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Youth Foundation, Southwest Airlines Help Kids Fly



Earl Lloyd is fascinated by his first plane ride, thanks to Southwest Airlines and Inner City/Suburban Youth Foundation, (See article on page 10) Courtesy Photo

City Schools Art Teacher Wins Maryland Teacher of the Year

By Stacy M. Brown

Athanasia Kyriakakos was sitting nervously, palms sweating and her heart beating as fast as it ever has before.

Kyriakakos, who was named Baltimore City Teacher of the Year earlier this year, waited with great anticipation for the announcement of who would represent the entire state with such an esteemed and prestigious title.

When Kyriakakos' name was read as the winner at the 26th annual black tie Annual Teacher of the Year gala at Martin's West, bedlam erupted at her table, which included her parents, husband, children and others.

"My mother came out of nowhere and bear hugged me and that was only the second time she had ever done that and I'm almost 50-years-old," Kyriakakos said. "My family was crying, everybody was crying, it was unbelievable."

It's the second consecutive year that someone from Baltimore City Schools system earned the title of Maryland State Teacher of the Year. Ryan Kaiser, of the Mount Washington School, earned the honor last year.

Kyriakakos, an art teacher at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, was selected from a group of seven finalists representing Anne Arundel, Calvert, Cecil, Montgomery, Queen Anne's and Wicomico counties.

The finalists were selected by judges from Maryland education organizations, representing principals, teachers, school boards, teachers' unions, parents, and higher education, according to a news release.

Finalists were measured against criteria that included teaching philosophy and results, community involvement, knowledge of general education issues, and suggestions for professional and instructional improvement.

"I just didn't think they'd select a Baltimore teacher for the second year in a row," said Kyriakakos, who has been teaching art at City Schools since 2011, working with students from Pre-K through high school.

In her current role at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School,



Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School Art teacher Athanasia Kyriakakos was named 2016 Maryland Teacher of the Year. As Teacher of the Year, Kyriakakos will serve as a speaker and education advisor for the state of Maryland, participating in national meetings and conferences. She will also be honored by the president at a White House event next spring.

Courtesy Photo/BCPS

Kyriakakos says that she challenges her students to explore knowledge and to express themselves through the arts.

"I believe in them and teach them to believe in themselves," she said. "This is my greatest contribution to education. Every child who comes into my classroom learns through the journey of art that they can succeed in anything." Born in the United States, Kyriakakos' rich and varied background includes a

decade of living in Greece as a child. She spent time teaching in Connecticut, studying and teaching at the school of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has held positions in both Greece and Sweden, according to her biographer.

It was during her time in Connecticut, just after receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Maryland Institute, College of Art, that she found her passion—connecting students to the possibilities of art.

In large part because of her dedicated tutelage, several of Kyriakakos' students have earned local and state awards. She includes student artwork as part of her own exhibitions in an effort to bring awareness to the importance of arts education.

As a result of winning state Teacher of the Year, Kyriakakos will now serve as a speaker and education advisor for the state of Maryland, participating in national meetings and conferences. She will also be honored by the president at a White House event next spring and will go on to represent Maryland in the competition for the title of National Teacher of the Year.

"I'm hoping that they move the White House event up before President Obama leaves office because that would be the crowning achievement—meeting President Obama," Kyriakakos said. "I also want my daughter to go with me."

City Schools CEO Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises said in a statement this is an exciting time for Kyriakakos, her family, students and the school system.

"[Kyriakakos] personifies the kind of teacher every student deserves," Santelises said. "Caring, dedicated, talented, energetic and an advocate for helping students express themselves in positive ways."

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

A Trump win in November could tear this nation apart

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Alright, we are getting close to the finish line: Election Day November 8, 2016. We have witnessed the first debate, between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and while I would argue that Clinton won, Trump made enough arguments to reinforce some level of confidence among his supporters.

After having a comfortable lead over her Republican opponent, current poll numbers suggest that Clinton's lead has almost vanished in key states; reasons why the race has tightened are still up for debate.

There are four presidential candidates on the ballot: Hillary Clinton (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), Gary Johnson (Libertarian Party) and Dr. Jill Stein (Green Party). The reality is that the presidential choice comes down to either Clinton or Trump. Johnson has about an eight percent showing in the polls and Stein about three percent.

What voters have to decide is not only where will they come down, but also the importance of other races that will be decided November 8. Thus, my first plea is that everyone votes. Each vote, as we saw in Florida in 2000 and Ohio in 2004, can be potentially critical.

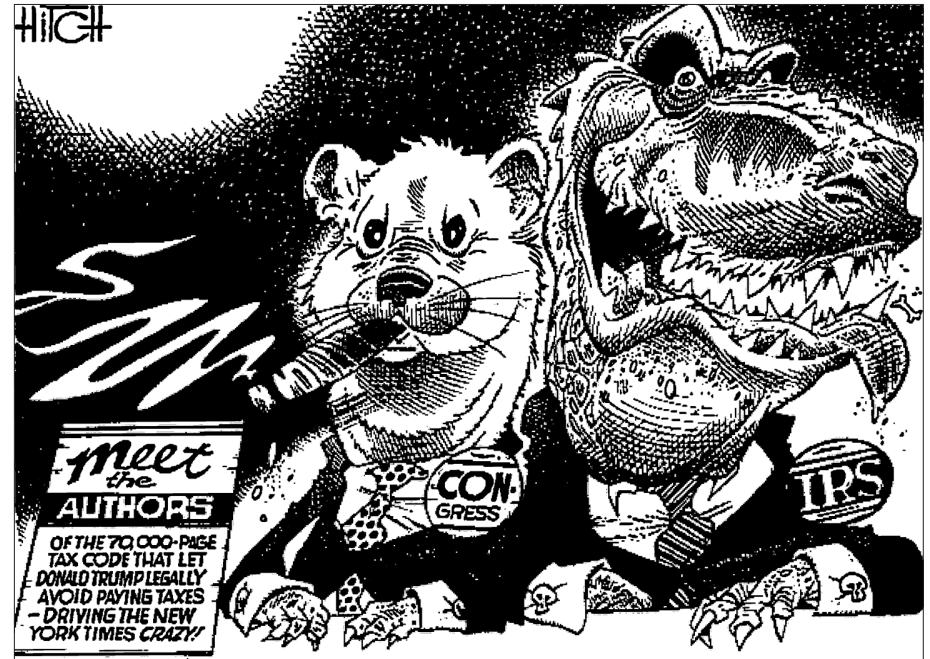
A second issue is that races, in addition to the presidential race, are critical. The United States Senate, as of this moment, is a toss-up between the Republicans and Democrats. We could find ourselves with a small Republican majority, a small Democratic majority, or a literal tie. So, even if you find yourself dissatisfied with the Presidential choices, there are other races that will make a real-world difference.

