

Are the Jobs Mandated for COVID-19 Truly Vaccines Or Are They Just Therapies?

By Peter Bramble

Former President Donald Trump, through his project 'warp speed' got several pharmaceutical companies to rapidly develop what the scientists were telling us were vaccines for COVID-19. Many kudos to Trump and his efforts to combat the disease. He followed what the scientists told him and commissioned the development of these so-called vaccines. President Joe Biden, who with his Vice President Kamala Harris initially ridiculed the vaccines saying on tape that they would not trust any vaccine developed by Trump, is now mandating the same vaccines they once ridiculed with the help of the traditional press.

Now, after more than one year of pushing these vaccines and after the vast majority of Americans have taken the jab, some the two first recommended and then the third which they call a booster, COVID in one form or another is overtaking the country again. Vaccinated people are getting it just like the unvaccinated.

This leads us to ask whether what is in the jab really qualifies to be termed 'vaccines.' We thought that vaccines,

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The Baltimore Times Digital



34th Annual MLK Jr. Awards Program, Jan. 14, 2022



Fourteen local civil rights, human rights activists and groups are being honored at the 34th Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program in Anne Arundel County on Friday, January 14, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the BWI Westin Hotel in Linthicum, Md. Photo: Dr. King's Memorial in Washington, D.C. (See article on page 8) Courtesy Photo

How to start 2022 with clarity and intention

By Chazz Scott,
Nucleus Team Member
Positively Caviar, Inc.

“The older I get, the faster life goes,” the saying goes.

Trust me—I know the feeling. But unfortunately, every time we close out a year and begin a new one, this seems to be the “go-to” mantra everyone falls back on.

My question is—does it ever slow down? I don’t think so. It’s apparent none of us have any control over time, but one thing we do have control over is what we do with that time.

One of the essential parts of beginning a new chapter in life is reflection. Without reflection or contemplation about the past then it’s hard to advance yourself to figure out where you desire to go.

Make sure you stop and think and reflect over your life in 2021. What went right? What went wrong? Are you becoming happier day by day? Do you need to distance yourself from certain negative people in your life? Are your personal relationships and friendships becoming more meaningful? Are you taking any steps in the direction of your dreams and passions?

These are critical questions we must



Take some time to reflect on how you spend your time throughout the day. For example, are you spending it on things you enjoy— such as spending time with family with no distractions, working out, meditating, going to parks more, and investing in personal development.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

ask ourselves otherwise, we run the risk of just “going through the motions” heading into the New Year.

When you set time aside for reflection, the next biggest question you must ask yourself is where you are placing your time. Since time cannot be controlled— it makes sense that we need to be very

deliberate about what we do with our time daily to ensure we are using it adequately.

For example, let’s say you review 2021 and believe that you should have exercised more to improve your health and overall personal satisfaction, instead of mindlessly scrolling on social media.

So, for 2022 you can say to yourself, “Well, I realize time is not stopping or slowing down for me, so I must be intentional about what I do with the time I have left to ensure it aligns with the life I desire.” With this inner reflection,

you may make a promise to yourself to add a one-hour block on your calendar to hit the gym, walk or run daily.

These are powerful realizations that you can relate to any aspect of your life.

We can’t alter time, but we can certainly change what we do with our time to ensure it aligns with our goals and desires.

Take some time to reflect on how you spend your time throughout the day. For example, are you spending it on things you enjoy— such as spending time with family with no distractions, working out, meditating, going to parks more, and investing in personal development.

When you become intentional about what you do with your time, this can lead to a sense of inner joy and contentment without the feeling that your life is passing you by.

Let’s go into 2022 with intention and clarity, so you feel like time is on your side! In reality, it always was.

Positively Caviar, Inc. is a nonprofit centered on using positive thinking and optimism as a vehicle to instill mental resilience and disrupt mental health stigmas faced in our communities. Each month, a member of the Nucleus Team features a column focused on mental and physical health tips, scientific studies, nutrition facts, and positive stories to support a positive and healthy lifestyle. To learn more about how you can support, volunteer, or donate to Positively Caviar, Inc., visit: positivelycaviar.com



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NBA star Chris Paul and Phoenix Suns owner exemplify support for HBCUs

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
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When the NBA and NBA Foundation announced new programs earlier this year designed to create more opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), it only underscored the value placed on those institutions by the league, its owners, and players.

The announcement also helped set the stage for the November 2021 inaugural Boost Mobile HBCU Challenge at Footprint Center in Phoenix, home of the Phoenix Suns NBA Team.

The vision of Suns' superstar point guard Chris Paul, the tournament featured Hampton, Norfolk State, Morgan State, and Grambling State. The schools faced off in a round-robin format that ESPN2 and ESPNU carried live on national television.

Paul said the goal was to increase the visibility of HBCUs by hosting them in an NBA arena on national TV.

"I [was] so excited for the chance to

give these players the opportunity to experience something not usually available to HBCU student-athletes and compete on a national stage," Paul said in a statement. "My time in college is something I'll never forget, and I hope these events give these players something they'll remember for the rest of their lives. I sincerely appreciate the collaboration of the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Phoenix Suns to bring this to life, and I can't thank the team over at Boost Mobile enough for their support of this event."

It's not lost on Paul and Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver that HBCU basketball doesn't receive the fanfare and national media attention accorded other mainstream NCAA institutions.

From conference playoffs and the annual March Madness to the NCAA Championship game, much of the nation— if not the globe— focuses on college basketball.

Despite the same level of play and intensity, games involving HBCUs are, by comparison, mostly devoid of such a media spotlight.



As 2021 ended, the Suns and the NBA have cemented their legacy among professional sports leagues as pioneers and activists for social justice change.

Photo Credit: nba.com/Phoenix Suns

"For me, it's just about giving a voice to the voiceless," Paul stated on the ESPN show, First Take.

