

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 36 No. 5

December 3 - 9, 2021

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

Breaking News!

Jesus was indeed born in December! Christmas is correctly dated!

By The Reverend Peter Bramble, Ph.D., STM, MAR, LTH

As we get ready to celebrate Christmas, it is fitting to take a look at how we came to celebrate December 25th as the birthday of Jesus. Many people who are against this grand celebration try to bring discredit to the holiday by saying that the date is wrong and was chosen in an effort to adopt the celebration of the Winter Solstice which is celebrated by pagans on the birthdate of the sun. But we beg to differ. In this article we will show that the December dating of the birth of Jesus is actually based on the Bible itself. And the choice of the date of the 25th of December was also thoughtfully placed!

Recently, a preacher from Delaware was on *YouTube* calling Christians “heathen” for claiming that Jesus was born in December. He declared that he had the proof. His proof was taken from St Luke’s Gospel, Chapter One and verse 26 where it is clearly written: “In the sixth month The Angel Gabriel was sent to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, and the virgin’s name was Mary.”

The preacher then continued to prove his case. He said emphatically that the sixth month was June. And that is true for our calendar which is solar (sun) based. But it is not true for the Jewish calendar, now running for over 5,700 years, which is lunar (moon) based.

Continued on page 12

Time To Make Sure Your Kids are Safe on TikTok

Parenting Expert Kimberly A. Morrow Shares Tips



Parenting expert, Kimberly A. Morrow is the author of “8 Pearls of Wisdom: A Parenting Guide.” Through the book, she shares inspirational stories of hope and success in the classroom while also addressing issues that affect students. Morrow is looking to arm parents with information to help keep their kids safe on TikTok. (See article on page 9).

Courtesy Photo

Grow your curiosity

By Shayma Sulaiman,
Nucleus Team Member
Positively Caviar, Inc.

Each day, we are presented with new adventures, decisions and obstacles to face. At times, our daily routine can become mundane and the feeling of complacency may set in.

Have you ever questioned why this feeling sets in? There can be a variety of reasons you are feeling this way and those reasons may range widely. With the continuous desire to possess the ultimate work life balance, sometimes the checklists created between the two can feel like a crushing boulder above your head. We often times fall into a habit of getting through our days, to get through the weeks, to close out each year.

Take a moment. Inhale, exhale and be extremely present as you read this article. Can you count the number of times you've opened your eyes to a new day? Or even the number of times you have opened your eyes after taking a nap. I'm sure between the two you can't fathom the exact number off the top of your head. Consider this, each time you open your eyes you are given a new opportunity.

There is an idea I wanted to dive into. I recently sat down and thought about some qualities children possess freely that sometimes we lack or lose as we



Shayma Sulaiman,
Nucleus Team Member, Positively Caviar, Inc.
Courtesy Photo

matriculate through life in our journey of adulthood. Children often times have an unquenchable thirst to explore and discover.

I recently had a conversation with my nephew in which there was no specific topic but the questions being asked were a wide variety. It was an amalgam of random questions and through that

conversation I realized what we as adults can lack. It is curiosity. Having an itch for curiosity can push us to lead a happy and more successful life. Curious people are not content with focusing on a single thing— they are fascinated with an array of topics. They ask a lot of questions and put themselves in positions to try and take on new ventures.

Often times, fear, societal pressure of achievement, and striving to be self-dependent, push our wanting to explore and adventure to the back burner. Thankfully there are steps we can take to spark our curiosity. This will in turn ignite our creative fire.

Slow down and take time to read. It

allows your mind to become imaginative and wander. You're given the characters, plot, and setting the rest is up to you to envision. If nonfiction books peak your attention read about any and everything, you're interested in. Visiting an actual bookstore and getting lost in the aisles will help you figure out what interests you have if you're not sure.

Question everything. Life is full of questions to ask. Be in the moment and notice everything that interests you. Figure out the answers to the questions you can't stop thinking about. This will lead you to more knowledge, understanding, and enlightenment.

Conquer fear and do something different. Change can be scary so most people stick to what they know to receive a predicted outcome. We become so accustomed to routine that we don't even think about it. Talk yourself into stepping out of your comfort zone. The more you do that the more curious you become because your mind learns to stop talking yourself out of trying new endeavors.

Overall, it's imperative to work on developing and maintaining a positive mindset. This will allow you to move through life and jump over hurdles.

