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Coppin State Grad Headed to Olympics



On Thursday, July 7, 2016, Coppin State University graduate Christina Epps (Morristown, NJ) punched her ticket to Rio when she placed second at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials for the Women's Triple Jump at the historic Hayward Field with a mark of 14.17m/46-6. After fouling her first two attempts, Epps landed a 45-5 in round three, which earned three more attempts. With the pressure mounting and opportunities dwindling, Epps came through on her fifth jump. Christina Epps is an academic advisor within the Coppin athletic department. Epps continues to train at Coppin State where she is guided by her former collegiate coach, and Interim Athletic Director of Coppin State University Alecia Shields-Gadson. (See article on page 7).

Courtesy Photo/Coppin State University

Carla Hayden confirmed as 14th Librarian of Congress

Washington, D.C.—The United States Senate by a vote of 74-18 confirmed Dr. Carla D. Hayden, longtime chief executive of the Enoch Pratt Free Library system in Baltimore and a former president of the American Library Association, as the 14th Librarian of Congress, for a renewable 10-year term. Dr. Hayden was nominated by President Barack Obama in February.

“This is truly a great honor to be nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to lead the nation’s library, the Library of Congress,” Dr. Hayden said. “It has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Baltimore for 23 years and help restore the Enoch Pratt Free Library as a world-renowned institution. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff of the Library of Congress. I will be honored to build on the legacy and accomplishments of my predecessors in this position, to be part of a continuing movement to open the treasure chest that is the Library of Congress even further and to make it a place that can be found and used by everyone.”

Dr. Hayden is the first woman, and the first African American, to serve as chief executive of the Library of Congress, the largest library in the world, with 162 million items in its collections. It also oversees the U.S. Copyright Office and the Congressional Research Service. It serves Congress and makes its research collections accessible on site and online.

She takes the helm from Acting Librarian David S. Mao, who has served since the retirement of Dr. James H. Billington on September 30, 2015. She will be

sworn in at a date to be determined and is expected to assume her duties soon.

Dr. Hayden has recently overseen the renovation of the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, a four-year, \$112 million project, and has also led \$40 million in renovations to other units within the 22-branch Pratt system. The system is named for the businessman and philanthropist who financed its founding in 1886.

She took the helm of the Baltimore system in 1993, winning strong praise for her work to ensure that the city’s library system offers a broad array of services to assist citizens from all walks of life, from access to books and other learning materials to computer access and job information. A program of outreach into neighborhoods served by the Pratt libraries included after-school centers for teens, offering homework assistance and college counseling; a program offering healthy-eating information for residents in areas with insufficient access to high-quality food; programming in Spanish; establishment of an electronic library, and digitization of the Library’s special collections.

Dr. Hayden won high praise, during recent civil unrest in some Baltimore neighborhoods, for keeping library branches open citywide to continue service and provide citizens with safe havens.

Dr. Hayden first served as a children’s librarian in the Chicago Public Library system, eventually rising to the post of deputy commissioner and chief librarian in that system. She also taught Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. She received Library Jour-



Dr. Carla Hayden
Courtesy Photo

nal’s 1995 Librarian of the Year Award, and served as president of the American Library Association 2003-2004.

The Pratt Library’s Board of Directors and Trustees will start a nationwide search for a permanent CEO and promises a seamless transition that will not affect library services, programs or projects. “We are grateful to Dr. Carla Hayden for the remarkable creativity, energy, and dedication she has brought to the Pratt Library over the past 23-years. With her amazing talent and the wonderful staff she assembled, Dr. Hayden revitalized

the library’s programs, services, and resources,” said Patricia Lasher, chair of the Enoch Pratt Free Library Board of Directors and Trustees. “Respecting Enoch Pratt’s mission to provide equal access to traditional library resources to all citizens, she has successfully led efforts to modernize the Pratt Library so all city citizens have access to the advantages of the digital world. Baltimore, along with the State of Maryland, has benefited from Dr. Hayden’s extraordinary vision, and now the rest of the country will too. We are proud of her.”

Threat Considerations to Faith Communities and the Community at Large

A full-day seminar will be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at Garrett College in McHenry, Maryland, which focuses on the current threats and realistic approach to the totality of "active shooter" incidents. Presenters from the FBI, Maryland State Police, and Homeland Security will share regarding pre-event, event, and post-event considerations. A valuable day for those in faith-based and community-based organizations, the agenda is applicable to facilitators, leaders and directors of K-12 and Higher Education, retail and commercial facilities, and first responders. The \$25 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch. For more information and to register, visit: <https://faithbasedandcommunitythreats.eventbrite.com>.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

The healing must start NOW!

By Cheryl D. Glenn, Delegate 45th Legislative District
Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc.

We cannot allow these deplorable acts to define our relationship with the men and women charged to protect us. The vast majority of law enforcement officers are good cops—a few bad apples, a few disconnected officers, do not define all Police everywhere. The caveat being that there must be real consequences for police officers who cross the line and murder innocent people. This is absolutely critical to the healing of racial divide, and is absolutely critical to building the trust between the black community and law enforcement.

We must band together, with respect and understanding of the roles of law enforcement officers, to empower the good cops and punish the bad cops who abuse their authority, violate human rights and U.S. Laws. We must band together to ensure that the good cops, who dedicate themselves to making a positive difference in the communities they serve and protect, are loved, respected, supported, and protected. Public safety is an all hands on deck effort in order to effectively address violent crimes, we must first trust each other.

