was one of eight planned by the Baltimore City Board of Elections. The effort presented a perfect opportunity for the College to recruit more young voters.

The College and the League will hold another voter registration drive at the Liberty campus in March.



(Top left) BCCC students learn the new Maryland voting system. (Top right) The new Maryland voting machine. (Above) BCCC student-athlete Kelvin Howard tries his hand at the new Maryland voting machine, which was featured at the most recent BCCC-League of Women Voters voter registration drive on February 2, 2016 at the college.

Photos by Melvin Frooms




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Don't Get Too Excited When Trump Attacks George W. Bush over Iraq

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Something weird happened on February 13, 2016, at the Republican debate in South Carolina. Donald Trump went after Jeb Bush over the record of his brother, former President George W. Bush.

Trump attacked George W. Bush for the invasion of Iraq and for providing insufficient security for the U.S.A., as represented by the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

There are many liberals and progressives who were dumbfounded by his words, apparently never expecting commentary such as that to be mouthed by a Republican candidate for President. Many people at the debate were also surprised, because Trump was booed.

There are a few things to consider about this incident. The first is that, despite all of the evidence to the effect that the administration of George W. Bush lied us into a war with Iraq, there are still people, particularly in the Republican Party, who insist on believing that there was sufficient justification for an invasion that violated international law and precedent. In other words, they will not let the facts get in the way of their opinions. Such delusional thinking is always unsettling.

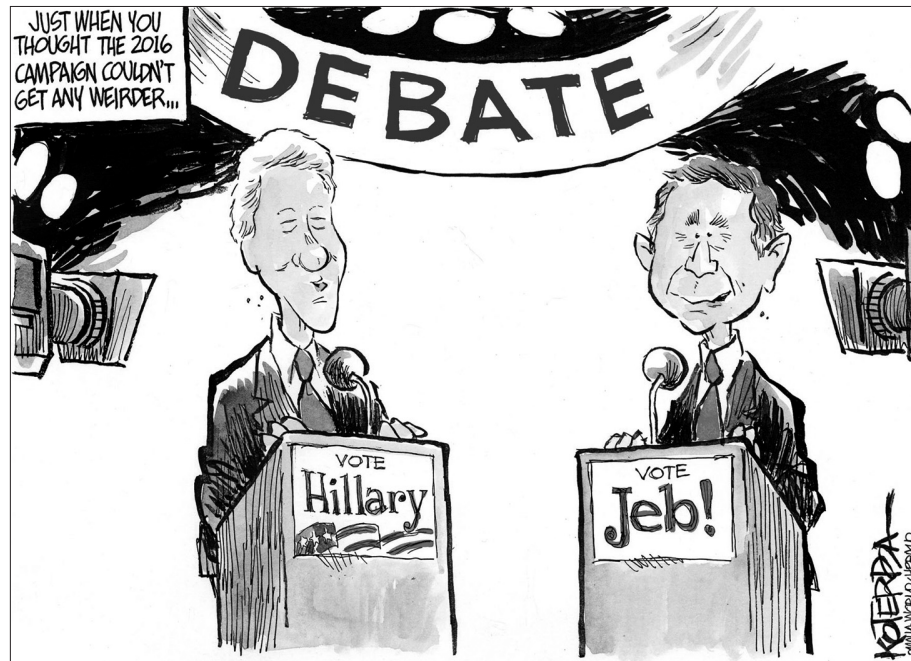
Second, within the Republican camp, and frequently out of the view of many liberals and progressives, there are those who are what might be described as “neo-isolationists.” These neo-isolationists tend to believe that the USA should wall itself off from the rest of the world, in some cases literally—such as Trump’s call for a wall on the border with Mexico—but in most cases figuratively. This element believes that the USA should not engage the international community, but instead should leave everyone to their own devices.

Right-wing isolationists want “their U.S.A.” to be protected, and one must be clear as to what that means. When one listens to the rhetoric of candidates, such as Trump, “their U.S.A.” is a white, non-immigrant U.S.A., that is, the “white republic” of old. They see this White republic under threat by demographic changes, economic changes, and a changing world. For them, the U.S.A.—defined as a white-dominated U.S.A.—must withdraw from world affairs.

We were hearing elements of this in Trump’s rhetoric at the debate. It can be misleading because it sometimes sounds like what we, progressives, have said. However, the reality is that Trump wants to retreat into a mythical past. He wants the U.S.A. to be able to dominate the world when it sees fit, but to otherwise disengage with the rest of the planet in resolving common, planetary challenges. Yes, he is correct that the Iraq invasion was based on a lie, and the neo-conservatives in the Republican Party disagree vehemently with him. Yet his vision assumes that the U.S.A. can have its cake and eat it too. That it can obtain resources from the rest of the world, but act not as a partner but as a periodic bully when it does not get its way.

While we may agree with Trump’s criticism of George W. Bush, none of us should ever assume that he has seen the light.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a talk-show host, writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.



Community Affairs

MECU Neighborhood Event Grants Available for 2016

Neighborhoods and community-based non-profits can receive up to \$1,000

Baltimore— Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts are excited to announce the return of MECU Neighborhood Event Grants for 2016!

Each year, the program awards cash grants to Baltimore neighborhood associations and community-based non-profit organizations for the purpose of producing special events.

Thanks to the support of MECU, Baltimore’s credit union, eligible groups can receive up to \$1,000 to produce an event for the community and residents they serve, such as art workshops, back-to-school rallies, block parties, book drives, food drives, health fairs and neighborhood clean-ups.

“For the fifth year, MECU is proud to be a sponsor of the Neighborhood Event Grants. MECU deeply cares about our community and our focus

is to give back,” said Chairman Herman Williams.

Applications and guidelines are available at www.promotionandarts.org. The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 11, 2016.

MECU Neighborhood Event Grants are a program of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts and are supported by MECU, Baltimore’s Credit Union.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization and based in Baltimore City. Proposed events must be free and open to the public and take place between June 1 and December 31, 2016. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

Required materials include a completed application, tax exemption documentation, financial statement and project budget. Grant recipients must attend a workshop in May, exact date to be determined. The mandatory workshop takes place at the main office of MECU, located at 7 E. Redwood Street, 20th floor, Baltimore, MD.

For more information on the MECU Neighborhood Event Grants, call 410-752-8632 or visit www.promotionandarts.org.

