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A Longtime Band Director Closes his Morgan State University Music Chapter



Melvin N. Miles, Jr. served as Morgan State University's (MSU's) Director of University Bands and as an instructor in the Fine Arts Department. The native Baltimorean who recently retired was a MSU faculty member since 1973. He also conducted various bands and ensembles. Miles earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in Music Education from Morgan State University. (See more page 8). Photo courtesy of Morgan State University

ELECTION 2022: A Report on Ten Black Candidates Running Statewide in 2022

NNPA NEWSWIRE — The year of 2022 will prove to be a major test of the electability of Black statewide candidates as issues around voting rights and justice reform, confront the steady emergence of white supremacy in U.S. politics. With inflation becoming a bigger issue and the aftermath of COVID-19 many candidates will be running against strong headwinds.

By Lauren Victoria Burke, NNPA
Newswire Contributor

There are many Black candidates running statewide across the U.S. this year in primaries and in general election contests. The year of 2022 will prove to be a major test of the electability of Black statewide candidates as issues around voting rights and justice reform, confront the steady emergence of white supremacy in U.S. politics.

With inflation becoming a bigger issue and the aftermath of COVID-19 many candidates will be running against strong headwinds.

Florida Congresswoman and former Orlando Police Chief Val Demings, 65, is running for the U.S. Senate against Republican Marco Rubio, 51.

In North Carolina, former State Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, 56, is running for the U.S. Senate against Republican Ted Budd, 50, after the seat remained open because of the



With inflation becoming a bigger issue and the aftermath of COVID-19 many candidates will be running against strong headwinds.

Photo courtesy: Black Press USA

retirement of Sen. Richard Burr.

In Louisiana, Gary Chambers, 36, will take on the incumbent U.S. Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) in Louisiana's open primary on November 8. Louisiana elections use the majority-vote system and all candidates must compete in the same primary. A candidate can win the election outright by earning over 50 percent of the vote. If no candidate wins over 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote recipients from the primary advance to the general election, regardless of party.

In Kentucky, former Kentucky House of Representatives member Charles Booker, 38, will attempt to defeat U.S. Senator Rand Paul, 59, in November. In Wisconsin, Lt.

Gov. Mandela Barnes, 35, is running for U.S. Senate against incumbent Republican Ron Johnson. In Arkansas, Democrat Chris Jones, former executive director of the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, is running against former Trump White House spokesperson Sara Huckabee Sanders for Governor as current Governor Asa Hutchinson leaves office because of term limits.

Author and U.S. Army veteran Wes Moore, 43, is running in a crowded ten candidate primary for Governor of Maryland. The primary includes strong competition from former DNC Chair and DOJ Official Tom Perez, who was recently endorsed by *The Washington Post*.

In a re-match of the 2018 race for Governor of Georgia, which many argue came down to ballot access, Stacey Abrams, 48, will once again challenge Governor Brian Kemp, 58, for control of the mansion in Georgia. Abrams lost by 54,723 votes in 2018. Since then, her strategy of focusing on getting base voters to the polls, instead of attempting to convert 'moderates' and Republicans, has been proven effective in many races across the U.S. — including President Biden's electoral victory in Georgia as he went on to win the presidency.

Also, in Georgia, U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock, 52, will challenge former NFL running back Hershel Walker. Warnock was elected to the U.S. Senate on January 5, 2021 as he defeated incumbent Kelly Loeffler in a special election runoff, by 93,272 votes.

In New York, former Congressman Antonio Delgado, 45, will serve as Lt. Governor of New York and be on the ballot for November after the resignation of former Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent investigative journalist and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She may be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke)

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Ignoring Uvalde Equates to Muting Local Safety

By Andrea Blackstone

If we elect to allow the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas to slip from our memories, the May 24th school shooting easily becomes another headshaking tragedy for the history books. We live in a world where even law enforcement may struggle with how to handle active shooters. A shiny badge and gun worn on a hip is not always enough to deter criminal behavior. Per The Texas Tribune, “It took officers over an hour after the shooter went inside to kill the gunman, during which time distressed parents gathered outside the school and begged police officers to enter.”

A culmination of fear and rampant societal ills can leave officials grasping for straws about how to clean less blood-stained sidewalks. When violence strikes, a string of praying hands often line up under a tragic story shared on social media. Until the next episode about violence unfolds, the hot topic shifts to celebrity gossip or a hip dance craze. Who wants to contact legislators to press them for change? What difference can one message make anyway?

In the seventies, a heap of supervised boys used BB guns, yet gun violence was nothing like this. And in the previous generations, kids who broke rules could be corrected by people other than their parents. Today, we need more bulletproof doors and Ring Video Doorbells. Violent video games are a dime a dozen. Mentioning God is off limits in public school unless death is drawing near.

