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Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

President

Greetings!

As chair of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors and president of Bowie State University, the host institution for the 2022 CIAA Tournament, I welcome basketball fans from across the country to Charm City to celebrate our student athletes and the 12 institutions preparing them for productive futures.

The tournament's return to Baltimore for the first time since 1952 is result of a collective effort by city, state and local business leaders with a vision for a vibrant event that would engage every corner of the city and support the development of our youth.

For Bowie State, this return to Baltimore has special meaning because our roots as an institution were first planted here at the corner of Calvert and Saratoga Streets in 1865. We are proud that our legacy as the oldest Historically Black Institution in Maryland developing bold leaders and putting them on a path to success began in this great city. Today Bowie State is leading the way in preparing graduates to meet the evolving workplace in STEM and behavioral science careers and teachers equipped with culturally responsive skills for diverse classrooms. Our programs in digital media arts are also gaining wide recognition.

During the five-day tournament, Feb. 22 – 26, CIAA student athletes will display the highest levels of Division II athleticism on the court of Royal Farms Arena, but this tournament is about more than basketball. Over the course of its 75-year history, the CIAA Tournament has become a time for family reunions, alumni gatherings and social events like none other. Fans will find a wide variety of entertainment activities, as well as personal and professional development opportunities advancing the CIAA's commitment to celebrate athletics and education.

I invite you to explore all that the 2022 CIAA Tournament has to offer. Your participation in official CIAA activities will have the added benefit of supporting scholarships for students at each of the conference institutions. I thank you in advance for your support of our students. Enjoy the tournament!

Sincerely,

Aminta H. Breaux



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Greetings,

On behalf of the City of Baltimore, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 CIAA Tournament. It is an honor to host each and every one of you.

The CIAA and Visit Baltimore have worked together to provide you with a one-of-a-kind experience for this momentous occasion.

This is one of the most popular college basketball tournaments and one of the nation's top-ranking sporting events.

We are incredibly excited to be able to welcome you to Baltimore. We know this tournament will bring amazing HBCU sports, meaningful off-the-court educational programming, and scholarships for the benefit of the community and student-athletes.

As you may know, we are a city of rich culture, amazing cuisine, and warm residents who welcome you with open arms. From historic streets, to our art museums and sports stadiums, we are a city of neighborhoods and attractions and I am excited for you all to learn more about what we have to offer.

I am confident that you will leave this experience eager for next year's tournament, and I look forward to building a new legacy for the CIAA right here in Baltimore.

Thank you again for joining us.

In Service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore



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Guest Editorials/Commentary

New healthcare subsidies make it affordable to get covered

By Calvin Ball

Throughout these past two years, it's become even more, clear how vital healthcare is to our residents. Amid the pandemic, many people knew that if they got sick or injured, they might not be able to afford the care they need.

Healthcare and being healthy extend beyond the threat of COVID-19. I want everybody in Howard County and across Maryland to have access to affordable and quality healthcare. That's why I was pleased that the state recently extended the deadline to sign up for health insurance on the state's online exchange until February 28, 2022.

Anyone who needs insurance should go to marylandhealthconnection.gov and explore multiple options for coverage. Trained counselors are available to walk you through the process, answer questions and help you decide on a plan that fits your needs and budget.

Last fall, I hosted an event attended by several of my fellow County Executives, as well as representatives from the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, which oversees our online insurance marketplace and leaders of the statewide advocacy group, the HealthCare for All! Coalition. Each of us made it a priority to promote Open Enrollment to our constituents.

The results have been phenomenal. As of January 15, 2022, the state saw a 9.4 percent increase in the number of people who signed up for insurance, compared to last year.

Here in Howard County, we had a 9.6 percent increase in enrollment over the previous year.

I am proud that our county has one of the lowest rates of people who are uninsured. However, too many in our community and across Maryland remain uninsured, and we still have work to do. I am urging everyone who doesn't have insurance to go online and do your research and get insured before the February 28 deadline.

As you look for coverage you may be surprised at the cost of premiums. In some cases, coverage is free; for many others, public subsidies make the cost of health insurance affordable. Nine out of 10 people who sign up for insurance on the state exchange get some subsidies.

This year, we have been focused on young adults, the age group most likely to not have health coverage. In response the state created new subsidies this year to bring down the cost of health insurance for young adults. Now, more people ages 18-34 are able to get a plan for as little as \$1 per month based on factors like income and household size.

Helping neighbors, friends, and family to sign up is good for all of us. The more people who get insured, the better off we all are. As more people are insured, our health system doesn't have to provide as much uncompensated care and costs can come down for everyone.

We have made great progress in Maryland the past several years at getting people insured and guaranteeing they have access to good care. Let's use this extended open enrollment period to keep up the momentum and make our county and state healthier.

Calvin Ball is the Howard County Executive.

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Community Affairs

Black unemployment rate improves amid historic jobs report

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

America—and most notably Black America—is back to work, declared President Joe Biden as he announced one of the most robust job reports in modern times.

“History has been made here,” the president declared.

The economy created 467,000 jobs in January, and the unemployment rate for Black workers fell to 6.9 percent and dropped to 5.8 percent for African American women.

The president highlighted the 6.6 million jobs added to the U.S. economy in the year since he took office.

“It comes alongside the largest drop in the unemployment rate in a single year on record, the largest reduction in childhood poverty ever recorded in a single year, and the strongest economic growth this country has seen in nearly 40 years,” President Biden asserted.

He also acknowledged the struggles that many American families still face, noting that prices have increased sharply during the pandemic.

“Average people are getting clobbered by the cost of everything,” President Biden said. “Gas prices at the pump are up. We’re working to bring them down, but they’re up. Food prices are up. We’re working to bring them down as well.”

White House officials said they plan to enact policies to slow inflation.

Before the president’s remarks, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 222-210 to pass the COMPETES Act, a bill to help America keep up with China in the semiconductor chip industry.

The legislation seeks to tackle such economic issues as supply chain disruptions and a global shortage of semiconductor chips, essential for producing smartphones, medical equipment, and cars.

The bill would introduce several changes to American trade rules to level the playing field for domestic businesses and combat China’s market-distorting trade practices.

After Super Bowl, Civil Rights Leaders Say NFL Must Tackle Stark Absence of Black Head Coaches

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

In the National Football League, where players are overwhelmingly Black, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), joined a host of other voices arguing that there needs to be more representation in the front office of people who look like the athletes that take the gridiron each Sunday.

“Even before Coach Brian Flores filed a class-action lawsuit against the National Football League claiming the league discriminated against Black coaches in their hiring practices, it was pretty clear that professional football has a race issue,” Dr. Chavis wrote in an op-ed at BlackPressUSA.com.

The NFL’s halfhearted attempt nearly 20 years ago at diversity—the Rooney Rule has failed miserably.

The league enacted the measure in 2003 to mandate that any team seeking a

head coach must interview at least one minority candidate. Four years ago, the league modified the rule, but coaches of color still haven’t received the same opportunities as whites.

Some argue the NFL did better before instituting the rule. Two years prior, the league had three African American head

“The league is rife with racism,” Flores alleged in his lawsuit.

Commissioner Roger Goodell acknowledged that the NFL “isn’t having the success we want.”

“I find all allegations, whether they were based on racism or discrimination or the integrity of our game, all of those

of Vista Equity Partners, who enjoys an estimated net worth of about \$6.7 billion.

“Putting aside Smith’s investing acumen and ability to grow emerging businesses, his up-from-the-bootstraps story and expansive philanthropic work in the Black community would go a long way to changing the make-up of NFL ownership from its traditional purview of stodgy, old white men,” Dr. Chavis decided.

