The Baltimore Times

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Pandemic Forces Family Thanksgiving Traditions to Online Platforms

Happy Thanksgiving! We appreciate your support. Stay safe and be thankful!
—The staff of The Baltimore Times

(See article on page 8)

Cancer Screening in the Time of COVID-19

By Shana O. Ntiri, MD, MPH

The year 2020 has proven to be a year like no other. Restrictions related to COVID-19 have created many challenges to daily life, including access to routine health care services like cancer screenings. This has resulted in significant declines in screenings, which may lead to delays in diagnosing cancers and decreased survival. Dr. Norman Sharpless, Director of the National Cancer Institute, estimates an increase of 10,000 deaths from colorectal and breast cancer in the next decade due to missed screenings.

In Maryland, to date more than 4,100 people have lost their lives to the COVID-19 virus. In comparison, the American Cancer Society estimates 10,790 Marylanders will die this year as a result of cancer. We know that cancer screening saves lives. It allows doctors to detect cancer early before symptoms have developed, and early detection means a better chance of survival.

Health care facilities are open and ready for you to schedule and complete your cancer screening. New policies and procedures are in place to ensure your health and safety.

Here are some cancers you should be screened for and how screening is done:

Breast Cancer

*Breast cancer is diagnosed most often in women, however men can also be affected.

*Mammograms are the breast cancer-screening exam recommended for women. Women should begin screening mammograms between 40-50 years old based on guidance from your doctor. Screening mammograms should be repeated every 1-2 years.

Cancer screening allows doctors to detect cancer early before symptoms have developed, and early detection means a better chance of survival. Health care facilities are open and ready for you to schedule and complete your cancer screening. **Photo Credit: ClipArt.com**

Cervical Cancer

*Cervical cancer only affects women.

*Women should begin screening for cervical cancer at 21 years old. Cervical cancer screening is done with Pap smears and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) tests. New guidelines from the American Cancer Society focus on testing for HPV, which causes nearly all cervical cancers. These tests should be repeated every 3 to 5 years depending on what tests are performed.

Colorectal Cancer

*Colorectal cancer affects both men and women.

*Starting at 45 years old, individuals can begin colorectal cancer screening with a variety of exams including colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy stool-based tests. Colorectal cancer screening should be repeated every 1-10 years depending on the test performed.

Screening recommendations may vary based on your personal and family history or other individual risk factors. It is important to have a health care provider help you understand the recommendations. If you do not have a regular doctor or health insurance, take advantage of programs such as the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center's Baltimore City Cancer Program (BCCP). The BCCP offers no-cost cancer screenings to uninsured residents of Baltimore City and the surrounding area. It also helps insured individuals in need of financial support, appointment scheduling and transportation assistance. For more information, call BCCP at 410-328-HOPE (4673).

If it's time for your cancer-screening exam, don't allow COVID-19 to stop you. Call and schedule your screening exam today. Before you go, contact your health care facility so you know how to prepare for your appointment. Plan to wear a mask. Know that you may be asked screening questions about COVID-19 symptoms and that many facilities are not allowing you to bring someone with you.

Stay safe and take action to protect yourself from cancer and COVID-19 in 2020 and beyond!

Shana O. Ntiri, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Department of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine; and Medical Director, Baltimore City Cancer Program, Senior Medical Advisor, Community Outreach and Engagement, University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer

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Guest Editorials/Letters

African American Woman, Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber, makes US Naval Academy History

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

Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber, a mechanical engineering major from Illinois, has been named brigade commander for the spring semester at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Barber, a track star with a stated desire to work as a Marine Corps ground officer, becomes the first Black woman to lead the Naval Academy's student body.

The brigade commander heads the Academy's day-to-day activities and trains the class of approximately 4,500 midshipmen. Barber becomes the 16th woman to serve in that role.

"Earning the title of brigade commander speaks volumes, but the title itself is not nearly as significant as the opportunity it brings to lead a team in doing something I believe will be truly special," Barber said in a news release. "I am humbled to play a small role in this momentous season of American history."

As a walk-on sprinter and hurdler of the Navy Women's Varsity Track and Field team, Barber has lettered all three years of competing and is an Academy record holder for the outdoor 4x400m relay, according to her biography.

She is the co-president of the Navy Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club; secretary for the National Society of Black Engineers; and a USNA Gospel Choir and Midshipman Black Studies Club member.

Barber served as the 13th company's executive officer and currently serves as the Brigade's 1st regiment executive officer.

She also initiated a STEM outreach program that leverages mentoring, literature and service lessons to serve middle school-aged girls of color.

Barber led a team to organize the inaugural U.S. Naval Academy Black Female Network Breakfast to bridge the generational gap between current Black midshipmen and alumni.

Barber is recently credited with mobilizing a team of more than 180 midshipmen, faculty, and alumni to develop the Midshipman Diversity Team to promote greater diversity, inclusivity, and equity within the Brigade.