The third issue, however, is one that hit me, yet again, in watching the debate. Trump and his supporters are dangerous. It is frightening that a presidential candidate can continue to deliver outright lies and has not been run out of town on a rail. But it is actually more than that. Leading the birther movement against Obama, threatening to put Muslims under surveillance, proposing a wall along the border with Mexico and an escalation of deportations, allegedly, as a means of cutting crime, tells us that Trump understands nothing about the experiences of those of us of color. Worse, he is quite prepared, in the face of the history of the United States, to play with matches in a field of unstable dynamite. Trump isn't stupid; he knows precisely what he is doing and he knows how he is motivating racists and xenophobes to come out of the closet. Yet, he keeps doing it.

So, it really comes down to this: No matter who is elected, people of conscience will need to put and keep pressure on the next administration. At the same time, don't deceive yourself. Ultra-right-wing forces will play on Trump's victory in order to push us further over the edge into a racial dystopia.

Black America went through a racial dystopia after the defeat of Reconstruction and found itself in the hell of Jim Crow. Asian America went through the persecution of the Chinese and Japanese, the annexation of Hawaii, and a genocidal war against the Filipinos. Latino America went through the seizure of the northern third of Mexico and the later seizure of Puerto Rico, along with the constant demonization of their people and their heritage. Native Americans have faced constant efforts aimed at the violation of their sovereignty and, indeed, their extermination. We do not need a President who takes us anywhere close to that world again.

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



Community Affairs

Maryland taxpayers warned about phone scam threatening arrest

Annapolis— Comptroller Peter Franchot is warning taxpayers to stay vigilant and safeguard their personal information by being alert to a new phone scam aimed at scaring people into paying money.

A taxpayer alerted the agency's Compliance Division Friday morning that he had received two suspicious phone calls supposedly from the Comptroller's Office and threatening arrest if he didn't pay his tax bill. Field Enforcement agents are investigating the phone numbers provided by the taxpayer.

"If anyone calls you asking for personal information or worse yet, threatening you with arrest, don't respond and hang up immediately," Comptroller Franchot said. "The staff of my agency would never treat Maryland taxpayers that way. These crooks are trying to scare you by taking your money and stealing your identity. They are shame-



less, unscrupulous predators trying to destroy your financial sanctity."

Neither the Comptroller's Office nor the Internal Revenue Service calls taxpayers and ask for personal information or Social Security numbers.

The Comptroller's Office also warns taxpayers not to reply to emails requesting confidential information, especially your Social Security number, birth date, salary information or home address. If you receive an email asking for a copy of your W-2 form, you should immediately contact your employer. You may also call 1-800-MD-TAXES or email: mdcomptroller@comp.state.md.us.

Pay attention to domestic violence!

By **Laura Finley**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Dwarfed by the enormous outpouring for breast cancer awareness month, it receives attention largely from survivors, advocates and activists. It should warrant far greater and more careful consideration.

Domestic violence is not only deadly, it is also associated with a host of other social problems. It costs the country billions in criminal justice expenditures, healthcare, lost productivity and more. It is a contributing factor to many other crimes. Yet it is preventable.

This October, I implore everyone to do what they can to support survivors but also to teach our children and young adults how to engage in healthy, peaceful relationships.

Here is why we should all care about domestic violence:

According to the Violence Policy Center more than 1,600 women, were murdered by men in 2013. Of those, 62 percent were wives or intimate partners. Almost one-third of the mass shooting

deaths in 2015 were domestic violence-related, and in cases in which four people were killed (but not the shooter), 57 percent included family members or intimate partners as victims. Domestic violence was the reason for more than 20 percent of police officers killed in the line of duty between 2010 and 2014.

emergency healthcare services eight times more frequently than do non-victims. Women who have been abused are 70 percent more likely to have heart disease, 80 percent more likely to have a stroke, and 60 percent more likely to develop asthma. They are three times more likely to suffer from depression,

Children who witness abuse are at greater risk for becoming either victims or abusers. They are also prone to act out in school, creating a challenging climate for teachers, administrators and classmates. They may require mental health assistance, which is also costly. And many, especially boys, end up involved in the criminal justice system—yet another cost.

The above-listed statistics should be enough for us to take action in our homes, schools, workplaces and communities. We can teach our children healthy, respectful relationship boundaries and to intervene when they witness someone mistreating a date or partner. We can include these topics in our school and college curricula. We can train employers and colleagues to identify the signs of abuse and to be helpful supporters. We can educate healthcare providers and police on best practices in identifying and responding to abuse that help survivors receive the support they need and hold abusers accountable. Amazing resources are available through organizations like Futures Without Violence, The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Partnership for Prevention.

