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Women's History Month Reflection

Dentist Serves Others, Continues Legacy of Giving and Leadership



Dr. Dana Truesdale (in flowered suit) is surrounded by Queens in Transition mentees from The Spirit of Faith Christian Center. The young women are among those who have benefited from Truesdale's willingness to share her entrepreneurial and life journey. Truesdale owns Innovation Dental Center in Baltimore. She practices comprehensive dentistry and is passionate about helping others. She is also a Major in the U.S. Army National Guard. (See more on page 9) Photo credit: Paris Brown

46th Season Of The Baltimore Farmers' Market Kicks Off On April 2 With The First B-Side Of The Year



Baltimore Farmers' Market has fresh produce. File photo

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) announces the return of the **Baltimore Farmers' Market** for the 2023 season on **Sunday, April 2**. The Market begins bright and early at 7:00 a.m. underneath the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX) at Holliday and Saratoga Streets — rain or shine.

Not only is April 2 opening day for the Baltimore Farmers' Market but it's also the first **B-Side** of the year. The B-Side is a monthly extension of the Farmers' Market that features local musicians and performers, special activities, and more. The theme of the April B-Side is "**The House That Baltimore Built**" and it will showcase some of the city's best House DJs spinning Baltimore club music on the Market footprint from **10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

THE LINEUP INCLUDES:

DJ MYTY — Tynisa "DJ MyTy" Bobbitt is "just a brown girl from Baltimore learning and growing" according to her MixCloud page. But don't mistake her humility for lack of passion. You won't be able to resist dancing to DJ MyTy's pulsing mixes.

Maurice Easter aka Mr. Eclectic — Mr. Eclectic is a producer, remixer, DJ, and the CEO of Pasqua Records and Pasqua Records S.A based out of Maryland. Originally from Ipswich, England, he is a lover of all things percussion. He was voted #52 Soulful House Artist of 2022.

DJ Teddy Douglas — Teddy Douglas is an important figure in the development of the Baltimore "House" sound. In 1985, he met Jay Steinhour and Thommy Davis who

later went on to form The Basement Boys production company.

In addition to the performances, you can enjoy lunch from one of our hot food vendors and get in extra shopping time with some of our artisans. So come for opening day of the Baltimore Farmers' Market and stay for the B-Side.

ABOUT THE B-SIDE

The B-Side gives BOPA the ability to provide more paid opportunities to local artists and connect our city's talent to a wider audience. These events also increase sales opportunities for our artisans and vendors and brings our diverse community together for a good old-fashioned block party.

THE BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKET

Established in 1977, The Baltimore Farmers' Market is Maryland's largest farmers' market. Through management of the weekly market, BOPA provides an economically and socially diverse gathering place for Baltimore residents and supports local farms, vendors, artisans, and organizations by operating a vibrant market where they can sell their goods, develop relationships with shoppers, and make fresh food available to the community.

Learn more at farmersmarketbaltimore.org and be sure to follow both BOPA and the Baltimore Farmers' Market on social media for the latest Market news.

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CDC Recommends All Adults Get Tested for Hepatitis B

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

The U.S. Centers for Control and Prevention have issued a **new recommendation** urging all adults to receive screening for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime.

The agency describes hepatitis B (HBV) as a liver infection caused by the HBV virus. It can progress to liver cancer and other serious illnesses. CDC officials said as many as 2.4 million people live with HBV, and most might not know they have it. A severe infection could lead to chronic HBV, which could increase a person's risk of getting cancer or cirrhosis.

Further, the CDC said those diagnosed with chronic or long-term HBV are up to 85% more likely to succumb to an early death.

"Chronic HBV infection can lead to substantial morbidity and mortality but is detectable before the development of severe liver disease using reliable and inexpensive screening tests," CDC officials stated.

Even though the number of people with HBV has decreased significantly in the last 30 years, the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health



As many as 2.4 million people are living with hepatitis B, according to the CDC.

/Photo: iStock

than non-Hispanic whites.