As we gleaned from the Freddie Gray trials, the law enforcement modus operandi needs to be reassessed and reformed. We as a people need to take a larger role in ensuring that officers make it home to their families at the end of their shifts, in turn we need officers to abandon the “us versus them” mentality and the “above the law” attitude towards their authority. No matter how many good cops there are, what has been shown on social media, the senseless cold-blooded murders by uniformed officers, cannot and will not be tolerated. Justice will only be served by the thorough and unbiased prosecution of all officers that violate the law. Officers who commit murder must be charged with murder and face the stiffest penalties prescribed by the law.

Moving forward, we need independent investigations of law enforcement officers and "mandatory minimums" for the guilty. We also need national reform of law enforcement from recruitment, training, support services, such as mental health, morale and welfare, and a more community centric approach to policing. At the same time, the community needs to open up their hearts and minds to the men and women who give their lives to protect us—and together we must begin to build trust.

Let's stand together and unequivocally support the good cops who stand on the frontlines in our fight against violent crimes in America but have their honor and integrity sullied by a few bad actors. As a State Delegate and Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, I am committed to starting the process of building the trust between law enforcement and the black community. Will you join me, and the community at large?



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: Support Our Police Officers

Police actions in Ferguson, Missouri; New York City; Baltimore; Baton Rouge; and Minnesota have been in the news, and a few police officers have been seen using excessive force and shooting people.

I believe a small number of police officers use excessive force, and these officers should be held accountable for their actions.

However, the vast majority of police officers perform their duty diligently, and treat criminals and suspects with respect.

Unfortunately, police officers are being vilified and attacked because of a few over-zealous officers. The result is police officers can be hesitant to take

actions that could possibly be construed as too forceful, and thereby criminals are emboldened to commit violence.

Unfortunately, this could have been the situation leading to the murder of the Dallas police officers. And, by the way, why aren't people on the streets protesting the killing of the five Dallas police officers?

The ramifications of hesitation by police officers in doing their jobs can place their lives in jeopardy and have a negative effect on public safety.

We need to support our police officers who risk their lives every day to keep us safe.

Donald Moskowitz

Former AG2 and LT, U.S. Navy
Londonderry, NH

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The truth about “to protect and to serve”

By Dr. Ken Morgan

The most recent police killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile added to an already smoldering black community outrage. Freddie Gray; Tamir Rice; Sandra Bland; and Michael Brown helped to fuel these flames. Protests took place around the country including Baltimore to demand justice for these young men.

The banner “to protect and to serve” provides the shield to justify police actions. The myth continues that a few bad apples carry out police brutality.

President Obama reinforced this sentiment when he said, “To admit we’ve got a serious problem in no way contradicts our respect and appreciation for the vast majority of police officers who put their lives on the line to protect us every single day.” The big business press and most politicians promote the same theme.

Police review boards, more black cops, and community policing have not deterred these incidents. Police body cameras represent the newest deterrent



*Dr. Ken Morgan
Courtesy Photo*

to catch the bad cop. The Eric Garner case showed how the local justice system exonerated the police despite the camera’s objective contents.

The criminal justice system often gives cops a pass for various reasons. “I thought the person was reaching for a gun.” “I was in fear of my life.” “I was in a crime ridden neighborhood.”

Plus cops are insulated from being treated as everyday citizens when it comes to crime. The Maryland Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights that treats cops differently displays these incongruities. Many states enacted these police shields.

Class and race are ingrained in the American fabric when it comes to law enforcement and the criminal justice

system. U.S. police history vividly shows this.

The South’s police roots began with police slave patrols. They captured wealthy slaveholders’ runaway slaves. Post Civil War South saw the rise of

disparity. Historically, scapegoating blacks and equating crime with blacks mask economic and political oppression and racism. The systems associated dog eat dog mentality and the needed daily grind to survive promotes an inhumanity

“Police review boards, more black cops, and community policing have not deterred these incidents. Police body cameras represent the newest deterrent to catch the bad cop. The Eric Garner case showed how the local justice system exonerated the police, despite the camera’s objective contents.”

KKK vigilantes. Black people were herded into jails and fed to the convict labor or debt peonage systems.

In the North, vaguely defined disorderly vaguery and disorderly conduct laws were used to temper the teeming masses that streamed to cities for jobs. More importantly, big business owners hired private cops to quell strikes and riots. The police were presented as protecting civilization. They still are.

The “Wild West” violence myth was more about the U.S. military troops annihilating the Plains Indians for railroad corporations than the lawless Wild West that cowboy movies portrayed.

Radical Reconstruction’s failure provides a backdrop to the lasting black

towards one another racking up senseless murders in black marginalized neighborhoods. This is mistaken for “us killing us.”

Critics wrongly slander the “Black Lives Matter” movement. This movement continues to express its democratic rights peacefully to protest. Ignore these critics. The expression goes “no justice, no peace.”

Who do the police protect and serve? The struggle continues.

Dr. Ken Morgan is Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Coppin State University and a human rights activist.

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times

2513 N. Charles Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410-366-3900- Fax 410-243-1627

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Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?

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Baltimore native Patricia Cuffie-Jones is writing her own success story

By Ursula V. Battle

Writer, director, and producer Patricia Cuffie-Jones is writing her own success story. The Baltimore native resides in Los Angeles, California, and has penned several stage play productions, which include "You Can't Hurry Love," and has worked with the likes of playwright, producer, and filmmaker David E. Talbert. She is also the founder of Diverge Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based production company.

