

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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Girls on the Run Promotes Positive Youth Development



Girls on the Run® is a 501(c)3 positive youth development program which combines an interactive curriculum and running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls. Girls On The Run Greater Chesapeake (GOTRGC) started in Annapolis in the Fall of 2005 with 25 girls. They now have expanded their territory to include all of Anne Arundel County; Baltimore County; Baltimore City; Queen Anne's, Calvert and Talbot Counties. Since that first team in 2005, GOTRGC has served over 10,000 girls and is truly changing the world, one girl at a time. Photo: Taylor (left) and Kaitlin (right) from Baltimore, participated in the Girls on the Run Greater Chesapeake End of Year Campaign. (See article on page 13)

Photo: Samantha Nourse

The desire to inspire

By Nikki A. Abraham, *The Nucleus*,
Positively Caviar, Inc.

Inspiration is everywhere—from daily scriptures to street art that you pass on your way to work. A lot of times you see, hear or feel something that will trigger passion and motivate you to keep going.

Inspiration is defined as a divine influence or action on a person that is believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation. Inspiration can have a domino effect. Once something inspires you to take action toward your dreams, you may in return inspire others while doing what makes you happy.

The perfect example of this happens after listening to my favorite gospel song “No Weapon” by Fred Hammond. This source of inspiration has dug me out of some of my lowest periods reminding me that my spiritual connection is bigger than whatever battle I’m fighting at the moment. As a result, I’m able to spread those words and inspiration to other people encouraging them to keep going.

Our followers and subscribers are a tremendous source of motivation for our team, and as we go through our own struggles and times of adversity it helps us to stay and remain positive. Hey, we’re human!

The challenging part about being a part of our platform, Positively Caviar, is having to put on the brave face of positivity in the midst of adversity. What makes this easier for me is the inspiration our readers give us. The texts, direct messages, and various forms of feedback we receive helps to trigger our desire to inspire. We use this motivation as ammunition to keep going. The constant



“The Nucleus Team” of Positively Caviar, Inc. (From left) Jean Claude Louis-Charles III, Shayma Sulaiman, Nikki Abraham and Chazz Scott. To learn more about Positively Caviar, the nucleus team or how you join the positive movement, visit: staybasedandpositive.com.
Courtesy Photo

approval and trigger effect of our impact on the lives of others makes the effort we put forth worth it.

Reading is also another vital source of inspiration for me. Recently, some of my main sources of inspiration came from reading novels such as “My Voice” by Angie Martinez and “Around The Way Girl” by Taraji P. Henson. The true, life stories from successful people based on how they overcame their struggle and pushed toward success motivate me to stay on my journey to success.

Do you have trouble finding sources of inspiration? Here are a few tips toward finding more inspiration in your everyday life:

- Pay attention to nature—The breathtaking beauty of nature has a way of helping you get rid of negative thoughts.

- Spend time with someone who brings out the best in you— People have a tremendous effect on your energy and happiness. Positive vibes from others can be contagious. Spend your time with likeminded people who bring out the best in you.

- Travel— The world is a giant book. New scenery can be an excellent source of motivation. Traveling has a visceral way of feeding your soul.

- Meditation— With the hectic lifestyle that we live meditation can have a powerful effect on your mind, body, and soul.

- Read inspiring blogs— At Positively Caviar Inc., we hope to inspire all human beings to achieve their dreams and live a more prosperous life through the imperative mindset of positivity.

Ultimately, inspiration can be found in

a number of ways. With all the visuals, words of wisdom, and positive people in this world it’s hard not to have a source of inspiration. It’s just as equally important to inspire others as it is to be inspired. What inspires you?

Positively Caviar, Inc. is focused on intensifying the message of positivity and optimism in our digitally centric lives in the Mid-Atlantic region. Each a month our Nucleus Team will write a column that focuses on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts and stories that are positive in nature to support a purposeful and positive lifestyle. To learn more about our organization, the nucleus team or how you join our positive movement, visit: staybasedandpositive.com

The Israel of God - Baltimore

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Guest Editorials/Letters

It's time to show middle neighborhoods love, before it's too late

By Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-02)

What do Countries, states and neighborhoods have in common? People—they all compete for people.

Through people, you get innovators, investors, builders, developers and thinkers. Through people, you have the building blocks of your workforce.

Our neighborhoods rely on anchors like great schools, bustling shops and small businesses, and a competitive housing stock in order to attract homebuyers and increase long-term homeownership.

In my District, the Second District of Pennsylvania, I am fortunate to represent top of the line research institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, Temple, Saint Joseph's, LaSalle and many more, that continue to lead the way in innovation and development, and drive new residents to our neighborhoods across the city of Philadelphia and into the surrounding suburbs like Lower Merion and Narberth, that call the 2nd District home.

Throughout the course of my over three-and-a-half decades of public service, I have always looked for thoughtful ways to "Make Ideas Matter," always strategically searching for that moment when an idea becomes a part of our public policy. In Congress, I am trying to put a spotlight and raise the dialogue on "Middle Neighborhoods" nationwide.

"Middle Neighborhoods" are caught between growing and declining neighborhoods. They are neighborhoods that are doing "good enough" right now, but are threatened by decline, as the demand to live in these neighborhoods is weakening.

Middle Neighborhoods walk a tightrope. They are solid neighborhoods that are being squeezed, because they aren't poor enough or wealthy enough. We need to show these neighborhoods a little love before it's too late and they tip towards decline.

Right now, our Middle Neighborhoods have no clear lane in our federal policy. To add to this, President Trump and his administration have done little to reinvest in cities nationwide.

Last summer when speaking to the African American community at a rally in Philadelphia, President Trump said, "What the hell do you have to lose?"

This March, members of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) met with President Trump at the White House to discuss the key issues plaguing the African American community. During the meeting, the CBC Executive Committee delivered a CBC-authored, 130-page policy document titled "We Have A Lot To Lose: Solutions to Advance Black Families in the 21st Century," which includes detailed African-American history, CBC history, 21st century policy solutions for African-American families, and also highlights, three of my key priorities in Congress: "Middle Neighborhoods," "School Rehabilitation" and "Food Insecurity" as key action items for the policy agenda of the CBC.

It's long overdue for the federal government to come together and stand united to make modernization, development and investment in our neighborhoods a top priority for cities, suburbs and towns nationwide.

We take pride in our neighborhoods. We are proud of the block we live on. We have come to call our neighbors our friends. It's on us to give our neighborhoods the tools they need in their toolbox. Healthy, strong neighborhoods lead to bustling, vibrant economies.

Congressman Dwight Evans is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and represents Northwest, West, North, parts of South and Center City Philadelphia, Narberth and the western suburb of Lower Merion Township. He serves on the House Agriculture Committee and House Small Business Committee. To learn more about Congressman Evans' work in Congress, visit his Facebook, Twitter and congressional websites.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: Chaotic Commander-in-Tweets

As a veteran, I am concerned with the chaos our Commander-in-Tweets creates with his child-like tweets.

