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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Defeat Trump and Change History



*President-elect Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump with a record number of votes on November 3, 2020. When President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris are sworn-in on January 20, 2021, the California senator will become the first Black/South Asian Vice President in U.S. history. Harris will also be the first woman vice president. (See article on page 6) Courtesy Photos: NNPA*

# Four local high schoolers facilitate student-led election day

By Demetrius Dillard

A group of senior students from the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (BLSYW) took it upon themselves to go above and beyond, to educate and support local voters this past Election Day.

The four young ladies— Cayla Moore, Eyanna Simmons, Jamira Collins and Jamia Rogers— were joined by staff volunteers at the voting site on the campus of Morgan State University to galvanize and greet community members as they headed to the polls.

Thanks to a grant from Party At The Mailbox, a Black Girls Vote Initiative sponsored by the National Conference on Citizenship, the students were able to develop a 10-minute nonpartisan video educating community members on everything needed to know regarding the voting process.

“Though this is a presidential election, it is also important to recognize that you are not just voting for a presidential candidate,” said Moore at the introductory portion of the video. “If you live in Maryland, you are also voting for representatives of the state.”

The nonpartisan video, entitled “Simplify The Vote,” informed viewers on different ways to vote, what polling locations voters could go to to cast their ballots (along with early voting



*Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women Class of 2021 students greet and help inform Baltimore City voters outside of the Morgan State University polling site on Election Day.*

Courtesy Photo/Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women

locations), and outlined each candidates’ political party. The video also underlined each ballot measure, referendum, question and issue.

At the polls, students distributed QR codes with a link to their Simply The Vote video for voters to view before making their selections. In addition, they offered snacks, water and chairs for elderly voters.

Moore, who serves as the senior valedictorian and holds a 4.22 GPA, originally had the idea of producing the Simply The Vote video. After reaching out for suggestions from her classmates,

all of whom hold GPAs of 4.0 or better, her idea materialized.

“Overall, my goal was just to help people make educated decisions when they were deciding on candidates,” said Moore, who plans to major in psychology after graduating from BLSYW.

There was a man and a woman who watched the video clip and thanked the students, Moore added, considering they weren’t well-informed of the local candidates running for office.

“We felt like, sometimes looking at the ballot is kind of confusing so we tried to make it simple,” Moore said, adding that she and her classmates got positive feedback. “A lot of people were happy that they were able to see a video that simplified things for them.”

Throughout the week leading up to November 3, the BLSYW students used social media platforms to notify the community about their Simplify The Vote project.

Paula Dofat, senior director of college and career success at BLSYW was at Morgan State to monitor the students as they engaged with the community on Election Day.

Dofat said she sees this project as recurring whenever a major election comes around, though the four seniors are leaving in 2021. She further said that The Simplify The Vote blueprint is something BLSYW may explore for future students to take part in.

“I hope the community knows and understands that our young people are more aware of what’s happening than they think, and it’s not just the things that they see on the news. They’re actually doing research,” Dofat said. “This project for me, it blew me away that this is how they (students) were thinking and that they’re trying to find ways to be a part of the process, to be a part of the things that’s happening in our world.”

## Fayette Street Outreach Community Food Give-A-Way

Baltimore—Fayette Street Outreach has teamed up with Kaiser Permanente; Care First; Grace Medical Center; LJW Waste; Delegate Keith E. Haynes; other organizations and volunteers to give out fresh produce and a “Thanksgiving Day Dinner” to the first 200 people on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 12 noon at 29 N. Smallwood Street in West Baltimore.

This will give people in the community an opportunity to have a traditional “Thanksgiving Day meal” prepared by Jay’s Catering. The West Baltimore neighborhood has many people out of work due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and our partners have given us a great opportunity to feed our community. PPE masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves will be distributed at the event to help slow down the spread of COVID-19.

One of the best cures for our anxiety and sometimes loneliness is through connection. Fayette Street Outreach always reaches out to families that are impacted in an effort to make a difference in their lives and others by sharing the “Thanksgiving Day” dinner experiences.



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# Guest Editorials/Letters

## ***America Declares to Trump: 'You're Fired'***

### **Black votes push Biden over the top in contentious election**

**By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent  
@StacyBrownMedia**

After days of post-Election Day counting, Democrat Joe Biden has defeated President Donald Trump to become the nation's 46th commander-in-chief.