Positively Caviar, Inc. is a grassroots nonprofit organization focused on instilling mental resilience by way of positive thinking and optimism. Each month, a member of the Nucleus Team features a column focused on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts and stories that are positive in nature to support a positive and healthy lifestyle. To learn more about how you can support, volunteer or donate to Positively Caviar, Inc. visit: staybasedandpositive.com.

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The Baltimore Times

(USPS 5840) is published every Friday by *The Baltimore Times*, 2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201, Baltimore, MD 21218. Subscriptions by mail \$60 per year. Standard bulk postage paid at Baltimore, MD 21233.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

Time to Punish Big Tech's IP Theft

By Kristen Osenga

Owners of the Apple Watch might be walking around with stolen goods strapped to their wrist. In a complaint filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission this summer, medical device firm Masimo Corporation accuses Apple of stealing patented technology for measuring blood oxygen levels and incorporating that tech into the popular smartwatch.

Masimo's claims aren't far-fetched. For tech behemoths like Apple and Google, appropriating intellectual property (IP) is an all-too-common strategy for maintaining market dominance.

Many of the victims of such theft are smaller operations or individuals without the resources to stand up to massive tech companies.

The public and shareholders need to hold these tech firms accountable. Cracking down on Big Tech's predatory IP violations is the only way to defend the rights of inventors and start-ups, while promoting market competition that benefits consumers.

Masimo's suit against Apple is just one of several recent instances of alleged IP theft by the biggest players in the tech world. In August, a trade judge ruled that Google violated five different patents owned by speaker-maker Sonos. In 2019, a jury ruled that Apple had infringed three patents of its San-Diego-based supplier Qualcomm.

The principle guiding such behavior is obvious: If you can't beat your smaller competitors, steal from them outright. Odds are, your victim won't have the time or the money to defend their right in court. But if they do, Big Tech will be ready with an army of top-tier lawyers.

Lately though, small companies have been calling their bluff—and winning in court. With losses in the hundreds of millions, it's hard to imagine how executives at these tech firms justify their decision to shareholders.

By denying inventors a chance to reach their potential, Google and Apple are suppressing the competition that would otherwise benefit consumers by driving down prices.

Major tech firms counter these accusations by claiming that IP protections are too stringent, and that the patent holders are the ones engaging in anti-competitive behavior.

Such arguments are at best a distraction. At worst, these arguments are meant to fool the courts. The ability of a patent holder to seek licensing fees from others who want to use the technology is one of the primary benefits of a patent—and of a free market.

The real threat to competition comes from giant tech firms who refuse to honor the IP of smaller start-ups and individuals. Major technology companies must learn that infringement entails significant financial consequences.

Start-ups and individual inventors need assurance that their hard-won IP can't easily be stolen, by a deep-pocketed Apple or Google. Without such confidence, the incentive to innovate would evaporate.

An environment of strictly enforced patents isn't just important for a vibrant, competitive tech market—it's a precondition. Big Tech's assault on these essential protections has gone on for too long.

Kristen Osenga is the Austin E. Owen Research Scholar & Professor of Law at the University of Richmond School of Law.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I imagine Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin would hate if their dogs or cats were treated the way animals on factory farms are.

The reality is there isn't much difference between the furry companions we love and the livestock we slaughter. That's why our legislators should support increased federal funding for cultivated-meat research.

For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from cells, without killing. Upside Foods recently opened a facility near San Francisco capable of producing 50,000 pounds of this protein every year, with room to expand to

400,000 pounds. The company is waiting for the federal government to approve the sale of its product.

While the private sector has made remarkable advances, more public funding is needed for research. This will help address ongoing challenges, such as reaching price parity with slaughtered meat and developing whole-cut offerings, like steaks or filets.

Politicians who care about animals, similar to their pets, should support this effort.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

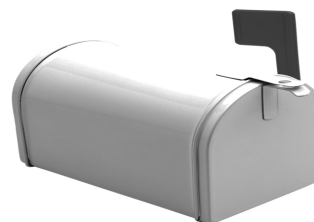
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Ensuring Racial Equity by Expanding Internet Access

By **Jose Marquez**,
*National President and CEO
of TechLatino*

*Billionaire Robert F. Smith and other
corporate leaders mount campaign to
close the digital divide*

With protests having erupted in cities across the country over police violence targeting Black men and women, the civil rights and social justice movements have shot to forefront of U.S. politics in a way not seen since the 1960s.

While much of the conversation rightly has centered on police brutality and the role law enforcement plays in American society, communities of color also are discriminated against in numerous other ways. Many Black Americans, Latinos and other people of color are given substandard educational opportunities, lack avenues to workforce training and advancement and, arguably most important in today's tech-driven world, face a dearth of access to reliable,

affordable broadband Internet.