"Sydney stands out amongst her peers, for not only her exemplary record but for her clear vision of how she intends to make the world a better place and her accompanying bias for action," said Lt. Commander Darby Yeager, a member of the U.S. Navy Academy's Truman Scholarship Selection Committee. "We were incredibly proud to have Sydney represent the Naval Academy in her Truman Scholarship interview this year."

Janie Mines, who became the first Black woman to graduate from the Naval Academy in 1980, expressed her excitement for Barber on Twitter.

"This bought me to tears. This young woman, Midshipman Sydney Barber, will be the first Black Female Brigade Commander at the U.S. Naval Academy. 40 years later. Thank you, Sydney! Love you!" Mines tweeted.

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Letters to the Editor:

Editor:
Re: Trump Undermining Our Democracy

As a New Hampshire Independent who votes the candidates, I was hoping to heap some praise on Trump for his accomplishments, for example, increasing the defense budget and promoting our military buildup, but he reverted to his typical lies (20,000 at last count documented by The Washington Post) and disinformation when referring to the outcome of the 2020 election.

Trump and many of his fanatical lockstep followers accused election officials in only states he lost of fraudulent activities. Bipartisan election officials, including Republicans, Democrats and Independents have an exemplary history of Americans processing ballots with honesty and due diligence. Why is there fraud in the 2020 election just in six states Trump lost? Why isn't Trump questioning vote counts in the other 44 states? Why didn't Trump question vote count in the 2016 election?

In 2016, Clinton could have asked for recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, which she lost by a total of 84,000 votes, but she didn't.

Once again Trump is focused on himself and not the country. He is lashing out at our democratic system and principles, and he could undermine the bedrock foundation of our country. His firing of Defense Secretary Esper and a number of other key Pentagon officials is causing chaos within the Pentagon and jeopardizing our national security while we are vulnerable during the transition of administrations.

Un-American Trump's refusal to allow Biden's team to contact government agencies for briefings could disrupt the functioning of our government. He is unwittingly aiding our enemies.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry NH

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New coronavirus vaccine requires 'trust' of African American community

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

News that Pfizer and BioNTech's announcement that their coronavirus vaccine was more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 among those without previous infection arrives as the United States continues to realize record-breaking new cases.

For the first time on Thursday, November 12, 2020, the country surpassed 150,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day and the total number of cases soared past 10.5 million, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Both California and Texas have recorded more than one million total cases, while states like Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey have seen significant rises in COVID infections.

The most recent available statistics show that the District of Columbia has more than 18,500 total positive cases and 657 deaths. Washington, DC health officials have administered nearly 572,000 COVID tests to roughly 272,000 residents.

More than 242,000 people have died in the United States since the declaration of the outbreak of the pandemic in March. Health officials have expressed that the new vaccine offers real hope for the future.

"It is a great day for science and humanity. The first set of results from our Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trial provides the initial evidence of our vaccine's ability to prevent COVID-19," Dr. Albert Bourla, Pfizer Chairman and CEO, offered in a news release.

"We are reaching this critical milestone in our vaccine development program at a time when the world needs it most, with infection rates setting new records, hospitals nearing over-capacity, and economies struggling to reopen.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis. We look forward to sharing additional efficacy and safety data generated from thousands of participants in the coming weeks."

Pfizer has maintained a strategic partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association, offering insight on various rare diseases like sickle cell that disproportionately affect the African American community.

"Pfizer's vaccine is the first in the United States to generate late-stage data. An analysis of individuals that received two injections of the vaccine, spaced three weeks apart, revealed more than 90 percent fewer cases of symptomatic COVID-19 when compared to those who received the placebo."

Dr. Kevin Williams, the Chief Medical Officer for Pfizer's Rare Disease unit, periodically writes a column in the Black Press to help keep the African American community informed.

Pfizer's vaccine is the first in the United States to generate late-stage data. An analysis of individuals that received two injections of the vaccine, spaced three weeks apart, revealed more than 90 percent fewer cases of symptomatic COVID-19 when compared to those who received the placebo.

The results are significant because health and science experts have stated that they expected a vaccine to yield an effective rate of no more than 70 percent.

In spite of this good news, many in the African American community continue to take a wait-and-see approach.

"Somehow, scientific, education and community leaders must reassure a skeptical community of color that the vaccine will help and protect them," said Gina Harper.

She created an urban garden in New York after growing up on a farm in Oklahoma.

"Perhaps the best way would be to prove the point by exemplifying members of the Black community who have taken the vaccine and remained healthy," Harper remarked.

The Pfizer vaccine clinical trial "went out of its way in their recruitment and enlarged their initial population of 30,000 to almost 44,000 to recruit more people of color," said Dale Yuzuki, a biotech executive and author of *COVID-19: From Chaos to Cure. The Biology Behind the Fight Against the Novel Coronavirus.*

"It is certainly a focus within the National Institutes of Health, where they are sensitized to the acute needs of minority populations and their justified suspicion of government-sponsored public health programs."

