



THE BALTIMORE TIMES

Vol. 37 No. 48

September 29 - October 5, 2023

A Baltimore Times/Times of Baltimore Publication

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Welcomes New Music Director Jonathon Heyward



Jonathon Heyward is the BSO's youngest and first-ever Black Music Director and the only American-born leader of any major American orchestra. (See article on page 9) Photo Courtesy of BSO



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MECHANIC FESTIVAL HEALTHY CLOTHING BARBERSHOPS SALONS RESTAURANTS FOOD NAILS EYELASHES POET A

Usher Set to Headline 2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Grammy-winning artist Usher plans to dazzle hundreds of millions of fans as he takes center stage for the highly anticipated 2024 Super Bowl halftime show. On February 11, 2024, the renowned performance will occur at the Allegiant Stadium in Paradise, Nevada, just outside the famed Las Vegas Strip.

Kim Kardashian surprised Usher with a phone call to announce that he would be headlining at X (previously known as Twitter).

The appearance will mark Usher's second appearance at the Super

Bowl, following his 2011 performance alongside the Black Eyed Peas. Rihanna headlined the event last year and revealed her pregnancy to A\$AP Rocky during her unforgettable performance.

"It's an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can't wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they've seen from me before," Usher said in a statement.

He extended his gratitude, saying, "Thank you to the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I'll see you real soon."

Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation company is returning to produce the halftime show for the fifth consecutive year, also commended Usher. "Usher is



USHER

Photo courtesy of nnpa.org

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the ultimate artist and showman. Ever since his debut at 15, he's been charting his own unique course. Beyond his flawless singing and exceptional choreography, Usher bares his soul," Jay-Z stated.

He added, "His remarkable journey has propelled him to one of the grandest stages in the world. I can't wait to see the magic." The rapper,

53, and Usher, 44, have previously collaborated on tracks including "Hot Tottie," "Anything," and "Best Thing."

Super Bowl LVIII will be broadcast live on CBS on February 11, 2024. The iconic halftime show generally draws hundreds of millions of viewers, making it one of the most sought-after platforms in music.



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Preproduction model shown throughout. Actual production model may vary. Available late 2024.

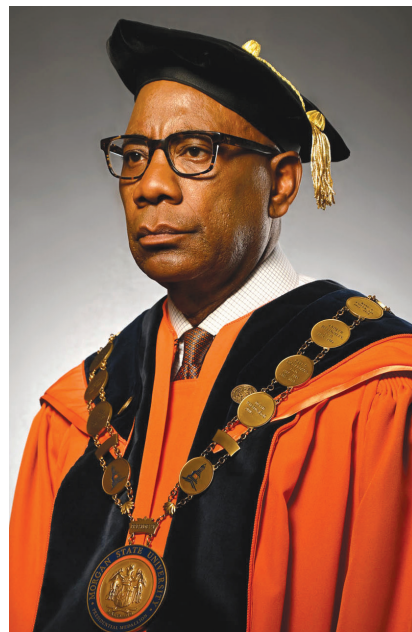
Morgan President David K. Wilson Selected for Prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education

By Morgan State University

Wilson, the First President of an HBCU to Earn the Honor, Joins Two Other Honorees Chosen for Outstanding Achievement in Pre-K–12, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning

BALTIMORE — The 2023 winners of the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education were announced September 27, 2023 by the McGraw Family Foundation and the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education. This year’s recipients, who include Debra Duardo, Barbara Oakley and David K. Wilson — three leaders in the educational field doing groundbreaking work in pre-K–12 classrooms, in lifelong learning and on university campuses, respectively — are being recognized for their extraordinary achievements. President Wilson, who is the first president of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) to earn this distinguished honor, was selected for the overall transformation he has led at Morgan, including historic advancement in retention and graduation rates and the University’s engagement with adult learners. He was also recognized for his vigorous national advocacy on behalf of HBCUs and support of degree attainment for Black students.

Each winner will receive an iconic sculpture in honor of their achievement and an award of \$50,000. President Wilson has committed to donating the entirety of his monetary award to Morgan State University in the service of students in need. The three honorees will also be acknowledged during a special ceremony held in New York City on Nov. 8.



David K. Wilson, Morgan State University President
Morgan State University

“It is an extreme honor to be recognized by the McGraw Family Foundation and the esteemed panel of judges for the consequential work we have devoted ourselves to at Morgan. Without the dedicated team that we have in place and the commitment they have for our shared educational goals, this would not be possible, so I humbly accept this award on their behalf and on behalf of the students we serve,” said President Wilson. “Morgan is undergoing an immense period of transformation and growth, and the important work that we’re engaged in has benefited from both. And while I am very appreciative of this acknowledgment for what we have accomplished thus far, there is still more work to be done for our students.”

Under President Wilson’s



The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education award
Morgan State University

leadership, Morgan has experienced historic enrollment and consistent student retention, with second-year retention rates exceeding 70% for more than a decade. A transformational president with significant accomplishments to his credit, he has overseen a dramatic increase in graduation rates by revamping the University’s advising model and adopting data-driven initiatives to identify students at risk of dropping out. He also spearheaded the creation and launch of Morgan’s new College of Continuing and Interdisciplinary Studies and its groundbreaking Morgan Completes You program, which serves adult learners who may have some college credit but no degree and which assists them in getting across the finish line to college completion, in some cases

by granting college credit for their prior learning experiences.