Medical officials noted that HBV spreads through contact with infected blood or bodily fluids, which can occur through sex, injecting drugs, or during pregnancy or delivery. The CDC previously issued a recommendation in 2008, when it urged testing for high-risk individuals.

In its most recent recommendation, the agency said that adults over 18 must be tested at least once.

abdominal pain, dark urine, and jaundice. Symptoms could take several months or longer to present and last for months.

The CDC's latest report further notes the following: It's estimated more than half of people who have the hepatitis B virus (HBV) don't know they're infected. Without treatment and monitoring, HBV infection can lead to deadly health outcomes, including liver damage and liver cancer.

The report updates and expands previous guidelines for HBV screening and testing by recommending screening for all U.S. adults and expanding continual periodic risk-based testing to include more groups, activities, exposures, and conditions. Providers should implement the new CDC hepatitis B screening and testing recommendations to ensure all adults are screened for HBV infection with the triple-panel at least once in their lifetimes and that people who are not vaccinated for hepatitis B – but are at increased risk of HBV infection – receive periodic testing.

"Although a curative treatment is not yet available, early diagnosis and treatment of chronic HBV infections reduce the risk for cirrhosis, liver cancer, and death," CDC officials noted in the report.

"Along with vaccination strategies, universal screening of adults and appropriate testing of persons at increased risk for HBV infection will improve health outcomes, reduce the prevalence of HBV infection in the United States, and advance viral hepatitis elimination goals."

It's estimated more than half of people who have the hepatitis B virus (HBV) don't know they're infected.

and Human Services says it is still a problem for African Americans. That office reported that, in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks would be 1.4 times more likely to die from viral hepatitis than non-Hispanic whites. Also, non-Hispanic blacks were almost twice as likely to die from hepatitis C as white individuals. Further, while having comparable case rates for HBV in 2020, non-Hispanic blacks were 2.5 times more likely to die from HBV

The agency declared that pregnant individuals should also undergo screening during each pregnancy, regardless of whether they've received a vaccine or have been previously tested. Additionally, incarcerated individuals, those with multiple sex partners, or people with a history of hepatitis C should test periodically, the CDC said.

The agency warned that symptoms of acute HBV could include fever, fatigue,

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National News

Democrats Join Push to Ban TikTok from American-held Devices

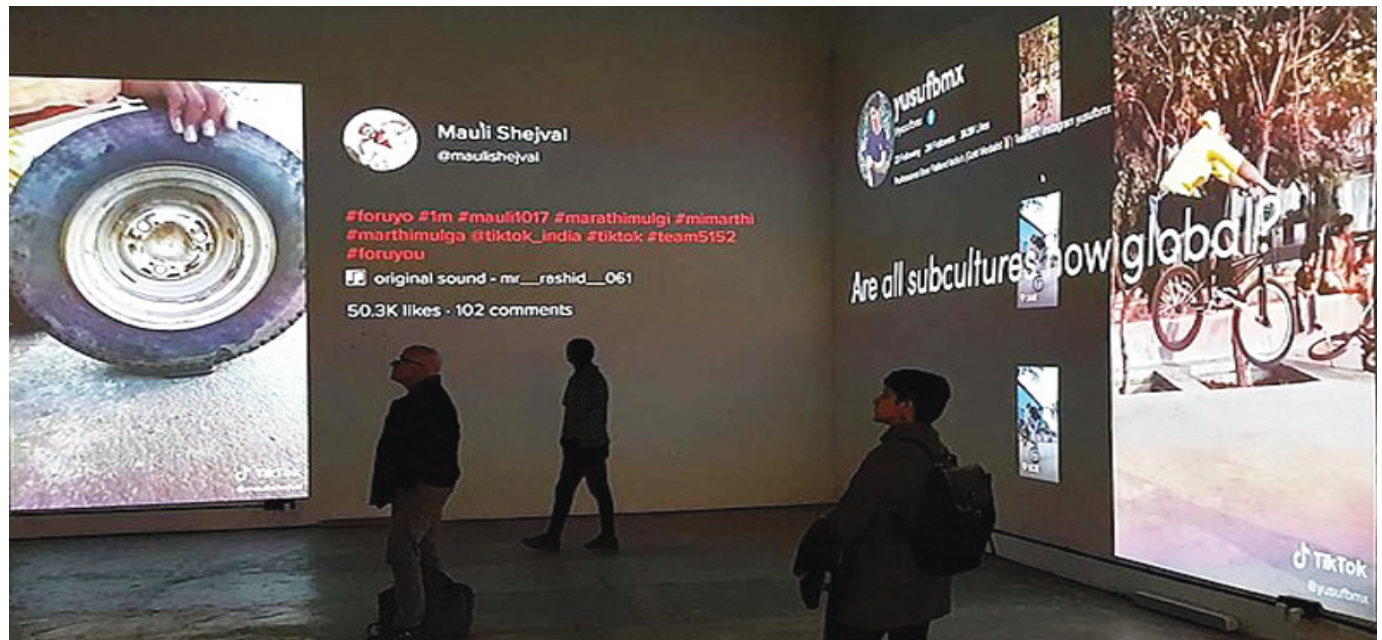
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National
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Democrats in Congress are making it clear that they want to ban the Chinese app TikTok in the U.S. Reported national security concerns over massive amounts of data that TikTok collects on its millions of American users sit at the core of why lawmakers want the app banned.