With all eyes on Pennsylvania, Georgia, Nevada and Arizona, it was the Keystone State's 20 electoral college votes that put Biden over the top, and helped America send the message Trump had become known for years earlier during his "Apprentice" reality television show: "You're Fired!"

"Trump finds out Biden won while he's playing golf," Washington Informer Journalist Anthony Tilghman tweeted, as Trump played golf at his National Club in Sterling, Virginia.

Reportedly, it's the 410th day the President spent at one of his namesake properties since taking office.

"This election is about so much more than @JoeBiden or me. It's about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it," Senator Kamala Harris, the Vice President-Elect tweeted alongside a video. "We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started."

When Biden and Harris are sworn-in on January 20, 2021, the California Senator will become the first Black Vice President in U.S. history.

After what's expected to be the most contentious and violent post-election in American history, inauguration ceremonies will occur. Demonstrators had already gathered outside of vote counting centers around the nation, mainly as the country waited anxiously for results from Pennsylvania, Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada.

Chants of "Stop the Count! Stop the Count," turned to "Stop the Steal! Stop the Steal!" by pro-Trump supporters at state buildings. The President egged on the commotion, tweeting false claims about voter fraud and that the "Democrats are trying to steal the election."

With little question, Black voters pushed Biden over the top.

Biden trailed the President in Pennsylvania, but as the count included predominately Black Philadelphia and surrounding counties, Trump's lead disappeared, and the Democrat prevailed.

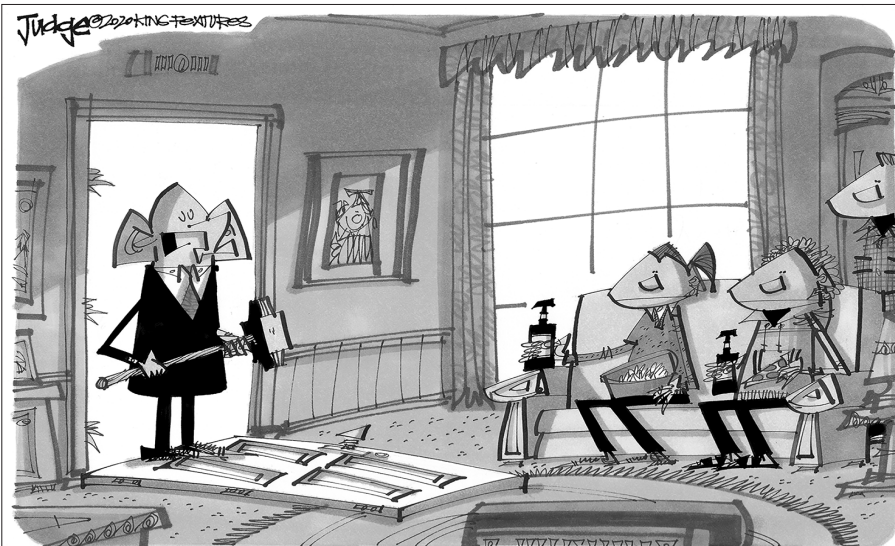
That scenario repeated itself in Georgia, where Atlanta and Fulton County also came through for the former vice president.

"At this historical moment, the voters have made it clear that they want a country that works for all people. They want a country that is not broken by racism and bigotry," NAACP President Derrick Johnson wrote in a statement. "They want leadership that can create opportunities for all Americans to succeed in all aspects of society, without fear of over-policing, discrimination, and destructive policies at our expense."

"This election transcends party and gives voice to the voters who want affordable health care, economic stability, quality education for their children, and wholesale relief from the pandemic and structural inequality. How we move forward from here and begin to repair our nation is critical."

***When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information. Please send your letter by regular mail to: Letters to the Editor***

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***"SO REMEMBER... ABORTION, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND SMOKING MARIJUANA SHOULD BE OUTLAWED, BUT WE OPPOSE FACE MASK MANDATES BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN PERSONAL FREEDOM."***

## ***Letters to the Editor:***

### **Editor:**

***Re: Our veterans deserve fulfilling careers, unmatched benefits, and retirement security***

After serving four years in the United States Army, I returned to Baltimore. I was ready to transition from military to civilian life and began exploring my options.