Congress made a good first step in ameliorating this dire situation when it passed President Biden's infrastructure bill, but the \$65 billion allocation in broadband for all is hardly enough to close the digital divide.

throughout the region. And among the goals of this partnership is to expand broadband access across six metro areas throughout the South: Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Houston, Memphis, and New Orleans. The effort has the backing of some of the most

Census data has shown that while there are approximately five million rural households without broadband access, this problem is three times as large in urban areas—with around 15 million urban or metro households without broadband.

Affordable and ubiquitous access to high-speed Internet, however, is just the starting point. We also must expand access to the hardware and software people need to take full advantage of all the internet has to offer and maintain an ecosystem of digital educators, repair workers, designers and other tech specialists who can keep improvements going long into the future.

Guaranteeing that all Americans have broadband access would not only help close the digital divide but would also give the United States an edge in global competitiveness as it would bring millions of people more fully into the digital economy. One study from last year found that only about 30 percent of African Americans had access to broadband compared with about 60 percent of whites.

There is a broad consensus from civil rights leaders to corporate heads to policymakers inside the Washington Beltway that broadband access is a right of every American. Lawmakers must take note and ensure that all Americans have the ability to log on.

Jose Marquez is the national President and CEO of TechLatino: Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA).

“The gap in digital access is particularly wide in communities of color, where one in three families with children lack a high-speed Internet connection at home— a rate of disconnection more than 50 percent higher than that of white families. The problem is exacerbated in areas across the South from Atlanta to Houston where 35 percent of Black adults lack any access to broadband at home.”

The gap in digital access is particularly wide in communities of color, where one in three families with children lack a high-speed Internet connection at home—a rate of disconnection more than 50 percent higher than that of white families. The problem is exacerbated in areas across the South from Atlanta to Houston where 35 percent of Black adults lack any access to broadband at home.

Lawmakers need to make sure that they include a broadband policy that guarantees no American is stranded on the wrong side of the digital divide. The private sector is already doing this with a little-known but ambitious effort like the Southern Communities Initiative. It is seeking to address the socio-economic challenges that African Americans face

powerful individuals in corporate America, including PayPal CEO Dan Schulman, Vista CEO Robert F. Smith and BCG CEO Rich Lesser.

We are not too late to bridge the digital divide, and the Southern Communities Initiative will almost certainly play an important role in helping accomplish that in communities like my hometown of Atlanta. But this important work cannot be left to private individuals and organizations alone. Lawmakers must do their part to ensure that high-speed Internet is available and affordable to every American, no matter where in the country they live.

While policymakers in Washington have focused on getting broadband access to rural areas, we must also make sure that urban areas are not overlooked.

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Pioneering Black Golf Champ Lee Elder Dies at 87

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire
Senior National Correspondent
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Lee Elder, a golfing pioneer, and the first Black player to compete in the Masters has died at 87.

“It’s remarkable to look back on Lee’s life and career and realize the hardships he endured and the sacrifices he made to reach golf’s highest level,” said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. “To have the success he had while paving the way for others to dream big and achieve is a testament to the type of man he was and how much talent he possessed. The TOUR is profoundly grateful for the career of Lee Elder, and we extend our sincere sympathies to his family.”

Born in 1934 in Dallas, Texas, Elder took up golf to help his parents financially. He caddied at the all-White Tenneson Park Golf Club in Dallas, but soon the golf pro began allowing Elder to play the course.

In 1959, Elder joined the United Golfers Association and dominated the all-Black group. According to BlackPast.org, Elder won four Negro National Open Championships and an eye-opening 18 of the 22 tournaments in which he participated.

Using the purses from those victories allowed Elder to participate in the 1967 qualifying school for the PGA TOUR.

In 1971, Elder made history as the first Black player invited to participate in the South African PGA Tournament.

“His participation in that event, made this the first integrated sports event in South Africa since the establishment of the official Apartheid policy in 1948,”



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Courtesy Photo/NNPA

researchers at the Black Past wrote.

However, they further noted that Elder and other Black golfers continued to face racial challenges at home.

“Although the PGA Tour was officially open to African Americans, it was not friendly to them. Many tournaments would not allow Black golfers into the clubhouse and instead required that they change and eat in the parking lot,” the researchers wrote.

In 1975, Elder made history again in Augusta, Georgia, when he was invited

to compete at the Masters Open—the most prestigious tournament in golf.

