

# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## *Compton Students Get Cinema Experience at 'A Wrinkle in Time' Screening*



*Compton native and renowned film director Ava DuVernay treated students from her hometown to #WrinkleInCompton, an advance screening of her upcoming Disney film, A Wrinkle in Time, coming to theaters March 9, 2018. Ava wanted give the students a real movie theater experience and asked Disney to help her host the first public screening at the Dollarhide Community Center, converting it to a pop-up theater. Before watching the movie, the children were greeted by Malia Mason, Miss Compton 2017 and were on hand for a Q&A session between Ava DuVernay and the Mayor of Compton, Aja Brown (pink dress). (See article on page 9)*

Courtesy Photo/ Credit: Jesse Grant/Getty Images for Disney

# Three major ways financial illiteracy is harming Americans

News & Experts— America is consumed with higher education— going to college and earning a degree as the necessary means to a well-paying job.

Yet with parents emphasizing the importance of academic excellence, and their children graduating and going on to successful employment, why do many still remain uneducated in fundamental financial matters?

Numerous statistics show financial illiteracy is a major problem in the United States, reflected in enormous personal debt, woefully small savings, and irresponsible spending. Despite being home to many millionaires and billionaires, the U.S. ranks only 14th in the world in financial literacy, according to Financial Literacy Around the World, a Standard and Poor's Rating Services Survey.

"A lack of knowledge or interest in financial matters comes from the family culture early on, and often as adults people have to teach themselves," says Alexander Joyce, a retirement planner and president and CEO of ReJoyce Financial LLC ([www.ReJoyceFinancial.com](http://www.ReJoyceFinancial.com)).

cial.com). "They're not teaching financial literacy in high school, certainly not even the basics, like how compound interest works.

"People need to self-educate and research. All the information is out there. Financial illiteracy is a widespread problem and its consequences reach far, from having no emergency funds to having little set aside for retirement."

Joyce comments on three areas where the costly effects of financial illiteracy are significantly felt:

•**Low Savings.** A 2017 survey of more than 8,000 people by GOBankingRates found that 57 percent had less than \$1,000 in their savings account. "There's an overall lack of education there as well from our schools," Joyce says. "But at home if you don't set examples for your children, I don't think it will ever change. At the end of the day, you've got to put a little aside and say to yourself, 'I'm not going to touch it.'"

•**Credit card debt.** In December, NerdWallet revealed in its Household Credit Card Debt Study that the average



American household owes \$15,654 in credit card debt. Forty-one percent in the study admitted to spending more than they should, which leads to paying more interest and lingering high debt. "It's a lack of discipline and not knowing the effect of interest rates," Joyce says. "Most people are well-educated enough to understand what living outside their means actually means. But many adults act like a child making a decision and not really thinking about the consequences until they actually happen. This is especially true with the younger generation. The way the world is progressing with technology makes it easier to buy, and I think people easily get

trapped in that."

•**College debt.** Five-figure college loan debts are common and continue to be a major drag on the economy. Joyce says parents of normal to low-income means might want to re-evaluate saddling their child and themselves with such a burden. But he also points the finger at colleges and employers. "The colleges are to blame as well, because they make it seem as though in order to get a good job, everybody must go to college," Joyce says. "There's nothing wrong with trade school. The cost of college is ridiculous. And I think employers can do a better job of having a benefits package that would absorb a lot of that college debt cost for a long-term valuable employee."

"People lack financial discipline," Joyce says. "They need to stop and think about their needs versus their wants, about their short-term and long-term goals."

*Alexander Joyce is CEO and president of ReJoyce Financial LLC ([www.ReJoyceFinancial.com](http://www.ReJoyceFinancial.com)), a full-service retirement income planning firm in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Giving our students the tools they need to thrive

By Dr. Michael Lomax, President and CEO, United Negro College Fund

For many college students, particularly those who are first in their families to attend college, the goal is simple: Do whatever it takes to earn the right to walk across that stage.

It's a glorious moment filled with tears and cheers as families and friends see a student's hard work and sacrifice pay off. No matter how many graduations you attend, witnessing this moment never gets old. But before students reach that moment, we have to make sure their degree is the ticket to the success they want it to be.

That journey begins with a rigorous K-12 education. Nearly half of all black children who begin kindergarten do not graduate from high school. Of those who enroll in college, only 40 percent finish within six years.

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF), continues to provide the resources necessary for students to get to and through college and we are also partnering with reform-minded organizations that understand how important it is for students to get the best education, before college, to enable them to succeed in college. Currently, we sponsor more than 15 professional development programs to help students gain a competitive edge in securing career opportunities beyond graduation and become high-performing professionals.

One of our premier programs is our annual Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., which offers a forum for equipping college students with the skill sets they will need to be successful as interns and early-career professionals. The program helps ensure that students of color know what opportunities are available and provides them with the skills and confidence to pursue those opportunities.

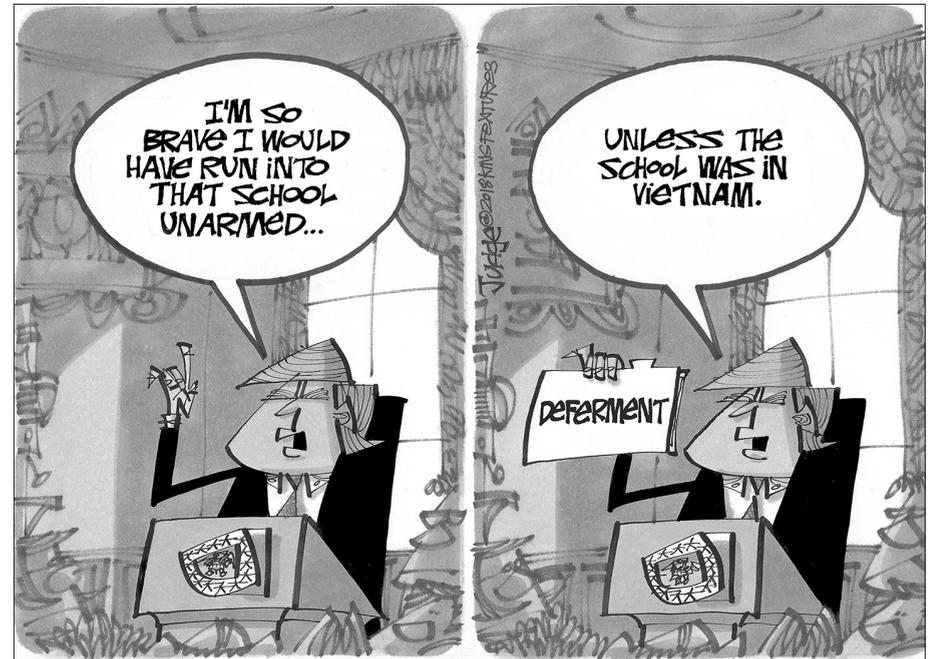
We are currently recruiting for the Walton-UNCF K-12 Education Fellowship Program (UNCF.org/Walton), which selects undergraduate juniors from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to participate in leadership development and a paid intern placement in innovative K-12 education reform enterprises. The components include: a paid summer internship, participation in the leadership conference, career coaching, alumni networking and mandatory participation in the Education Reform Case Competition to strengthen critical thinking, problem solving and team work skills. It's been named one of the top ten fellowships for summer 2018 by ProFellow.com, a source of information for professional and academic fellowships.