Upon being introduced to Helmets to Hardhats, a nonprofit program that connects transitioning service members to apprenticeship training programs in the building and construction trades, I felt that a career in the construction industry made sense.

More than 13 years later, and I know I chose the right career path. As a member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local 10, I have worked for smaller companies, as well as some of the biggest names in the industry— including Kone, Mitsubishi, and Otis.

In my early days as an apprentice, I earned wages and benefits as I worked my way through the training program.

Upon completion of the program, I was elated to graduate debt-free.

Now, as a husband and father of three boys, I am grateful for not only my wages, but also for the benefits and retirement security associated with the IUEC.

I sleep well at night knowing that my family is taken care of and that my union's pension is healthy.

This Veterans Day, I want my brothers and sisters in the Armed Forces to know that well-paying, fulfilling career opportunities exist in the organized elevator industry. It's a post-military career that, in fact, requires many of the skills and qualities found in a service member— from diligence and grit to being a team player and ensuring safety is always the top priority.

**James Lynch**

International Union of Elevator  
Constructors  
Local 10  
Lanham, MD

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## Why we shouldn't give up on bipartisanship, even now

By *Betsy de Parry*

In the wake of the 2020 election, many Americans are wondering whether bipartisanship is even possible anymore.

For the millions suffering from cancer and other debilitating diseases, I hope so. Because 18 years ago when I faced a deadly diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), bipartisanship laid the foundation that gave me my life back.

The treatment that saved me resulted from years of research that would have amounted to nothing without the law authored by two senators, Indiana Democrat Birch Bayh and Kansas Republican Bob Dole, in 1980.

Known as the Bayh-Dole Act, this law allows universities, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations to own the early-stage inventions they make in the course of their research using federal grants. These institutions can then license their intellectual property to

private firms, which have the resources and experience to turn promising ideas into widely available medicines.

Prior to Bayh-Dole, the government retained ownership of intellectual property rights, and only occasionally translated them into real-world products

inevitably return.

But chemotherapy didn't slow the progression of my disease. A few months into treatment—and in the nick of time—a new type of treatment for NHL hit the market:

radioimmunotherapy (RIT). Unlike

cell technology in the 1970s and 1980s.

This discovery may never have become a commercially viable cancer treatment had those researchers not left Stanford and formed Biotherapy Systems in 1985 to further develop and commercialize their B cell technology.

Finally, in 1997, the FDA approved their drug rituximab under the brand name Rituxan.

I'm far from the only patient who owes her life to the drug innovation ecosystem Bayh-Dole supports. Under this law, private companies have been able to bring patients hundreds of treatments—including the epilepsy drug Lyrica, the ovarian and breast cancer therapy Taxol, and the multiple sclerosis medication Tcelna.

Patients owe a debt of gratitude to senators Bayh and Dole, who recognized that empowering private drug companies to turn government-sponsored research into usable medicines and treatments is not a partisan issue. Their bill found its way through Congress at a divided moment, when Ronald Reagan had just won election but Jimmy Carter was still in office. Their willingness to work together in the service of public health and patients like me should inspire us today.

*Betsy de Parry is a patient advocate and the author of *Adventures in Cancer Land*.*

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***“Fortunately, Senators Bayh and Dole set partisanship aside to fix this logjam. Their landmark legislation has helped create a legal framework for private firms to pioneer more than 200 groundbreaking medical innovations—including the one that saved my life.”***

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for patient use. At the time the law passed, fewer than five percent of these government-owned inventions were licensed for commercial production.

Fortunately, Senators Bayh and Dole set partisanship aside to fix this logjam. Their landmark legislation has helped create a legal framework for private firms to pioneer more than 200 groundbreaking medical innovations—including the one that saved my life.

When I was diagnosed with an incurable form of NHL in January 2002, my only treatment option at the time was chemotherapy. It was known to slow the disease's progression but it would

chemotherapy, which attacks both cancerous and healthy cells and requires up to eight treatments, RIT targets cancerous cells only, and takes only one or two injections.

In September 2002, I received two doses of the cutting-edge RIT drug Zevalin and have been in remission and healthy ever since.