With his victory at the 1974 Monsanto Open, Elder automatically qualified for the Masters Open, but he also became the first Black player invited. Unfortunately, Elder missed the qualifying round in the tournament.

Still, his entrance was an African American milestone covered by almost every major magazine and news program in the country, noted the Black Press.

Elder played in five more Masters, won three PGA tournaments, and was named to the 1979 Ryder Cup Team.

He had a combined 12 tournament victories on the PGA and Senior Tours, earning more than \$1 million on each tour.

However, his invitation to the Masters in 1975 proved that African Americans could compete at the highest levels of golf, the researchers continued.

“Lee Elder was a pioneer, and in so many ways,” legendary golf champ Jack Nicklaus told Bill Fields during a PGATOUR.com interview.

“Yes, he was the first Black player to compete in the Masters Tournament, but that simply underlined the hard work Lee put in to further the cause of everyone who has a dream to play on the PGA TOUR and perhaps thinks there were too many barriers before them. It was wonderful that the Masters Tournament and Augusta National paid a well-deserved tribute to Lee by inviting him to be an Honorary Starter on this last Masters. That morning, you could see the joy in Lee’s face, and Gary Player and I were honored to enjoy that moment with him. That memory will remain special for so many, including me, for many years to come.

“Lee was a good player, but most importantly, a good man who countless people very well respected,” added Nicklaus. “The game of golf lost a hero in Lee Elder. Barbara and I send our heartfelt condolences to Lee’s wife Sharon and their entire family.”

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Bell Nursery offers tips for caring for your Poinsettias

Elkridge, Md.— Bell Nursery, the largest grower of plant material in the Mid-Atlantic and one of the largest growers in the nation, will move more than 1 million poinsettia plants in a dozen varieties of red, white and pink, through The Home Depot registers this holiday season.

A tropical plant native to Mexico, the poinsettia was brought to the United States in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico. Since that time, the poinsettia has become one of the most popular holiday plants. Although, traditionally known for their bright red color, poinsettias come in several hues.

This year, Bell Nursery has grown more than a dozen designer poinsettia varieties such as “Superba New Glitter” and “Christmas Magic.”

With the holiday season fast approaching, Bell Nursery offers three simple tips to help your poinsettias look their best:

Pick a healthy plant. The longevity of a poinsettia plant can be dependent



A tropical plant native to Mexico, the poinsettia was brought to the United States in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett. Since that time, the poinsettia has become one of the most popular holiday plants. (Above) A variety of poinsettias in a Bell Nursery.

Courtesy Photo/Bell Nursery

on its purchased condition. Select a plant that has bright green leaves and colorful sturdy bracts. After returning home with

the plant, remove its protective covering and place in a location that receives indirect sunlight.

Water the plant regularly. Practicing proper watering techniques is important to the survival of all plants. Poinsettias should be watered when the plant’s soil is dry. A great way to water it is to take the plant to the sink, remove the foil wrapping and add water to the soil. The foil wrapping can be replaced, after the excess water has drained from the plant. The plant can also be placed in a saucer and the foil wrapping can be punctured at the bottom of the plant to allow drainage.

Avoid direct sunlight. Because poinsettias are tropical plants, they do require some sunlight. But, placing the plant in direct sunlight can cause damage to the plant’s leaves. Extreme low or high temperatures and drafts should also be avoided.

Poinsettias are wonderful additions to holiday decor; they also make great hostess gifts. For additional holiday decorating inspiration and Bell Nursery products, visit: www.bellnursery.com.



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Digital Exhibition, Mobile App Focuses on African American Civil Rights

By Ursula V. Battle

Harford Civil Rights Project, a digital exhibition and a mobile app focusing on various aspects of the African American civil rights movement in Harford County in the 20th century, debuted on October 28, 2021, and includes topics ranging from desegregating schools, restaurants and movie theaters to the fair housing movement.

Current and historic photographs along with oral history videos are posted with stories and research conducted over the past three years by Harford Community College's faculty and students. The Project was funded with a \$97,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in addition to funding from Harford Community College and the Harford Community College Foundation.

"It's a story-based project and digital exhibition, where people can read about what happened," said Dr. James Karmel, professor of history at Harford Community College, who leads the Project. "They can listen to oral history, clips that are connected to a number of the stories, and they can look at pictures. They can also use the mapping and figure out where key events occurred. A lot of it also includes research that we've done. It's terrific."