The belief remains that if more minorities buy teams—an admittedly difficult task for people of color to break into the exclusive ownership circle—opportunities for Black head coaches would become more plentiful.

In the meantime, civil rights groups argue the NFL needs to strengthen its Rooney Rule and force current owners to consider Black candidates seriously.

“However well-intentioned, the effect of the Rooney Rule has been for team decision-makers to regard interviews with candidates of color as an extraneous step, rather than an integral part of the hiring process,” said National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial in a statement.

“The gravity of the situation is long past the crisis point,” Morial declared. The Rooney Rule remains absent of intentionality, NAACP President & CEO Derrick Johnson remarked. “It’s not enough for the league to declare its good intentions. This is a long-standing crisis that must be confronted with diligence and rigor.”

“The league enacted the measure in 2003 to mandate that any team seeking a head coach must interview at least one minority candidate. Four years ago, the league modified the rule, but coaches of color still haven’t received the same opportunities as whites.”

coaches: Tony Dungy of the Tampa Bay Bucs, Herm Edwards of the New York Jets, and Dennis Green of the Minnesota Vikings.

At the start of 2021, the NFL still had three coaches: David Culley of the Houston Texans, Brian Flores of the Miami Dolphins, and Mike Tomlin of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Texans dismissed Culley at the end of the season, and Flores received his walking papers from the Dolphins.

Seven of the nine head coaching opportunities after the 2021 season went to white candidates.

Flores called the Rooney Rule a sham because teams only provided interviews to potential Black head coaches as a ruse to satisfy the league’s requirement.

to me were very disturbing,” Goodell pronounced ahead of Super Bowl LVI. “They are very serious matters to us on all levels, and we need to make sure we get to the bottom of all of them.

“I think that’s the core of the message that we’ve been talking about here is, OK, we’re not having this success we want with head coaches. How do we evolve that rule, or do we have to have a new rule? Do we need to figure out some other way of being able to achieve that outcome?”

The league has reportedly met with Byron Allen, an African American businessman, to determine his interest in purchasing the Denver Broncos.

Dr. Chavis championed the potential interest of Robert F. Smith, the founder

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Photographers

Dennis Roberts

Gar Roberts

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Mailing Address

The Baltimore Times

2530 N. Charles Street, Suite 201

Baltimore, MD 21218

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

www.baltimoretimes-online.com

***Want to comment on the editorials or any other story?
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BSU women's hoops coach Shadae Swan awaits exciting opportunity in CIAA tourney

By Demetrius Dillard

Shadae Swan couldn't be more elated for the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament making its way to her hometown.

The Baltimore native is Bowie State University's women's basketball coach and has become one of most respected sports figures in the region. Swan, a former standout at St. Frances Academy and Goucher College, will return home next week for what she anticipates will be an exciting experience for herself and team.

"For myself and for the team—we're very excited. The main reason is because when the tournament was in Charlotte, it was very hard for family and friends to see us play in the tournament," Swan said. "I believe having that crowd and fanbase helps with the momentum. Your crowd is like your sixth man and the more people that you have supporting you, a lot of times you play better."

Swan is in the middle of her sixth season as head of the program (seventh if the 2020-21 canceled season is counted) and her Bulldogs are currently 11-10 overall. While at Goucher (2005-08), Swan was one of the top Division III performers in the nation.

Her accomplishments as a student athlete along with the local impact she's made led to a recent Goucher College Athletics Hall of Fame induction. As a native and a resident, the approaching CIAA Tournament will likely be one of the highlights of Swan's coaching career.

"I know for me, it will be special because I'm from here, I still live in Baltimore... this city has pretty much helped shape me into the person that I am," Swan said. "I have a large basketball family just from growing up and meeting people in the basketball community. It's so often that you hear about the negative of Baltimore City, but there's so much more that the city has to offer, and I'm just hoping that the other teams, other schools and people who come in and watch the games will get to come in and see the positive of the city."



*Shadae Swan,
Bowie State women's basketball coach
Courtesy Photo/Bowie State Athletics*

Swan has earned numerous honors at the helm of BSU's women's basketball program, including the CIAA Women's Coach of the Year award in 2019, being named Bowie State University Female Coach of the Year and led the Bulldogs to multiple NCAA Division II appearances. She also believes the tournament can lead to promising opportunities for local youth and residents.

"I also think that it will be good for our community," Swan added. "Baltimore is a basketball city, and I think it will be good for a lot of the kids in the community to get to come out and see some college basketball - especially HBCUs - learn more about the culture of the CIAA and the teams who participate in the conference."

BSU is coming off a huge 84-57 home win over Shaw on Feb. 12 and has won six of its last eight games. The Bulldogs have away games at Virginia State on Feb. 16 and Elizabeth City State on Feb. 19 to conclude the regular season before preparing for the CIAA Tournament. Swan and her club look to carry the momentum into the tournament, set to commence Feb. 22-26 at the Royals Farms Arena downtown.

"The team is gelling more on and off the court, and it's showing in our stats," she said. "The only thing I ask is for our team to progress each day in practice and in games, and I see us doing that. If we continue to do so, we'll be able to carry the momentum into the tournament to be successful."

Local basketball great 'King Arthur' reflects on importance of CIAA tournament

By Demetrius Dillard

Arthur Lewis Jr., commonly known as "King Arthur," has ties to Baltimore City and the CIAA, so he joins the thousands of local residents who enthusiastically await the soon approaching basketball conference tournament.

After a decorated career at Milford Mill High School, Lewis was a standout for the Bowie State University men's basketball team in the early 2000s. From there, he went on to compete professionally, most notably for the nationally acclaimed Harlem Wizards.

For more than a decade, Lewis has exhibited dazzling dribbling skills and entertained thousands throughout the country as a member of the Harlem Wizards, whose entertainment style is reminiscent of the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters. Lewis is one of the many who have contributed largely to Baltimore's rich basketball culture and history.

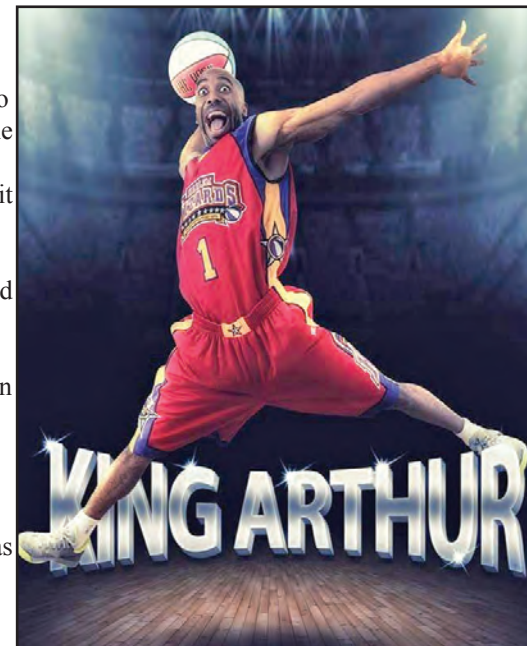
The exposure to HBCUs will be critically important for local youth, he pointed out. "I think it's going to be big because now it opens the door for kids to say 'you know what, I don't have to go to a Duke or a North Carolina. I can go to a [N.C.] Central, I can go to a Shaw, I can go to a Bowie, I can go to Lincoln, I can go to Johnson C. Smith and still get a great education and have a great time,'" Lewis said.

