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YouthWorks Turns 50!



This Mouth Party Caramels employee is among the thousands of youth who have been provided jobs through YouthWorks, a summer program for youth. Founded in 1973 by the late former mayor of Baltimore, William Donald Schafer, this year marks the 50th anniversary of YouthWorks, which was formerly known as Blue Chip-In. Supporters include JPMorgan Chase which recently made a \$150,000 grant donation to the program.

(See article on page 9) Photo Courtesy of YouthWorks

Prominent Cyclist Previews Maryland Cycling Classic

By Demetrius Dillard

In a little more than a month, the long-awaited Maryland Cycling Classic will be returning to the Baltimore area.

In preparation for the second annual event, Robin Carpenter, one of the nation's top cyclists, came to town to preview the racecourse. Last year in the inaugural cycling classic, he finished 12th overall and anticipates the excitement, competitiveness and pure thrill that awaits this year's race.

The upcoming cycling classic will be meaningful for Carpenter, considering

where I'm more local and can compete in front of the people I love is the biggest thing for me."

The, which will be a replica of last year's 124-mile course, will feature a diverse array of teams with seven participants on each team.

Carpenter, a Philadelphia native, recalled the 2022 Maryland Cycling Classic being a well-run race. He was particularly intrigued by the scenery in the portion of the route that ran through suburban/rural northern Baltimore County, including Prettyboy Reservoir. That segment of the course is also the

going up the hill or you're streaming down the other side at 45 miles an hour. That's probably the hardest part of the race but it's also probably the most beautiful. The scenery around there is great."



Robin Carpenter, a professional cyclist who rides with L39ION of Los Angeles, previews the Maryland Cycling Classic course.

Photo credit: Maryland Cycling Classic

Ending on a circuit in downtown Baltimore is a perfect culmination to the well-balanced course, he added.

The 31-year-old is coming off a final stage win of the Redlands Classic in California. He boasts several career-defining victories, including a win in Canada's biggest stage race, the Tour of Alberta (2016), and stage wins at the Tour of Britain (2021), Tour of Utah (2016) and USA Pro Challenge (2014).

He's also been a past winner of two other smaller American races – the Joe Martin Stage Race of Arkansas (2017) and Cascade Classic of Oregon (2017).

Carpenter arrived in Baltimore on July 17, 2023 and stayed for two days before catching a flight to Chicago for a race that was scheduled to begin July 21. He took the time he was here to preview the course.

"Being able to come to Baltimore, which is kind of in my back yard from growing up, and being the spokesperson for the Peloton, if you will, was part of the goal here," Carpenter said.

According to Maryland Cycling Classic officials, the route will start at Kelly Benefits in Sparks, Md., "spanning the beautiful rolling pastoral countryside of Baltimore County into the diverse urban landscape and waterfront of central Baltimore and Harbor East district before finishing along East Pratt Street and Market Place in Baltimore's world-famous Inner Harbor area."

Though it will be the same as last year's, Carpenter said it never hurts to get a reminder of the route patterns. He and a small crew also filmed videos for Maryland Cycling Classic's social media platforms.

"The course hasn't changed between last year and this year, so I have all of my memories of how the race played out last year," said Carpenter, a Philadelphia native who now resides in the Boston area. "The [preview] was more important last year than it was for this year."

Carpenter has set his sights on improving his finish time from last year.

"I'd love to finish in the top five," he said. "It's a big race, and probably the biggest race in the U.S. right now. People will be coming in fit and motivated."

World-class athletes from 17 professional teams consisting of seven riders each are scheduled to race. So far, WorldTour teams Trek-Segafredo and EF Education-EasyPost, America's top ProTour series team Human Powered Health and Novo Nordisk, as well as U.S. Pro Continental teams L39ION of Los Angeles and Hagens Berman Axeon, and international squads Toronto Hustle and Team Medellin-EPM, have been confirmed.

The Maryland Cycling Classic festivities will begin Aug. 31 and will culminate with the race which is slated for Sept. 3, 2023.



Robin Carpenter, a professional cyclist who rides with L39ION of Los Angeles, previews the Maryland Cycling Classic course.

Photo credit: Maryland Cycling Classic

it's one of the few opportunities he'll get to compete in front of his wife and immediate family.

"It's huge for me...being able to participate in a race of this level," said Carpenter, who competes professionally for L39ION of Los Angeles.

"This is the only one at this level in the United States right now, so being able to have that here on the East Coast

most challenging—yet dynamic, he pointed out.

"Probably the most important part [of the race] was the loops around the reservoir because you do most of it twice out there and there's basically no flat sections in that area," Carpenter said.


"It's kind of just super up and down and never really respite. You're either


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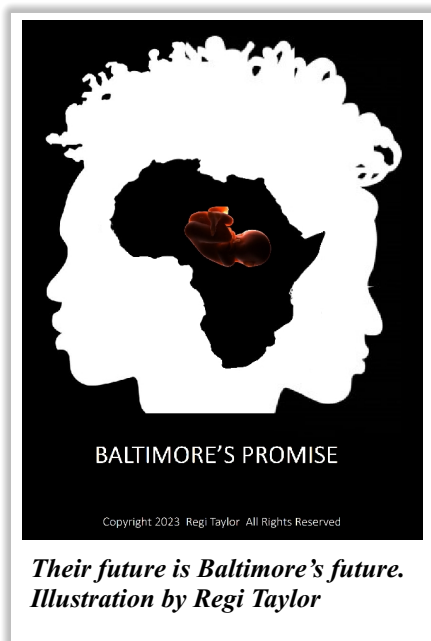
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Baltimore Children as Saviors of the City's Future Will Require More Support in the Present

By Regi Taylor, Editorial Page Editor



It is a fact and an inevitability that the children are our future. On the one hand this suggests hope, promise and possibility. The idea that humanity's fate will be entrusted to the most loving, compassionate, and honest among our species can be a comforting thought and represents an idyllic, romantic aspect of our culture.

In Whitney Houston's iconic ballad, "Greatest Love of All," we are reminded that "the children are our future," and that we must "teach them well and let them lead the way." Likewise, the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson and a cohort of renowned singers and musicians briefly drove the narrative about youth inheriting the planet with the transformative song, "We Are the World."