Dr. James E.K. Hildreth, one of the world's foremost immunologists and president and CEO of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., is a recent appointee to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's commission that will ultimately approve the Pfizer vaccine and any others.

Hildreth, an African American, insists that any vaccine must have the confidence of Black people.

"I've made the decision that I'm going to participate in one of the vaccine trials. The trust issue cannot be overstated," Dr. Hildreth said. "We have to have more trusted messengers and more trusted opinion leaders to make this work."

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Happy National American Indian Heritage Month — Celebrate All Year!

By Ashley Minner

Baltimore American Indian Center (BAIC) was the recipient of the 2017 Maryland Traditions Heritage Award in the category of "Place." Originally founded in 1968 as the American Indian Study Center, it primarily served as a resettlement resource for Indians who had migrated to the city seeking employment. Now, the center functions as a cultural magnet drawing in a dispersed community by offering culture classes; annual powwows; a full-fledged community museum; a multipurpose meeting space; and more. **Photo Credit: Edwin Remsberg/File Photo**

Happy National American Indian Heritage Month! Since 1990, the United States has proclaimed November a time for all Americans to recognize and celebrate the many rich and diverse cultures and contributions of peoples indigenous to this land. The thirty days of November, the thirty years since this proclamation was first made, or even the 244 years comprising the entire history of this nation are so miniscule in comparison to the thousands of years of continuous Native stewardship of this land.

Yes, all of what is today known as the United States of America is occupied Native land. This includes the area now known as Baltimore, which was home to Piscataway and Susquehannock folks long before John Smith ever sailed up the Patapsco. Historically, members of other indigenous nations also traversed this area and they still do. Some even choose to stay.

Did you know Baltimore is home to the largest community of Lumbee Indians outside of their tribal territory, in what is today known as North Carolina? Following World War II, thousands of Lumbee migrated to the city seeking work and a better quality of life. They established their community on the east side of town, in an area bridging the neighborhoods of Upper Fells Point and Washington Hill.

For a time, this area came to be known, affectionately, as Baltimore's "reservation." A complex set of factors ranging from upward mobility to Urban Renewal resulted in their movement and displacement in the years since, but Lumbees remain the most populous group in Baltimore's intertribal American Indian community today. Two enduring Lumbee contributions to the city are the Baltimore American Indian Center & Heritage Museum located at 113 S. Broadway; and the Indian Education Program of Baltimore City Public Schools.

Maybe you have never heard of a "reservation" in East Baltimore, or the Indian Center, or the Indian Education program. Good for you, if you have! If you haven't before, you have now. It's fair to say most Baltimoreans don't tend to think of our city as a Native place. This is understandable. It's a symptom of settler colonialism.

Settler colonialism is a unique form of colonialism in which the colonists or settlers never leave. Therefore it never ends. The primary interest of settlers is the land. They have no use for indigenous populations and must therefore either kill or otherwise disappear them, in order to replace them, while establishing their own identity as rightful owners and inhabitants. Over time, the settlers come to be regarded as the *natural* owners and inhabitants.

At different times, and arguably at all times, genocide has been the United States' policy toward American Indian people, yet we're still here.

Disappearance is a secondary goal and it continues to be accomplished in many ways. Two main ways, which are related, include a relegation of Native people to the past and the perpetuation of stereotypes intended to represent us.