"I wrote, directed, and produced my own shows here in LA, and invited people to the shows," recalled Cuffie-Jones. "I did a lot of Black Box Theatre shows, and started getting a reputation for putting up good shows."

She added, "The East Coast provided access to different people, and many ways to grow and learn. Director John Singleton, and actor Mario Van Peebles have attended my shows. That's how quickly and randomly things can happen out here. But, it took several years, and quite a few plays before that happened. It didn't happen overnight."

Cuffie-Jones' other works include "Love's Holiday," "and Love The One You're With." Her productions have included the likes of Margaret Avery (The Color Purple), Michael Beach (Soul Food), and Kiki Haynes (Tyler Perry's For Better or Worse).

She also completed the live filming of "You Can't Hurry Love" for network television at BET Soundstage in Washington, D.C. The cast of the romantic dramedy include: Victoria Rowell (Young and the Restless) and Richard Brooks (Being Mary Jane).

"Working with such a high caliber of talent has been such a pleasure," she said. "It's a joy to watch these people say your words and take your direction after watching them on television and in the movies. It's living a dream."

Cuffie-Jones recently completed a live recording of her latest project Addicted to You, at Spellman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I hope to showcase established and up-and-coming talent in layered and diverse roles, tell compelling stories



Patricia Cuffie-Jones
Courtesy Photo

through the eyes of African-American characters, and provide quality entertainment with themes that truthfully reflect our community, can uplift the spirit, challenge perspectives, promote love, and provoke change," she said.

Cuffie-Jones says she started Diverge Entertainment with the support of her husband Jeffery Jones.

"Diverge Entertainment provides me with the opportunity to green light myself," she said. "My husband and I have executive produced a series of plays that included up-and-coming talent as well as celebrities from some of today's hottest television series and films. It's been a lot of work, but has given me an outlet to tell my stories and connect with a network of industry professionals and entrepreneurs that support live theater."

She added, "You hear a lot of 'no,' 'no,' and 'no.' out here. I decided I was going to tell myself 'yes,' 'yes' and 'yes' and sell myself. I have built many relationships working with many producers and directors. The biggest thing that helped me was sowing seeds with other writers and producers. It's truly been a blessing."

Cuffie-Jones is a graduate of Mergenthaler (Mervo) Vocational High School in Baltimore City.

"Mervo had a big influence on me," she said. "I was heavily involved in both the drama and choir departments. My first job on the road was singing and acting, and I developed that in high school one hundred percent."

The talented writer also talked about her childhood writing influences.

"My mother took me to see plays when I was a little girl such as 'Westside Story', and my dad took me to Off-Broadway musicals. I also had an aunt who was an actress, so I was surrounded by a lot of theater. Writing was also

something that came naturally to me. I was writing films at age 14. I was surrounded by a creative atmosphere, and often wrote pieces in our garage."

She also reflected back on David Talbert's impact on her career.

"I started interning with David Talbert when I was in Washington, DC," she said. "I still had that access to him when I moved to L.A. He didn't forget about me. He taught me a lot about professional theater. God opened up the door for it to become more."

Future projects include a web series entitled, "Study Buddy," which will debut in the fall. Cuffie-Jones says she also uses social media to find talent for her productions, and noted that her mother Gail Cuffie has started a GoFundMe campaign to help her independently produce her first feature film.

To learn more about Cuffie-Jones, visit: www.divergeent.com and to support her gofundme campaign, visit: gofundme.com and type in Patricia Cuffie-Jones' feature film.

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Coppin State Grad Headed to Olympics

By Stacy M. Brown



The feelings are still difficult to describe, but Christina Epps is thrilled beyond words. The Coppin State University graduate is on her way to compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"I really can't describe how unreal this is," said Epps, a 2014 graduate who also serves as an academic advisor for the university's athletic department. "I've always asked, why me? Why do I struggle so much and finally, I stopped saying it and I just competed and had faith that this is my purpose."

Last week, in Eugene, Oregon, Epps competed in the triple-jump finals of the U.S. Olympic trials. She thought she had aced the first jump, but it was deemed a foul.

Her second jump was also ruled to be a foul and her outlook appeared grim as she failed to reach the qualifying standard after four more jumps.

Just prior to her sixth attempt, Epps said the tension was so thick that "My stomach was dropping. I had butterflies and I was just like, 'Please just let it be 4.15m.' I think I can go further. I'm excited."

At last, Epps qualified, joining two other women which makes it the first time in 20 years that the United States has sent three ladies at one time to compete in the triple jump in the Olympics.

"Being the first Olympian of the best HBCU on the planet, my alma mater, Coppin State means the world to me," Epps said. "I hope I've not only made my school proud but have inspired my fellow Coppinites to know that it doesn't matter where you come from or what other people are doing, but with God, the right mindset, hard work, and dedication anything is possible."

Epps says she will head to Rio on August 3. The Olympic triple jump competition is currently scheduled to start August 13. In the meantime, the 25-year-old continues to train at Coppin State where she says she is guided by her former collegiate coach, and Interim Athletic Director of Coppin State University

Alecia Shields-Gadson.

"She showed up and God showed out. It is such an honor to represent your country, your family and Coppin State University," Shields-Gadson said in a statement. "This has truly been a journey and Christina has persevered and is reaping the benefits of the hard work, sacrifices and discipline it takes to be a world class athlete. We are still taking it all in, but that will be short lived as its back to Coppin to resume training."