The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education celebrates innovation, inspiration and impact in education by recognizing outstanding individuals whose accomplishments are making a difference in the lives of students. This year is the first time a McGraw Prize has been awarded for lifelong learning, a recognition of our society’s changing need to help learners of all ages grow in and out of the classroom.

“The McGraw Prize was established in 1988 to honor my father’s commitment to education and literacy and today continues to shine a spotlight on innovative and outstanding educators who empower our students and enhance our society,” said Harold McGraw III, former chairman, CEO and president of The McGraw-Hill Companies. “This year’s winners demonstrated exceptional achievement over an extended period of time and in the face of unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID crisis. Their dedication to student success is both exceptional and inspiring.”

Through a public nomination process, McGraw Prize nominees were submitted for consideration by their peers, with winners then selected during three rounds of judging, including a final round by an independent panel of esteemed leaders in the field. Past winners have included teachers, professors, superintendents, university presidents, non-profit organization leaders, entrepreneurs and public officials. Many continue to play major roles across the education landscape.

To learn more, visit McGrawPrize.com.

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Jayne Hopson
Courtesy Photo

By Jayne Hopson and Deborah Kotz

Earlier this month, in Baltimore City, a 58-year-old patient with terminal heart disease became the second patient in the world to receive a historic transplant of a genetically-modified pig heart. He is recovering and communicating with his loved ones.

"We are continuing to pursue the pathway to clinical trials by providing important new data on pre-clinical research that has been requested by the FDA," said Dr. Mohiuddin. "The FDA used our data from these new studies, as well as our experience with the first patient, to determine that we were ready to attempt a second transplant in an end-stage heart disease patient who had no other treatment options."

This is only the second time in the world that a genetically modified pig heart has been transplanted into a living patient. Both historic surgeries were performed by the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) faculty at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). The first historic surgery, performed in January 2022, was conducted on David Bennett by UMMC surgeons, who are recognized as the leaders in cardiac xenotransplantation.

This new patient, Lawrence Faucette, had end-stage heart disease. He was deemed ineligible for a traditional

UM Medicine Faculty-Scientists Perform Second Historic Transplant of Pig Heart into Patient with End-Stage Cardiovascular Disease

transplant with a human heart by UMMC and several other leading transplant hospitals, due to his pre-existing peripheral vascular disease and complications with internal bleeding.

This transplant was the only option available for Mr. Faucette who was facing near-certain death from heart failure. The patient, who lives in Frederick, Maryland, is a married father of two and a 20-year Navy veteran and most recently worked as a lab technician at the National Institutes of Health before his retirement.

"My only real hope left is to go with the pig heart, the xenotransplant," said Mr. Faucette during an interview from his hospital room a few days before his surgery. "Dr. Griffith, Dr. Mohiuddin and their entire staff have been incredible, but nobody knows from this point forward. At least now I have hope, and I have a chance." His wife, Ann Faucette added: "We have no expectations other than hoping for more time together. That could be as simple as sitting on the front porch and having coffee together."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted emergency approval for the surgery on Friday, September 15 through its single patient investigational new drug (IND) "compassionate use" pathway. This approval process is used when an experimental medical product, in this case the genetically-modified pig's heart, is the only option available for a patient faced with a serious or life-threatening medical condition. The approval was granted in the hope of saving the patient's life.

Organs from genetically modified pigs have been the focus of much of the research in xenotransplantation, in part because of physiologic similarities between pigs and humans and nonhuman primates. Three



Bartley P. Griffith, MD, center, transplants a genetically modified pig heart to Lawrence Faucette during xenotransplant surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center, on September 20, 2023

Photo courtesy of UMSOM

genes—responsible for a rapid antibody-mediated rejection of pig organs by humans—were "knocked out" in the donor pig. Six human genes responsible for immune acceptance of the pig heart were inserted into the genome.

"We are once again offering a dying patient a shot at a longer life, and we are incredibly grateful to Mr. Faucette for his bravery and willingness to help advance our knowledge of this field," said Bartley P. Griffith, MD, who surgically transplanted the pig heart into both the first and second patient at UMMC. "We are hopeful that he will get home soon to enjoy more time with his wife and the rest of his loving family."

Now in its third century, the University of Maryland School of Medicine was chartered in 1807 as the first public medical school in the United States. It continues today as one of the fastest growing, top-tier biomedical research enterprises in the world—with 46 academic departments, centers, institutes, and programs, and a faculty of more than 3,000 physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals.



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Baltimoreans Craft Chemical-free Products, Popular Beard Kit for Men

By Andrea Blackstone

Sometimes business ideas are sparked unintentionally. This was the case for Sean Dorsey and Marissa Randolph, the co-owners of Peroma Essentials.

COVID-19 disrupted the world, but it did not stop Dorsey and Randolph's willingness to begin building their Baltimore-based business in 2021. Dorsey disclosed that Randolph's all-natural hair care products inspired them to embark upon a new undertaking.

"One day, I smelled a pleasant fragrance in Marissa's hair and asked her what it was. She explained that it was a hair oil recipe she created and had been using for a while. I recognized the quality of the product and convinced her to start a business. Subsequently, she studied how to manufacture skin care products, and we started a business," Dorsey said.