How can our military put faith in him when he continually tweets out ridiculous accusations and false information, and questions advice from his generals? How can we believe what he says?

Many tweets are designed to deflect criticism of him and move people's thoughts in his direction.

These diversionary tactics might work as the CEO of his company where he had absolute control, but it will not work with Congress and the media.

If Trump is to succeed and implement his policies, he needs Congress and the

media on his side. He will not succeed by proposing half-baked policies, and insulting people and institutions that disagree with him. Executive Orders do not stand the test of time. They are easily rescinded.

Trump believes all publicity, including negative publicity, is beneficial, but this doesn't work when you are President.

Our Commander-in-Tweets is sowing chaos, doubt and confusion in the minds of the American Public, our military and the world, and it is endangering the security of our country and our status in the world.

Mr. President, please get normal.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH.

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It's time for blacks to stand up and fight Trump

By Richard Gordon Hatcher
Chicago Crusader, NNPA Member

Donald Trump once famously asked the African American community: "What do you have to lose?" We now have the answer. Everything!

Is this the time to stand up and fight back? Clearly, the answer is "yes." Poll numbers on Trump's disastrous performance as President reveal rapidly shrinking support for him and his policies.

Yet, his minions are generating alarm and outrage as they push forward with their right wing agenda. Recent reports that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is planning to investigate and possibly sue universities over admissions policies that allegedly discriminate against White applicants are fanning the flames of both racism and resistance to racism.

This action brings us back to the Allan Bakke case of almost 40 years ago that alleged "reverse discrimination" against white students at a California medical school. At that time, in a close vote, the court ruled that while affirmative action was constitutional, quotas were not.

Judge Harry Blackmun wrote in his opinion on Bakke that, "To get beyond racism, we must first consider race." His words ring as true today as they did then.

Two years after the Bakke ruling, civil rights organizations came together to oppose the nomination of Robert Bork, an arch, conservative and Ronald Reagan's nominee to the Supreme Court. We were

Division chairperson Candice Jackson, who is white, will be brought into the fray. She has claimed she was a victim of discrimination at one point in her college career.

Meanwhile, as planned, the Education Department has scaled back its civil rights investigations at public schools and universities.

Many in the civil and human rights

Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund that, "This is what a 21st century assault on civil rights looks like, an assault on voter rights, an assault on police-community relations, and now this latest attack on affirmative action. It is really stoking an 'us versus them' narrative that is doing nothing but harm to our country."

We hope that the public is not foolish enough to believe that the Trump administration has no discernible policies. These actions are proof positive that through the DOJ, the Education Department and the Supreme Court, he intends to use false flags to tear asunder good policies and laws under the guise of "Making America Great Again."

We say, he's really trying to "Make America White Again!"

We must stand up for this generation and the next in every way possible—through our national organizations, on the streets, in the courts, in our social media, and in our churches, mosques and synagogues.

In this way, we can uphold our great democratic traditions by being on the right side of history and make real Dr. Martin Luther King's proclamation that "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Richard Gordon Hatcher is a civil rights activist, lawyer and one of the first African American mayors of a major American city, Gary, Indiana. He is currently Chairman of the Board, National Civil Rights Hall of Fame, dedicated to educating the nation's children of the sacrifices made to open the doors of opportunity for all citizens of the United States.

"However, now we have conservative Neil Gorsuch on that court. By saturating the ground with gasoline, all someone needs to do is light a match at the Supreme Court that could undo admission policies all over the country. We cannot allow that to happen."

able to defeat Bork through national sustained political action, and thus were able to stem the tide of reaction in favor of democracy and fairness.

However, now we have conservative Neil Gorsuch on that court. By saturating the ground with gasoline, all someone needs to do is light a match at the Supreme Court that could undo admission policies all over the country. We cannot allow that to happen.

Right now, the DOJ is looking to pull together a team of lawyers from the department's Civil Rights Division to work on "...intentional race-based discrimination in college and university admissions."

Eight states already ban affirmative action admission policies.

It is clear that this administration is building a case against young people of color on every front.

The evidence is compelling. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's Civil Rights

communities warned against DeVos heading up the Education Department. This is the result.

This bombshell follows another volley from the Attorney General Jeff Sessions that they would not enforce recent DOJ reforms aimed at the nation's police departments.

The reforms mandated by then Attorney General Eric Holder were templates for the nation's out-of-control police departments.

An unrelenting trend in police shootings of unarmed African Americans continues to stalk the nation.

Add to this, Sessions' rant that prosecutors must enforce maximum sentences for drug offenses that we know will target black and brown communities unfairly, sending more young people to the nation's prisons—and all of this on the heels of the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, four years ago.

We agree with the Associate Director-

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Andrew Bertamini retires from Wells Fargo

By Stacy M. Brown

If there were one sentence, a single statement, that underscores the quality, care and true love for his community and colleagues, it would only make sense that the words came from Andrew Bertamini himself.

“Any of the things that I’ve accomplished, I didn’t do it to get attention for me. I did it because I cared, and I got as many rewards and benefits from anything that I did in the community than others who felt they’ve benefited from what I may have done,” said Bertamini, who announced earlier this month that he is retiring as Wells Fargo’s Maryland Region President.

He is relocating to Southern Florida, where he’ll spend his retirement years in an area west of Ft. Lauderdale to enjoy life with his two sons and three grandchildren.

“We wanted to be closer to our children, and more importantly, our grandchildren,” Bertamini said, expressing that family has always been a driving force behind his work, his interaction with his colleagues and the self-sacrificing spirit he displayed throughout Greater Baltimore to the benefit of thousands.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts and a product of a single-family household, Bertamini and his family moved to the Baltimore area when he was two.

“I don’t remember my first two years,” he said, noting that, as the reason he can be considered a native of Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

He began his career as a teller with Union Trust Bank, which became Wells Fargo.

Bertamini’s tenure as president of Wells Fargo’s Maryland region helped the company realize \$1.4 trillion in assets and rank tops among all financial services companies in market value in the U.S. and third in the world as of December 31, 2012.

His reach can also be measured in that Wells Fargo operates 75 retail banking stores in Maryland providing consumer and business banking services, including mortgage loans, investment products and insurance services.



Former Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Andrew Bertamini and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) at the launch of the CityLIFT Program in 2013. The innovative incentive program was designed to boost homeownership in Baltimore City by providing as much as \$15,000 in down payment assistance to prospective, qualified homebuyers. The program was funded by Wells Fargo in partnership with Neighborworks America.
Courtesy Photo/Wells Fargo

The bank has also extensively invested in Maryland’s schools and communities through corporate and foundation giving, and through its team member community support programs.

Bertamini’s primary focus has been to oversee the operations of the Maryland market and to serve as the company’s community ambassador. However, his work in the community sealed his legendary status.