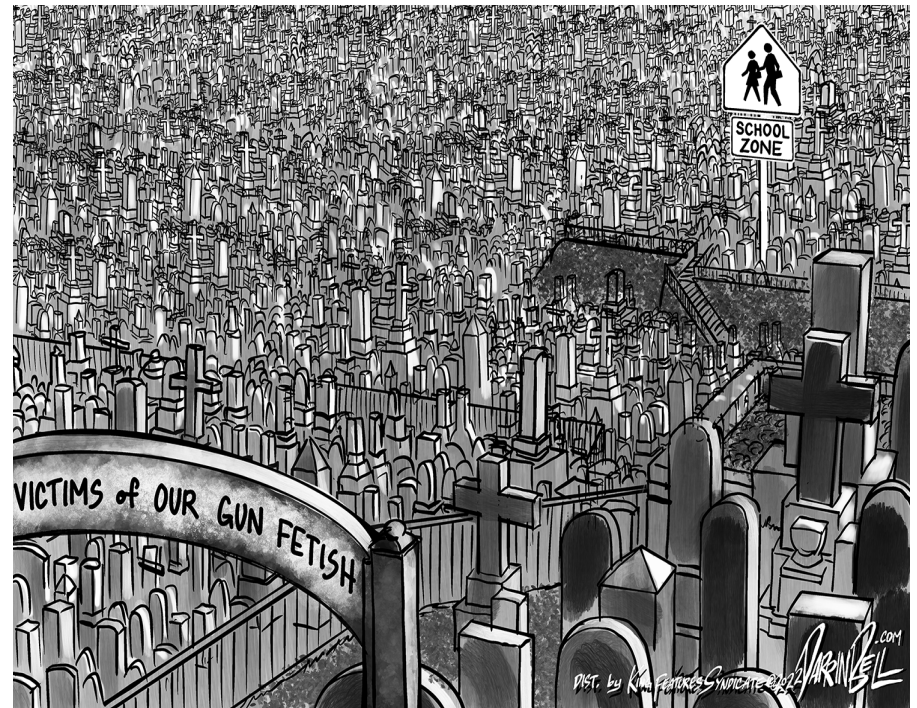
The Christian Post raised awareness about Ellie Garcia’s tragic end. The 9-year-old who was one of 19 children who lost her life in the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde mentioned religion in school, before her last breaths were taken. It took an 18-year-old gunman to make it acceptable.

“Hey, guys. I just wanted to give you a little catch-up. Jesus. He died for us. So when we die, we’ll be up there with Him. In my room, I have three pictures of Him,” Ellie said calmly in a Tik Tok video.

Before many of us knew where Uvalde was, details of the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 faded away, but statistics of a troubled society did not.

Gun Violence Archive (GVA) tweeted that startling preliminary numbers of gun-related incidences transpired on Memorial Day Weekend. The nonprofit revealed that 179 people were killed in the United States; 463 were injured and 15 mass shootings occurred. According to information provided on GVA’s website, “free online public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the United States” is provided by the “not for profit corporation formed in 2013.” And sadly, a mass shooting via GVA is defined by four or more people who were “shot or killed.” The shooter is not included in this number.

If we keep pushing each horrible incident aside, we never know who or where could be next. Changes in morals and legislation must come or another tragedy like what occurred Uvalde could be closer than we would want to imagine.



Letter to the Editor

Editor:

Lessons Emanating From A School Shooting

The shooting in Uvalde Texas shows the need to restrict the sale of assault weapons to just the military and police.

The shooting revealed numerous factors contributed to the massacre, including warning signs that were missed on social media, the school was not secured, and police showed ineptitude in doing their job.

Somehow, social media posts should be monitored for potential shooter comments, and people should report these warning signs to authorities.

Schools should have entrances reinforced and locked, and only one entrance should be used. Alarm systems

should be installed on all entrances except the main entrance. Weaponizing and training a few teachers/administrators should be evaluated. Why wasn't the Uvalde school police officer in the school at the time of the shooting?

Twenty Texas police officers stood in a hallway outside the Uvalde school classrooms for 48 minutes waiting for a tactical police force to arrive. During the 48 minutes students made 911 calls while sporadic shots were heard in the classrooms. These officers should have shot open the door and broken windows to confront the shooter. Local police officers should not be waiting for tactical support in a situation like this, but should immediately stop the shooter.

**Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH**

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Letters to the Editor

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Gun Safety & Public Safety: We Should Not Tolerate Continued Inaction

By Ben Jealous

The mass killings at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, 10 days after the white supremacist killings in Buffalo, New York, are further evidence of how deeply our society is broken, and how urgently we need to figure out how to begin fixing it.

The slaughter of so many young children and two of their teachers is shocking at a human level. It is absolutely gutting to me as a parent of school-aged children. Millions of us send our kids off to school every day, trying to set aside the knowledge gnawing at our insides that our school and our kids could be next.

It should be unimaginable, and in most countries it is.