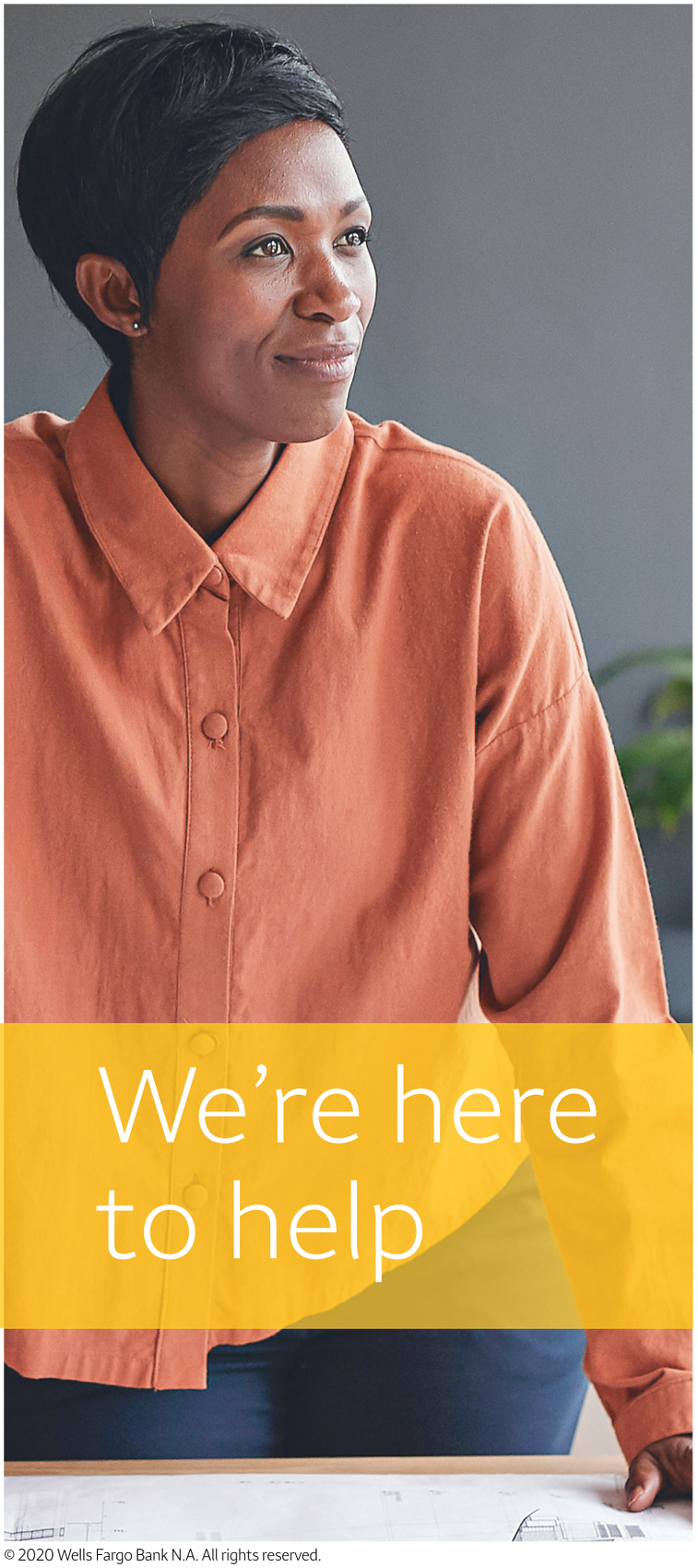
Findings of the Reclaiming Native Truth report (Illuminatives, 2018) reveal that "institutions perpetuate and systematize invisibility, negative stereotypes, and false narratives" about Native Americans. 27 states make no mention of a single Native American in K-12 curricula and 87 percent of state-level history standards fail to cover Native people's history in a post-1900 context. When searching 'Native American,' 95 percent of the first 100 Google images are from the 19th century and Native American characters only make up between 0 and .04 percent of primetime TV and films. As a result, 72 percent of Americans say they rarely encounter or receive information about Native Americans, 78 percent of Americans polled know little to nothing about Native Americans, and a significant portion believe that Native peoples must be a diminishing population because they do not see, hear, or read about Native peoples. Indeed, "invisibility is the modern form of racism against American Indians."

Again, we are still here. We are your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and sometimes, even family. We come in all colors, textures, shapes, and sizes. We come from all walks of life.

American Indian people and African American people, in particular, have shared history and shared present struggles. Indigenous sovereignty— or the right to self-determination— is tied to Black liberation. We know that a major strategy of colonialism is to divide and conquer. When we unite, amazing things happen.

This year, for the first time ever, Baltimore City recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day on October 12. The conditions, that made this change possible were created by the movement for Black Lives, and the change itself was the result of the organizing of Black and Indigenous folks— and Black Indigenous folks— and allies.

2020 has been a tough, yet incredible, year to be alive. Let's celebrate (safely) every day, not just every day in a given month, because we're worth celebrating all year. Every day is a victory. Let's continue to lift one another up to see what more we can accomplish together.



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Rebuilding: Where Should You Make Changes To Thrive In Tomorrow's Economy?

WELLS FARGO

All of us have had to adjust to living in a very different world. We're faced with the realization that COVID will affect our lives for the foreseeable future. Plans for personal finances, small businesses and even attending college have all been altered. Despite these unexpected life changes, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Wells Fargo is here to help you rebuild a stronger financial foundation, even in the midst of the unexpected.

How can I rebuild and grow my personal finances during challenging times?

Making any kind of savings or credit goals can feel overwhelming, but there are simple money management solutions that can assist in making your goals a reality. First, it's a good idea to conduct a financial health check-up to know where you currently stand. You can do this by reviewing your credit report to be on the lookout for any discrepancies, calculating your debt to income ratio, and assessing your emergency savings. It's also important to determine if you need to obtain health insurance or plan for retirement. Depending on the results of your financial health check-up, you may need to consider more proactive strategies to help you gain financial stability. We suggest starting by writing down your goals and creating an action plan. Starting small and building over time will make each goal more achievable.

How can students financially prepare for 2021?