However, in the real world, do we really revere our children as the future caretakers of society, are we setting an example and developing a blueprint for them to follow, are we teaching them well in preparation for them to "lead the

way?" Unfortunately, statistics describing child poverty and homelessness, incarceration, murder, abuse and neglect and miseducation, say NO!

Not only are the circumstances our children are growing up in antithetical to the training they will require to rescue the world from the seemingly intractable problems we're leaving on their plates, it is not hyperbole to suspect that they are being unintentionally conditioned to fail at that task. The recent COVID 19 pandemic, the current climate crisis, and threatening international military conflicts are glaring examples of the types of complex emergencies our children face.

More immediately, how will today's children overcome the daily obstacles they confront which challenges their personal survival and inhibits their ability to even consider the world's larger global problems awaiting them? Recent test scores of Baltimore City public school students reporting 7% and 16% respective proficiency in math and reading will not prepare children to successfully negotiate society's challenges.

Although the educational bureaucracy bears a huge responsibility for the dismal test results of Baltimore's children, consider the number of conflicts, distractions and burdens city students take to school with them daily along with their books.

The statistics we regularly hear about: the shootings, murders, arrests, overdoses, robberies, rapes, burglaries, gang violence, domestic violence, housing, food and utility insecurity, pest infestation and bullying, among other crises, are real aspects of real children's everyday lives in Baltimore City and is a major impediment underlying their inability to be more successful.

Consider these statistics that collectively define who Baltimore City's children are and how they live:

- Ninety percent of all juveniles arrested in Baltimore are African American, but only 64 percent of the city's youth population is African American
- Black children are 77% of juvenile detention center admissions, white children less than 18% and Hispanic children 6-7 %; 31.6% of Maryland children are African American, 41.4% are white and 15.5% Hispanic
- Juvenile violent crime rates rose 37% according a 2019 report
- Juvenile shooting victims are being assaulted at the rate of one every 48 hours
- One-in-eight victims of gun violence is a juvenile
- From 2016 to 2020, there were 24 child homicides committed by a parent or caregiver
- 69.2% of the intake cases among children of color statewide were misdemeanor crimes while 13% were crimes of violence, 9.4% were felonies
- 90% of the referrals of youth of color came from police, while just 3% came from citizens and adult court transfers
- 96.1% of children admitted in the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center were Black, while whites, Hispanics and other races combined accounted for less than four
- More than 600 children in the Baltimore archdiocese were victims of clergy sexual abuse
- Abused or neglected children's likelihood of arrest as juvenile offenders increase by 59%
- 33% of arrested juveniles are charged as adults
- 60% of residents are considered housing insecure due to nearly one-third of their incomes covering rent

- 33% of children are food insecure
 - 33% of all residents (approximately 200,000 people) are in the SNAP program
 - More than one-third of children live below the federal poverty line
 - Most renters live in substandard or dilapidated housing
 - There are roughly 33,000 opioid addicted residents, most are parents
 - Reports of students being bullied on school property ranged from 37% to 40.4% in 2019
 - Student victims missed school in 11.9% of bullying cases
 - Baltimore ranks 8th most rat-infested city in America
 - City government received approximately 26,000 more home rat abatement requests in 2022 over 2020
- How can children coming of age in this environment thrive? How will Baltimore City thrive in the future?

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Editorial

Have The Social “Side Effects” of Cannabis Legalization Been Thoroughly Considered?

By Regi Taylor, Editorial Page Editor

In consideration of recreational cannabis becoming legal earlier this month, state legislators passed several bills signed into law by Governor Wes Moore to decriminalize the drug as the basis for charges of neglect by parents who personally used or simply possessed the drug in their homes although children on the premises have not consumed or come into direct contact with the drug. First introduced as a series of bills in the 2022 session by Prince George’s County Delegate, Nicole A. Williams, and Baltimore City State Senator, Jill P. Carter, the legislation signed by the Governor, entitled Child in Need of Assistance - Neglect - Cannabis Use, SB0653/CH0766 and HB0232/CH0767, became Maryland law July 1, 2023, in tandem with legalization of recreational cannabis.

Prior to the enactment of these new laws, cannabis was classified a Scheduled 1 narcotic (as it continues to be under Federal law) comparable to heroin and cocaine, and therefore was immediate grounds for child neglect charges if it was discovered or suspected of parental use in the course of a police investigation associated with child welfare.

Despite decriminalization of use and possession of the drug due to its new legal status which protects parental users from child neglect simply for possessing weed in their home, the “threat” to young children and juveniles from the proliferation of cannabis is very real and greatly expanded.

Scientific evidence proves the strongest impetus for young people experimenting with intoxicants is mimicking their parents and other family members behaviors. In the case of alcohol consumption, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports: “If children grow up in an environment where their parents or peers drink a lot and/or



Where’s the warning that contents are dangerous to children?
Photo courtesy Regi Taylor

view drinking favorably, they may be more likely to drink themselves.”

The same is true of cigarette smoking. An analysis by Columbia University Public Health concludes: “The more a parent smokes, the more their teenage son or daughter will also smoke. Teenagers are much more likely to smoke and be dependent on nicotine if a parent is dependent on nicotine, especially daughters if their mother is dependent on nicotine.”

Now that cannabis consumption is more prevalent in Maryland, or at least more openly used, studies in other states where recreational cannabis is legal are already showing indications of where use among juveniles is likely headed. Quoting a 2022 examination by the University of California at San Diego: “young people, ages 12 to 20, were more likely to become cannabis users in states that legalize recreational use than in states that have not legalized the drug. An increased likelihood of use was also documented in adults.”

Among the biggest hazards to children from their parents relaxed use of weed in the home are the edible variety of cannabinoids, which many children mistake as candy and cookie snacks. There are also a selection of liquid cannabis mixtures on the market that kids can unsuspectingly consume from the family

refrigerator with very dangerous consequences.

A January 2023 paper by the Medical University of South Carolina found that “new research shows the number of children under the age of 5 accidentally poisoned by cannabis edibles has soared 1,375% since 2017... of those, 2-year-olds had the highest rate of exposure, followed by 3-year-olds.” According to online magazine

<https://www.marijuanaventure.com/> “the [cannabis] edibles [market] segment grew to \$3.4 billion in 2022; candy is currently the biggest edible subcategory accounting for 73% sales in 2022, followed by chocolates at 9%, beverages and pills tied for third place at 7%, then infused foods at 4% and “other edibles” accounting for less than 1% of sales.”