But it is not unimaginable in our country. It is so not unimaginable that we subject our young children to the trauma of live shooter drills. We make teachers responsible for preparing students to deal with what too many of



Ben Jealous

our policymakers have decided is not worth trying to prevent.

A decade ago, after the slaughter of elementary school students and educators at Sandy Hook elementary school in Connecticut, most Republican senators used filibuster rules to block passage of a bill to require background checks for all gun purchases. That is

Abbott urged Texans to buy more guns, tweeting that he was “embarrassed” that the state was falling behind California in gun purchases. Just last year, Abbott signed legislation to loosen gun restrictions, making it possible for Texans to carry handguns without any license or training.

This is a virtual invitation to increased gun violence.

These recent shootings come at a time when violence is increasingly being normalized and justified by irresponsible leaders.

This column was written one day after the murders in Uvalde, on the two-year anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd, a reminder that Black Americans are all too familiar with the threat that “routine” interactions with police can turn deadly.

In response to widespread protests against Floyd’s killing, extremists mobilized armed mobs with false fearmongering claims that “antifa” and Black Lives Matter activists were planning to ransack suburbs and small

the so-called Stop the Steal movement who threatened civil war if Trump did not stay in power. In spite of Republican efforts to sabotage the investigation, we will learn more about the crimes that led to that day’s deadly violence. And the violent rhetoric goes on: Trump himself recently used his own social media platform to [amplify](#) a self-identified MAGA activist’s prediction of – or call for – civil war. That is utterly irresponsible.

Scholars have identified the kind of polarization taking place in our country, and the kind of diminished commitment to democracy we have seen among Trump Republicans, as [predictors](#) of a country’s vulnerability to civil war.

For families who lost loved ones in Buffalo and Uvalde, and for the many communities that have been scarred by mass murder, it may feel like that war has already arrived. That suffering would be multiplied beyond measure if the extremists calling for civil war in our country get their wish.

We should not tolerate the slightest encouragement for that kind of catastrophe from political leaders, including the former commander in chief. And we should not tolerate continued inaction on the violence that stalks our streets and schools.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of the Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. A New York Times best-selling author, his next book “Never Forget Our People Were Always Free” will be published by Harper Collins in December 2022.

“These recent shootings come at a time when violence is increasingly being normalized and justified by irresponsible leaders.”

about the least we could do to try to limit gun violence. It is supported by huge majorities of Americans, including most gun owners. We see similarly misplaced priorities at the state level. According to news reports, the killings in Uvalde were the fifth major mass shooting in the state during Gov. Greg Abbott’s tenure. After previous mass killings, Texas Republicans have weakened gun regulations. In 2015,

towns. Far right-wing activists also insist that the Second Amendment allows private ownership of even the most powerful military weapons, so that they can be turned against a “tyrannical” government.

We are also just days away from congressional hearings on the violent Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. We will hear about extremists in

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Annapolis Gears Up for A Bigger, Second Juneteenth Celebration

By Andrea Blackstone

Not so long ago, Phyllis “Tee” Adams embarked on a personal mission to learn all that she could about the history of Juneteenth. An idea to create a celebratory event in Annapolis developed after the visionary and founder of the Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration had a dream which sparked her to assemble a team and plan a festival amid the pandemic. As a result, an inaugural celebration was



Phyllis “Tee” Adams is the Executive Director and visionary of the Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration who sparked a two-day event. The public is invited to enjoy a parade, festival, and fireworks at the Bates Athletic Complex, located at 935 Spa Road in Annapolis, Maryland on Saturday. An 11:50 a.m. libation ceremony will be held in Susan Campbell Park, at Annapolis’ City Dock, to kick off festivities. Historic Annapolis presented a 2021 Preservation Award to Adams for founding this groundbreaking celebration which commemorates the emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans in the United States.

Photo credit: Luke Thompson

held on June 19, 2021. Additionally, a ticketed VIP reception kicked off festivities the preceding Friday night.

Adams’ motivation to act was partially fueled by Juneteenth’s critical tie to the freedom of enslaved African Americans. According to www.juneteenth.com, information provided on the website reminds that on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas. They informed individuals that the Civil War had ended, and enslaved people were free. Delivery of the news occurred two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation had already abolished slavery. Initial festivities held thereafter were a motivator and partial comfort from tensions African Americans experienced. Some of them stayed near Texas and relocated in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, while seeking to connect with “family members.”

The U.S. Department of State held a briefing with Dr. Brenna W. Greer. The Associate Professor of History at Wellesley College also pointed out that “within a half-year, in 1866, on June 19, 1866,” the inaugural Juneteenth celebrations held by freedmen were implemented in Texas.

“And they referred to these celebrations as Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, and Freedom Day, and these are all still names that are used to describe Juneteenth and Juneteenth celebrations,” Greer said.