Students heading to college may be rebuilding their education funds to prepare for next year's expenses. As a first step, we suggest adjusting your FAFSA to reflect any financial changes over the past months, which will be helpful if you need to appeal your school's financial aid offer. The majority of campuses have moved to distance learning, which can be a helpful benefit when you're trying to plan your next semester costs. If you're still falling short, you can apply for emergency grants, such as the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Your school's financial aid office can also connect you to many emerging micro-scholarships. If financial gaps remain, consider transferring to a lower-cost institution to make the most of your education funds.

What can my business do to stay on track in the new year?

The holidays and new year will look very different from last year. It's important to plan ahead with realistic sales projections that reflect how the weather, COVID spikes, and other variables will affect your business. Ensuring your production processes and social-distancing guidelines are streamlined can set your business up for success. It's helpful to have relationships with professional organizations, mentors, and even customers who can help you keep up with trends. These relationships go a long way when negotiating with vendors for discounts and learning how to best meet your consumers' needs.

As you rebuild today for an uncertain future, Wells Fargo is here to help you every step of the way. To learn more, visit **wellsfargo.com/heretohelp.**

Pandemic Forces Family Thanksgiving Traditions to Online Platforms

By Stacy M. Brown

Photo Courtesy of University of Maryland Medical Center

As the Thanksgiving holiday arrives, there is an increased eagerness for many to return to some sense of normalcy. However, experts have reiterated that the science is precise: the threat and spread of COVID-19 have increased at alarming rates, with the United States remaining the top global hotspot.

"It's more important than ever to double down on personal safety and public health precautions. Wear a mask, wash your hands, maintain physical distance, and avoid crowds, particularly if you are in a high-risk group," said Dr. Tom Kenyon, the former director of the Center for Global Healath at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Kenyon, who now serves as the chief health officer at Project Hope, a nonprofit global health organization, said it's crucial to adhere to the CDC's best practices as cooler weather and flu season kicks into full swing.

"As for Thanksgiving and gatherings, we have to keep reminding ourselves: Is this group dinner or holiday party worth risking someone's life?" Dr. Kenyon remarked.

The U.S. has recorded nearly 11 million coronavirus cases, including more than 100,000 new diagnoses each day since November 4, 2020. The death toll has exceeded 240,000, and health experts have repeatedly warned of more fatalities as officials await a vaccine.

The University of Maryland Medical Center has also listed guides to a risk-free virtual Thanksgiving dinner:

*Center officials offered that families could set up a laptop at the dinner table and dig in as they enjoy conversation with loved ones.

*Families can also host video calls before or after dinner to enjoy more intimate conversations and even playing charades or trivia over zoom or other platforms.

"We are having a virtual thanksgiving. Both of my parents advised that my family and I stay home for this holiday," noted Tiffany Hill, an African American woman who created Puzzle and Bloom. This creative toy company offers puzzles and stickers that highlight children of diverse cultures and traditions.

"I was sad at first, but we are going to cook, save on gas and just stay home," Hill added. "We have planned a zoom or facetime call with my parents. So, It won't be too bad. But, I can not remember the last time I didn't go home for the holidays."

Pamela Washington-Turner, a co-author of "Daughters of Promise Devotional," also relayed her disappointment over not being home for Thanksgiving.

However, the Turner family has turned the gloomy prospect of missing in-person contact with loved ones into a special night that promises to become a highlight of 2020.

"Initially, [my family] planned to travel to Detroit, Michigan, to spend time with my brother and his family for Thanksgiving. His only child is turning one, so they are also going to celebrate her first birthday," Washington-Turner stated.

"Since the COVID numbers have begun to skyrocket out of control, we have halted our plans to drive to Detroit and have family Thanksgiving via Zoom. This Zoom call will include many descendants of my great grandparents. This will ensure that we are all safe and not risking our health for the holidays."

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Make Quality Time Thanksgiving's Secret Ingredient

Family Features

Perhaps more than usual, the centerpiece this Thanksgiving won't be the turkey, the stuffing or even family-famous recipes for sweet potato casserole or pumpkin pie. Instead, when gathering around a table with loved ones, the precious moments of togetherness will be what many families treasure most.

This year, give yourself permission to savor the holiday and all its pleasures as a participant, rather than a harried host.

Make the prep part of the party. If you're hosting a small group of friends or family, invite a few guests over early to fill your kitchen with laughter and plenty of able hands to help prepare the meal. If space is at a premium, enlist help by asking guests to do some of the prep work at home or simply plan a potluck meal with everyone bringing a dish that's ready to serve.

Ditch cleanup duty. More casual celebrations are in the plans for 65% of people this season, according to a survey conducted by the Chinet(r) brand, and more than 80% of respondents agreed using disposable tableware can help reduce stress that may arise during the holiday season. Cleanup may be a necessary evil after a large Thanksgiving meal, but it need not take hours from your day.