UNCF now has had nearly 200 undergraduates and alumni who have gained exposure into ways in which they can use their degrees to support K-12 education and how they can make their voices heard as advocates for all students. Some have gone directly into teaching. Others have gone to law school or graduate school. We are not just providing them with a fellowship, but an opportunity to grow and achieve success in the education reform field.

UNCF helps students to realize their full potential. We remind them: You are coming from a reputable university. Participating education reform organizations are not just giving you an opportunity, but they are also benefiting from your valuable education, talents, and experiences. You can learn to speak their language while bringing forward your authentic self.

Visit <https://www.uncf.org/pages/Applying-for-Scholarships-and-Grants> to learn more about the Walton-UNCF Fellowship and other internship opportunities.

*Dr. Michael Lomax is the president and CEO of UNCF, the nation's largest private provider of scholarships and other educational support to African American students. He is a leading advocate of college readiness—students' need for an education, from pre-school through high school, that prepares them for college success. You can follow Dr. Lomax on Twitter @DrMichaelLomax.*



## Community Affairs

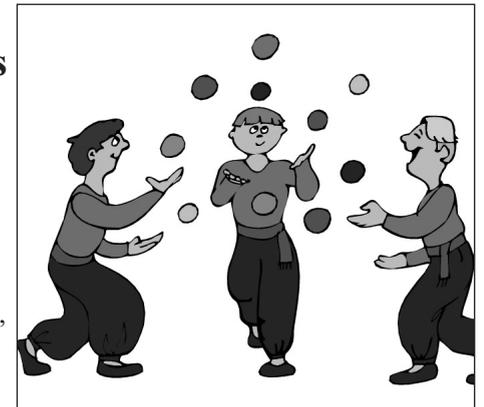
### Waterfront Partnership seeking street performers for 2018 season

*Applications are now being accepted online for participation in Waterfront Street Performer Program*

Baltimore— Baltimore locals and tourists have enjoyed live entertainment, from jugglers to magicians to musicians and more, as they've strolled and shopped along the Inner Harbor promenade for over 30 years. Continuing the tradition, the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore is currently seeking performers for the 2018 season of the Waterfront Street Performers Program, a program the organization took over management of in 2016.

Those selected to be a part of the street performer program, will provide daily activity and entertainment for passersby at the Harborplace Amphitheater, Constellation Pier and Bicentennial Plaza from May through November (weather permitting).

Those interested in performing as a regular of the program can apply now through April 25th online <http://balti->



[morewaterfront.com/events/street-performer-auditions/](http://morewaterfront.com/events/street-performer-auditions/). Auditions will then be held on an invitation-only basis on Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harborplace Amphitheater.

In addition, school groups, military bands and others who are interested in showcasing their talents through one-time performances at the Harborplace Amphitheater, may inquire online <https://waterfrontpartnershipbaltimore.salsalabs.org/musicperformanceapp2018/index.html>.

Waterfront Partnership is the proud steward of Baltimore's crown jewel, its Inner Harbor and Waterfront. For more information, visit: [www.waterfrontpartnership.org](http://www.waterfrontpartnership.org).

## *Gun safety is about freedom*

**By Derrick Johnson**  
**President and CEO, NAACP**

Fear at school was something the Little Rock Nine knew all too well. Facing vitriol, racism, and merciless violence, the Little Rock Nine were escorted, for their own safety, by federal troops to their high school classes. For those brave students selected to make the promises of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision a reality, fear and terror were a normal part of the school-day routine.

Decades later, fear and terror still exist in our children's classrooms. Due to the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the politicians that support them, meaningful discourse on the issue of gun control is nearly impossible, and in that silence, school shootings from Sandy Hook to Parkland keep the classroom a battleground, not a place of learning.

Some African American communities know all too well the potential danger associated with everyday activities, as gun violence spills into our communities from various angles. Yet, for the most

part, schools have remained safe places for our young people.

Given the disproportionate damage gun violence is having on our communities, the NAACP has advocated for sane, sensible laws, to help eliminate or at least to decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence. Requiring universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers, banning military-style, semi-automatic assault guns, enacting tough, new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers, and allowing the Center for Disease Control to research gun violence as a major public health issue are just a few of the reasonable steps lawmakers could take to stem the tide of gun related deaths in neighborhoods across the nation.

Unfortunately, years of ridiculously easy access to guns and ammunition has yielded an epidemic with deadly consequences for all Americans, but has been particularly fatal for communities of color who are disproportionately impacted. Gun violence is the number one killer of African Americans ages 15 to 34. Though African Americans make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, we represent nearly 50 percent of all gun homicide victims. Over 80 percent of gun deaths of African Americans are homicides. Roughly speaking, 1 out of every 3 African American males who die between the ages of 15 and 19 is killed by gun violence. African American children and teens were less than 15 percent of the total child population in 2008 and 2009, but accounted for 45 percent of all child- and teen-related gun deaths.

These numbers are tragic and intolerable, but most of all they are preventable.