A crucial part of Zevalin's therapeutic regimen is the infusion of the drug rituximab, a medication designed to reduce the number of cancerous B cells in the blood. Using grants from the National Institutes of Health, researchers at Stanford University unearthed this B

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**Mailing Address**

**The Baltimore Times**

**2513 N. Charles Street**

**Baltimore, MD 21218**

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

**www.baltimoretimes-online.com**

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# Joe Biden and Kamala Harris Defeat Trump and Change History

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA  
Newswire Correspondent

After days of counting in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona, President Obama's former Vice President, Joe Biden, and California Senator, Kamala Harris, won the 2020 race for the White House.

News of their victory sparked spontaneous celebrations around the country. In Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York and Atlanta people took to the streets on foot and in cars in celebration with Biden flags and signs. Times Square filled with a crowd unseen in months since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March.

In Washington, D.C., cars honked horns driving up and down Connecticut Avenue and around the White House. A large crowd assembled at Black Lives Matter Plaza on 16th Street as close to Lafayette Park as they could get near The White House. Streets around the White House were fenced off creating a large perimeter around the streets that would allow people to get clear video and still photos of the building.

The level of celebration in several



cities was reminiscent of the revelry seen after a sports team wins a championship. Bottles of champagne were opened on the street and music played loudly. Relief after four years of Donald Trump's decision-making and endless controversies, tensions and policy decisions were clearly on display in public.

The backdrop, 235,000 Americans dead as the result of the coronavirus pandemic, was not lost on the man who will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. In his first speech

after being elected, President-elect Biden said he would, "marshal the forces of decency, the forces of fairness, the forces of science, the forces of hope," and promised his first job would be tackling the coronavirus epidemic.

"Our work begins with getting COVID under control," Biden told thousands of people in Wilmington, Delaware. On November 9, Biden will formally announce a task force to confront the COVID-19 crisis.

"In an election of record-breaking turnout, the American people have made

clear who we are and who we aspire to be. Difficult times are ahead, but I have no doubt President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris have what it takes to help us build back better. I look forward to working with them to tackle the challenges ahead, from defeating the pandemic to addressing the racial and economic inequality that continues to grip our nation," wrote Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) after Biden was declared the winner.

Trump is unlikely to admit the loss and concede. In the end, on January 20, 2020 at noon, the federal government and all executive power will be in hands of Barack Obama's former Vice President and now the new President of the United States, Joe Biden.

*Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at [LBurke007@gmail.com](mailto:LBurke007@gmail.com) and on twitter at @LVBurke*

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## Morgan Students Among HBCU Scholarship Winners *McDonald's 'Serves' Some Golden Awards*

By Ursula V. Battle

Melanie Battle hails from an “HBCU family.” Battle said her parents, grandparents, brother, and other relatives are alumni of Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute).

“They put it in our minds that HBCUs are where it’s at and where you grow as a Black person in the world,” said Battle.

The only question was which HBCU she would attend. She opted for Morgan State University. Now a sophomore at the school, Battle’s experience at Morgan set the narrative for a winning essay that landed her a \$6,800 scholarship.

Battle is among the winners of a scholarship awarded through McDonald’s “\$500,000 Black & Positively Golden® Scholarship Fund.” The fund helps students who attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) continue their education this fall, despite impacts of COVID-19.

She is among three students from Morgan State University and 34 collegians overall who were all awarded up to \$15,000 Black & Positively Golden Scholarships. The other Morgan winners were Diamond Patrick and Micah Caldwell.

In addition to the scholarships, McDonald’s also surprised each winner with a special delivery, which included a tablet, school supplies and a congratulatory video, featuring notable HBCU alumni, who included Terrence J, Ashley Blaine Feathersen, KJ Smith, Quad Webb and David Banner.

“This scholarship gives me extra money to pay for school and focus more on my education and learning instead of how I was going to pay for it,” said Battle. “I have other scholarships I have been awarded, but this really helps. I am happy and excited to have this opportunity, and really grateful for this scholarship.”

Facilitated by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), scholarships will be distributed for the 2020-2021



**Morgan State University sophomore Melanie Battle is the winner of a McDonald's Black & Positively Golden® Scholarship. In addition to a \$6,800 scholarship, she received a tablet, school supplies, and other items. Courtesy Photos**



**Morgan State University senior Diamond Patrick was also a Black & Positively Golden® Scholarship award winner.**

academic year. The announcement comes in conjunction with the launch of the 2020 ESSENCE Festival of Culture: Unstoppable Virtual Experience, in which McDonald’s officially kicks off its partnership with the ESSENCE Girls United HBCU initiative.