Paul has routinely led by example.

As union president, the point guard helped negotiate an agreement between the league and the Players Association to allow NBA athletes to suit up wearing various social justice phrases on their uniforms. Players like Paul, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony wore jerseys

with messages like— "Say Her Name," "I Can't Breathe," and "Speak Up."

As 2021 ended, the Suns and the NBA have cemented their legacy among professional sports leagues as pioneers and activists for social justice change.

They've also firmed up their commitment to HBCUs sports scholarships and other strategies to increase the visibility of the accomplishments of HBCUs athletes.

Suns coach Monty Williams learned the nuances of basketball from Taft Hickman, who spent nearly a half-century coaching at high schools in the Washington, D.C., area and Bowie State University, an HBCU located in Maryland.

Williams also has noted the commitment Sarver and the Suns organization has made to provide the best training facilities, support staff, and talent to help the team succeed on and off the court.

"While I have striven to understand and relate to what our Black players are feeling and experiencing today, I sympathize with them, listen to them, and support them," Sarver affirmed in a previously released statement.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Your ancestors didn't have a problem with it!

By Cheryl Smith,

Publisher of I Messenger Media and Texas Metro News

Now some people are not going to like what they are about to read! Dallas, Texas' historic Friendship-West Baptist Church (FWBC), under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, called for 100 Days of Buying Black as members focus on the 100th Commemoration of the Tulsa Race Massacre. Beginning September 23, 2021, through December 31, 2021. In the call, Friendship-West is "committed to economic justice in supporting Black-owned businesses, advocating for just lending practices, and working towards comprehensive sustainable community development."

On the FWBC Facebook page, it reads: "Our goal is to continue the legacy of Black Wall Street by circulating our dollars within the Black community to strengthen our economic base." Join the movement!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/100daysofbuyingblack>.

Now what does this mean for America and Black companies internationally? Well, that depends on YOU, US, EVERYONE, including, ME! When you consider that there are more than two million Black-owned businesses in America, alone, according to the most recent Census data, and you consider the dollars spent to boost the economy; everyone benefits from the support.

New York and Washington, D.C. have the greatest number of Black-owned businesses in the country and the highest percentage of Black-owned businesses, respectively. I know men and women who are working tirelessly to build their businesses and support their communities. They are following a tradition that is steeped in Ujamaa or Cooperative Economics. According to former U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, small businesses drive the U.S. economy. Many of these entrepreneurs are providing quality services and goods, making them deserving of support.

If we just focus on America, there was a time when most of the business that was transacted, all the educating that was taking place, all the birthing of babies, and all the saving of souls was Black on Black. Folks didn't have a problem. Everyone knew their places and they stayed in them! Black people didn't have a problem supporting their own. Not only were they able to get quality services and goods. No one had to be told to spend their money with Black people and for many Black businesses then and now their only patrons look like them.

What I'd like to see is everyone shopping where they want to with a realization that ice is the same temperature EVERYWHERE! We also know that good and bad employees are EVERYWHERE. So, I'm inviting EVERYONE to join Friendship-West Baptist Church and Buy Black for the next 100 days. I'm not telling you to compromise your values or standards. Come on people, you can find quality services and goods with Black businesses. This can be proven by looking back in history because when services and goods from Blacks were FREE—utilizing our goods and services wasn't a problem or an issue.

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Community Affairs

Governor provides update on COVID-19 State of Emergency and Omicron Variant

Annapolis— At the January 5, 2022, Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting, Governor Larry Hogan provided an update on the COVID-19 state of emergency and steps the state is taking to address the national testing shortage.

"I want to inform this board that, to address this national shortage, we are currently working on numerous emergency procurements to deal with the multiple emergency actions related to the crisis, including the acquisition of as many of these rapid tests as we possibly can from multiple sources," said Governor Hogan. "As I said yesterday, the next four to six weeks will be the most challenging of the entire pandemic."

Emergency Procurements for At-Home Rapid Tests— Governor Hogan notified the BPW that state officials are now working on emergency procurements to acquire more at-home rapid tests to address the national shortage. The state is currently in the process of distributing one million rapid

tests through state-run testing sites and local health departments.

Sequencing Data: Omicron Is Dominant Variant— Governor Hogan announced that, according to the state's lab partners, 88.5 percent of all recently analyzed samples tested positive for the Omicron variant. And of those samples that were hospitalized, 91.4 percent have the Omicron variant. The data shows that the Omicron variant is clearly the dominant variant among the confirmed COVID-19 cases in Maryland.

UMMS: Two Percent of COVID Patients Boosted— The governor also shared new data from the University of Maryland Medical System showing that over the last 30 days, 74 percent of COVID patients were unvaccinated and 24 percent were considered fully vaccinated, while just two percent were boosted. This data highlights the urgency of getting boosted now for maximum protection against the Omicron variant. State health officials have authorized booster shots for all eligible Marylanders 12 and older.

Marylanders are encouraged to utilize all of the recommended prevention strategies, including getting booster shots and wearing masks.

The rich get richer at our expense, especially during the pandemic

By Dr. Ken Morgan

Yes, the rich get richer at our expense, especially during the pandemic.

Recently, I read several articles that confirmed my opinion. I will share my readings with you.

Guess what? According to Bloomberg's billionaire's index, the top 10 billionaires added an estimated \$402 billion to their wealth this past year.

Who are they? Elon Musk heads the list followed by Jeff Bezos; Bill Gates; Larry Page; Mark Zuckerberg; Sergey Brin; Steve Ballmer; Warren Buffet; and Larry Ellison in the Bloomberg index.

In technology are Elon Musk; Jeff Bezos; Bernard Arnault; Bill Gates; Larry Page; Mark Zuckerberg; Sergey Brin; Steve Ballmer; and Larry Ellison.