He served as a board member of several organizations, including: Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy; Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture; Downtown Partnership; Greater Baltimore Committee; Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc.; Maryland Council on Economic Education; Maryland Bankers Association; and the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board.

“I will miss the community. The people in Baltimore have been so good to me and I’m so proud to have been able to do a lot of work in Baltimore City and in places like Sandtown-Winchester,” Bertamini said.

His involvement with the Furman L. Templeton School proved a great community service as he helped to support programs for the 450 students there, covering important topics like financial literacy and promoting the value of education.

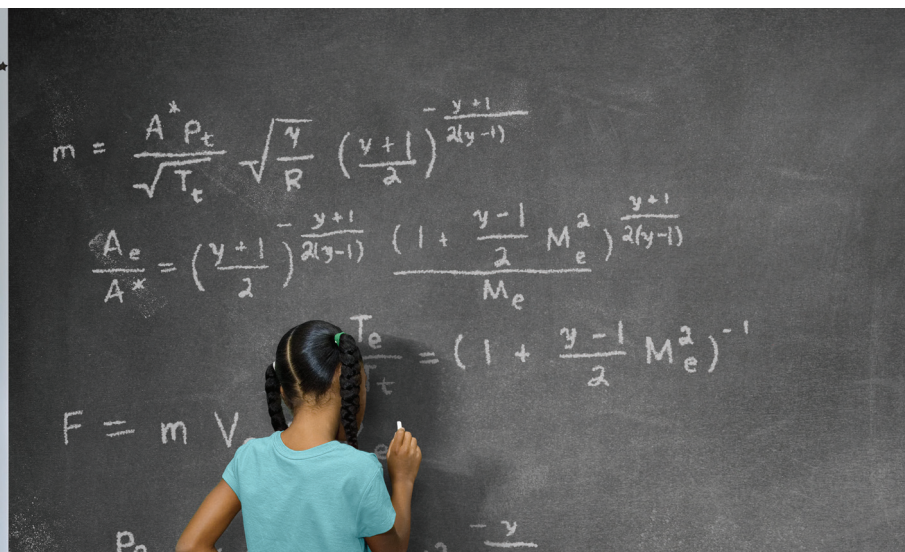
“I grew up poor. When growing up poor you don’t always realize you’re poor, but I had a good strong parent who instilled in us as children good ethics and principles,” Bertamini said. “I also saw that having a good education provides opportunities, and Wells Fargo gave me an opportunity when I became regional president not only to run the

business but also continue Wells’ reputation in the community with volunteerism and serving the community.”

A graduate of the University of Maryland University College and a recipient of several awards and honors including the 2010 Greater Baltimore Committee and the Baltimore Urban League Whitney M. Young Award, the 61-year-old Bertamini played a major role in bringing The Kinsey Collection to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum downtown.

Still, it’s his team at Wells Fargo that evokes much emotion.

“The team is a family and you always want better for your children than for you, and that’s how I viewed it for my team,” Bertamini said. “I hope Wells will remember me as a leader who cared about them.”



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Ravens WR Michael Campanaro's sights set on contributing role this season

By *Turron Davenport*

Local product Michael Campanaro has faced his share of injuries throughout his NFL career, which have kept him from having an impact as a receiver and return man for the Baltimore Ravens.

"It's been frustrating, but I'm out here playing every day now," Campanaro said after practice on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. "I just look at it as the past few years, they've prepared me for this moment I have now and this opportunity that I have. I'm just taking it one day at a time and looking for a big year."

Now entering his fourth season, Campanaro is healthy once again and has his sights set on a contributing role in Baltimore.

"It feels great – just overcoming another injury, [to] be out here every day practicing and competing, competing well— feels great," Campanaro said. "I love being out there every day playing."

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh has always been a big advocate for scrappy players who will do anything to have an impact. He has a fondness for guys that are simply football players. It's one of the reasons he likes Campanaro so much.

"Michael has done a good job. You guys have seen it; he has looked good out there. And of course, he stayed healthy," Harbaugh said at his Tuesday press conference. "We will knock on



Ravens wide receiver Michael Campanaro runs with the ball during a return at M&T Bank Stadium in December 2016 in the game against the Philadelphia Eagles.
Courtesy Photo/NFL.com

wood, and fully expect him to continue to have a really good camp. He is in a fight. He is in a fight with some other good players at wide receiver, and we like that as coaches. We like to see our guys in competition and see who rises to the top."

Campanaro has shown flashes of the playmaking ability that led to him being the all-time receptions leader at Wake Forest. He is a dangerous receiver, especially in the slot.

His 2016 season ended abruptly when he was placed on injured reserve in October. The Ravens plan to get Campanaro more involved in the offense this season.

"Last year, coming back was great, getting in the mix, trying to bring a spark to the offense," Campanaro explained. "This year, I'm just out there more in three-wide receiver sets. I think

I have a lot to offer when it comes to that— and just being out there on offense, making plays in the passing game and running game, everything. [I'm] hoping I can bring a different dynamic to our offense."

One of the other ways that Campanaro can cement a contributing role is on special teams. It goes back to the willingness to do anything for a roster spot that Harbaugh admires in Campanaro. Harbaugh is a stickler for ball security. Fumbling the football or muffing a punt is an easy way for a player to find himself in Harbaugh's bad books.

As a punt returner, Campanaro is a player that can be trusted to secure the football. He'll get his chance to further drive that point home during the preseason.

"I think coach Jerry [Rosburg, special teams coordinator/associate head coach] knows he can trust me back there— just fielding the ball and making plays. I definitely think we have a lot of returners on the roster, so I think he wants to see them get some live game reps," Campanaro said. "I'll definitely get my fair share in the upcoming weeks of these preseason games. I just want to be good back there, being sound back there, making the right decisions and reading the returns, and make a big play."

The Lewis Museum Steps into the National Debate on Race Debuts Talks & Thoughts a public forum to take Baltimore's temperature on Charlottesville and the removal of Confederate statues in the city.

**Reginald F. Lewis Museum
830 E. Pratt Street in Baltimore
Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 2 p.m.**

A panel presentation and community discussion about the impact and meaning of the violence in Charlottesville; the rise of white supremacy and white nationalism; and what the removal of our four Confederate statues means for Baltimore.

Dr. Karsonya (Kaye) Wise Whitehead of Loyola University will moderate a conversation between our three "talkers" and the community around this topic.