His passion for seeing the youth excel is one of the primary reasons Lewis is thrilled for the CIAA Basketball Tournament making its return to his hometown.

With the Bulldogs, Lewis played alongside fellow Baltimoreans Cornelius McMurray and Omarr Smith (current City College boys basketball coach) to lead the program to its first-ever CIAA Tournament championship in 2003. He was an academic All-American and led the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio.

Lewis has become a fixture in the local sports community, collaborating with various athletic programs, youth development initiatives and organizations, and is author of the children's book "Is the King Too Small to Play Ball???" He hopes to attend the tournament and said it may lead to positive outcomes for the city along with advancing its storied basketball culture.

"I think it's a big revenue [generator] and advancing the rich history of basketball," he said. "It's a good look. It's a good opportunity for the youth to see where we come from, what it means to go to a historically Black college, why we have those and why they're all in the same radius of the country."



Arthur Lewis Jr., commonly known as "King Arthur," was a player for the nationally acclaimed Harlem Wizards. Courtesy Photo

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Choo Smith:

CIAA tourney will make lasting impact on youth

By Demetrius Dillard

Charles “Choo” Smith, a highly esteemed community leader deeply rooted in the local sports arena, had his collegiate basketball beginnings in the CIAA and is delighted the tournament is returning to his beloved Baltimore this year.

After a stellar career at City College, Smith went to Bowie State and started as a point guard for its basketball program. He was in Bowie for his freshman year before transferring to the University of the District of Columbia for the remaining three.

The West Baltimore native went on to star for the globally recognized Harlem Globetrotters from 1999 to 2002.

Though he was there for only one year, Smith said he enjoyed his time at Bowie State and was surrounded by a solid group of teammates.

Smith, 51, sees the tournament as a “tremendous vehicle” for the city and thinks it will be an enormous success.

“I think it’s going to bring some continuity for us as people who are basketball lovers,” Smith said. “It’s going to bring the city revenue, and then it also brings some exposure to young people because you can go to an Black historical college and still do well, and still have a good experience, and have opportunities to play high-level basketball.”

Following his retirement from the Globetrotters, Smith remained immersed in the community and partnered with numerous basketball leagues and initiatives particularly focusing on youth development.

For the past 15 years, he has run the Choo Smith Youth Empowerment, Inc. (CSYE), a non-profit organization that primarily focuses on increasing opportunities for the success of youth in Baltimore through providing services and programs which yield personal development.

CSYE serves as a platform for an array of other initiatives that foster training and mentorship tools for young people to reach their absolute maximum potential.



Former Harlem Globetrotter Charles “Choo” Smith now runs the non-profit Choo Smith Youth Empowerment that primarily focuses on increasing opportunities for the success of youth in Baltimore by providing services and programs which yield personal development. Courtesy Photo

As a product of the inner city, Smith knows how vital a role sports can play in one’s personal and professional development. The upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament will be a possible game changer for the youngsters in attendance, giving them much-needed exposure to HBCU excellence, educational opportunities and valuable life lessons through sports, according to Smith.

“Sports and life lessons are the key to the mind and the heart of a young person,” Smith said. “When you have people who learn how to handle adversity, you have young people who learn to be a part of a team, you learn leadership, how to make other people better, work ethic, discipline and just being able to have the internal fortitude to push through any situation.”

A number of youth who matriculated through Smith’s CSYE program have gone on to attend CIAA schools— from Bowie State, to Virginia Union, to Shaw and others. Smith, who recently announced the colossal Arise Baltimore Development project, said he plans to attend the tournament and some related events next week.

Stanley Tucker, former Morgan State basketball player, reflects on CIAA tourney

By Demetrius Dillard

Many may not know that one of the city’s leading Black entrepreneurs was once a basketball player in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (CIAA).

Stanley Tucker, now a successful businessman who founded the Meridian Management Group, donned a Morgan State University basketball uniform in the 1960s— back when HBCUs the primary landing spot for athletic talent and the CIAA was one of the most competitive basketball conferences in the nation.

From 1966 to 1969, Tucker was a guard for the Bears when the program was a member of the CIAA along with other prominent HBCUs like N.C. A&T, Norfolk State and Hampton. During that era, he competed against the likes of Earl “The Pearl” Monroe, Eugene Smiley and others.

The CIAA has always been very exciting, Tucker said, and though ball players from other schools were tenacious competitors, they were friends off the court.

“Even though we competed against each other, we were also good friends. We made very good friends from the other teams for life,” said the 74-year-old. “We would go to the various schools - Howard, etc. - and we partied together. Even though we competed on the floor, but we got to know each other as athletes, and as friends... We have those great memories until today.”

Following his career at Morgan State, Tucker didn’t play professionally. Instead, he continued his education and earned a master’s degree from Carnegie-Mellon University. His entrepreneurial pursuits eventually led him to establish the Meridian Management Group (MMG), a firm that provides financing for minority and women-owned businesses.



***Stanley Tucker founded the Meridian Management Group
Courtesy Photo/MMG***

For the nearly 30 years that MMG has been operating, Tucker has served as the president and CEO of the company.

Prior to forming MMG, Tucker was the executive director of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority from 1981 to 1995 and worked extensively with the Maryland Black Legislative Caucus.

The South Carolina native moved to Long Island, N.Y., when he was in the ninth grade. He came to Morgan State on an athletic scholarship. Tucker was on the committee who worked to bring the CIAA Basketball Tournament to Baltimore. Since his days in college more than 50 years ago and even after graduating from MSU, the CIAA Tournament has had a special place in Tucker’s heart.

“We’re excited about it because ever since I was in college, I was going to the CIAA Tournament and then even when I graduated, a number of my friends at the church I attended - older guys— went to the CIAA Tournament every year. And so I know about the excitement and all the great things, and the great people, and the ambiance, and it’s off the chain,” Tucker said. “It’s a special, special, special event... There’s nothing like CIAA. Nothing.”

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M O R G A N . E D U



Local Spotlight: CIAA basketball players returning home for tournament

By *Demetrius Dillard*

Over the years, the Baltimore area has earned a reputation for its deep reservoir of basketball talent.

Several athletes from the city will be returning home to showcase their talent in the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament at Royal Farms Arena. Of the 12 CIAA member institutions, four have basketball players from Baltimore.

Bowie State, the primary host for the tournament, has three student-athletes from Baltimore, while Lincoln, Shaw and St. Augustine's have one player apiece from the city according to the team rosters, bringing the total number of CIAA basketball players with roots in Baltimore City to six.

Below are brief backgrounds on each of those six players.

Bowie State University:

Jewel Porter is one of the few upperclassmen on the Bulldogs' roster. The 6-foot-1 senior forward transferred to Bowie from Central Connecticut State University. Prior to playing at CCSU, she competed for Harford Community College. In high school, she guided Baltimore Polytechnic Institute - which has one of the most dynamic basketball programs in the area - to two state titles (2015, 2016) and a city championship in 2015.

Khalia Turner will have her first conference tournament experience in her hometown. The 5-foot-7 freshman guard spent her high school career at the nationally acclaimed St. Frances Academy.

Mya Henson has appeared in one game



Janya Lilly
Lincoln University Lions

this season and logged only seven minutes, so it is unclear whether she will play or how she will contribute during the tournament. The freshman guard-forward hails from the well-known Western High School.

Lincoln University:

Janya Lilly, a second-year player for the Lions, also comes from the girls' basketball program at Poly under the tutelage of Coach Kendall Peace. The 5-foot-7 guard scored a season-high 14 on Jan. 22 against Virginia Union and is averaging 6.8 points and three rebounds this season.