Democrats and Republicans alike have said certain information of serious concern could be transferred to China, making it a national security issue. However, TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, has repeatedly denied that it shares user data with the Chinese government.

"TikTok is a modern-day Trojan horse of the [Chinese Communist Party], used to surveil and exploit Americans' personal information," said Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, the Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"It's a spy balloon in your phone,"



Courtesy Photo: nnpa.org

McCaul said, alluding to a February incident in which a spy balloon from China traversed American skies.

Last month, House Foreign Affairs Committee members pushed for a bill that would give President Biden the power to ban TikTok on all mobile devices in the U.S.

However, Democrats voted against the measure.

Democrats in the U.S. Senate did offer support late last year for a bill that would ban TikTok on federal devices, and a bipartisan group of senators, led by Mark Warner (D-Va.) and John Thune (R-S.C.), also introduced a bill that would let Biden ban TikTok and other apps that come from other countries. Five Democrats and five Republicans have signed on a co-sponsor on that legislation.

President Biden reportedly supports the measure and has indicated a willingness to ban TikTok, which has more than 1.53 billion users globally as of 2023, with 1 billion monthly active users.

In February, Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado called on Apple and "Unlike most social media platforms, TikTok poses a unique concern because Chinese law obligates ByteDance, its Beijing-based parent company, to 'support, assist, and cooperate with state intelligence work,'" said Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who has demanded that Apple and Google remove TikTok from their app stores.

During a national television appearance, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said a TikTok ban "should be looked at." The economic battle between the U.S. and China has been ongoing, with escalating tensions

leading to threats of a potential armed conflict.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre even alluded to the conflict in her remarks attacking a House Freedom Caucus budget plan. "Extreme MAGA Republicans' proposals would ship manufacturing jobs overseas, in a crushing blow to states from Ohio to Georgia to Arizona – and would provide a windfall of economic benefits to China," Jean-Pierre stated.

TikTok spokeswoman Brooke Oberwetter argued that a U.S. ban on TikTok would ban the export of American culture and values to over a billion people who use the app worldwide.

"A ban would stifle American speech and would be a ban on the export of American culture and values to the billion-plus people who use our service worldwide," Oberwetter declared.

The Annapolis Times

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Business Owner with Autism Finds Success Through Entrepreneurship

By Andrea Blackstone

Marcus Moore, 29, is passionate about pretzels, business and creating a way to be self-sufficient in life. The Annapolitan's pretzel operation called "Moore Crunch" began in October of 2022.

"Be happy and never give up," Moore said cheerfully.

Marcus does not let having autism stop him from striving to become a successful business owner. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is "a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Maryland crab, cinnamon sugar, garlic ranch, smokehouse ranch and buffalo flavored bags of pretzels are created and packaged with a dash of happiness and loads of determination. Moore wants his supporters to be satisfied with his pretzel products. He does everything from mixing up his recipes, to answering emails and printing out order labels.