While it is easy to buy one more, pink item that contributes minimally to breast cancer awareness and research, it is equally easy to learn and act to end domestic violence.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

“Bullying is a predictor of later involvement in an abusive dating or domestic situation. Dating violence is a major cause of school massacres.

According to sociologist Jessie Klein of Adelphi University, of 12 school shootings that occurred in the U.S. between 1997 and 2002, assailants specifically targeted girls who had either rejected them or broken up with them. The boys had previously made threats against the girls, typically both in person and online.”

Bullying is a predictor of later involvement in an abusive dating or domestic situation. Dating violence is a major cause of school massacres. According to sociologist Jessie Klein of Adelphi University, of 12 school shootings that occurred in the U.S. between 1997 and 2002, assailants specifically targeted girls who had either rejected them or broken up with them. The boys had previously made threats against the girls, typically both in person and online.

The CDC has estimated domestic violence costs \$8.3 billion per year, with \$5.8 billion of that in medical costs and \$2.5 billion in lost productivity. Domestic violence is the most common cause of injury for women in the U.S. ages 15 to 44. Victims of domestic violence use

four times more likely to commit suicide, and endure six times the rate of PTSD as non-victims. Women experiencing physical abuse are also three times more likely to report having an STI than non-abused women. More than one-third (38.8 percent) of adolescent girls tested for STI/HIV have experienced dating violence. The increased healthcare costs for victims can persist 15 years after the abuse.

According to a 2005 survey, some 64 percent of domestic violence victims say the abuse has impacted their work. It is estimated that victims lose eight million paid days of work annually. Abusers often injure or kill others while targeting victims at the workplace, as in the recent shooting at a mall in Burlington, Washington.

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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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Organization seeking to ‘Stomp Out’ Bullying

By Stacy M. Brown

A large majority of teenagers hold a very pessimistic view of the United States. Eighty-eight percent say they believe the country lacks kindness, according to a new survey released by “STOMP Out Bullying,” the leading national bullying and cyber-bullying prevention nonprofit organization for kids and teens.

The survey detailed the attitudes of teenagers between 13 and 17 as it pertains to the country’s behavior and the effect it has on bullying among their peers. Nearly all teens— 96 percent— say they believe today’s lack of kindness impacts the way teenagers treat other teenagers. A further, 91 percent of the teenagers surveyed say they believe Americans lack kindness in the way they treat one another.

The survey is being highlighted throughout October, which is recognized as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.

“Whether at school, in front of a computer screen or on digital devices, bullying and cyberbullying are unfortunately more present than ever before,” Ross Ellis, founder and CEO of STOMP Out Bullying said in a statement. “We need to continue emphasizing the importance of kindness, which is critical not only to youth character development, but kindness can also make a positive, lasting impact on our world today.”

STOMP Out Bullying advocates for teaching more empathy and kindness among a diverse population of students in schools to create a positive culture, stronger communities and more student leaders, according to Ellis.

Earlier this month, Baltimore County Public Schools held “Bullying Prevention Week,” adorning school walls and its website with slogans like “Be Smart. Don’t Start!”

The campaign featured special activities each day, bullying prevention pledges for students to sign, and a day to flood social media with positive messages as a sym-



Eighty-eight percent of teens say they believe the country lacks kindness, according to a new survey released by “STOMP Out Bullying,” the leading national bullying and cyber-bullying prevention nonprofit organization for kids and teens. STOMP Out Bullying advocates for teaching more empathy and kindness among a diverse population of students in schools to create a positive culture, stronger communities and more student leaders. Courtesy Photo/STOMP Out Bullying

bolic blow to cyber-bullying.

“We all need to remind ourselves and each other that we’re always better than bullying,” said BCPS Superintendent Dr. S. Dallas Dance, whose student advisory council joined Baltimore County Student Councils several years ago to create Bullying Prevention Week. “Throughout the week, our students [reminded] one another, as well as the larger community to reject bullying by stopping it before it begins. All of us can be smart by opposing bullies and bullying everywhere from the start.”

STOMP Out Bullying officials say there has been encouraging signs of progress in the effort to end bullying. Most teens are confident in their school’s ability to tackle bullying, with 61 percent saying they believe their school handles bullying

issues sufficiently, according to the nonprofit’s survey.

Concurrently, teens see themselves as becoming more empowered to stand up and report instances of bullying when it occurs. Nearly two-thirds have reported instances of bullying to a teacher, parent or other authority figures.

Additional findings in the survey included that 45 percent of teens see as much bullying online as they see in person; teens in the U.S. are more likely to report instances of bullying in person than bullying online; four out of five teens have stood up to bullying; and nearly all teens believe that seeing more kindness around them will make them want to act more kindly to others.

Also, boys— 35 percent— are more likely than girls— 27 percent— to see

bullying occur more often online than in person and boys— 22 percent— are slightly more likely to report online bullying than girls— 17 percent.

To help further the organization’s mission of ending bullying, STOMP Out Bullying recently announced a brand new ambassador, KIND the blue elephant, which acts as a symbol for the need to spread compassion and kindness throughout the world.

“It’s not surprising to see why teens have such a negative view of our nation’s behavior, given the onslaught of violence and hostility that we see on a daily basis,” Ellis said. “I urge everyone to raise awareness around bullying prevention and the power of kindness this October, which is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.”

“Goodness is about character - integrity, honesty, kindness, generosity, moral courage, and the like. More than anything else, it is about how we treat other people.” —Dennis Prager



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Ravens turn to Marty Mornhinweg to bolster offense

By Turron Davenport

John Harbaugh is not afraid to make a tough decision if it means helping the Baltimore Ravens.

