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Wells Fargo to Host Financial Literacy Workshop During CIAA Tournament Week



Upcoming CIAA Tournament Feature Several Participants from the Area



Veterans, Nonprofit Founders Support Students in Anne Arundel County Through Scholarships



Writer Reinforces Positive Thoughts in Black Children, Women

WELCOME TO BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott

Mayor of Baltimore



Welcome to Baltimore!

On behalf of the people of Baltimore, I am delighted to welcome you to the Food Lion 2024 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Men's and Women's Championship Basketball Tournament. This week, more than 150,000 people will descend on Baltimore for five action-packed days of basketball, entertainment, and networking.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association is the nation's oldest historically Black athletic conference, and this year marks the 49th anniversary of the tournament and the CIAA's 4th year in Baltimore. February is CIAA, and I encourage you to "Meet Us in Baltimore" to enjoy 26 basketball showdowns, Fan Fest, step shows, parties, Career Expo, Education Day, A-list performances, and more.

The CIAA is one of the most popular college basketball tournaments and one of the nation's top ranking sporting events. This year, the CIAA and Visit Baltimore have worked together to bring amazing HBCU sports, educational programming, and scholarships for the benefit of the community and student-athletes.

Baltimore is a city of rich culture, amazing cuisine, and friendly residents who welcome you with open arms. From historic streets to our art museums and sports stadiums, we are a city with impressive cultural attractions, and I am confident you will enjoy your stay here in Baltimore.

Thank you for joining us for what promises to be a memorable celebration of HBCU culture and community.

In service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

Greetings

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

President, Bowie State University



Greetings and Welcome to the 2024 CIAA Tournament!

As Chair of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors and president of Bowie State University, the host institution for the 2024 CIAA Tournament, I take great pleasure in welcoming basketball fans and supporters back to Baltimore to cheer on the student-athletes from our 13 member institutions competing throughout the week.

We are excited to return to Charm City for a third year to bring the legion of fans to patronize local businesses with great economic benefit to the city, in addition to the exciting and educational programs provided to benefit community youth, our next generation of leaders.

For Bowie State University, the oldest Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in the state of Maryland, returning to Baltimore also means returning to our roots. BSU began more than 150 years ago in the basement of a church located at the corner of Calvert and Saratoga Streets. Today we are ranked at #16 among the top HBCUs in the nation, and a Top 5 university in Maryland for graduating students in STEM fields. In the past year, we have introduced 13 new innovative programs to prepare our diverse student body for careers of the future.

The CIAA Tournament is like none other. It allows our student-athletes to display their skills on the court of the newly renovated CFG Arena, while also affording attendees opportunities to reunite with college friends, explore the richness of Baltimore and celebrate the culture and accomplishments of our community with the array of activities across the city.

I encourage you to take advantage of everything Baltimore and the CIAA Tournament have to offer. Participating in official CIAA activities helps fund scholarships and provides opportunities for students at each member institution.

Enjoy the Tournament and thank you for your continued support of the CIAA and our students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aminta H. Breaux'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Aminta H. Breaux

CIAA Basketball Tournament Returns to Baltimore

By Demetrius Dillard

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association is gearing up for its much-anticipated return to Charm City for its largest annual event – the cherished basketball tournament.

The week of electrifying basketball competition will be complemented by musical performances, a Fan Fest, step shows, parties, the Career Expo, Education Day, a financial literacy workshop and much more. CFG Bank Arena will host the event, as it did last year and in 2023 (then Royal Farms Arena). This year marks the 79th year of the basketball tournament.

“The CIAA Men’s & Women’s Basketball Tournament is a culmination of the hard work of our member institutions and our student-athletes, as well as a celebration of HBCU culture and community,” CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker said. “Through our relationships with partners like ESPN, Food Lion, Under Armour and others, we can continue to provide opportunities and access for the next generation.”

In 2023, Elizabeth City State won its first-ever women’s basketball CIAA championship, defeating Shaw 55-40. The Winston-Salem State men’s squad won their second title in three seasons with a 62-57 victory over Lincoln. As of Feb. 16, Lincoln holds the top ranking for men’s teams in the Northern Division (9-6 in conference play) while Claflin leads the Southern Division with an 11-4 record in CIAA play.

Correspondingly, the Fayetteville State women’s basketball team appears to be the team to be with a 14-1 conference record (21-2 overall). In the Northern Division, ECSU holds the top seed 16-9 CIAA). The brackets will be released once all teams complete the regular season at some point in the next week or so.

Themed “Meet Me in Baltimore,” the 2024 CIAA Tournament is a celebration of a few milestones. This year, the conference is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of NCAA Division II and the 20th anniversary of the Mister and Miss CIAA Scholarship Competition. Food Lion, CIAA’s official grocer and primary sponsor, is celebrating its 30-year alliance with the conference.

“As one of the country’s top 10 cities with the highest percentage of Black or African-American residents, one that honors and amplifies Black culture, Baltimore is the perfect destination for the CIAA Tournament,” CIAA officials said in a statement.

Last year, the CIAA Tournament generated an economic impact of \$29.6 million for Baltimore while supporting 1,504 part-time and full-time jobs. CIAA leaders and partners expect those numbers to rise this year.

This year’s tournament will also be an expanded version of ones held in the past with the addition of Bluefield State University, an HBCU in southern West Virginia. Bluefield State was last in the CIAA in 1955, making it nearly 70 years since the school has been a part of the conference.



CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker previews the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament during the conference’s introductory press conference on Jan. 25 at Under Armour’s headquarters campus in South Baltimore.

Photo credit: Mollye Miller Photography

BLUEFIELD STATE RETURNS TO CIAA



Bluefield State women's basketball coach Paul Davis is in his third season as head of the program. Photo credit: Bluefield State University Athletics

Bluefield State 'Back Home' with the CIAA After Long Hiatus

By Demetrius Dillard

For the first time in nearly 70 years, Bluefield State University's basketball teams will be competing in the cherished CIAA tournament.