Critics might call such policy interventions naively ambitious in our current

political climate. However, comprehensive, sustainable gun control is achievable. We know this because someone has done it— just look to Australia.

In the past 20 years, Australia has proven that sensible reform can prevail over partisan divides and high rates of gun ownership.

In the spring of 1996, Australia faced the deadliest mass shooting in its history when a 28-year-old man opened fire at a tourist resort in Tasmania, killing 35 and wounding 23 with a semi-automatic rifle. Following the massacre, the party in power—the center-right Liberal coalition— surprised the country and world by joining with groups across the political spectrum to implement a radical intervention on gun violence. Over the course of mere months, the Australian government bought and destroyed over half a million firearms, banned automatic and semiautomatic weapons, created a national firearms registry, and enforced a 28-day waiting period for gun purchases.

The results were both clear and staggering— there has not been a single mass shooting in Australia since 1996. Additionally, data shows that in the ten years following the Tasmanian massacre, gun-related homicides and suicides dropped by 59 percent and 65 percent, respectively. While there is still room for improvement, the immediate and directly correlative impact of Australia's gun control reform demonstrates the potential of policy to promote peace.

Australia's gun control intervention was not achieved without encountering significant opposition. Like America, Australia holds a near fetish-like obsession for rugged individualism, which caused many to resent the government's

action and to perceive it as an insult to gun owners and a breach of power. To be fair, a 28-day waiting period on gun purchases hardly fits the image of the reckless, rough-and-tumble Outback presented by media and movies. But, as President Obama praised in 2015, the Australian people ultimately united in favor of national safety and progress.

Australia's success story is an example for us all. America will remain a deadly nation for our children, its schools caught in the crossfire, unless we insist politicians and the NRA curb their lobbyist efforts and allow the creation of policy that acts in the best interests of public safety. The solution is simple. America needs sane and sensible gun safety laws. The NAACP has spoken out, delivering a loud and clear message, on the most urgent and impactful policies pending, and we will continue to push and monitor federal action on these proposals.

The disproportionate impact on communities of color does make gun control a civil rights issue, but gun violence is a national issue and should be a matter of national concern. It is also a matter of freedom. Without sane gun laws, parents are faced with the daily and ever-present fear of another shooting at their child's school that could have been prevented. All Americans deserve this freedom regardless of skin color, political affiliation, or zip code. This is one freedom that the NAACP is committed to fighting for.

*Derrick Johnson is the President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP). Follow him on Twitter: @Derrick-NAACP*

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# Grief camp helps area kids cope with loss of loved one

By Andrea Blackstone

The recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed by a gunman easily serves as a reminder that youth can be left to face the realities of grief after losing loved ones or friends for a multitude of reasons. It was once said that losing a grandparent from old age was commonly the first death a child experienced in life's narrative.

However in comparison to a time long ago, a portion of today's generation also loses parents, siblings and friends to drug overdoses, suicide, and other tragic events. In light of these modern challenges, children who have been affected by death can benefit from learning skills to cope with loss in healthy ways, without simply being told to 'get over it?'

Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care of Maryland Foundation has been hosting a free grief camp called Camp Kangaroo for the past four years. This year over the President's Day Holiday Weekend Jemicy's Upper School campus located in Owings Mills, Maryland was transformed into a safe haven for Baltimore area children between ages five to 18 who have lost a loved one within the past two years.

As cars sporadically pulled up outside of the school, Anna Smolensky dressed in a kangaroo costume, smiled and offered welcoming high fives to reserved campers. Most of them had little to say on a chilly Saturday morning. However, it was just a matter of time before they would embrace the idea of opening up in a supportive environment.

"Drop your stuff off in here. Hello. Good morning!" cheerful adults said, while directing several campers and parents to rooms and a registration table.

Campers eventually headed to a gym where kids could do what most love to do—play. Later in the morning, Anne Hansen, who has served as camp director of Camp Kangaroo for four years, provided a spirited welcome and overview of the rules and activities. She asked youth why they came to Camp Kangaroo, and what they have in common.

"The same thing we go through, [are] the same things adults go through," a



*Over the President's Day holiday weekend, Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation hosted Camp Kangaroo, a free day camp for grieving children at The Jemicy School in Owings Mills, Maryland. All campers have lost a special someone such as a grandmother, grandfather, parent, sibling, beloved aunt or uncle or friend. The camp's objective is to provide grieving children with healthy ways to help them to cope with their loss. Professionals and trained volunteers team up to offer psychotherapy, creative arts therapy and other fun camp activities to the camp participants.*

**Courtesy Photo/Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care**

brave, young girl replied.

After the ice was broken, the energy level in the room rose. Hansen introduced experienced professionals with cheers and applause who were on hand to provide grief education and emotional support, in addition to trained volunteers. Arts and crafts fun was in store, too. Green, red and blue teams walked to the other end of the school. One by one, they disappeared behind doors in different rooms where entry was limited and photography was prohibited.

Hansen, who was understandably protective of the campers, explained that some children return year after year, because they are still grieving an initial loss of a loved one or perhaps they have had another death in the family since the previous year's camp.

"So we have Camp Kangaroo today. It's a three-day grief camp for children, first through eighth grade. We have 25 kids here from throughout the community. It's sponsored by the Seasons Hospice Foundation, so it's free to every kid who comes, and not just kids who had

someone die on hospice, but that's kids throughout the community," Hansen said. "The goal of the camp is to normalize grieving for children."

Hansen says information is sent to schools, funeral homes, other hospice organizations, hospitals, and just everywhere where kids can be reached. She describes the camp as both exhausting and exhilarating. Hansen said she loves the honesty of the kids who express themselves and even make friendships. She spoke about a camp highlight where the children led by a music therapist have an opportunity to write a camp song over three days and about masks that are decorated by campers to demonstrate how they feel on the inside and how they portray themselves to the world.

In addition to participating in camp activities like arts and crafts, games, group activities with a counseling-based curriculum, the children are given a comfortable space to share their grief with the help of professionals and trained volunteers.

"As adults, we know that people die

and other people are grieving [and] experiencing this—so it's a universal thing. Children don't know that other kids are feeling these things too. And children don't have the same verbal processing skills that adults do, so they express themselves through art, and music and play. So all of our sessions focus on that—giving the children appropriate and healthy ways to channel those emotions and to learn how to cope with them," Hansen said.