Cannabis intoxication for young children can have dire health consequences leading to hospitalization. The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) reveals that “significant exposures can lead to severe hyperactive behaviors, slowed breathing, and even coma.” The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta released findings earlier this month that “approximately 18.7% of U.S. persons aged 12 years [or older] used cannabis in 2021.”

With dangerous public health issues associated with legal cannabis use already trending in other states, Governor Moore and state legislators may want to consider establishing a fund from a percentage of Maryland’s weed profits for public education, particularly directed at youth, to help mitigate negative social “side effects” from the drug.

In the case of legal lottery and casino gaming in Maryland, the state has established the Problem Gaming Fund to address bettors who suffer from gambling addiction. In 2022, the Fund received two-tenths of one percent (0.2%), \$4.4 million, from the casinos and the Maryland Lottery’s \$2 billion in combined revenues.

Celebrate Black Business Month

The Virginia Black Business Expo & Conference Draws Near, Includes DMV Audience

By Andrea Blackstone



*Tracey Hall and Ernisha Hall, a couple from Virginia, cofounded the Virginia Black Business Directory
Photo credit: Ernisha Hall*

August is National Black Business Month. It is a prime time to increase visibility of Black-owned businesses.

Sheila Hawkins, CEO and chief creative designer of Sheila Renee Designs, creates custom jewelry, Converse, Crocs, tumblers, apparel and eclectic items. The Waldorf, Maryland-based Black business owner established her business in 2018. Her company also offers classes to assist other entrepreneurs with starting or elevating their craft business.



*Sheila Hawkins, CEO and chief creative designer of Sheila Renee Designs
Photo credit: Sheila Hawkins*

“Our class, “Bling Like A Boss!,” teaches the art of bling. We offer Crocs and Converse classes. We will be adding additional bling classes soon. Also, we will be offering crafting courses like jewelry making, sublimation, how to make t-shirts and other courses,” Hawkins said.

The creative entrepreneur is excited about taking her business venture on the road to Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Hawkins and other Black business owners can be found at the 4th

Annual Virginia Black Business Expo & Business Conference that is being held from August 11-13, 2023, in the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center, located at 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Hawkins believes that taking part in the weekend of excellence for the first time will be a valuable experience for her. She feels that attending the event will help her to grow her business and increase her revenue. The entrepreneur is also interested in supporting other Black-owned businesses and networking.

“Black business owners need to have a space to network and meet new customers. Networking allows business owners to build relationships, share knowledge and gain valuable insights. Having a dedicated space for Black business owners to network can also provide a sense of community and support. Additionally, it can create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships, which can lead to business growth and success,” Hawkins said.

The large, annual event will be presented by the Virginia Black Business Directory (VABBD). In case you missed it, a Black-owned business directory can be accessed online. Members are located from Annapolis and Glen Burnie, Maryland to

Washington, D.C., Fredericksburg and Richmond, Virginia.

A printed directory is available once a year, according to Ernisha Hall. Along with Tracey Hall, she cofounded their growing nonprofit, VABBD in 2020. A variety of membership options are available, including a nonprofit rate and a youth entrepreneur rate.

VABBD’s genesis begins with Ernisha and Tracey owning a website and graphic design company, NIRAY LLC. They discovered a desire for fellow Black business owners to connect with each other. The business directory that the Halls created grew into a 501(c)3 organization.

“In short, the mission is about economic empowerment of Black businesses. In long, it is our mission is to amplify the exposure of small businesses by advancing the economic development and social equities of Black business owners,” Ernisha said.

She further explained that although the nonprofit focuses more on the state of Virginia, many members are physically located in Maryland and D.C. Virtual events that provide education, information and networking opportunities are also held. Topics such as grant writing, funding, trademarking and intellectual property and resource navigation have been explored.

The 4th Annual Virginia Black Business Expo & Business Conference is their largest, annual event that is held in Fredericksburg.

“The purpose of this is three days of shopping, entertainment, culture, and education with different leaders,” Ernisha said.

Quinn Conyers, a Maryland-based entrepreneur who is a highly experienced emcee, will serve as this year’s emcee and keynote speaker.

Ernisha mentioned that a business conference; food truck festival; the Great Blacksby Gala and concert where singer Keke Wyatt will perform; a brunch, skate party hosted by celebrity skater, Push; the Silver Fox Squad, touted as special guests;

career fair; shopping opportunities and other activities will be offered during the weekend.

“Overall, it’s about recycling the Black dollar,” Ernisha said. “There’s going to be over 100 vendors here to shop with.”

Last year, 1,500 attendees and 140 vendors showed up, according to Ernisha.

Hawkins added final thoughts from a business owner’s perspective.

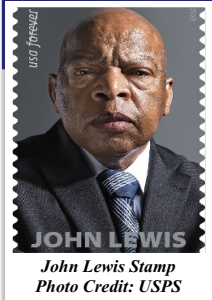
“Additionally, Black vendor events often feature unique and diverse products and services that may not be available elsewhere, providing attendees with a chance to discover new and exciting offerings. Overall, attending and supporting Black vendor events is a meaningful way to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society,” Hawkins said.

Expo and conference tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite. Visit <https://www.virginiablackbusinessexpo.org> to learn more about purchasing event tickets. Some activities such as the gala and brunch require ticket purchases at least a week in advance. Information about the business directory is available via <https://members.vablackbusinessdirectory.org/directory>.



*A Sheila Renee Designs Converse creation with mixed gray pearl rhinestones, gray and white flowers, with a rhinestone and pearl trim.
Photo credit: Sheila Hawkins*

Celebrating Rep. John Lewis



USPS Honors Rep. John Lewis With Forever Stamp

ATLANTA— On July 21, 2023, the U.S. Postal Service celebrated the life and legacy of Rep. John Lewis (1940-2020), an American hero and key figure in some of the most pivotal moments of the Civil Rights Movement, by issuing a Forever stamp with his portrait.

A dedication ceremony for the stamp was held at Morehouse College.