The mobile app, available to download for free in the Apple app store and in the Android app store, includes several tours focusing on school desegregation, the Freedom Ride on Route 40 and key sites in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Among the topics covered are the 1953 protest and a sit-in to desegregate the Read's lunch counter in Havre de Grace; visits by Freedom Riders on December 16, 1961 to Route 40 restaurants including The Flying Clipper, The Aberdeen Diner and The Musical Inn.

"It's been a wonderful three-year project that is coming to an end in calendar year 2021, but the Project will be sustained at least in the short term, by the college," said Dr. Karmel. "Hopefully, we can continue to keep expanding because there are a lot of



Dr. James Karmel, professor of history at Harford Community College
Photo courtesy of Dr. James Karmel

other stories and a lot of other things we want to keep developing out of the exhibition."

The Project features the June 1961 denial of service to Ambassador Adam Malik Sow of Chad at the Bonnie Brae Diner in Edgewood and other African diplomats at restaurants on Route 40 in Harford and Baltimore counties.

Dr. Karmel noted the denial of service was covered nationally and regionally. He noted the efforts of The AFRO-American Newspaper, who sent its own Black reporters dressed in diplomatic and African attire to several restaurants along the Route 40 corridor to see how they would be treated.

"We have images from that including some AFRO-American Newspaper pictures," said Dr. Karmel. "The AFRO's coverage helped propel what was happening into the national consciousness. From there, Life Magazine picked up the story. The AFRO was just an incredible source for civil rights stories and articles and the newspaper covered it so well, nationally. But because it was Baltimore-based, there is a particular focus in the Baltimore region, and so we relied on that a lot."

Located in Bel Air, Maryland, the Harford Community College offers more



The Aberdeen Diner c1940s to 60s
Photos courtesy of Harford Civil Rights Project

than 90 affordable degree and certificate programs of study as well as a variety of noncredit community education and workforce development courses. Dr. Karmel is a professor of history with a strong interest in supporting student success. He has a doctorate in American history, and has taught at Harford Community College for 25 years. His interest in the Civil Rights Movement and other aspects of African American History dates back to his childhood. He said both his parents were proponents of the Civil Rights Movement.

"My Dad and I were watching a football game and one team was in black and the other in white," he recalled. "I asked my Dad, 'Who do we want to win, the blacks or the whites? He got mad and asked me, 'What do you mean the blacks or the whites? Everybody's the same.' He articulated his values, but I

was actually referring to the color of the player's shirts. But that was an early lesson to me in terms of what his values were, and my Dad imparted those values in me at a very young age."

Dr. Karmel said he has been involved in African American history for approximately 20 years, and has always been interested in oral history as an educational tool. He also said the Project has been getting positive reviews, and that he plans to create a manual to enable community residents along with high school and college students to add to the digital exhibition in the future.

"The educational part of my job is huge, and it's very much connected to my work as a historian," he said.

For more information or to see the digital exhibition, visit: www.harfordcivilrights.org

Time To Make Sure Your Kids are Safe on TikTok Parenting Expert Kimberly A. Morrow Shares Tips

By Ursula V. Battle

The popular video-focused app TikTok features short videos with durations ranging from 13 seconds to three minutes and includes entertainment, stunts, pranks, and tricks. With its steadily growing youthful audience and popularity that hasn't shown signs of waning, the company continues to make its mark in the world of social media. Owned by Chinese company ByteDance, the social media giant reported earlier this year that it has one billion active global users.

Parenting expert and author Kimberly A. Morrow is looking to arm parents with information to help keep their kids safe on TikTok.

"I'm not one who is on TikTok, but my children certainly are, and I wanted to get this information out there," said Morrow. "I'm also not a TikTok influencer, but I am a parenting expert and I want to make parents aware of the different things that are going on and what they can do to protect and empower their children."

Morrow's tips include the following: Gradually introduce TikTok to your kids at 13; Talk to them about Cyberbullying; Set their musical.ly account to private; and Make sure they are Share Aware.

"Music.ly is what Tik Tok was before," explained Morrow. "Some Tik Tok users were Music.ly users before Music.ly merged with Tik Tok. Those tips just included the past name users who are familiar with Music.ly will understand. Make sure your settings are set to private."

Morrow also offered these tips: Get familiar with the community guidelines; Be aware of explicit songs on the app; Turn on Digital Wellbeing settings on the TikTok app; and Know-how and when to report a problem.