Epps also credits the support of her family, particularly her mother who shouted when she heard that her daughter had qualified for the Olympics.

"My mom is always praying for me. When she found out she was screaming on the telephone and my family has been sharing all of the articles about this on social media with all of my pictures," Epps said.

Admittedly, she'll have to overcome nerves as the games approach. "It's the Olympics, so butterflies and being nervous are natural," Epps said. "I have hardly slept lately."

A former standout basketball player, Epps says the Olympics became a dream, as she grew a little older. She once thought she would make it as a basketball player, but it was Shields-Gadson who made her believe in her abilities in track and field. With unwavering confidence, she rallied in Oregon to make the team.

"My experience at U.S. Olympic trials was an amazing experience, something I can't describe in words," she said. "It was my first trials and definitely one I will never forget. I've been chasing the dream of making an Olympic Team since 2012, when I tore my ACL. Watching the 2012 Olympic Trials at home when I was injured made me realize how much I had taken my talent for granted and motivated me to work harder to achieve my goal of making an Olympic Team."

Elvis Dumervil's days may be numbered as a Raven!

By Turrón Davenport

Now entering his eleventh season, the days of rushing the passer as a Baltimore Raven are dwindling for Elvis Dumervil. He has been one of the Ravens best free agent signings in recent years.

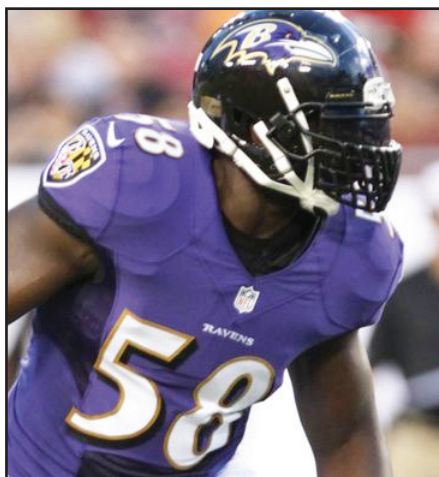
Dumervil registered 17 sacks two years ago, tying a career high. He and Terrell Suggs formed one of the NFL's best pass-rushing duos in 2014. He feels that the 2016 season can be a repeat performance when Suggs returns from a torn Achilles.

"Me and Suggs... You've got two alphas, man, we love doing what we do." Dumervil said. "A lot of times, what's understood doesn't really need to be talked about a lot. He's a great teammate, he's a great player and he's a very confident guy. So, he's going to do what he needs to do to make sure we can get what we need to get done."

"The last time we played, we were the [NFL's] No. 1 [sacks] tandem, and so that's something we'll try to defend once we both get back healthy."

The Ravens came close to beating the eventual Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots on the road in the divisional round of the playoffs.

Hopes were sky high for the Ravens as they entered the 2015 season. What a difference a year makes. Outside of the



Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Elvis Dumervil looks into the backfield during a play in the 2015 NFL season.

Courtesy Photo/nflpa.com

Ravens locker room, the expectations aren't high for this season.

Ravens defensive coordinator Dean Pees has toyed with the idea of using Dumervil in strictly a pass rushing specialist role.

"We just have to use him however we have to use him," Pees said in a press conference after minicamp. "I think he's good with that, and we'll figure out what's the best thing for him. I can't really tell you that right now. We'll figure that out as the season goes on and gets started. We'll try to use him in the best way that we possi-

bly can for him and for us."

Dumervil was on the field for the majority of Baltimore's snaps on defense last year. Now one year older, it is a role that will take a toll on his body this season. Regardless, the 11 year veteran is up for the task.

"I plan not to do that again. I mean, I'll do whatever I have to do," Dumervil said. "But, ideally, I would love to have the rotation to keep guys rotating and keeping us fresh and keep guys doing what they do best. The end goal for me is to try to get to the postseason and win, so whatever duty I have to do to do that, I'm here to do that."

That rotation could be the key to allowing Dumervil to stay fresh and last for the duration of the season. The Ravens are now in preservation mode for their star pass rusher.

As a result, they invested heavily in younger pass rushers during the 2016 NFL Draft and by way of rookie free agents. The Ravens drafted Boise State outside linebacker Kamalei Correa (2nd round, No.42 overall), BYU defensive

end Bronson Kaufusi (3rd round, No.70 overall) and Grand Valley State outside linebacker Matt Judon (5th round, No.146 overall).

The Ravens also signed Stony Brooke outside linebacker Victor Ochi as an undrafted free agent. Ochi is a prospect that is very similar to Dumervil. Both are undersized but surprisingly powerful and difficult for taller offensive tackles to block.

In total, the Ravens brought in three prospects that play the same position as Dumervil. Second-year outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith figures to play a more prominent role this season as well.

Dumervil began to wear down as the 2015 season wore on. He only posted six sacks—the second-lowest total in his career. Dumervil's contract expires after the 2017 season.

His cap number will be upwards of \$8 million in 2017. There is a good chance the Ravens will move on from Dumervil after the 2016 season and save \$6 million in cap money.

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Artscape Celebrates 35th Anniversary and will Party ‘Like it’s 1999’

By Stacy M. Brown

The 35th annual Artscape, the country’s largest free arts festival, kicks off on Friday, July 15, 2016, and organizers have promised a weekend that will feature new components like a Kidscape Academy, six large-scale space-themed art installations, and a partnership with Accessible Festivals, a California-based nonprofit that aims to ensure all attendees are able to enjoy themselves regardless of their ability.