Arnault is in the consumer industry and Warren Buffet made his fortune in the diversified industrial sector.

ProPublica, a nonprofit news organization that scrutinizes abuses of power says that billionaires pay a tiny portion or no federal taxes in some

years. Bezos; Musk; and Warren Buffet were three.

Suppose you calculate the workers who do not get paid their fair share for the work that they do and add those figures to the disparities—the deficit would increase between the rich and the worker.

in 2019 while those on top earned on average \$320,000? Yes, top dwellers fared much better than others much farther below. This part represents a 40-year trend.

The rich have gotten richer because they squeeze workers and customers, says the *Institute of Policy*

came on the scene from January to November. This fact of life brought about a decline in the unemployment rate from 6.3 percent to 4.2 percent. These improvements served to hide racial inequalities. Starting in October 2021, the unemployment rate was 7.9 percent among Black workers and 4.0 percent among Whites. These statistics represented a wider gap than at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inequality.org reports that the decrease in the unemployment rate disguises the exit of millions of the masses from the labor force from the start of the pandemic. November 2021 saw 3.5 million fewer people than before the COVID-19 outbreak. Many were Black women.

The Patriotic Millionaires, supporters of a more progressive income tax, put us on notice that “history paints a bleak picture of what happens to extremely unequal societies.” They went on to say, “For the well-being of rich and the poor alike, it’s time to confront inequality and choose to tax the rich,” the group wrote. “If you don’t, then all the talk at Davos— Davos Switzerland was where the world’s super-rich comingled with politicians and regulators— won’t change what’s coming— it’s taxes or pitchforks.”

Economic inequality makes sense for the rich historically and in these pandemic times, but not for us.

Former Coppin State University Professor; Dr. Ken Morgan is an internationalist and Black rights activist. He can be reached at: kmorgan2408@comcast.net.

“Those individuals and corporations rolling in money witnessed their wealth skyrocket over the past two years. However, the economy slackened, and millions of folks needed unemployment help and applied for unemployment. Those bottom 90 percent of workers got only 60 percent of all wages in 2020, which is a record.”

Do the rich get richer? If they do, does the average Joe worker get richer too? Not according to Truthout journalist Mike Ludwig. Ludwig concludes that unless workers get structural changes in the economy— something not likely to happen— whatever gains workers make will not be sustainable.

Those individuals and corporations rolling in money witnessed their wealth skyrocket over the past two years. However, the economy slackened, and millions of folks needed unemployment help and applied for unemployment. Those bottom 90 percent of workers got only 60 percent of all wages in 2020, which is a record.

The top one percent earned 13.8 percent of all wages in 2020, almost doubling the share that top earners received in 1979. Consistently, these fat cats held it pretty much constant. According to Truthout’s Mike Ludwig, can you say \$39,000 for the 90 percent

Studies and Forbes when they point out that the combined wealth of the 745 U.S. billionaires passed \$5 trillion in 2021. It increased 70 percent since the pandemic. Please do not forget to add the inequitable tax structure to the mix.

These same sources say that corporate after-tax profits reached a record high in the third quarter of 2021. The resulting profits spike was blamed on COVID-19 supply bottlenecks. Multi-national corporations became free to hike prices for essential items such as gasoline, food, and other necessities.

Through strikes and other demands, workers continued to press forward. They took advantage of the labor shortage that the pandemic caused this past year and received long-overdue pay raises.

Ah yes, take a look at racial, economic inequality. Keep your masks on. The U.S. economy made strong job growth in 2021. Almost six million new jobs

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UMB's 'Live Near Your Work' program marks million-dollar milestone

By Laura Lee

Justin Hanna still can't believe he is a homeowner.

"I kind of have those moments every time I'm cooking or when I'm making coffee in the morning. It's still kind of a shock, where I'm like—"this is mine. This is my home,"" he said.

Last February, Hanna, a facilities manager at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, moved into a renovated three-level townhouse in Pigtown with financial assistance from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Live Near Your Work (LNYW) program, which in December marked a milestone by surpassing the \$1 million mark in home buying grants awarded to University employees.

Hanna's spacious and modern home boasts two bedrooms, three baths, a finished basement, and a fenced-in backyard patio complete with a fire pit. Standing in his kitchen and speaking above the whir of a blender, Hanna marvels at the home he never imagined he'd be able to buy before age 40.

"I was under the impression that I needed to save X amount of money, and I was like, 'There's no way. I won't be able to do that anytime soon,'" said Hanna, who calls the LNYW program an "absolute blessing" that allowed him to combine his love of city life with his desire to be able to walk to work.

"I'm literally a 10-minute walk from work. I don't need a car, and it's just incredibly convenient to be able to wake up in the morning knowing that I'm not going to get stuck in traffic. My neighbors are awesome, too. People are super friendly, and everything I need is right here just across the street," he said, motioning toward a shopping center up the block.



Justin Hanna, a facilities manager at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, moved into a renovated three-level townhouse in Pigtown with financial assistance from the University of Maryland, Baltimore's "Live Near Your Work" program. (Pictured) Hanna prepares a smoothie in his renovated kitchen.

Courtesy Photo/University of Maryland, Baltimore

The LNYW program is a home buying assistance benefit for UMB employees that offers \$16,000 as well as a matching \$2,500 Baltimore City grant to be used toward the down payment and closing costs on homes in nine West Baltimore neighborhoods: Barre Circle; Franklin Square; Hollins Market; Mount Clare; Pigtown/Washington Village; Poppleton; Union Square; and Druid Heights and Heritage Crossing, which were added in 2020.

Dawn Rhodes, DBA, MBA, UMB's senior vice president and chief business and finance officer, says hitting the \$1 million mark was "huge" as the program continues to make employees' dreams of home ownership a reality.

"It means that 63 of our employees have purchased homes since 2018,"

Rhodes says. "We're just very excited about where we've gotten in such a short period of time."