"There is this whole social media phenomena around TikTok right now," she said. "My students tell me it's easy for them to get access to TikTok and that it's easy for them to create a video and upload it. I want parents to make sure their children are not putting personal



Kimberly A. Morrow is a parenting expert and author.

information out there, their passwords are protected, and that they are changing their passwords often. Just like with Facebook, people can hack into their accounts and create dummy accounts. I want parents to be aware of ensuring that whenever their kids are on TikTok or other social media platform and not using their own personal device, they should always log out.

"Just little things that seem like they're very common sense. But a lot of times, we forget those things. I've gone to public places like a library where they

have public computers, and I've come behind someone else who've left their email information up or didn't log-out of their Facebook account. That's very unsafe."

Morrow shared one person's experience:

"Hackers can steal your identity," she said. "As parents, we think our children are immune to that, but they aren't. I had a former student who came to me and said someone in another state had stolen his identity. For many years, the person was using his identity and he didn't find

out until it was time for him to get a job."

Morrow has a master's degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University Graduate School of Education and is founder of the Doris L. Morrow Academy, named after her late mother. She is the author of "8 Pearls of Wisdom: A Parenting Guide". Through the book, she shares inspirational stories of hope and success in the classroom while also addressing issues that affect students.

"Parents should just remember they are still the parents," said the mother of three. "Kids feel like parents knowing what they are looking at is an invasion of their privacy. No, at the very least we should know what our children are looking at. It's not a matter of invading their privacy, it's a matter of keeping them safe. It's called parenting."

"There are some inappropriate dangerous, TikTok challenges that are going around. There are certain things that are inappropriate and illegal, and children should not be participants in that. Parents need to also make sure children are not following the lines of bullying because their children and them can [get] into legal trouble if they are engaging in any type of cyber bullying. These are things parents should definitely be aware of, as they're allowing their children to get on TikTok."

A native of Chicago, Morrow was raised in Los Angeles, California.

"A lot of people are getting famous and making money on TikTok," said Morrow. "People should feel empowered to become entrepreneurs. But at the same time, there are people out there who don't have their best intentions. The main thing for parents is not to be afraid of technology. It's good for their children to become young entrepreneurs. But be knowledgeable and be safe."

For more information, visit: www.dlmacademy.org

The Cordish Companies and Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland host Free Minority Outreach Fair

Hanover, Md.— The Cordish Companies and Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland are continuing the tradition of partnering with the Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA) to create opportunities for small-, minority-, and women-owned businesses to engage with potential contracting partners.

These include leading prime construction companies, utilities, education providers, professional services, suppliers, financial institutions, healthcare organizations, casinos, and Maryland's newest industry, offshore wind. In past years, over 8,500 minority-led firms have come together at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland to meet with dozens of companies interested in contracting new work with diversity and inclusion top of mind.

The Minority Outreach Fair will be held in Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland's Event Center on Friday, December 10, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Admission, exhibitor participation, and parking is free of charge.

Among the confirmed exhibitors for 2021 will be Exelon, Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland Medical System, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Clark Construction Group, LLC, US Wind, DC Water, and T-Rowe Price. Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot will also be onsite to welcome guests and speak about the importance of supporting minority-owned businesses.

"It is truly an honor to host the eighth annual Minority Outreach Fair in partnership with the MWMCA," said Zed Smith, COO, The Cordish Companies. "It has always been a priority for both The Cordish

Companies and Live! Casino & Hotel to promote diversity and inclusion in our workplaces and communities and this event is a tribute to those efforts. Providing a venue for minority owned businesses and contractors to network and build relationships is a powerful way to support our community members."

The Minority Outreach Fair is part of a series of regular minority outreach events produced by The Cordish Companies and the MWMCA. Through this ongoing partnership, the two organizations demonstrate their commitment to inclusion and ensure that MBE/WBE firms have their foot in the local economy. Attendees of this event will have the chance to meet with leading entities across a broad variety of industries, who can provide information on current and upcoming work and/or contract opportunities.

"Our ongoing partnership with the MWMCA is one we are very proud of," added Anthony Faranca, general manager, Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland. "We are fully committed to providing economic opportunity to minority-, women-, and small-owned businesses and this outreach fair does just that, by facilitating a large-scale networking event right here in Anne Arundel County."

"The COVID-19 pandemic impacted everyone, but in particular, we saw many minority communities and businesses suffer," said Wayne Frazier, President of the MWMCA. "This year's Minority Outreach Fair is coming at an absolutely crucial time and we are thankful to partner with The Cordish Companies and Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland to bring this event to our community so these businesses can continue their journey to economic recovery."

To register or for more information, visit www.MWMCA.org or email events@mwmca.org.