Why Do Politicians Treat Addiction Differently in the Suburbs?

By **Julianne Malveaux**
NNPA News Wire Columnist

Nick Cocchi would like to be the sheriff of Hampden County, an Eastern Massachusetts county of half a million people. Springfield, Massachusetts, a city that is about 22 percent African American, is the county seat. Eastern Massachusetts—and indeed, much of New England—is experiencing the devastating fallout from the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that deaths from heroin overdoses have quadrupled in the past decade, and that heroin use has doubled among whites. Thus, it is entirely appropriate that Mr. Cocchi's candidate website includes a page that talks about opioid abuse in Hampden County.

Far less appropriate, and indeed, repugnant, was the statement that Cocchi made when he testified at a November hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. According to Victoria Kim, a writer for *The Fix*, a newspaper that reports on addiction and recovery issues, Cocchi said as part of his testimony, "What was once the heroin junkie in the dark inner-city back alley has now become brother, sister, mom, dad, son and daughter. It's hit suburbia U.S.A."

Should the issue of addiction be treated more compassionately and humanely now that it has "hit suburbia U.S.A.?" Wasn't that "heroin junkie in the dark inner-city back alley" somebody's brother, sister, mother, dad, son or daughter? This is why it is so important to lift up the Black Lives Matter movement. Cocchi has, implicitly, said that he values the person in suburbia U.S.A. more than the person in the inner city. And his characterization of the inner-city drug abuser as someone in a back alley reeks of his biases.

Bishop Talbert Swan II, the president of the Springfield NAACP and pastor of Spirit of Hope Church of God in Christ, strongly objected to the racially coded

language that Cocchi used to talk about the problem of addiction. He is not the only person who has noticed the increasingly humane way addiction is being managed as the epidemic devastates the white community, in contrast to the way addiction has been managed in the past (consider the language around the crack epidemic) or even now, when African Americans are addicts. Even Cocchi's use of his term "junkie" lacks humanity. To call someone a "junkie" is far less humane than calling them an addict.

Before voters support Cocchi in his quest for sheriff, they might push him to get some sensitivity training. They might also ask if he would treat the inner city addict differently, than he would treat one from a Hampden suburb. However, the larger question is why is there is such sudden empathy for addicts, an empathy that was utterly lacking when the increase in crack addiction devastated the African American community, and when zero tolerance policies and mandatory drug sentencing placed people who were seriously ill behind bars for decades. Addiction, after all, is more an illness than a crime.

In Gloucester, a city about 40 miles north from Boston, heroin and opioid

addicts who voluntarily turn themselves in at the police station are provided with treatment services, and not charged with any crime. The program has gotten national attention. Some addicts from outside Massachusetts have come to Gloucester because they can't find affordable drug treatment where they live. Imagine that there were such a program for crack addicts when the inhumane "war on drugs" was little more than a war on black people. Even as I applaud the new empathy toward addicts, I mourn the years that so many have spent behind bars, denied of the kinds of "innovative" treatment options available in Gloucester.

Irreparable damage was done to the African American community, especially the inner city community, because of the draconian and racist "War on Drugs." Now, because the face of addiction has changed, so has public policy, and treatment options are preferred to incarceration options. Even as today's addicts are being treated more humanely, where is the compassion for the addicts of two decades ago, many whom remain incarcerated?

President Obama's efforts to pardon nonviolent drug offenders are a step in the right direction toward repairing individual lives. Is there a step our nation might take to repair the lives of these individuals and their communities?

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at www.julianne-malveaux.com.



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The Baltimore Times
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Wells Fargo Commissions Original Art Depicting African American Experience

Company enlists African American artist Keith Rosemond II to create illustrations inspired by real stories from its #MyUntoldSM storytelling campaign

Charlotte— Wells Fargo & Company recently commissioned Atlanta-based artist Keith Rosemond II to create six original illustrations depicting the African American experience. The personal stories were selected from #MyUntoldSM, the company's online-storytelling collection which provides the African American community an opportunity to share stories reflecting their cultural identity. Wells Fargo will surprise the six storytellers with Rosemond's original illustrations, and feature additional designs from Rosemond on debit and credit card designs through Wells Fargo's Card Design Studio[®] service.

"We've collected hundreds of stories through the #MyUntold campaign. People are genuinely moved by the opportunity to have their voices heard and become part of a movement that deepens cultural awareness," said Lisa Frison, vice president, African American segment strategy leader, Wells Fargo. "We continue to explore new ways to connect with communities in meaningful ways— and in this case we're excited to support local artists like Keith to help us bring these rich stories to life in other mediums."

Rosemond has formal training as an illustrator and graphic designer from the Savannah College of Art and Design and has an appreciation for both traditional and contemporary art. According to the artist, he creates artwork that blends two great passions: spiritual growth and music. "I am honored to work with Wells Fargo to memorialize some of the inspirational #MyUntold stories," said Rosemond. "The intersection of oral and visual storytelling is powerful and I'm proud that my artwork is associated with this program."

One of the first featured storytellers is Ross Oscar Knight, who shared his struggles with overcoming cultural adversity and a speech disorder in grade school. "It was so embarrassing to explain my thoughts only to end up trip-



(L to right) Ross Oscar Knight with Atlanta based artist, Keith Rosemond II, who created original art inspired by Ross' story about his struggles in grade school to overcome cultural adversity and a speech impediment. Rosemond depicted Knight's story through a pen-and-ink illustration of how a teacher helped him overcome stuttering with the gift of a disposable camera and an assignment to chronicle his daily life.

Photo Credit: Business Wire

ping over a pile of words," said Knight in his #MyUntold story.

Rosemond depicted Knight's story through a pen-and-ink illustration of how a teacher helped him overcome stuttering with the gift of a disposable camera and an assignment to chronicle his daily life. This was a turning point for Knight who noted: "As I referred to the images as visual cues I was able to speak clearly! That's when I fell in love with the transformative power of photography." Today, Knight works as an international photographer and speaker.

"I've always enjoyed drawing inspiration from poetry and abstract thoughts, so hearing stories like Ross' and having the opportunity to dig deep and find the underlying meaning was great. Through this experience and the #MyUntold platform I have learned that history is being written now and so many people have so many stories to tell," added Rosemond.