And now, celebratory Juneteenth gatherings are extensively celebrated in communities around the United States. For example, a second annual Juneteenth celebration in Annapolis—which will consist of a libation ceremony, parade, festival, food, entertainment, and fireworks—is drawing near on June 18, 2022. The Annapolis Juneteenth Gala VIP Reception & Awards Ceremony takes place on June 17, 2022. However, a June 18 festival highlight will be musical. Community members who love singing will back up gospel vocalist, Beverly Crawford.



An inaugural Juneteenth press conference was held to announce that a two-day Juneteenth celebration was coming to Annapolis in 2021. Phyllis “Tee” Adams, middle, was joined by various officials including Senator Sarah Elfreth, on her right, City Council Delegate, Shaneka Henson, far left, and members of the Juneteenth Planning Committee. Photo courtesy of Phyllis “Tee” Adams

Dr. Craig N. Coates of Fresh Start Church will direct them, according to Adams.

“It’s crucial that we have volunteers to help us get the word out,” Adams said, mentioning that help is still needed for Annapolis Juneteenth.

Adams is attempting to add additional parking attendants and support staff. Tiffany Butler, Team Lead of the Annapolis Juneteenth Celebration, remarked that the event reminds of elevation and work that still lies ahead.

“Juneteenth is an important part of American history, and to be able to celebrate that monumental day prominently in a city that served as a major port of enslaved Africans is powerful,” Butler said.

Adams previously informed The Baltimore Times that she did not want

future generations to miss knowing Juneteenth’s legacy and significance. Her sentiments remain unchanged.

“With this now being a national, state, county, and city holiday, it is important to keep this event going so that our children, and children’s children, will know the significance of Juneteenth. It was not taught in the school system. It is time to educate and celebrate,” Adams said. “When the president signed it into law to make it a holiday it took the awareness to the next level. More people want to know its origin and why we celebrate it.”

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a bill to make Juneteenth, which is also June 19, a federal holiday.

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A Longtime Band Director Closes His Morgan State University Music Chapter

By Andrea Blackstone

After 49 years of leading the Morgan State University (MSU) musically, Melvin N. Miles, Jr., Director of University Bands and Instructor of Music at Morgan State University, retired. According to information provided online by MSU, the native Baltimorean—who is also a Morgan College alumnus—reportedly served on the Morgan State University faculty since 1973. Instructing and directing a range of students who were a part of the high-energy Morgan State University Marching Band called “The Magnificent Marching Machine” to the MSU Symphonic Winds, and various ensembles, and even a pep band, were among his professional contributions.

Despite Miles’ retirement, the value of his musical training and personal development in students, cements his legacy. Justin Fabiyi-King—a recent graduate of Morgan State University who majored in Information Systems—has known Miles since 2016. Miles has been his band director throughout his college career. The saxophonist who began playing the instrument in the fifth grade appreciates Miles’ effective training and the wisdom that he imparted.

“Mr. Miles has made a tremendous



Melvin N. Miles, Jr. led MSU’s marching band on Friday, May 20, 2022 at the Black Eyed Susan Race, which was the opening of Preakness 2022. It was a first-time experience for MSU. Photo courtesy of Morgan State University



Melvin N. Miles, Jr., Director of University Bands and Instructor of Music at Morgan State University, retired. Photo courtesy of Morgan State University

impact on my musical knowledge. I’ve grown year after year getting not only better with my instrument, but also becoming well versed in music theory while being under Mr. Miles’ direction,” Fabiyi-King said. “Over my time of knowing Mr. Miles, I got to participate in three of his ensembles, which included marching band, jazz band, and wind ensemble.”

Fabiyi-King remarked that people he met, and relationships that he built, occurred because of music. His reverence for Miles extends beyond instrumental mastery.

“I’m going to miss everything from seeing him on the podium directing, to our personal conversations in his office. Mr. Miles has done nothing but help mold me into the man I am today,” Fabiyi-King said. “It’s never been a time when I’ve finished a conversation with him and didn’t have something to think about after. He’s the definition of hard working, and when he needs something done, he’ll get it done no matter what.”

Fabiyi-King added that he is “locked in for life” with Miles. He plans on having future conversations with his former director who also sounds like a mentor. Miles’ love of teaching, in addition to experience, have been impactful qualities. In Miles’ interview with The MSU Spokesman student newspaper, it was mentioned that after

completing his Bachelor of Science in music education in 1973 at MSU, an immediate offer to work as the band director followed. Although Miles earned leadership highlights, including “meeting Barack and Michelle Obama,” he seemed to remain focused on student development.

“If you make it about the students and the things they need to do, then everything works out. Never make it about yourself,” Miles said, according to The Spokesman.

For Arté Warren—a MSU student who aspires to become a full-time musician—Miles’ student-focused approach is already influencing his career plans. The senior who also plans to stay in touch with Miles is dually enrolled in a master’s program. Producing music, audio engineering, and performing as a flutist or pianist crossed his mind. The native Baltimorean has been a MSU marching band

and symphonic band member, under Miles’ leadership, while playing flute and piccolo.