Reuniting with the nation's longest-running African American athletic conference, and one of the most vibrant conferences in all of college sports, has been nothing short of rewarding for Bluefield State. It was a blessing "to come back home" and compete against the other 12 CIAA member institutions, said Derrick Price, who serves as Bluefield State's athletic director.

Located in Bluefield, West Virginia, BSU belongs to the CIAA's Northern Division – along with Virginia Union, Virginia State, Elizabeth City State, Bowie State and Lincoln. Bluefield State's men's and women's basketball teams will be going for their first-ever conference titles.

"Having that opportunity to compete in the CIAA – it was historic, it was a blessing and it was nothing but excitement for our university to say 'wow, we are actually back home in the CIAA,' and that means everything to us," said Price, whose official title is vice president of intercollegiate athletics.

"Our student-athletes are absolutely ecstatic to get a chance to just enjoy this. I think we'll be a little star-struck to start this thing off but it's not just about basketball; it's giving these students an opportunity to really branch out and do something beyond the game of basketball."

Paul Davis, the women's basketball head coach, also played and coached basketball at Winston-Salem State University, a longtime CIAA member institution. He's also been an assistant coach at Livingstone, another conference program.

It was essentially a dream come true when he found out he'd be back in the conference he has close ties to. "It was more like a dream come true, and not only for me; it was exciting for our student-athletes most importantly," said Davis, who is in his third year as head of the program.

"Atmospheres in the CIAA— you cannot simulate these atmospheres. You have to really be there in person to really know the electrifying feeling that the atmosphere gives."

From 2016-18, Davis was an assistant men's basketball coach at WSSU. From 2019-21, he was an assistant for Livingstone's women's program. From 2007-11, the 6-foot-9 Davis was a star forward for WSSU.

CIAA officials announced that BSU would be rejoining the conference in a statement released last summer.

"I am elated to welcome Bluefield State University home after a 68-year gap from being members of the CIAA!" CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams Parker said. "We look forward to renewing old rivalries and expanding our footprint to build on the legacies that impact our HBCU communities."

Junior guard Zaynah Robinson has been with BSU's women's basketball program since the 2021-22 season. She is one of the few athletes on campus with local ties. Robinson, a Severn (Anne Arundel County) native, starred at Fort Meade High School where she earned several honors. She is elated to play in front of former teammates, coaches, relatives and friends.

"I'm super excited to go back home. I'm actually not too far from Baltimore, so I'll definitely have a lot of family there," Robinson said.

"This will be my first time ever going to the CIAA Tournament to be there and to play, so I'm definitely excited to see that."

Robinson recorded eight points and three assists in 22 minutes against Lincoln on Jan. 31. As of Feb. 18, the Big Blue are 13-10 overall and have won their last three contests. The outcome of their final three matchups of the regular season three in the most favorable seed entering the basketball tournament.



Zaynah Robinson, a junior shooting guard from Severn (Anne Arundel County), looks forward to returning to the area to compete in front of family, friends and old teammates. Photo credit: Bluefield State University Athletics

Led by Jordan Hines with 19.1 points per game, BSU men's team is 7-19 overall and 4-11 in conference play. The women's team holds a No. 4 ranking in the Northern Division with an even 7-7 record in CIAA play.

Bluefield State, one of two HBCUs in West Virginia, was a part of the CIAA from 1932 to 1955. Over the last seven decades, the school has been with other conferences and was an independent Division II program for about a decade prior to being readmitted to the CIAA.

Over the past four years, the school has brought back about a dozen sports and plans to add a cheerleading team to its athletic program for the 2024-25 academic year.

"Bluefield State College is excited and honored to be a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association," Bluefield State President Robin Capehart said.

"Our student-athletes, teams, alumni, and every member of Big Blue Nation will benefit from membership in this outstanding conference."



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From left — Dewey Norwood, Senior Lead Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, Enterprise HBCU Strategy at Wells Fargo; CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker; Julius Grant, Vice President, College - Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment. Photo Credit: Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo to Host Financial Literacy Workshop During CIAA Tournament Week

By Demetrius Dillard

Since forming a partnership with the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Wells Fargo has aimed to use every opportunity possible to impact the conference's student-athletes.

The next opportunity Wells Fargo officials will have to connect directly with CIAA student-athletes will be next week, February 27, 2024, when the company will host a financial literacy breakfast as part of one of the featured events during tournament week.

Wells Fargo executive Dewey Norwood will facilitate the workshop along with colleague Cecil Burrowes. Norwood serves as the senior vice president of Wells Fargo's external engagement team in diverse segments, representation and inclusion. He also manages the company's enterprise HBCU strategy and is tasked with leading Wells Fargo's partnership with the CIAA.

Similarly, Burrowes' title with Wells Fargo is senior lead of business growth and acquisition strategy consultant.

The financial literacy breakfast, which will run similarly to a workshop, will be a two-hour seminar that will discuss the importance of financial knowledge, education and skills with regard to sound money management.

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In June 2021, the sports world was set ablaze when the NCAA implemented an interim policy allowing student-athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness. Since that time, collegiate sports have undergone a seismic shift.

After a decades-long debate on whether college athletes should be paid, the implementation of the NIL policy has been life-changing for a number of student-athletes. Now, college basketball players, football players, baseball and softball players, and other athletes can capitalize off the following: monetizing social media accounts; signing autographs; holding camps or lessons; entrepreneurial ventures; participating in advertising campaigns and more.

Burrowes cited research indicating that financial deals for student-athletes in 2022 were near \$1 billion. That figure is expected to reach \$3 billion to \$5 billion by the next five years, he pointed out.

With the opportunity to make massive amounts of money, young people need direction and guidance so that they can make well-informed decisions hence, the purpose of the financial literacy breakfast. "Our goal here as it relates to the student experience around name, image and likeness – we understand that the NCAA will be mandating an increased demand from programs to ensure that their student-



Dewey Norwood (front-center), Senior Lead Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, Enterprise HBCU Strategy at Wells Fargo, leads a financial literacy workshop during CIAA Tournament week in 2023. Photo Credit: Wells Fargo

athletes are being financially educated... that precipitated this educational program that's being set up," said Burrowes, the father of a student-athlete.

"We recognize this as an opportunity to provide support."