Rhodes views homeownership as an economic step up for many employees who may not have been able to set aside the significant amount of money required for a down payment.

"Many of our homeowners are female. We have people that are across the educational spectrum. We have people of all different races. This, to me, was a direct act of community engagement," she said.

Rhodes was instrumental in revitalizing the LNYW program, which increased the rarely used benefit from \$2,500 to \$16,000 in 2018 and boosted community partnerships with Live Baltimore, the Southwest Partnership, and GO Northwest Housing Resource Center to

offer home buying workshops, financial counseling, neighborhood tours, and a housing fair.

According to Rhodes, participating in LYNW is a winning proposition on all fronts.

"Our employees win by establishing personal wealth through homeownership," she said. "The city wins because these were previously homes that taxes weren't being paid on. And the neighborhood wins because there's a new neighbor that helps stabilize and energize the neighborhood."

Hanna agrees, "There's something about saying I'm an owner that just boosts my confidence and my self-esteem, knowing that this is my home and I'm here as long as I want to be here.

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34th Annual MLK Jr. Awards Program, Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Annapolis, — The 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program will be held Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the BWI Westin Hotel in Linthicum, Md. This evening is the largest celebration of Dr. King's birthday in Anne Arundel County. This year's theme is "Elections Have Consequences: They Either Affirm the Dream or Defer It."

Among the 14 honorees acknowledged at the event are: Antonio Palmer, of Odenton, winner of the Dream Keepers Award and newly elected president of the United Black Clergy of Anne Arundel County, and Alan Hyatt, of Annapolis, winner of the Dream Keepers Award for his philanthropic efforts that made it possible for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee to build the prestigious county memorials. Other notable attendees include Bowie Mayor Tim Adams, Congressman Anthony Brown, City of Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Former Attorney General Doug Gansler, John B. King Jr., Wes Moore and Anne Arundel County Executive and previous award recipient Stuart Pittman.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by noted gospel artist Brianna Bowen, a favorite along Maryland's Eastern Shore. Bowen will sing "Amazing Grace" and other gospel songs associated with the Civil Rights movement. Addressing the audience will be U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Sean Buck, Annapolis Mayor Buckley, and County Executive Pittman.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program in Anne Arundel County was founded in 1988 by then Alderman Carl Snowden. Designed to pay homage to the memory of Dr. King, the program honors those whose deeds, words, and actions have helped keep Dr. King's legacy alive. The program is a reflection on the best that Anne Arundel County has to offer.

Tickets for the awards program are \$100 per person and available for purchase online at <https://mlkjrmd.org/>. Priority seating is granted to guests who register early. For more information, contact Arlene Jackson at 301-538-6353.



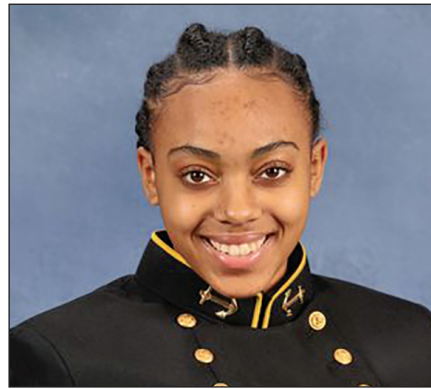
Drum Major Award

Judge Claudia Barber, of Laurel has been a member of the Maryland Bar for more than 33 years and a member of the Washington Bar since 1994. She is best known for her 2016 political journey to become the first African American woman to serve on the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. Earlier, the Anne Arundel County NAACP recognized her efforts with the Presidential Award. She was elected second vice president of the Anne Arundel County NAACP in 2019.



Dream Keepers Award

Alan J. Hyatt, of Annapolis supported the creation of some of Anne Arundel County's most distinguished memorials, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial at Anne Arundel Community College, the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden at the site of the Holy Temple Cathedral Church in Edgewater, the Civil Rights Foot Soldiers Memorial across from the Arundel Center, and the Guardians of the First Amendment Memorial in downtown Annapolis. Hyatt is a partner with the Annapolis law firm Hyatt & Weber, P.A.



Drum Major Award

Midshipman First Class Jeanneny Marie Currie, from the Naval Academy has dedicated her efforts to acts of service. Outside of academics and sports, she is a member of the Midshipman Black Studies Club (MBSC), National Society of Black Engineers, Vietnamese Student Association, Finance and Investment Club, and Midshipmen Caribbean Heritage Club. Within MBSC, Currie serves as the Community Service Officer and Outreach Programs Coordinator.



Dream Keepers Award

Antonio Palmer, of Odenton emulates the social justice ministry of Dr. King. He helped organize the United Black Clergy of Anne Arundel County's 1,000 Men March, the Summer's Freedom Bus Ride tour of Maryland's Eastern Shore, and quarterly meetings with County Executive Stuart Pittman. Palmer is the senior pastor of Kingdom Celebration Center in Gambrills, Md., and the presiding bishop of Kingdom Alliance of Churches International, where he oversees 59 churches.



Drum Major Award

Lieutenant Ernest J. Halton, from the Naval Academy graduated from the Naval Academy in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in economics. Halton serves as the Naval Academy's Officer Representative for the Midshipman Action Group, the largest all-volunteer community engagement club within the student body of the Naval Academy. He is responsible for more than 1,200 Midshipmen and leads more than 200 projects annually.