After the Ravens only scored 10 points in a home loss to the Washington Redskins, Harbaugh felt it was time for a change. He decided he had to relieve offensive coordinator Marc Trestman of his duties.

The team has had issues running the football since Trestman took over. Being able to run the football is a part of both Harbaugh and the Ravens DNA.

"We didn't run the ball enough," Harbaugh said after the Ravens loss on Sunday. "When you go back, and you look at it, I feel like we were running the ball well enough to run the ball a lot more than we did. I think we had 12 or 13 plays in the last two-minute drive that took the passing total up to 46 or whatever it was.

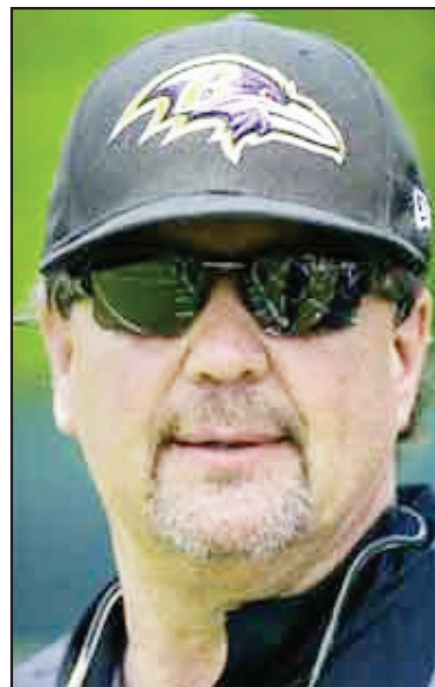
"We're not putting enough points on

the board, and we're not putting enough yards up for the amount of times we were throwing the ball. I think we were 46 passes for 188 net yards passing. That's just not going to cut it, and we all know that."

Now Harbaugh will turn to former quarterbacks coach, Marty Mornhinweg and his ties to the West Coast offense. Mornhinweg took over play call duties for the Eagles offense in the final six games of the 2006 season and into the NFC Playoffs. The Eagles won all six games and utilized a more balanced run/pass attack.

Teams that become one dimensional on offense are a lot easier to stop. The Ravens need to be more effective running the football and Harbaugh hopes Mornhinweg will bring some kind of balance to the Ravens offense.

"It is beneficial. We're in a good position to have a guy with that kind of experience here," Harbaugh said. "It's experience in this system, basically, the



Former quarterbacks coach Marty Mornhinweg is the new Offensive Coordinator for the Baltimore Ravens
Courtesy Photo/Baltimore Ravens.com

West Coast terminology. He fits right in. I know there will be some things that he will tweak, but the basic system is not going to change.

"The way we adjust some routes maybe, or the way we organize our protections or some of our play-action passes, that's all of the stuff that Marty has to do the way he believes it should be done. But the basic system terminology [and] the way we operate remains the same."

Joe Flacco is excited to get going with Mornhinweg, even if it means there will be more run plays called. The two have worked closely together since Mornhinweg came to the Ravens in 2015.

During his career as an Offensive Coordinator, Mornhinweg's offenses have finished first, second, fourth, fifth, ninth, tenth and twelfth in total offense, and is regularly highly ranked in big plays. Mornhinweg is known for his outstanding work with quarterbacks, which includes Hall of Famers Steve Young and Brett Favre.

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Youth Foundation, Southwest Airlines Help Kids Fly

By Stacey Brown

Ariel Wilks, 16, a student at Carver Vocational Technical High school had always been afraid to fly.

That was until she got involved with Inner City/Suburban Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational field trips and scholarships to local students.

A partnership with Southwest Airlines makes it possible for the foundation to help young people fulfill their dreams of attending major sporting and entertainment events around the nation.

Earl Lloyd, 10, a student at Creative City Public Charter School, recently took a trip to Chicago to attend a Baltimore Orioles game against the Chicago White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field.

"It was the first time I rode an airplane, and, I liked looking at everything out of the window," young Earl said.

Southwest Airlines donated roundtrip tickets and overnight hotel accommodations for 10 students and seven chaperones. The Chicago White Sox donated game tickets and the Baltimore Orioles provided caps and T-shirts.

The Orioles treated the students to a victory, and after the game students had the opportunity to take in a fireworks display and some of the Chi-Town's sites and landmarks.

William Newman, founder of Inner City/Suburban Youth Foundation, says the idea for creating an organization that would help facilitate such excursions began years ago when the son of a friend expressed an interest in going to a wrestling match.

"I was working at a radio station at the time and I took him to the event and we sat in the front row," Newman said. "I later spoke to the promoter who invited us back again and [he] told me that whenever I wanted to come to let him know. A friend of mine told me that this is something that I should do."

Lloyd and Wilks are among the dozen youth currently a part of the program, which also offers mentoring and tutoring to youth ages six to 17. Newman secures donations for tickets to sporting and entertainment events and then makes them available to local schools. The principal or school administrator selects students for trips on the basis of good grades, good conduct and maintaining a B average. Upon the conclusion of the trip, all of the students are required to write about their first airplane ride and their travel experience.

When tickets aren't donated, Newman purchases them himself. "We've actually taken kids to Washington to see the Wizards and, just two years ago, we took a busload of



Chaperone, Flora Hawkins with students Tristan Hawkins (left) and Earl Lloyd (right) enjoying the sights during their trip to Chicago.

about 50 kids to Washington to see wrestling," said Newman. "It changes the kids' perspectives."