CIAA student-athletes, coaches and administrators will be invited to the seminar, which will also provide tips on how to manage finances and budgeting advice for students' college and professional careers.

The event will be spearheaded by Our Money Matters, a program designed to develop and support access to financial education for minority and underserved communities, Wells Fargo officials said.

"I think banks, in general, are recognizing there's a new level playing field for our student-athletes and we have to step up on the demand of assisting individuals that can avoid [possible] pitfalls the best we can," said Burrowes, who's been involved in the Wells Fargo financial literacy workshop dating back to the CIAA's tournament in Charlotte. "Our overall goal is to continue educating students on the changing landscape that they're experiencing."

Burrowes added that he will be making a special announcement about the launch of a financial empowerment resource that Wells Fargo will be providing. He will share more details on the newly launched platform at the financial empowerment breakfast, which played a large factor in his decision to attend.

"It's a comprehensive, mobile-first learning platform that we've been leveraging since 2015, which is a free service to benefit those HBCUs and colleges in which we have a relationship," he said. "That drove me to attend the breakfast."

The Wells Fargo financial literacy breakfast workshop is scheduled for Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center.

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Derwin Lilly, a Giant Among Baltimore City Hoops Legends

Despite his small stature, the former Walbrook High and Virginia Union star was a David in a sport dominated by Goliaths

By Chris Murray

Former Walbrook High/Virginia Union University basketball star Derwin Lilly may have only been 5'8", but to many of the players he played with and against in high school and city youth basketball leagues like Project Survival in the mid-1970s, he stood tall.

"He was a great player, a great point guard," said Dewayne "Hot Dog" Wallace, who played high school basketball at Dunbar and his college basketball at the University of Pittsburgh. "He was able to see the court, the whole court. He was a great student of the game. If he was 6-3, 6-4, he would have made it to the (NBA)."

Lilly, a native of West Baltimore, honed his skills in youth basketball leagues like the Baltimore Neighborhood League and Project Survival, which focused on both basketball and education. Everyone who saw him play was impressed by him, Wallace said.

Former Dunbar assistant coach, Kevin Parson, said Lilly was outstanding on both ends of the court.

"A lot of people don't give him credit for his defensive skills," Parson said. "He was able to create turnovers, if not steal the ball, and then start the (fast break)."

While playing basketball at East Baltimore's legendary "Madison Dome" in 1973, Lilly caught the eye of Madison 15 and under coach Henry "Sarge" Powell, who was astounded by the way the diminutive point guard dribbled through his full-court press.

We had a diamond and one press where we attacked the point guard and tried to force [him] to one side or the other and trap him with the ball,"

said Powell, who coached future NBA stars Carmelo Anthony and Sam Cassell. "But [Lilly] was very smart and he had a lot of court awareness. He beat our press by dribbling through it and that impressed me an awful lot. ... I kept saying to myself 'who in the hell is this guy handling the ball like this?'"

Powell was so enamored with Lilly's ball-handling skills that he offered him a chance to play for his squad. While he didn't want to join at first, Flash Gordon, his longtime mentor and coach at the Lafayette Recreation Center, convinced him to do so.

"Flash said 'naw, son you need to come up to a different level' and that's how I ended up playing for Madison 15 and under. ... We won the whole city-wide BNBL championship (in 1973)," Lilly said.

Reflecting on his youth, high school, and collegiate basketball days, Lilly said he never allowed his height to hinder his ability.

"As far as growing up, I always played older, so my size and height never was a factor," Lilly said. "Flash taught me the fundamentals. I worked hard on my game. Because of my handle, I was able to get any on the court I wanted to, but I just worked hard on my game, and I never took shortcuts."

Lilly made the Baltimore Sun's All-Met team in both 1975 and 1976 during his days at Walbrook High School in West Baltimore and opted to attend Virginia Union University, a CIAA Division II school in Richmond, despite getting interest from other schools.

The competition in the CIAA and the MEAC (Mideast Athletic Conference) was fierce, Lilly said.

Continued on Page 11



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BALTIMORE HOOPS LEGEND



Derwin Lilly in the middle with his Virginia Union teammates after winning the 1980 CIAA Championship. From left to right: Larry Holmes, Michael Lenny, Derwin Lilly, Keith Valentine and David Lewis. Photo Courtesy of Virginia University Archives and Special Collections.

When I got to go down there and visit, the arenas used to be packed,” he said. “You had to bring it. It was show time. Basketball in the CIAA and the MEAC (Mideast Athletic Conference) was tough.”

At Virginia Union, Lilly was a starter and an All-CIAA guard all four years. He also took the Panthers to two CIAA championships and two trips to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

After his freshman season, Lilly was selected to be on a CIAA All-Star team that toured Africa. In his senior season, he scored 376 points and averaged 12.5 points a game to lead Virginia Union to a national title.

“[Lilly] was a coach on the floor,” said former Virginia Union head coach Dave Robbins, who led the Panthers to that championship in 1980. “He rarely turned [the basketball] over. He did everything I asked as far as running the team. If he didn’t play well, we wouldn’t have won the national championship.”

Added Parson: “One of the things about the (Virginia Union) team he played on is that they had a lot of quickness and [Lilly] added to that as a point guard.”

Lilly’s performance as an undersized point guard at Virginia Union opened the door for similar guards and led Robbins to recruit Muggsy Bogues, who went on to have an outstanding college career at Wake Forest before heading to the NBA.

When he returned to Baltimore following the championship season, Lilly was lauded by his friends, fellow CIAA alumni players and his fellow former city league players for his success. It was a shared victory, he said.