On the second day of the camp the parents were invited to participate in a full day session designed to help them understand where their kids are developmentally in the grieving process and provides them with the tools to be able to help and support their children when they return home.

Camp Kangaroo is typically held over the President's Day Weekend. To learn more about the camp or to submit an online application, visit: [www.seasonsfoundation.org](http://www.seasonsfoundation.org) and look for the "What We Fund" section, then find "Camp Kangaroo" under Maryland.

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## **BGE’s Osprey Watch program protects raptors and electric reliability for customers**

Baltimore— As part of its commitment to maintaining reliable electricity delivery and responsible environmental stewardship, BGE welcomes ospreys back to Maryland and reminds customers about the company’s raptor protection initiative— Osprey Watch.

Customers are encouraged to report osprey nests located on BGE equipment by emailing the location and a photo to [OspreyWatch@bge.com](mailto:OspreyWatch@bge.com). BGE will remove the nest if no birds or eggs are present. If the nest is inhabited, BGE will either relocate the nest or place shielding on its equipment to protect the birds and mitigate the risk of an outage.

"So many of our customers and employees take great pride in our state being a seasonal destination for ospreys," said Alexander Núñez, BGE's senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs and member of the board of Audubon Maryland-DC. "Through Osprey Watch, community members have the ability to help protect the birds and also promote smart energy for customers."

Since 2016, BGE’s Osprey Watch has removed or shielded more than 40 nests from poles and other service equipment. In addition to protecting raptors, BGE’s Osprey Watch helps improve electric reliability. In 2017, BGE recorded the lowest number of total outages and lowest average duration of outages in company history. During the past 10 years, the number of electric outages has decreased by 49 percent and outage length has been reduced by 41 percent.

Last November, Exelon, BGE’s parent company, named Osprey Watch a grand prize winner during its annual Exelon Environmental Achievement Awards. BGE presented the \$10,000 prize to the Phoenix Wildlife Center in Phoenix, Maryland, to support its work in rehabilitating more than 1,500 wild animals every year.

# The black girl magic of “A Wrinkle in Time”

By Ronda Racha Penrice  
Urban News Service

“Black cinema” and “blockbuster” are suddenly becoming synonymous. “Black Panther” is already nearing a billion dollars in global box office receipts and Jordan Peele just became the first African-American to win an Oscar for best original screenplay for his surprise 2017 racially-tinged hit “Get Out;” and on March 9, Disney will release its highly anticipated film, “A Wrinkle in Time,” a \$100 million film with a black female director and young black female star.

Unlike “Black Panther” or “Get Out;” “Wrinkle” is a mainstream movie with an intentionally African American face. Madeleine L’Engle’s 1962 science fantasy novel of the same title, from which it is adapted, centers on a middle school-aged white girl, Meg Murray, who is battling with self-esteem issues. With the help of three celestial guides— Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit and Mrs. Who— she tries to find her missing scientist father, whom she mourns desperately, by traveling through other worlds with her brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin.

On the big screen, Meg is an African American girl, with Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling portraying the guides.

What viewers see on the screen is the result in large part to decisions made behind the camera. That begins with trailblazing director, Ava DuVernay.

Prior to being tapped to direct “Wrinkle,” whose \$100 million budget is the largest ever for a black female director in Hollywood, DuVernay was known for quiet films like “Middle of Nowhere,” which garnered her the Best Director Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festi-



*Storm Reid plays Meg Murray in “A Wrinkle in Time,” a \$100 million film with black female director Ava DuVernay in movie theatres on Friday, March 9, 2018. Also starring in the movie are: Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling as Meg’s celestial guides. Photo Credit: Atsushi Nishijima/Disney*

val, the first for an African-American woman. Before “Wrinkle,” “Selma” (2014) about the Voting Rights Act campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was DuVernay’s biggest budget feature film at just \$20 million.

However, DuVernay took the leap only because of the opportunity provided by a black Disney executive.

“It wasn’t a likely marriage but when you have a brother inside, Tendo Nagenda, who said ‘I can see this happening’ and he imagined what it could be before I imagined what it could be,” DuVernay said of Disney’s executive vice president of production during her acceptance speech for the African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA)

Innovator Award in February. “The thing I really remember is Tendo saying, ‘Ava, imagine the worlds you can build.’”

That conversation she said “started to get me to ask questions about what I wanted to assert in that story and the real core of it was: who gets to be the hero? Because, right now, we’re in this space where we’re on the cusp of “Black Panther” and all its gloriousness and we get to re-imagine who is at the center of the story. This story, our story, she’s not a superhero; she’s not royalty; she’s not a Disney princess. She’s just a girl with glasses in a plaid shirt who ends up saving herself and her family and the universe from darkness.”

The actress who plays that unlikely

hero, Storm Reid, was familiar with the story but admits to not being personally invested in it until now. “I read the book in sixth grade for a book report and I never saw myself being Meg, especially because she was written as a young Caucasian girl, so I just really never thought about it,” she said during an interview at a posh hotel in her native Atlanta last week. “But once I got the script, it all clicked and I thought it was just an amazing take on Meg.”

Even as young as she is, Reid, whose previous credits include “12 Years A Slave,” (2013), “American Girl: Lea to the Rescue” (2016) and “Sleight” (2017) has felt the sting of Hollywood limitations for actresses like her.

“There were fewer roles meant for me and fewer lead roles meant for me,” she said. That reality is why Reid especially cherishes her role as Meg.

“I feel like it was so important for me to play Meg because I’m basically representing little girls that look like me and I’m representing them in the right way because you don’t really get to see a little African American girl with glasses and curly hair save the world without superpowers,” she said.

Reid, who turns 15 in July, does see changes in Hollywood and hopes it will continue.

“I feel like we are breaking barriers, slowly but surely but, there needs to be more representation. I don’t feel like diversity should just be a thing right now. I feel like it should be a normal thing.”

As for the “black girl magic” tag that is now been extended to her but has long been attributed to “A Wrinkle in Time” director Ava DuVernay, Reid said, “I feel like people are just now recognizing our magic, but we’ve always been magic and it just recently became a hashtag.”