Randolph added, "While everything else seemed uncertain, it was as if there was no better time to start Peroma. I was employed as a correctional officer when we decided to begin this venture. All activities were canceled inside of the facility, so there was no better time for me to continue my research and create the products that I now sell every day."

Peroma Essentials sells all-natural products, including skin oil, hair oil, body scrub, facial scrub, body butter, shampoo, soap, beard oil, beard balm, beard wash and beard butter.

Dorsey further explained that he has a film, music production and graphics design background, in addition to having an MBA.

"Therefore, we combined her [Marissa's] manufacturing expertise with my skills in branding and marketing to create Peroma Essentials.

Marissa manufactures the product, and I handle all branding, marketing, and packaging," Dorsey said.

Their initial customer base began with family, friends and co-workers. The savvy business owners used customer feedback to fine-tune and enhance their product. After the launch of Peroma Essential's website, Dorsey said that he and Randolph began to generate additional customers.

In recent years, beards have become popular again. Peroma Essentials' Beard Kit is exclusively for the male population. However, men are not the only ones who purchase it.

"Our most popular product is the Beard Kit, which has garnered significant attention, especially from women buying it for their husbands or boyfriends," Dorsey said.

He added, "Other popular products include body scrubs, body butter and facial scrubs."

Baltimore has become a hub for creative and entrepreneurial people who embrace a startup mentality. Dorsey and Randolph grew up in East Baltimore. The lower-middle-income neighborhood was plagued by crime during that time. However, community figures guided them in a positive direction.

"We learned strength, resilience, creativity and ambition despite the challenges. We aspired to be business owners based on these experiences," Dorsey said.

The business owners currently vend at different locations, including Mount Vernon Marketplace every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 520 Park Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland. Additionally, products that are crafted by Peroma Essentials are sold online at <http://www.Peromaessentials.com>.

By day, Dorsey, a U.S. Army veteran,



Marissa Randolph, left, and Sean Dorsey vend at "Baltimore by Baltimore" Waterfront Holiday Makers Market in 2022. The co-owners of Peroma Essentials aim to provide all-natural skincare solutions, promoting a holistic and healthy lifestyle.

Larry Caudle

works as an IT operations manager. Randolph works at a podiatrist clinic. Aside from the pandemic, a big decision that small business owners like Dorsey and Randolph often must make is determining if a side hustle should be a full-time or part-time job.

"Balancing work and owning a business is very hard work but can be done. I often create lists of tasks that I need to complete as soon as I end my workday. This can be lists of products I need to make or which ingredients to pick up on my way home," Randolph said. "One of our biggest goals is to be able to live a comfortable life while focusing solely on Peroma. Continuing to work while owning a business comes from the need to have a contingency plan, just in case the unforeseeable happens."

Their primary goal is to expand nationwide with multiple locations,

offering all-natural skincare and educating people about wellness and healthier lifestyle choices.

Dorsey added, "One vital lesson is the importance of excellent customer service and support. Building strong relationships with customers can make or break a business. Effective time and resource management, along with structured planning and execution, are crucial for success in running a business."

In the interim, Dorsey and Randolph diligently push closer to their entrepreneurial goals by consistently working to grow their brand by vending and simultaneously selling products online.

"The most rewarding aspect is selling products that customers value and appreciate. Their positive reactions and repeat purchases are incredibly fulfilling," Dorsey said.

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Welcomes New Music Director Jonathon Heyward with a Three- Day Season Opening Gala Celebration

BALTIMORE – The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) excitedly launched incoming Music Director, Jonathon Heyward’s, historic tenure in an expansive three-day season opener. Featured performances by the world-renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem under the leadership of their new Artistic Director, Robert Garland, and world-class Baltimore Symphony musicians, the program paid tribute to the performing arts through a powerful display of ballet and orchestral music. With Maryland Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore serving as Honorary Gala Chairs, the BSO Gala provided an opportunity for all Marylanders to take part in the celebration at the BSO’s two year-round homes – The Music Center at Strathmore on Friday, September 22, 2023 the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on Saturday, September 23, 2023 and a Meyerhoff finale during a free community concert as a part of the return of Artscape 2023 on Sunday, September 24.

“Music elevates, validates, and inspires us every day — it is how we tell our stories. Thanks to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, a beautiful story is being told in Maryland, with music resounding on traditional and unexpected stages in every corner of our state,” said Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore. “We are proud to serve as Honorary Chairs of this year’s three-day, statewide gala celebration. We are so excited to honor the incredible power of the arts and give the warmest Maryland welcome to Jonathon Heyward.”

Guests enjoyed performances of Dvořák’s *Slavonic Dance*, Op 46, No. 1, Tchaikovsky’s *Mazurka* from Act III

of *Swan Lake*, Bach’s *Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor*, and a world premiere choreography of Hailstork’s *Symphony No. 1*, among other pieces. Members of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestra and BSO OrchKids were also highlighted in this exciting performance.

“Our three-day opening gala is a celebration of music’s ability to transcend boundaries and unite communities,” said Jonathon Heyward. “I am particularly honored to collaborate with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras, and the BSO OrchKids during these celebratory performances as these partnerships underscore my belief in the transformative power of the arts and its capacity to inspire and uplift. The opportunity to stand at the helm of such a distinguished orchestra, alongside the immensely talented BSO musicians, fills me with tremendous pride and I can’t wait to get started.”