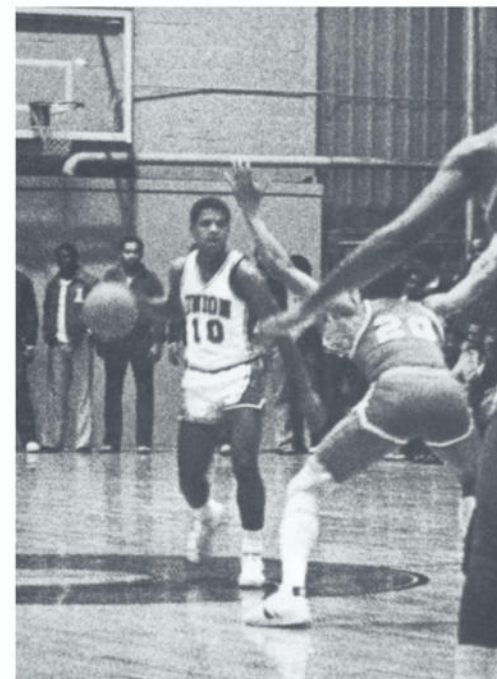
“They knew how tough it was just to win a CIAA championship because before we used to talk about it,” Lilly remembered. “Everyone knew the journey that you had to go through.”

Although Lilly didn’t turn pro, his work ethic took him far. After his college basketball days ended, Lilly got his degree in accounting from Virginia Union and worked as an accountant at the National Aquarium in Baltimore and as an auditor for the Maryland Department of Education.

He and his wife Ella have two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. One of his grandchildren, Samuel Scott, is a redshirt freshman on Virginia Union’s basketball team.

For Lilly, the triumph is that he and his siblings — two sisters and three brothers — earned their college degrees. His mother, Dorothy, instilled the importance of getting an education in all of her children and made it happen even after her husband James died when Lilly was 14.

“My mother and father never graduated but they were hard on us ...It was about education, education, education,” Lilly said. “Education is so important because everybody ain’t going pro, so you’ve got to get the most out of this.”



Two-Time All-CIAA star Derwin Lilly (No. 10) led Virginia Union to the 1980 NCAA Division II National Championship. Photo courtesy Virginia Union University Archives and Special Collections.



Bowie State women's basketball head coach Shadae Swan is looking to lead the Bulldogs to their first conference title in 25 years. Photo credit: CIAA

Upcoming CIAA Tournament Feature Several Participants from the Area

By Demetrius Dillard

As has become commonplace, the upcoming CIAA Basketball Tournament will include a number of participants, including 11 student-athletes and one coach.

Baltimore City is home to some of the finest basketball talent the world has to offer. Some are in the professional ranks, whether it be the NBA, WNBA or overseas. Many are competing at the collegiate level, whether it be a Division I, II or III program. Many went on to coach, lead athletic programs and join the executive ranks in sports organizations.

The area has birthed numerous gifted HBCU ball players, some of whom attended CIAA institutions.

From the days of Stanley Tucker and Morgan State in the 1960s and 1970s to the days of Choo Smith, Arthur Lewis and Omarr

Smith with Bowie State in the late 1990s and early 2000s – Baltimore has remained a juggernaut when it comes to producing legendary basketball figures.

And though Earl “The Pearl” Monroe isn’t from Baltimore City, he was drafted No. 2 overall in the 1967 NBA Draft for the Baltimore Bullets. He was arguably the greatest basketball player to emerge from the CIAA after a decorated career at Winston-Salem State University where he led the team to a national title during the 1966-67 season.

Kendall Peace-Able, head coach of the well-regarded Poly girls’ basketball team, is a Lincoln University alumna.

As CIAA participants with local ties prepare to return home, not only will they compete to keep postseason hopes alive, but they’ll anticipate the reunion with relatives, friends, old coaches and teammates.

Here are the dozen participants featured in this year's tournament who are from Baltimore:

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coach Shadae Swan (Bowie State): The ninth head coach in BSU women's basketball program history, Swan is now in her eighth season in that role. She was named the CIAA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in 2019, which is the season she led the Bulldogs to an impressive 22-6 overall record. Swan starred for St. Frances Academy before playing at Goucher College. The BSU women's team has not won a conference title since 1999, and Swan plans to erase that 25-year drought in her return home starting Feb. 26, 2024.

Tsion Smith (Bowie State): Smith, who had a decorated career at Mt. Carmel High School, is in her second year with Bowie State. She registered a season-high 12 points against WSSU on Dec. 14, 2023.

Kaitlyn Weaver-Adams (Bowie State): The sophomore center has only appeared in one game for the Bulldogs this season. She competed for the highly regarded Team Thrill youth basketball organization and St. Frances.

Khalia Turner (Bowie State): The redshirt sophomore competed alongside Adams at St. Frances. Turner, a freshman guard, has already made significant contributions this season for BSU. In the six games she's played in so far, she's averaging about three points and two boards.

Kaziah Akinniyi (Lincoln): Akinniyi, a former Poly standout, is a 5-foot-9 sophomore. She recorded eight points at Bowie on Jan. 20.

Riley Holliday (Lincoln): The 6-foot-2 freshman was a major contributor in a close win over Bloomfield earlier this season where she scored a season-high 10 points. Holliday also spent her high school career at Poly.



Caleb Johnson is one of Bowie State's leaders this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Caleb Johnson (Bowie State): Similar to last season, Johnson is one of his team's primary leaders. The 6-foot-2 junior is having a respectable year for Bowie State with averages of 11.6 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.3 assists on 34.4% shooting from the 3-point line. Caleb is having a fairly productive season for the Bulldogs. In a recent 73-70 overtime win at home against Virginia Union, Johnson scored a team-high 18 along with six rebounds. He played for Archbishop Curley in high school.

Tyler Buckhanon (Bowie State): Now a second-year player for the Bulldogs, Buckhanon has an expanded role compared to last year. Of the 19 games he's played he has started in nine, totaling 2.3 points and 2.6 boards on 45% shooting from the field. The 6-foot-9 sophomore earned several honors as a standout at Bath County High School in Kentucky.

Detwan Montague (Bowie State): Montague is a 6-foot-8 redshirt sophomore who played at St. Frances Academy and Springdale Prep in Carroll County prior to his arrival at Bowie State. He has appeared in 11 games for the Bulldogs so far this season.

Kaleb Glasper (Saint Augustine's): Though his minutes are down from last season, Glasper's scoring average has increased. He tallied season-highs of 13 points and six rebounds against Chowan. Glasper starred for Reservoir High School in Howard County before competing for the Falcons.