The annual event, which begins at 11 a.m. Friday and continues through Sunday on Mount Royal Avenue and North Charles Street, will also include a tribute to the late music icon Prince.

Artscape will also feature superstar Wyclef Jean as the headlining act.

“Besides the outdoor concerts with the headline acts, this year featuring Wyclef Jean, The Mighty Boss Tones and Burning Spear in his last Baltimore performance; I think festival-goers look forward to the visual art installations,” said festival spokeswoman Tracy Baskerville.

The festival theme of space is a starting point for interpretation, tangible, literal and metaphorical, and spans across all disciplines, according to organizers.

The theme is also a nod to the vast STEAM— Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics— related organizations and businesses within the Baltimore Metropolitan region and to pop culture’s current fascination with all things intergalactic.

Six space-related large-scale art installations will be featured, including ART/HAB, a space age habitat housed in three geodesic domes, Celestial Light – Act 1. Sun and Act 2.

Moon, two large-scale sculptural elements that measure 20 feet in height and feature performance art; Crater, a fictional meteor crash site-turned alternative art space; Moloch’s Institute for Extranormal Research that explores “the truth about alien visitors to planet earth;” Space Place, consisting of illuminated inflatable planets and the sun; and the The Mother Ship Connection, an exhibit of performance art featuring a model mother ship.

Festival goers will be able to explore the physical, relatable distance of space travel with “The Grand Tour,” a model “solar system” of planets on Charles Street.

“The space theme will be highlighted in the children’s activities at Kidscape which is a great hands-on, activity area for families,” Baskerville said. “Also, people look forward to the yummy food and what’s new this year is that 100 percent of the food vendors are Maryland based.”

This year, Artscape will also host two tribute performances, “Prince Dance Party — Party Like It’s 1999 Again,” a tribute to Prince with DJs, and “Bmore Does Bowie,” a tribute to the late rock legend David Bowie by various bands, both at the Johns Hopkins University Station North Stage from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

The 2016 festival’s primary musical guests will be Jean, the former front man for the Grammy-winning group, The Fugees.

Jean is scheduled to take the main stage at 7:30 p.m. Friday while The Mighty Boss Tones are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday and the Legendary Burning Spear at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

The three-day event takes place along Charles and Mount Royal streets in Mount Vernon, and attracts more than 350,000 patrons over the weekend.

“I would like to remind attendees of the many indoor performances and exhibitions that take place. Artscape is not just outside,” Baskerville said. “With the festival footprint, being along Mount Royal Avenue and Charles Street, it may take more than one day to really see everything. For a full schedule of everything, guests can download the Artscape mobile app.”

For a complete listing of festival activities, including the music lineup, visit: www.artscape.org.



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Transportation Service 'Taylor Made' for Success

By Stacy M. Brown

Taylor Made Transportation in Druid Hill, a company that provides transportation for government employees and some private residents, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this summer.

The African-American owned business also provides shuttle, courier and special needs services to federal and state agencies.

Founder and Baltimore native Allen R. Taylor has steadily built a firm that's recognized for its professionalism, attention to customer service and a commitment to specific transportation needs. Taylor says his company "prides ourselves on being a leader in the transportation industry."

In a statement, officials at the Department of Defense noted that Taylor Made Transportation Services Inc. has demonstrated an outstanding performance level, while adding that Taylor's company's "performance clearly exceed the performance levels described as excellent."

"Twenty years actually went quicker than anticipated," Taylor said. "But, when in the midst of it all, you are not counting time."

A graduate of Morgan State University with a master's degree, Taylor said he decided to start his business at what appeared to be an opportune time despite the normal challenges facing a minority-owned business.

"I was working as an intern for a company in D.C. and on the Friday that I graduated from Morgan State they told me that they couldn't pay me what I'm



In 2013, Allen R. Taylor was voted by his Pi Omega chapter Brothers as Pi Omega "Man of the Year." Courtesy Photo

worth," Taylor said. "I was at a place where I could start the business and if it failed I still had my masters to fall back

on. It worked out well."

The Taylor Made team is committed to providing cost effective transportation solutions for their clients without sacrificing quality and customer safety, according to Taylor.

They're diversified suite of services fits any institution, he said, noting that it includes transportation solutions to some of the country's largest institutions.

Services include wheelchair shuttles for the Department of Veteran Affairs patients, which include being the sole provider of essential pick-up and drop-off for medical appointments throughout the state. The company also provides

chauffeur and shuttle service for the Social Security Administration in the Baltimore and Washington Metro area for employees and others.

Taylor Made also provides services for the Department of Defense and Treasury Department and a full range of ambulance services, wheelchair shuttles and cab service. They also offer training and consulting services to a wide range of institutional and private clients including transportation management consulting, First Aid/CPR/AED training, Q'Straight training, defensive driving training, safety training and passenger assistance training.

"My key to success always has been don't waste time and don't waste words," Taylor said. "Don't waste people's time and if you say you will do something, you should do it."

Taylor says it hasn't always been easy, particularly being an African-American business owner. However, he has never lost faith or his determination.

"Decisions have to be made that affect my employees, 50-something people," Taylor said. "The funny thing is that I didn't have anyone to show me the pitfalls and you know you have to walk through a minefield and the wrong step could really blow up in your face."