Wells Fargo also commissioned Rosemond to craft three original pieces for customized debit and credit card designs, inspired by the spirit of the stories on the #MyUntold platform. Designs include:

- **Look Up:** mimics stained glass, with aspiration and optimism coming to life in a card design that represents an enduring will to live an inspired life and to inspire others.
- **Family Bonds:** symbolizes the strength and unity that holds the African American family together.
- **Hip Hop Legacy:** reflects the birth of a culture. The "boom-box" design celebrates the influence of hip-hop on all facets of American and global culture – from music, to dialect to fashion, and beyond.

In celebration of Black History Month, customers can now order customized debit and credit card designs featuring exclusive

art from Rosemond through Wells Fargo's Card Design Studio[®] service.

Customers with eligible debit and credit cards can simply sign on to wells-fargo.com to access Card Design Studio[®] (Untold Stories Collection category in the Image Library) and choose from one of three designs.

"Great care went into developing each design," said Candace McCullom, vice president, marketing program manager, Wells Fargo. "Our team worked closely with Keith to ensure the imagery celebrated very important aspects of African American culture. We are beyond excited to release the designs to customers, and grateful to extend the #MyUntold experience in an innovative way as the nation honors Black History Month."

For more information about the stories that influenced the art, or to share your story, visit www.wellsfargo.com/myuntold.



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Ravens tight end Dennis Pitta set to make another comeback attempt

By Turrón Davenport

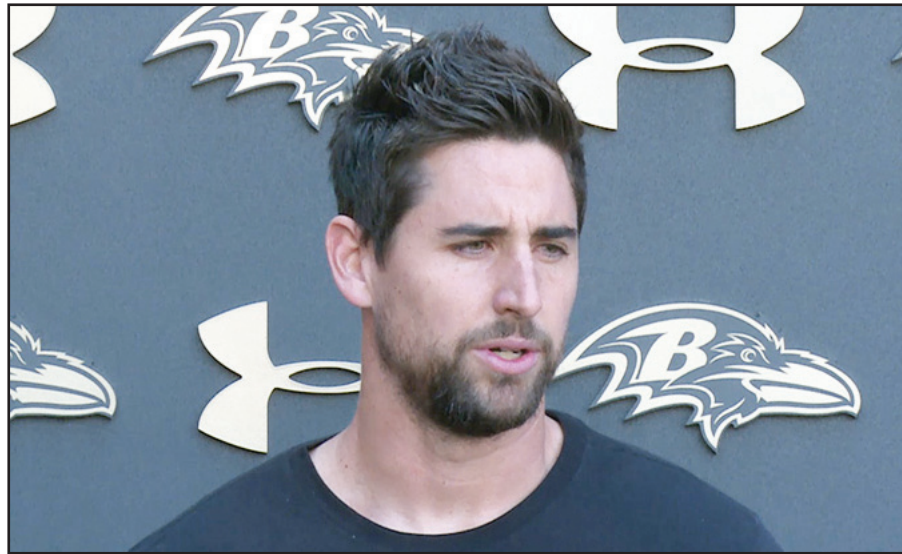
Baltimore Ravens tight end Dennis Pitta loves the game of football so much that he is set to make another comeback attempt after suffering two devastating hip injuries. He didn't play last season as he continued to work his way back from a dislocated hip.

Pitta dislocated the same hip twice in the last two seasons he played. His comeback was cut short last season and he was placed on season ending injured reserve November 11, 2015. The Ravens reported that doctors informed Pitta that it was not safe for him to continue his career. That did not deter him from his goal of stepping on the football field once again.

The Ravens signed Pitta to a five-year contract worth \$32 million prior to the 2014 season. He will make \$7.2 million this season. The Ravens have also invested multiple draft picks into the tight end position.

Baltimore selected Crockett Gillmore in the third round of the 2014 draft. The Ravens used a second round pick on Maxx Williams along with a fifth round pick on Nick Boyle in 2015. Pitta has helped the young tight ends get acclimated to the NFL and is impressed with how they are progressing.

"I've been in meetings all year and done everything I can to help them. I've



Ravens tight end Dennis Pitta speaking to the media at the Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills, Maryland on November 21, 2015, when he announced that he would not play during the 2015 season.

Photo by Turrón Davenport

tried to be a presence in the room that they know they could come and ask me whatever," Pitta said. "It's a great group of tight ends— certainly a lot of promise moving forward. I'm excited for that group and what they're capable of."

As for the status of his comeback, Pitta says that he feels good because of how he has been rehabbing and working out just as he did during the regular season. He said that he wants to continue playing and most importantly, be a part of the team.

There is no timetable set for Pitta's return.

His journey will continue to have a series of checkpoints and according to Pitta, they will continue gauge how the rehab is progressing. The major test will come if he is able to get back onto the field.

"I feel good physically, and I feel like I could go out and run and all that," Pitta said. "On the field is the most effective way to [evaluate], whether that's running routes on air or whatever it may be. I'll do all what I can to put stress on it [and] test it the best way that I can."

Pitta will have a big decision to make, as the season gets closer. He took part in OTAs last year and mini camp only to find out that he was not yet ready to return. Maybe things will be different for the veteran this season.

The doctors have already told him that he is likely to need a hip replacement in the future. Pitta is aware of the fact that he needs to have an eye on the long-term future as he attempts to make his way back onto the field.

"It'd be naïve to think that life after football is a reality. At some point, we all move on from the game of football," Pitta said. "Hopefully, it's not that soon for me, but if it is, I've certainly had to think about it and put some thought into it."

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- Frederick Douglass

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Save 20 percent on admission to Baltimore’s three signature African American museums with the Legends & Legacies Heritage Pass. For more information and a full listing of exciting and inspirational Black History Month events, visit Baltimore.org.

Celebrate History in Baltimore



Concert Highlights Words of Langston Hughes, Malcolm X and Others

By Stacy M. Brown

Before composing music and climbing onto a stage, Benny Russell says he listens to the voices of several trailblazing African-Americans.

Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson and even Malcolm X have been Russell's inspirations, and those famous black icons are just as responsible as anyone for the upcoming "Sing Me a Dream: Music and Protest," an original, four-movement suite for a 17-piece orchestra that will be performed at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Harford Community College in Bel Air.

An adjunct music faculty and jazz composer and musician, Russell has put together a massive one-hour show that will feature the Morgan State University Jazz Ensemble and spoken texts from Hughes, Johnson and Ossie Davis.