Shaw University:

Mackenzie Pollard was a standout at Western during her high school days. Now she is one of the key pieces for the Bears, averaging a team-high 12.6 points per game to go with 3.7 boards. The



Kyshon Tate
Saint Augustine Falcons

5-foot-9 junior guard will look to use her scoring and playmaking ability to lead Shaw in the upcoming tournament.

Saint Augustine's University:

Kyshon Tate is a 6-foot-8, 230-pound senior averaging 2.2 points and 3.3 rebounds for the Falcons. He netted a



Mackenzie Pollard
Shaw University Bears

career-high 13 points against Charleston (W. Va.) earlier this season. Prior to suiting up for St. Augustine's, the forward played for Hagerstown Community College after competing for the highly regarded Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

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WED FEB 23RD

12:00 PM - YOGA

5:00 PM - MARTELL LOUNGE: MIX IN THE HISTORY

THURS FEB 25TH

7:00 AM - BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS: 5 MILE RUN W/
NEIGHBORHOOD HERO

12:00 PM - NATURAL T-SHIRT DYING EXPERIENCE W/
THE FOUNDER OF EQUITEA

5:00 PM - MARTELL LOUNGE: MIX IN THE HISTORY

9:00 PM - REVIVAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS KICK-OFF
PARTY W/ BALTIMORE DJ'S

FRI FEB 25TH

7:00 AM - BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS: RUN W/
A TRIBE CALLED RUN

12:00 PM - PANEL DISCUSSION: HOW GLOBAL BRANDS
CAN SUPPORT BLACK INITIATIVES

5:00 PM - MARTELL LOUNGE: MIX IN THE HISTORY

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Livingstone College Coach eagerly joins CIAA member schools in switch to Baltimore, for annual basketball tournament

By Timothy Cox
Special to Baltimore Times

When the CIAA Basketball tournament makes its presence in Charm City Tuesday, February 22 through Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Royal Farms Arena, the annual affair will serve as the first competitive basketball tournament to appear in Baltimore since 1952.

It will also serve as the CIAA Tourney's first site-change since 2005.

For the past 16 years, the CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament has been held in the Queen City of Charlotte, North Carolina, headquarters for the Central Interscholastic Athletic Association (CIAA).

Livingstone College head basketball coach, James Stinson, recently stated that he and several of his CIAA head-coaching colleagues are eager to make the relocation to Baltimore.

"It was fine staying at home, in North Carolina, since our college is based in Salisbury, N.C. – only 45-minutes from Charlotte, but I have faith in our CIAA leadership. They are focused on spreading the good news and the wealth of our conference to other parts of the country. It's our way of establishing a foot-print for our northern schools, such as Lincoln University and Bowie State – while maintaining the rich heritage of the CIAA.

"It also offers other fans a chance to not have to travel so far, and for the more southern fans a chance to travel and see a different landscape in the culturally-rich, urban setting known as Bmore," said the well-spoken head coach.

Stinson, 56, is a Charlotte native and has served as Livingstone's top man since 2004. Prior to that, he worked in assistant roles at Barber-Scotia College (Concorde, N.C.) and on the high school and junior high school levels. Stinson played high school hoops at North Mecklenburg High School and was a key player during his college years at Barber-Scotia College.

The Blue Bears hoops program was fledgling before Stinson took over the helm. Once a perennial doormat in the CIAA's Southern Division, Stinson immediately had impact upon being named head coach – leading the men's basketball team to its first-ever appearance in the CIAA's final four during his first year.

In recent tourneys, Livingstone won back-to-back CIAA Tourney titles (2013, 2014) and was defeated in the 2015 title game by Virginia State in a three-peat title attempt.

In 2020, Stinson won his 500th game, during his 30-year career. The team's current record is 12-8 and 9-5 in the CIAA's Southern Division. Winston-Salem State leads the division, followed by Fayetteville State. Stinson said his team is in third place, en route to the tournament. Stinson also acknowledged that Livingstone's football program is also on the come-up, and is now headed by former LA Rams defensive stalwart Sean Gilbert, an Aliquippa, Pennsylvania native— also the hometown to Mike Ditka; Tony Dorsett; Ty Law; and Darrelle Revis.

"Recruiting is on the upswing," he added.

Stinson says his coaching influences include the late John Thompson (Georgetown); the late John Cheyney (Temple); and the late Clarence "Big House" Gaines (Winston-Salem State University).

"All those men stood for helping and mentoring young African-American men. In addition to teaching basketball brilliance, they also focused on academic success— I take that legacy from them. And even further, to me, basketball is a ministry and I'm here to help," said Stinson, who takes pride in a Catholic primary school foundation, coupled with a Sunday-based Southern Baptist doctrine – both supported by his parents.



In nearly 20 years at the helm, James Stinson has enjoyed success as Livingstone College men's head basketball coach. Courtesy Photo/Livingstone College



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A 'Poet's' Words about the CIAA

WPGC 95.5 FM Personality is a Tournament Ambassador

By Ursula V. Battle

Poet Taylor began her broadcasting career at Baltimore's WERQ-92Q FM after she won a radio station contest aimed to expand their talent roster. The six-month internship morphed into her first radio position, co-hosting the "Afternoon Drive with Konan." Now, some ten years later, Poet's story continues to evolve, as the popular on-air personality hosts her own show, "Midday Shenanigans," which airs on WPGC 95.5 FM.

Poet continues to "score" on the court of success, with her selection as Ambassador for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) 2022 Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament. The event returns to Maryland for the first time since 1952, and has had an annual economic impact of over \$650 million during its 15-year run in Charlotte, NC. The highly-anticipated event takes place at Royal Farms Arena February 22-26, 2022.

"As the CIAA Ambassador, I am very excited," said Poet. "The Tournament will have a huge impact in Baltimore and surrounding counties. It will impact the state of Maryland and the region. The revenue generated from this event will help local businesses that have struggled over the past couple of years. There are a lot of people coming in. With all that traffic, people will be spending money. That helps the city to evolve and grow. People from all walks of life are going to be a part of this phenomenal week of activity."

In addition to the 22 games featured in this year's Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament, the CIAA will offer a week of celebratory affiliated events that appeal to a diverse demographic of alumni and fans. Tournament week will include annual staple events such as Fan Fest, High School Education Day, CIAA Career Expo, Super Saturday, The 6th Annual Samaritan's Feet "Shoes of Hope" initiative, and The John B. McClendon Jr. CIAA Hall of Fame Breakfast.

The CIAA is also partnering with the city's official sales and marketing arm Visit Baltimore, to create a series of town halls and symposiums to include a Tech Summit, Money Moves Financial Summit, CIAA Men's & Women's Student-Athlete Symposium, Mental Health Panel Discussion, and more.

"People can enjoy the games and the artists, but they can also learn about investing in Bitcoin, and also attend tech and wellness summits, sports clinics and other events," said Poet. "There is such a multitude of wonderful things about the Tournament coming to Baltimore. I know what people hear about

Baltimore and what people think about Baltimore. But just as a Black person in America, I will tell you that more often than not, that narrative rarely matches."

"She added, "What is true of that space is that people are excited to take people to their favorite restaurants, and experience those restaurants with them. The Tournament provides an opportunity for people to visit Baltimore and learn what the city is really all about. The Tournament won't come fast enough for me."

The CIAA is the nation's first African American athletic conference and the annual basketball tournament is one of the most highly attended basketball tournaments among all NCAA divisions. This year marks the first year that ESPN will broadcast all 22 games, exposing new audiences to both the CIAA and Baltimore.