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# Compton Students Get Cinema Experience at 'A Wrinkle in Time' Screening

Compton, Calif.— Compton native and renowned film director Ava DuVernay hosted students from her hometown to #WrinkleInCompton, an advance screening of her upcoming Disney film “A Wrinkle in Time,” which comes to theaters nationwide Friday, March 9, 2018.

Since the City of Compton does not have movie-theater of its own, DuVernay with the help of Disney gave students from Compton a real movie theater experience on March 2, 2018.

The Dollarhide Community Center was turned into a makeshift movie theater where the students were treated to traditional movie theater refreshments. The chairs were in typical movie theater configuration and a special sound team were enlisted to make sure the sound quality would be the same as in theaters.

Before watching the movie, the children were greeted by Malia Mason, Miss Compton 2017 and were on hand for a Q&A session between Ava DuVernay and the Mayor of Compton, Aja Brown.

Mayor Brown first asked DuVernay about her motivation for making “A



(Left) Compton hometown girl Ava DuVernay with Compton Mayor Aja Brown. (Right) DuVernay takes a photo of the students attending the screening at the Dollarhide Community Center in Compton on March 2, 2018. Courtesy Photos

Wrinkle in Time” to which she responded, “I’ve never seen a black girl fly in a movie.” She elaborated by saying that she wanted black and brown kids to finally see themselves repre-

sented in a fantasy setting. When asked how she felt about being the first black woman to helm a 100 million dollar film, Ava responded by saying, “I’m the first black woman to do it but I know I

won’t be the last, one of you can do it too!” The kids erupted in cheers.

The children loved every minute of the film and went home with A Wrinkle in Time swag like back packs, balls and books!

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# Students give up spring break to help in recovery efforts in Puerto Rico

By Tatyana Hopkins  
NNPA Special Correspondent

The National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) will provide unprecedented coverage of Howard University Students historic efforts to aid residents of Puerto Rico devastated by last fall's Hurricane Maria.

When Oluwakanyinsola Adebola signed up to do community service as part of Howard University's Alternative Spring Break, she knew she wouldn't be joining her classmates and thousands of other college students who use their week off to party and play in the sun and surf of Jamaica or Aruba or any of a half dozen other Caribbean locations.

Instead, Adebola would be part of the hundreds of Howard students who, each year for more than 20 years, have given up their traditional spring breaks to serve in communities in need in places like Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Memphis and New Orleans.

Ironically, Adebola will travel to a Caribbean island after all. She will be in Puerto Rico aiding the millions of U.S. citizens still struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria, which hit the island on September 20.

The storm, which had 155 mph winds, caused at least \$90 billion in damage, destroying thousands of homes, killing at least 60 people and decimating the island's already deteriorating power grid. Currently, about 1,200 generators power some of homes, hospitals and schools while seven larger, more powerful energy centers, called microgrids, provide energy to key areas near important buildings like hospitals and schools.

Electricity, however remains a challenge. Recurring blackouts plague the island, and about 340,000 people, are still without power. The blackouts have upset traffic and interrupted water service to dozens of neighborhoods, including the historic Old San Juan in the nation's capital.



**Ivon Alcime, a graduate communications major, helps build a cement wall at the School of Good Samaritans as part of a previous Alternative Spring Break in Haiti after the country was struck by an earthquake that devastated much of the island. Photo by Justin D. Knight/Howard**

The Federal Emergency Management Administration has been providing relief and rescue efforts, providing meals and water to residents.

Adebola and 47 other students, accompanied by two faculty advisors, land in Puerto Rico Friday, March 9, 2018 and begin a week of work on Monday, March 12, 2018. The ASB participants will paint schools and fix homes and churches in and around San Juan, the island's capital.

Howard students will also visit and assist in the daily activities at two Boys and Girls clubs in Las Margaritas and Bayamón about 20 minutes outside of San Juan. Students and faculty will be staying about an hour west of San Juan at a campsite in Arecibo, six people to a room.

This year, no students applying for ASB knew where they would be placed when they signed up for the annual service missions. Applicants selected a service preference ranging from "children/orphanages" to "prison rehabilitation." The luck of the draw would determine at which of this year's 15 service sites they would be placed.

Adebola, an ASB first-timer, said when

she checked "recovery" on her application, she thought she would be going to Houston or Belle Glade, Fla., two U.S. cities that also were hit hard by hurricanes last fall. She said she never expected to be placed in Puerto Rico.

"I'm really excited," she said.

A native of Nigeria, Adebola moved to the United States to learn mechanical engineering to further technological advancement in her country, which she said lacks proper waste disposal systems, consistent electricity and access to clean drinking water in many parts of the country.

She said old medical equipment failed to save her 13-year-old sister's diminishing eyesight, leaving her completely blind.

Adebola, who created a nonprofit organization at 13 to help Nigerian children, said that the goals of ASB align perfectly with hers.

"The purpose of ASB is to help people, and it gives me something productive to do," she said.

More than 700 students will participate in ASB service missions to 14 other underserved areas and regions devastated by natural disaster this year,



**Ericka Laws, a junior biology major, tutors two 4th grade students in math in preparation for the upcoming state-wide standardized test during the 2013 Alternative Spring Break mission in New Orleans. Photo by Bree Gant/Howard University**

including St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Martin, Anguilla, Haiti and Ghana. Groups will also go to Chicago, New Orleans, Port Arthur and Beaumont in Texas, the Florida Keys and Flint, Mich. "We decided to go to places hit hardest by the hurricane," said Puerto Rico site coordinator Kyliah Hughes, 20.

According to Hughes, ASB planners wanted to "make a statement" about their commitment to service by visiting places further than the usual domestic sites.

Dijon Stokes, 20, a team leader for Puerto Rico, agreed.

"We have to help beyond borders," Stokes, said. "We go where we're needed, and we will visit those places devastated by the hurricane until we see real recovery."

To see the video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6c2qSfQpzM&feature=youtu.be>.