“I think it is amazing such a huge corporation like McDonald’s is reaching out to the Black community and helping to support it,” said Battle. “It’s wonderful they are willing to put in the time and effort to do this for Black students.”

The 19-year-old is a 2019 graduate of North Point High School in Waldorf,

Maryland.

She is a multimedia journalism student at Morgan, plays on the school’s volleyball team, and is a sophomore class senator.

“I was in the car with my mom who was getting gas at Costco when I saw an email that I was among those selected to receive a scholarship,” she recalled. “There was so much energy in the car. It was overwhelming.”

In vying for the scholarship, candidates submitted applications via TMCf’s website. Winners were selected from thousands of applicants by a distinguished panel of judges established

by TMCf and McDonald’s. Recipients were selected based on their academic achievement and community involvement.

An excerpt of Battle’s winning essay read: “To me, attending an HBCU means learning and growing with my people. It means being unapologetically myself in the most comfortable situation possible. It means learning different parts of my culture from people that look just like me, but grew up in a different part of the state, nation and even world. I have been told multiple times by so many different people that they would never attend an HBCU because they crave “diversity” on their campus.

“I find it amazing how the world believes that diversity only comes in one form; multiple races in the same environment. Diversity comes in so many other forms that are not even related to race. Attending Morgan State University has opened me up to so many perspectives. I have learned new slang, new ways of thinking and even new ways to live.”

She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Women Morgan State Section and the social media manager for the Morgan State Women’s Volleyball team.

“I think scholarships that go to HBCU students are so important,” said Battle, noting how much she loves Morgan. “The Black community is made up of so many people with great ideas to improve the world. We have the ideas and the knowledge, but in the Black community, money is an issue. Money is needed to execute these ideas and bring our visions alive. Funding education for Black students, helps to bring our dreams and ideas to fruition.”

For more information about the Black & Positively Golden® Scholarship Fund and other education resources, visit [www.tmcf.org](http://www.tmcf.org).

# New magazine focuses on mental health and challenges of COVID

By Stacy M. Brown

Jamie Rockymore-Bess is adamant that it's time to "stop the stigma and talk about mental health."

The Baltimore resident who founded Helpful Living Magazine with an ambitious and noble goal of spreading mental health awareness plans to launch the fourth edition of the magazine this month (November). The focus is on mental health and COVID.

"Over the past year, I heard a lot about mental health. But, since COVID-19 made an impact on America's mental health, it's a hard topic not to talk about," Rockymore-Bess remarked.

The Notre Dame of Maryland graduate notes that the stigma surrounding mental illness and overall mental health has eased somewhat in the Black community.

"People are becoming more open, and our younger generation wants to talk about it," she exclaimed. "I feel like it's the older generation who often say, 'what goes on in this house stays in this house.' They are the ones who may hide behind the stigma, and that can be dangerous on so many levels."

Rockymore-Bess, who also holds a degree in Psychology from Clarion University in Pennsylvania, also started a group called "Helpful Living-Let's Help Each Other with Mental Health."

"This will be a great place to start with for families and individuals who want to learn more and get a better understanding of their loved one that is dealing with mental illness," she determined.

"Another thing is to be open. It's important to have that open dialog for someone because talking about mental health is difficult. It requires someone to put themselves in a vulnerable position and it means that someone will have to trust you, and we have to be mindful to respect people's conversations and allow them to talk openly even when they are not feeling okay.

"We can't always shoot out resolutions because truthfully, they may not be asking for that. Some people just want to



*Jamie Rockymore-Bess is the founder of Helpful Living Magazine, an online publication with the goal of spreading mental health awareness in America. This month, Helpful Living Magazine published its fourth issue, which is available online now at: [www.HelpfullivingMag.com](http://www.HelpfullivingMag.com).*

Courtesy Photos/Helpful Living Magazine

vent, and we have to know the difference. When we show judgment or talk over someone by providing solutions, it can slow the process or cut ties with communication."

For the latest edition of Helpful Living Magazine, Rockymore-Bess interviewed Baltimore Council President and Democratic Mayoral Nominee Brandon Scott; Dr. Karen Bethea of the Set the Captives Free Outreach Center in Windsor Mill; and Mental Health Advocate Kellene Diana.