“He completely cares about his students, making sure that they get the resources that they need to be able to succeed in higher education,” Warren said.

In addition to recalling Miles’ direction of encouraging developing musicians to practice, Warren mentioned an academic angle. When he was having a rough time as a student in 2019, Miles reportedly had a talk with Warren about focusing and doing better to overcome an academic rough patch. After their heartfelt meeting, a turning point took place.

“I went on to get four straight semesters of Dean’s List after that,” Warren said.

Before Miles closed a long MSU musical chapter, Warren was among students who performed at the Black-Eyed Susan event in May. It was a part of the Preakness Stakes that was held at Pimlico Race Course. Warren said that the marching band performed “Master Blaster” by Stevie Wonder.

“It was interesting. It was new. We hadn’t done anything like that before,” Warren said.

One last hurrah was performing at MSU’s commencement ceremonies. Band members were able to play songs that Miles instilled into the musical culture.

“It was great to be able to be a part of that one last time,” Warren said.



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'A Day of Conversations w/ Terrence Dashon Howard' Coming To Morgan State University June 11th

By Ursula V. Battle

Terrence Dashon Howard the award-winning actor whose many television and movie credits include "Empire," "Red Tails," and "Iron Man," also has another major credit to his name – Inventor. The famous actor has quietly earned the title behind-the-scenes while starring in his blockbuster hits.

While Howard doesn't have an engineering degree, he has applied for over 90 patents, including his unique Lynchpin Drone, which will be among the topics discussed during "A Day of Conversations w/ Terrence Dashon Howard."

Hosted by Morgan State University's Institute for Urban Research, the event will take place at the institution on Saturday, June 11, 2022 and will consist of three events. The first event will be a Youth Workshop from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., which will convene science-oriented students from across the city/state for a motivating conversation with Howard, during which time they will have the opportunity to engage with the actor about the geometry of subatomic particles while using models to build their own replicas.

The second event will be a Panel of Experts from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The assembled panel will be a group of 10-20 invited scholars/professionals to engage Howard in a discussion focused on his developed and patented technologies, potential applications, as well as any criticism and or guidance they may be able to provide.

The third event will be a Community Conversation taking place from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. During this final session, Howard will engage attendees in conversation about his technology, theories, and the need for people to enter the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) fields.

Dr. Jeffrey Menzise is an Associate Professor in the Institute for Urban



Actor Terrence Howard has applied for over 90 patents, including a Lynchpin Drone.

Research (IUR), School of Graduate Studies at Morgan State University. Dr. Menzise played a key role in orchestrating Howard's upcoming event at Morgan.

"The overall purpose is to encourage our youth to seriously consider the STEAM fields for their professional and academic pursuits," said Dr. Menzise, noting that the inaugural event is for a new center he is proposing at the IUR called The Center for STEAM Growth, Opportunity, and Development. "The main objective of this new center will be to build a pipeline for increasing the numbers of minority students interested in pursuing STEAM professions by way of exposure to fun and exciting STEAM related activities, professionals in the field, and to leverage the face and voice of celebrities like Terrence Howard."

Dr. Menzise received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Fisk University in Psychology and Clinical Psychology, respectively. He finished

up his academic training at Howard University majoring in Clinical Psychology with a minor in Developmental Psychology.

Howard is a native of Chicago, Illinois, who gravitated to acting through summers he spent with his great-grandmother, Minnie Gentry, who was a New York stage actress. "Soul Food," "Dead Presidents," and "The Best Man," are also among his long and impressive list of movies. Ironically, it was on the set of a film, that Howard and Dr. Menzise met, 'creating' what would eventually shape into "A Day of Conversations w/ Terrence Dashon Howard."

"I was working as a 'stand-in' in a movie," recalled Dr. Menzise. "During a break, I walked over to where Mr. Howard was working. He had sketched out the periodic table, in spiral form from memory. I thought to myself, 'Wow', I've never seen it written like this, and he walks over and starts to explain it to me. He thought I was an aspiring actor."

Dr. Menzise added, "As Mr. Howard was walking away, my inner-voice told me to take a chance, and I formally introduced myself. I told him I was a Psychology professor at Morgan, and that I could bring his theoretical and scientific perspectives in front of academicians. He stopped in his tracks, and with a sincere look in his eyes said, 'Man, this is the conversation I have been waiting years to have.'"

Dr. Menzise said the upcoming event is the beginning of what he and other members of the Morgan State University administration and staff hope will blossom into an ongoing partnership.

"Mr. Howard is very excited and thankful to Morgan for providing him this opportunity. Based on our follow-up conversations, we both recognize the divine intervention in this process, to where we went from total strangers to talking and texting almost every day since that time."