Dream Keepers Award

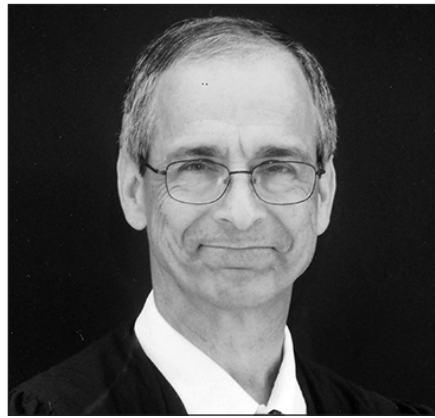
Dimitri Sfakiyanudis, of Annapolis has shown unwavering support to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee for 40 years, including attending annual dinners and supporting the memorials in Anne Arundel County. He also worked with the committee to have the Annapolis Police Department named in honor of Chief Joseph S. Johnson, the department's first African-American police chief. He is a lifetime member of the Community Action Agency.



Coretta Scott King Award

The Caucus of African-American Leaders (CAAL) of Anne Arundel County is the recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award. Established in 2011, the Caucus emerged out of a pursuit to inspire and support the community. The purpose of the CAAL is to fight for the human rights of African-Americans and to create a just society. The CAAL believes in the principle that the rights of all marginalized groups must be respected and protected.

The Annapolis-based Martin Luther King Jr. Committee Inc., founded in 1988, hosts two major events each year, the annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception in October honoring woman of different racial backgrounds who have made contributions to the community, state and nation. The second event is the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program held in January to honor those local citizens whose leadership in civil and human rights has helped keep Dr. King's legacy alive.



Peacemaker Award

Judge Philip T. Caroom, of Annapolis served as a trial judge in the Maryland Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County from 1998 to 2015, and now works part time as a senior judge. He led efforts to establish Anne Arundel's juvenile foster care mediation program, its juvenile delinquency community conferencing diversion program, and its discovery management program. Influenced by the civil rights events of 1968, Caroom began a parallel career of volunteerism as a young man, beginning with the Hopkins Tutoring Project in Baltimore.



We Share the Dream Award

Chief Edward C. Jackson, of Baltimore began his career as a police officer with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) in 1983, moving up the ranks to Colonel in 2004. Jackson has also worked as a program director and assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Program at Baltimore City Community College. In 2018, he was rehired by the BPD as Chief of the Office of the Inspector General. In this role, Jackson provided agency-wide oversight of administrative and operational practices for BPD. In 2019, he was appointed Chief of Police.



Alan Hilliard Legum Civil Rights Award

Emily Legum, of Annapolis has been an educator for four decades. Moving to Annapolis in 1975, she became the first community liaison teacher serving the County as an intermediary between home and school. In 1976, Legum moved to the Key School, a non-profit founded by St. John's College professors in the 1950s. While there, she created programs to assist students with academic challenges, including initiating the Language Training program, standardizing the reading and writing program.



Drum Major Award

Phyllis Currie Spencer, of Arnold, is the recipient of the Drum Major Award. Through her 40 years with the Alpha Kappa Sorority, Spencer has dedicated her life to helping her community. Through this organization, she has mentored youth, counseled young women, helped revitalize neighborhoods, and tutored students. Spencer served four terms as president of Alpha Kappa as part of the Lambda Phi and Delta Pi Omega chapters. In addition to her charitable sorority work, Spencer has served on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Directors for the past two years.



Morris H. Blum Humanitarian Award

Chief Amal Award, of Hyattsville became the first person of color and woman to hold the position of Chief in the Anne Arundel County Police Department. This award is given to an individual by the family of the late philanthropist Morris H. Blum. Each year, the family selects an individual who has been a pioneer in their profession. The late Mr. Blum was the first businessman in Anne Arundel County to hire an African-American, Charles "Hoppy" Adams Jr., as an on-air radio personality.



Courageous Leadership Award

Senator Melony G. Griffith, of Annapolis, represents District 25 in the Maryland State Senate. She is a former licensed clinical social worker and has spent most of her career working to positively impact public health. In 2020, Griffith become the first African American woman elected as President Pro Tempore for the Maryland Senate. In this role, she serves as the leader of the Senate chamber in the absence of Senate President Bill Ferguson. Griffith also serves as the Chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee's Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.



Drum Major Award

The Honorable Ginina A. Jackson-Stevenson, of Pasadena, became the first African-American female Magistrate on the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County in 2020 and currently serves in the Family Division. Previously, Jackson-Stevenson served as a criminal defense attorney in the Office of the Public Defender. She later launched a solo law practice, which operated for 10 years handling criminal cases, family law matters, personal injury cases, and police misconduct matters. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she co-hosted the Maryland Politics 101 podcast.

Area nurse named ‘Caregiver of the Year’

Adriel Davis honored for exceptional care during COVID-19 pandemic

Columbia, Md.— Registered nurse Adriel Davis has been named the staffing Caregiver of the Year by Maxim Healthcare Group, a national provider of home healthcare, companion and behavioral care, healthcare staffing, and workforce solutions.

A traveling nurse, Davis has been with Maxim for more than three years. She was honored for her strong work ethic, resilience and compassion. She will be presented with the award during a ceremony on February 1, 2022, where the company will also announce the national winner who will receive Maxim’s John “Doc” Langley National Caregiver of the Year Award.

Currently, Davis is a night shift nurse at a temporary facility in Laurel, Maryland, caring exclusively for COVID-19 patients. A typical day for her includes donning her personal protective equipment, which she calls her “astronaut suit,” to visit her patients for one-on-one, in-person visits.

Davis stressed the importance of monitoring her patients closely throughout her shift because “when COVID patients take a turn, it’s fast.” She brings positivity and light to her patients through genuine personal connections. Even if they can’t see her smile through her mask and protective gear, she is determined her patients will “feel” her smile in the energy she brings.

“I was doing this without intention,” Davis said. “I was just happy to help support patients through this rough time, not being able to see their own family members. But I also enjoy being there for them.”