The debut of a new music director is an exciting time for any symphony orchestra, but especially so as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra welcomes Jonathon Heyward, the Orchestra’s youngest and first-ever Black Music Director and the only American-born leader of any major American orchestra. His five-year tenure will begin with the BSO Gala celebration.

“I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and talent displayed during our first-ever, three-day Gala celebration,” said Mark C. Hanson, BSO President and CEO. “We are thrilled to gather once again, by bringing together the power of music and the grace of dance, as we embark on a new musical journey



Dance Theatre of Harlem Company
Christopher Duggan/Courtesy of Jacob’s Pillow



(l-r) Micah Ballard and Stephanie Rae Williams of the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH). Dance Theatre of Harlem performed *Suite for Variety Orchestra No. 1 and VII. Waltz No. 2 by Shostakovich with the BSO.*



(l-r) Claudia Ruiz-Valerio (Mom) and Jeimy I. Valerio-Ruiz, OrchKids. Members of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras (BSYO) and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) OrchKids performed *Hungarian Dance No. 1 by Brahms* during BSO’s GALA performance on Saturday, September 23, 2023

with Jonathon Heyward as our new Music Director. Because of the ongoing support and generosity of our cherished donors, the dedication of our community partners, and the enthusiasm of our loyal ticket

holders and supporters, the Gala and the exciting season ahead of us is possible.”

Insight About Suicide Prevention Month, Youth Trends

By Andrea Blackstone

Domenique Harrison, a licensed therapist, small business founder and Racial Equity strategist/consultant, owns The Racial Equity Marriage and Family Therapy Corporation. “The Racial Equity Therapist” has been a therapist since 2018. Harrison has also been doing racial equity work for the last 10 years. Harrison provided insight about suicide and the alarming uptick in children who lose their lives to suicide. She stated that young children, including those who identify as queer, non-binary, trans, disabled, Black indigenous people of color and immigrants are more at risk of dying by suicide.

Q: Why do you think the number of suicides among youth has increased?

A: With the increase of public and political dissent for gender-affirming care; the denouncement of racialized histories; the impact of forced social isolation, separation; job insecurity; financial instability; grief during the pandemic; and the physical and mental health ramifications for survivors; vicarious experiences of school shootings; and the challenging effect of climate change; suicides have risen and is now the second leading cause of death in individuals aged 10-14 and 20-34.

Q: Has the number of people in general who died by suicide increased over recent years?

A: According to the CDC, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the World Health Organization, the number of people who have died by suicide has increased steadily over the last few years. From 2001-2018,



Domenique Harrison, also known as The Racial Equity Therapist, is a race and relationship therapist, an identity equity strategist and owner of The Racial Equity Marriage and Family Therapy Corporation.

Leah Huebner, Huebner Headshots

the increase was about 35%; it reduced a bit between 2018-2020 but has been on the rise again from 2020 and beyond.

Q: What are some signs or symptoms of someone exhibiting suicidal thoughts that may lead to a crisis situation?

A: A few signs of someone exhibiting suicidal thoughts that may lead to a crisis include someone who conveys little care about their future; often minimizes/puts themselves

down or relates to others they are not deserving of life; extends thoughtful goodbyes to significant people in their life; [and someone who] has an active suicide plan that includes time, means, motive, and method; and [someone who] often talks about feeling suicidal. Some statements to be considerate of include: “I don’t deserve to live, or there is no point in me living,” “I wish I could just go to bed and not wake up anymore,” “You have always been my best friend, and I will miss you,” “I have thought about how I would kill myself,” “Life has been so hopeless, I’ve been feeling like ending it all.”

Additional symptoms and behaviors can coincide with mood disorders and depression. For example, an increase in alcohol or drug use, noticeable and dramatic behavior change, giving and throwing away, or donating valuable items, losing interest in activities someone once loved, writing a will or letter of what happens when the person dies, or planning their death, eating and sleeping more or less than usual and feeling sick, tired, or achy more than usual.

Q: What do you recommend that a parent should consider doing in a crisis?

A: When your child is in a crisis, parents and guardians should stay close to them, ask them direct and specific questions about how they are feeling, and provide a safe/brave space to share their fears, needs, questions and experiences. Parents who offer their children options on how they can offer them support can be both empowering and cherishing to children. Parents should not shy

away from talking about suicide and suicidal thoughts. Instead, they should start “the conversations” to lead their children to explore resources— whether therapy, support groups, a crisis text line, community and activity groups, or more.

Parents should also do their research, discuss with other parents in their community what their children are facing; engage the people who know and interact with their children in different spaces; self-reflect on their own physical and mental health experiences; identify and use their coping skills; and determine whether they are modeling the process of and coping with their mental health to their children supportively. Lastly, parents should remain patient, non-judgmental, curious and compassionate while extending gratitude to their children for sharing their crisis experiences.

Q: What are a few must-have resources?

A: A few must-have resources specific to Maryland include: The Life Crisis Center; The Grassroot Crisis Intervention Center; Community Crisis Services; the Baltimore County Crisis Response System; and the Baltimore Crisis Response.

Other essential National Organizations/Resources include: Trans LifeLine; The Trevor Project; Black Line; 988; NAMI; the CDC; The National Suicide Prevention Helpline; The National Institute of Mental Health; and The WHO.