"You let the ancestors speak through your music," said Russell, whose accomplishments include compositions like "Langston Hughes: The Soul of His Words," "Cold Keener," "The Darfur Chronicles," and "Just Before the Autumn."

"So, you're there to tell the ancestors that if they need me, I'll be a voice for them," Russell said.

"Sing Me a Dream," a title that Russell says he came up with when his young child asked that he sing him a dream at bedtime, is one of the featured programs accompanying the Hays-Heighe House's "Voices of Change: Social Protest Through the Arts and Humanities," an exhibit developed to stimulate thought and discussion about the ways that music, literature and visual arts have intersected with moments of social protest in the United States.

The concert centers upon four movements whose backdrop is taken from African-American literature, Russell said. The first movement, "The Weary Blues," features texts by Hughes and includes music composed by Russell.

The second movement is titled, Prayers



Adjunct music faculty and jazz composer and musician, Benny Russell has put together "Sing Me a Dream: Music and Protest," an original, four-movement suite for a 17-piece orchestra that will be performed at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Harford Community College in Bel Air, Maryland. The massive one-hour show will feature the Morgan State University Jazz Ensemble and spoken texts from Hughes, Johnson and Ossie Davis.

Courtesy Photo

for Malcolm," with text by Ossie Davis who performed the eulogy at Malcom X's

funeral 51 years ago. The music for "Prayers" is composed by James Spauld-

ing and arranged by Russell.

"Passing" is the third movement, which Russell said was inspired again by Hughes' words. "It's called 'Passing,' because that's when light skinned black folk found it necessary to pass themselves off as white folks to matriculate through society," Russell said.

He recounted a letter a young man wrote to his mother that Hughes noted in "Passing."

"I felt like a dog, passing you downtown last night and not speaking to you. You were great, though. Didn't give me a sign that you even knew me, let alone I was your son. If I hadn't had the girl with me, Ma, we might have talked," according to the letter in Hughes' writings.

"I'm not as scared as I used to be about somebody taking me for colored any more just because I'm seen talking on the street to a Negro. I guess in looks I'm sort of suspect-proof, anyway. You remember what a hard time I used to have in school trying to convince teachers I was really colored. Sometimes, even after they met you, my mother, they wouldn't believe it. Since I've begun to pass for white, nobody has ever doubted that I am a white man."

Russell says his compositions help bring back those early black experiences and to educated young black men and women today about those who came before them.

The final Movement of the concert is titled, "God's Trombones" with text by Johnson and music by Russell.

"The one thing that's scary is that as the audiences get younger and younger, the information gets older and older and you wonder whether they see it as pertinent in their lives," Russell said. "Do they see the importance of celebrating Langston Hughes or do they know who Malcolm X was or even Ossie Davis and his works and do they even care?"

Tickets for the concert are free but seating is limited and must be reserved in advance. To reserve tickets, visit: tickets.harford.edu or call 443-412-2211.

Black History Month must be more than just a month of remembrance; it should be a tribute to our history and reminder of the work that lies in the months and years ahead. —Marty Meehan



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Ken Banks appointed to Federal Reserve Board of Directors

Baltimore— The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve appointed Ken Banks, Founder and CEO of Banks Contracting Company Inc., to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Board of Directors. Banks' three-year term as a Board of Director for the Baltimore Branch began January 1, 2016.

As one of Maryland's renowned business visionaries, Banks brings to the director role 35 years of business expertise and insights to help inform the Fed's monetary policy deliberations. Banks commented: "It's an honor and privilege to serve with the premier financial institution in the United States."

The Richmond Fed comprises the Fifth Federal Reserve District of the nation's central banking system, which includes Maryland, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and most of West Virginia. Each Board of Directors typically consists of seven-to-nine members who provide guidance, as well as information and insight regarding the economic conditions of their region. The Board of Directors also serves as ambassadors who help the public understand the Fed's mission and its role in the regional and national economies.

Banks also serves as a commissioner for the Maryland Economic Development Commission, a governing body that develops economic policy in the State of Maryland and oversees the Maryland Department of Commerce in its efforts to support creation, attraction and retention of businesses and jobs. Moreover, Banks is a member of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB), the governor's chief policy-making body for workforce development in Maryland.

Additionally, Banks serves on the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health- Health Advisory Board; University of Maryland School of Medicine – Board of Visitors; the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma – Board of Visitors; the



*Ken Banks
Founder and CEO
Banks Contracting Company Inc.
Courtesy Photo*

Maryland Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Board of Directors; Maryland Chamber of Commerce – Board of Directors; and the Greater Baltimore Committee – Board of Directors.

Banks has expanded his influence internationally as a facilitator of global partnerships, working to secure financial resources for housing, hospitals and infrastructure. Ken's philanthropic activities include contributing to numerous local charities, in addition to supporting innovative projects that have global economic reach. Banks is integrally involved with the Johns Hopkins Puno Global Health Research Project to design and create locally assembled ventilation systems for thatched and adobe-style homes, in regions throughout the world.

For more information about Banks Contracting Company Inc., visit: <http://www.bankscontracting.com/>, and for more information about the Richmond Fed, visit <https://www.richmondfed.org>.

**More Black History stories available
at: www.baltimoretimes-online.com**

Thomas Moorehead Rolls into the World of Ultra-Luxury

By Eric Easter,
Urban News Service

The world's first African-American Rolls Royce car dealer got there through hard work and perseverance, but only after disappointing his family.

Thomas Moorehead's parents thought the key to respectability was a Ph.D. Both teachers, they lived by an old-school axiom that the one thing you never can take away from a man is an education.

Yet, with just a few credits and a dissertation to go, Moorehead abandoned his doctoral program, and his parent's wishes, for an uncertain shot at learning the automobile business from the bottom up.

It was a leap of faith, an offer from a fraternity brother and mentor, James Bradley of Bradley Automotive Group, who promised to make Moorehead a millionaire in five years — if he took the risk. But it wasn't the promise that attracted Moorehead: "Teaching was a guarantee of a long career, but I always had a passion for business," he says.

His road to success required two years of apprenticeship with Bradley, the mortgaging of his home and the depletion of his savings to enter a training program, then eventually owning his first dealership, selling Buicks in Omaha, Neb.

Moorehead built a strong reputation as someone dedicated to customer service, an essential value of the Rolls Royce brand. That reputation, and his sales record as owner of Sterling BMW in Virginia, sparked an invitation from Rolls Royce Motor Cars to join the exclusive club of only 33 dealers and 130 dealerships around the globe, an opportunity he accepted without hesitation.