He added, "Mr. Howard says the science and technology he is producing is his life's work. He's very much interested in applying his existing technology, and developing more technology to help clean up environments, help to sustain economies and lift people out of poverty one nation at a time. Mr. Howard absolutely has the mind of an engineer. Although he doesn't have a degree in engineering, he has a lot to offer the science world. He is an award-winning actor, who also has potentially Nobel Prize winning technology, and scientific theories. I am excited about what the future holds."

For more information about 'A Day of Conversations w/ Terrence Dashon Howard', including registration information, email Dr. Menzise at jeffery.menzise@morgan.edu.



Dr. Jeff Menzise, Associate Professor in the Institute for Urban Research, School of Graduate Studies at Morgan State University played a key role in orchestrating Howard's upcoming event at Morgan. Courtesy Photos

A Public Figure with Maryland Roots Reveals Mental Health Struggles, Conquering Alcohol Addiction

By Andrea Blackstone

Men's Health Month kicks off in June. In addition to reminding men to schedule health exams and screenings, tending to mental and spiritual health remains a part of living a balanced lifestyle. David Correy courageously shared elements of his journey to seek treatment for alcohol abuse and depression. Correy—a successful singer with D.C. and Riva, Maryland roots—is known for belting out vocals on the music competition television show, “The X Factor,” during the second season in 2012. During his audition, Correy mentioned that he felt that “the opportunity would reconnect him with his birth mother,” if she simply heard his voice. Correy made the show's cut. He miraculously reunited with his birth mother, partially because of his high-profile appearance.

Despite success over the years, a recent transformation led the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania resident to announce a nearly 8-year-fight to find freedom.



David Correy is the CEO of Urban Rock Records. Photo credit: Mr. Luxe of Mr. Luxe Photographs

“I AM FREE. Free of what you may ask, after all this is the land of the free, and home of the brave. But I was trapped in a different way. I am free from substance abuse, free from drugs and alcohol, and most importantly free from the cycle of addiction,” Correy shared on his Facebook and Instagram accounts on May 15, 2022.



David Correy was raised in Anne Arundel County. The successful singer appeared on “The X Factor” in 2012. A series of life changing events led to depression and alcohol addiction. Correy is on a healthier path, after finishing treatment for his challenges. During Men's Health Month, Correy reminds that taking care of mental health, and gauging alcohol usage, is critical in staying healthy. Photo credit: Terrence O'Reilly

In an interview, Correy told The Baltimore Times about enduring a series of life changing events which are tied to his current evolution. His mother gave birth to him at the age of 14 years old in Brazil. After putting him up for adoption, his American parents reared him in Washington, D.C. and Riva, Maryland. Correy's love of music was nurtured at home as a young boy.

“My parents knew I had something in my soul, and my dad took my bed one day, when I came back from school. He surprised me and turned my bed into a stage, and took my sheets, and made them into curtains,” Correy said.

The culturally diverse vocalist received a four-year scholarship to attend Archbishop Spalding High School. A Berklee College of Music scholarship followed. However, a twist of events was in store when Correy reached nineteen years old. He opted to stop attending music school by choice, but also because a disease caused the loss of his voice for approximately a year and a half. After undergoing nasal surgery,

Correy endured voice therapy and learned how to talk again. Instead of giving up, he became serious about his recovery with voice therapy. Vocal lessons came next. Correy officially pursued a musical path.

“After that, I was going to Philly (Philadelphia) every month for like almost a year, and then I bounced back, and I started doing my big shows. The first show I ever did, I opened up for Ne-Yo at Rams Head Live! in Baltimore,” Correy said.

The self-described “independent hustler” who opened up for more musical artists to “get his name out there” also started his own independent company, Urban Rock Records, in 2010. Correy wrote his own music, too. He travelled in a van selling his music before landing a big break on “The X Factor,” then becoming a finalist.

“It was international exposure,” Correy said. “That led me to a multitude of opportunities, but more than just the music. It ties into my childhood. My birth mother was found back in my hometown in Brazil.”

TMZ reported that “a woman

named Luciene Lima recognized the baby pics shown in David's segment and had a gut feeling he was hers,” according to sources.

Although Correy miraculously reconnected with his birth mother, which was a big dream he wanted to fulfill, the parents who raised him passed away back-to-back. He lost his mother to cancer when he was on a world tour and had to leave it. Correy's father passed away on Christmas Eve. Parental loss is why his foundation crumbled. He explained that he felt like he was an “orphan all over again,” but even at his lowest point, Correy's success and musical gifts increased.

“I spiraled out of control and alcohol became my best friend, which is sad to say... I fell in love with my demons too hard, and I got caught in the rat race of addiction,” Correy said. “I couldn't keep the status quo anymore, to the point where it was sloppy. Wearing glasses all the time. The significant weight loss. People thought I was doing cocaine...because I was so skinny.”

The singer recently finished recovery, after getting help for alcohol and depression through DreamLife Recovery. Now he knows his parents “are genuinely proud” of him. Correy said that he is ready to release a new project, get back to touring, and fulfill his life's purpose. Speaking to youth and sharing his story are pieces of his next phase. Correy said that music offers are currently coming his way.