"This is something that these students will remember for the rest of their lives," said Derrick Deramus, a member of Next Level Mentoring Group, who served as a chaperone for the trip in August.

"I would like to give a special shout out to Southwest Airlines, the Inner City Suburban Youth Foundation, the White Sox and the Orioles for helping to make this field trip happen."

William Newman also contributed to this article.

An interview with figure skater Hope Alexander

Princess Tiana Follows Her Heart To Baltimore

By Tiffany Ginyard

If Hope Alexander hadn't followed her heart, she'd probably be working for some government agency putting her degree in international studies to work. Instead, she tours the world bringing Disney's Princess Tiana's character to life on ice. As a figure skater with the infamous Disney On Ice show, the Wilmington, Delaware native has performed before audiences in Japan, China, Macau, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, among many other destinations, with the Treasure Trove tour. This month, Alexander is set to perform at the Royal Farms Arena in Disney On Ice's latest production--Follow Your Heart-- playing the role of her dreams.

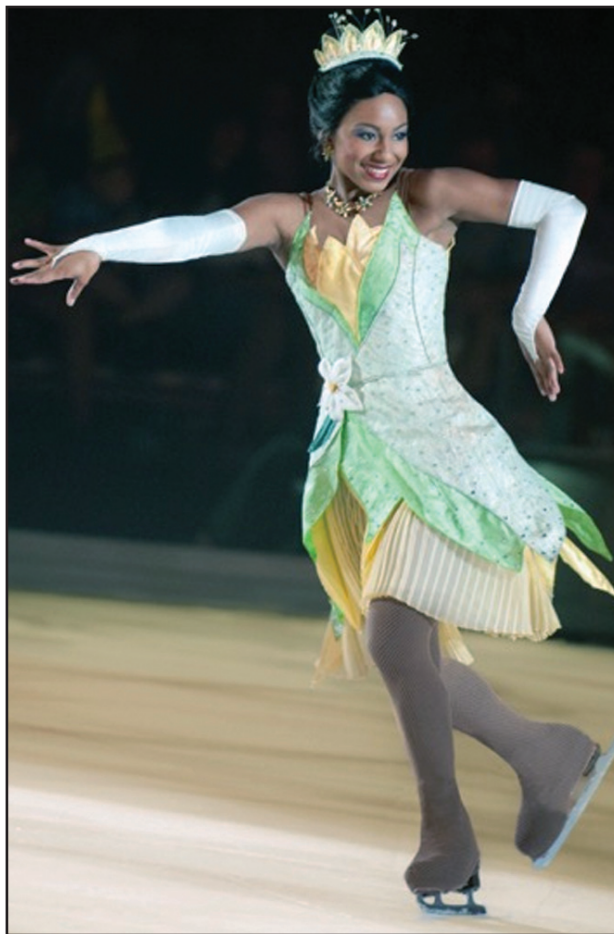
Tiffany: What does the theme of the show "Follow Your Heart" mean to you personally? In what ways have you followed your heart to be who and where you are today?

Tiana: "Follow Your Heart" is a motto that I try to live by everyday. I think it's important to always go after your goals and try your best to achieve your dreams, and being on Disney on Ice is definitely a dream come true. When I was younger and competing I never imagined that I would someday be a professional figure skater, and now I'm so grateful for where I am in life.

Tiffany: Can you speak to what it was like growing up pursuing your interest in skating? How did it develop?

Tiana: My mom took me skating when I was about two years old. She had fond memories of going skating with her friends when she was younger and she wanted me to have some of the same memories. The second I stepped on the ice I fell in love with it immediately. A little later down the line I started taking groups lessons and eventually private lessons at my local skating rink. I started competing when I was seven years old and stopped when I was 16. Skating takes a lot of sacrifice. Once I got to a higher level I would have to wake up before school to skate and once the school day was over I would head back to the rink for more skating sessions and off-ice training. It was stressful at times but completely worth it.

Tiffany: You mentioned you suffered an injury early in your career and took a break from skating for a while. Did you always know you'd return? What was that experience like? What did you do in the meantime?



Hope Alexander portrays Princess Tiana in the latest Disney on Ice production, "Follow Your Heart."

Courtesy Photo/Walt Disney Company

Tiana: When I had to stop skating because of my injury I was heartbroken and I honestly didn't think I would really pick it back up again. I started running track at that point and actual ended up getting a track scholarship for college. Even though I was sad about not being able to skate anymore, I was very grateful that I was able to find something else that I really enjoyed doing.

Tiffany: What brought you back to the ice?

Tiana: Once I graduated from college I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and I decided to audition for a couple smaller ice shows. I really liked being a part of those shows so I decided to apply to Disney and 5 years later, here I am.

Tiffany: How did your studies in college help you in your profession as a figure skater?

Tiana: I double majored in French and International Studies, and I think both helped to open my eyes to different people and cultures. I've been lucky enough to travel to so many different countries, since I joined Disney on Ice, and I think my studies in college really helped me to appreciate those experiences even more.

Tiffany: What do you enjoy most about your job and touring with the show?

Tiana: I enjoy so many things about this job. Skating has been my passion since I was a little girl, so to be able to do it as a profession is amazing! I love performing for the audiences. It's always really fun to watch everyone's faces light up when they see their favorite characters come to life on the ice. I also really enjoy the travel aspect of the job. When we're on a domestic tour we go to a different city every week, and it's nice to be able to visit cities I've never been to before. I've also been able to tour overseas and I love that because I've been able to go to so many countries that I probably would have never gone to otherwise.

Tiffany: Until Tiana, African American princesses didn't have a place in Disney's movies. How does feel to represent for girls of color in that way?

Tiana: I feel really honored to be able to portray such an important character. I think it's important for little girls to see themselves represented on the ice and I'm so excited to show them what they are capable of achieving.