This is a free event. RSVP: www.lewismuseum.org



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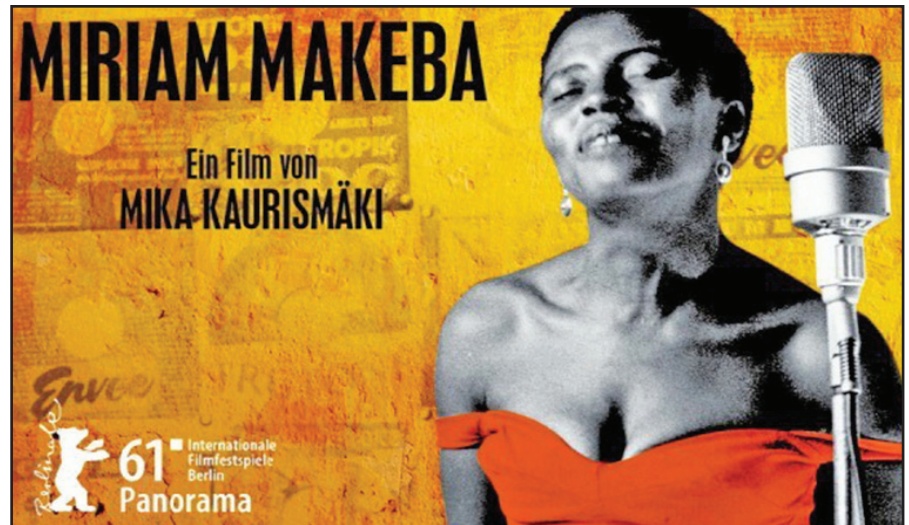
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11th Annual African Diaspora International Film Festival



The award-winning documentary *Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba* by Mika Kaurismäki about the world-famous South African singer Miriam Makeba and her legacy will be screened during this year's festival Courtesy Photo/ADIFF

Washington— The Washington DC African Diaspora International Film Festival (ADIFF) will celebrate its 11th Anniversary from August 18 to 20, 2017 at the George Washington University (GWU) in the Marvin Center located at 800 21st Street NW in the District of Columbia. The weekend will feature fourteen films, including: 11 DC premieres taking audiences in and out of the United States.

The Opening Night film "*Not Black Enough*" by Tracey Anarella, is a sharp documentary about class warfare and the cross-tides that African-Americans must deal with within the black community. Opening Night start with a VIP catered reception at 7 p.m. followed by an 8 p.m. screening and a Q&A with director Tracey Anarella after the film.

Other highlights of the festival include: the D.C. premiere presentation of *Gurumbe: Afro-Andalusian Memories* by M. Angel Rosales, a revealing musical documentary that presents the hidden history of Africans in Spain in the 16th century and their contribution to Flamenco. Well documented with a great intellectual rigor, the film goes into areas of Spanish culture seldom covered in Spanish films.

By bringing back the award-winning documentary *Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba* by Mika Kaurismäki, ADIFF introduces a new generation of Americans to the world-famous South African singer Miriam Makeba and her legacy. Makeba (1932-2008) spent half a century

traveling the world spreading her political message fighting racism and poverty and promoting justice and peace. Through rare archive footage of her performances and through testimonies of her contemporaries and supporters, including: Harry Belafonte, Stokely Carmichael, Hugh Masekela, Paul Simon, Angélique Kidjo and many others, we discover Miriam Makeba's remarkable journey.

From its inception, ADIFF has always showcased great films that explore the black British experience. Films like *Pressure* by Horace Ove; *Burning an Illusion* by Menelik Shabaz; and *The Stuart Hall Project* by John Akomfrah are some of the most representative works by black British filmmakers. Now, ADIFF proudly introduces the next generation of black British filmmakers with the screening of *The Naked Poet* by Jason Barrett, a sharp, witty, sexy, deep and quite emotional exploration of the complexities of love presented from a black male's perspective in contemporary London.

The closing film of the festival *Independencia/Independence* is about the struggle of one of the last African countries to free itself from colonial rule. The film depicts Angola's struggle for liberation from Portugal (1961-1974) "from within" through the testimonies of Angolans from different social, regional and political circles.

For a complete list of films and for ticket information, visit: www.baltimore-times-online.com

Outward Bound, BGE, Recreation & Parks unveil state-of-the-art ropes course

Baltimore— Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School, Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) and Baltimore City Recreation and Parks announced the unveiling of a state-of-the-art ropes course supported through BGE's three-year \$105,000 commitment. The aerial challenge course in Leakin Park is the first of its kind in Baltimore City.

The challenge course is a unique, outdoor personal development activity that provides middle and high school students the opportunity to test themselves on low and high rope course challenges while developing skills to overcome personal challenges. BGE joins the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks as significant contributors to the course's expansion along with support for the Police Youth Challenge, a program that aims to change negative perceptions between youth and police in Baltimore.

"The expansion of our challenge course means that we'll be able to deliver even more character education programming to our community, with increased safety and quality of curriculum, said Ginger Mihalik, executive director at Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School. "With the help of BGE and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, we are now able to increase our impact, providing meaningful experiences to students throughout the city and region, including the youth and officers who visit us every week for the Police Youth Challenge.

"This rope course is an example of BGE's commitment to the Baltimore region, and we are honored to support the critical work that the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School does each and every day," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs and corporate relations for BGE. "Young people are our most precious resource and programs like this are critically important to their success."

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Morgan State and Towson renew Baltimore football rivalry



(Left to right) Tim Leonard, Towson Athletic Director; Rob Ambrose, Towson Head Coach; Fred T. Farrier, Morgan State Head Coach; and Ed Scott, Morgan State Athletic Director at a press conference held last month in Towson, Md.

Courtesy Photo/Morgan State University

Baltimore— Representatives from Towson University and Morgan State University announced the “Battle for Greater Baltimore,” a renewal of the sports rivalry between the Baltimore area’s only two local universities with a college football program at a joint press conference recently atop the Greene Turtle in Towson, Md.,

The competition for local bragging rights begins on Saturday, September 2, 2017, when the Bears take a short trip over to Johnny Unitas® Stadium to take on the Tigers.

“Both programs have a rich history of playing outstanding football and this rivalry is something that our students, fans, and alumni can look forward to each year,” said Edward Scott, director of intercollegiate athletics for Morgan. “Our goal is to create an event that is more than just a football game; we see this as an opportunity to rally the Greater Baltimore community.”

“We are excited to renew the rivalry

with Morgan State,” said Towson University Director of Athletics Tim Leonard. “The series is not only good for both Universities, but it is also very beneficial to the Greater Baltimore community. Both myself, and (Morgan State AD) Ed (Scott) are committed to playing this game as often as the schedule permits.”

The teams are scheduled to play the home-and-home series in 2017 and 2018. During the press conference, both athletic directors noted that they are working out the details of extending the series through 2020.

Saturday, September 2, will mark the 24th meeting in the series between both university football programs that began with a 34-7 Morgan State win on September 1, 1979, at Towson. The Tigers hold a 17-6 advantage in the all-time series and will be playing Morgan for the first time since 2011. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

The game will be broadcasted by WEAA, 88.9FM.

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Baltimorean Wins Film Competition at NAACP Convention

By Stacy M. Brown

A Baltimore resident is basking in the spotlight after winning the NAACP “ShortsTV” Champions for Justice Short Film Competition during the recently completed convention held in the city by the famed civil rights organization.