*Tatyana Hopkins of the Washington Informer will provide daily stories, photos, video and social media to NNPA newspapers of the students' efforts. She will also examine the continued struggles of millions of U.S. citizens to put their lives back together.*

***"Be of service. Whether you make yourself available to a friend or co-worker, or you make time every month to do volunteer work, there is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need." —Gillian Anderson***

# School of Rock “Plays” at The Hippodrome March 20 to March 25

*Former Living Color ‘Fly Girl’  
Deidre Lang among lead performers*

*By Ursula V. Battle*

Get ready to dance your way on down to the Hippodrome Theater for the smash Broadway and West End hit “School of Rock – The Musical.” The high-octane production “plays” at Baltimore’s Hippodrome Theatre as part of the 2017/2018 CareFirst® BlueCross BlueShield Hippodrome Broadway Series. School of Rock – The musical will electrify the Hippodrome stage March 20, 2018 to March 25, 2018.

“School of Rock – The Musical” is based on the smash hit 2003 film of the same, featuring music from the movie, as well as an original score by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The hilarious new musical follows “Dewey Finn”, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn some extra money by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school.

There, he turns a class of straight-A students into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. While teaching these pint-sized prodigies what it means to truly rock, Dewey falls for the school’s beautiful, but uptight headmistress.

Actress and dancer Deidre Lang portrays “Ms. Sheinkopf” in the production.

“Ms. Sheinkopf is the assistant to the principal,” said Lang. “She has a strong personality and is sassy. She feels she should be principal and not the assistant, because she has been around longer. She is hard on the kids, but is really a softy at heart and loves everyone at the school. I am really enjoying this role because I get to be funny and have fun at the same time.”

Lang’s theatrical and television credits also include: Broadway - Ragtime, The Lion King, and Tommy. National tours - The Lion King, Hairspray, Tommy, and Cats. International tours - Ragtime, and Smokey Joe’s Café. Regional - The Lion King, Rock of Ages, and Aida. She also was an original “Fly Girl” on the Fox hit “In Living Color”.

Lang talked about landing the role of “Ms. Sheinkopf”.



*Actress and dancer Deidre Lang is portraying “Ms. Sheinkopf” in the production. Courtesy Photos*

“I auditioned late June 2017,” recalled Lang. “Three days later, I was offered the role of Ms. Sheinkopf. When I auditioned, I didn’t know what part I would be considered for, but was ecstatic and excited about landing a lead role.”

She added, “I will never forget the day I found out I had landed the role. It was the Fourth of July, and I was outside screaming on my porch.”

When asked what it was like to be a “Fly Girl” on the television show In Living Color, Lang said: “It was so cool. At the time, it was a pilot. Then it was picked up, and we had to audition again. We didn’t know it was going to be the hit it turned out to be, but we knew we had stumbled onto something that was going to be groundbreaking.”

She added, “It was wonderful to work with so many talented people like the Wayans, Jim Carey, and David Allen Grier. The dancers practiced in one room, and we watched them. Everyone was so happy, and we had a great time.”

Lang said talks are in the works about a potential reunion show.

“The Fly Girls are trying to put something together too,” she added.

Lang resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband Keith Bennett, who is



*School of Rock – The Musical is based on the smash hit 2003 film, and opened on Broadway to rave reviews.*



*School of Rock – The Musical will open at the Hippodrome March 20, 2018, and will run through March 25, 2018.*

touring with Disney’s The Lion King. Bennett is a Baltimore native, and a 1981 graduate of Walbrook High School.

“School of Rock – The Musical” opened on Broadway to rave reviews on Sunday, December 6, 2015. The show was nominated for four 2016 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won the 2017 Oliver award for Outstanding Achievement in Music.

“I am very excited about coming to

Baltimore and performing in School of Rock – The Musical,” said Lang. “I encourage everyone to come out and see this show. It is a great story and has a great message.”

Tickets for School of Rock – The Musical can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com, BaltimoreHippodrome.com, by calling 800-982-ARTS, or at the Hippodrome Box Office located at 12 N Eutaw St., and Ticketmaster locations.

# Historic Belvoir Burial Ground found in Anne Arundel County

Annapolis— Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) archaeologists discovered a burial ground in late January in Anne Arundel County.

Within a forest surrounded by snarled cedar stumps; field stones, perhaps marking old graves, dotted the surface on a tract of land known as Belvoir, a plantation owned by relatives of Francis Scott Key, the writer of our National Anthem from the War of 1812.

A white marble headstone was discovered. Although the name and date on this stone were eroded away by time and elements, MDOT SHA archaeologists suspect that it may have belonged to a four-year-old African-American boy, Joseph Grocia, who was buried somewhere on the property in 1913.

The cemetery find was excavated by Anne Arundel County and MDOT SHA archaeologists, as part of a Transportation Enhancement Project. They did not know about the burial ground until now. The property is now owned and maintained by Rockbridge Academy in Crownsville.

Rodney Daff and James Brown Jr., who grew up on the Belvoir plantation in the 1970s, when the property was covered in strawberry fields, reached out to MDOT SHA Chief Archaeologist, Dr. Julie Schablitsky. Brown's dad shared the history of the plantation and the "slave cemetery."

"When we walked to the flat point of land, I became very excited about what I saw," said Dr. Schablitsky. "I could tell right away that this was a sacred place that had been lost to time, but we needed more evidence that it was used as a burial ground."

To help confirm the oral history of this space being used as a "slave cemetery," MDOT SHA enlisted the help of Heather Roche, with Bay Area Recovery Canines, who visited the site in late February to help determine if human remains were buried at the site. The dogs are trained to detect the scent of human decomposition, even after 200 years in the ground. All three of the canines indicated the presence of human remains.

"The topography and location, along with the pattern of field stones and indications by Roche's K9 team, are compelling pieces of evidence to indicate that this is, in fact, a long-forgotten cemetery related to residents of the Belvoir plantation," said Anne Arundel County Chief of Cultural Resources Jane Cox. "The discovery offers tremendous potential to learn about an under-represented part of our county's history."

Further study would still be needed to determine the date of the burials and whose relatives may rest there. Despite the cautious optimism by the archaeologists, the descendants of the African American community at Belvoir are excited about the potential.

"As descendants of enslaved families who lived on Belvoir Plantation we are thrilled to have this access and knowledge of our history in Crownsville, Maryland," said Wanda Watts. "Not many African Americans are connected to the heritage of their ancestors as we are."