"We were able to talk about the importance of mental health, and each one of them gave an interesting perspective from their own experience," Rockymore-Bess said. "They all agree on the importance of spreading awareness by starting the conversation and being open to people who struggle with mental wellness. Each one of them

wants people to know they are not alone when it comes to mental illness."

Rockymore-Bess said she spent months researching, only to find health magazines with little dedication to mental health awareness.

"I know there's so much more to mental health, and it shouldn't be narrowed down to one spread in a magazine. It needs its own platform," Rockymore-Bess decided. "I think because of the stigma, no one thought [a magazine dedicated to mental health] would be marketable. Now that people are more open about it, and the digital era has taken over. I also noticed many podcasts on mental health, but I guess you can say I am an old school. Not a lot of people have access to podcasts, or, if they do, there's so many out there it's hard to focus on the ones you want to listen to."

The fourth issue of Helpful Living

Magazine is available online at [www.HelpfulLivingMag.com](http://www.HelpfulLivingMag.com). It provides blog posts from Rockymore-Bess, as well as a Blogger's Corner open to anyone who wants to contribute a guest post. Access to free digital copies will be provided.

The public is invited to sign up for the newsletter and to join Helpful Living Magazine's Facebook Group where they can engage with writers for the magazine, network, practice self-care, and join a community that discusses bettering mental wellness.

"My goal is to get the community to recognize this magazine and help start conversations about mental health, which is really important during the holiday season and with COVID still here," Rockymore-Bess said.

Anyone can follow the magazine on Instagram at @HelpfulLivingMag.

***"Everyone knows someone who is struggling with a mental health issue, whether it's depression, trauma or substance abuse. It affects everyone, so we all have a stake in making sure good treatment is available." —Cris Carter***



# Baltimore area radio host pens first book, 'Last Request'

By Dareise A. Jones

Ulysses "Stretch" Garrett has been blessing the airwaves in Baltimore and across the country for over two decades now. He started his first full-time radio job in Cleveland, Ohio; he hosted 92Q's the "Love Zone" in Baltimore; worked at Yahoo! Music; KJLH 102.3 (owned by Stevie Wonder) in Los Angeles; KBLX in San Francisco; BET.com; Bad Boy as a Digital Media Manager; and WKYS in the District of Columbia.

Known as the "six-foot six phenomenon," hence the nick name Stretch. He grew up in Baltimore and Woodlawn, attended the University of Maine, Coppin State University and Towson University.

He says his affinity for radio started when he was a kid.

"I was always enamored with the music and more so with radio jocks that I heard coming out of the speakers on my parents' radio," Stretch said. "My first time on the radio was my freshman year in college at the University of



Ulysses "Stretch" Garrett

Photo Credit: Tony Lear

Maine at Fort Kent after basketball season."

Although he had no training, he says he

emulated personalities on his favorite hometown station, V-103, where he would intern when he transferred to Coppin State University.

Starting in 2000, Stretch spent four years as the host of 92Q's "Love Zone," a nightly experience of the good, bad and ugly of relationships through music and conversations. These stories along with his own experience with "self-inflicted heartbreak" inspired him to write "Last Request," the story about a successful radio host, forced to face his inner issues in order to find peace and relish in the love he doesn't think he deserves.

"Writing the book was therapeutic," Stretch said. "In the sense that it allowed me to get a sense of who I am. It took me thirteen years to get the book done. It took me that long to live life a bit and fully understand myself as a man."

One of his goals with the story is to change the narrative about men who do the emotional and mental work to be their best selves in relationships. He wants readers to get the sense that

relationships are essential for us to maneuver in this thing called life—whether it's in relationships with our family, a love interest or our friends. He wants men to see that being guarded and stubborn only hurts their heart and does not allow it to grow and pump with vitality and life. It's a great story, one he welcomes book clubs to dissect and discuss virtually during the pandemic.

Currently, Stretch is the host of WHUR's (96.3FM) Weekends with Stretch Garrett. Check out his *YouTube* channel "Dope Since 76 Media" for vegan meal ideas on his *Cheffin it Up* with Stretch videos and replays of his weekly Instagram Live "Dope Chats with Stretch" (Instagram handle: @stretchg), where he has conversations with guests about health, wellness, politics, music and lifestyle.