"Marcus has a very infectious smile and amazing attitude. It's almost like his character, joy and happiness goes into every bag of pretzels," Moore's father, Walter Mills said.

Moore's mother, Kathy Watson added perspective about Moore's commitment to keep his customers happily crunching. According to



Bags of Moore Crunch
Photo credit: Poppa Crunch



Marcus Moore, owner and operator of Moore Crunch, buys bowls for his business.

Photo credit: Poppa Crunch

Watson, Moore is also employed at a grocery store near their home.

"Marcus does "Moore Crunch" full time. He walks to work for a 6 a.m. shift, and gets off at 2 p.m. We make sure he de-escalates from the day. He gets right to work on "Moore Crunch" until almost eight o'clock at night, so he technically has two full time jobs," Watson explained.

Watson and Mills added that they are entrepreneurs who assist Moore with business related administrative tasks, in addition to life skills. Moore's parents hit pause on their businesses to give their son a proper start that he needed to run "Moore Crunch." Watson's comedic identity is "Momma Crunch" and Mills' humorous title is "Poppa Crunch."

The family with a sense of humor gets down to business when the proper time arrives. Watson said that creating and

selling pretzels was a group decision. Moore was unafraid to try something new after a family conversation sparked the idea to create "Moore Crunch." Watson explained that Moore and his brother, Xavier, discussed paying household bills. They both began to realize that their parents had to meet monthly expenses. Moore grew concerned about how he would someday be able to afford to live on his own.

"One thing Marcus loves to do is eat," Watson said, reflecting on the pretzel creation idea.

A logo idea led Moore's parents to send a text his way. Moore welcomed the opportunity to try his hand at a pretzel business.

"We did not know that we were going to become official employees," Watson said as Mills chuckled in the background.

When Moore was a young child, Watson and Mills faced a different aspect of their son's journey. They were told that he was a special needs child when he was in the first grade. Along the way, a professional once told the couple that Moore could always have a job because someone is always needed to collect shopping carts.

"The word autism is something that has been recently used a lot lately in the last eight or nine years," Watson said.

But Moore's parents optimistically harnessed Moore's gifts while pushing aside doubters. Although Marcus mentioned that he has experienced social anxiety, he explained that a previous grocery job exposed him to being around more people. It helped him to become more comfortable in social settings.

Crofton's Farmer's Market was the first place the family started selling "Moore Crunch." Some local grocery stores now carry the pretzels.

"He's actually gotten a lot of requests for wholesale from large grocery stores all the way to little mom-and-pop shops. So, there's a lot in the future for Marcus," Watson said.

She added that news of Moore's growing business is making rounds. Requests to carry the pretzels are coming from as far as California and Texas. Marcus' journey reminds that a child's capabilities should not be limited.

"Every person, every child and family have their own journey and they all look different, but you have to be your child's biggest advocate," Mills said, referencing past experiences when Moore was in school. "Now we understand that there are various degrees of autism. That's why they call it a spectrum. But the biggest thing that I would add is that Marcus has become an inspiration to people, parents and to families of autistic children because it's important that everyone is acknowledged."

Visit www.moorecrunch.com to learn more about Moore or to order his pretzels.

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Entrepreneur Caters to Brides Seeking Luxurious Personal Touch

By Andrea Blackstone

LaTonya Turnage helps modern brides “say yes” to stylish wedding gowns that they love. The knowledgeable go-to bridal beauty and fashion expert prides herself in providing a touch of VIP experience to brides-to-be, has owned Elite Secrets Bridal since 2015. The main showroom is a bridal shop that is located at 339 North Charles Street.

“Before this, I worked in the corporate world as a marketing manager for a radiology company,” the Baltimore native said. “I’ve always had a desire to help people and be around them, but now I actually get to do what I love and that’s just being around the brides and serving them during some of the happiest moments of their life.”

Turnage’s initial enterprise started with hair and makeup services. A love for fashion and desire to focus on the bridal experience blossomed. Bridesmaid’s gowns are also offered. Size inclusivity and customizations are two of Turnage’s business touches that enhance the bride’s styling experience. Wedding dresses up to size 24 are sold in her store. Most services are offered by appointment.