News about the stamps is being shared with the hashtag #JohnLewis. Followers of the Postal Service's YouTube page can view the ceremony live at John Lewis Commemorative Forever® Stamp Dedication Ceremony – YouTube. An additional video was posted two hours after the ceremony providing more information and insights in telling the story of this stamp on the Postal Service's Facebook and Twitter pages at facebook.com/USPS, and twitter.com/usps.

“Look carefully at how the shadow falls on the right side of his face, illuminating the left side in

a way that seems to take the viewer from darkness into the light. A fitting tribute to a man who sought to awaken the conscience of a country,” said Ronald A. Stroman, a member of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors and dedicating official for the stamp. “The Postal Service is proud to celebrate Lewis — a national treasure — and to honor his legacy with the tribute of this Forever stamp that is as beautiful visually as was the spirit of the man whose image it bears.”

Joining Stroman for the ceremony were mistress of ceremonies Alfre Woodard, activist; Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., professor and founding dean, Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel at Morehouse College; John-Miles Lewis, son of John Lewis; Henry M. Goodgame Jr., vice president of external relations and alumni engagement; Linda Earley Chastang, president and chief executive officer of the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation; Michael Collins, chair of the board for the John and Lillian Miles Lewis Foundation; U.S.

Raphael Warnock; Peggy Wallace Kennedy, civil rights activist and author; and Bill Campbell, and Shirley Franklin, former mayors of Atlanta.

“As an avid collector, stamps were important to Congressman John Lewis, who always made sure he purchased stamps on their first day of issue,” said Collins. “We are deeply grateful to the United States Postal Service for recognizing the congressman with this official Forever stamp, a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment of a true American hero. The congressman was a treasured civil rights icon and a timeless advocate for justice, equality, and human rights. This commemorative stamp serves as a timeless reminder of his remarkable legacy and the enduring impact of his lifelong dedication to the betterment of our society. May it inspire and encourage all Americans to continue the necessary work and the ‘good trouble’ of building a more just and inclusive nation.”

Also participating in the stamp dedication ceremony were Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir; dancer Logan Byrd; and vocalists Dottie Peoples, Bettie Mae Fikes, and Victory Brinker.

The stamp features a photograph of Lewis taken by Marco Grob for the Aug. 26, 2013, issue of Time Magazine. Lewis's name is at the bottom of the stamp. The words “USA” and “Forever” appear in the stamp's top left corner. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp.

The John Lewis Forever stamp is available in panes of 15. Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price.

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Sisters Co-Own Snowball Business, Use Profits to Invest in Their Futures

By Andrea Blackstone

When the temperature rises, snowballs can be a cool treat to beat the heat. Meet 15-year-old Charlee Hamilton; her twin, Leeyah Hamilton; 14-year-old Micah Hamilton; and 11-year-old Jordyn Hamilton. These four sisters from Pasadena, Maryland are co-owners of Twice as Nice Shaved Ice. They sell snowballs and their famous snow-capped lemonade.



Twice as Nice Shaved Ice sells snowballs and their famous snow-capped lemonade. Photo Courtesy of Charvonne Hamilton

“Our mother [Charvonne Hamilton] inspired us to start thinking about starting our own business. We went through several business ideas, but our mom was the one who suggested a snowball business. The startup costs were minimal and it was something we could get up and running quickly. We started with one snowball machine we purchased from a pawn shop, a table, tent and 10 flavors,” Charlee said.

The sisters receive parental assistance from Lee Hamilton and Charvonne. They lend a hand with tasks such as

scheduling events, transportation, ordering supplies and doing the taxes. They also made the initial business investment to enable the girls to kickstart their business that was founded in 2018.

“Our primary business goal is to make our customers happy as we continue to grow our business and invest enough money to help us be successful in the future,” Leeyah said.

She already knows that running a business accompanies challenges such as standing on their feet for long time periods. The sisters sometimes sacrifice family and friends time, because of working at events where they are booked. Leeyah further noted that they had to learn patience when dealing with challenging customers. She also mentioned that working hard to keep their business prices affordable is something that the Twice as Nice Shaved Ice team strives to achieve.

“We understand what it means to have to purchase treats and food for a large family and we want to be able to have all people from all walks of life to be able to enjoy our snowballs,” Leeyah said, sounding wise beyond her years.

Micah added that she and her sisters would eventually like to expand with other trucks and teach other young people how to operate the business.

The kidpreneurs possess diverse career goals that range from entrepreneurship to sports medicine, but Leeyah informed that she and each of her sisters want to attend college.

She added, “Charlee and I want to attend an HBCU. We are setting money aside from the business for college and a car along with other things like investing.”

Charvonne explained that the girls split all their profits four ways. A percentage of their money is taken out



(L-R) Co-owners of Twice as Nice Shaved Ice: Jordyn Hamilton; Micah Hamilton; Charlee Hamilton; and Leeyah Hamilton participate in a fundraiser event for a youth baseball league in July 2021. Photo Courtesy of Charvonne Hamilton

for them to spend. The rest is allocated for long-term investing.

Her ambitious daughters are mostly booked for private events. Typically, the family tries to stay within a 20-mile radius of their home for bookings, although they do not place a limit on how far they travel. They bring the trailer and serve from it.

“People usually reach out to us because they see the trailer around town or through word of mouth. We also seek out the opportunity to participate in larger events over the summer. This has led to us being vendors at the Annapolis Juneteenth Festival and Kunta Kinte Festival, in addition to several other festivals held throughout the summer,” Charvonne said.

Jordyn also stated that running Twice as Nice Shaved Ice gives them something productive to do when school is closed.

“Instead of sleeping in every day and staying in the house all summer, we are out working. Even though we work most of the summer, we always make time for family vacations,” Jordyn said.

Although running a business takes hard work, Charlee can extract rewarding components.

“I love it because I don't really have a boss. I get to learn and grow as an entrepreneur and develop a strong work ethic,” Charlee said.

Micah likes having the opportunity to run the business with her family.

“Some days are harder than others, but because we enjoy what we do, it doesn't always feel like work. Running our own business has led to us meeting some amazing people and has led to amazing opportunities, including being a featured vendor for the Baltimore Ravens at their training camp for the last three years,” Micah also said.