Dalyn Brandon (WSSU): Brandon, a 6-foot-5 junior guard, is a transfer from Allegany College of Maryland in Cumberland. In his two seasons at Allegany, Brandon was a consistent force on offense as he tallied 29 points per game. Prior to competing at Allegany and WSSU, Brandon was a standout at Archbishop Curley in East Baltimore. So far for the Rams, his minutes have been limited.

Donovan Leak (Livingstone): Leak is in his second year with the Blue Bears, and his production has increased slightly since his rookie campaign. Up to this point in the season the 5-foot-11 guard is averaging about four points and two rebounds per game. He played at Shiloh High School in Snellville, Georgia, before committing to Livingstone.

The 2024 CIAA Basketball Tournament tips off on Feb. 26 at CFG Arena in downtown Baltimore. The conference will likely release the tournament brackets over the next week or so as teams conclude the regular season.



Tsion Smith is a second-year player with the Bulldogs.



Dalyn Brandon is a 6-foot-5 guard who transferred from Allegany College.



Livingstone Donovan Leak is in his first year with the program.

Photo credit: CIAA (All Photos)



Delores Duncan-White, Harold Lloyd, III and Shelley C. White, III. An annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 to raise funds for academic scholarships that are awarded to students through the Shelley C. White, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Courtesy Photo

Veterans, Nonprofit Founders Support Students in Anne Arundel County Through Scholarships

By Andrea Blackstone

Harold Lloyd, III was reared in Annapolis Maryland's Robinwood community. He was the inaugural Shelley C. White, Jr. Memorial Scholarship recipient in 2016. The nonprofit was founded in 2015 by Delores (DeDe) Duncan-White and Shelley C. White, III. Duncan-White, a retired Navy Commander and Assistant Athletic Director, Academics for Student Athletes at the Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA), continues to support young people like Lloyd to reach their academic goals.

"I graduated from Frostburg State University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Law & Society and I obtained my master's degree from Human Services. I am currently in the process of obtaining my doctoral degree in educational and organizational leadership from Holy Family University," said Lloyd, while reflecting on his financial scholarship. "It made a difference, due to the fact I was oblivious of the financial process of college prior to my freshman year. This scholarship helped pay for my first year of school."

Lloyd remarked that he is grateful for what "Ms. DeDe and the organization" did for him.

"It was imperative and played a pivotal role in my educational journey, especially since there are millions of students who are attending or attended college with little to no financial help."

Duncan-White's college years are rooted in Southern University and A&M College. The HBCU is located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While running a nonprofit, the Annapolitan also helps students to develop academic strategies for success, while navigating and taking advantage of the academic resources that are available to them.

"I work with all 36 varsity sports programs at the USNA to help athletes maintain academic eligibility to play sports and graduate, so they can receive a commission in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps," said Duncan-White. "In my current capacity, I feel it is important to assist student athletes with figuring out the balance between academic and athletic requirements. Ensuring they are academically sound and have an organized plan is the key element that will allow them to perform in their respective athletic endeavors."

Duncan-White further explained that her late husband retired from the Annapolis City Police Department and passed away May 22, 2015. His passion and legacy for helping people in general, but particularly youth, is underscored through the Shelley C. White, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

"He was consistently aware of the overall climate in the community by sponsoring several youth programs focused on tutoring and mentoring at-risk and disadvantaged youth. My son (Shelley C. White, III) and I wanted to do something positive to keep his legacy alive and emulate him. We thought the best way to do this was by presenting an annual educational scholarship in his name, whose mission centered around youth engagement and community service," said Duncan-White.

Shelley C. White, III attended the United States Naval Academy.

According to the White family's nonprofit page, the cofounder of the Shelley C. White Jr. Memorial Scholarship "earned his Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a commission as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy. He also was a member of the Naval Academy football team, where he was a four-year letterman and a part of the winningest class in school history. In 2018, he was inducted into Spalding's Athletic Hall of Fame."

The White family's work combines preserving the memory of Shelley C. White, Jr. with contributing to the career development of young men and women.

"The nonprofit supports graduating seniors in Anne Arundel County by providing them financial assistance in their pursuit of higher education in the form of college or trade school," said Duncan-White.



Delores (DeDe) Duncan-White co-founded Shelley C. White, Jr. Memorial Scholarship with her son, Shelley C. White, III.

Photo credit: Linda McCarthy of Visual Concepts

We typically will award one to two scholarships annually depending on how many applicants we have and how competitive the applications are."

One to two thousand dollars is awarded per recipient. Some requirements include being a graduating senior from a public high school in Anne Arundel County who is pursuing college or trade school.

Duncan-White added, "The application process is underway now and can be found on our website at www.shelleywhitejr.com and via high school guidance counselors. The application deadline is Friday, April 12, 2024."

A 2024 Denim & Diamonds Scholarship Gala will be held by the nonprofit on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 8 p.m. at 2 Pythian Drive in Edgewater, Maryland.

"People should support this cause because they are making an impact in the community and helping a plethora of students with their financial situation as they take on their educational journey," said Lloyd.

Visit www.shelleywhitejr.com for more information.

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M O R G A N . E D U



Author Brianna Laren Photo credit: Jodie Brim

Writer Reinforces Positive Thoughts in Black Children, Women

By Andrea Blackstone

Another Valentine's Day has come and gone, but long after flowers wilt and candy is eaten, does a celebration of self-love continue at home for many Black adults and children?

Joshua A. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), said that "As of 2018, suicide became the second leading cause of death in Black children aged 10-14, and the third leading cause of death in Black adolescents aged 15-19. By combining data from 2001 to 2015, researchers were able to examine suicides among children ages 12 and younger and found that Black children were more likely to die by suicide than their white peers."

Are adults paying enough attention to the state of Black mental health—from young children to Black adolescents? According to Mental Health America, "Women are the heads of household in roughly 30 percent of Black and African American homes, compared to 9 percent of white homes."

Considering the extra heavy emotional toll that stress can have on African Americans and single parents, making a conscious effort to build up young children to stay habitually positive is a wise investment in them. Brianna Laren stands among writers who pen books promoting empowerment, resilience and the celebration of Black excellence to align with her purpose in life.