Mecca Amoni Michele Lewis, a Baltimore School for the Arts graduate and Erin Gaddis teamed to create “JustUS: Living with a Criminal Record,” won \$7,500 to produce an extended documentary that will air on ShortsTV.

“Winning the film competition was incredible,” said Lewis, who lives in West Baltimore.

“It felt surreal to be able to share my work with such a large audience of people. I was overwhelmed with gratitude when I found out that the audience appreciated our work and voted in our favor,” she said.

The six-minute film sheds light on the realities of re-entering society after incarceration.

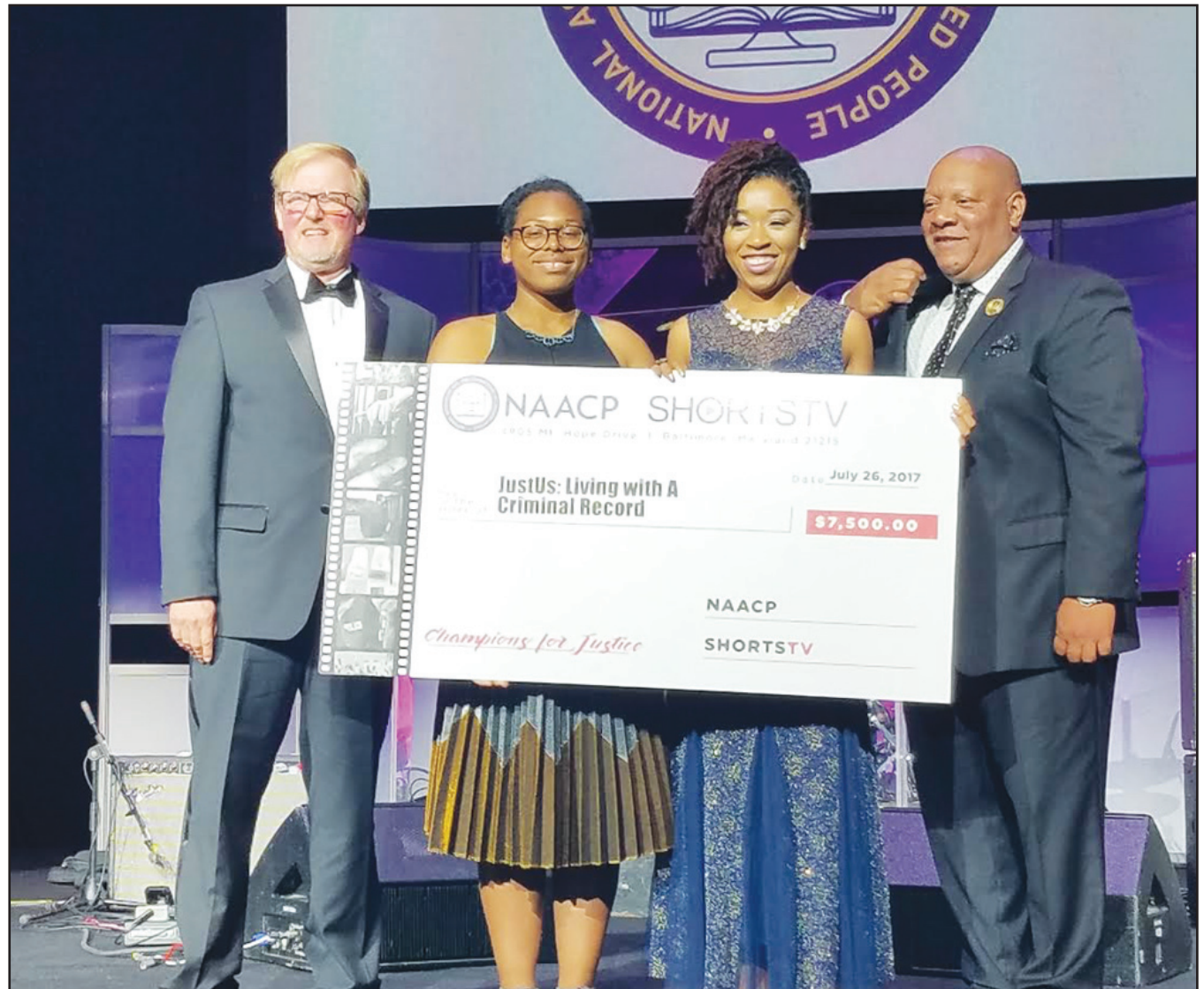
It features poet and yoga instructor Akewi Barnes who talks about poetry he’s written since being released from prison where he spent time from the age of 16 for attempted murder.

Kisha Webster, president of the Greenmount Community Association, also figures prominently in the film, speaking on the difficulties that faced ex-convicts coming home.

“I spent the past year primarily working in film and photography at the Baltimore School for the Arts during the day and after school participating in programs that facilitated youth participation in government,” Lewis said.

“The two began to inform the other and I made artwork inspired by social and political issues I learned about or spoke out against. This opportunity to participate in the film competition was right up my alley because it combined filmmaking and social justice all in one,” she said.

“JustUS” was one of three films that competed for the top prize of \$7,500 to create an “extended documentary” that will air on ShortsTV, which created the “Champions for Justice” program with the NAACP.



: Mecca Amoni Michele Lewis, a Baltimore School for the Arts graduate and Erin Gaddis teamed to create “JustUS: Living with a Criminal Record,” which won \$7,500 to produce an extended documentary that will air on ShortsTV. They are presented a check from NAACP and ShortsTV officials. Courtesy Photo

Each of the three films was created by a two-person team, with one each addressing the subjects of police violence – one of the filmmakers working on that topic was Shaqueal Wilson, also of Baltimore – the “school-to-prison pipeline” and living with a criminal record.

“We are so excited for the team of Erin Gaddis and Mecca Amoni Michele Lewis,” Carter Pilcher, CEO of ShortsTV, said in a statement.

“Short film is a great medium for telling stories and they are at their most powerful when they’re used to change hearts and minds. That was the objective

with our collaboration with the NAACP and this competition that we developed together,” Pilcher said.

Champions for Justice is now part of the NAACP’s ongoing Criminal Justice program, Scot X. Esdaile, the chair of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee, said in a statement.

Overall, six young filmmakers between the ages of 18 and 29 were selected to serve on three teams of two as part of the final competition. Filmmakers on the team addressing police violence were Wilson of Baltimore and Emmanuel Barrington Pickens of Saginaw, Michigan.

Filmmakers on the team addressing the school-to-prison pipeline were Tykhari C. Christopher of Newport News, Virginia, and Michelle Cecilia Carter of Washington, D.C.

“Creating ‘JustUS: Living with a Criminal Record’ was an unforgettable experience. I had an opportunity to highlight a perspective about formerly incarcerated individuals that compares to the that of most mainstream media outlets, and I got to do it with people who were also passionate about redefining certain narratives,” Lewis said.