Charlee explained that some customers call them the day before an event because someone else canceled. The kidpreneurs on the move who strive to do their best, show up if they can. “We take pride in being reliable,” Charlee said.

Learn more about Twice as Nice Shaved Ice via twiceasniceshavedice.com

Still on the Job For the City of Baltimore

By Ursula V. Battle

Part I of a two-part series on YouthWorks. Founded in 1973, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of YouthWorks.

In 1973, the late former mayor of Baltimore William Donald Schafer, started Blue Chip-In, a summer job program for youth. Now known as YouthWorks, 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the program. YouthWorks has provided employment to thousands of youth since its inception, who include Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott.

YouthWorks over generations. We could measure it in the number of careers it contributed to launching. We could measure it in the number of youth that made a long-standing meaningful connection with a caring adult. Any one of these measures would only tell part of the story of what a staple YouthWorks is in adding value in the City of Baltimore.”

According to YouthWorks, Baltimore’s youth employment rate of 14.6%, stands as one of the highest among major metro areas. YouthWorks recently kicked-off its Baltimore Summer Youth

Rasheem. “But Youthworks is so much more than that. Youthworks educates, employs, and empowers youth. Our education focus is on job readiness, financial literacy and exposure to future career possibilities.”

YouthWorks is a program within the Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, Youth Services Division. The program provide a five-week job opportunity to thousands of Baltimore City young people between the ages of 14 to 21. This year, summer employers range from Johns Hopkins University to the Baltimore Orioles and students earn \$13.25 per hour.

“This year, we have been able to offer jobs to nearly 7,900 Baltimore City youth, opening doors to countless opportunities,” said Dr. Rasheem. “This achievement is a testament to the tireless efforts of our dedicated team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the incredible resilience and determination of the youth we serve.”

The program’s partner, JPMorgan Chase, made a \$150,000 grant donation to the program. The grant will help 72 students to make the \$13.25 hourly pay and work five days a week. Dr. Rasheem said the grant will also support YouthWorks’ first YouthWorks Academy.

“Youthworks Academy is a comprehensive 13-week job readiness and life skills program designed to bridge the gap between the workforce skillsets that a young person brings to the table with those of the needs of the employers for whom we serve,” she said. “Employees who receive such specific and intentional training are often better capable of demonstrating their value to

employers, are more likely to be promoted and will find greater satisfaction in their careers. That is the essence of the need that the YouthWorks Academy was designed to address.”

JPMorgan Chase, a leading financial services firm, has been supporting Baltimore YouthWorks Summer Youth Employment program for more than five years.

“These types of programs are critical to giving young people an opportunity to explore their interests, learn more about the world of work and demystify what takes place in the workplace, said Nadine Duplessy Kearns, Vice President of Global Philanthropy for JPMorgan Chase.

She added, “They also help prepare them as they go on to jobs, college and careers so that they have this firsthand experience. I think for us, we know that that makes a difference for connecting young people to the world of work. So we’re excited to be a partner, and we are proud of the work that YouthWorks is doing for the young people of Baltimore.”

For more information about YouthWorks, visit www.youthworks.oedworks.com

Coming Next Week – Part 2: The Employees of YouthWorks and The Program’s Impact On Their Lives.



*A YouthWorks participant employed with the Baltimore Orioles and Mayor Brandon M. Scott who is a YouthWorks alumnus.
Photo Courtesy of the Baltimore Orioles*

“The impact of any long-standing initiative in a city the size of Baltimore that is over half a century long is immeasurable,” said Dr. S. Rasheem, Senior Program Manager for YouthWorks. “We could measure it in the amount of funds paid out to youth in wages. We could measure it in the number of families that have participated in

Employment Program (SYEP) to help address youth poverty and unemployment in the city. Over the last 10 years, YouthWorks has offered over 80,000 summer jobs to Baltimore youth.

“In general, the goal is to collaborate with youth and employers to create a meaningful paid employment opportunity that enhances youth job skills,” said Dr.



*YouthWorks provides hands-on training, hourly pay and more.
Photo Courtesy of the Baltimore Orioles*

FORT MCHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT &

HISTORIC SHRINE COMMEMORATES DEFENDERS' DAY WEEKEND



Fort McHenry

SEPTEMBER 15 – 17, 2023

The Public is invited to celebrate Baltimore's oldest continuously celebrated holiday "Defenders' Day" & writing of our National Anthem in 1814. Fireworks & musical performances by U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus!

WHAT: DEFENDERS' DAY WEEKEND

Commemorates Defenders' Day, Baltimore's oldest holiday, which honors the successful defense of the city from British attack and the writing of the National Anthem in 1814! Celebrated continuously since 1815!

Highlights include:

- Parade through Locust Point on Friday evening
- Living History with Fort McHenry Guard and Maryland Army National Guard – Saturday
- Pride of Baltimore II will offer deck tours
- FREE Saturday Evening Program of musical performances by the U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus with Grand Finale: Spectacular fireworks display!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: 7 p.m.

Parade! The Fort McHenry Guard and other living historians, along with a contingent of National Park Service Rangers in their distinctive "green & gray", will muster at the foot of Hull Street in Locust Point and march from Hull Street to Fort Avenue to Fort McHenry. Local residents and visitors are invited to enjoy the fife and drum music as they pass by. The National Park Trust's mascot Buddy Bison will join

the procession! The park's main entrance gates close at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fun Activities for the whole family! Fort McHenry comes alive! Experience living history at military and civilian encampments showing life during 1814.

Family-oriented activities include a dress parade, children's

programs, cannon firing, and raising of the giant 30 x 42-foot Star-Spangled Banner flag over the star-shaped fort (weather-permitting).

Children's Programs! All weekend, children entering the Star Fort's 1814 barracks can "enlist" as a soldier of the War of 1812 and experience a bit of a soldier's life by learning authentic drill commands by using wooden muskets. Children can also participate in active games common in the early 19th century! Kids can interact with the National Park Trust's mascot Buddy Bison, too!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

FREE Evening Program begins at 5 p.m. American Sign Language interpreters will be provided. Patrons are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for a memorable evening – come early!