The new store, Rolls Royce Motor Cars of Sterling, is the sole Rolls Royce dealership in greater Washington, D.C. and covers much of the mid-Atlantic — from Virginia to southern Pennsylvania. It sits just across from Sterling BMW and Mini, his other successful dealership, a fact that fills him with immense pride.

"These are the best cars in the world, and I'm honored to be able to bring them to my customers," Moorehead says



Thomas Moorehead, the world's first African-American Rolls Royce car dealer owns Rolls Royce Motor Cars of Sterling. The company is the sole Rolls Royce dealership in greater Washington, D.C. and covers much of the mid-Atlantic — from Virginia to southern Pennsylvania. Courtesy Photo

as he looks across the lot.

His dealerships thrive in one of the region's wealthiest communities, filled with prosperous government contractors, newly minted millionaires from tech start-ups and the Washington Redskins' nearby training facility.

But the opulence that Moorehead markets is a long way from his roots in Monroe, Louisiana, a town of 38,000 with a historic poverty rate twice the already poor state's average.

During his youth, Monroe Colored High was the sole choice for black students in that segregated city. It was a time when, according to Moorehead, families like his could "offer you their good name, but not money."

That upbringing drives a sense of humility that led Moorehead to keep his own name off the dealership's logo. "I always say the boss is the customer, not me. I don't get caught up in having my name on the door," he explains. "Actu-

ally, most customers who come in think I'm just another salesman, and that's fine with me."

In a world where demanding buyers have been known to add millions of dollars' worth of custom details to their cars to reflect their personalities (fur-lined shoe-holders, built-in picnic baskets, crystal cufflink holders), Moorehead's low-key manner is a studied contrast — a contrast he believes helps him sell more cars. "I can talk about the features of the cars all day but, ultimately, people are buying good service."

At age 71, Moorehead still relies on the daily advice of mentors, who include Hall of Fame home-run great (now car dealer) Hank Aaron and former National Urban League president John Jacob. He calls them "instrumental" in shaping his business's success. "They marked their careers by quietly getting the job done, but also being the best at what they do."

While giving a tour of his office,

Moorehead seems slightly embarrassed as he points to pictures of himself with presidents Obama and Clinton and an array of famous business leaders. That changes when he points out two items of which he's most proud: the Laurel Wreath Award, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's highest honor for lifetime achievement — and then something much less distinct: a small cardboard sign that lists more than a dozen vendors who, he says, have contributed to his achievements — architects, decorators, contractors, cleaning-service owners and even the guy who printed the sign.

All are African-Americans, and fraternity brothers, people for whom he has paid forward the gift that Bradley gave him.

"This is really what it's all about, bringing other people up and giving something back."

For more information on Thomas Moorehead's philanthropic efforts go to www.themooreheadfoundation.org

Philanthropist Couple Makes Largest Donation in MSU History

By Stacy M. Brown

When he attended Morgan State University decades ago, circumstances were such that Calvin E. Tyler Jr. couldn't afford to stay in school.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2016, Tyler and his wife Tina gave the school the largest individual donation in the institution's nearly 150-year history.

The Tyler's have pledged \$5 million to endow a scholarship fund that initially will fund 10 need-based scholarships to cover full tuition for Morgan students from the city of Baltimore, their hometown. The scholarship can be renewed each year and it will be offered to incoming freshman with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

"We just wanted to help the kids who may not be able to attend college without these scholarships," Calvin Tyler said. "My wife and I both came from a very humble background and we understand the challenges a lot of young people face when their families don't have the resources."

Born in West Baltimore, Tyler attended the historically black university in the 1960s but left because he didn't have enough money to finish school.

He took a job as a driver for UPS and thus began a spectacular rise to become the senior vice president of operations for the delivery company where he worked until retiring in 1998. Tyler now serves on the board of directors of the company.

"I went to work and took courses here and there but I never finished," Tyler said. "I wish I would have stayed in school and earned my degree but I received most of my education on the job and I try to tell young people that there's a lot to be learned after college. If you stop learning, you are dead."

This gift isn't the first time that the Tylers have donated to MSU, which in 2004 bestowed upon Tyler an honorary doctorate degree. In 2002, the Tylers



(Left-right): Calvin E. Tyler, Tina Tyler and MSU President David Wilson. The Tyler's have pledged \$5 million to endow a scholarship fund that initially will fund 10 need-based scholarships to cover full tuition for Morgan students from the city of Baltimore, their hometown. Courtesy Photo/Morgan State University

gave MSU \$500,000 to establish a scholarship fund and in 2005 they followed that up with another \$500,000. Then, in 2008, the couple gave another \$1 million to the university.

The one thing that I believe is important is that young people graduate debt free," said Tyler, who now lives in Nevada with his wife. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

"Tina and I have never had debt and the main message we'd like to deliver with this donation to Morgan State is that young people should do everything that they can to live within their means," Tyler said. "We've lived within our means all of our life and that helped us

to avoid debt which I call economic handcuffs." Incurring debt while in school only serves to ensure that students will get off to a bad start financially after graduation, according to Tyler.

Not only is the Tyler's gift the biggest in MSU's illustrious history, officials at the school say it's one of the largest ever to any HBCU.

Calvin Tyler credits former MSU President Earl S. Richardson with helping the school achieve what he called greatness which encouraged him and Tina Tyler to donate to the university.

"I had a good relationship with Dr. Richardson and he told us of the plight of many in Baltimore who were aca-

demically qualified but lacked the resources," Tyler said. "So, Tina and I wanted to do something for the young people in our hometown."

Current President David Wilson said he was obviously delighted by the Tyler's gift.

"I have received hundreds of emails from students wanting to come to Morgan or even to stay in school while they were enrolled at Morgan, but they simply did not have the money," Wilson said. "What Calvin and Tina Tyler are doing is removing the financial barrier that stands in the way of so many young people in Baltimore in getting a college degree."

"We can all make a difference in the lives of others in need, because it is the most simple of gestures that make the most significant of differences." — Miya Yamanouchi

First African-American Driver Leads Monster Jam into Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown

It's an unusual sight that gets both five-year-olds and 95-year-olds alike excited.

More than two million pounds of dirt fills the arena, the noise is almost deafening as the big trucks and their drivers compete for supremacy and the adulation of fans everywhere.