“I just always knew that God was not going to reward bad behavior. And I knew the day that I got clean, my life would change...,” Correy said, mentioning putting his story within his music. “I'm a vessel here of God. I genuinely believe He put me on this Earth for that.”

Please visit urbanrockrecords.com to learn more about Correy or to watch a new music video about recovery entitled “Why.”

Annapolis Juneteenth 6.18.2022

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KORYN HAWTHORNE



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Presented by The Annapolis Juneteenth Team & The City of Annapolis

Kyle Fuller gets homecoming by signing with Ravens

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore area has become a hotbed for NFL talent over the years. Some of the homegrown professionals have gotten an opportunity to play for the Baltimore Ravens.

Veteran defensive back Kyle Fuller is the latest. Fuller signed a one-year deal with the Ravens earlier this week.

Head coach John Harbaugh feels the move gives a tremendous boost to Baltimore's secondary.

"Kyle [Fuller] – he's from Baltimore, as you probably know, and [he went to] Mount Saint Joseph High School," Harbaugh said during OTAs. "He's a proven corner. He knows how to play the game, fits what we're trying to do right now in the second-

ary really well. I think his veteran presence is going to add a lot to our defense. I think it finished off our secondary, in terms of ... Never say never, but for now, I feel really good about that group back there – I mean, really good, about the secondary, personnel-wise."

Fuller joins the Ravens after spending last season with the Denver Broncos where he signed a one-year, \$9.5 million deal. He started 10 out of 17 games for the Broncos and played both on the outside and in the nickel.

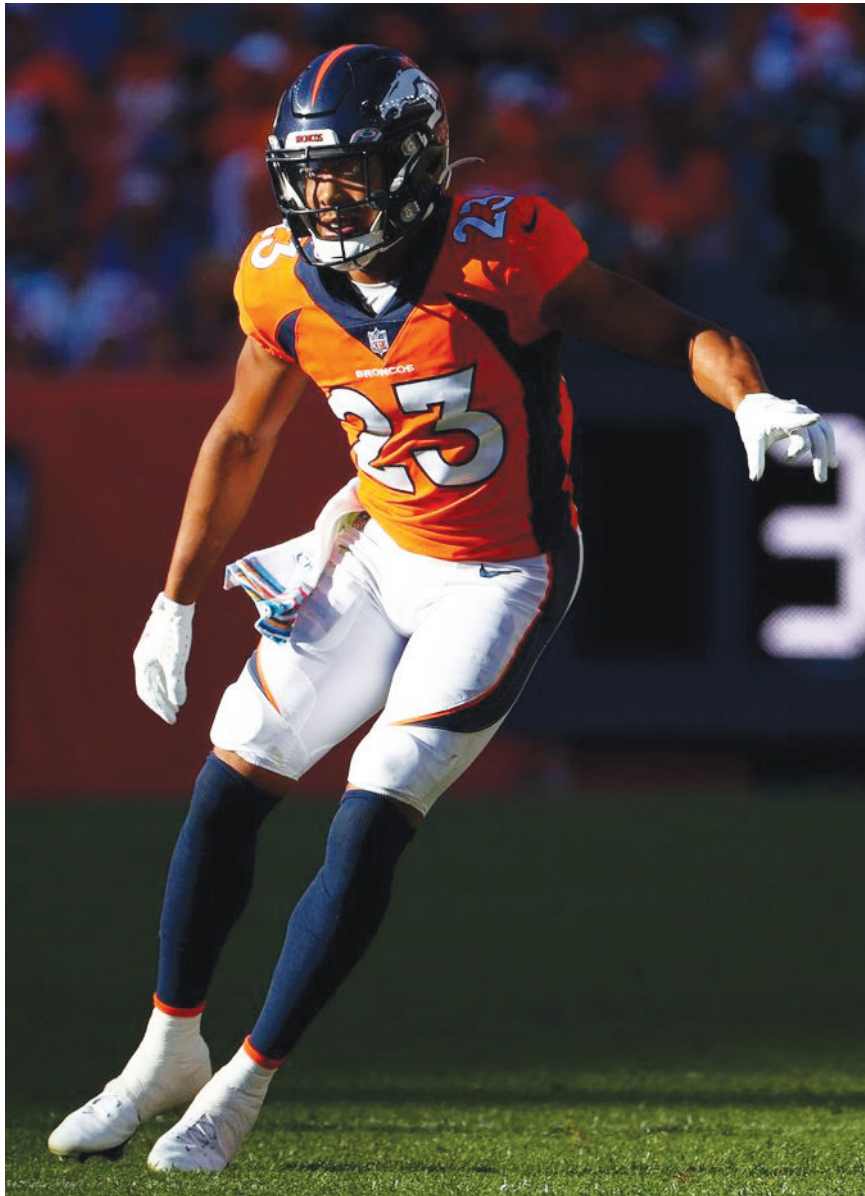
The versatility that Fuller brings will give the Ravens another option in the slot and depth behind outside starters Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters, both of whom were injured last season.