Recognized by colleagues and supervisors for her flexibility and team-



Registered nurse Adriel Davis was named the staffing “Caregiver of the Year” by Maxim Healthcare Group for her strong work ethic, resilience and compassion. A traveling nurse, Davis is currently a night shift nurse at a temporary facility in Laurel, Maryland, caring exclusively for COVID-19 patients. Davis and three other regional winners were selected by a panel of judges from hundreds of nominations across the country. She will be presented with the award during a ceremony on February 1, 2022, where the company will also announce the national winner who will receive Maxim’s “John “Doc” Langley National Caregiver of the Year Award.”

Courtesy Photos/Maxim Healthcare Group

player attitude, Davis works 48 hours a week and consistently takes additional shifts to help with the high volume of COVID-19 patients. In the past year at her current position, she has achieved promotions, starting as a floor nurse, then Assistant Nurse Manager, and now as Interim Manager.

Dr. Josette Zeilah, Medical Director at University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center Alternate Care Site, stated that while the pandemic remains stressful for many healthcare providers, Davis “encouraged [the nurses], she guided them” and helped them see there’s

something to fight for in caring for the hospital’s COVID patients.

Despite her own anxiety, Davis works through this fear to provide the best possible care for her patients. She says her strength lies in her desire to be nurturing, supportive and loving, putting herself in her patients’ shoes and “providing the care that they deserve.”

Because of her dedication and positivity, Davis is one of the longest-tenured travel nurses at Maxim. She is a

living example of the caring and servant-leader culture Maxim exudes.

A panel of judges selected Davis and three other regional winners from hundreds of nominations across the country. Now in its tenth year, the Caregiver of the Year Award program celebrates nurses and home healthcare aides for the key roles they play in delivering quality, patient-centered care to some of the nation’s most medically fragile and chronically ill patients.

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From Denmark to Louisiana:

Danish Pop Star's Search for Veteran Dad Ends in Baton Rouge Area

By Frances Y. Spencer, *The Drum Newspaper*

Zindy Laursen's parents, a Danish go-go dancer and a Louisiana GI headed to Vietnam, met more than 50 years ago in Australia. Armed with only that tiny bit of information, the Danish pop singer and actress embarked on a 30-year journey to find her father. Her quest ends at the Baker home of a retired policeman who marked Christmas 2021 with the gift of a newfound daughter.

Bill Johnson has held many titles in more than 50 years of public service including GI, soldier, and police captain. This Christmas, "dad" is a new title, and the Zachary native is ecstatic to begin a new role as a father.

"I found somebody in my life that was like me," he said. "I just enjoyed the first time we talked, and I looked at the pictures. I said, 'wow, my God, look at her cheeks.' Then the brown eyes flooded me. I said, 'well, that's, that's got to be my daughter.'"

The talk of a family reunion is the end of a long journey that began in 1969. Stars and Stripes, the U.S. military news organization, introduced the world to Laursen's quest in an article published in September 2021. The article, "Danish pop star hopes DNA will lead to father she suspects is a Vietnam War vet," documented how Laursen's mother was a go-go dancer in Sydney and met U.S. service members on leave from their units in Vietnam. Laursen's mother moved back to Denmark, but Laursen said she grew up eager to find out about her father, a "mysterious person that her mom met dancing, like something out of a movie."

The singer-actress, known in Denmark and Europe as "Zindy," grew up in a fishing town with her mother, brother, and her Ghanian-born stepdad who died when she was 16. "We were living in a predominantly white area, and I got teased a lot, so, I felt really out of place," she recalled. "I didn't know where I belonged because I was getting teased in school every day."

Her unique heritage became a motivating factor when she saw Prince perform for the first time. He was a total package—he could play the piano, he could sing and dance, and he seemed to have a biracial heritage.

"I could identify myself with him," Laursen said. "We lived in an area that was really poor but there was this little place where there was a piano, and I went down to ask the super if I could go in there and play the piano because it seemed like something Prince would do, and I was inspired."

Her music career started a few years later when she was second runner up in a singing competition similar to American Idol. She signed a record deal with EMI and became the lead singer of a group called Cut 'N' Move. After performing all over Europe and winning a Danish Grammy, she moved to New York in 2002 and



Danish entertainer, Zindy Laursen (right), has spent 30 years trying to find her father and recently found retired Zachary, Louisiana, police captain, Bill Johnson (left) with the help of a genealogist and 23andMe DNA analysis. Laursen hopes to visit her father in early 2022.

Courtesy Photos/NNPA

has starred in plays while splitting her time between the two continents.

The first time she visited the United States she recalled thinking her father could be right around the corner. The quest to find him intensified.

Laursen enlisted the help of a genealogist and a DNA analysis from 23andMe. Earlier this year, the analysis provided her with a relative match from a man living in New York. She connected with him to see if someone in his family could be the American veteran who visited Australia in 1969. He immediately started calling his uncle, Bill Johnson.

"He had been trying to call me for three or four days," Johnson said. "He gave me the exciting news: 'I think you have a daughter out there.'"

Johnson had initial doubts. He worried that he might be the target of a scam and sought lots of advice. Many advised him to walk away.

"But that would have been the biggest mistake of my life," he said.

Encouraged by his wife, Gloria, he submitted to DNA testing to compare his profile to Laursen's. The report returned that he was a 99.99 percent match for being Laursen's father.

"I was excited, she was excited, and we started exchanging messages," he said. "We just connected, and God put us together. And, I'm one person that's glad that happened."

Johnson said he sees comparisons in his life and Laursen's life in persevering to achieve goals and in working with people.

"I grew up in the Avenues, which was one of the poorest areas in Zachary, but I was determined to make it," he said. "My dad died when I was eight years old. My mother died at the young age of 45."

He said he did not have running water growing up but would take odd jobs like cutting grass to contribute and eventually buy his own car. After serving in the Army, he returned to Zachary and continued his education at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge.

He became the first Black police officer to serve in Zachary, Louisiana, and he rose to the rank of captain.