- 10 a.m.: Morning Dress Parade & Flag Change (inside Star Fort)
- 12 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.: Roar of the Drums: Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum performance (Inside Star Fort)
- 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.: War of 1812 Cannon & Musket Demonstrations (East Lawn)
- 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m.: Musical performances by "The Adjutant General's Own" 229th Army Band of the Maryland National Guard (Orpheus Statue stage)
- 1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.: Explore Stories of Defenders Past & Present: National Park Service living history programs plus a timeline of a soldier's life by the 175th Infantry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard (West Lawn)

- 3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Evening Dress Parade & Flag Change (Inside Star Fort)
- 6:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.: New Soldier Enlistment Ceremony by the U.S. Army (Water Battery stage)
- 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.: Special Performance by Military District of Washington's U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus (Water Battery stage)
- 8 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.: FIREWORKS! With underscore by The U.S. Army Field Band – Concert Band & Soldiers' Chorus followed by flag raising over the fort and singing of our National Anthem (Water Battery stage & East Lawn)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17:

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fun Activities for the whole family! Experience living history at military and civilian encampments showing life during 1814 featuring military drills along with musket and cannon firings. Family-oriented activities include living history, children's programs, cannon firing, and raising of the

Star-Spangled Banner flag over the fort (weather permitting).

LOCATION: Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine, 2400 East Fort Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

PARK EVENT HOURS: Friday 9/15 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 9/16 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. (Free after 4 p.m.), and Sunday 9/17 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARK ADMISSION: Admission to enter the Star Fort is \$15 per adult (age 16 and up). The Visitor Center film, exhibits and grounds are free. Children age 15 and under are free. The Saturday evening program is free starting at 4 p.m.

PARKING: Parking is extremely limited at Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine so visitors are urged to walk or use public transportation, especially for the Saturday evening program.

EVENT INFORMATION:

<https://www.nps.gov/fomc/planyourvisit/defenders-day.htm>

Join Us at a **REDLINE** Open House!

Want to learn more about the relaunched Red Line project and offer feedback? Join us at one of the many upcoming Open House meetings:

July 29, 2023
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
University of
Maryland Biopark
Transit Accessible: CityLink
Orange, Purple, LocalLink 78

July 31, 2023
3:00 - 7:00 pm
Woodlawn High School
Transit Accessible:
CityLink Blue,
LocalLink 31, 37, and 79

August 1, 2023
3:00 - 7:00 pm
Hampstead Hill
Academy
Transit Accessible:
CityLink Navy



Please visit the project website for more information and details: www.redlinemaryland.com

Have questions or need additional info? Please contact us at outreach@redlinemaryland.com

Locations are accessible for people with disabilities. Please contact the department listed below to arrange for: special accommodations; printed material in an alternate format or translated; hearing impaired persons; and persons requesting an interpreter. All requests must be received one week in advance.

Los sitios tienen acceso para personas con discapacidades. Por favor comuníquese con el departamento listado a continuación para concertar arreglos para: ayuda especial o adaptaciones adicionales; material impreso en un formato alternativo o traducido; personas sordas y personas que solicitan un(a) intérprete. Todas las solicitudes deben ser recibidas con una semana de antelación.

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MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

MIND HEART & BODY PROGRAM

BLOOD PRESSURE EDUCATION

JULY 30, 2023
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

EVENT LOCATION

ST. Matthews Gospel Tabernacle
Apostolic Faith Church
1901 North Rosedale Street
Baltimore, MD 21216

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Nurturing a Child's Mental Health and Well-being: A Path to Happiness and Resilience

By Jayne Hopson



Jayne Hopson
Courtesy Photo

A child's mental health is influenced by a series of positive or negative interactions with adults. Excluding organic brain disorders, caused by congenital disease or neurological damage, this primal connection between adult behavior and a youngster's emotional well-being is sacrosanct. But when the importance of these early interactions is overlooked, a child's capacity to develop good mental health may be limited.

From the day a child is born, their view of life is based upon a series of exchanges between themselves and the caregivers responsible for providing food, clothing and protection from physical harm. While much attention is given to a baby's rapidly changing physical appearance and development, parents must also be aware that their emotional growth and well-being requires equal care.

A lifetime of good mental health can be shaped by how a child's basic needs and wants are fulfilled. Anyone who has spent time with an infant will attest that a baby as young as a few

months old can detect and respond to various emotional expressions in their caregivers' face and voice.

Babies are particularly responsive to positive emotions, such as smiling, and negative emotions, such as crying or angry expressions. They may also react to emotional changes in the tone of voice and body language of adults. Each of these interactions contribute to a child's overall development, happiness and resilience.

It is essential for parents and caregivers to explore and consider the importance of children's mental health, common challenges they face and provide practical strategies to promote their emotional well-being to build a foundation for a fulfilling and resilient future.

The importance of a child's mental health cannot be overstated. It directly impacts their emotional, social and cognitive development. Good mental health enables children to navigate challenges, develop positive relationships, and perform well academically. Moreover, it enhances a youngster's ability to regulate emotions, effectively solve problems and helps them cope with stressful situations.

Investing in a child's mental health at an early age can be the foundation for lifelong emotional well-being, preventing the risk of mental health disorders later in life.

As children grow older, parents need to be aware their kids will encounter various challenges that can impact their mental well-being. Academic pressures, social interactions, family dynamics, and technological influences, such social and electronic media are some common stressors that require immediate attention.

Bullying, peer pressure, and societal expectations can lead to feelings of anxiety, low self-esteem, or depression. Additionally, changes such as divorce, relocation, or loss of a loved one can be emotionally difficult for children. Recognizing these challenges and their potential impact on a youngster's mental health is crucial to providing the support they need. Here are practical strategies (mom tried and tested by this writer) for ensuring a child's good mental health:

Open Communication: Encourage open and honest communication with your child. Create a safe space for them to express their feelings and concerns without judgment. Actively listen, validate their emotions and provide reassurance.

Provide Positive Parenting: Practice positive parenting techniques, including setting clear boundaries, offering praise and encouragement, and using constructive discipline methods. Promote a nurturing and supportive environment that fosters emotional well-being.

Teach Emotional Intelligence: Help children identify and manage their emotions by teaching them about emotional intelligence. Encourage them to recognize and express their feelings appropriately, develop empathy towards others and resolve conflicts in a healthy manner.

Promote a Healthy Lifestyle: Emphasize the importance of physical health, proper nutrition, regular exercise, and adequate sleep. A healthy lifestyle contributes to overall well-being and supports mental health.