Model Jordan Aaron (left), LaTonya Turnage (center) and model Cherry J. Siedschlag (Courtesy Photos)



LaTonya Turnage (pictured in teal velvet dress), owner of Elite Design House, along with Shelonda Stokes, President, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore employees and Downtown neighbors

“We listen to the bride. We make sure that we’re addressing all her concerns. We’re making her feel comfortable which builds trust, so she trusts us not to just sell her a dress but put her in a dress that matches her body shape, her silhouette and makes her feel beautiful and look good,” Turnage said.

The Elite Design House, located at 100 North Charles Street, is Turnage’s newest endeavor that launched in late February of this year. It was part of the entrepreneur’s business’ growth plan, according to Turnage.

“The Elite Design House was birthed for the bride that’s looking for a custom dress, or more of a haute couture fashion,” Turnage said. “She doesn’t need the whole ‘say yes’ moment because she doesn’t really care what anybody else thinks. She wants what she wants for her wedding day. She’s also looking to support more of an

independent designer because she wants someone that’s going to give her more of a personalized experience and be more hands-on. What we find with the independent designers versus the mainstream and big box brands, the independent designers are very passionate about what they do and work closely with the bride.”

Turnage was a 2022 cohort of Downtown Partnership’s BOOST Incubator Program. A group of entrepreneurs were “selected for an innovative new program to attract and support Black-owned retail businesses in Downtown Baltimore neighborhoods,” according to details provided by Downtown Partnership.

The entrepreneur added that the initiative fills vacant storefronts in Baltimore City and it helps Black-owned businesses either open their first storefront or level up in their businesses to get to the next level.

“We were able to take our business growth plan for the Design House, and the BOOST program made that come to life with getting us a location, helping us with setting up the infrastructure

as far as the build out lease negotiations, working with the attorneys to make sure that we got a lease that was doable for us to be successful, setting us up with accountants and coaches to help us with building out a three-year plan and getting grant money to help us with inventory so that our businesses are set up for success. It came along at the perfect time,” Turnage said, mentioning some ways the program helped.

Turnage’s business expansion has benefited others. She stated that many of the local independent designers that she works with are also talented, Black creative people.

“They just don’t have the platform to get their designs in front of the brides,” Turnage said, adding how she serves as a bridge.

A marketing campaign includes photographs. A featured event for a designer typically runs from Thursday to Sunday. Brides are invited to book an appointment to view a designer’s collection in-person.

“They love a dress, we take their measurements, we order the dress, and we submit the orders to the designer. The designer then takes care of the production,” Turnage said.

Turnage includes a roster of D.C., Maryland and Virginia-based wedding planners, videographers, photographers, florists, venue managers and other wedding professionals that are integrated into meet and greets.

“The Design House is a creative space so we’re always doing creative things,” Turnage said. “We always say ‘we’re a resource for the brides.’”

Turnage is open to connecting with other wedding professionals. Visit www.elitedesignhouse.com to learn more about Elite Design House and Elite Secrets Bridal via www.elitesecretsbridal.com.

Women's History Month Reflection

Dentist Serves Others, Continues Legacy of Giving and Leadership

By Andrea Blackstone

Dr. Dana Truesdale, owner of Innovation Dental Center, serves others inside and out of her dentistry practice. Truesdale's patients come to Bolton Hill and Harbor East in Baltimore to receive a plethora of procedures ranging from preventative to cosmetic dentistry, but Truesdale's inspirational journey begins just outside of New Orleans, Louisiana in a small town called Vacherie.

"I was 12 years old when I decided that I wanted to be a dentist. It was because I had a great relationship with my dentist," Truesdale said.

She felt that becoming a dentist was something that she could achieve despite not seeing a Black dentist at that time. The comprehensive dentistry practitioner and mother of two eventually earned her doctorate of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry located in Nashville, Tennessee. Truesdale has been a dentist for 20 years.