"This is the first time that all 22 games are going to be on ESPN, which also makes the Tournament historic" said Poet. "To me, this Tournament is who I am at the core, and that's giving back, lifting one another up, and loving on communities."

Poet is also a featured Washington, DC Correspondent for "Dish Nation" on WTTG-Fox 5 and Fox 5 Plus for the "Syndicated Entertainment News Program". She is also a motivational speaker and community liaison, championing for various causes. She said she seeks to bring awareness to teens and young adults in the Foster Care System, having personally gone through the DC and Maryland State Foster Care Systems before being adopted by a Baltimore family.

"I grew up in foster care and I am not supposed to be where I am," said Poet. "I never imagined this, but I'm thankful to be a walking testimony to kids who might not think that they are going to make it because of the hand that they've been dealt. So to show them all the things that happens in the CIAA is great. It puts HBCUs and African Americans in collegiate sports in the spotlight, and illustrates that greatness is indeed possible."

She added, "And when people come to Baltimore for this Tournament and experience, the shopping, the food, the people...the entire vibe, they are going to want to come back."

For more information about CIAA Tournament Week visit www.theciaa.com and www.baltimoretimes-online.com.



Poet Taylor formerly of Baltimore's WERQ-92Q FM, is a CIAA Ambassador for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association 2022 Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament, coming to Royal Farms Arena February 22-26, 2022. Poet's voice now can be heard on the airwaves of WPGC 95.5 FM.

Courtesy Photo

Airport CEO Helped 'Fly' 2022 CIAA Tournament to Baltimore

By Ursula V. Battle

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) 2022 Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament is ready to "land" at Royal Farms Arena February 22-26, 2022 and BWI's Ricky Smith was among the "crew" that helped "pilot" the highly-anticipated event to Baltimore. Smith is Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall), and a former basketball standout who attended Virginia Union.

"My first college experience attending a CIAA School was at Virginia Union, so I know the culture that comes with going to not just an HBCU, but an HBCU in the CIAA," said Smith. "I know, how much those schools struggle and how much they achieve. I know how much my city Baltimore struggles and how much Baltimore City achieves. So to have the two come together the way they will be coming together later this month is special. It's great to celebrate all the greatness that comes with the amazing talent at CIAA schools."

The Baltimore native added, "I'm a charter member of the local organizing committee. I was part of the team that joined Visit Baltimore to make the pitch to the CIAA to relocate the tournament from Charlotte to Baltimore."

Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, the CIAA is governed by the presidents and chancellors of its 12 member institutions: Bowie State University; Claflin University; Elizabeth City State University; Fayetteville State University; Johnson C. Smith University; Lincoln University of Pennsylvania; Livingstone College; Saint Augustine's University; Shaw University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Winston-Salem State University. Chowan University is an associate member in football and women's bowling.

"We're going to celebrate the CIAA's commitment to education and commitment to community service," said Smith. "People will come together and have a great time. BWI Airport is going



Ricky Smith is Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). Smith was among those who lead the effort to bring the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) 2022 Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament to Baltimore. Courtesy Photo

to roll out the red carpet and welcome the fans to the Baltimore-Washington region for this tournament. When they get off the plane, they will know that they're in a place that is welcoming and appreciates them."

The CIAA Tournament has had an annual economic impact of nearly \$50 million and over \$650 million during the 15-year run in Charlotte. In addition to the 22 games featured in this year's Men's and Women's Basketball Championship Tournament, the CIAA offers a week of celebratory events. Smith said he will be bringing remarks and keynote addresses during some of the events.

"I'll be pretty busy throughout the week," he said. "But I'm also going to find time to attend some of the events,

because the fellowship is very important."

BWI Marshall is an event sponsor. "We sponsored the event because we know it's an important economic development opportunity for the city," said Smith. "Besides the basketball tournaments, the community service and the educational events, a lot of minorities are going to make money during this tournament. It's going to have a huge economic impact, and minorities are going to benefit the most. The fact that the airport can help enable that through its transportation and sponsorship is something we are very proud of."

Smith was appointed Executive Director/CEO of the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) on July 10, 2015. He is responsible for the management and

operations of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall), Martin State Airport, and regional aviation activities throughout the State of Maryland.

Smith said he attended Virginia Union University his first year in college on an academic and basketball scholarship, but never got an opportunity to play basketball due to an injury. He holds an accounting degree from Howard University and an Executive MBA from Loyola University in Maryland. He has led BWI Marshall to five consecutive record-setting years for passengers including restoring BWI Marshall as the busiest airport in the Washington/Baltimore region. In 2015, he launched the BWI Marshall Youth Initiative aimed at introducing youth in Baltimore City to careers in aviation and transportation.

Noting late entrepreneurs Osbourne Payne and Harlow Fullwood whom he said attended CIAA schools, Smith also highlighted Baltimore attorney N. Scott Phillips and former Walbrook High School basketball star Derwin Lilly.

"So many Baltimoreans who have done extraordinary things have graduated from CIAA schools," said Smith.

Humbled by Smith mentioning his name, Phillips said of the tournament, "The history of the CIAA is pretty amazing. I attended my first CIAA as a freshman at Virginia Union in 1980 at the Norfolk Scope and I have been hooked ever since. It is a Black College Reunion. A gathering of alumni from some of this country's oldest HBCUs. Each year when I attend the CIAA I am reminded of the rich heritage of our schools."

Derwin Lilly, whose #10 jersey hangs from the rafters of Virginia Union University's Barco-Stevens Hall is a legendary point guard.

"I was surprised and shocked when I heard Baltimore got the tournament because it had been held in North Carolina so many years," said Lilly. "I plan on attending. For Baltimore to host the tournament is great."

For more information about CIAA Tournament Week visit www.theciaa.com and www.baltimoretimes-online.com

WBC hosts 2022 Virtual Women's Conference: Refresh! Rejuvenate! Reimagine! Your Health, Wealth and Business

By Stacy M Brown

Ann Frank considers herself a development junkie, though she concedes that enthusiast might provide a better description.

"My background is personal, professional, business and program development," said Frank, the director of the Baltimore Metro Women's Business Center (WBC).

Frank and the WBC plan to host the 2022 Virtual Women's Conference on Thursday and Friday, February 24 and 25, where Danielle Frisby, the founder and CEO of Unboxing Change, will serve as host and moderator.

The theme of the conference, which begins each day at 9:30 a.m. EST, is "Refresh! Rejuvenate! Reimagine! Your Health, Wealth and Business." The event will include inspirational speakers, community business award presentations, breakout discussions, and entrepreneurial business success stories.

"You will learn how to shift your mindset from 'Oh no,' to 'Oh yes,'" Frank declared.

She added that attendees also will learn how to "push forward when you're pulled backward. Grow, scale, and then sail in your business."

Frank added that the Baltimore Metro WBC's commitment is to embrace women business owners and provide resources to enhance their business



Ann Frank, director of the Baltimore Metro Women's Business Center
Courtesy Photo

knowledge as well as support their ingenuity for entrepreneurial growth.

Frank further explained why historically Black Morgan State University serves as the ideal host for the conference.

"The goal of this SBA sponsored program is to provide resources to the underserved business

community," Frank noted. "Morgan University, via their Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center (EDAC), allows us access to a host of students, faculty, staff, and surrounding urban communities that typically have not had access to these types of federal resources. Gaining access to capital, networking and getting seats at tables where women are typically under-represented. Its overall effectiveness is about visibility and accessibility."