"Last Request," is available for sale at Amazon.com and his website: [www.dopesince76.com](http://www.dopesince76.com).

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# Ravens shift focus to struggling Patriots

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens sit at 6-2 after a flipping the script in the second half of last Sunday's game to beat the Indianapolis Colts 24-10.

At the midway point, the Ravens have the same record they posted last season on their way to a franchise best 14-2 finish.

"You take every game and every season as you find it," Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said on Monday. "We're just trying to figure out how we can improve and just be the best team we can be next Sunday night— that's really what we have to focus on."

Baltimore turned their attention to the New England Patriots this week.

"We have to go there and play a Sunday night game. That's a huge challenge. We've been there many times before, and we know what that's about, so our focus will really quickly go to that next game," Harbaugh explained.

Although the Patriots aren't in their division, New England is a fierce rival. The two teams have met each other 14 times including four postseason games. The Ravens have won four games and the Patriots won 10 games.

Gillette Stadium hasn't been the most pleasant place for the Ravens in the past. Under Harbaugh, Baltimore has only won two out of seven games on the road



*Sunday's game will be the second time that Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson will face the Patriots. Jackson helped Baltimore upset the undefeated Patriots last season with a 37-20 win. Photo Credit: Todd Olszewski/Getty Images*

against New England. This week, the Ravens enter the game as the favorites, but they're facing a New England team that is different from past versions.

Tom Brady is no longer the quarterback since he took his talent south to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Bill Belichick remains the head coach but now he has Cam Newton as the quarterback.

New England has struggled this season

due to injuries, players opting out due to Covid-19 among other things. Belichick made an interesting comment when asked about the team's struggles earlier this season.

"We sold out and won three Super Bowls, played in a fourth, and played in an AFC Championship Game," Belichick said after the Patriots fell to 2-5. "This year, we have less to work with."

It's not an excuse. It's just the facts."

New England finds itself somewhere they aren't used to being— near the bottom of the AFC East division standings. This Patriots team is still capable of giving the Ravens problems and won't go down without a fight. They showed some life on Monday Night Football against the lowly New York Jets in their second half comeback.

This game will be Lamar Jackson's second time facing the Patriots. The Ravens quarterback helped Baltimore upset the undefeated Patriots last season with a 37-20 win. Jackson racked up 224 total yards and three touchdowns (one passing, two rushing). He was 17-for-23 for 163 passing yards and a touchdown along with six rushes for 61 yards and two touchdowns.

New England will be desperate to win this game so they can stay alive in their division led by the 7-2 Buffalo Bills. Beating the Patriots won't be a walk in the park on Sunday night.

The Ravens will likely be without defensive tackle Calais Campbell who has a strained calf. However, their secondary will be bolstered by Marlon Humphrey's return from the reserve/Covid-19 list. A win over the Patriots will allow Baltimore to keep within striking distance of their archrival, the Pittsburgh Steelers who sit on top of the AFC North division.

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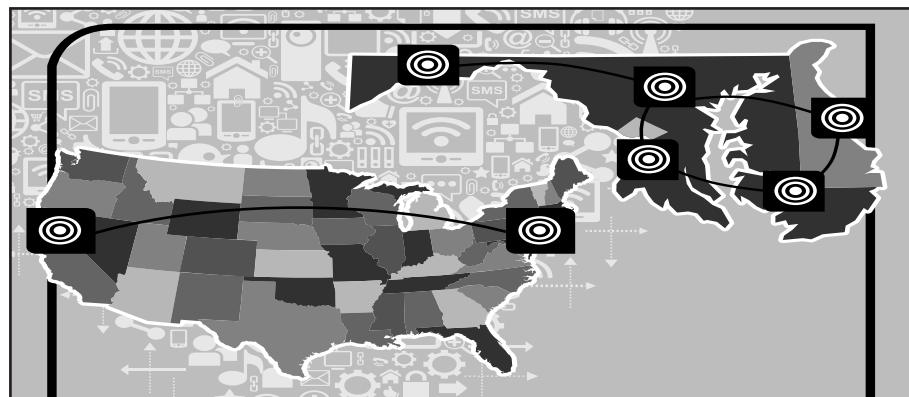
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