Girls on the Run Promotes Positive Youth Development

By Stacy M. Brown

Students are heading back to school and in many cases, parents will be seeking after-school activities that promote positive youth development and increase physical activity.

With over 200,000 girls participating nationwide each year, Girls on the Run is an after-school activity that officials said counts far more than a running program.

“At Girls on the Run, girls are encouraged to run, walk, hop, skip or jump across the finish line,” said Meg Taylor, the development and outreach manager for Girls on the Run. “There’s no right or wrong way for these girls to be active, it’s all about figuring out the way that works best for each individual.”

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. It is a physical activity based positive youth development program that is designed to enhance girls’ social, psychological and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences.

Established in 1996, the organization began with 13 girls in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Twenty-six girls joined the next year, then 75.

“What started with one school has grown to over 200 councils in all 50 states and the District of Columbia,” Taylor said.

Locally, Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake serves more than 1,900 girls each year at sites in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County.

Over the 10-week program, girls from grades three to eight develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds, according to Taylor.

The program culminates with girls’ being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K event, which will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2017 in Druid Hill Park in Baltimore City.



Locally, Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake serves more than 1,900 girls each year at sites in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County. Photo: Samantha Nourse

Registration for the Fall 2017 Girls on the Run season opens to a lottery registration beginning on September 6.

A recent study provides evidence that Girls on the Run has been highly effective at helping girls increase their physical activity while teaching critical life skills they can use at home, at school, and in their community.

Officials say 97 percent of girls have reported that participating in Girls on the Run has helped them learn to manage

emotions, resolve conflicts, make intentional decisions, or help others.

“Through our intentional curriculum, which is delivered by trained volunteer coaches, girls will participate in a variety of activities and scenarios that prepare them for real-life situations,” Taylor said.

“Girls will practice being intentional in their responses to these scenarios, so they are not responding out of raw emotion, but instead with thought-out re-

sponses,” she said. “Girls also learn that it is okay to feel hurt or upset, but that it is important to learn how to express those feelings in a constructive way.”

The response locally has been incredibly positive, Taylor said.

The Greater Chesapeake chapter began in 2005 serving 20 girls in Anne Arundel County.

Recently, the organization expanded into Baltimore and serves over 1,900 girls across more than 70 schools in the region.

“One parent remarked that through the program her daughter ‘has learned that she is important and loved just the way she is. She has also learned positive ways to interact with peers and how to handle difficult situations,’” Taylor said.

The program uses running and other physical activities as a platform for teaching life skills and promoting holistic health outcomes for girls and it’s intentional curriculum is taught by trained coaches which officials said explains the improvements in social, psychological, and physical behaviors as well as learning of critical life skills that benefit girls in their everyday lives.

“Girls in these age brackets are constantly navigating new and often uncomfortable territory at school, with friends, and at home,” Taylor said. “Girls on the Run equips them with skills and tactics to put in their toolboxes for use as they grow up.”

There is such a critical need for programming that enhances girls’ social, psychological and physical skills and behaviors to successfully navigate life experiences, Taylor said.

“Studies show that girls’ self-confidence begins to drop by age nine and 50 percent of girls ages 10 to 13 experience bullying such as name calling and exclusion at a time when peer relationships become more central to girls’ lives,” she said, adding that physical activity levels decline starting at age 10 and continues to decrease throughout adolescence.

For more information and how to register, visit: www.gotrchesapeake.org.

Viewing the solar eclipse requires safety measures

By Stacy M. Brown

With good weather, the sun is visible anywhere which means Baltimore residents should get a decent glimpse of the Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017.

“Some schools, libraries and other places may have special events or eclipse viewing parties where safe viewing equipment will be provided and knowledgeable people will be available to explain what you are seeing,” said Dr. Deborah Levine, a professor of Astronomy at Anne Arundel Community College.

The professor stressed that as long as an individual knows how to safely view the event, they can see it from any place where the sun might be visible on Tuesday, August 21, 2017.

In Baltimore, the partial eclipse will begin at 1:18 p.m., and will reach its maximum at 2:48 p.m. It will end at 4:01 p.m.

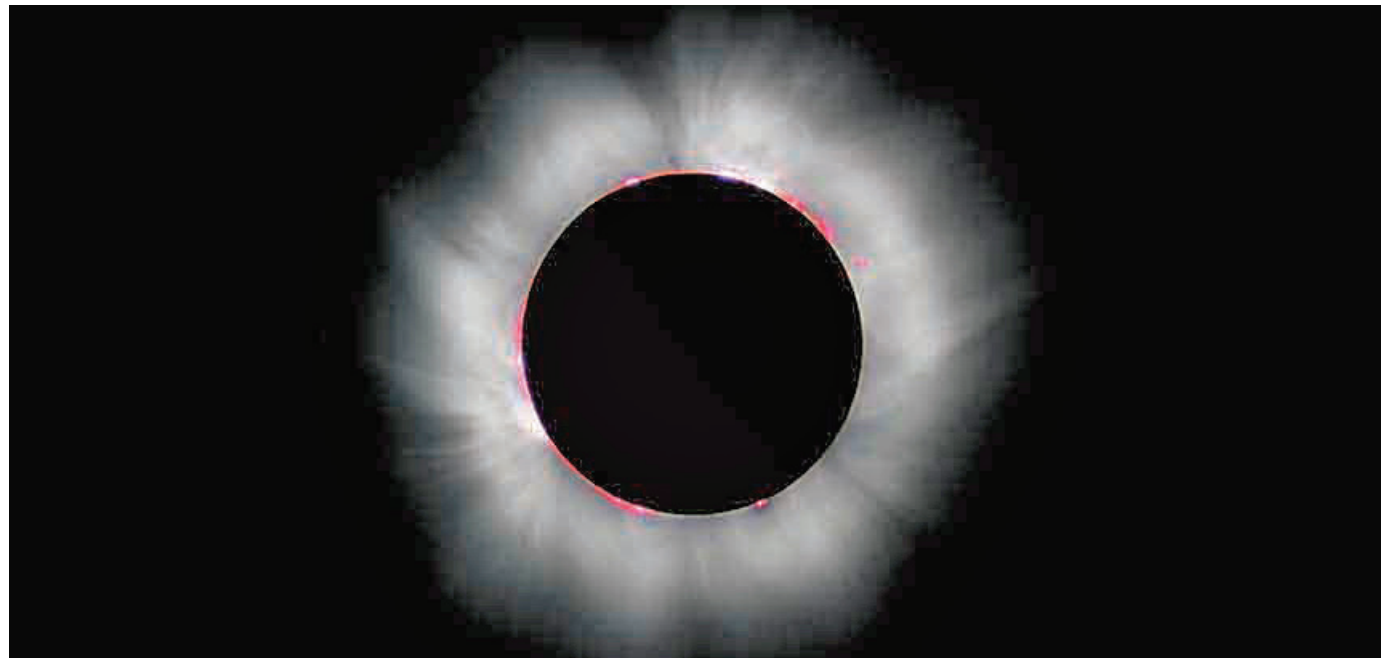
Levine says times will vary by location as the eclipse will begin at 1:19 p.m. in Annapolis, for example, while in Salem, Oregon, it'll start at around 9:05 a.m.