Monster Jam is set to invade the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore from February 26 to February 28, 2016.

The event will feature El Toro Loco with driver Mark List; Grave Digger driven by Cole Venard; Max D driven by Jared Eichelberger; Monster Mutt Dalmatian driven by Cynthia Gauthier; Monster Mutt Rottweiler driven by Daron Basl; NEA driven by Aaron Basl; Scooby-Doo driven by Brianna Mahon; and Zombie whose driver is Bari Mussawir.

"I'm excited to be coming back to Baltimore. It's a unique town with the harbor there and all the good restaurants," said Mussawir, 35, the 2012 "Young Guns Shootout" champion and the first African-American driver in Monster Jam.

"The fans in Baltimore can expect 110 percent. This is a tour where we are on track for the points championship and the winner gets an automatic bid to the World Finals which are held every year in Las Vegas," Mussawir said.

The Monster Jam World Finals are held in March and consist of racing and freestyle competitions. Drivers are selected based on the points they earn during the season.

Competitors earn their stripes much to the delight of fans on a dirt-filled race track that starts in the parking lot and includes a long straight-away where speeds reach over 70 miles per hour.



Monster Jam is set to invade the Royal Farms Arena in Baltimore from February 26 to February 28, 2016. The Monster Truck Zombie is driven by Bari Mussawir. One of the Zombie's outstanding features is how the arms on the truck flap during the ride, which fans have grown to love. Mussawir's career began in 2010. He became a fan of monster trucks at the age of six, when his mother took him to his first Monster Jam show.

Courtesy Photo

The drivers competing in freestyle face a track that's considered extreme and consists of numerous obstacles.

The trucks for Monster Jam reportedly measure in at about 12-feet tall, 12-feet wide and 20-feet long and weigh in at 10,000 pounds. They reach top speeds of 70 miles per hour and undergo a 50 plus point safety inspection before each show.

"My preparation is eating healthy and getting a lot of exercise during the week because we have to be physically fit," Mussawir said. "We also have to be mentally prepared to go out and perform for the fans."

One of the outstanding features of Mussawir's truck, Zombie, is how the

arms flap during his ride. He said fans have grown to love it.

"The first time I climbed into the truck and saw it had arms, and I started moving it, I was like, 'Whoa, look at these things waving around as I'm driving it.' The people really react to it," he said.

Mussawir said his passion for automobiles developed earlier in his life.

Growing up in Detroit, he said he was a fan of monster trucks and at the age of six, his mother took him to his first Monster Jam show.

After graduating college in 2002, Mussawir met Scott Hartsock, a Monster Jam driver who would mentor him. In 2006, he won a freestyle competition at Diggers Dungeon in North Carolina,

the home of the famed Grave Digger Monster Truck. From there, he was invited to participate in a private Monster Jam truck test session.

Mussawir's career began in 2010 and he won Rookie of the Year.

"Winning that award really boosted my confidence. This is something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I went to my first show when I was six and now being awarded Rookie of the Year with my mom, dad, wife and family in the audience was kind of like the icing on the cake. I was like, 'I've arrived' and it was a confirmation for me."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.royalfarmsarena.com or www.monsterjam.com.

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Special Programs for Black History Month at Reginald F. Lewis Museum

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Baltimore— Black History Month at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum continues with a picture book workshop, film screening and open house.

Picture Book Workshop with Illustrator Shadra Strickland

Saturday, February 20, 2016

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Create picture book art with illustrator Shadra Strickland after hearing her children's book *Sunday Shopping*. Ms. Strickland will teach children how to draw like an illustrator and discuss how she got started. Recommended for ages 5 to 12 years old. Held in conjunction with the current exhibition *Ruth Starr Rose*. Included with museum admission.

Film Screening: Jamel Shabazz Street Photographer

Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 2 p.m.

In the infancy of hip-hop, Brooklyn-born photographer Jamel Shabazz documented the pioneers of music and style who would launch an enduring worldwide phenomenon. In *Jamel Shabazz Street Photographer*, director Charlie Ahearn pays tribute to both Shabazz and those who defined hip-hop before it had definition. Included with museum admission.

Verizon Black History Month Open House 2016

Saturday, February 27, 2016 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with an open house at the museum. Join friends, neighbors, community innovators and business leaders for a day full of interactive tours, activities and entertainment.

Sponsored by Verizon. Free admission.

The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture highlights the history and accomplishments of African Americans, with a special focus on Maryland. For more information about the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, call 443-263-1800 or visit: www.lewismuseum.org.

Best Buddies of Maryland Need Volunteers

Best Buddies enhances the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-on-one friendship and integrated employment. Volunteers, 18 and older, will be matched with an adult who has an intellectual disability. Matches are based on age, gender, proximity and similar interests. Once matched, the pair is asked to maintain weekly contact, via phone or email, and visit twice a month. Some monthly outings include going to concerts, dining out, watching movies and more. Volunteers are needed in Baltimore City and surrounding counties. For an application and more information contact: Tom Waite at 410-327-9812 ext. 38 or email: tomwaite@bestbuddies.org or visit the website: www.bestbuddiesmaryland.org.

Internet Access at a Fraction of the Cost

By Ruth Young Tyler

The World Wide Web has yet to connect everyone in the world

In Maryland, 91.6 percent of families have a computer in their homes and 83.4 percent live in a household with high-speed Internet use.

Marylanders like most people in the United States rely on the Internet to search for jobs, complete homework assignments, pay bills, register for medical insurance and make travel arrangements, and others use it as their primary source of communication.

In a technologically advanced age, it is vital to have Internet access in the home.

One of the obstacles that prevent many families from having access to the Internet is the cost of computers and internet service. In 2011, Comcast launched Internet Essentials a program designed to bring the Internet to families that otherwise could not afford the service.

Internet Essentials from Comcast offers low-cost Internet service, discounted computer equipment and free digital literacy training to families with at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program. In addition, as of October 2015, Comcast launched two trial programs, expanding Internet Essentials to eligible seniors and community college students in limited markets. At a fraction of the cost, families with school-age children (and senior citizens) can gain access to high-speed Internet and enhance their digital literacy. Eligible participants will receive an invoice of \$9.95, a month, plus tax.