In addition to the conference, the WBC offers a variety of opportunities and services including one-on-one no-cost business consulting, training, workshops, the Barbara A. Robinson Mentoring program, and a Women's Networking & Leadership Collective.

They also offer COVID assistance programs.

"We are currently having COVID-19 Subject Matter Assistance Summits where we pay for hands-on servicing for our clients like accounting services to review or set up their books," Frank stated.

The program also includes assistance

for website marketing, social media, marketing campaigns, and helping clients understand and manage contract awards, according to Frank.

Frank added that the program is temporary, and on a first-come, first-served, basis until Covid-related funds are exhausted.

"I love this job and I love what I've been tasked to do," Frank exclaimed. "Providing knowledge and resources to women business owners, seeing and experiencing the ah ha moments with women as they move forward with their entrepreneurial dreams, are exciting.

"When they jump up and shout because they obtained funding, set up their marketing, obtained a larger contract or even made their first dollar, I jump up and shout hallelujah right along with them. It feels great to contribute to community growth. That's what it is all about— building community through economic growth."

To register for the conference, visit <https://edacwbc.ecenterdirect.com/event/s/662>

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Eat-more at Howard Row



Vegan Juiceology is a purveyor of plant-based healthy food and drink options from Baltimore native Dominique Allen. **Stop by for a fresh taste of something good for you!**



Cajou Creamery is a plant-based ice cream company and social enterprise aimed at making exceptional cashew milk ice cream through transitioning to a worker-owned cooperative and hiring formerly incarcerated citizens and supporting their re-entering into society. **My favorite is vanilla cinnamon, what will be yours?**



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You are invited to the Black Businesses of Howard Row "BLOCK PARTY" on Friday, February 25th from 11am to 6pm

Shop-more, See-more, and eat-more in Baltimore's Black Wall Street area (25th between Howard and St. Paul Streets). Shop some of Baltimore's own urban brand stores such as SKRUED, Oufur, Huey Brand, No Excusez, and The Republic of Great Men Clothing. Then stop by Terra Cafe for the best in Caribbean music, food, and **BEST FRIED FISH IN THE BALTIMORE AREA.**



Baltimore Urban Brand, No Excusez, located at 106 West 25th Street
(Photo Credit: Taj Don)



Located at 101 East 25th Street and open 7 days a week.
(Photo Credit: Terra Cafe)

CIAA Special Weekend Schedule

Friday, February 25th Caribbean Vibes, Dinner & Early Happy Hour 2:00pm-Until

Saturday, February 26th Brunch from 11:00am-4:00pm

Saturday, February 26th Caribbean Vibes and Dinner 4:00 pm- Until

Sunday, February 27th Hot Gospel Brunch from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Rambling Rose

**Bolton Hill Social Action Task Force hosts
6TH Annual Black History Month Party**



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, hoping everything is well with you. Hoping you are staying in the health circle. I hope you are keeping your mask on while you are enjoying yourself. It is great that so many venues are still open for you to get out of the house and enjoy yourself with friends and family, but it comes with a cost, COVID-19 is still out there, be smart, have fun and party with common sense, keep your damn mask on. That way you can live until the next party.

Peter Van Buren and the Bolton Hill's Social Action Task Force is hosting their Sixth Annual Black History Month Party on Sunday, February 20 from 3-5 p.m. This is a "hybrid" event, meaning you can either attend in-person or online. Guests wearing face masks can attend the live show in the main sanctuary of Memorial Episcopal Church, 1407 Bolton Street, or the party will be broadcast live via Zoom, so you can choose to watch online from the comfort of your home as well. The event will feature two local organizations, Wide Angle Youth Media and the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum. Both organizations will be telling you about new projects they are launching this spring. There will be a two-hour program filled with poetry readings by Black authors, including all of the local poets from last year and neighbors reading the works of others. Don Palmer will MC the program and new this year, will be live music by Dan & Claudia Zanes. For more information, call 410-383-7820 or 410-961-6492. By the way, tell him "Rambling Rose" told you!

Also celebrating Black History Month is An Die Musik Live, 409 N. Charles Street featuring another one of my Music Brothers, John Lamkin II and The Favorites Jazz Quintet on Sunday, February 20th starting at 5 p.m. The band includes John playing trumpet and flugelhorn, Michael Hairston on tenor sax, Bob Butta

on piano, Micheal Graham on bass and Jesse Moody on drums.

One of my musical sons, Ralph Magwood, Baltimore's renowned percussionist and vocalist will be doing a CD re-release of his latest work called "Vintage," with a live performance at GLA Soundstage (Live Event & Performance Arts Center), 6233 Kenwood Avenue, Rosedale, Maryland from 8-10 p.m. After Party is from 10 p.m. until. For more information, go

to: www.ralphmagwood.net.

Oh my Goodness! Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival is back with a spark in their step. Yes! Real Jazz is back! February 18-20 of 2022 on President's Day weekend. It will include a chicken & dumpling delicious menu of jazz masters and emerging artists to perform at 1750 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Maryland. This year, the headliner's include: Kenny Garrett; Buster Williams Tia Fuller; The Baylor Project; Carr Keys; Paul Carr & Marshall Keys; Patrice Rushen; Stefon Harris; Wycliffe Gordon; and a host of other great artists, too many to name at this time. You can go to www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org or call 805-909-6330. You must wear your mask at all of these venues. Have fun and stay safe.

I am telling you these seafood restaurants are getting in the groove with the Black live entertainment for the first time, thanks to entertainment promoters such as; Carlos Hutchins, Tee-Shirt Brian, Ms' Maybelle, DJ Mike Jones and Randy Dennis. Added to the list of restaurants that are doing their thing is Crafty Crab Seafood, 8606 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Maryland have "Line Dance Happy Hour" every Wednesday 6-10 p.m. Line Dance Class is from 6-7 p.m. No cover. All Choreographers & instructors are welcome.

Well, my friends, I have to go. I am a little under the weather, have to go and rest. But remember, if you need me, call



Renowned Baltimore percussionist Ralph Magwood is releasing his new CD "Vintage" on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at GLA Soundstage, located at 6233 Kenwood Avenue in Rosedale, Maryland.



DJ Mike Jones, Tee-Shirt Brian and Ms. Maybelle, "The Power Music Promoter Trio" still fire up live old school entertainment every Friday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at City View, 6700 Security Blvd. Free Admission.



Tyrone Crawley became the new president of Baltimore Jazz Alliance (BJA). Crawley has served on the BJA Board since 2017, volunteering on several committees and emceeding the group's last Baltimore Jazz Fest in 2019.



Olive Branch Italian Grill, located 11706 Reisterstown Road in Reisterstown, Maryland is jumping because Carlos Hutchins, well-known Entertainment Promoter features live entertainment every Saturday with an R&B Brunch from 2-6 p.m. This week in February DJ Mike Jones and February 26 Elliot Levine & Friends featuring vocalist Natalie Redd. Free Admission.

me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com.

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Ravens fan wins lottery ‘Seats for 20 Years’ prize

Final winner revealed in Maryland Lottery Ravens scratch-off promotion

Baltimore— Diane Heil has been looking forward to February since the Ravens kicked off the 2021 season. That’s because the Annapolis resident has known since September that she was one of six finalists in the Maryland Lottery’s Ravens second-chance promotion, giving her a chance to win Ravens season tickets for 20 years. As the group stood together inside M&T Bank Stadium in front of TV cameras, Diane Heil was named the “Seats for 20 Years” winner.