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Breaking News!

Jesus was indeed born in December! Christmas is correctly dated!

Continued from page 1

See, for us, our year begins in January and the sixth month is indeed June. But for the Jewish people (and Jesus and the writers of the New Testament were Jewish and functioning off the lunar calendar) their year begins roughly between September 19 and October 17, give or take a day or two.

If what is stated above is true, then the "sixth month" when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary suddenly becomes mid-March to mid-April. Jesus would have been conceived in March and if one counts nine months forward—the time it takes before a baby is naturally born, we can and indeed MUST conclude that Jesus was born in the mid-December to mid-January time period.

The first Christians, when they placed the time of the birth of Jesus, were most certainly aware of the time the Bible says Jesus was conceived—in the sixth month! But they were Jews, and their first month was September! That is why in the calendars of the Roman and other Catholic Churches, March 25th is celebrated as the Feast of the Annunciation, their sixth month and exactly nine months before December 25th, which is Christmas Day—a fixed, rather than moveable feast for Christians. Amazingly, some parts of the Christian Church actually celebrate January 6th as being more important than December 25th. And they have been doing this for centuries now! All this is still within the time frame of how the Jewish calendar would have served to place the conception of Jesus as being in the sixth month on the Jewish calendar—our March—and Jesus' birth coming nine months later, in December.

Christians therefore need not be doubtful about Christmas and its dating. It is dated correctly according the Scripture, Luke 1:26 and the Jewish calendar whose New Year often starts in September.

While we are on the topic of dating Christmas, here is another theory about how it was dated in ancient times. And this theory was used by the ancients to

pinpoint December 25th as the actual date of the birth of Jesus.

It is said that ancient peoples believed that great religious leaders died on the day they were conceived. The early Church believed that Jesus died on March 25th, the first Good Friday. Entering scholars could actually check this out by researching whether there was a Jewish Passover on what would have been March 25th in the year Jesus died. We know that Passover and Easter could never come before the Spring Solstice because it was only after the first Full Moon after the Spring Solstice, that Passover, and consequently Easter could be dated.

If it were indeed true that ancients believed that great religious leaders died on the day they were conceived, and Jesus was known to have died on March 25th, then its an easy count from the day of conception—March 25—to the day of birth, nine months late, December 25th.

This is just another argument to help Christians gain more confidence in the factual basis of their faith which is often ridiculed and attacked in these modern days. The Christian Faith is grounded in historical facts about a man who was born, most likely in December and crucified most likely in March. We know that he was born; and we choose to celebrate his birth on December 25th without apology. We know He died at Passover time, and we believe he arose from the dead Easter Day.

So, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, when they come! And we use this period of Advent to prepare for this great message: God, the father of all things good, sends his son, Jesus, to incarnate good and goodness into the lives of humans. Just think about that conceptually for a moment. God the father of goodness sends his son to incarnate the goodness of God into the life of mankind. Light shining in the darkness, and we hope that the darkness will comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, this season.

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Ravens look to put slow starts behind them

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens will gladly take their 16-10 win over the Cleveland Browns. However, they don't like that it was another game in which they had a slow start. The Ravens want to put those slow starts behind them in the future.

Last Sunday's game included four interceptions by Lamar Jackson but the dynamic quarterback was able to shake off the errors and lead his team to a win.

"Just move on. It'll still be on my mind, because I'll still be talking about it, but you have to move on—move on to the next job," Jackson said after the game. "When you get another opportunity, just go out there and try to be right there."

Head coach John Harbaugh added, "Lamar is a guy who makes so many plays for us, and of course, he's quarterback. The interceptions—one of them was tipped, whatever, but he wants those plays back.

"He's mad about them. He's a massive competitor, yet he doesn't let it take



Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh says the team must score points with their yards and first downs. Over the past last few weeks, the Ravens have unable to put up a high number of points even though they have had a high number of first downs.

Photo Credit: www.NFL.com

control of him. He's able to push it

aside, and he's able to play the next series and give you great football. It's really a rare trait. To me, that's one of the things that makes him the quarterback that he is. That's why I'm so excited that he's on our team, one of the reasons."

The Ravens' drives in the first half included a punt after they gained 11 yards on six plays, two field goals by Justin Tucker and three interceptions. Baltimore still managed to finish the first half with a 6-3 lead over the Browns.

Fortunately, the Ravens' defense managed to keep Cleveland from taking advantage. The defense recovered two fumbles, forced three punts and only allowed a 46-yard field goal by Chase McLaughlin before halftime.