Tiffany: What do you and Princess Tiana have in common?

Tiana: Princess Tiana is a very hard worker. She sets a goal and even though she faces challenges and obstacles she perseveres and eventually realizes her dream of owning her own restaurant. I like to think I possess the same hard-working qualities. Growing up I had to work very hard at skating and learning how to manage my time between skating and school. And once I decided to pick skating back up again I had to really focus and relearn skills that were once second nature to me. It's really exciting to be able to portray a character that really resonates with me!

Disney on Ice Presents: Follow Your Heart is coming to Royal Farms Arena October 27-30.

Local hospitals to serve as hubs for violence prevention

By Stacy M. Brown

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) was awarded a \$500,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support the planning and implementation of a comprehensive hospital-based community violence intervention program.

The program, known as the Baltimore City Thriving Communities Project, will expand Baltimore City's Safe Streets program into emergency departments, utilizing hospital responders to reduce violence-related injury re-admissions by resolving conflicts immediately after an altercation occurs to prevent retaliation.

The implementation of the Baltimore City Thriving Communities Project will begin with Johns Hopkins Hospital, according to officials.

The grant comes as Baltimore City Health Department released "Healthy Baltimore 2020," a strategic blueprint for health and wellness in Baltimore City through the lens of health equity.

"As an emergency physician who has treated patients dying from gunshot wounds, I will never forget the cries of mothers whose children could not be resuscitated in our EDs," Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen said in a statement. "I have seen the cycle of violence and trauma, and why we need every interaction to be the point of intervention to stop this vicious cycle. Safe Streets has shown us that violence interruption works."

BCHD officials made the announcement during the second "Healthy Baltimore 2020 Community Conversation," a town hall meeting offering residents the opportunity to provide public comment for Healthy Baltimore 2020. The conversation focused on understanding of vio-



Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen announced that BCHD was awarded \$500,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support the planning and implementation of a comprehensive hospital-based community violence intervention program.

Courtesy Photo/Baltimore City Health Department

lence as a public health issue and ongoing efforts across Baltimore to address violence upstream.

"We can prevent shootings and cure violence with credible messengers. By expanding this model into our hospitals, we can further reduce trauma, save lives, and prevent the risks of re-injury, retaliation and death from gun violence in our communities," said Wen.

As of late, addressing violence and public safety are key priorities for city

government. The BCHD uses Safe Streets, a hallmark model for violence prevention inspired by the national Cure Violence campaign.

This public health initiative employs and trains outreach professionals to de-escalate and mediate disputes that might otherwise result in retaliatory acts of violence.

In 2015, Safe Streets outreach workers mediated nearly 700 conflicts, nearly 80 percent of which were deemed "likely" or "very likely" to have resulted in gun

violence. In addition to neighborhood-level impact, the program also prevents the intensive trauma, and often costly, citywide ripple effects associated with a major event of violence.

During the Community Conversation, more than a dozen partners from across Baltimore were honored by health officials for their commitment to a public health approach to reducing violence and achieving health equity in their communities.

The honorees included: James Piper Bond, executive director of Living Classrooms; Dr. Carnell Cooper, clinical associate professor at the University of Maryland Medical Center; Reverend Dr. Alvin Hathaway, senior pastor at Union Baptist Church; Cheo Hurley, executive director of Park Heights Renaissance; and Bill McCarthy, executive director Catholic Charities of Baltimore.

Healthy Baltimore 2020 is designed as an ongoing project and BCHD will continue to seek community input in the coming weeks and months, according to officials. To facilitate public discussion, Baltimore City Health Department will continue to host community conversations on each of the strategic priority areas identified in Healthy Baltimore 2020, including behavioral health, violence prevention, chronic disease, and life course and core services.

"The input and support of our community is critical to creating a framework that truly supports the health of our residents. We are so fortunate to work with passionate community partners, and are honored to celebrate their dedication to improving health and wellbeing in our city," Wen said. "Everyone has a role to play in improving health in Baltimore City, and we need the involvement of all those committed to improving health to guide our strategy moving forward."

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Fire of Jazz meets chill of hip-hop

By Eunice Moseley

Being born in the Philippines and raised in the Bahamas and the United States makes jazz guitarist Vernon Neilly a man of the world. From one listen to his latest project “Outta Time,” (Boosweet Records) it’s evident that the “chill” of hip-hop music has influenced his approach to the epic sounds of jazz. This eight-song project, featuring 15 musicians and vocalists, leaves fans full.

Neilly’s extensive career in music, includes playing for—and with—legendary artists Etta James, George Clinton, The Temptations, The Dramatics, Warren G, Howard Hewitt, and Teena Marie. The award-winning jazz musician calls them “the vehicles”—those who helped him make it in the business by giving his skills and talent a platform.

Neilly doesn’t get his just due here in the U.S. However, his musicianship has



From one listen to Vernon Neilly’s new album “Outta Time” it’s evident that the “chill” of hip-hop music has influenced his approach to the epic sounds of jazz. Courtesy Photo

catapulted him to celebrity status overseas. The crowds there claw at him as if he was Jimi Hendrix back from paradise.

In fact, one of my favorite selections is a Jimi Hendrix hit song titled “Fire,” featuring Vernon and lead guitarist Greg Howe (Michael Jackson, Rihanna, Justin Timberlake). The vocals on this track are reminiscent of Prince.

The single ‘Outta Time,’ featuring Neilly’s 20-year-old son Khalif, debuted on Billboard Charts in August at No. 6 on Hot Singles. “He is my youngest son. He help me write the lyrics to the first two songs,” said Neilly. “He’s got an artist he is producing coming out before the end of the year.” Khalif, a hip-hop lyricist, also appears on “They Don’t Care.”