The 30-year-old defensive back was a 2014 first-round pick (No. 14 overall) by the Chicago Bears after starring at Virginia Tech. Fuller posted six interceptions and 19 passes defensed in 30 starts over the first two years of his career.

A knee injury kept Fuller from playing in 2016. But he bounced back in 2017 and finished with two interceptions along with 21 passes defensed.

Fuller's seven interceptions tied him for the league lead, resulting in him being named a first-team All-Pro in 2018. He went to consecutive Pro Bowls in 2018 and 2019. Fuller had 19 interceptions in his six seasons with the Bears.

The Fuller family has made football their family business. His eldest brother, Vincent, is a retired NFL safety who spent the majority of his career with the Tennessee Titans. His older brother, Corey, is a retired wide receiver, who previously played for the Detroit Lions and New Orleans Saints. The younger brother, Kendall, is a cornerback for the Washington Commanders. Kendall won Super Bowl LIV with the Kansas City Chiefs.



Kyle Fuller

Photo Credit: Jamie Schwaberow/Getty Images

continued from page 6

Annapolis Gears Up for A Bigger, Second Juneteenth Celebration

"You know, today, we consecrate Juneteenth for what it ought to be, what it must be: a national holiday," Biden said while making remarks at the signing of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.

Additionally, Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman signed an executive order recognizing Juneteenth as an official county holiday on Friday, June 18, 2021 and Gov. Larry Hogan announced closure of Maryland's state government offices and agencies.

As commemorating Juneteenth gains momentum, Annapolis Juneteenth 2022 remains progressive, accessible, and free to the public. Two main stages will feature headliners such as Crawford and the Chuck Brown Band. Local talent will also be featured.

"Annapolis Juneteenth is 100% funded by businesses, companies, corporations, and donors. The County (Anne Arundel) was our top sponsor. The city (of Annapolis) has partnered with us to provide services," Adams said, "Funding also comes through vendor support, sale of Annapolis Juneteenth t-shirts, souvenir coins, and proceeds from the gala."

Please visit www.theannapolisjuneteenth.org for more information about festival details, sponsorship opportunities, and ways to volunteer.

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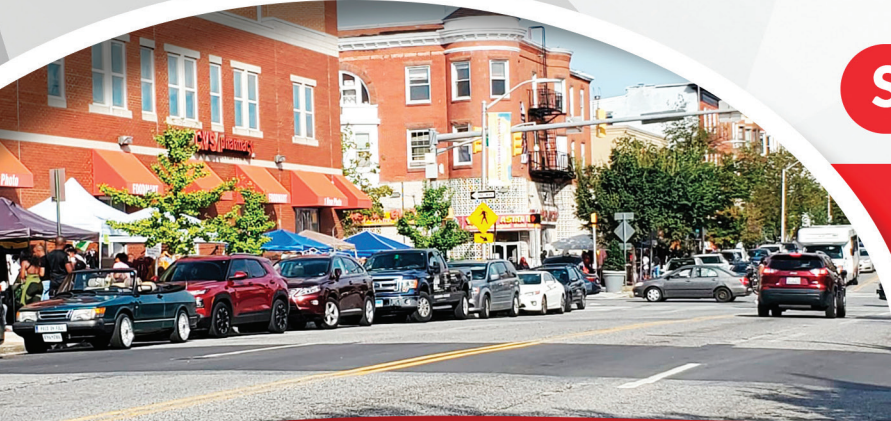


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NOTICE OF LETTING


Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for **BALTIMORE CITY NO. RP21821 ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO JAMES D. GROSS RECREATION CENTER** will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. **August 3, 2022**. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon. The proposed Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Dept. of Rec & Parks at 2600 Madison Ave, Baltimore, Md. 21217 by appointment only on Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30am – 4:00pm by emailing benitaj.randolph@baltimorecity.gov as of **June 3, 2022** and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of **\$200.00**. **Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.** All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call (410) 396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. **If a bid is submitted by a joint venture (“JV”), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.** The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is **E13004 Rehabilitation of Structures**. Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be **\$150,000.00 to \$350,000.00**. A “Pre-Bidding Information” session will be conducted via Microsoft Teams at **10:00 A.M.** on **June 14, 2022**. Email your contact information to raymond.nyakoe@baltimorecity.gov to receive an invite to the Microsoft Team (video conference meeting) no later than **June 13, 2022** at 12:00pm. Principal Items of work for this project are Demolition, Concrete, Masonry, Windows & Storefronts, Interior Renovations, Plumbing and Electrical. The MBE goal is **18%** and WBE goal is **8%**. **APPROVED: M. Celeste Amato, Clerk, Board of Estimates**

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