“Usually my gut feeling is pretty good,” said Heil. “I was fairly sure that I would not be the winner today, but when I saw my name up on the big board it was truly a big surprise.” The 58-year-old Information Technology professional wore her lucky Ed Reed jersey for today’s festivities. “I figured his number 20 and the chance to win 20 years of season tickets— maybe this would give me just a bit more luck.”

The finalists and their guests, all donning Ravens attire, met at the stadium to learn who would win the coveted prize, which includes two club-level tickets and parking to every pre-season and regular-season home game for the next 20 years.

The celebration began with a VIP private tour of the stadium, which included visits to the post-game pressroom and team locker room. Once the tour was complete, the finalists were greeted by former Ravens wide receiver Qadry Ismail, who hosted the big reveal on a club-level stadium deck.

After congratulating each of the finalists, Ismail instructed the group



High fives and celebrations all around as Diane Heil was named the final winner of our 2021 Ravens second-chance promotion. Heil won a pair of Ravens season tickets for 20 years! Courtesy Photo/Maryland Lottery and Gaming

to turn around and watch as the winner’s name was displayed across the 100-foot wide stadium Smartvision board.

When asked how she felt about winning the prize, Heil replied, “I feel incredible. This has been one of the best days of my life.” Reflecting on the prize, she added, “It’s just amazing knowing I’ll be able to come to see this great team, right here in this great stadium for the next 20 years.”

The six finalists, who were randomly selected from more than 800,000 entries in this category, each won \$10,000 just for being selected. The other finalists were: William Perry from Baltimore; Linda Walkerknight from Randallstown; Karen Roberts from Linthicum Heights; Thomas

Hood from Baltimore; and Shantris Grant-Hope from Brooklyn Park.

For the 13th year in a row, the Maryland Lottery and the Baltimore Ravens have teamed up to offer players scratch-offs and second-chance prizes. This year players entered non-winning \$2 Ravens X2 and \$5 Ravens X5 scratch-off tickets for the chance to win cash and a variety of Ravens-themed prizes. In addition to the “Seats for 20 Years” prize, the promotion awarded season tickets for one season, cash and the opportunity to participate in an on-field Pass for Cash activity on game day. More than 3.2 million total entries were received for the entire promotion.

Past winners of the “Seats for 20 Years” prize have hailed from across Maryland, including: Pasadena; Stevensville; Rosedale; Baltimore; Bel Air; Germantown; Glen Burnie; Gaithersburg; Clinton; Crofton; and Cambridge.

There are still large instant prizes remaining on both scratch-offs. The \$5 Ravens ticket has two \$100,000 top-prizes and more than 460,000 prizes between \$5 and \$10,000 remaining. The \$2 scratch-off has a single \$20,000 top-prize remaining and more than 360,000 prizes between \$2 and \$5,000 left on the ticket.

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Volunteers are urgently needed in Anne Arundel County for the following positions

*Blood Donor Ambassador - Help save lives in your community by supporting blood collection at a local blood drive

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The Urgency of Now: The world premiere of Fannie Lou Hamer's America

By Dena Fisher

The world premiere of *Fannie Lou Hamer's America* will be released on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, on PBS and on February 24, 2022, on the WORLD Channel *America ReFramed* series.

The film explores and celebrates the lesser-known life of a Mississippi human-rights-activist and one of the Civil Rights Movement's greatest leaders. It follows Hamer's life from the cotton fields of Mississippi to the halls of Congress. It airs at a time when Black women are being acknowledged for their work at the forefront of the fight for voting rights amidst unprecedented voter suppression efforts targeting citizens of color. The film is an offering to a new generation of audiences called upon to take up the mantle of preserving American democracy.

Acclaimed actress Aunjanue Ellis (*Sunflower: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story*, *King Richard*) joined Hamer's great-niece, Monica Land (Co-producer of *Fannie Lou Hamer's America*), in a virtual panel discussion with Joy Davenport (Director of *Fannie Lou Hamer's America*), and author Dr. Keisha N. Blain (*Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America*) ahead of the film's world premiere. America Reframed Executive Producer Erika Dilday moderated the discussion on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

The virtual panel discussed Hamer's legacy of civil rights and human rights activism and its relevance to today's challenges and lessons for black youth. The panelists also acknowledged the misogyny in the civil rights movement and discussed the critical importance of centering the voices of black female leaders.

Panelist and author Dr. Blaine spoke explicitly about the progress made under Hamer's leadership and the recent efforts



(Clockwise from top left) Erika Dilday, Aunjanue Ellis, Dr. Keisha N. Blain, and Monica Land participated in the virtual panel discussion, *Finding Your Voice Through Fannie Lou Hamer: Meet the Makers Panel* on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.
Photo Credit: Dena Fisher

to suppress voting access across the nation. Last year more than 400 bills were introduced to suppress voting rights, she cited. She said, "We are at a moment where we are watching all of the legal and political gains of the 60s slowly roll back, and now we have to fight. Fannie Lou Hamer's story and her voice give us a blueprint to ensure that we continue to build an inclusive democracy."

Actress Aunjanue Ellis saw the documentary as an act of resistance and spoke to the marginalization of women's voices and the importance of educating young people about the Fannie Lou Hamers of our time.

"What excites me about this documentary is that we have this new opportunity for students and young people to know Mrs. Hamer and other women like Ella Baker, Annie Devine, and Virginia Gray Adams," Ellis said. "These were women who put their

bodies as a target for the venom and the bullets. Imagine getting shot at sixteen times because you wanted to vote."

She goes on to summon the viewers to

educate the youth.

"If you have some young people in your life, then tell them about Mrs. Hamer's genius and her reach and how it affects their lives. Tell your young kids about watching this documentary next Tuesday."

Monica Land, Fannie Lou Hamer's great-niece, shared that the documentary has been 15 years in the making. As she closed out the panel discussion, she underscored that she wanted her aunt to be recognized and remembered.

"It is hurtful to know that she made such tremendous strides for black people, and most young people don't know who she is. The film is an effort to preserve her memory and to remind them that we have these freedoms because of people like Fannie Lou Hamer and others," Land said. "To the young people, listen to your history and learn from it."

Fannie Lou Hamer's America: An America ReFramed Special broadcasts on PBS on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, from 9 to 10:30 p.m. ET and on WORLD Channel on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 8 p.m. ET during Black History Month.



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Annapolis native teams up with Snoop Dogg on forthcoming project

By *Andrea Blackstone*

Author, screenwriter and producer, Rodney Barnes is teaming up with rapper, actor and entrepreneur Snoop Dogg (Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr.) to release a horror anthology graphic novel called *Tales From The Crip*. In an Instagram post, Snoop Dogg informed his followers <https://www.instagram.com/p/CZjGhA4IiyP/> about the forthcoming collaboration.

“Be on the lookout for the graphic novel, *Tales From The Crip*, written by Rodney Barnes, starring Snoop Dogg. Yeah, *Tales From The Crip*. You better know it,” he said in the video clip.

Barnes, an Annapolis native confirmed that the project will be coming soon. He was visible in the background, giving a slow nod at the end of the audible announcement, while a beat flowed in the background. He grew up in Eastport and Primrose Acres in his youth, recalling a time when comic books were plentiful. There was no need to take a trip to the comic bookstore. The cost of them was about twenty cents.

He now lives in Los Angeles, Ca. while delving into creative pursuits which entails writing and producing shows through Zombie Love Studios for comic books he creates or owns, Rodney Barnes Productions, and creating content offered through Image Comics. Barnes works with others on a contractual basis, too. And now, he is working to bring diversity to a venture with Snoop Dogg— Black representation in the graphic novel space.