Baltimore County resident Henrietta Tambi, is the breadwinner in her home,



Baltimore County resident Henrietta Tambi is an honor roll nursing student who understands the importance of education. Affordable access to high-speed Internet provides her family the opportunity to increase their digital literacy, thanks to the Comcast Internet Essentials program.

Courtesy Photo

and as the mother of four children, she learned about the service and benefits of Internet Essentials from a neighbor.

"I am so happy that I followed through with the information that my neighbor shared with me," said Tambi who is a full-time nursing student and works as well. "I'm saving money and my children are able to do their research projects from the comfort of home."

Prior to having Internet Essentials, Tambi subscribed to another service for which she paid four times as much.

For more information about Comcast Internet Essentials, call 1-855-846-8376 or visit: www.internetessentials.com.

Douglas Memorial Community Church
1325 Madison Avenue, Baltimore City
Founder's Day Guest Preacher: Reverend Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.
Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
Leadership Day Guest Preacher: Dr. Robert Turner
Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 10:30
For more information, call 410-523-1700
or visit: www.douglaschurch.net

"Honor Your Mom"

The Baltimore Times

The Annapolis Times

Mother's Day Edition 2016

will publish on

Friday, May 6, 2016



The Baltimore Times and The Annapolis Times will publish a keepsake Mother's Day edition on Friday, May 6, 2016. Honor your mother or special lady by submitting a high quality photo (may include children). Submit first and last name of everyone in the photo, identify from left to right and a daytime contact number. Photos must be submitted by April 8, 2016 with payment of \$25. We accept checks, money orders, and credit cards.

Bring photo and payment from 11am -4 pm

The Baltimore Times
2513 N. Charles Street



If sending by mail, fill out form below and submit with photo and payment



Mother's Name: _____

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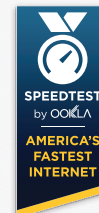
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TV One re-brands to 'Represent' best in black culture, entertainment

By Stacy M. Brown

Viewers of the 47th annual NAACP Image Awards earlier this month may have noticed a bold and new look emanating from the network that carried the popular program.

They also may have noticed TV One's new tagline, "REPRESENT," which officials said served to reiterate the channel's commitment to offering the most engaging black entertainment experience.

It's the type of re-branding that executives at the 11-year-old network are hoping will stand out in a crowded television marketplace.

"TV One's re-brand is a clear indication we are evolving as our viewers evolve," said Lori Hall, the channel's senior vice president of marketing. "We are focused on redefining the brand in order to refresh, refocus and re-imagine how black content is presented to the world. With this goal, our hope and intent is to defy expectations with everything we do."

Launched in 2004, TV One now serves 57 million households with original programming like "Unsung," which examines the lives and careers of entertainers and the popular News One Now with Roland Martin.

In addition to a comprehensive creative overhaul of the network's on-air and off-air brand elements, such as the tagline, logo, promos and its website, TV One officials said they are dedicated to producing high-quality, well-rounded black content across a variety of genres.

Among the network's more popular shows are the reality series "Hollywood Divas," and "Rickey Smiley For Real."

The network also hosts the original comedy series, "Born Again Virgin," and "Here We Go Again," and the high-rated true crime series "Fatal Attraction," "For My Man," and "Justice By Any Means."

"We have a vision of the future that can only be achieved by defying expectations. Our new brand identity will underscore the importance of re-presenting and re-imagining ourselves to our viewers with a call to action that will catapult us into the future in a fresh new way," said the network's president Brad Siegel.



Stars of the TV One hit show, "Born Again Virgin," Eva Marcille; Danielle Nicolet; Meagan Holder; and R&B Artist Tank. Courtesy Photos

"From representing black greatness with our live telecast of the 47th Annual NAACP Image Awards, to being on the forefront of news issues in the black community with News One Now, to new original reality and scripted series 'The Next: 15' and 'Here We Go Again,' our goal is to raise the bar on entertainment offerings reflecting the beautiful and strong diversity within black culture."

Hall added that TV One is committed to delivering on what consumers are demanding and a more balanced representation of stories and black images.

"In times of turmoil within black communities, it's important to have a network with a daily news platform to report on stories that matter to our audience," Hall said. "That's why, on TV One, we have News One Now with Roland Martin every weekday morning at 7 a.m. ET. We provide what's missing on other news networks – consistent reporting of news and stories affecting black communities and people every day. Our new brand tagline says it all.



Roland Martin of News One Now

TV One is here to REPRESENT for our communities and our viewers."

For more information and program schedules, visit: www.tvone.tv

EdAnime Productions creates educational animated hip hop series for youth

By Andrea Blackstone

Jalen Bailey was four years old when his mother, Dr. DeAnna Bailey, became tired of letting her son watch entertaining cartoons that lacked educational value and positive images of African-American people. Bailey, 34, remarked that educational programs on television were not captivating. With the exception of finding a few old films after searching online, Bailey's options for something for Jalen to watch remained sparse.

"I saw that there weren't any films that taught children about African-American people or African-American history," Bailey said.

Dr. Bailey is a U.S. Army veteran who earned an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering and a Doctorate of Engineering degree from Morgan State University (MSU). Her search to educate Jalen ultimately inspired Bailey to develop an educational animated hip-hop series in which relatable characters integrated lessons about ancient Africa.

Personal investors believed in Bailey's vision. The first DVD called "Meltrek Episode 1: Exploring Ancient Africa" was released in October of 2014.

Meltrek combines a shortened version of the words "melanin" and "trek," suggesting that viewers will take a journey to understand the history and culture of people of color.

"The storyline for the entire series involves a magical teacher, Ms. Lofton who sends her sixth grade students back in time to explore different areas in African-American history," Bailey said. "The bottom line is I got tired our children not being adequately taught their history. Instead of complaining about it, I stepped up and said, 'Let me produce something. Let me come up with a solution.' I found that once I released the film there were thousands of parents out there who feel the same way I feel."

EdAnime Productions produced exploring Ancient Africa. Bailey and Luther Elliott co-founded the company along with a host of teenagers and adults from Baltimore. Bailey, Amber Lanese and Charnee Bowens serve as directors of the company. Additionally, Bailey is the CEO, Bowens is the chief education

specialist and Lanese is the chief operating officer and outreach coordinator.