In his retirement, he gives back to the community and is a member of the Baker Lions Club and the president of the Zachary Men's Club.

He didn't raise any children of his own, but he was involved in the lives of the young people in Baker and Zachary serving as a basketball and track coach in community leagues. "I was determined to save young people, so I started the Drug Enforcement Program in the city," Johnson said. "They still have signs up. So, I've been involved in the lives of young people and it's not about me; it's about someone else."

Laursen is in Denmark for the holidays working a string of performances, but she hopes to visit her father in early 2022. Johnson is busy with calls from relatives and press inquiries. He knows a great gift is on the way. "I'm just looking forward to that great day," he said. "This will be the best Christmas of my life."

Are the Jobs Mandated for COVID-19 Truly Vaccines Or Are They Just Therapies?

Continued from page 1

after they were given, served to prevent people from getting the disease against which they were vaccinated. This quote, "Vaccination is the safest way to protect your child against an infectious disease. Once your child has been vaccinated, they should have the ability to fight off the disease if they come into contact with it. They have a level of protection, or immunity against the disease," best captures for many older people, the real purpose of vaccinations.

When did the understanding of what vaccinations were all about changed? If I get a vaccination for polio, I surely do not expect to get polio. When I took the double dose of the Moderna vaccine last year, I was led to believe that after taking the vaccination I would be protected from getting COVID, and I believed that to be true. My grandchildren came and demanded that I take the jab so they could come and play with me without giving me the disease because we all believed that the vaccination immunizes us from getting and spreading the disease.

But we are now finding out that none of that is true. People everywhere, from all walks of life are getting the disease after three jabs. In Israel, they are talking about giving a fourth jab! This thing will never end at this rate and with these so-called vaccines.

One can easily be led to believe that what is driving vaccination mandates, in spite of the evidence that they do not work like traditional vaccines, is coming not from true scientists, but from political scientists who have their own reasons for telling the public to get vaccinated with the current jabs that do not protect us from the current disease in our traditional understanding of what vaccinations do for the human race.

It is my belief that real scientists need to go back into the labs and work at developing a true vaccine against COVID. The nation needs that and with warp speed. What Trump developed is not doing for us what vaccines are supposed to do. What Biden is pushing, mandate upon mandate of jabs that do not do what they were advertised to do must also be reviewed quickly. Real scientists,

not political scientists need to get into those labs, get our tax dollars and do some real work to get us something that works to save the human race from this calamity called COVID. What the politicians and woke doctors are selling us is plainly not working as it ought to work. And we must begin to speak truth to power. They need to stop lying to us.

Tell us the truth about the jabs. They are not vaccines in any real sense of that word. At best, they are great therapies that like all other therapeutics help us to manage the disease once we get it. In that sense, the so-called vaccines are still good for us. We need to take them, but not for the reasons the politicians and woke doctors tell us. We need to take them because they lessen our chances of hospitalization and death if and when we get COVID. So, they may actually be the best therapeutic medicine in our medicine cabinets at this time. Who wants to die if they get COVID? Not me! So, I am glad that I took my two jabs and will willingly take the third and the fourth knowing that they would not be doing for me what we were initially told, but that they would lessen my chances dying if I get COVID.

So, as millions of cases of COVID are revealed on a daily basis, we need to get vaccinated while researchers and scientist get back into their labs to work on finding us a real vaccine against COVID-19.

Perhaps we should quickly come to the conclusion that COVID-19 is here to stay. It is not going away anytime soon. In fact, the current version Omicron, since it seems to stay in the nasal passage and throat, rather than migrating to the lung as the older variants did, could be the blessing we were looking for. Getting this one may actually help the population to get natural immunity against the disease and thereby usher in herd immunity much quicker.

Again, this non-medical person thinks that we need to declare COVID an EM-DEMIC disease. The political scientists and the politicians should declare that the PANDEMIC is now over and that the Endemic is now with us. Then, we should be encouraged to use all precau-

tions and therapeutic medicines that can combat inflammation to fight off the effects of the disease. While we use the existing medicines that practicing physicians all over the world tell us are working with their patients, we should also busy ourselves developing new medicines and certainly real vaccines to fight off this plague.

President Biden might do well to declare the pandemic over while acknowl-

edging that the disease will continue its spread during this period when its endemic. This way he can get out from the bind he is in regarding his managing of the disease that brought him into power, but which is now causing many to think that he is in over his head with a never-ending pandemic.

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Rambling Rose

Happy New Year from My Home to Yours!
Welcome 2022 to the Entertainment Community



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, this is my first opportunity to welcome you to the 2022 “Rambling Rose” column. I am very excited to be able to talk to you through my column while bringing you up to date of what’s going on and what is about to come in our home town. I want to say first, “Happy New Year” to each and every one of you. I also want to acknowledge the ones who have lost someone last year that was close to them. I know I did, I lost my daughter Karen Atkinson. We lost friends such as Calvin Tolbert; Lee Session; Beta Dotso; one of my singers in Signature Live, my group from out of Washington, DC; and Gladys “Etta” Duren, just to name a few. May God rest their souls in peace!

Moving along to happier things. Starting off with two of my Musical Sons, Terry Battle on bass & rhythms and Jeff Wilson on piano, the Sidestreet Duo is back at the 18th & 21st Speakeasy, located 10980 Grantchester Way, in Columbia, Maryland where they will be performing a wide variety of musical selections, January 2, 9, 16 and January 30, from 5-9 p.m. You need to check them out. For more information, call 667786-7111 and tell them “Rambling Rose” told you.