"I know how I felt when my smile was corrected. I used to have perfect teeth on bottom and spaces on top and so I know how it changed my life to make a difference. I wasn't getting teased anymore, and just feeling gratitude, I wanted to be able to reproduce that for other people. I got into it (dentistry) because of the way it made people feel when the work was done. To this day it is still gratifying to me," Truesdale said.

The dentist who creates new smiles is a Major in the U.S. Army National Guard. She takes time to mentor others one-on-one when opportunities arise. While serving in the U.S. Army National Guard, Truesdale was deployed to Afghanistan in 2018. She provided dental care after patients experienced trauma.

When Truesdale is out of uniform, she still retains parents' teachings of giving back. She has been



Dr. Dana Truesdale
Photo credit: Brian Tru

volunteering since she was a teenager.

"I grew up in the church. My mother (Claudette Aubert) was a pastor. At the time she was not, but my father (Elton Aubert) was in politics. He's been elected an official for 24 years. I had to do a lot of community service because of them," Truesdale said, reflecting on her family's giving legacy.

Truesdale added that her parents host a food pantry.

"I still go home to help with the food pantry in Louisiana several times a year," she explained.

Truesdale continued her community service through being a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and even Meharry.

"I've never stopped. I've always found a way to serve in some capacity," Truesdale explained.

Truesdale's helping spirit has extended to individuals in the Baltimore area. She recently hosted a group of 40 young mentees who came to her dental practice to take a

tour, discuss entrepreneurship and her journey.

"They like me, a lot of times, have never seen a female dentist, let alone a Black female. That was very important that they saw me," Truesdale said.

She added that she once taught some of the young ladies who visited her in children's church. Years ago, the dentist served as a youth minister.

"Now they're growing up and they're all going to college. They belong to a group in the church called Queens in Transition," she added.

Dr. Michael Freeman of Spirit of Faith Christian Center is Truesdale's pastor. His wife is DeeDee Freeman. Truesdale said that Pastor Freeman donates financial dentistry assistance to individuals in need every year. Truesdale performs

dental work herself and usually matches Pastor Freeman's donation.

Truesdale attends patient's basketball games and takes time to mentor future dentists. She also believes in connecting people to each other and providing resources.

"I'm building my own community, meaning if you know that you have support, you do better. When somebody's watching, you move a little better, right? So, I just need to let them know that 'Hey, I see you,'" Truesdale said, referring to her mentees.

The skilled dentist knows what it takes to rise above obstacles. Truesdale explained that she experienced being on welfare and getting pregnant before dental school.

"It was the darkest time of my life, but it was the most humbling time in my life," Truesdale said.

She reminded that helping just one person by giving back can be impactful.

"You're never too busy to help one person because you never know how you can impact the trajectory of that person's life, even if it's just a word that you offer," she said.

Please visit www.innovationdentalbaltimore.com to learn more about Innovation Dental Center.



Dr. Dana Truesdale (right) at work with her assistant, Keshawn Davis (left).
Courtesy photo

International Womxn Of The World Poetry Slam Fest To Baltimore

March 28 - April 1

Baltimore, MD - The International Womxn of the World Poetry Slam Fest (WOWPS Fest) will bring 72 slam poets from around the world to Baltimore, Maryland to compete to win \$10,000 in prizes, Tuesday, March 28 - Saturday, April 1, 2023.

WOWPS Fest is the largest slam poetry event for “womxn” in the world, giving poets the opportunity to compete for the Womxn of the World title, while also providing professional poets and anyone interested with training, resources and a deep dive into slam poetry culture. Purposely straddling Women’s History Month in March and National Poetry month in April, this year’s event will have poets from 5 different countries competing.

The festival is open to the public, with the largest draw being the Final Stage.

During the 5-day festival, 72 poets compete in 12 preliminary bouts. The final 12 will then compete in the Final Stage performance at Baltimore Center Stage on Saturday, April 1 at 5 p.m. Final Stage is open to the public. Get tickets at WOWPS23FinalStage.eventbrite.com.