Visit Harrison’s website via <https://theraciaequitytherapist.com/>.

Let's Make a Plan: Debt Management

Q&A with Joel Gamble

Baltimore Community Manager, Chase

If you've found yourself in credit card debt, you're not alone. According to TransUnion, the average American has \$5,474 in credit card debt—and the number of people in debt continues to climb. Joel Gamble, Baltimore Community Manager from Chase, discusses the importance of debt management, including key steps to take and how to rid yourself of any debt stress.

1) Why is managing debt so important?

Falling into debt is undoubtedly stressful—it can feel like you're carrying around a weight. If you're dealing with your own financial burden or a loved one's, long-term debt can distract you from living your regular day-to-day life. Finding a way to address your debt can be difficult, but it's important to manage it because you could spiral into further debt or other complicated situations if it's not addressed early.

2) What are some steps to take to manage debt and help get rid of that stress?

One way to jumpstart your debt management is by setting up a debt management plan, which is a roadmap for how you plan to repay your debts. Debt management plans can be made either on your own or through a credit counselor or debt relief program:

- *DIY Debt Management* – While it may be a major undertaking, managing debt on your own is not impossible. If you're looking to find ways to navigate your financial situation on your own (and perhaps set yourself up for better habits in the



*Joel Gamble, Baltimore Community Manager, Chase
Courtesy of JPMorgan Chase*

future), there are resources you can use to build your own plan.

- *Credit Counselor or Debt Management Company* – If you want support from a professional, a credit counselor is a professional who has experience in understanding finances and budgeting. As experts in credit, they can help you figure out your financial situation, provide budgeting tips and personalize a plan for you.

3) Can you walk us through the steps for building a debt management plan from scratch?

The first thing you need to do is have a thorough understanding of your current financial landscape. Start by listing out your outstanding balances and give your budget a detailed look. Check with your bank for free online tools that can help break down some of these numbers. For instance, the Chase Credit Journey tool helps you understand your current credit score and how



settling debts can help to improve it. You may want to ask yourself the following questions:

- What type of debt do you owe?
- Which debt would be cost-effective and helpful to pay off first?
- How much money are you spending on non-essential items?

4) If we want to go the professional route, is there anything we should keep in mind?

A credit counselor or a nonprofit debt management company can sit down with you and help you learn how your finances work, what actions to take and, other helpful advice. Working with a professional may come with negotiations about monthly payments, waiving fees and getting you a lower interest rate. When looking for professional assistance, make sure you consider the following:

- Are you working with a company

that has a long history with a good reputation?

- Are the costs/fees reasonable for the services they offer?

5) Any final thoughts you want to add?

Remember that no matter how much debt you are in or what your financial situation is, managing money can be stressful. Taking proactive steps—whether that's creating a debt management plan with a credit counselor or developing one yourself—can help empower you to start making financially healthier decisions and set yourself up for a better financial future.

For more information, tools and resources to help support your financial health anytime, visit chase.com/financialgoals, or better yet come down to the Mondawmin Community Center and visit me in the branch.



By Rosa Pryor

Hello everyone,
I'm hoping that you are feeling well, and for many of my fans who lost someone since we last talked, you have my condolences. You and your family are in my prayers. I will try to make you smile a little bit by telling you about some fun things to do.

Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore invites the whole community to "shake it" with live music featuring the Sagamore Band, cocktails that are shaken not stirred and ice cream shakes. There will be a lot of games and activities for the kids and adults such as inflatable skee-ball, marble painting, bubbles, balloons and caricatures. Harvest Fest will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 5-7 p.m. in the fields at Rosenbloom Owings Mills, located at 3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue in Owings Mills, Maryland. Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday. It comes five days after Yom Kippur. Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection that God provided for the children of Israel when they left Egypt. They celebrate Sukkot by dwelling in a foliage-covered booth and by taking the "Four Kinds," four special species of vegetation.

On Saturday, September 30, 2023 from noon to 7 p.m. at the Westminster Church, located at 400 I Street SW in Washington, D.C., their 21st Annual Jazz Preservation Festival will be held. All jazz lovers and musicians are welcome. Outside vendors will attend, and food, arts and crafts vendors will be available. For more information, call 202-484-7700.

The Oktoberfest & Two-Year Anniversary Party is coming up on Saturday, September 30, 11 a.m. and October 1, 2023 starting at noon at 1611

JEWISH COMMUNITY PRESENTS HARVEST FEST: SHAKE IT IN THE SUKKAH



Todd Marcus, Baltimore's own bass clarinetist who is also nationally recognized, joins forces with clarinetist Don Byron to perform together on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at Westfield Mall, located at 2002 Annapolis Mall Road in Annapolis, Maryland. For more information, call 443-771-5198. Performances will also be held and on Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at An Die Musik, located at 409 N. Charles Street in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, call 410-385-2638.

Guilford Avenue in Baltimore. It is a family friendly event featuring live music, games and activities all day. There will be stein holding, stein races, dance and German classes, sack racing, a photo booth, a yodeling contest, a sausage grilling station and a lot more. Check it out!