Foster Resilience: Teach children resilience, the ability to bounce back

from adversity. Encourage problem-solving skills, positive self-talk, and optimism. Help them understand that setbacks are part of life and provide guidance to navigate challenges effectively.

Limit Screen Time: Set reasonable limits on screen time and promote a balanced approach to technology use. Excessive screen time can negatively impact children's mental health, sleep patterns and social interactions.

Promote Healthy Relationships: Teach children about healthy relationships, boundaries, and respect for others. Help them develop and maintain positive friendships, as social connections are vital for mental well-being.

If concerns about a child's mental health persist or intensify, consult with a mental health professional who specializes in children's well-being. They can provide guidance, assessment and support tailored to your child's specific needs.

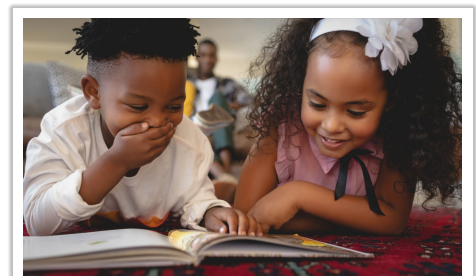


Photo credit: Shutterstock.com

Promoting children's mental health and well-being is a shared responsibility among parents, educators, and society as a whole. By nurturing their emotional needs, fostering resilience, and equipping them with essential skills, we empower children to thrive and lead fulfilling lives.

5 Ways to Build or Rebuild Your Credit

A good credit score is a critical part of a healthy financial future.

Having strong credit can make it easier to get a car loan, mortgage, an apartment and even some jobs. Because lenders use your credit score to help assess your reliability as a borrower, a high credit score can help you qualify for lower loan interest rates – saving you money over the course of your lifetime.

There's no fast track to building credit or improving your current score, but you can help make the process much easier. These five steps can help:

- 1. Find out your current credit score.** Most adults already have a credit score that can be obtained by requesting a credit report and reviewing it carefully. You're entitled to one free report each year and can request it at AnnualCreditReport.com. Chase Credit Journey® can also help you manage, monitor and protect your credit.
- 2. Apply for a credit card.** If you're starting to build credit, credit cards can speed up the process if used responsibly. Since credit card companies report activity to credit agencies, healthy activity can be a huge help when it comes to building your credit. Student and other new-to-credit credit cards are a good option for those who are looking to build credit. Establishing a credit score and history requires having an account open for at least six months, so be
- 3. Address debt impacting your score.** It's expected for consumers to have some debt, but significant credit card debt and missed loan payments can have a major impact on your credit score. Pay bills on time and don't overspend – maxing out a credit card or coming close to your limit will lower your score. If you're working to rebuild your credit, pay down debt as much as possible and catch up on past-due bills. Also be careful about searching for new lines of credit while carrying significant debt – lenders could see this as a risk and your score could drop.
- 4. Practice good financial habits in other areas.** Establishing a savings and checking account, renting an apartment and paying utility and other bills on time are among the activities that help show lenders you're fiscally responsible. While these actions might not directly affect your credit score, they're beneficial practices lenders will notice when considering your application for a car loan, mortgage or other major life goal.
- 5. Help your children build credit.** Opening checking and savings accounts for your children can help teach them about everything from depositing your paycheck to easily paying your bills -- the basic building blocks of your financial infrastructure. You can also consider making your teenager an authorized user on your credit card account to assist them in establishing their own positive credit history. Take this approach if you consistently pay your credit card bill in full and on time, as late payments can also impact your child's credit report, in addition to your own.



Photo credit: Shutterstock.com

Building and rebuilding credit takes time and patience, but the results are worth it. A solid credit history can help you build generational wealth, reach your financial goals and establish long-term fiscal stability for you and your family. For more information on the basics of building credit, visit chase.com/personal/credit-cards/education.

NFL Quarterback Gives Back to the Community

By Tyler Stallings
The Baltimore Times Jr Reporter

From July 14-15, 2023, NFL quarterback Tyrod Taylor of the New York Giants hosted the Tyrod Taylor Community Weekend located at Citizens Unit Boys and Girls Club in Hampton, Virginia. The first activity was yoga on July 14 facilitated by Rylan Ashlee at the

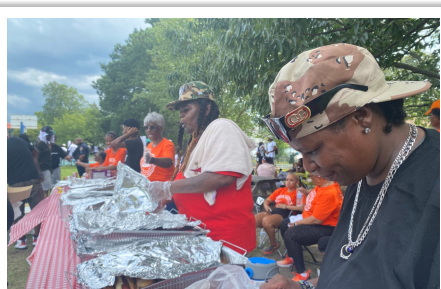


*Citizens Unit Boys & Girls Club located in Hampton, Virginia
Photo credit: Tyler Stallings*

Tyrod Taylor Wellness Center which is located in the Boys and Girls Club.

There were basketball games, free food, animals, bounce houses, food trucks, free haircuts and much more on July 15. Taylor played outdoor basketball at the same Boys and Girls Club location with a lot of his friends when he was young.

Taylor, who grew up in Hampton, Virginia said he wants to help the



*Volunteers serve free food to the community during the community event.
Photo credit: Tyler Stallings*

community. The Tyrod Taylor Foundation started in 2018 with a T2 Community Day event.

“I think it’s big to pour back into the community because they’ve shown me so much support throughout my career. For me to come back and be able to put a wellness center in the neighborhood that I grew up in, it means a lot to me,” Taylor said.

Other things that Taylor has done in Hampton include: turkey drives, Christmas toy drives and adopting very down to earth. He also explained that he never does kind deeds for publicity.

“It’s just really out of the kindness of my heart. I believe if you have the opportunity to give back to the community, then do so,” Taylor said.

Hal Smith, the president and CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Boys and Girls Club, explained the background of collaborating with Taylor:

“In 2018, we decided that we needed to renovate the space [the club that the kids participate in after school]. We had talked to the city about getting some funding support through the city. About that time Tyrod Taylor had reached out to [I think either directly or through his business associate] Mayor Donnie Tuck

who is still the mayor in the City of Hampton. He wanted to invest resources into the community and was looking for a project to get behind. So, Mayor Tuck mentioned to Tyrod about the renovation that we were interested in doing at the Boys and Girls Club,” Smith said.