Instead, rely on a disposable option like Chinet Classic White plates, which are strong enough to serve the heaviest, messiest meals with style. The convenient, microwave-safe line makes cleanup easy since you can simply toss them when you're done. For example, dinner and compartment plates and trays are perfect for enjoying full-scale meals along with platters, bowls and napkins. Or, if your family prefers a more casual get-together with snacks and treats, appetizer and dessert plates offer easy ways for guests to serve themselves.

Stick to the essentials. Instead of giving into your urge to serve everyone's favorites, limit your menu to a few crowd-pleasers.

One style of stuffing will do, and it's unlikely anyone will notice if you skip a few sides. Tone it down to the must-haves and let the others fall away. You may be surprised by how much time you can save.

After all, you probably don't need five different pies when you'll end up serving just a slice or two from each.

Shop for shortcuts. If there is a dish or two that everyone counts on, go ahead and honor tradition. Otherwise, shop for time-trimming alternatives at the store. The salad bar typically offers a wealth of prepped ingredients like chopped onion and crumbled bacon, and there are a wide range of prepared foods you can simply heat and serve. Also check into the deli's holiday specials; many stores offer bulk orders of freshly prepared items like mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce and salads.

Simpler serving. Using your fine china can lead to a time-consuming effort in both setting it all out and cleaning those dishes at the end of the night. With an option like Chinet Cut Crystal plates, cups and wineglasses, you can add a touch of style to any event. The fully coordinated line of tableware allows you to dine in style then toss it all and move on to enjoying the rest of the day.

Find more time-saving ideas for a Thanksgiving filled with warm memories at MyChinet.com.

Make Way for New Traditions

Although there's plenty of comfort to be found in holiday traditions, this year is the perfect excuse to mix things up a little and infuse some new ideas into your celebration.

Pass on family recipes. A traditional turkey dinner complete with a variety of seasonal sides and desserts is a staple for many families. To help ensure the tradition continues, use the extra time you may have together to teach older children how to prepare specific dishes that have been passed down through the generations. You could also have different family members like siblings or adult children take over making specific dishes, such as the turkey or pumpkin pie.

Share your good fortune. It's been a rough year for many, in several different ways. If you and yours are able, dedicating a portion of your day to helping those who've fared worse can be a powerful bonding experience. Not only do you share the feel-good vibes that come from helping others, the experience can open your eyes to the many blessings you and your loved ones share.

Add group entertainment. If your family's norm is to scatter as soon as the meal is done, or to scarf down a plate before returning to the gridiron

action, look for ways to bring everyone together. Organize a board game tournament or gather a group to take a walk through the neighborhood and reminisce.

Learn a new skill. Discover something new about your loved ones by inviting one or two (or more) to share a special skill with the group. You can develop a new appreciation after an afternoon chatting while learning how to crochet, perform magic card tricks or make DIY decor for the holiday season.

Make a game of giving thanks. Ask each guest to jot down something they're thankful for as they arrive. Later, after everyone has settled in, take turns drawing the cards, reading them aloud and letting everyone guess whose good tidings they're hearing. It can be an easy way to catch up and allow you to celebrate special moments with one another.

Spreading good vibes is one musician's answer to the pandemic

By David Marshall

On most days as you approach the corner of Maryland Avenue and Main Street in Ellicott City, it is not uncommon to hear the occasional roar of a train from the railroad bridge above or the voices of bustling shoppers on the ground below.

But on Sunday, November 8, 2020 the closer you got to the famed corner near the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, a spirited melody emerged, and a crowd gathered nodding their heads and tapping their feet.

This is where 38-year-old Aaron Hill of West Baltimore and his musical crew, The Aaron Hill Trio, set up shop for the day. Hill is on the keyboard. Eddie Hrybyk commands the bass. Eric Kennedy keeps the drumbeat. They call the gig Street Serenades.

"I started this back in May as a way to adjust to the change we were all going through and especially during a time when people needed as many good vibes as possible as the entire world shifted in terms of how we would do our jobs and live our lives," said Hill. "So, it seemed natural for me to take my entire act and music outside to the streets."

For the last six months, Hill has crisscrossed locations throughout Baltimore City and surrounding counties offering the free concerts. Sometimes, he is out five days a week delivering jazz standards and self-written melodies. Hill also tours with his other group Fruition Experience which specializes in cosmic soul. With 100 concerts under his belt to date, his calendar shows outdoor concert bookings through the end of the year.

"It's been all 100% love. People have accepted it as the gift that it is," said Hill. The best thing I like about this is that I get to meet new people everyday and surprise people with something they weren't expecting when they turn the corner."

Aaron Hill performs at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Main Street in Ellicott City with Street Serenades on November 8, 2020. **Photos: David Marshall**

But for some in the crowd, the concerts are something they have been waiting for. Hill boasts a loyal following on social media. Fans spread the word across social platforms about his next appearances. They show up to support him with their presence, bringing dollars to drop in the tip basket.

"Oh heavens, it's a life saver," said Laverne Gray. She made the 30-minute drive from Govans to take in the experience. "When you are used to hearing live music and then all of the venues are shut down, this is like water for the thirsty."