Like his award-winning projects G-Fire I and II, Outta Time was released from, Boosweet Records, the label he launched 15 years ago in Los Angeles.

“I do it this way [independently] because that’s my only option,” he admitted. “This is my fifth project. I have been working on it for a few years. Because the people I wanted to record on the project have busy schedules, it took a little while.”

The wait was worth it! Nods go the tracks: “Get Yo’ Lyfe Rite,” featuring Victor Johnson because of the Hendrix/Prince flavor; “Nassau Nights,” featuring Frank Gambale and Cacau Santos, because that Latin feel keeps thing moving; and it’s nearly impossible to make out if there’s a guitar or keyboard or both playing in “Metta Funk Trip,” featuring futuristic sounds with Neilly and Kiko Lourirro.

“Outta Time” is executive produced by Neilly and Rosalie Mayers and also features such artists as Mattias Eklundh, Bill Hudson, Jennifer Batten, Juan Belson, and Charles Glen.

For more information about Vernon Neilly’s latest project release and performance dates, visit: www.vernon-neilly.com.

Eunice Moseley is a public relations strategist and business management consultant at Freelance Associates and promotions director for The Baltimore Times. For more entertainment news, visit: www.ThePulseofEntertainment.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PROJECT #1264 – ON CALL
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES**

The Baltimore City Office of Boards and Commissions has been requested by the Department of General Services, Major Project Division, to certify the qualifications of architectural firms to provide on call architectural design services on renovation, repair, and construction projects for various City agencies. Up to five (5) contracts will be awarded for a period of four (4) years each.

The services to be provided may include, but are not limited to assisting the City Major Projects Division with studies, designs for repairs, renovations, and upgrades to a variety of City owned or maintained structures, bid analysis, post award services, maintenance of project records and documentation, review of contractor's application for payment, attendance at progress meetings, preparation of record drawings, review of contract claims and supports, estimating, scheduling, project engineering, constructability reviews, submittal reviews and responses, RFI reviews and responses, and construction contract administrative support.

The needs of the Department of General Services Major Projects Division vary widely as projects are identified. Consultants should be capable of providing design services which may include expertise in the following areas;

- Familiarity with applicable codes, standards and 2015 Baltimore City Green Building Code
- Knowledge of local, state, and federal historic preservation policy and procedure, especially The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Property
- Experience with change orders and claims analysis
- Environmental engineering services, sampling and testing for hazardous material
- Cost estimation services
- Quality control services
- Mechanical engineering services
- Electrical engineering services
- Civil/Structural engineering services
- Project management services
- Commercial high rise building (five (5) stories or more) expertise
- Elevator design services

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- Experience with Critical Path Method construction scheduling
- Overall team approach with Minority/Women Business Enterprises
- Experience with Oracle Primavera version 6 scheduling software

Consultant's team will provide architectural staff with the following capabilities;

- Personnel with skills equivalent to an Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture.

- Personnel with skills equivalent to a Preservation Architect, including a professional degree in architecture or a State license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: 1) At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely related field; or 2) At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects. Such graduate study or experience shall include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

- Personnel with skills equivalent to a Contract Administrator II, including a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and three (3) years of experience in contract administration work, project management, or project coordination.

- Personnel with skills equivalent to a Construction Claim Analyst, including a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering or a related field, and seven (7) years' experience in construction claim or risk analysis work. Registrations/Certifications preferred: PSP from AACEI or a PMI-SP.

- Personnel with skills equivalent to a CPM Scheduler, including a college degree and at least five (5) years' experience in construction or construction management, and a minimum of 1 year in analyzing schedules. Three (3) years' experience in construction scheduling software using current industry standard. Proficient with Primavera P3 and Primavera Project Management 6.0

- Personnel with skills equivalent to a CAD drafter, including a college degree and at least three (3) years' drafting experience using AutoCAD software.

Project fees have been estimated at \$2,000,000.00 per agreement for four (4)

Legal Notices

years. If further information is required regarding this request, please contact Mr. John Friesner at 410-396-1073.

Firms interested in submitting a proposal as a prime consultant for this project are requested to complete and submit a "Letter of Interest" to the Office of Boards and Commissions, 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Fl., Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (EMAIL: obc.consultants@baltimorecity.gov). Since these letters are utilized to assist small, minority and women business enterprises in identifying potential teaming partners, the letters should be submitted within five (5) days of the date of the project's advertisement. The letter should contain a contact person. Failure to submit a "Letter of Interest" will not disqualify a firm submitting a proposal for the project.

Each prime consultant applying for this Project will be required to complete and submit an original Federal Form 255, along with **five (5)** copies, to the Office of Boards and Commissions. The Federal Form 255 and the five copies must be submitted on or before 12:00 P.M. (Noon) on November 14, 2014. Submittals may not be accepted after this deadline.

All tasks must comply with the 2006 edition of "The Specifications for Materials, Highway, Bridges, Utilities and Incidental Structures." City personnel will utilize the City of Baltimore Guidelines for the Performance Evaluation of Design Consultants and Construction Contractors for this contract/project.

Consultants interested in providing services to the City should be aware of City policies which determine the amount of overhead and profit a firm will be allowed. An Audited Financial Statement less than two (2) years old will be required to justify any requested overhead rate above 100%. The maximum allowed overhead rate is 172.73% for architectural firms, and 150% for engineering firms. Profit is fixed at 10% and salaries are capped at \$65.00 excluding Principal's time.