MDOT SHA and Anne Arundel county



*The area thought to be a Historic Slave Cemetery is located on a former tobacco plantation. The cemetery find was excavated by Anne Arundel County and MDOT SHA archaeologists, as part of a Transportation Enhancement Project.*

Courtesy Photo/MDOT SHA



*The African American community, county and state have come together to recognize the lives of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Belvoir. (left to right) Jane Cox, chief, Cultural Resources Section, Anne Arundel County; descendants Shelley Evans, Pam Brogden, Nancy Daniels, Erica Jones, and Wanda Watts; Julie Schablitsky, MDOT SHA Chief Archaeologist; and local residents Kim Franklin and Rodney Daff.*

Courtesy Photo/MDOT SHA

archaeologists partnered in the discovery of historic sites along General's Highway, where Civil War sites, homes and Native American camps lay buried. Along this corridor, Rochambeau's troop of 5,000 soldiers camped at Belvoir on their way to the Battle of Yorktown,

which effectively ended the American Revolutionary War.

Additionally, Francis Scott Key spent time at the plantation with his grandmother, Anne Arnold Ross Key. The archaeological findings will help interpret the use and evolution of this trans

portation corridor. The team began work at Belvoir in April 2014 and is currently writing up their finds.

The African American community, county, and state have come together to recognize the lives of the enslaved people who lived and worked at Belvoir.

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## Baltimore County Public Library's Storyville Celebrating Tenth Anniversary



Baltimore County Public Library Rosedale Branch is marking the 10th anniversary of Storyville, the interactive early literacy and learning center with "If You Take a Kid to Storyville" birthday celebration on March 18, 2018. For tickets for the entire family, visit: [www.coolprogeny.com](http://www.coolprogeny.com). Photo Credit: Coyle Studios

Towson, MD— Storyville, the Baltimore County Public Library's interactive early literacy and learning center, marked its tenth year in the Rosedale Branch this month. The popular toddler haven is celebrating this milestone in perfect library fashion: with a literary-themed event and fundraiser, "If You Take a Kid to Storyville."

If You Take a Kid to Storyville is based on the popular children's book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, written by Laura Numeroff. The March 18 event, which is \$10 per attendee, will feature playtime in Storyville (children 0-5), face painting, crafts, entertainment, book characters and breakfast treats.

While Storyville is only open to children from birth to five-years-old; kids over five are welcome to attend the party and will have lots to do throughout the branch. Partners for this (cool) progeny playdate include Mama Bear Yoga, Baltimore Hooplove and Funny

Faces Face Paining with Shari K.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.coolprogeny.com](http://www.coolprogeny.com) and all proceeds benefit the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library.

Storyville at Rosedale opened on February 7, 2008— followed by its Woodlawn counterpart in 2010— in a 2,240 square foot addition to the branch. The \$700,000 project was funded through private donations and grants and is maintained by the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library.

The facility was designed and created to foster early literacy and school readiness skills. Scientific research has proven that success in school begins at birth and that the ages of birth to five are critical learning years. Storyville is a place where books and purposeful play come together to provide valuable experiences that nurture young children and support parents and caregivers in their role as their child's first and best teacher.

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# Rambling Rose

*Jazz Expressways Foundation  
host Jazz Breakfast*



*Rosa Pryor Trusty*

Hello my dear friends! I just want to let you know that I appreciate all of you. I was in the hospital for a minute to have a procedure to look for a tumor in my stomach, well they didn't find it there, so they have to continue to search. In the meantime, I am doing fine and ready to rock n' roll. I want to thank you for your prayers, because God's hands were all in this. He heard your prayers.

Now, let's talk about this organization, named "Jazz Expressways Foundation, Inc. Jazz Expressways is an organization that was started back in 1984 by Leonard Yorke, whose purpose was to keep jazz alive, volved inhelp children in music, along with sponsoring concerts and trips to jazz festivals. They were primarily functioning out of "The New Haven Lounge for almost 30 years for breakfast shows and jazz shows.

Over the years, the number of members decreased because of illness and death and the group leadership changed. The group has been held together by three people since then; Avon Mitchell, Cynthia Easley, and Howard Easley, who recently passed away suddenly and with Millie Battle, president of Left Bank Jazz Society as a strong supporter and an honorary member. Last year, Rosa "Rambling Rose" Pryor and her husband "Shorty" Trusty, who became members back in 1984, returned to the organization to help keep up its legacy and help the organization in its efforts to provide jazz to its many jazz lovers in Baltimore. They also wanted to extend a helping hand to underprivileged children who has the gift to play or sing jazz. This year, the organization has added new members including, Robert Burkett, Dr. Donna Hollie, Angie Cornish, Leroy White and Eric Dodson.

For the past several years, Jazz Expressways Foundation has hosted a jazz

breakfast every three months which features a live jazz group and a delicious buffet breakfast from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The breakfast is currently being held at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue, where there is street parking on the first level and a handicap entrance. The next event is Saturday, March 10, 2018 featuring Nevitta Ruddy and her band and on Saturday, June 9, Greg Hatza ORGANzation will be performing. Also the organization will be hosting a weekend trip to the Clifford Brown Jazz Festival in Wilmington, Delaware from Friday, June 22 thru Sunday, June 24 2018. Tickets are on sale now for the breakfast and jazz festival. For tickets to any event, call 410-833-9474 or pay on line thru their website: [www.jazzExpresswaysFoundation.org](http://www.jazzExpresswaysFoundation.org).

As always it is a pleasure talking with you and looking forward to seeing you somehow, somewhere. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at [rosapryor@aol.com](mailto:rosapryor@aol.com). UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.