"I firmly believe that we all possess unique gifts and talents, and mine happens to be the ability to uplift and empower others through writing," Laren said. "Ultimately, I see writing as not just a passion, but a purpose that allows me to change the narrative and amplify voices that are often marginalized."

The North Carolina-based writer who grew up in Washington, D.C. has penned numerous books. "Breebe's Brand New Baby Brother;" "Pretty Pretty Black Girl"; and "Black Boys Deserve Flowers" are her empowering children's works. "Edge Control for the Soul" is a book of poetry that speaks to Black women's journey of self-discovery. "Save Your Edges Workbook" focuses on mental health, self-love and reaching one's goals and dreams. It was included on Essence Magazine's 21 books We Can't Wait to Read in 2021, according to Laren.

The mother of a 5-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy, has made an intentional effort to utilize the healing power of words.

"Pretty Pretty Black Girl started out as a way to heal the little girl inside of me. I wrote the words I needed to hear most when I felt like I didn't matter. It blossomed into affirmations that I pour into my daughter daily because I never want her to feel like I did," Laren said.

The writer also pointed out that she loves watching her children grow and become their own little people. They teach her something new every day, including things about herself and her own personal journey outside of motherhood.

She added that she penned "Black Boys Deserve Flowers" because there are so many books, shows and campaigns geared towards girls. She wants her son to always know that he is also amazing, loved and valued. "It is a collection of affirmations and positive messages designed to inspire confidence and self-esteem. Through the power of words, the book encourages Black boys to embrace their identity, dream big, and stand tall with pride," she said, stating that the book was released on October 24, 2023. "The target audience is Black boys and young men as well as teachers, mentors, or parents that need resources to promote self-esteem, resilience, and emotional intelligence among Black boys. The age range for marketing purposes is 0-8 but my hope is that it will also speak life into the little Black boy that lives inside of every Black man."



Social media personality Tabitha Brown holds Brianna Laren books during Brown's Target collection launch in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. Courtesy photo



Brianna Laren, center, with her children. Photo credit: Still Shots Photography

"Pretty Pretty Black Girl" was also released in 2023. The children's book celebrates Black girl magic filled with beautiful illustrations and positive affirmations that help Black girls feel appreciated, loved and confident. The book is intended for girls ages 0-8. However, young women, teachers, mentors, or parents who need resources to promote self-esteem, resilience and emotional intelligence among Black girls are included in the target audience.

She teaches both of her children that "it is not enough to know you deserve flowers. You have to also be willing to accept them." Laren is giving her children their flowers by building them up.

She added, "They are very intelligent, funny, and amazing and I am blessed that I get to be their mom."

Laren's books can be purchased by visiting www.BriannaLaren.com and www.Amazon.com.



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'Crisis Unveiled: Removing the Stigma of Poor Mental Health in Black America'

By Jayne Hopson

The health and well-being of Black youth and adults in the United States is a matter of urgent concern, particularly when it comes to mental health. Data from the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health paints a troubling picture: Black individuals, both young and old, are more likely to experience persistent symptoms of depression compared to their white counterparts.

Yet, despite the higher prevalence of mental health issues, there is a significant disparity in seeking and receiving mental health care. This discrepancy is not just a health issue; it is a stark reflection of the systemic inequalities that pervade American society. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) there has been an alarming rise in suicide rates among Black youth. The CDC findings underscore the severity of this crisis. Since 2017, suicide has emerged as the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10-19 years, with rates climbing faster among Black youth than any other racial or ethnic group over the past two decades.

A staggering 60% increase in suicide rates has been observed in Black males aged 10-19 years.

Even more distressingly, in 2020, suicide was the leading cause of death for Black girls aged 12 to 14.

These statistics are not just numbers; they represent lives lost, potential unfulfilled, and families shattered.

Several factors contribute to the higher suicide rates among Black youth, including community violence, socioeconomic stress, perceived discrimination, stigma, interpersonal and family conflict. "These factors are more predictive of suicide in Black children and adolescents than in their white peers," says Dr. Urlick Vieux, an adult and child psychiatrist. Additionally, "Black adults living below the poverty line are more than twice as likely to report serious psychological distress than those with more financial security."

However, despite the clear need for mental health services, only one in three Black individuals with mental illness receive treatment. The barriers to seeking help are multifaceted, says Dr. Vieux. "Financial constraints and fear of stigmatization are significant impediments."

"There is a pervasive belief within Black communities that symptoms of mild depression or anxiety would be

dismissed or labeled as "crazy." This fear of judgment prevents many from seeking the help they desperately need," said Dr. Vieux.

Moreover, there is a critical shortage of therapists who are Black or who possess a deep understanding of the cultural and social nuances that affect Black individuals. Less than 2% of American Psychological Association members are Black, leading to concerns about the cultural competence of mental health care providers.

Studies have shown that Black mental health patients often prefer to be treated by professionals who share their racial identity, as it is a crucial factor in establishing a positive therapeutic relationship. The lack of culturally responsive care contributes to disparities in help-seeking, diagnosis, and the premature termination of treatment. In addition, many Black Americans turn to their church for counseling and support. While religious communities can provide valuable support, they cannot replace the specialized care provided by mental health professionals.

Addressing these disparities requires a multi-sided approach. It is essential to increase the representation of Black professionals in the mental health field and ensure that all mental health care providers receive training in cultural competence.

Public health campaigns should aim to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues within Black communities. Furthermore, policies must be enacted to make mental health care more accessible and affordable for all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Recommendations for overcoming the stigma of poor mental health in Black communities:

- **Education and Awareness:** Increasing awareness and education about mental health can help dispel myths and misconceptions. This includes understanding that mental health issues are common and treatable conditions, not weaknesses.
- **Community Engagement:** Leverage community leaders, churches, and organizations to speak out and normalize mental health discussions within the community. These trusted voices can play a crucial role in changing perceptions.
- **Seek Cultural Competence in Mental Healthcare:** Training for healthcare providers on cultural competence can improve their ability to effectively and sensitively address mental health issues in the Black community.
- **Social Support Networks:** Encourage the development of social support networks that offer understanding and encouragement for those dealing with mental health issues.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Support policies and initiatives that aim to improve mental health services and reduce disparities in the healthcare system.