There are many ways to engage with or attend the 2023 WOWPS Fest. The full schedule is available at wowpsfest.com/scheduletickets. The event schedule includes:

WOWPS Fest is the largest slam poetry event for “womxn” in the world, giving poets the opportunity to compete for the Womxn of the World

Special Events

Tuesday, March 28, 8 p.m.- WOWPS Kickoff Reception

This event is open to the public and will include networking, a meet and greet with festival staff, free desserts and of course poetry, as we kickoff the start of the 2023 Womxn of the World Poetry Slam festival, with features from the phenomenal Ashlee C and Porsha O!

Wednesday, March 29, 12:30 p.m. - Reclaiming the Sacred: 6 Steps to Honoring Yourself

OffStage This workshop will offer a brave space for exploring nourishing rituals to reconnecting to yourself after bearing your heart in the public sphere.

Wednesday, March 29, 3 p.m.- HERstory: WOWPS X BFSFF Film Screening & Talkback

Come and experience the cinematic work of Baltimore-based artist Malaika Aminata. We will be watching two works from the artist, the music video “Consciousness” and the documentary “Not about a Riot.” Both works speak to Malaika’s relationship with Baltimore and its history.

Thursday, March 30, 11:55 p.m.- Femme Fatale: Late Night Open Mic

Grab a drink and come to our late night open mic celebrating Women’s History Month and the feminine voice, featuring K Love the Poet & Jhane at Baltimore Unity Hall from 12 - 2 a.m. This is the only late night open mic in town!

Saturday, April 1, 11 a.m.- Vinyasa and Voice Yoga Class

This calming yoga workshop will celebrate womanhood and help participants connect to ease their mind, body, and spirit. Participants will create space for a deeper vocal and artistic expression through grounding yoga poses, meditation, self-care rituals and conscious conversation.

The Top 12 poets from the Womxn of the World Poetry Slam will be competing for \$10,000 in cash prizes at Baltimore Center Stage. Hosted by Ebony Stewart and featuring RADI.

The Womxn of the World Poetry Slam is curated by the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District and sponsored by The Poetry Foundation, The Baltimore Community Foundation, Two Gems Consulting Services, Baltimore Unity Hall, Motorhouse, Bus Boys and Poets, Baltimore Center Stage, and Mogul Printing.

The promotional graphic for the WOWPS 2023 festival features a dark background with a bokeh light effect. At the top, the WOWPS logo is displayed in white and yellow. Below it, the event title and dates are written in a mix of white and yellow fonts. A central photograph shows four women performing on stage, with one speaking into a microphone. Below the photo, the text 'Slams / Workshops / Networking / Reception' is written in a white, cursive font. At the bottom, there are two call-to-action buttons: 'See full schedule and get tickets at wowpsfest.com/scheduletickets' and 'Volunteer with us at wowpsfest.com/volunteer'. A row of logos for sponsors and partners is at the very bottom, including RADI, BCF, Poetry, Baltimore Unity Hall, Motor House, Baltimore Center Stage, and Bus Boys and Poets.



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NNPA Releases World News App

Further Extending the Global Reach of the Black Press of America

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

@StacyBrownMedia

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) has released a global news application that includes news and feature articles that reflect the global reach of the Black Press of America.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. announced the launch of the app during the State of the Black Press Address at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

“This is the first Black-owned, global international app that aggregates not only the Black news in America but the Black news in the Caribbean, the Black news in Brazil, the Black news in Africa, and Black news in Asia. All over the world,” Dr. Chavis proclaimed.

“I couldn’t think of a better way to celebrate the 196th anniversary of the Black Press than to launch this app.”

International developer Carol Davis, who helped to create the app for the NNPA, said her vision was clear.

“I saw a need for an international platform that emphasizes the needs and requirements of the African American and other Black populations worldwide,” Davis stated.

“It could be a voice for a lot of people. There are many more news feeds from Europe, the Middle East, and all over the world, and this will be representative of a global app.”

Chavis credited NNPA Chair Karen Carter Richards and the trade association’s executive board with pushing him to make the app a reality.

“I’ve been tasked to not just reflect on the past,” Chavis stated. “But to make sure that we technologically equip ourselves.”