The Astronomy Club at Anne Arundel Community College plans an eclipse event at the campus observatory, but other locations could be found using the NASA Eclipse website:

www.eclipse2017.nasa.gov/event-locations.

“It's really critical that people understand they must protect their eyes,” Dr. Levine said. “You need eye protection or some kind of projection system to view the eclipse without risking your eyesight. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark, are not sufficient.”

“It is even more dangerous to look through binoculars, a camera or a telescope unless you know there is a safe filter in place. If you aren't sure, don't



Times of the eclipse will vary by location. In Baltimore, the partial eclipse begins at 1:18 p.m., and will reach its maximum at 2:48 p.m. ending at 4:01 p.m. In Annapolis, it begins at 1:19 p.m. While for Salem, Oregon it will start at around 9:05 a.m. For more detailed technical information about the eclipse or for information about how to view the event safely, visit NASA's Solar Eclipse website: www.eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety. Courtesy Photo/AACC

look directly at the sun. You can make a projection device by simply making a pin hole in a piece of cardboard and letting the sun fall through it onto the pavement... you will see the sun at first make a circular spot that will gradually become a crescent as the moon begins to block the light,” Dr. Levine pointed out.

Also, it is never safe to look directly at the sun without protection if any portion of it is visible, even during a partial solar eclipse, according to Dr. Levine.

The solar eclipse means that earth's moon has drawn very nearly exactly in between the sun and the earth so that it blocks the light from the sun for some locations on earth, she said.

Because the shadow of the moon is much smaller than the surface of the earth, the light from the sun is com-

pletely blocked only for a small number of locations.

“Baltimore is too far east and north to experience complete blockage of the light from the sun, but near the center of Baltimore, you will see 79.3 percent of the sun's surface obscured by the moon, which will be a very noticeable event called a partial solar eclipse,” Levine said, noting that NASA has an interactive map that shows the path the shadow will take across the United States.

This event seems important to many because it's not something that most people get to observe in their lifetime.

Total solar eclipses happen somewhere on earth every couple of years on average— most recently in November 2012, March 2015 and March 2016.

“And, if you are in a location where the

eclipse is near its maximum, the sun's light can be completely blocked for two to three minutes in the middle of the day. It gets dark, the air cools, winds may rise,” Levine said. “I had the opportunity to observe a significant partial eclipse when I was an undergraduate in college. I remember that there was a rooster nearby and the bird got pretty upset, not knowing if he should crow, or not crow.”

The rooster did not know it was just the moon and earth obeying the laws of gravity and following the well-established pattern of their orbits, Levine added.

For more detailed technical information about the eclipse or for information about how to view the event safely, visit NASA's Solar Eclipse website: www.eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety.

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Renovated Western District Police Station helps community and police find common ground

By Timothy Cox

When the Western District Police Station re-opened its doors on July 12, 2017, the newly renovated precinct located at 1034 North Mount Street in Baltimore now represents a renewed and fresh outlook for police and the community, in more ways than one.

In addition to the obvious upgrades the \$4.5 million project provided to the nearly 60-year old brick and mortar facility, the improvements also resulted in finding common ground between law enforcement and its community element. While the national spotlight shined on Baltimore during the spring of 2015, during the controversial death of Baltimore resident Freddy Gray, in addition to several Baltimore officers being charged in connection with Gray's unfortunate death—the Western District Police Station became the focus of community anger, protests and civil uprising.

According to Baltimore police officials, the old Western District station represented an “unwelcoming fortress with towering pillars and locked doors.” The removal of these real and symbolic barriers allows a vibrant, energetic space to emerge and the transformation of the former building enables conversations between all parties, police and the community.

Finding common ground in the scope of this project was “key to its potential success,” according to Scott Plank, founder, War Horse Cities CDC, the primary developer and financial overseer of the project.

“Our reflection and deep conversations with stakeholders made it clear that the project needed assets to attract and retain great police officers and provide gathering spaces to bridge deep divides and increase interaction between law enforcement and the Western District community,” said Plank.

“The Western District has long represented the hopes and challenges of our

city,” said Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis. “The police district station now reflects our community and organizational values, and its new appearance and modern amenities will attract residents and police alike as we strive for a new day—one made possible by our business and community partners.” Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh mirrored Commissioner Davis' remarks.

“The Western District Police Station renovation is a prime example how real change can be made through strong public-private partnerships. Tackling violence in Baltimore requires unique strategies and collaboration between the state, city and our business leaders,” said Mayor Pugh. “We need everyone engaged in this fight with us—neighborhoods, the police department, the faith-based community, city agencies,

and everyday citizens. This project will make a real difference in the lives

of those on the front lines fighting for the future of our city.”

As part of the Baltimore Police Collaborative Public Safety Project, the Western District Police Station draws on Plank's experience in urban planning, and workplace and hospitality space programming to bring the latest in customer-centric design to Baltimore City public service facilities.

While utilizing Plank's retail and hospitality industry experience, the updated \$4.5 million station is organized around the guest experiences of three “customers;” (1) visitors to the station, (2) police officers and administrators, and (3) those who are in custody. Using the six pillars of President Barack Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing as a guide, the Baltimore Police Collaborative Public Safety Project reinvented the Western District Station as a beacon of trust and safety that reflects a culture of respect, understanding and transparency.

"In recognizing the humanity in our fellow beings we pay ourselves the highest tribute."
-Thurgood Marshall



Newly renovated Western District Police Station
Photo: Dennis Roberts

Amenities for the Community:

Community collaboration room with kitchenette offers space to engage citizens to address neighborhood issues and host citizen-police programming; 24-hour lobby with public restrooms. Guests previously had to use detainee bathrooms when visiting the station; Reflection garden with handicap accessibility; Outdoor seating, free public Wi-Fi access and mobile phone charging station; Public parking spaces; Public water bottle refilling station; Equal multi-gender facilities for those in custody; Outdoor awning provides protection from the weather for those arriving at booking.

Amenities for the Police:

Collaborative workspace for law enforcement agencies; Updated and secure technology; Expanded fitness training and holistic wellness space. FX Wellness will provide personal fitness trainers; Equal multi-gender shower, locker and storage facilities; Reorganized administrative space and social corridor; Comfortable and secure sleeping quarters for officers when needed; Better visibility and increased safety measures in lobby; Virtual reality training equipment in fitness area;



Photo: Dennis Roberts



Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis and Major Sheree Briscoe, Baltimore Police Department Western District. Photo: Eric Stocklin/Courtesy BPD Western District Precinct

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BCCC introduces cost-free textbook classes for fall 2017 semester

Baltimore— Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) students can now reduce their textbook costs to near zero with the introduction of Open Educational Resources (OER) courses. OER is part of a state and nationwide effort to reduce college costs for students, by employing cost-free resources such as e-textbooks, videos, lessons and assessments.