Taylor, who has received recognition by the Maryland Special Populations Cancer Research Network Program and was awarded the U.S. Small Business Award and the Positive People Award for Outstanding Entrepreneur by the Baltimore Times in 2006, is grateful for his deal with the federal government and to Morgan State, whom he said he wants to reward in the future.

"I've been with the federal government since 1999 and have been in business for 20 years. They gave me an opportunity and so did Morgan State and that means a lot," he said. "The next 20 years I want to plan for retirement."

"But, first I want to take the company public and allow my employees to buy stock so that it can be employee-owned. Then, I'd like to start a foundation to give back to Morgan State because they afforded me an opportunity from an educational standpoint," he said.

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Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello my dear friends, I sure hope you are enjoying the summer with your loved ones. This is such a beautiful time of the year. HOT! But beautiful! Just stay cool and enjoy what God has given us. Stop complaining! Go to an air-conditioned place when you can stay cool, drink plenty of water, and wear light clothes. Winter will be back before you know it, so enjoy what we have, it is only here for a little while.

The positive things happening this summer are the outdoor festivals, the crab feasts, the indoors concerts, the farmers markets and the musical programs organized by people like Eartha Lamkin and Carl Grubbs, musicians who also doing special events for children as well as adults. I think it is wonderful.

The Randallstown Liberty Live Outdoor Concert Series Festival is jumping up and down, doing the "James Brown" with folks coming from all over, setting up their folding chairs with their umbrellas and cameras and having a good time. Last week the live entertainment was awesome and the food was sooo good. The barbeque ribs and corn on the cob are my favorites. Don't forget the vendors selling clothes, jewelry, shoes and wine!

This week make sure you bring your folding chairs to the Kings Point Square, 9900 Liberty Road, (rain or shine) to this free event starting at 6 p.m. every Friday thru August. I will see you there.

The Liberty Road Business Association presents the Randallstown Farmers Market in the Liberty Court Shopping Center near the li-

brary every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (rain or shine). They are still looking for vendors! Vendor space is available for arts and crafts, jewelry, clothes, food, vegetables and fruits. Flowers and dessert vendors are also welcome. Call Kelly at 410-655-7766.

I want to thank all my Facebook friends, my readers and fans for your prayers for my sister Maxine Pryor who has been in hospice in her home and Johns Hopkins Hospital. Prayers are a mighty and powerful thing; and I believe with all my heart that the doctors don't have the last word. My sister has gotten much better, so much so she's no longer in hospice care, but doctors say she can't live alone. So, instead of letting her go to a facility, Shorty and I are now her caretakers. She is now living with us and so far she is doing very well. Please con-



Happy Birthday to a wonderful, kind, generous and loving man, Shorty Trusty. He is my best friend, partner in crime, love of my life and husband. He will celebrate his 76th Birthday on Sunday, July 17. May you be blessed with many more.



"The Crew," The Friday Nite Oldies Group will do their thing at the Caton Castle on Caton Avenue and Hilton Street on Friday, July 15, 2016 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. If you enjoy dancing to the oldies, this is the place to be! For more information, call 410-675-6379.



Baltimore's renowned vocalist, musician and educator, Eartha Lamkin has opened up the "B-Sharp Summer Music Enrichment Academy" at Timothy Baptist Church located at 1214 W. Saratoga Street in Baltimore. Classes are held from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. daily for children ages 8-18. Classes include: voice, piano, guitar, organ, strings, chorus, percussion, woodwinds, ear training, brass winds, sight singing and music theory. For more information, call 410-484-6519.

tinue to keep all of us in your prayers.

Also, I want you to keep your prayers going for my dear friend and many of yours Stella Fullwood, who is under the weather. Her husband Everette will keep me informed on her progress and I will



Carl Grubbs Jazz String Ensemble will perform at Artscape on Sunday, July 17, 2016 at the MICA Brown Center Stage, Falvey Hall located at 1301 Mt. Royal Avenue from 7-8 p.m. For more information, call 410-944-2906.

let you know how she is doing. Right now she is resting, so her family requests no calls just yet.

There's more coming next week, so enjoy yourself with some fun activities. Love you all. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. Please do not send upcoming events through Facebook. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

Dreams live forever in ArtsCentric's Dreamgirls

By Stacy M. Brown

The slogan for the 35th anniversary celebration of the award winning musical "Dreamgirls" is as captivating as the actors in the show.

"Stars rise and fall, but dreams live forever," is how producers are billing the ArtsCentric presentation of one of Broadway's most soulful musicals which opens in Baltimore for a near two-month run beginning July 22, 2016, at Motor House on North Avenue.

"Audiences can expect to see a resounding tribute to the powerhouse show that is 'Dreamgirls.' This year is the 35th anniversary of the show opening on Broadway and we plan to celebrate that in a monumental way," said Cedric D. Lyles, the show's musical director and managing director of ArtsCentric, the Baltimore-based color-conscious organization committed to re-examining traditional roles in the arts, advancing original stories of minority cultures, and fostering educational advancement to strengthen the community through the power of theater.

The principal cast features some familiar soul-stirring voices including two, who are sharing the role of Effie White; Crystal Freeman, a veteran of such shows as "Sincerely, Men," and "The Color Purple," and LaTisha Hamilton, who also appeared in "The Color Purple."

The cast also includes Shaun Mykals of "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Sincerely, Men" as Curtis Taylor Jr.; Sequina DuBose ("For Colored Girls") as Deena Jones; and Bryan Daniels ("Sincerely, Men") as Jimmy Earl.