Digital and Social Media Campaigns: Use social media and digital platforms to spread awareness and counteract stigma. Campaigns can reach a wide audience and create spaces for open dialogue.

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THE BALTIMORE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA CONCERT IS FREE!

By Rambling Rose

Hello everyone,

I am hoping everyone is well on your end. I try very hard to bring to you fun and happy things to go and see, but it seems like every week, someone in our community who was well-known to many of us has passed away. Terrible situation! But I do have some happy things to talk about as well. Check this out.

David Silberberg, the Publicity Coordinator of the Baltimore Philharmonia Orchestra, has informed me that the upcoming Baltimore Philharmonia Orchestra concert will be at the Towson United Methodist Church, located 501 Hampton Lane, in Towson on Sunday February 25, 2024 under the direction of Music Director/Conductor Dimitar Nikolov and Assistant Conductor Siqi Yuan. Now, between you and me, I have no idea what the hell they are talking about, but I also know many of my readers and friends love opera and symphony orchestra entertainment, so I try to please all. The concert will start at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 25. It will feature soloists Jonathan Goren and Hillary Riley performing J.S. Bach's D Minor concerto for Two Violins.



Rodney Orange, Sr. passed away last week. Arrangements have not been made at the press time. He was my friend, a sweet soul and a true warrior for justice during his years as president of the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP.



Eddie Bonsol Tombs IV has his artwork on display for Black History Month during February in Ellicott City (in Howard County) at the Charles E. Miller Branch Library, located 9421 Frederick Road. The hours are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Congratulations, Eddie. We wish you the best.

The orchestra will also perform Hianzchi-Li's Spring Festival Overture; Frederic Delius's "On Hearing The First Cuckoo In Spring"; Johann Strauss Jr.'s "Voices Of Spring" waltzes, and Robert Schumann's Symphony #1 in B-flat Major, "Spring." My Lands of Mercy! HONEY CHILD! Did you hear me talking that SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA STUFF? I AIM TO PLEASE! Okay enjoy!

Here are a couple of entertainment jazz events I want to tell you about, too. John Lamkin II & The Favorites Jazz Quintet will be at Caton Castle presenting their new CD Release. The band members are Michael Hairston on saxophone, Bob Butta on keyboard, Mike Graham Jr, on bass and Jesse Moody on drums. This is happening on Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 6-10 p.m. Caton Castle is located 20 S. Caton Avenue. If you enjoy jazz, you will enjoy this show. As you can see, I gave you plenty of time to plan for this event.

"Jazz in the Afternoon." Get ready for a jazzy extravaganza at the American Legion Liberty Post 122, located 4424 Painters Mill Road in Owings Mills, Maryland on March 10, 2024 from 3-7 p.m. featuring the sounds of Geno Marriott & Friends. For more information, you can email drjminter@gmail.com. Check it out. They always have great shows here. Tell them "Rambling Rose" told you.

Okay my friends, I have to cut this short. I am a little under the weather and need to rest a minute. But remember if you need me, call me at 410-833-9474, email me at rosapryor@aol.com, or you can send your correspondences to 214 Conewood Avenue, Reisterstown, Maryland, 21136. **UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.**



Bishop JoJo Ridgley is at Brightwood Center. She has been in cardiac rehab for over a month and is doing much better. She would like to thank all for their cards, flowers and especially your prayers. God is with you my friend, continue to get well.

ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED TO THE BALTIMORE TIMES



Justin Madubuike Photo Credit: Mitchell Leff/Getty Images

Taking a Look at Ravens Potential Free Agents

By Tyler Hamilton

The frustrating 2023 season will be completely put to bed when the Baltimore Ravens and the rest of the NFL start the new league year next month. Every season presents roster turnover due to expiring contracts and salary cap limitations. The Ravens are no different.

Baltimore has 22 pending free agents this year. It would have been 23, but wide receiver Nelson Agholor signed a one-year contract to return to Baltimore on Sunday.

Here's a list of the Ravens' free agents:

LB Patrick Queen	LB Malik Harrison
DT Justin Madubuike	QB Tyler Huntley
G Kevin Zeitler	DE Brent Urban
G John Simpson	CB Arthur Maulet
RB Gus Edwards	CB Rock Ya-Sin
OLB Jadeveon Clowney	C Sam Mustipher
CB Ronald Darby	QB Josh Johnson
RB J.K. Dobbins	CB Daryl Worley
WR Devin Duvernay	WR Laquan Treadwell
S Geno Stone	LB Del'Shawn Phillips
OLB Kyle Van Noy	LS Tyler Ott

The group includes key starters and depth pieces that would be detrimental to the Ravens if they aren't retained. The team's success on defense led to defensive coordinator Mike McDonald becoming the head coach for the Seattle Seahawks. Defensive backs coach Dennard Wilson took the defensive coordinator position with the Tennessee Titans.

Having those familiar faces in new places could lead to a few of the Ravens free agents following them.

Stone and Queen would be good options for Wilson in Tennessee. The Titans need help in the secondary especially when it comes to creating turnovers. Stone's seven interceptions could warrant a nice payday allowing him to be reunited with Iowa teammate Amani Hooker in Tennessee.

McDonald's Seahawks could use some help along the interior of the defense if they don't re-sign defensive tackle Leonard Williams. Ravens defensive tackle Justin Madubuike would make sense on that case, especially after posting a career-high 13 sacks in McDonald's scheme with the Ravens.

New Ravens defensive coordinator Zach Orr may have to find a way to make up for the loss of veteran pass rushers Jadeveon Clowney and Kyle Van Noy who each achieved career highs in sacks last season. Both veterans are free agents.

They could choose to stay with the Ravens especially because Baltimore will still have outside linebacker coach Chuck Smith to work with them.

The offense should remain relatively intact. Guard Kevin Zeitler and running back Gus Edwards are the two most significant possible losses. Edwards was part of a committee in the backfield.