As for why the Ravens offense had a slow start, head coach John Harbaugh offered a detailed explanation focusing on their inability to get first downs. He mentioned the turnovers also but the big focus was scoring points when they're able to put drives together.

"I think we just need to score more points with our yards and our first downs. So, we've had high numbers of first downs the last two [or] three weeks, without a high number of points," Harbaugh said. "We kind of correlate yards and first downs to points, time of possession. The time of possession was way up. That was a big part of the game—keeping their offense off the field.

"It helped our defense tremendously. So, our offense contributed in a lot of really good ways, but the points are something that we need to do a better job of. We had opportunities down there that we had to settle for field goals a couple times [on]."

Now that they've identified the problem, the next step is to go back to the drawing board to construct a plan to avoid the slow starts going forward. Their first test will be next week in Pittsburgh against the AFC rival Steelers.

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The Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival returns highlighting local and regional chocolatiers

The grand illumination of the Holiday Light Canopy over West Street immediately follows the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival on the first block of West Street in downtown Annapolis

Annapolis— Life is starting to return to normal as events like the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival return to downtown Annapolis this December.

The event took last year off as a precaution during a spike in COVID. This year as the vaccine is now available to most of the population this sweet event is returning to the first block of West Street in downtown Annapolis.

“This outdoor shopping event has become one of Annapolis’ favorite holiday events and everyone is excited to see it return,” said Erik Evans, executive director of the Inner West Street Association.

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, Annapolis will be enjoy a West Street filled with local chocolatiers ready to help chocoholics get through the holiday season during the 6th annual Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival featuring family-friendly entertainment, chocolate and holiday shopping from noon to 5 p.m. Then, as the sunsets get your camera ready for the Holiday Light Canopy that goes from circle to circle on West Street lighting up the Annapolis Arts District.

Take a chocolate tour shopping from over two-dozen local and regional vendors selling various chocolate specialties, including chocolate, caramels, cakes, chocolate bars, truffles, fudge, cookies, candies, hot chocolate, brownies, barks, pastries, macaroons, and more. Expect to find high-quality chocolates including; small batch bean to bar, vegan, kosher, non-gmo, organic, and gluten-free options.

Some of the local and regional chocolatiers attending include: Veritas Artizen Chocolate; Heritage Chocolate; Otterbein’s Cookies; Blue Crab Cupcakes; Little Boy Bakery; Happy Chicken Bakery; Foxtrot Chocolates; Harper Macaw; Charm School Chocolate; Capital Candy Jar; Chocolate Moonshine; Peanut Butter Dreamz; Pure Chocolate by Jinji; I Love Munchies;



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Stone House Bakery; Balti’Marons; Cookie Jar Kits; River-Sea Chocolates; Annapolis Chocolate Bar; Lisa’s Cakepops; and more.

You can also complete your holiday shopping at the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival from dozens of local artisans with a wide range of handmade items including jewelry, pottery, candles, wood-turnings, paintings, photography, and more. Plus visit the galleries and shops along Inner West Street for other unique gifts and stop inside one of the restaurants for a chocolate martini or other specialty drink or desserts they will be featuring along with lunch and dinner during the festival.

The entertainment starts off at noon on two different stages on West Street with live music from the Priddy Music Group. Gallery 57 West is hosting

The event will be a fun time to indulge your sweet tooth at the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival which helps to fund local events like Dinner Under the Stars; First Sunday Arts Festivals; public art exhibits; local food pantries; and more.

Tickets are just \$5 online for adults (kids under 12 are free with parents). You are encouraged to buy tickets in advance as ticket sales will be limited to control crowds at the event.

Attendees are also invited to bring canned foods and drop them off with the Annapolis Fire Department, which will be located at each end of the festival collecting for local food pantries. Those who buy tickets online will also have the option to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$10,000 grand prize. It is recommended that attendees get COVID vaccinated or wear a mask.

There is plenty of easy parking within two blocks of the festival including Whitmore Parking Garage (at 25 Clay Street which is free until 4 pm or \$2 all day), and the Calvert Street Garage is free all day at 19 St. Johns Street. Other nearby paid parking garages include Gotts Court Garage, Knighton Parking Garage, and Park Place Garage. For those parking further out on West Street at Park Place Garage, you can take the free Circulator bus from there to the festival.



activities for kids and Luna Blu Restaurant is hosting a wine and chocolate tasting (additional fee).

For more information, visit: www.annapolischocolatebingefestival.com

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