Another one of the musicians I want to talk about and give honor to is saxophonist, educator, a Vandoren Performing Artist and president/founder of Jazz Academy of Music—the one and only Paul Carr. His organization is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit and was founded in 2002 to advance and preserve jazz music through education and outreach. Over the past 19 years, the Jazz Academy of Music (JAM) has provided music education opportunities, in the form of camps, classes, ensembles and concerts, to over

4,000 kids. Now that does my heart good. His organization reminds me of what I did for the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, Inc. It is so heart-warming to know that another musician has taken his gift, his knowledge and skills to pass it on to our children. It is known that 100% of his students go to college and many of them pursue music at prestigious music schools such as Juilliard, Harvard, Oberlin, Berklee and New England Conservatory. Many students become teachers, touring musicians and all are life-long fans of traditional jazz. They are passing the joy of American’s classical music to others. Well done, Paul Carr, well done. I am so damn proud of you and praying that you are able to continue this work with the children for many years to come. Those of you who are reading this must know he could not have done this alone. You must help by sending donations to Paul so that he can continue to help these children. Please send your tax deductible donation to JAM, P.O. Box 6744, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906 or go to www.JazzAcademy.org to make a donation.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, friends and fans, this COVID is not a joke, please protect yourself and others, by wearing your mask, please get your vaccinations, and don’t act crazy. So many of my musicians and friends and folks we know from the community are dying from this terrible thing.

And last, but not least, I wrote an article on how I became the Entertainment Columnist/journalist for the Baltimore Times over 34 years ago in last week’s issue. Make sure you pick up a copy or look it up on line. I think you will find it quite interesting and enjoyable. Let me know.



Paul Carr, saxophonist, educator and founder of Jazz Academy of Music, needs your tax-deductible donations to continue to provide music education to deserving children. For more information, call 301-871-8418.



Karen Atkinson-Kirk, Rosa “Rambling Rose” daughter passed away January 10, 2021. She was born November 21, 1964.

I have to go now, I am out of space, but 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.



Lee Session passed away December 11, 2021. Lee was the owner of Me. Do Hair Design Barbershop. He had a very successful business and believed in giving back. He also loved to dance.



Calvin L. Tolbert passed away on November 23, 2021. He was born November 25, 1924. Calvin was known for his many talents which led him to variety of employment opportunities including: modeling; acting; dancing; researching; author; factory worker; porter; and surgical assistant and worked in the United States Postal Service. He is also the subject on the cover of Rosa Pryor’s (Rambling Rose) second book “African-American Community, History, & Entertainment in Maryland.”

Ravens to honor Terrell Suggs in season finale

By Tyler Hamilton

There is a collection of players who have had a huge impact on the Baltimore Ravens over the years. Former Ravens pass rusher Terrell Suggs is one of them. Suggs registered 132.5 quarterback sacks over 17 seasons in Baltimore. He played a huge role in bringing the Ravens their second Super Bowl trophy in 2012.

The Ravens will honor Suggs on Sunday, January 9, 2021, at M&T Bank Stadium as the Legend of the Game. This will be Suggs' first time back at M&T Bank Stadium since his days as a Raven came to an end in 2019.

"I had to make a decision to come back and play a couple of more years, or whatever I got left," Suggs said. "I felt like if I wasn't going to be in a Ravens jersey there's only one place I was going to be playing, so here we are."

"They made me a handsome offer, but it was just time. That organization, that team is very special and dear to me. It was very difficult to leave a place, or a team that you've been part of for so long, for 16 years. Kind of go explore the unknown. But I'm very confident in my decision and feel like I made the right one."

The Ravens selected Suggs with the tenth overall selection in the 2003 NFL Draft. Suggs is the team's career leader



Former Ravens pass rusher Terrell Suggs will be honored on Sunday, January 9, 2021, at M&T Bank Stadium as the Legend of the Game.

Photo Credit: Evan Habeeb/USA Today Sports

in sacks. He is a seven-time Pro Bowl selection, a two time All-Pro, and was named NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 2011. He is eighth on the NFL's all-time sacks list and 1st all-time in tackles for a loss.

Like many other Ravens, Suggs fully bought into the team's rivalry with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Over the years, Suggs and Steelers' quarterback Ben Roethlisberger have had many battles. Everyone remembers his quote

after sacking Roethlisberger three times in a 35-7 win over Pittsburgh in 2011.

"Big Ben, you know he's a great quarterback," Suggs said. "God can have his soul, but his ass belongs to me."

It's only fitting that Suggs will be honored as the Legend of the Game in what will likely be the final regular season game of Roethlisberger's career.

The two-future Hall of Famers gained a mutual respect for each other as the Ravens vs. Steelers games piled up over their careers. That came to a climax after their final game against each other in 2018 at Heinz Field, which the Ravens won by a 24-16 score.

"Just respect," Suggs said after the game. "I've been a part of the rivalry for 16 years. That team has raised my level of play. Even rivals can show respect. I respect them tremendously. The player I am is because of the Pittsburgh Steelers."

The two players swapped jerseys. Roethlisberger's message on the autographed jersey he sent to Suggs was short and sweet.

"Sizzle, It's an honor to compete against you! First ballot HOF!"

The two players will exchange pleasantries at M&T Bank Stadium one last time on Sunday.

Marylanders have just 10 days to get health coverage starting February 1, 2022

Baltimore—Marylanders can enroll in a 2022 health plan and get savings through Maryland Health Connection until January 15, 2022, for coverage beginning February 1, 2022.

"We encourage all Marylanders to get their COVID vaccine, including their booster if they are eligible. All COVID vaccines are free," said Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. "Because the virus is unpredictable, the next best thing you can do is get a health plan so you can be prepared for whatever

happens. Give yourself the peace of mind that comes with having health insurance. Now is not the time to leave your health to chance."

New federal and state laws offer financial help for those who did not qualify in the past. The state subsidy lowers costs for young adults ages 18-34. This enrollment period is for private health plans only. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

Shop and enroll online at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov) or with our mobile app. For free help from a navigator or broker, visit <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/find-help/> or call Maryland Health Connection at 855-642-8572.

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