Do you remember Bernice Kelly? She is the young lady who dedicated her life to the art of modeling and who left an indelible mark on the modeling industry. Kelly had the privilege of working with the renowned Travis Winky at his modeling studio, which allowed her to travel extensively across the globe. From the fashion capital of Paris to the vibrant landscapes of South Africa, the picturesque beauty of Greece, the enchanting shores of Bermuda, and the historical wonders of Rome, Kelly's modeling career took her to some of the most breathtaking locations in the world. Kelly's dedication and hard work propelled her to become an integral part of Travis Wink's model studio, where she served as an assistant director and played a crucial role in shaping the studio's success for over



Blind Boys of Alabama will be performing at the Gordon Center for Performing Arts, located 3506 Gwynnbrook Avenue, Owings Mills, Maryland on Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 7-9 p.m. This six-time Grammy Award winning ensemble brings a musical treat event with their ground-breaking blend of gospel, jazz, and blues to the stage with an opening act called Kelly Bell Band.



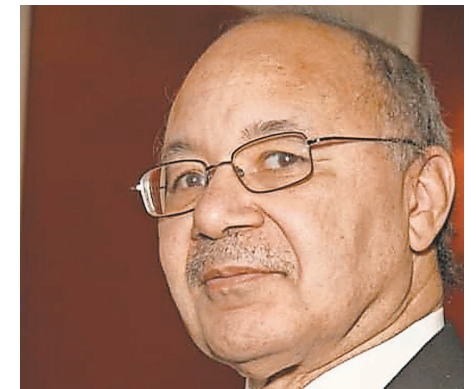
Bernice Kelly, Travis Winky's model, passed away on August 31, 2023. The celebration of life was Sunday, September 10th at the Delta Center.

four decades. Bernice Kelly passed away on August 30, 2023. She will truly be missed.

The family and friends of Reginald Haysbert send a message saying that they are deeply touched with the love and support that you have expressed. They understand that many are grieving with them and they give their sincere apologies for their inability to connect with everyone in so many places. They are grateful for the outpouring of condolence and sympathy through messages, cards, flowers and calls. Reginald Haysbert, Sr.'s funeral services will be held on Friday, September 29,



Dr. Phill Butts' Sextet with song stylist Larzine will be performing on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 7 p.m., at the Keystone Korner Baltimore Jazz restaurant and bar, located at 1350 Lancaster Street in Baltimore, Maryland.



Reginald Haysbert passed away on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 after being struck by a hit-and-run driver near Painters Mill Road and Owings Choice Court. The funeral was Friday, September 29, 2023.

2023 with family hour at 11 a.m. and the memorial service at noon at the Dreamlife Worship Center, located at 4111 Deer Park Road in Randallstown, Maryland. What a beautiful soul and a dear friend. I will miss him. May his soul rest in peace.

Well, my dear friends, I have to go take my medicine and rest a little bit. Remember, if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**

THE BALTIMORE TIMES

PRESENTS

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OCTOBER 18TH
8:30a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Keynote Speaker

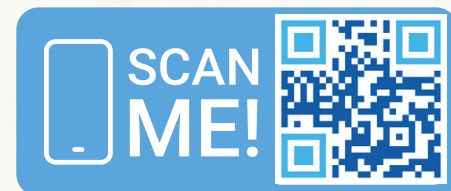
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Tonier Cain: 'Where There's Breath, There's Hope'

By Andrea Blackstone

Tonier "Neen" Cain recalls a time in her life when she ended up homeless in Annapolis, Maryland's streets for 19 years.

"I was married as a teenager. I was left in the streets really because the marriage failed," Cain said. "Nineteen years ago, I was eating out of a trash can, prostituting sometimes for just a few dollars to get a hit of crack with 83 arrests and 66 convictions, being told I was mentally ill. [I was] homeless for almost 20 years, losing all of my kids and being treated like there was no hope for me. Now, I have a vessel of hope for others. It can be done."

The trauma survivor transformed into an internationally recognized trauma-informed care expert. She emphatically stated that no one has the right to deem anyone hopeless. A trauma-informed approach to care acknowledges that healthcare organizations and care teams need to have a complete picture of a patient's past and present life situation to provide effective healthcare services, according to the Trauma-Informed Care Implementation Resource Center.

"No matter what the record says, no matter what they look like, smell like or whatever, because that was me," Cain said.

Today, Cain even works with judges. She shared that she is known in 60 countries around the world for her work, in addition to speaking and working in every state in our country, including Alaska and Hawaii.

"Her work has been used as a



Tonier Cain, an internationally recognized trauma-informed care expert from Annapolis, Maryland resides in Los Angeles, California. Cain is known for saying "Where there's breath, there is hope." After experiencing drug addiction and homelessness for nineteen years, she turned her life around.
EYEMagery

model in other countries for the establishment of their trauma-informed care protocols," per information provided on her website, TonierCain.com.

Cain's endeavors include CEO and founder of Purposeful Entertainment. The media production company produces television shows, films and documentaries. She also spearheads Tonier Cain International, a training company for trauma informed care. Additionally, Cain wears a publisher's hat through TCI

Publishing House. Neen Cares, Inc. is Cain's nonprofit. Through it, free services are provided for trauma survivors.

"I have days named after me by governors and mayors around the country," Cain said, while speaking from Los Angeles, California.

Despite Cain's accomplishments, her central issues predated drugs. Sexual abuse, molestation and neglect that occurred during childhood affected her. Cain's children were later conceived amid Cain's dark period.