Insurance Requirements

The Consultant shall procure and maintain during the life of this agreement, the following required insurance coverage.

a. Worker's Compensation coverage as required by the State of Maryland, as well as any similar coverage required for this work by applicable Federal or "other States" State Law.

Legal Notices

b. Professional Liability, Errors, and Omissions Insurance at a limit of not less than Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) including a 3 year extended reporting period, in the event that services delivered pursuant to this Agreement, either directly or indirectly, involves or requires professional services, Professional Liability, Errors, and Omissions coverage shall be provided. "Professional Services" for the purpose of this Agreement shall mean any services provided by a licensed CONSULTANT professional.

c. Commercial General Liability Insurance at limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for claims arising out of bodily injuries or death, and property damages. With those policies with aggregate limits, a minimum limit of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000) is required. Such insurance shall include contractual liability insurance. The CITY, its elected/ appointed officials, employees, and agents shall be covered, by endorsement, when applicable, as additional insured's as respects to; liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the CONSULTANT in connection with this Agreement.

d. Business Automobile Liability at limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence for all claims arising out of bodily injuries or death and property damages. The insurance shall apply to any owned, non-owned, leased, or hired automobiles used in the performance of this agreement

e. To the extent of the CONSULTANT's negligence, the CONSULTANT's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance as respects the CITY, its elected/appointed employees and agents. Any insurance and/or self-insurance maintained by the CITY, its elected appointed officials, employees and agents, shall not contribute with CONSULTANT's insurance or benefit the CONSULTANT in any way.

f. Coverage shall not be suspended, voided, cancelled, reduced in coverage, or in limits, except by the reduction of applicable aggregate limit by claims paid, until after forty-five (45) days prior written notice has been given to the CITY. There will be an exception for non-payment of premium, which is ten (10) days' notice of cancellation.

g. Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a Best's rating of no less than A:VII,

**Legal Notice — Project #1264
Continued on page 17**

Legal Notices

Legal Notice — Project #1264 **Continued from page 16**

or, if not rated with Best's with minimum surpluses the equivalent of Best's surplus size VII and must be licensed/approved to do business in the State of Maryland.

h. The CONSULTANT shall furnish the CITY a "Certificate of Insurance" with a copy of the additional insured endorsement, when applicable, as verification that the coverage is in force. The CITY reserves the right to require complete copies of insurance policies at any time.

Prequalification Certification

All architectural, engineering, and surveying firms listed in the specific proposal for the Project must be prequalified by the Office of Boards and Commissions for each applicable discipline at time of submittal for this Project. A copy of the prime and sub consultant's current Prequalification Certificate should be included in the bid submittal package. If you need information on the City's Prequalification Certification process please call the Office of Boards and Commissions at 410-396-6883.

MBE/WBE Certification

It is the policy of the City of Baltimore to promote equal business opportunity in the City's contracting process. Pursuant to Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition) – Minority and Women's Business Program, Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) participation goals apply to this contract.

The MBE goal is 18%
The WBE goal is 10%

Both the proposed Minority and Women's Business Enterprise firms must be named and identified as an MBE or WBE within Item 6 of the Standard Form (SF) 255 in the spaces provided for identifying outside key consultants/associates anticipated for utilization for this project.

Any submittals that do not include the proper MBE/WBE (in some instances DBE) participation will be disapproved for further consideration for this project.

Verifying Certification

Each firm submitting a SF 255 for consideration for a project is responsible for verifying that all MBEs and WBEs to be utilized

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on the project are certified by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) prior to submitting the proposal. A directory of certified MBEs and WBEs is available from MWBOO. Since changes to the directory occur daily, firms submitting SF 255s should call MWBOO at (410) 396-4355 to verify certification, expiration dates and services that the MBE or WBE is certified to provide.

A bidder that is an MBE or WBE may count up to 50% of the dollar value of the work it intends to perform with its own forces toward the applicable MBE or WBE goal. The amount of credit may not exceed the MBE's or WBE's available work capacity as calculated with the Contractor Prequalification rules. **Intentions to count self-performance toward the MBE or WBE goal must be identified within submitted proposals and will be required to be indicated on Part C: Statement of Intent to Self-Perform.** (Art 5, §28-31(d)).

A firm submitting as a prime consultant that fails to comply with the requirements of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of Baltimore City Code when executing a contract is subject to the following penalties: suspension of a contract; withholding of funds; rescission of contract based on material breach; disqualification as a consultant from eligibility to provide services to the City for a period not to exceed 2 years; and payment for damages incurred by the City.

Additional Requirements

A resume for each person listed as key personnel and/or specialist, including those from MBE and WBE must be shown on the page provided within the application.

Please be advised that for the purpose of reviewing price proposals and invoices, the City of Baltimore defines a principal of a firm as follows:

- A principal is any individual owner, partner of a partnership, shareholder of a Sub-Chapter 'S' Corporation, or an officer/director of any Corporation.

Out-of-State Corporations must identify their corporate resident agent within the application.

The applications for this Project (Form 255) cannot be supplemented with any additional information such as graphs, photographs, organization chart, etc. All such information should be incorporated into the appro-

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priate pages. Applications should not be bound. Applications should simply be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Cover sheets should not be included. Inclusion and/or submittal of additional material may result in the applicant being disqualified from consideration for this project.

Failure to follow directions of this advertisement or the application may cause disqualification of the submittal.

Kumasi Vines
Chief

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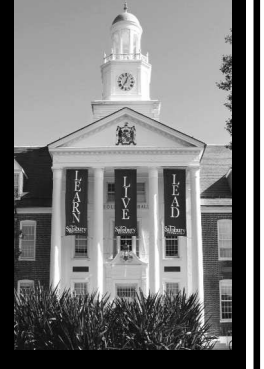
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