Crystal Freeman (gray dress) who portrays Effie with other cast members in rehearsal for upcoming performances in ArtsCentric's production of "Dreamgirls." Courtesy Photo/ArtsCentric

ArtsCentric also plans to roll out some new faces including Alana Linsey as Lorrell Robinson, Tevin Brown as C.C. White and Tonnia Boykins as Michelle Morris.

"This cast is beyond amazing," Lyles said. "They were so amazing we had to use the (two characters portraying Effie White) both. They will be alternating nights, so if you like one come back another night to see the other," he said.

In what producers described as full of onstage joy and backstage drama, the sensational new production of "Dreamgirls" tells the story of an up and coming 1960s girl singing group, and the triumphs and tribulations that come with

fame and fortune.

With music by Academy Award nominee Henry Krieger and the book and lyrics by Tony Award winner Tom Eyer, "Dreamgirls" features the hit songs, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," and "One Night Only".

"The choreography by Shalyce Hemby is amazing. She's really brought out her finest work ...and they are some of the best singers and dancers in Maryland," Lyles said. "We've spared no expense for this show. I promise it will be a mind blowing experience."

Audiences will be treated to live singing by the cast during the show

which will take place on a thrust stage allowing those in attendance to sit closer and see it from three different sides.

"The response to the announcement of this show has been amazing," Lyles said. "We have already sold out a couple shows and others are more quickly filling up as well."

Dreamgirls runs from July 22 to September 11, 2016. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, group packages and tickets, visit: www.artscentric.net or call 410-205-5130.

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Shuttle buses will transport customers between affected stops until full service resumes on August 15, 2016

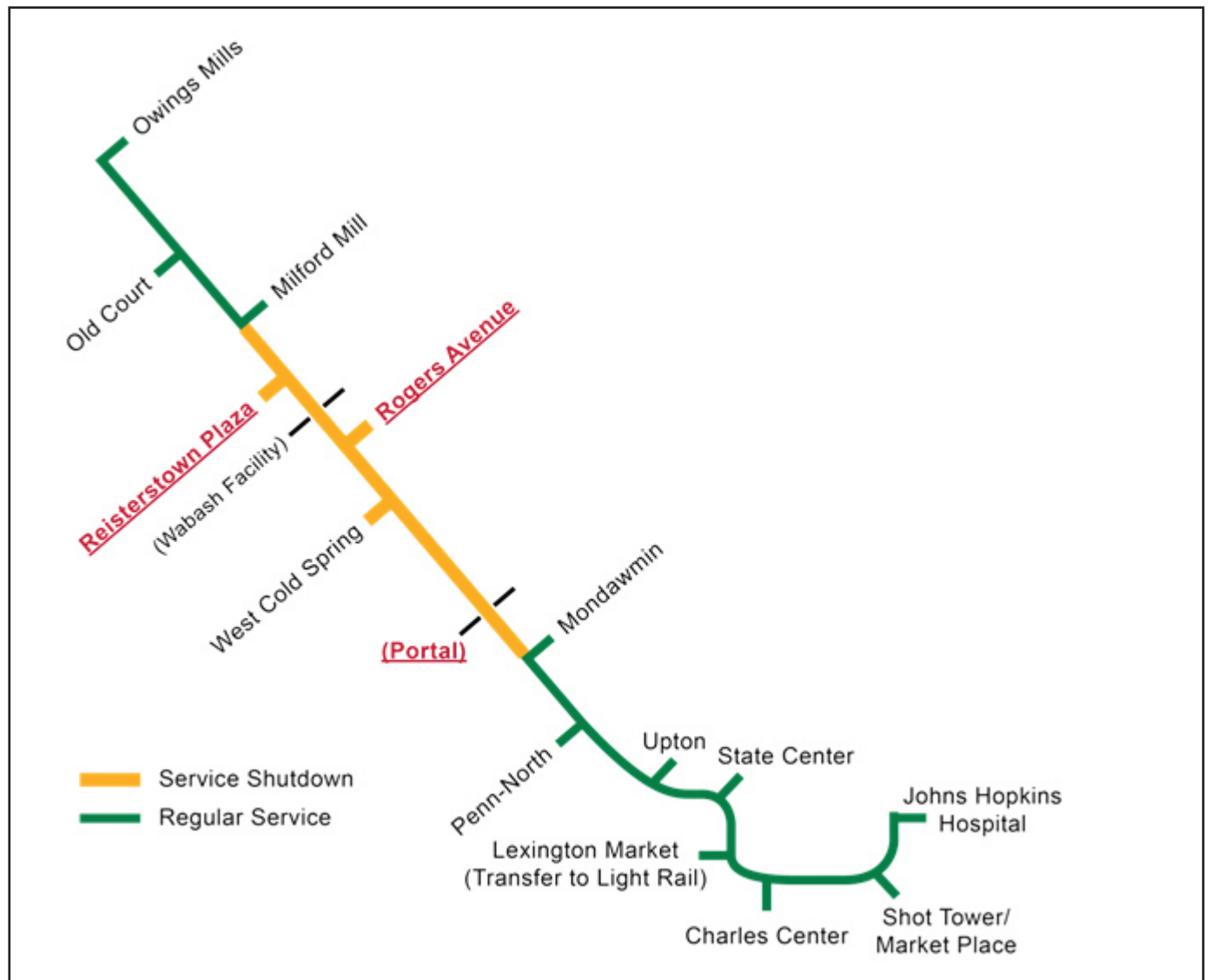
Baltimore— The Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is preparing for critical maintenance work that will partially shut down the Metro Subway system for 24 days this summer. Officials are urging riders to plan ahead and use free shuttle bus service to help get them where they need to go.