"I think one of the worst things that's happened to me was the fact that my children were being rightfully taken away from me [by the Department of Social Services]," Cain said. "I was homeless. I was a drug addict and I would have these kids and I got used to the rapes. I would just push dirt off my shoulder, take the leaves out of my hair from being dragged in the woods and go back to the streets. I got used to drug dealers taking bats and breaking bones in my body for finding their stash, but I couldn't get used to somebody taking my child out of my arms, turning their back, never for me to see my kids again. There are no drugs out there to take away that pain."

Cain also stated that she was suicidal.

"Crack helped me to numb myself and stopped me from trying to continue to kill myself. Fortunately, I was able to find a healthier tool to stop the drugs. A lot of people didn't. I know a lot of people that use drugs that numb and they perished before

they could get help," Cain said.

"From 1990 to 2004, I had 30-some failed treatments," Cain said, explaining what happened next. "And what I mean by failed treatments is that I was getting treatments that weren't helping me, because I had trauma in my life that I needed to get to the core issues of it and they weren't."

Cain stated that she was terrified about losing another child, while in prison pregnant again.

"I cried out to God in a prison cell 19 years ago, and I've never had another desire to use drugs, alcohol or even smoke a cigarette," Cain said.

A turning point in Cain's life unfolded when she was able to go from prison to a trauma program in Baltimore called Tamar's Children program. Cain explained that she had been previously misdiagnosed as schizophrenic or bipolar. She was overmedicated. The program helped with her mental health. Cain was able to keep her daughter and form a secure attachment.

"I wasn't mentally ill. I had unresolved trauma. The drugs were my self-medication," Cain said. "I needed to be able to be delivered from all the things that happened to me, for me to be able to get healthy tools. The way that I was able to do that was through my faith in Jesus Christ. I tried the worldly ways, but I needed to be set free by Jesus Christ and He set me free!"

Visit <https://www.toniercain.com/> to learn more about Cain.

Injuries Pile Up for Ravens but There's No Excuse

By Tyler Hamilton

The Baltimore Ravens have a physical style of play that has impacted their roster over the last few seasons. They've had 10 or more players on injured reserve each season dating back to 2019. So far, 2023 is no different.

The Ravens added Tylan Wallace to injured reserve this week because of an injured hamstring. That takes them to six players and they're only three games into the season.

Take last week's 22-19 loss to the Indianapolis Colts for instance. The Ravens were without seven starters. Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (ankle); Justice Hill (foot); Marlon Humphrey (foot); Tyler Linderbaum (ankle); Odafe Oweh (ankle); Ronnie Stanley (knee); and Marcus Williams (pectoral) were all missing in action.

But Ravens coach John Harbaugh isn't making any excuses.

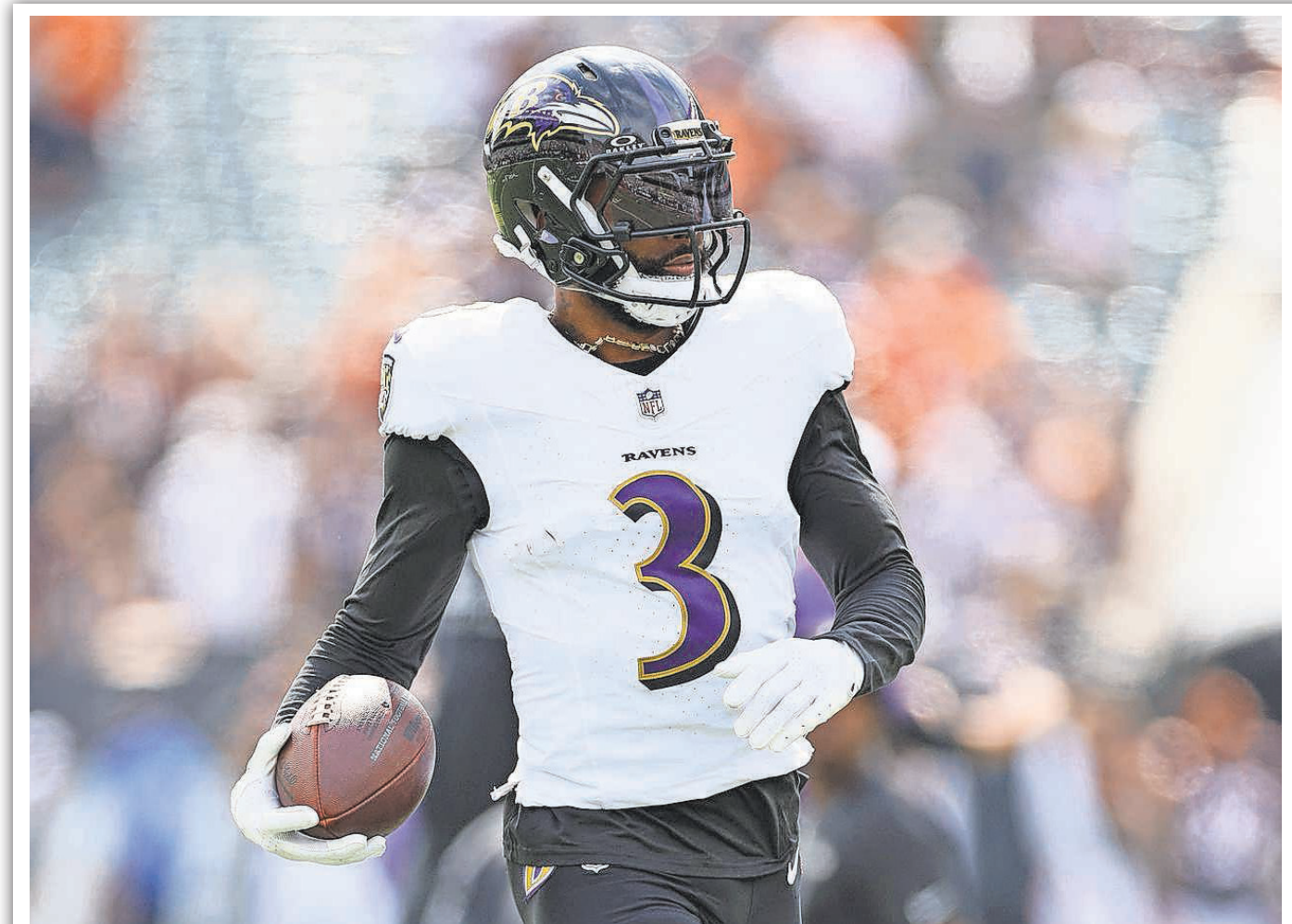
"It's not ideal that we have all these guys out because of injuries," Harbaugh said on Monday. "We're not making excuses for that. We trust the guys that are going in there to play well and our guys are going to go play their hearts out."