With the exception of animation, everything for the series is completed in-house. The cast for the series provides character voices. It is comprised of Bowens, who is the voice of Ms. Lofton. Isaiah Lewis, 15, is the voice of Bunchy and Chen. He is also a co-founder of EdAnime, a financial investor and a series producer. Briana Lewis, 18, is the voice of Percy and Michelle. She is responsible for designing backgrounds for the storyboard. Destiny Parnell, 11, is the voice of Jessie. Harvey Lewis, 17, is the voice of Rameses, a co-founder, a financial investor and series producer.

Dr. Bailey said that funding the series has been an issue. She said she's looking for an angel investor who may help cover production costs for remaining episodes. However, the development of children's storybooks, backpacks, and sneakers is currently underway. Various eras in African-American history will highlight unsung heroes through eight DVD installments. Youth will remain involved in Meltrek.

"The kids were involved on the creative side, but (on) the business side as well," Bailey said, noting their involvement in the copyright and trademark process.

Anna Scribner is Bailey's mother who worked as an educator in Baltimore for 35 years, before retiring in 2009. The former teacher and principal remarked that "Exploring Ancient Africa" helps youth to build vocabulary, knowledge of regions and continents and self-esteem. A coloring and activity book and self-contained unit plan were designed to accompany the film.

"The children will know that all African-American heritage did not come from slavery itself. That once upon a time, African Americans were kings and queens and so on."

Bailey's godson, Isaiah became involved in the project in the eighth grade. He assisted with producing the first episode, project research, creating a storyboard, marketing and sales and other tasks. The student decided to earn money by shoveling snow and mowing lawns so that he could become an investor.



Dr. DeAnna Bailey is a mother from Baltimore who was inspired by her son to create an educational animated hip-hop series to foster self-esteem, self-awareness and solidarity. Courtesy Photo

"The most rewarding part is being able to affect children around the world," Isaiah said.

Visit www.edanimeproductions.com to learn more about Meltrek or to order

"Exploring Ancient Africa" online. The DVD available at Everyone's Place African Cultural Center located 1336 W. North Avenue in Baltimore.

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Legal Notices

JENNIFER TRULL KIRKMAN V.
JESSICA RENEE WINSKO, ET. AL;
2015-DR-01-125

TO THE DEFENDANT: JESSICA RENEE WINSKO
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:

1-That an adoption proceeding was filed in the Family Court of Abbeville County on August 6, 2015 and in this Complaint you are alleged to be the mother of a female child born in Baltimore County, Maryland, on October 24, 2008.

2-That the Plaintiff in the above captioned Notice is not named for the purpose of confidentiality; however, the Court knows the true identity of the Plaintiff and in responding to this notice, you are required to use the caption and number 2015-DR-01-125

3-That if Notice to Contest, Intervene, or otherwise Respond is filed by you with the Court within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings, you will be given opportunity to appear and be heard on the merits of the adoption. To file notice to Contest, Intervene, or otherwise Respond in this action, you must notify the above named Court at Abbeville County Courthouse, 102 Court Square, Abbeville, SC 29620, in writing of your intention to Contest, Intervene, or otherwise Respond. The above named Court must be informed of your current address and any changes of your address during the adoption proceedings.

4-That your failure to respond within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings constitutes your consent to the adoption and forfeiture of all of your rights and obligations to the above named child. It is further alleged that your consent to this adoption is not required under S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-310 and that your parental rights should be terminated pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-2570 (7).

This notice is given pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-730 (E).
Respectfully submitted by Thomas E. Hite, III Attorney at Law P.O. Box 805 / 100 E. Pickens St. Abbeville, SC 29620 864-366-5400 Attorney for the Plaintiff

Mid Atlantic environmental company seeks registered Maryland MBE hazardous waste haulers for roll-off work in the Baltimore and Pennsylvania areas with Hazardous licenses in both states. Send copy of certification, rates and contact info to: info@elkenv.com.

Legal Notices

St. Mary's County Metropolitan
Commission

Request for Proposals

Engineering Services

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission is requesting proposals from professional engineering firms for the provision of on-call general engineering services. Services include but are not limited to professional engineering evaluation, design and inspection services including environmental, geotechnical, water and wastewater systems, project management, cost estimating, construction engineering and inspection, and bidding services.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) are encouraged to participate in this RFP. Some of the services required under this contract will be funded by the Maryland Department of the Environment and will be subject to DBE and M/WBE solicitation requirements.

One original and three copies of all proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes bearing the company name, legal address, the project title for which the proposal is submitted and the date advertised for accepting proposals.

Submit the proposals in a sealed envelope marked, "DO NOT OPEN - PROPOSAL - ENGINEERING SERVICES, #16-07-E". Proposals will be received at the administrative office at 23121 Camden Way, California, Maryland, 20619 until **3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, March 1, 2016**. Proposals will be publicly acknowledged at that time.

Inquiries and requests for Solicitation/Proposal Documents should be made via email to purchasing@metcom.org. Inquiries should be directed to Ralph Moore, Purchasing Assistant at 301-737-7400, extension 215 or Joy Potter, Procurement Agent at 301-737-7400 extension 222. Solicitation information is also available on our website www.metcom.org and at eMaryland MarketPlace <https://emaryland.buyspeed.com/bsol/external/publicBids.do>.

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, marital status, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or other non-merit factors.

New Maryland Early Graduation Scholarship Available for High School Graduates

Annapolis— Governor Larry Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2016.03, creating the Maryland Early Graduation Scholarship Program, a new initiative that will make college more affordable for students that complete high school in three years or less. Under the program, eligible students will receive a one-time scholarship up to \$6,000 for tuition and expenses at any approved postsecondary educational institution in Maryland.

"The best and most important part of this program is that it makes college more affordable and more accessible for Maryland students and families," said Governor Hogan. "It's also a smart use of tax dollars. By encouraging high-achieving students to complete high school a year early, the state can reallocate what would have been spent on a student's last year of public high school, and help with the first year of college instead."

Last year, 1,065 students across Maryland graduated prior to the start of 12th grade. Since 2010, an average of approximately 1,000 students have graduated early.

This new program will be administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission and will be available to students planning to enter college in the fall of 2016. Eligible applicants for the scholarship must be residents of Maryland and enrolled at a publicly supported school on a full-time equivalency basis.

Additionally, participating students must meet the requirements set forth by the Maryland State Board of Education for granting a high school diploma by the end of grade 11. Applicants for the scholarship must secure acceptance to an approved postsecondary educational institution within six months of graduating high school.

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SPECIAL NOTICES

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