Available for free, the app has the following sections:

- Around the World.
- Top Stories.
- Travel.
- Lifestyle.



Courtesy photo: nnpa.org

- Music.
- The U.S.
- Africa.
- Asia.
- Europe.
- Middle East.
- The U.K.
- Stories.
- America.
- Football.
- Sports.
- Culture.
- Games.
- Movie.
- Science.
- Trending.
- Books.
- Politics.
- Law.
- International.
- Press Media.
- Woman.
- Opinion.

The “About Us” section noted that NNPA World News is the global public news application of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the national and international trade association of the Black Press of America, in collaboration with the Black Press and other media agencies throughout the world.

The NNPA represents over 247 Black-owned newspapers and multimedia businesses in the United States of America through a strategic alliance and outreach to hundreds of thousands of digital and social media platforms, channels, and international news aggregation and distribution businesses.

Launched globally on the 196th anniversary of the Black Press of America, the NNPA World News app is the portal of the world’s largest expanding Black-

owned news media network.

The NNPA Board of Directors are Chair and Houston Forward Times Publisher Karen Carter Richards; First Vice President and Atlanta Voice Publisher Janis Ware; Second Vice Chair and The County News of Charlotte Publisher Fran Farrer; Secretary and Mississippi Link Publisher Jackie Hampton; and Treasurer and Texas Metro News Publisher Cheryl Smith.

“Since the founding of the NNPA in 1940 in Chicago, Illinois, the NNPA consistently today is the daily and weekly trusted voice of 50 million Black Americans,” Dr. Chavis asserted.

“We continue to report the news and advocate for freedom, justice, equality, and equity across the United States and throughout the world.”

He concluded:

“NNPA World News app also represents, documents, aggregates, and distributes news and truthful information about the challenges, the traumas, the struggles, the opportunities, the culture, the triumphs, and the resilient excellence and progress accomplished by over 1.2 billion people of African descent and others internationally.”

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Ravens Free Agent Wide Receivers to Watch



Nelson Agholor

Photo credit: Eric Canha/USA Today Sports Images

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have a long history of signing veteran wide receivers. Three of the most popular and successful moves that come to mind are Derrick Mason from the Tennessee Titans, Anquan Bolden from the Arizona Cardinals and Steve Smith Sr. from the Carolina Panthers.

Their names are attached to various Ravens franchise pass catching records. For some reason, the Ravens have had a much higher success rate with free agents receivers than drafting them. The latest receivers that have been drafted by Baltimore are still working to make a mark for themselves, especially 2021 first-round pick Rashod Bateman.

This year's free agent group of receivers don't present a Bolden, Mason or Smith level veteran talent, but here are four options that could help bolster the group:

Nelson Agholor

Agholor spent last season with the New England Patriots. He caught 31 passes for 362 yards and two touchdowns. Agholor reportedly visited with the Ravens last week. At 29 years old, he isn't the same receiver as he was but there is still talent left in his tank.

Jarvis Landry

Although he's 30 years old and clearly not as consistent as he once was, Landry is the type of veteran that would help Baltimore's young group. Landry only caught 25 passes for 272 yards and a

touchdown for the New Orleans Saints last season, but he still knows how to get open and is always willing to do the dirty work. His gritty play fits the Ravens tough guy persona.

Marvin Jones

Jones is 33 years old, but he had a solid season last year. His 46 receptions for 529 yards with the Jacksonville Jaguars are the most among the receiver options mentioned. Jones also scored three touchdowns. Like Landry, Jones can provide veteran leadership for the young group.

Kenny Golladay

At 29 years old, Golladay is three years removed from the last time he had a one-thousand yard receiving season. The last two seasons with the New York Giants were less than stellar. The upside probably isn't as high. They could have something with Golladay, if they can somehow tap into the talent that warranted signing a big contract with the Giants in 2021.

Robbie Anderson

The Arizona Cardinals traded for Anderson last season. The move didn't yield positive results. Anderson had 20 receptions and 282 yards combined with the Cardinals and Carolina Panthers last season. Once known as mostly a vertical threat, Anderson has now become more of a possession receiver.

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