Hill is an accomplished musician and entrepreneur landing his first professional job as a church keyboardist and music director at 21. He launched his own music production company at 23 and has worked for himself ever since.

However, like other local artists, the pandemic has upended some of his long-standing performance bookings, so he too has had to pivot to keep his ventures healthy.

For sure, it has been a tough year for area artists. According to the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, artists surveyed by BOPA estimated a loss of more than $1.5 million in projected income due to COVID-19 from the start of the pandemic through June 2020. To help, BOPA and community partners set up the Baltimore Artist Emergency Relief Fund in April. More than 600 people applied for emergency assistance. BOPA said it has awarded 322 area artists $500 mini grants.

But for Hill, so far, he has managed to stay afloat. He said a combination of creativity and hustle have kept his businesses in the black so far.

"During these times you have to think out of the box. You must be creative. You do need real business skills and business savvy more than ever now," said Hill. "Ultimately surviving during these times as an artist or entrepreneur is about finding new ways to engage with people and making deeper connections."

Hill said this phase of Street Serenades is just the beginning. He is working with his business manager to embark on a multi-city tour.

"This is going to grow. I'm going to see the country and the world with this," said Hill.

David Marshall is professor and chair of the Department of Strategic Communication in the School of Global Journalism & Communication at Morgan State University.

The Aaron Hill Trio delighted the public with a free jazz concert in Ellicott City on November 8, 2020.

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Rambling Rose

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you, from my house to yours

Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, how are you? Because this newspaper is a positive paper about positive people, I will try very hard not speak of people in the White House who don't want to leave. COVID-19 has spiraled out of control and friends and family are sick or dying, but instead I will talk about the positive things. Okay, since we last talked to you a lot has happened, we got a new president, and we will be celebrating a lot of birthdays this month including mine. Yes, I was my mother's Thanksgiving turkey— I was born on Thanksgiving Day 76 years ago on November 27.

Also, on November 21, 2020, my daughter Karen and son Kelvin will be celebrating their birthdays— they will be 56 years old. Yes, that's right they are twins. I feel so blessed. I have so many friends who are celebrating their birthdays this month also and I want to acknowledge a few that I know off the top of my head such as: Big Jim; Milton Dugger; Elaine Simon; and Beverly Douglass. So if I miss mentioning you, don't worry, my memory is not what it used to be and it is not likely that I would have enough space to mention all. But my birthday wishes go out to all who are having a birthday celebration this month.

Jazz Expressways Foundation, Inc. Thank You!

I have been an active member of the Jazz Expressways Foundation, Inc. since May 6, 1982 when Lenny York, the founder invited me to become a part of this wonderful music foundation, and remained active until I started my own organization, the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, Inc. in 1991, which I dissolved in 2016.

My husband, "Shorty" and I returned to the Jazz Expressways Foundation to be active members again under the leadership of the late Howard Easley who was the president. Cynthia Williams Easley, his wife, was vice-president after Mr. York retired. She later became the president, and I asked to be the vice president. Shorty and I were very proud to re-join the board of this wonder organization with members such as Avon Mitchell, our treasurer and financial secretary; and later with Angie Cornish, the recording secretary; Dr. Donna Hollie; Betty Eggleston; Robert Burkett; and Mildred Battle, an honorary member. My dear friends and fans of this organization, the board members of Jazz Expressways Foundations decided on October 30, 2020 to dissolve the organization, effective immediately.

Due to the severity and restrictions of the COVID-19 world-wide pandemic, the age, fatigue and health issues of the members of the organization and the uncertainty of these times, it was felt that the organization has had a successful run and has followed its mission of keeping jazz alive in Baltimore! For almost 40 years, this organization has been a part of the jazz scene in Baltimore. It supported local jazz artists and provided venues for jazz fans to be entertained by some of the most talented artists in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

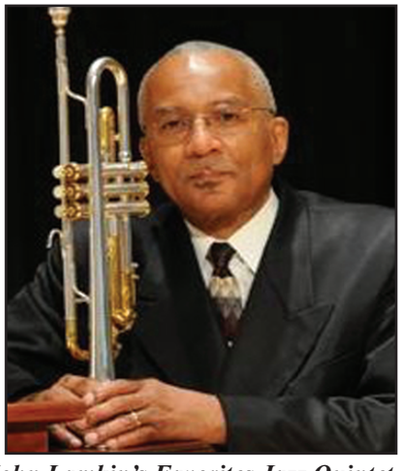
What a run, thanks Lenny York for your vision. Thanks fans, friends and musicians for help making this a legacy that will never be forgotten. So again, we say, "THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Well, on that note, I must go with tears in my eyes and say "HAPPY THANKSGIVING" and remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS**.

Members of Jazz Expressways Foundation, Inc. says good-bye and thank you to our fans for almost 40 years for your support, and love. We could not have done it without you.