This fall, BCCC students will be able to enroll in no-textbook courses in psychology, biology and in BCCC's student success seminar.

"OER is a huge initiative in higher education today," said Professor Diana Zilberman, Ph.D., director of the Center of Excellence in E-Learning and Teaching Innovation at BCCC. "BCCC is in the forefront of a national movement for making college more affordable for students. OER is a very important step in advancing student learning."

With the average textbook cost of \$150 per course, students enrolled in OER courses can save hundreds of dollars and use these savings on tuition and other educational costs. Faculty also benefits because OER materials can be freely used and reused at no cost and without needing to ask permission from publishers.

"Providing cost-effective, high-quality courses that lead to jobs for our students is critical to BCCC's mission. Open Educational Resources are yet another example of how BCCC is pioneering innovative learning strategies," said BCCC President/CEO Dr. Gordon F. May.

Another benefit of OER classes is that course materials are ready on the first day of class so students can start learning right away.

BCCC has launched a campaign to educate all its constituents about OER courses, which will receive the designation of Z-courses (z for zero-cost). Students enrolled in Z-courses know that they will not be required to purchase expensive textbooks.



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New film about Ferguson unrest opens in Baltimore

By Stacy M. Brown

A new film, which tackles the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri after the shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown from two emerging directors opens Friday, August 18, 2017.

The Magnolia Pictures release, “Whose Streets,” counts as the works of Sabaah Folayan and Damon Davis and takes viewers on an unflinching journey into the Ferguson uprising.

The incendiary documentary captures the unrest after police gunned down Brown, marking the breaking point for residents in the greater St. Louis area.

“I really wanted the perspective of my community to [be] represented and it was something I didn’t see coming from the major media outlets, so I set out to provide that perspective, and I found a partner to [help me] do so,” said Davis, one of the directors who hails from the Missouri community where Brown died.

The film, which opens at the Charles Theater in Baltimore on Friday, August 18, relives the grief of Ferguson residents and African-Americans throughout the nation. It highlights the long-standing racial tensions and renewed anger that saw residents come together to hold a vigil and protest the latest tragedy involving unarmed Blacks and law enforcement.

“As the national guard descend[ed] on Ferguson with military grade weaponry, these young community members became the torchbearers of a new resistance built on radical love,” Davis said.

Davis and Folyan lived the story while making “Whose Streets,” a power battle cry from a generation fighting, not for their civil rights, but for the right to live.

“This film is important because it is told for the prospective of the people, by people that lived the experience,” Davis said. “I think that is a feat in the film world because rarely do people with these experiences have the resources to tell their own stories. I hope everyone makes plans to see it because it is essential to understand the full story of the Ferguson Rebellion.”

Broken into six chapters, with an



The film “Whose Streets,” tackles the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri after the shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black youth, opens on Friday, August 18, 2017 at the Charles Theater in Baltimore. (Above) Damon Davis and Sabaah Folyan are the directors of the Magnolia Pictures release. Courtesy Photo/Magnolia Pictures

episodic structure, one reviewer said the film is posed as a rebuke to anybody who might question what was done after the cameras left town, to those who wonder what the residents of impoverished communities are doing to improve their circumstances.

Black organizers around the city continued their work long after Ferguson faded from the national dialogue, and some of the film’s most

wrenching moments concerns the individual toll it takes to rail against a society that seems to hold some of its most struggling citizens in such low regard.

Folyan and Davis capture many

instances with a bracing intimacy, posing the protest as necessary instead of reactionary, a gesture of anguish from people who simply want to live, a reviewer noted.

“The film came about from about two and a half years of hard work. I defi-

“Black organizers around the city continued their work long after Ferguson faded from the national dialogue, and some of the film’s most wrenching moments concerns the individual toll it takes to rail against a society that seems to hold some of its most vulnerable citizens in such low regard.”

nately think we stayed true to our vision and achieved what we set out to do—create a portrait of black life under occupation,” Davis said. “We wrote a love letter to black people, showing the com-

plexities of life while trying to survive and thrive in a country that never intended for you to do either.”

The film’s importance can be noted because it’s told from the perspective of those who experienced Ferguson’s unrest, and its aftermath.

“I think that is a feat in the film world because rarely do people with these experiences have the resources to tell their own

stories,” Davis said. “I hope everyone makes plans to see it because it is essential to understand the full story of the Ferguson Rebellion.”

For show times, visit: thecharles.com.

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**CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND
CONSTRUCTION**

NOTICE OF LETTING

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **Sanitary Contract No. 967-Urgent Needs: Improvements to Baltimore City Sanitary Sewers in Various Locations-Part A** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, August 18, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **B02552-Sewer Construction or G90099-Cured-in-Place Pipe Lining**

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$4,000,000.01 to \$5,000,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted in the **300 Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room on August 25, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.** Principal Item of work include, but are not limited to:

- Sewer cleaning and closed circuit television (CCTV) Inspection
- Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining of sanitary sewers
- Excavate and replace segments of sanitary sewer via point repairs
- Manhole locating, repair and rehabilitation work
- Sewer house connection (SHC) repair and rehabilitation work

Legal Notice

•New manhole and cleanout installation work

The MBE goal is **13%**
The WBE goal is **4%**

SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 967

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor

Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.

Director of Public Works

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL
SERVICES
NOTICE OF LETTING**

Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate, addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **GS 16826 – Western District Police Dept. Partial Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, September 27, 2017**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. The bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.

The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **Friday, August 18, 2017** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$100.00**.

Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.

All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be pre-qualified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a Joint Venture ("JV"), then in that event, the documents that establish the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004 – Rehabilitation of Structures.**

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$500,000.00**

A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at **The Site: 1034 N. Mount**

Legal Notice

Street, Baltimore MD 21217 on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. Thermal and Moisture Proofing
2. HVAC

The MBE goal is **35%**

The WBE goal is **10%**

CONTRACT NO. GS 16826

APPROVED:

Bernice H. Taylor

Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:

Steve Sharkey

Director, Department of General Services

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The Baltimore Times,
contact the Legals Department
Phone: 410-366-3900 email:
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This nonprofit organization trains volunteers to tutor low-income children and adults with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences. Volunteers should have a high school diploma, good language skills, patience, a willingness to understand persons with language disabilities and the desire to help someone who wants to learn to read. Volunteer tutors are trained through a twenty-hour course in the Orton-Gillingham method of teaching reading, spelling and writing, are subject to a criminal background check and must commit to 60 hours of tutoring. For more information, call: 410-889-5487 or visit: www.dyslexiatutoringprogram.org

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