Taylor had spent time at the Club as a child. He took a tour through the building and was instantly on board with the project. More funds were raised, and a new gym was built instead of renovating the existing structure. According to Smith, Taylor was a major donor.

“So, that’s how we created the Tyrod Taylor Wellness Center,” Smith said. Construction was completed in March of 2023. Smith mentioned the impact of the collaboration.

“The impact to the kids is they have a brand-new part of the building to come in and play and learn about important things that will improve their mental health and help them deal with things that are going on in the community and things that kids have to deal with these days. For the community as a whole, I think it’s brought more of a sense of pride because it’s a brand-new space that’s been created in a very tight knit community. There’s been more folks that have wanted to come out and do more things at the site and give back and volunteer, so it’s just brought up a lot of community pride,” Smith said.

Youth from ages 5 to 18 are served at Boys and Girls Clubs. When the entire renovation is done next year, Smith stated that about 200 youth will be able to be served every day in the building at 1815 Shell Road.

In an interview with Taylor, he talked about how he got into football at the age of five, describing it as his first love in sports. He was drafted to the Baltimore



*(L-R) Hal Smith, President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula with New York Giants quarterback Tyrod Taylor.
Photo credit: BGCVP Marketing Team*

Ravens in 2011 and played there for four years.

“From there, I went on to play in Buffalo for three years. Then, I got traded to Cleveland for a year. From there, I signed in free agency and played in LA with the Chargers for two years. I played in Houston for a year and I’m going into my second year with the Giants,” Taylor said.

He added that it is a dream come true to play a game for a living that he grew up playing but it’s also a tremendous responsibility, especially at the quarterback position.

“A lot of people are depending on you in the building as well as family members outside of the building,” Taylor said.

To learn more about the Tyrod Taylor Foundation, visit <http://www.keep2triving.com/foundation>.

Ravens have Big Hopes as They Report to Training Camp

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens kicked off training camp with their first practice on Thursday, July 26, 2023. Last season came to a frustrating end. After 10 - 7 last season, the Ravens lost to the AFC North rival Cincinnati Bengals by a 24-17 score in the wild card round.

With a new offensive coordinator on Todd Monken and the addition of playmakers such as Odell Beckham Jr., Nelson Agholor and Zay Flowers, the offense is expected to hit a new level of success.

"There's nothing like having talent. It's the way it is; there's only one football still," Monken said. "But utilizing multiple personnel groups and trying to fit the pieces of the puzzle together – utilizing their skillset when you can get the best matchups.

"So, I'm excited to work with them. We still haven't put the pads on yet, but from what I've seen, with adding the wide receivers that we have and the tight ends that have been here, it's an exciting time."

Lamar Jackson is fresh off a new five-year, \$260 million deal. The question of whether or not he will be in Baltimore is no longer in existence. Jackson held throwing sessions with the wide receivers in Florida during the offseason break. They'll look to carry that momentum into camp.

"Pretty much all of the receivers – all the tight ends – they're working their tails off right now. I believe all our receivers, [when] they get a shot out there on the field, they're going to show their potential," Jackson said.

The defense remains the same scheme as last season, but the Ravens

are hoping for the emergence of a couple of young pass rushers in Odafe Oweh and David Ojabo. Oweh, a 2021 first round draft pick, had three sacks last season. Ravens defensive coordinator Mike McDonald is looking for the small wins for Oweh.

"He's come in with a great attitude, he's here, he's working hard and that's all we're asking him to do right now," McDonald said. "Just focus on the process, and let the results happen with the work that you're putting in – and he's doing that. So, I commend him on his daily approach right now."

Ojabo, a second round pick in 2022, suffered an Achilles injury during his pro day at Michigan, but he managed to work his way back and eventually get in the lineup. He finished with one sack. Before the injury, Ojabo was considered to be one of the best pass rushers in the draft.

Both Oweh and Ojabo will get to benefit from the tutelage of first year outside linebackers coach, Chuck Smith. Smith is a former NFL pass rusher for the Atlanta Falcons and Carolina Panthers.

"He [Chuck Smith] is a guru. He's a guru," Ojabo said. "He's just bringing [out] the best side of us, and he brings a lot of energy. [He] lets us be ourselves, lets us kind of dance off the ball. And I'm really excited just to see how our development comes."

The Ravens are also excited to welcome fans to training camp practices once again this season.

"We know the Ravens Flock is excited to see the 2023 Ravens in action," senior vice president of marketing Brad Downs stated. "With the return of many core players, the addition of talented free agents and the arrival of new draft picks, Training

Camp provides fans with a unique chance to watch the team prepare for the season ahead."

The team will also host 18 free and open practices at the Under Armour Performance Center, with the ability to

post-practice player autograph session. Additional entertainment including interactive games, Baltimore's Marching Ravens, cheerleaders and a visit from Poe, the Ravens mascot, will also be available.



Nelson Agholor

Photo credit: Shawn Hubbard, Baltimore Ravens

have approximately 1,000 fans at practice per day. There will be in-stadium practice at M&T Bank Stadium on July 29, 2023 at 12:45 p.m. Children ages 6-14 will be treated to a

The open sessions include a pair of joint practices with the Washington Commanders on Aug. 15-16, 2023. Football is back!

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for Dorchester County, McKeil Point BIP #1 On-site Sewage System Removal. Prevailing wages apply. Bids due in our office August 14, 2023. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Directional Drilling, Grinder Pumps, Electrical, Pipe, Aggregates, Septic Hauling, and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709 or email: schummerinc@aol.com For more information and contract documents call 410-956-8080.

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BID

Minority Subcontractor/Supplier Schummer, Inc. seeking Certified Minority Subcontractors for: 24-003 Landfill Leachate Pump Station and Forcemain Project, Charles County, MD. Prevailing wages apply. Bids due in our office August 4, 2023. Certified MBE's & WBE's for: Pre-cast, Fiberglass Valve Vault, Package Pump Station, Jack & Bore, Pipe, Electrical, Excavation, Paving, Pipelaying, Plumbing, Aggregates, and Trucking. Fax quotes to: 410-798-1709 or email: schummerinc@aol.com For more information call 410-956-8080.

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