Pamela Rene Leak, aka Ms. Maybelle, along with her company and Brian Hall, aka Tee-Shirt Brian of D.O.T. Sports want to say a big thank you with much love to all the beautiful volunteers, including Agape Church, Trelton McCormick, Dee Dee of Net Breakers Church in Essex, Larraine Hall, Shannon Richburg, Sharon Mathis and Carla of Roses Hair Braiding for helping them to serve over 50 families for the Thanksgiving holidays. God bless you all.

Yours truly and all of Baltimoreans who traveled the historical night clubs in the old days especially the Roots Lounge want to send good well wishes and prayers to Veronica Jackson, known as just "Ronnie," the owner of Roots Lounge on West Smallwood Street is in Northwest Hospital, room 441. Send your cards, notes, flowers, balloons and prayers.



John Lamkin's Favorites Jazz Quintet is streaming Live from An Die Musik, supporting the Maryland Leukemia Society on your Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 2 p.m. Feature will be: John Lamkin II on trumpet and Flugelhorn, Michael Hairston on saxophone, Bob Butta on piano and Herman Burney on bass. For more information, call 410-385-2638 or go to: www.andiemusiklive.com

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Ravens need Marquise "Hollywwod' Brown to reclaim playmaking role in their offense

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens selected wide receiver Marquise 'Hollywood' Brown with the 25th overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.

Photo Credit: Nick Wass/AP

The Baltimore Ravens had visions of explosive plays when they selected former Oklahoma wide receiver Marquise 'Hollywood' Brown with the 25th overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft. The roadrunner like receiver was nursing a foot injury at the time but the Ravens were willing to wait for him to recover and be a playmaker along with Lamar Jackson in their offense.

Brown worked through the rehab process and made his debut against the Miami Dolphins in the season opener. He recorded four receptions, 147 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Despite playing only 14 snaps, Brown became the first player in NFL history to score two touchdowns of 40 yards or more in his first game.

Brown went on to finish 46 receptions for 584 yards and scored seven touchdowns. He provided the deep threat that Baltimore needed in their offense and Jackson won the league MVP.

The Ravens expected last year to carry over when this season started. Brown reported to camp with a noticeably more built physique that was would help him to be able to withstand the wear and tear that comes with playing the game.

Brown recorded five receptions for 101 receiving yards in the 38–6 victory over the Cleveland Browns to start the season. It seemed like he would pick up where he left off.

The Ravens are 10 games into the season and Brown has 32 catches for 431 yards and two touchdowns. The most frustrating moment for Brown was against the Pittsburgh Steelers on November 1 when he only caught one pass for three yards in a 28-24 loss.

Brown expressed his frustration on social media after the game when he posted a Tweet, which said "What's the point of having souljas when you never use them Never!!" due to his lack of involvement in the offense.

Ravens head coach John Harbaugh spoke to Brown and the post was removed. However, the lack of his involvement continues. Brown has only caught five passes and gained 52 yards over the last two games.

Harbaugh was asked about Brown's involvement and trying to make sure he gets touches when asked about the dynamic playmaker on Monday.

"We don't try to feed anybody the ball. You try to create plays where you can against what you're seeing, and the game plays out," Harbaugh explained. "You get coverages and guys get open or they don't get open. The quarterback can see it, or he can't see it when they are open— with protection or where his read ends up taking him. The ball gets thrown well, or it doesn't. It gets caught, or it doesn't— that's kind of how it works."

It's important to get Brown involved because he takes the top off of defenses. The Ravens like to run the football so having a player present a threat that forces defenders to back up creates space for Jackson and the running backs.

The big plays that Brown makes gives the rest of the team a boost of energy also. That is something the Ravens will need after they announced on the afternoon of Monday, November 16 fans will not be allowed at the game versus the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, November 22 at M&T Bank Stadium because of the spikes with the COVID-19 situation in Maryland.

"The in-stadium energy and passion Ravens fans provide on game day cannot be duplicated," Ravens officials stated.

There is nothing quite like hearing the roar from a packed house at M&T Bank Stadium on game day. Since that will not happen when the Ravens host the Tennessee Titans a few big plays from Brown could give the team an extra boost.

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This includes:
1. Manor Avenue Sta.0+00 (Hartwait St) To Sta.5+94 (Holabird St.)
2. Eastbourne Ave. Sta. 0+00 (Manor Ave.) To Sta. 1+57 (West of Manor Ave.)
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Bimal Devkota P.E., Chief
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Steve Sharkey, Director
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1. Claremont St. from Sta. 0+00 (S. Eden St.) To Sta.4+35 (Caroline St.)

Bimal Devkota P.E., Chief
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Steve Sharkey, Director
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Raymond Kirby (5/23/70) has petitioned the courts on a name change to Raymond Holmes. An affidavit in opposition of this change must be filed with the family courts before 11/30/20.

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