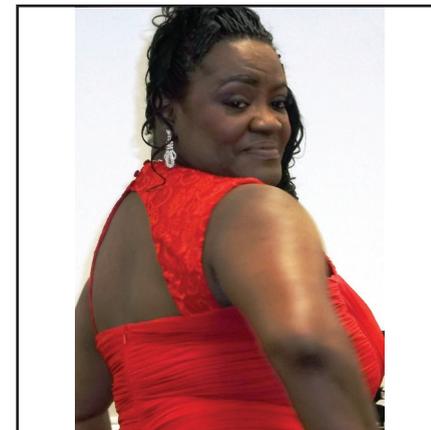
*The Honorable Emanuel J. Stanley, Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland and its Jurisdiction, Inc. really out did themselves hosting the Thurgood Marshall Black History Month Celebration at the Murphy fine Arts Center at Morgan State University last week. It was the headliner of all the Black History Month Events.*



*You are invited to the 116th Anniversary of Arch Social Club at the Ames Memorial Church, 615 Baker Street on Sunday, March 11; Service at 11 a.m.; Reception & dinner 3 p.m. at Arch Social Club, 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue. All are invited.*



*Jazz Expressways Foundation is hosting their Breakfast Show on Saturday, March 10 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Avenue. Full buffet breakfast, BYOB and free set-ups, book signings, vendors, and live entertainment featuring Nevitta Ruddy and her band. For ticket information, call Rosa Pryor at 410-833-9474.*



*"Mrs. Maybelle", Baltimore's renowned comedian is hosting her 11th Annual Full Figured Fashion Show on Sunday, March 18 from 2-6 p.m. at the Forum Caters, 4210 Primrose Avenue, cash bar and lite fare and much more. For more information, call 443-226-8895.*



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION  
AND PARKS

### 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 **RP 17808-Lakeland Recreation Center Window Replacements** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. 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, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of **March 9, 2018** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$50.00**.

#### 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 parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 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 **E13004 Rehabilitation of Structures**.

Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$100,000.01 to \$500,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at **2600 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21217 on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.**

Principal Items of work for this project are: **Aluminum Storefront Glazing**.

The MBE goal is **21%**  
The WBE goal is **6%**

**RP 17808**

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

## Legal Notice

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 14800R – Mitchell Court-house 3rd & 4th Floor Courtrooms** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on **Wednesday, April 18, 2018**. 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, March 9, 2018** 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 Boards and Commissions. Interested contractors should call 410 396-6883 or contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. **If a bid is**

## Legal Notice

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 Pre-qualification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004 – Rehabilitation of Structures**.

The Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000.00**. A "Pre-Bidding information" session will be conducted at The Site: 100 Calvert St, Baltimore MD 21202 on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 10:00 A.M.

Principal Items of work for this project are:

1. SELECTED INTERIOR DEMOLITION
2. INTERIOR FINISHES
3. MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING

The MBE goal is **37%**  
The WBE goal is **12%**

**CONTRACT NO. GS 14800R**

APPROVED:  
Bernice H. Taylor  
Clerk, Board of Estimates

APPROVED:  
Steve Sharkey  
Director, Department of General Services

## Spring is in the Air: Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March and receive 10 free trees

Nebraska City, NE— The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to celebrate the arrival of spring by planting trees.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2018 and receive 10 free white pine trees or 10 white flowering dogwood trees.

"White pine trees or white flowering dogwoods will add beauty to your home throughout the year," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Dogwoods are known for their showy spring flowers and red berries that attract songbirds during winter. White pine trees are fast-growing landscape trees that will break heavy winds, making them an ideal addition to any yard."

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between March 1 and May 31, 2018. The six to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation's bimonthly publication, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care. To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to **TEN FREE WHITE PINE or 10 FREE DOGWOOD TREES**, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31, 2018, or join online at [arborday.org/march](http://arborday.org/march).

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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director  
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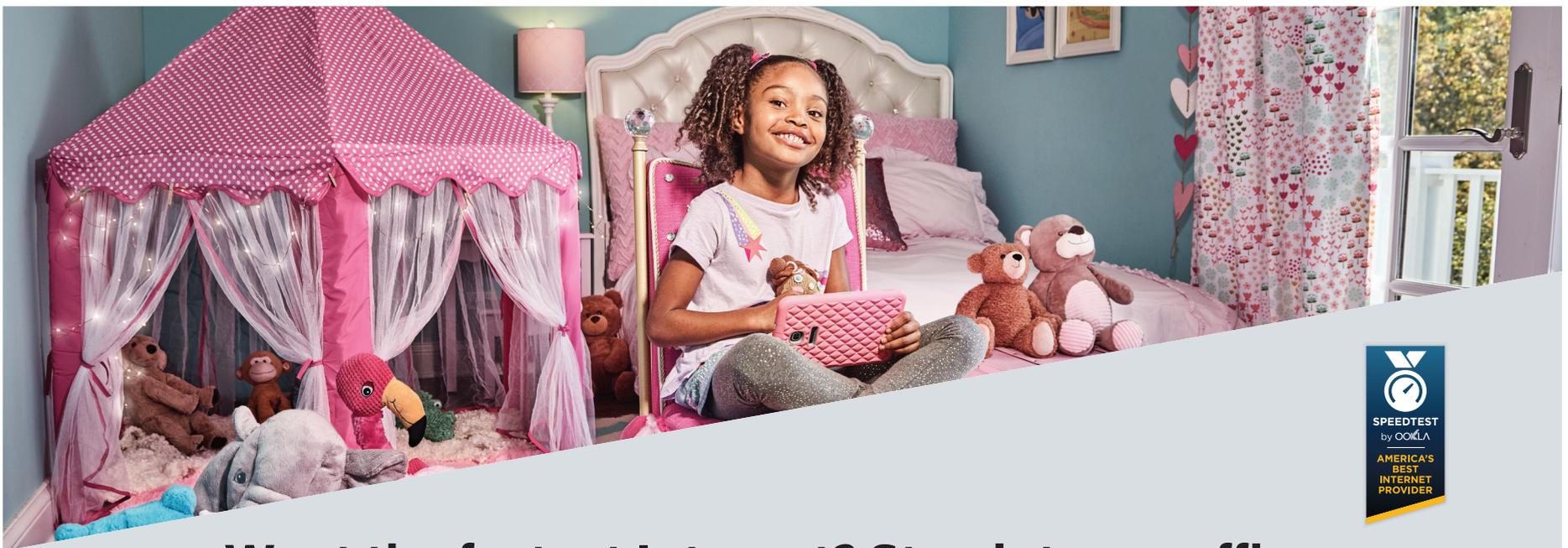
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