From July 22 to August 14, 2016, the Reisterstown Plaza, Rogers Avenue and West Cold Spring Metro Subway stations will be completely closed for maintenance of critical components of the rail system. Full service will resume on August 15, 2016. Service will continue between the following stations: Owings Mills to Milford Mill and Mondawmin to Johns Hopkins Hospital. Maintenance work will largely include reconstructing three interlockings— a rail component that allows trains to cross from one track to another. During the partial shutdown, the MTA also will perform additional rail replacement, track maintenance, station improvements and cleaning.

"MTA is doing everything it can to minimize the inconvenience our customers will experience during these necessary repairs," said MTA Deputy Administrator Suhair Al Khatib. "Nothing is more important than our customers' safety, so we ask our riders to plan ahead while we complete this critical rail work that will enhance the safety, efficiency and reliability of our service."

From 8 p.m. Friday, July 22, to midnight Sunday, August 14, MTA will provide local and express shuttle buses linking the Metro Subway service from Milford Mill Station south to Mondawmin Station.

Local shuttle buses will stop at each of the affected stations in both directions from Milford Mill station to Mondawmin. Express shuttle service will run



The Reisterstown Plaza, Rogers Avenue and West Cold Spring Metro Subway stations will be completely closed for maintenance of critical components of the rail system from July 22 to August 14, 2016. Shuttle buses will transport customers between affected stops until full service resumes on August 15, 2016.

Courtesy Photo/MTA

directly from Milford Mill to Mondawmin without making any other station stops.

Customers are asked to plan for up to an additional hour of travel time in both directions. The free shuttle bus service will run at ten; twenty, and thirty-minute intervals based on the time of day.

Customers traveling to the Milford Mill or Mondawmin stations should exit the Metro Subway station and proceed to the street level where a team of transit

ambassadors will help them locate the local and express bus boarding areas.

For more information, visit: mdot.maryland.gov or ta.maryland.gov.

Send your community calendar events to: kreevie@btimes.com

Volunteers Needed!

Anne Arundel County Literacy Council volunteers change lives through literacy

By Stacy M. Brown

Volunteer tutors at the Annapolis-based nonprofit helped to provide more than 216 adults and out-of-school youth with free, individualized reading, writing, math, GED, and English as a second language instruction in 2015.

Now, the organization is seeking help for 2016 and beyond, according to Lisa Vernon, the council's executive director.

"We are experiencing a large increase of north county residents requesting our free tutoring program and we are actively recruiting volunteer tutors in the north county area to meet the demand," Vernon said in an email. "Our tutor training program and ongoing support fully equips our volunteers to tutor."

In May, the Literacy Council held an event to honor volunteer tutors who have taken the time to be trained for the vital-role of helping adults improve their reading skills. Tutors were matched one-on-one with those who displayed an interest in learning. Approximately 177 people attended the event, some of whom Vernon says were moved to tears after realizing the difference, the council's program has made for many.

"I'm not a tutor, but I do work at getting volunteers to help with the program and I don't think I have ever met a more dedicated corps of volunteers," said Jill York, a volunteer who has worked for 24 years with the Red Cross recruiting, training, overseeing and recognizing the accomplishments of volunteers. "The training is intensive and the support resources are many. But those willing to make the time commitment are indeed special. Many tutors become lifelong friends with their students."

The program occasionally receives grants that assist financially and food for the May event was donated by county restaurants and grocery stores.

The Literacy Council is working to recruit more tutors in the north county area, particularly in places like Brooklyn Park, Glen Burnie, Severn and Maryland City.

"Thirty to 50 percent of those attending Anne Arundel Community College's (AACC) GED program orientation sessions are turned away because their TABE scores are not high enough to qualify for entry into the program," Vernon said. "The good news is that AACC began officially referring these students to the Literacy Council. We have already received nine of these AACC orientation student referrals asking for our free tutoring."

"These students are goal oriented, motivated to succeed, and live in the north county area. We are looking to train additional north county residents who can then conveniently meet these students for individualized lessons," Vernon said. For students, there is no charge for books, tutoring or assessments that they receive and they can meet for lessons in any public location, including all 15 county libraries, Vernon said, noting that the program was made possible through the talents and dedication of 233 fully trained volunteer tutors and assessors.

Of one of the many examples Vernon provided, Priscilla Gray, a tutor, recounted how she faired with student Thomas Armstrong. Gray said Armstrong is motivated and enthusiastic, and there is no question that he wants to improve his reading.

"His enthusiasm is what keeps me motivated," Gray said. "I feel that the teaching resources provided to us by the Literacy Council, along with the support and guidance which is just a phone call away provides the tools needed to keep his classes interesting," Gray said.

Student Sarah Jones praised her tutor, Susan Felton, for helping her to achieve a GED.

"Susann played a huge role in helping me pass the GED," Jones said. "Thanks to her tutoring, I was able to score in the top 10 percent of the country. I am very thankful for the help I got from the Anne Arundel County Literacy Council."

For more information about the Annapolis Literacy Council or to volunteer, visit <http://icanread.org/>.



*Student Thomas Armstrong with Tutor Priscilla Gray.
Courtesy Photos*



Tutor Susann Felton and Student Sarah Jones.

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