Sunday's game saw five more players get hurt including Wallace. Rashod Bateman (hamstring); Gus Edwards (concussion); David Ojabo (ankle); and Geno Stone (ribs) are the latest players to get hurt.

Our guys were competing, fighting [and] throwing their bodies around. It was a very physical game, and [they] were doing everything that they could to find a way to win the game.

Baltimore takes pride in being the kind of team that beats up on opponents. They play the game hard. The physical style of play lends itself to more injuries.

"If you look at each injury this year,



Odell Beckham Jr.

Courtesy of Getty Images/Andy Lyons

they've almost all been guys getting caught in piles," Harbaugh said when asked about the mounting injuries. "It's all been football contact-related injuries. That's what you're looking at this year. I don't think you can have a theme for that, other than it's football, and that's the way it's been."

As long as that style remains the same, injuries will continue to pile. It's up to the player personnel staff to keep the roster stocked with players that can step up when called upon. The running back group has been

depleted due to injury. J.K. Dobbins was already out for the year after tearing his Achilles. Injuries to Hill and Edwards made things even more grim.

Help could be on the way if running back Keaton Mitchell is added from injured reserve. Harbaugh didn't reveal whether or not that was a possibility on Monday. The Ravens also have Melvin Gordon on the practice squad. They elevated him to the gameplay roster last week. Kenyan Drake and Owen Wright are

other options.

Although they haven't made any major additions at running back, Baltimore added veteran Kyle Van Noy to help out at outside linebacker. Van Noy can fill in for Oweh if the ankle injury keeps him from playing next Sunday against the AFC North rival Cleveland Browns.

The offense is already banged up. Hitting the road to face an aggressive, tough Cleveland defense won't be any kind of break for the Ravens in Week 4.

USDA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR DFAP TO JANUARY 13, 2024**Unlock Financial Assistance for Farmers, Ranchers, and Forest Landowners**

Are you a farmer, rancher, or forest landowner who has faced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to January 2021? You may be eligible for financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP).

What is DFAP?

\$2.2 Billion in Financial Assistance: Thanks to Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act, USDA is allocating \$2.2 billion in financial assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs.

Eligibility: Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by USDA in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021, and/or are currently debtors with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021, are eligible for this program.

How Does it Work?

Multiple Ways to Apply: Producers have the option to apply via the e-filing portal at [22007apply.gov](https://www.22007apply.gov) or by submitting paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program's local offices.

Free Technical Assistance: Technical assistance is available for potential applicants through four regional hubs working closely with community-based organizations.

Local Resources: Local brick-and-mortar offices are being opened across the country to ensure easy access and personalized assistance. In-person and virtual events are also being held weekly, with state-by-state information on the website.

Important Deadline: Don't miss out! The deadline for eligible farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners to complete their application is January 13, 2024.

Learn More:

Website: For detailed information about DFAP, please visit our official website at [22007apply.gov](https://www.22007apply.gov). Our website provides comprehensive information on obtaining in-person or virtual technical assistance, supplementary program resources, and detailed program guidelines.

Call Center: Our call center, available at 1-800-721-0970, operates from 8 a.m. ET to 8 p.m. PT, seven days a week, except for Federal holidays. English- and Spanish-speaking agents are available, ensuring you get the assistance you need, when you need it.

Newsletter: Information about the program, resources, recent office openings, and local events across the country is also available through a weekly e-newsletter, which you can sign up for on the program site.

DFAP is all about giving you the support you deserve. Don't let this opportunity pass you by! Apply now to secure this financial assistance.



Farmers & Ranchers

Have you experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to January 1, 2021? You may be eligible for financial assistance.

The application is free. Technical assistance is free and available in-person and over the phone.

For more information visit website or call:
www.22007apply.gov or 1-800-721-0970
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