“It’s an anthology series like *The Twilight Zone* or *Creep Show* or the *Tales from the Crypt* show where there will be urban theme shows that Snoop will introduce like the Crypt-Keeper that are set in an urban environment,” Barnes said. “So instead of typically what you usually see, it’ll be shows or stories— more towards our culture and other ancillary cultures.”

Despite Barnes’ remarkable



Rodney Barnes grew up in Annapolis. He later left his hometown and established a distinguished career in screenwriting and film production. Barnes now lives in California. Recently, Barnes and Snoop Dogg announced a forthcoming collaboration called “Tales From The Crip.” The graphic novel will be released later this year. Barnes will be writing the work, which will star the rapper, actor, and entrepreneur, Snoop Dogg.
Courtesy Photo

achievements which range from collaborating with Snoop Dogg to working as a co-executive producer and writer on television shows such as *Everybody Hates Chris* and *Marvel’s Runaways*, the journey to move to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of a screenwriting career upon advice he received from comedian, writer and

actor, Damon Wayans.

While attending Howard University in Washington, D.C., Barnes worked as a production assistant on the comedy film, *Major Payne* with Wayans. After working on a second project with him, moving to the hub of entertainment came up in conversation. The idea of relocating did not come without much sacrifice.

“And at the time I was commuting from Maryland to LA, so I would get in my car and drive the three-day drive— get here and start working. We (Damon Wayans and I) had a frank conversation one day where he said, ‘You know, if you really want to write, you have to move here,’” Barnes said. “And, this was before the Internet was the Internet in the same way it is now. There was no social media. There was no way to communicate the same way you can now. It’s not the same if you’re a writer and you want to make it now, but back then you had to be available to have meetings and do things on the fly. So I packed up, moved to LA, lived in my car for like eight months, and started my journey.”

Barnes invested in his success, while working in production for nearly ten years. After building momentum, he became a member of The Writers Guild of America (WGA), a union representing film and television writers in 2000 or 2001.

During an interview with *The Annapolis Times* and *The Baltimore Times* newspapers, Barnes reflected on his partial recipe for success in overcoming barriers or obstacles to break into writing production or these creative pursuits.

“Really being self-aware is the key. Because what happens is things are going to go well for a minute, then things are going to go down,” said Barnes about the peaks and valleys of the business. “I can say that there’s a correlation between me being better as a person and me being better at my career.”

Learn more about Rodney Barnes via <https://rodneymbarnes.com/about/>. Follow him on Instagram @therodneymbarnes to learn more about his work and the forthcoming project with Snoop Dogg, which will be released later this year.

“Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe.” —Gail Devers

New Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Microsite Promotes Black History 365 Days a Year

Annapolis— The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) and Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) have announced the creation of a newly launched Black History 365 microsite that makes it easy for interested individuals to celebrate the heritage and culture of the people of the African Diaspora in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County all year long.

Spearheaded by the Banneker-Douglass Museum and curated by Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, Black History 365 is a compilation of videos, blogs, resources, and events from a myriad of sources that provides insights into the lives of generations of individuals of the African Diaspora.

Banneker-Douglass Museum Executive Director Channel Compton says the ever-evolving site shares the stories of a people who have made significant contributions to Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, the State of Maryland, and the nation. As Compton sees it, “If we better understand the past, we can better craft the future of our dreams. If we learn from what has been, we can better envision what could be. Individuals of the African Diaspora have an ongoing story to tell. The site is designed to help build understanding among all peoples.”

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Executive Director Kristen Pironis says her organization is proud to partner with the Banneker-Douglass Museum on what’s designed to be a game changer when it comes to accessing all things Black History.

“Annapolis and Anne Arundel County attractions are doing a great job of telling their part of African-American story. Black History 365 is designed to bring the stories together in a single location. Black History is being made every day. The new microsite is a vehicle for sharing the then and the now,” said Pironis.

Four Rivers Heritage Area Executive Director Carol Benson says the new site comes at a perfect time.

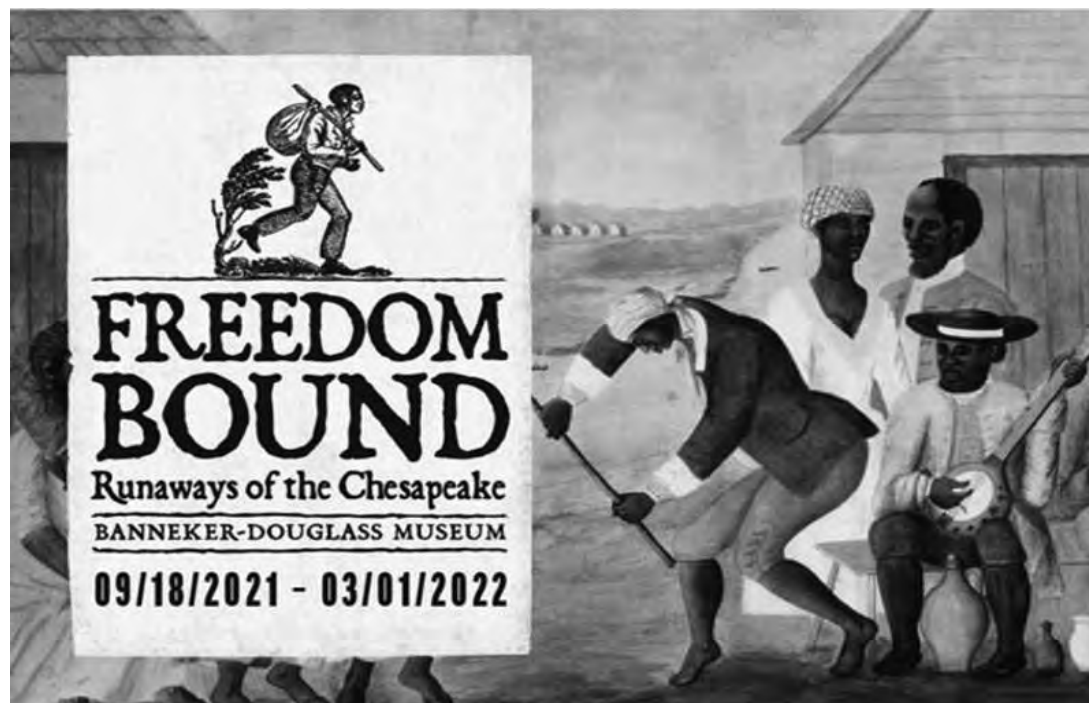
“The Black History story in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is so rich and diverse that we recently doubled the size of the heritage area to provide a voice for stories that otherwise might go forever untold,” said Benson.

While Black History 365 is off to a great start, the goal is to have it become even more robust as time goes on.

“Emerging research, new studies, new findings, and new headlines will help broaden the collection over time. Real people, facing real challenges push boundaries and expand horizons daily. The new site can reflect this,” says Compton.

“If something’s missing, we want to know about it. Our goal is to build out a comprehensive resource for individuals who want to learn about, explore, and experience the region’s Black History all year long,” says Pironis.

Individuals and organizations that would like to add to Black History 365’s collection of stories and events are invited to submit their Black History event, exhibition, or program here and click “Black History” in the event category.



Visit the Banneker-Douglass Museum during Black History Month and view their latest exhibit, *Freedom Bound, Runaways of the Chesapeake*. Image courtesy of the Banneker-Douglass Museum



Celebrate Black History all year long with Black History 365. Image courtesy of Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County.



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