Ravens' general manager Eric DeCosta could make a big splash by signing free running back Derrick Henry if he somehow makes it out of Tennessee. Pairing Henry with Lamar Jackson would be enough to make opposing defensive coordinators lose sleep at night.

Tyler Huntley has served as Jackson's backup but is a free agent. Huntley is the ideal backup and would come at a reasonable price. DeCosta should make sure he is back.

As for the special team's unit, Devin Duvernay has been a productive return man, but Tylan Wallace showed he's capable as well when Duvernay was out. If Duvernay leaves, Wallace would slide into the primary returner role.

Having 22 pending free agents is a tough situation, but the Ravens can still keep their roster intact to make another Super Bowl run.

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IN RE: MICHAEL P.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO Unknown Father, whereabouts unknown: Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. §4001 et seq., the Maine Department of Health & Human Services (hereafter, "DHHS") has petitioned the Court for a Child Protection Order and/or Termination of Parental Rights Order, concerning the child: Michael P. d/o/b: 09/21/2007. The mother is Lucy DeMille and the father is/or may be Unknown Father. DHHS has met the requirements of M.R. Civ. P. Rule 4(g)(1)(A)-(C). Hearing on the pending Petitions will be held at Maine District Court, 47 Court Street, Skowhegan, ME 04976, on April.23.24, at 3:15 PM a.m./p.m. Failure to appear at this hearing may result in the issuance of a child protection order, the termination of your parental rights, and/or any other order permissible under 22 M.R.S. §4001 et seq. You may be entitled to legal counsel in these proceedings. Contact the court at the above address or 207-474-9518. To obtain a copy of the Petition(s), contact the court or DHHS at 207-624-7900, 2 Anthony Ave. Augusta, ME 04333. DHHS is represented by the Maine Office of the Attorney General, 84 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME 04401.

Dated: FEB 06 2024

Andrew Benson
Judge, Maine District Court

Susan Furbush
A True Attested Copy
Clerk, Maine District Court

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The Housing Authority of the City of Hagerstown, Maryland, 35 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740 will receive bids from qualified, responsible contractors until 10:00AM current time, Tuesday, March 19, 2024, for the Potomac Towers Sliding Glass Door Replacements Project at 11 W. Baltimore Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Potomac Towers is a 14-story, high-rise building, housing 326 residential units. Anticipate award of contract to successful contractor by end of March 2024. Construction period will be discussed once the contract is awarded. The actual construction start date will be established by mutual agreement between the owner and the contractor. Davis-Bacon wages for Washington County, Maryland and Liquidated Damages apply to this solicitation. Current electronic drawings and specifications are available at www.hagerstownha.com/procurement. Contact Randy Bailey or Sean Griffith at telephone 301-733-6911 Ext. 150 or EXT. 126 or email: rbailey@hagerstownha.com or sgriffith@hagerstownha.com for bid documents.

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Small Business Administration Announces Further Action to Help PPP and COVID EIDL Borrowers

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced expanded flexibility and accommodations for COVID EIDL and PPP borrowers to help bring them into compliance and avoid the repercussions of defaulting on a government loan.

For COVID EIDL and PPP borrowers with loans under \$100,000, the SBA has implemented a 60-day goodwill exception period starting January 1 and lasting through March 3, 2024. During this period, the SBA will build on its extensive outreach to affected businesses to ensure that PPP borrowers know how to apply for forgiveness and COVID EIDL borrowers are aware of all repayment options — including the opportunity for hardship repayment plans. Further, the SBA will refrain from escalating collections activities until after the goodwill exemption period.

Small business borrowers in delinquency or default who take action and obtain good standing with the SBA will improve their long-term financial health substantially. The benefits of getting, and staying, current on SBA loans include better credit scores, which make it cheaper and easier to buy a home or car in the future; eligibility for future government financial assistance, like a VA loan or help after a natural disaster; and, in some cases, avoidance of federal and private collections activities which can include withholding tax returns and wage garnishment.

For PPP Borrowers:

Hundreds of thousands of PPP borrowers can avoid default and the repercussions that come along with it without repaying the loan. Those who have met the payroll requirements can simply [complete the PPP forgiveness application](#), which takes most borrowers less than 15 minutes. If PPP borrowers are unsure if their loan has been forgiven, they can check by logging in to the [MySBA loan portal](#). Once logged in, borrowers will see all of their SBA loans, including PPP loans, and the status of each loan. For PPP loans, the status will show "paid in full" if the PPP loan has been forgiven.

PPP borrowers who are not sure if their loan has been forgiven and see other statuses should apply for forgiveness immediately. See [the SBA website](#) for instructions on how to apply for PPP forgiveness.

Borrowers who need assistance with forgiveness can contact SBA at our dedicated forgiveness call center: 877-552-2692. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET.

For COVID EIDL Borrowers:

All COVID EIDL borrowers must repay their loans, but the SBA has programs to help — including expanded hardship accommodation plans. COVID EIDL hardship accommodation plans significantly lower monthly payments — sometimes as low as \$25 per month — for six months, and then payments gradually increase over a multi-year period. More information for COVID EIDL hardship accommodation plans is available on [the SBA website](#). Many borrowers can apply for a hardship accommodation plan directly through the [MySBA loan portal](#). Once logged in, COVID EIDL borrowers can click "Loan Summaries" in the toolbar, then "Hardship Accommodation Plan" in the bottom right corner, and finally "Learn More and Enroll."

For further assistance, please contact COVID-19 EIDL Customer Service at 833-853-5638 (TTY:711), email COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov, or send a message through the MySBA Loan Portal. COVID-19 EIDL Customer Service is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

For All Borrowers

The SBA offers free or low-cost counseling for small businesses through its national network of Resource Partners. These partner organizations may be able to help small businesses fit loan repayments into their budgets, provide information on applicable tax benefits, and offer other counseling services. [Contact your local District Office](#) for assistance with locating a Resource Partner to address your needs or [search to see what is available in your area](#).

The SBA remains committed to its core mission of supporting America's small businesses and will make a significant effort to bring borrowers back into compliance before escalating collection activities.

For more information about SBA's loan programs, financial assistance, and other services, visit sba.gov.



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